



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program - WHIP

Customer Focus—



Darwin and Dena Montgomery own 160 acres in Northeast Colorado and are doing what they always wanted to do. “We moved from Arvada, a Denver suburb, where we were surrounded by houses, shopping malls, and all the trappings of city life. We wanted out. We wanted to farm in our retirement and provide for ourselves. Now we are surrounded by chickens, turkeys, cows, and land as far as the eye can see.”

The Montgomerys take full advantage of programs and support available from their agricultural community. Through NRCS’s WHIP program and two conservation district programs, they will plant plum thickets, install cross-fencing and livestock watering structures, and seed grass for wildlife habitat.

Colorado Summary

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary wildlife habitat development program. The program offers landowners up to 75 percent cost-share for wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement projects. NRCS and the Colorado State Technical Committee, with input from local work groups, identified state-level objectives for the program. Colorado’s objectives for WHIP are: to improve habitat for declining or at-risk species, in order to avoid further species being listed under the Endangered Species Act, to improve habitat and increase the population of economically important species, and to reduce significant agricultural/wildlife conflicts.

Accomplishments

Colorado received 225 applications for the WHIP program in fiscal year 2001, **totaling \$1.1 million** of requested cost-share funds. Colorado received funds to enroll **62 contracts on 56,427 acres**. Conservation partners and landowners contributed **\$277,000** toward the wildlife projects. During the year, there were an additional **53,818 acres** of wildlife habitat improved with WHIP funds from prior years.

Outlook

Colorado landowners view WHIP as one of the most popular programs offered by USDA. Participants are increasingly aware of habitat needs for a variety of declining species such as sage grouse, as well as supporting additional habitat for both wetland and upland wildlife species. There is recent interest in stream improvement projects to improve aquatic habitat for a variety of warm water and cold water fisheries.

State contact

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