



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Customer Focus —

John Kemp of Edgefield County, South Carolina, is a landowner, timber harvester, antique dealer, avid turkey hunter, former Edgefield mayor (1966-68), and a talented poet. But, after spending an afternoon with him on his property, you realize that Kemp is essentially a wildlife enthusiast and he illustrates this through his forestland management which focuses on improving wildlife habitat. He has contracts in USDA's Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) which he uses to improve and create wildlife habitat on his nearly 900 acres of property.

He worked with Bob Bowie, NRCS district conservationist, and Lee Nicholson, NRCS soil conservation technician, to implement a comprehensive wildlife management plan which includes prescribed burning, firebreaks, and forest openings.

Kemp was awarded State Tree Farmer of the Year in 1986 and is continuing his outstanding land stewardship through careful management of his forestland. "The wildlife species that benefit from conservation programs were here before we were and I want to give them some of what we've taken from them," emphasized Kemp.

Kemp cleared openings through his forestland to provide corridors for wildlife, which give turkey, quail, and deer a clear walkway. He is also a firm believer in the benefits of controlled burning which reduces competition and opens the forest floor up to allow native vegetation to flourish.

South Carolina Summary

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. Interested landowners seek natural resource planning assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other federal, state, and private organizations to develop conservation plans that improve wildlife habitat. WHIP funds help implement the actions identified in the plan by providing financial assistance up to 75 percent of the cost for their projects.

In 2001, NRCS continued to implement landowner WHIP contracts. Highlighted among these are a trout preservation project in the upstate of South Carolina and a waterfowl project in Charleston County.

Accomplishments

Over \$20,000 was approved for each of these areas. In FY 2001, nearly 6,500 acres of wildlife habitat management practices were installed in the state.

Program Benefits

The program was authorized by the 1996 Farm Bill and helps landowners develop habitat for upland wildlife, wetland wildlife, threatened and endangered species, fish, and other wildlife in South Carolina. The bobwhite quail, wintering waterfowl and shorebird habitat, and threatened and endangered plant and animal species have been identified as the "priority conservation concern" in the state.

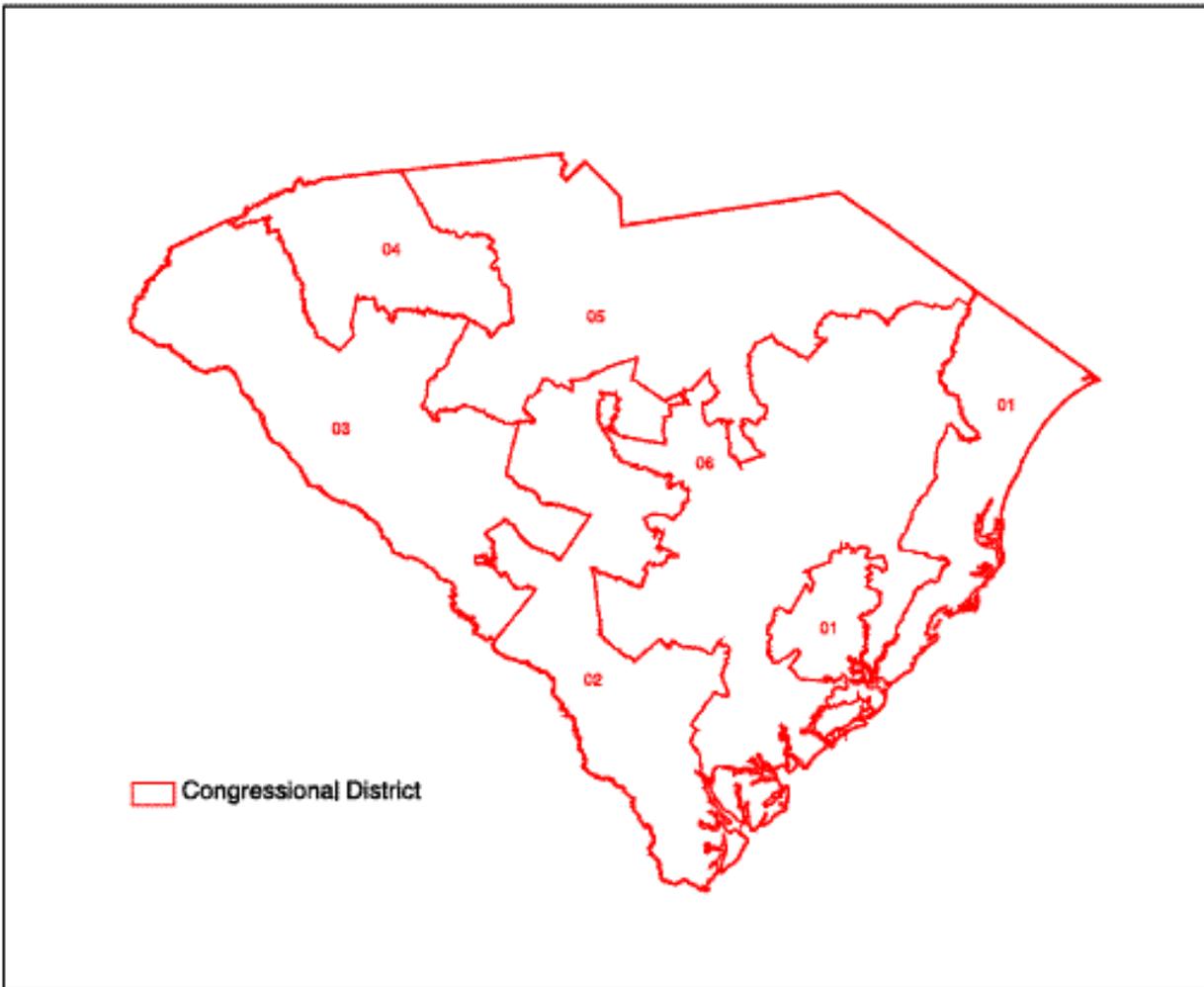
State contact

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John Kemp of Edgefield County, SC, used WHIP to benefit the many species of wildlife on his property.

South Carolina Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



South Carolina WHIP Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$70,000	12	\$222,952	30
District 2	27,050	8	298,388	40
District 3	90,000	24	360,183	82
District 4	0	0	147,148	21
District 5	19,786	3	479,481	110
District 6	90,191	14	717,564	212
State Totals	\$297,027	61	\$2,225,716	556

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