



# 2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

## Program Focus —

The WHIP priorities in Iowa are riparian area development, native grassland restoration, Topeka shiner habitat restoration and development, Prairie Chicken habitat restoration, and Sharptail Grouse habitat restoration. The priorities are the same as in previous years, with the addition of the federally listed endangered species, the Topeka shiner.

Targeting of the Topeka shiner has been added in Sac, Calhoun, Carroll, and Greene Counties, where the most activity has occurred to address its existence and habitat needs.

In addition, some funds will be used with funds from local Pheasants Forever and Quail Unlimited Chapters to demonstrate early successional manipulation on non-CRP grassland to provide habitat improvement for quail and pheasants.



*Streambank stabilization and instream fish hides as shown in this picture, help restore fish habitat in many cold and warm water streams in northwest Iowa.*

## Iowa Summary

### Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. The program offers landowners up to 75 percent cost-share for wildlife habitat projects. The 2001 WHIP was relatively small in Iowa in terms of funding, but the landowner interest was strong. Forty-two landowners applied for funding, requesting more than \$212,000 in assistance. NRCS approved funding for 21 landowners, totaling more than \$126,000.

### Accomplishments

Prairie restoration through projects in the Loess Hills of southwestern Iowa resulted in eastern red cedar removal, which released native prairie remnants. Three plans were developed to address restoration of Prairie chicken habitat. The Topeka shiner habitat restoration initiative was begun with three plans developed. Ten cold and warm water stream restoration projects for trout and small mouth bass habitat were initiated. Other practices such as prairie plantings and early successional habitat development were also funded.

### Program Benefits

Restoration and creation of habitats for important species and landforms is a major benefit of the WHIP. Socially, the public gains renewed enthusiasm for important species and their habitats, filling a void where financial assistance has been historically low. Landowners have the new benefit of being eligible for financial assistance on a broader range of landuses. Eroding streambanks are secured and transformed into productive fish habitat and erosion on pastureland and steep hillsides is reduced while encouraging native prairie restoration benefiting prairie chicken, Sharptail grouse, Topeka shiner, and other species while improving grazing efficiency for habitat management.

### Outlook

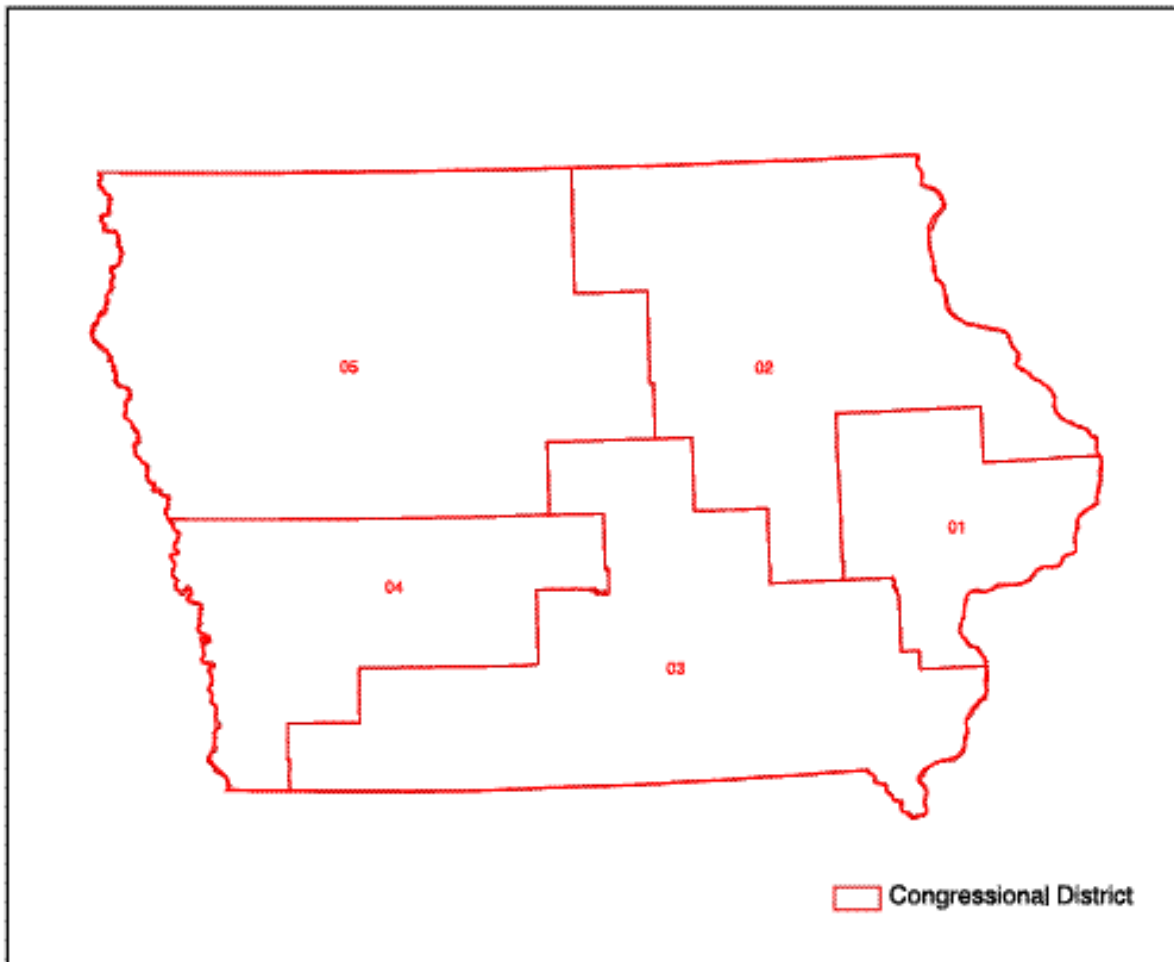
With over 75% of Iowa's 36 million acres in crop production and 95% of wetlands drained, wildlife habitat development and restoration is important in Iowa. Targeting of practices to benefit threatened and endangered species is a primary goal while addressing landowner wildlife resource concerns across Iowa. Wildlife species, including resident and migratory, are valuable resources.

Iowa's allotment of WHIP funds was limited and targeted primarily to endangered species. However, overall, Iowa landowners have expressed great interest in improving wildlife habitat. For example, Iowans have enrolled thousands of acres in the continuous signup of the Conservation Reserve Program. If additional WHIP funds were available, and could be used for multiple wildlife species for various habitat improvements, we predict that thousands of Iowa farmers would apply.

### State contact

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## Iowa Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts



## Iowa 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	\$ 46,267	11
District 2	\$73,459	11	\$202,775	37
District 3	\$43,016	4	\$120,728	18
District 4	\$28,070	9	\$138,134	24
District 5	\$ 7,633	2	\$ 16,446	5
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$152,178</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>\$524,350</b>	<b>95</b>

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