



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Washington State Summary

CUSTOMER FOCUS - A unique weed control effort was completed on Rocky Prairie Natural Area Preserve in Thurston County. Mature Douglas fir trees were removed from the upland prairie remnant using helicopter logging methods.

Cessation of the historic natural fire cycle and Native American set fires allowed Douglas fir and other alien woody species to encroach onto the prairie. Aerial removal of the large trees was necessary to protect a large population of golden Indian paintbrush, a federally threatened and State endangered plant species.

The preserve is owned and managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who cruised the stand marking over 100 trees for removal. Trees were felled away from areas where Indian paintbrush grows, and whole trees were flown by a helicopter to an on-site landing. At the landing, the trees were cut to merchantable lengths, their limbs removed and chipped. Chips and logs were then removed from the site.

Restoration of native prairie vegetation in the logged areas will continue over the next few years. Several inches of fir needles will be raked off the logged areas, followed by planting with seedlings of Roemer's fescue and other native prairie forbs grown from seeds collected on the prairie by volunteers.

NRCS assisted DNR by providing cost-share funds through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program. Other partners in this project included the Nature Conservancy of Washington, US Fish and Wildlife Service and numerous private volunteers.

OVERVIEW

The major objectives of the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) in Washington are to:

- Provide technical assistance to eligible landowners in developing and implementing Wildlife Habitat Development Plans.
- Provide cost-share payments, through cooperative agreements, for implementing planned conservation practices authorized by WHIP.
- Use completed WHIP enhancement projects to educate program participants and the general public about wildlife habitat needs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With the available allocation in Fiscal Year 2001, Washington funded 20 cooperative agreements, which will restore and/or enhance wildlife habitat on about 2,127 acres. About 95 percent of those acres will provide direct benefit for upland wildlife habitat, with the remaining acres providing treatment for wetland, riparian and aquatic habitat. Predominant restoration activities include establishment of native vegetative habitat, livestock exclusion from sensitive areas, and water development for upland wildlife in arid areas of the State.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

The informal partnership between NRCS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife provides program participants with extensive technical expertise in the development of plans designed to restore and enhance wildlife habitat. The partnership has worked closely to identify priority habitats and species of concern within the State. The focus of WHIP in eastern Washington is restoration of native vegetation on riparian, shrub-steppe, eastside grassland and native Palouse prairie habitat areas. Targeted species include Sage grouse, Sharp-tailed grouse, Pygmy rabbits and critical freshwater species. The primary focus of WHIP in western Washington is restoration and/or maintenance of native vegetation on oak woodland, native prairie and riparian habitat areas. Targeted species include land birds as well as the threatened and endangered plant and animal species that inhabit these areas.

STATE CONTACT

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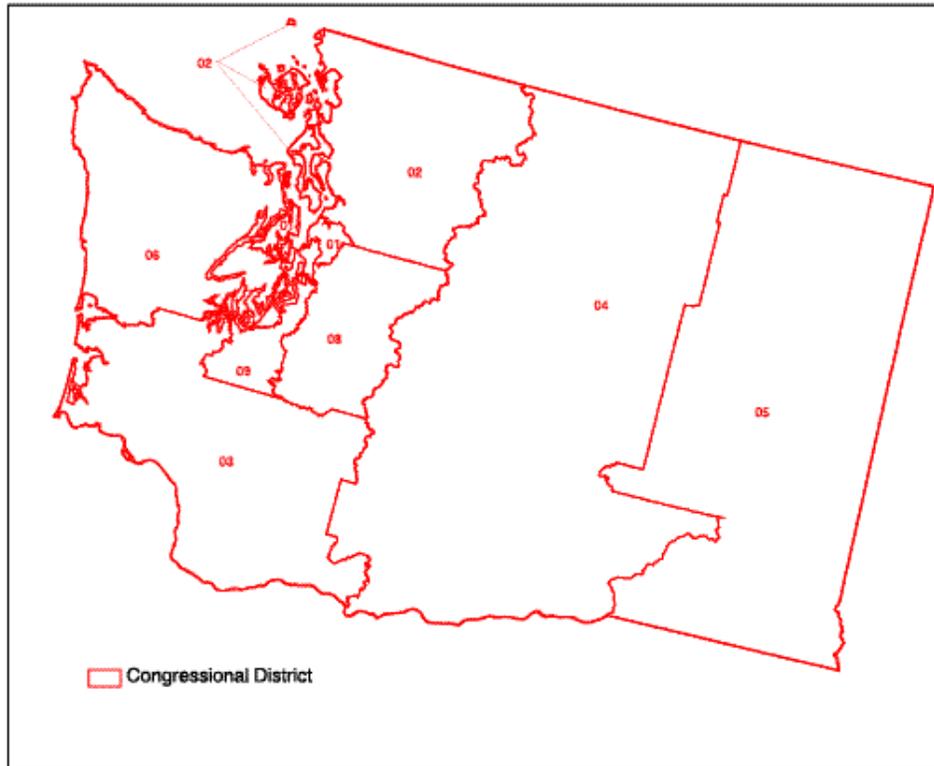


Golden Indian Paintbrush



Airlift of Douglas fir tree

Washington Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Washington State 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	4,858	1	62,291	9
District 3	33,816	3	173,128	10
District 4	89,406	12	320,832	52
District 5	17,305	2	425,446	56
District 6	0	0	65,270	6
District 7	0	0	0	0
District 8	22,906	1	22,906	1
District 9	19,951	1	40,079	4
State Totals	\$188,241	20	\$1,109,951	138

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