
Will I be required to give the public access to land in the WHIP program?

No. Landowners can prevent trespass and control access by the general public. The landowner must allow NRCS access to the area to monitor the effectiveness of the practices during the agreement period.

How do I apply?

Applications may be submitted, on a continual basis, to any NRCS field office located at local USDA Service Centers. A wildlife plan is prepared and ranked according to ecological and economic benefits. The highest ranked applications will be funded first. Contact your local office concerning application deadlines.



Grassland habitat in the Champlain Valley

VT NRCS Web - <http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/>
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Contact an NRCS field office

Addison County

68 Catamount Park, Suite B, Middlebury VT 05753
802 388-6748

Caledonia & Essex Counties

481 Summer St., Suite 202, St. Johnsbury VT 05819
802 748-2641

Chittenden County

1193 South Brownell Rd., Suite 35, Williston VT 05495
802 865-7895

Orange & Washington Counties

617 Comstock Rd., Suite 1, Berlin VT 05602
802 828-4493

Franklin & Grand Isle Counties

27 Fisher Pond Rd., Suite 1, St. Albans VT 05478
802 527-1296

Lamoille County

109 Professional Drive, Suite 2, Morrisville VT 05661
802 888-4935

Orleans County

59 Waterfront Plaza, Suite 12, Newport VT 05855
802 334-6090

Bennington & Rutland Counties

170 South Main St., Suite 6, Rutland VT 05701
802 775-8034

Windham County

28 Vernon St., Suite 330, Brattleboro VT 05302
802 254-9766

Windsor County

28 Farmvu Drive, White River Jct. VT 05001
802 295-7942



What is the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program?

WHIP is a voluntary conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance to land-owners for developing, improving or managing wildlife habitat or for restoring natural ecosystems on eligible land.

Who is eligible to participate?

Lands eligible for WHIP include private agricultural land and non-industrial private forest land.

Eligible participants will be the owners of these lands or operators who can provide evidence that they will control the land for the life of the contract.

Land already enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, or Emergency Watershed Protection Program floodplain easement component is not eligible for WHIP.



Even-aged management for early successional forest habitat

What Does 'Non-Industrial Private Forestland' Mean?

This term means rural land that has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees; and is owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, or other private legal entity that has definitive decision making authority over the land



Old Fields/Pastures with shrubs and small trees provide excellent food and cover

Habitat Priorities

- ◆ Grasslands for bobolinks, eastern meadowlark, butterflies, green snakes, etc.
- ◆ Old fields, thickets and young forest habitats for songbirds, woodcock, grouse, turkey, bobcat, black bear, deer, rat snakes, etc.
- ◆ Riparian, wetland & aquatic habitats for wood turtles, mink, otter, waterfowl, brook trout, mussels, salamanders, bats, etc.
- ◆ Rare natural communities such as clayplain forests that support species of concern

Examples of conservation practices that may be eligible for cost share

- Early Successional Management — grasslands, old fields, shrub land, young forest
- Mast tree and apple tree release
- Pest Management—Invasive Plant Control
- Fencing to protect sensitive areas

How does cost-share assistance work?

NRCS and the participant enter into a conservation plan and contract agreement that lasts up to 10 years in length. Under the agreement:

- ◆ The participant agrees to maintain the practice and allow NRCS or its agent access to monitor practice implementation
- ◆ NRCS agrees to provide technical assistance and practice payments to assist with implementing the conservation practices



Managing forest for mast producing species such as red oak and beech benefits a variety of wildlife
