



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Program Focus-

Restore unique habitats, including:

- native forests and riparian areas connected to forest reserves, wildlife refuges, or other preserved areas
- coastal dunes that support rare plants, seabirds, monk seals, or turtles
- anchialine pools
- threatened and endangered plant and animal species
- endangered waterbird and migratory bird habitat
- montane wetlands and bogs
- caves with rare species

Feral pig damage on Maui, before WHIP fence (FY01 project)



Taro farming provides endangered waterbird habitat and economic benefits for native Hawaiians



State of Hawaii Summary

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. The program offers landowners up to 75 percent cost-share for wildlife habitat projects.

The state of Hawaii has the most listed threatened and endangered species in the United States, maintains diverse climatic regimes and habitats, and hosts unique (endemic) species confined to small geographic areas with specific distributions. Hawaii also has extensive invasive species problems with both plants and animals. WHIP is working to help private landowners combat these problems and to create a wide variety of habitats, including native forests, montane bogs, caves, and taro patches that host endangered water birds. WHIP is instrumental in noxious weed control and feral ungulate (pigs, goats, sheep, and axis deer) exclusion.

Accomplishments

Since 1998, over 11,000 acres of unique native habitats have been enrolled in WHIP. In fiscal year 2001, NRCS accepted 30 applications and funded nine projects (563 acres). All of the projects in 2001 intend to provide benefits to threatened and endangered species. Projects include tree/shrub establishment, pest management, exclusion fencing, and restoration of unique habitats such as subalpine dry shrublands, lowland mesic forests, lowland wet forests, and wetlands on lava beds.

Program Benefits

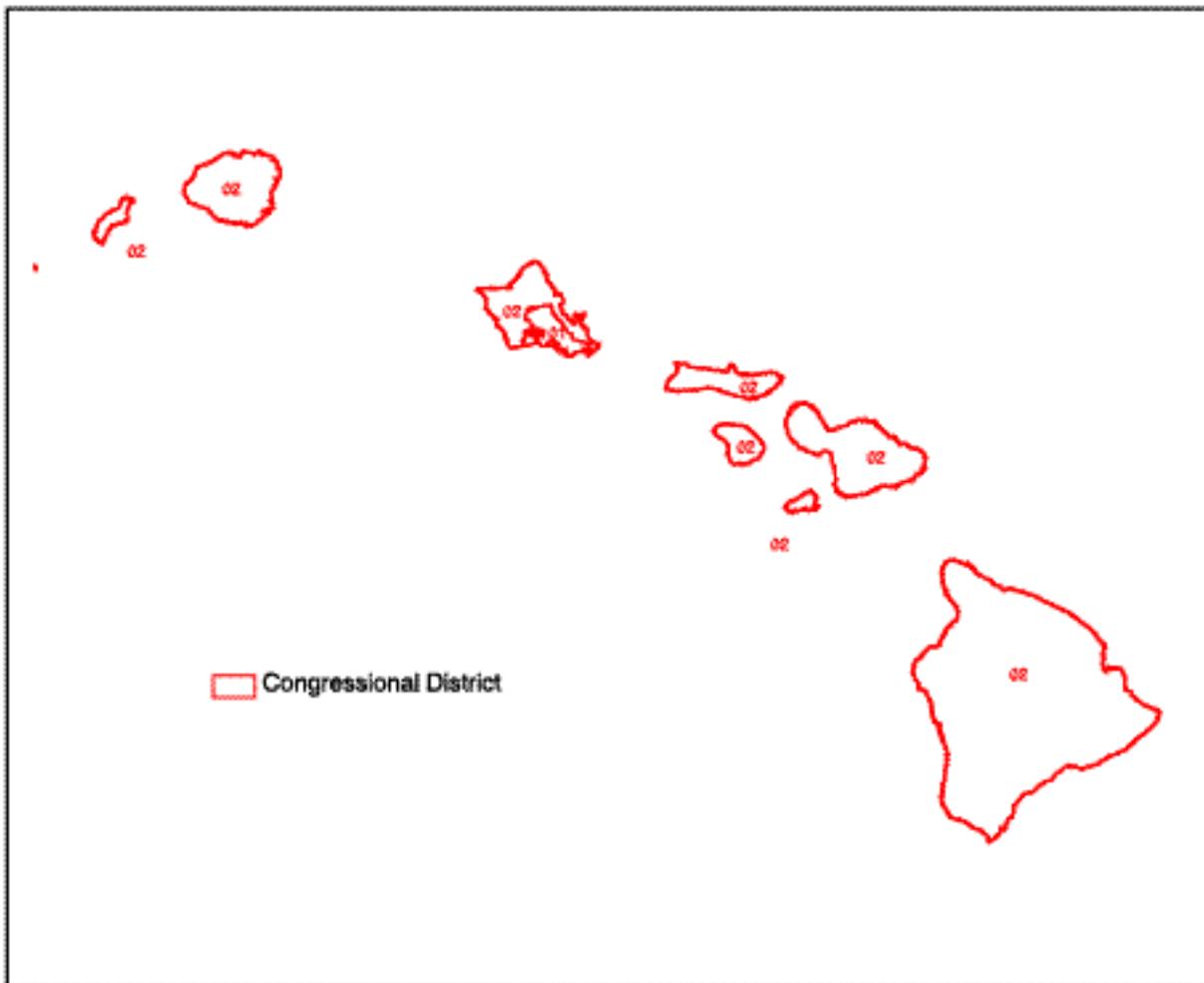
The response to WHIP by private landowners has been notable. Since 1998, NRCS has received over \$1.26 million worth of applications and received 580,000 in funding that provided the following benefits:

- **Environmental**
 - Some WHIP plans are located within areas designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as "Critical Habitat", under the Endangered Species Act.
 - A wide diversity of native habitats have been restored and protected.
- **Social**
 - Some Native Hawaiian cultural sites have been protected.
 - A number of the WHIP clients include native medicinal plant and fruit propagation in their plans.
 - All WHIP plans include educational and/or ecotourism opportunities.
- **Economic**
 - Limited Resource Farmers and Native Hawaiians have benefited greatly from WHIP. Project examples include: taro loi (patch) restoration, invasive weed control and native plant restoration.
 - Some WHIP plans provide unique agroforestry and farming opportunities that benefit native wildlife.

State contact:

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Hawaii Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Hawaii 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	143,082	9	582,068	97
State Totals	143,082	9	582,068	97

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