



# 2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

## Program Focus –

Arkansas NRCS, in consultation with the State Technical Committee, identified Five Priority Habitat Areas:

I. Riparian Corridors – Statewide coverage, 19 conservation practices used to improve and manage riparian habitats and stabilize streambanks.

II. Wetlands – Ten practices used in bottomland hardwoods and seasonally flooded areas in 54 counties.

III. Prairies – four practices used to restore and manage tall grass prairies and savannas in 13 counties.

IV. Uplands – 13 practices used in all or portions of 66 counties. This category has received the most participation, by far, of all the priority areas.

V. Cave Ecosystems – Three practices used at cave entrances and in their recharge areas in 16 northern counties.

## Arkansas Summary

### Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary wildlife habitat development program. In 2001, the Arkansas office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided 50 percent cost-share on 19 conservation practices and 75 percent cost-share on four other practices. The fundamental theme of WHIP in Arkansas continues to be: the NRCS or Arkansas Game and Fish Commission biologist works with the applicant to conduct a sound habitat evaluation of the proposed area, carefully prioritize the habitat needs, and meet those needs by planning and timely installation of the appropriate management practices.

Emphasis is on declining species: bobwhite quail, neotropical migrant songbirds and 10 threatened or endangered species. Good habitats are also being developed and managed for numerous game and non-game species.

### Accomplishments

Arkansas has provided nearly \$1.7 million to fund 241 contracts on more than 50,000 acres. These habitat development projects include:

- more than 29,000 acres of upland management such as forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, livestock exclusion, strip disking
- approximately 12,600 acres of wetland management including installation and use of water control structures, dike construction, tree planting, forest stand improvement
- protection of 3,065 acres of habitat for ten different threatened or endangered species
- development of nearly 200 acres of riparian areas with tree and shrub plantings, livestock exclusion, and streambank restoration

### Program Benefits

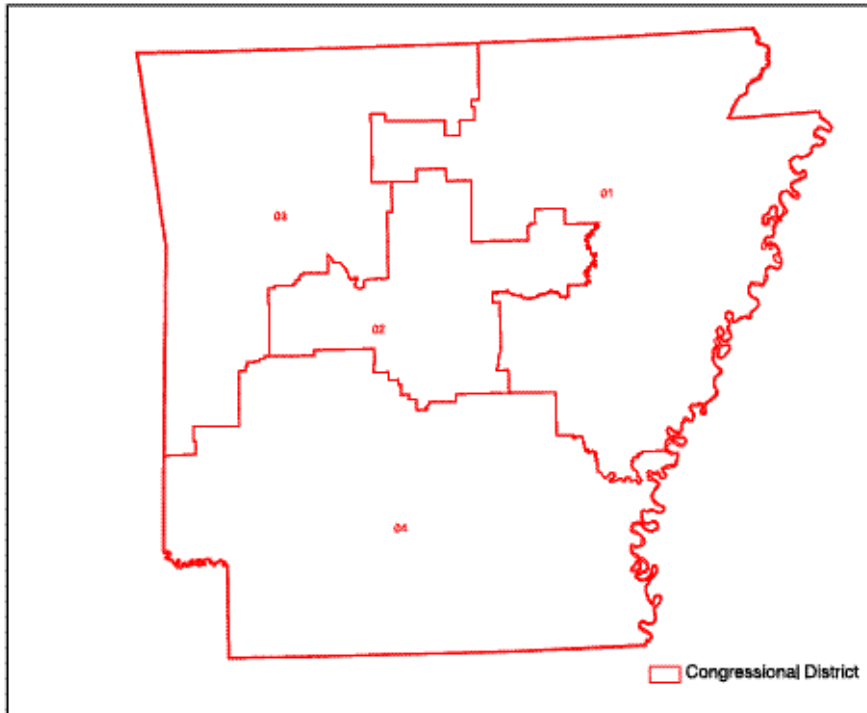
The most important benefits are to the wildlife – the numerous species of birds, mammals, fishes, reptiles, and amphibians – whose food, shelter, and travel areas are being increased substantially and managed more effectively.

Landowners have benefited significantly from education about wildlife and habitat management. Even applicants who do not receive cost-share assistance are implementing the WHIP plans on their own. The program has also improved relationships between NRCS and AGFC while increasing employee knowledge of sound habitat assessment and wildlife planning procedures.

### State Contact

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## Arkansas Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



## Arkansas Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$219,008	59	\$1,152,463	109
District 2	\$19,461	5	\$166,104	31
District 3	\$114,546	39	\$251,979	68
District 4	\$1,428	1	\$125,928	33
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$354,443</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>\$1,696,474</b>	<b>241</b>

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