

Another Conservation Success Story...

Haralson County, Georgia

February 2007

Wildlife Habitat Improved in Haralson County

Jeff Watson is a second generation landowner of approximately 83 acres in Haralson County. The majority of the property is in hardwoods with a 10 acre tract that is predominately Loblolly pine. There is an 11 acre open area that is managed for wildlife. A small portion is planted as a food plot while the remaining is allowed to go native.

Jeff applied for, and received cost share funding through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). This funding enabled him to complete noncommercial thinning on his property to improve the wildlife habitat. After the thinning, prescribed burning will complete the project.

This 83-acre tract has been set aside for wildlife, with an emphasis on deer and turkey. Jeff's son is disabled and wheelchair bound, so Jeff built an observation tower with handicapped accessibility so that his son could enjoy observing the wildlife. *(The observation tower was not part of the cost share funding).*

WHIP

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land.

Through WHIP USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

WHIP has proven to be a highly effective and widely accepted program across the country. By targeting wildlife habitat projects on all lands and aquatic areas, WHIP provides assistance to conservation minded landowners.



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West Georgia Soil And Water
Conservation District

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