



Helping People...

...Help the Land.



Landowners Transform Their Property to Wildlife Haven



Pine Trees provide ideal habitat for wildlife such as white-tailed deer



Eastern Cottontail found in northern Indiana



Example of NRCS Wildlife Management - Brush Pile

Over the last several months many Americans have rekindled their relationship with nature by flocking to parks and natural areas, but one couple has been enjoying the outdoors in their own backyard. Larry and Mary Plummer describe their property as their “own personal park.”

The Plummers enrolled their property located in Fulton County near Kewanna, Indiana, in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) with technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) about 20 years ago after an unsuccessful season trying to farm the sandy soil. The couple has always been conservation-minded and learned about the program by word-of-mouth. Today, what started out as a farm field planted to pines and hardwood seedlings seems as if it was always a forest.

The management of the property as habitat has been a joy for the Plummers, who shared stories of their regular encounters with white-tailed deer, pileated woodpeckers, eastern cottontails, and wild turkeys.

When the Plummers heard that they could implement more wildlife habitat management on their property through the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), they set to work constructing brush piles and creating den trees. Brush piles provide cover for small mammals such as chipmunks and rabbits, while den trees provide habitat for cavity-nesting birds such as woodpeckers, chickadees, and nuthatches. These practices have improved habitat for wildlife on their property and the Plummers will tell you themselves: there is always something amazing to see out their back door.

The NRCS works with eligible farmers and forestland owners to provide financial assistance and technical support for projects ranging from wildlife habitat management to soil conservation through Farm Bill programs such as the CRP and CSP.

For more information about NRCS and other technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or contact your District Conservationist <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/in/contact/local/>.