



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Customer Focus —

Chuck Wilson installed two single wing deflectors and two “K” dams in Panthers Fork, a stream on his land in Upshur County, WV.

These practices improve fish habitat by creating pools for trout. The quiet water collects organic material along the stream edges that can be used for food by stream invertebrates.

The single wing deflectors and “K” dams are made from logs and stones.

“NRCS and the Tygerts Valley Soil Conservation District were very helpful,” stated Wilson. “The natural materials are attractive and aesthetically pleasing. The sound of water running over them is refreshing.”



West Virginia 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.

West Virginia, like most states in the northeast, has lost riparian and wildlife habitat due to changes in land use and management. Acreage identified as upland habitat has remained relatively static. However, the quality and distribution of these lands for specific wildlife species has been degraded. West Virginia’s WHIP objectives focus on improving five habitat types: farm wildlife, riparian wildlife, stream fishery, threatened or endangered species and woodland wildlife.

Accomplishments

WHIP is a popular program with landowners. It has allowed NRCS to reach new customers that were not being served by the traditional agricultural programs. NRCS received 111 applications in fiscal year 2001, but only funded 70 applications due to limited funds. Landowners placed 11,961 acres of upland habitat and 868 acres of riparian habitat under contract in fiscal year 2001.

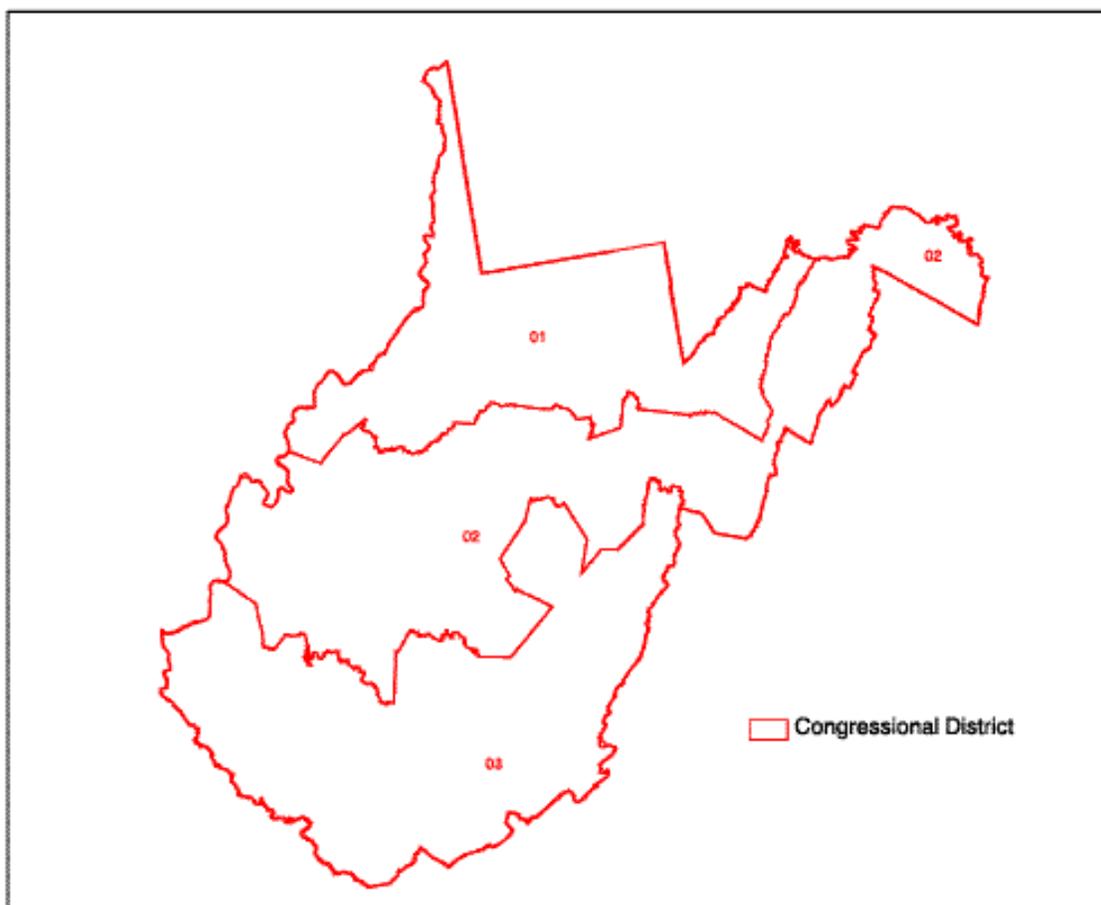
Program Benefits

“These wildlife plantings have made all the difference in the world,” said Butch Angle, who owns 256 mountaintop acres in rural Kanawha County, WV. Mr. Angle’s property consisted of mostly one habitat type, second growth beech/birch/maple hardwood trees, prior to his signing up for the WHIP assistance. Through WHIP, Angle created clearings in the forest and planted some of them to permanent wildlife food plots. These plots, seeded to a variety of clovers, have drawn an abundance of wildlife to his property. Mr. Angle said, “Before I created these openings and food plots, this ridge seemed to be devoid of wildlife. Now I can visit the plots and see rabbits, grouse, deer, turkey and sometimes even bear hanging around. The edges of the clearings have become a haven for songbirds.”

State contact

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West Virginia Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



West Virginia Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$118,940	24	\$277,660	57
District 2	131,345	33	288,872	83
District 3	35,119	13	110,778	27
State Totals	\$285,404	70	\$677,320	167

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