



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Program Focus — A large conservation partnership effort will use WHIP to improve degraded habitat in the Oak Openings region of northwest Ohio. Vegetation management that includes prescribed burning, cutting and mowing will help restore original savanna conditions. Important plant species such as wild lupine will be propagated and planted.

This region is home to several threatened and endangered species. The Karner blue butterfly, a federally listed endangered species, disappeared from the area due to loss and degradation of oak savanna habitat in this area. WHIP will enable the reintroduction of this important endemic species.

Several park districts in Ohio have enrolled land in WHIP to restore rare habitats. Some parks have utilized WHIP funds to create or restore ephemeral wetlands within woodlands. These provide breeding habitat for some species of amphibians.

In Darke County, WHIP will restore grasslands on a large number of contiguous private lands. Several blocks of state-owned land will be connected to provide corridor habitat. Bobwhite quail and grassland birds will then move into less-populated areas. The local Soil & Water Conservation District will place these areas under easement to ensure wildlife habitat protection long after the WHIP contract has expired.

Ohio Summary

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on private lands. It provides for both technical assistance and financial assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Ohio uses WHIP to enhance much of its wildlife diversity through native habitat restoration. Targeted habitats include wetlands, grasslands and other habitat needed by several endangered species. WHIP has been instrumental in expanding conservation partnership opportunities related to habitat restoration. It has also enabled NRCS to provide habitat-related assistance to individuals and groups that have not typically taken part in other USDA programs.

Accomplishments

In fiscal year 2001, NRCS approved contracts or cooperative agreements for \$186,804 on over 500 acres. In the three years that Ohio has received WHIP funding, \$565,198 has been obligated to improve habitat on over 130 sites covering nearly 1700 acres. Initial monitoring has shown that targeted species are responding positively to the improved habitat conditions.

Program Benefits

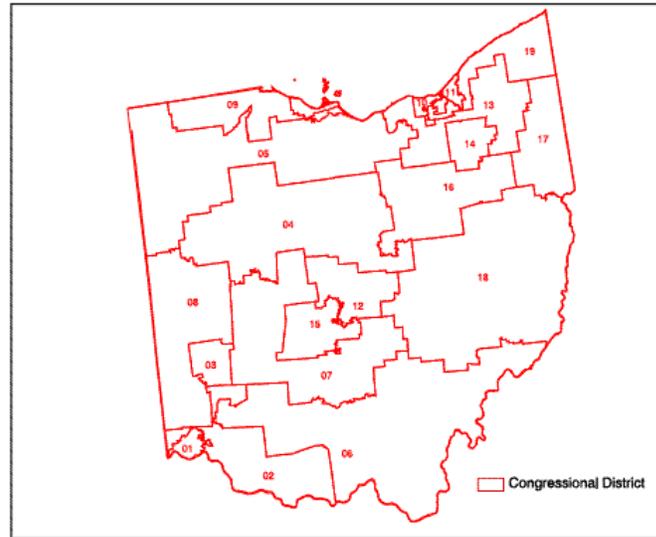
Continued funding will allow NRCS to provide assistance to the existing backlog of applicants as well as future applicants. WHIP will provide opportunities for conservation partners and private landowners to expand critical habitat areas in Ohio. Persons who traditionally have not been able to take part in similar programs will have opportunities to improve wildlife habitat on their land.

State contact

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Ohio Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Ohio Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	0	0	0	0
District 2	0	0	4,900	1
District 3	0	0	0	0
District 4	35,920	10	79,758	22
District 5	15,000	1	65,715	15
District 6	400	1	23,583	10
District 7	33,299	4	94,787	30
District 8	27,275	2	54,365	7
District 9	32,000	2	53,070	2
District 10	0	0	0	0
District 11	0	0	0	0
District 12	24,000	1	46,488	4
District 13	15,000	1	17,972	3
District 14	0	0	0	0
District 15	0	0	0	0
District 16	0	0	2,835	1
District 17	0	0	16,872	3
District 18	0	0	100,943	29
District 19	3,910	1	3,910	1
State Totals	\$ 186,804	23	\$ 565,198	132

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