



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Program Focus —

The objective of WHIP in Delaware is to restore valuable wildlife habitat that has been lost due to more efficient agricultural production and urban development.

Bobwhite quail populations in Delaware have declined by over 50 percent in the last several years. Eighteen other early successional birds and 10 other grassland wildlife species have also declined dramatically.

Consequently, the focus of the program in Delaware is to restore and enhance native grassland habitat.

Delaware 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 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.

Accomplishments

Delaware enrolled eight WHIP conservation plans and contracts during fiscal year 2001. There are no unfunded WHIP applications in the state. Most of the projects consisted of planting native warm season grass habitat or planting hedgerows to native hardwood species beneficial to wildlife. One project was developed at a local technical high school to be used for outdoor education. The project consisted of warm season grasses, native cool season grasses, hardwood tree plantings, and a wetland restoration. Another project addressed a homeowner's association practice of mowing around storm water ponds, creating sedimentation and geese problems. Also, the vegetation could not filter the run-off from the surrounding lawns. The areas around the ponds were seeded to native warm and cool season grasses, providing aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and water quality improvements.

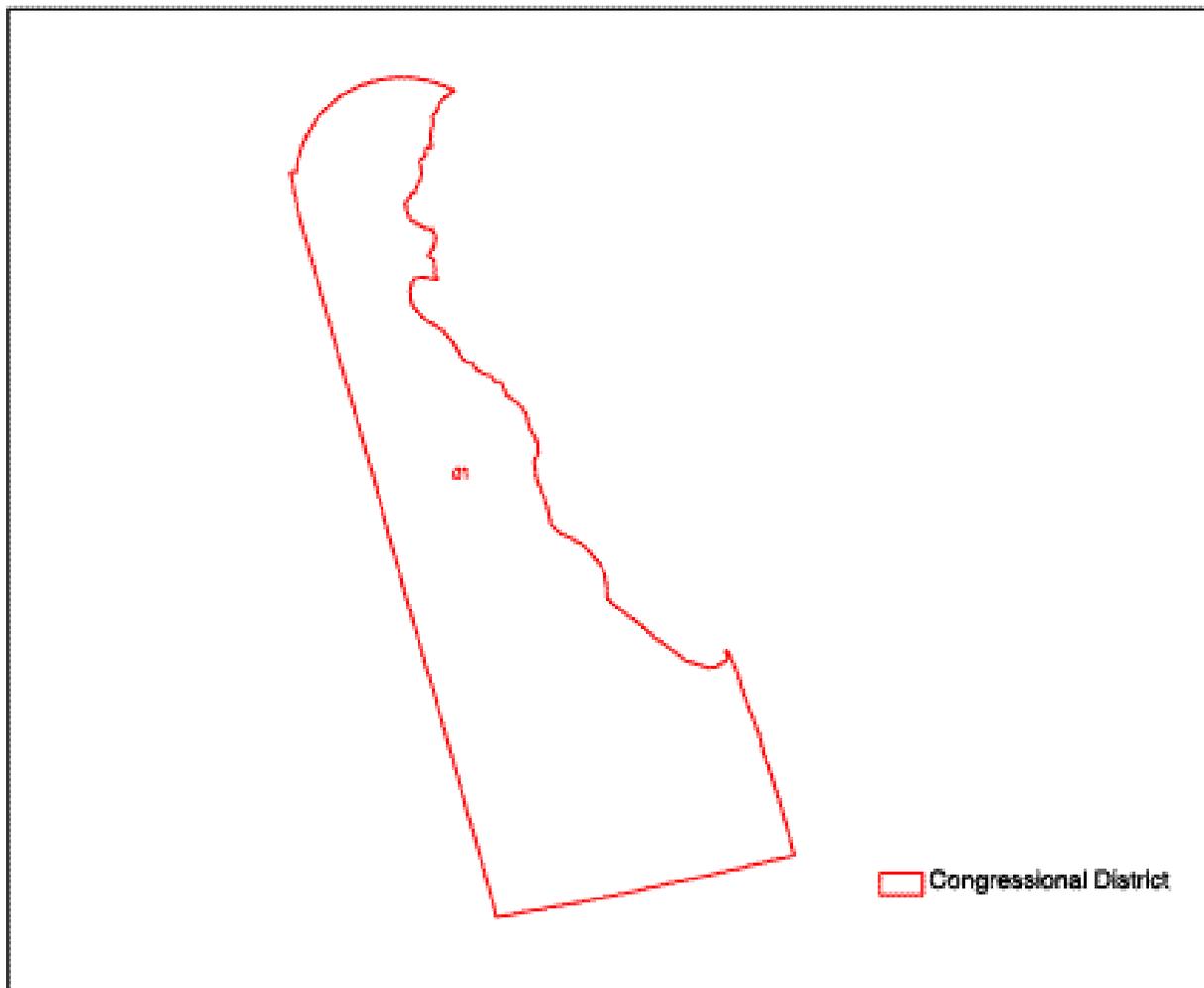
Program Benefits

The WHIP program in Delaware provides water quality improvements, increased wildlife habitat, increased hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities, education, aesthetics, and open space preservation.

State contact

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Delaware Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Delaware Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$8826	8	15	\$10,141

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