



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Customer Focus —

Pat Burns and Merry Lake were interested in enhancing their property for a variety of wildlife. They had been long-time cooperators with their local NRCS office, who helped them design, create, and install several wetlands with financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

They became interested in enhancing their upland wildlife habitat, so the NRCS Resource Conservationist added several practices to their Wildlife Habitat Development Plan and suggested they apply for WHIP.

Their WHIP plan involved establishing 65 acres of native grasses and wildflowers to compliment their wetland areas. With the financial and technical assistance provided through WHIP, the couple now have a conservation masterpiece that benefits a variety of wildlife.

Michigan Summary

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. Interested landowners seek natural resource planning assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and other federal, state, and private organizations to develop conservation plans that improve wildlife habitat. WHIP funds help implement the actions identified in the plan by providing financial assistance up to 75 percent of the cost for their projects.

Michigan continues to have a large interest in WHIP. In 2001, Michigan had 164 applications representing \$1,054,005 worth of wildlife habitat improvements. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assisted landowners to develop 72 contracts totaling \$412,484 in federal cost-share. Some of the projects approved for financial assistance will include bat-friendly mine closures, native grass planting, tree planting, stream bank protection, plus many others.

Accomplishments

A number of Michigan landowners completed WHIP practices in 2001. Native grasses and wildflowers were planted on over 400 acres; over 150 acres of trees were planted to expand wood lots, riparian forest buffers, hedgerows, and windbreaks; over 2,000 feet of stream banks were protected and improved; six bat-friendly mine closures were installed; plus many other projects. Michigan landowners received \$181,249 in federal cost-share to help offset the costs of implementing these practices according to their Wildlife Habitat Development Plans.

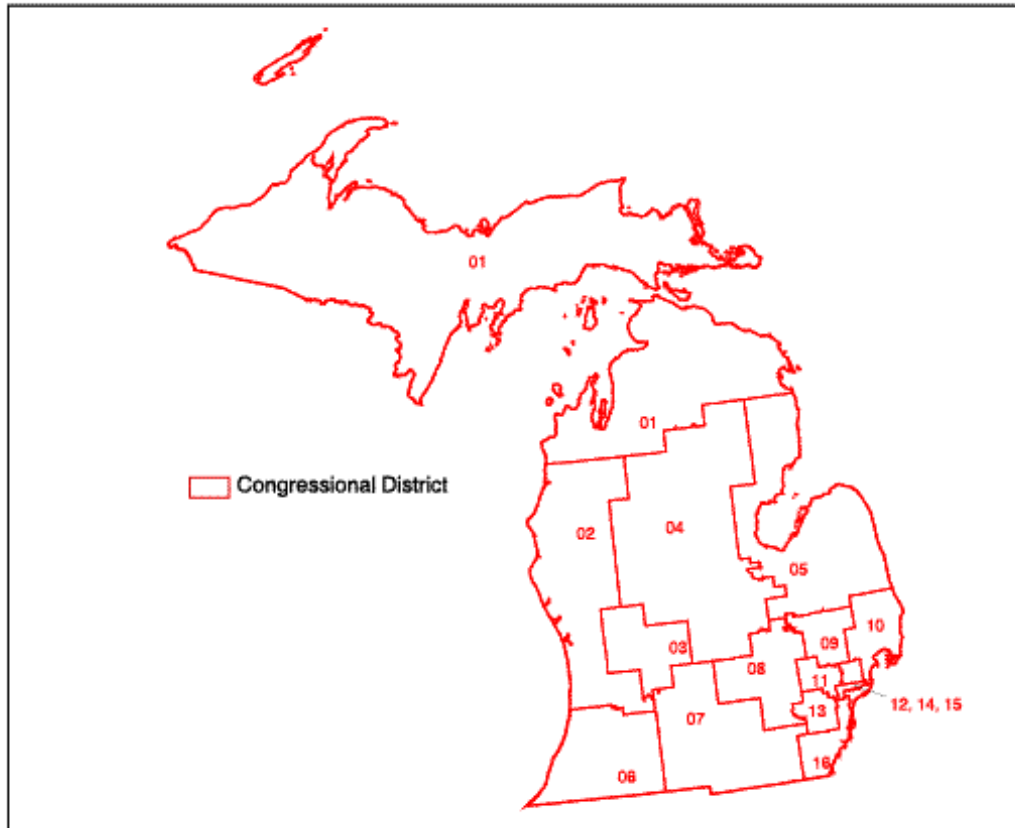
Program Benefits

Wildlife habitat improvements are needed in Michigan to protect and enhance critical wildlife habitats. Demand by Michigan landowners for wildlife habitat cost-share assistance has exceeded available funds in every year. In 2001 alone, the demand was more than double the available funds. To ensure quality wildlife habitat, additional funding in Michigan is desperately needed.

State contact

Shannon Zezula, Conservation Programs Coordinator; 517 324-5259; shannon.zezula@MIUSDA.gov

Michigan Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Michigan Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$113,703	10	\$390,305	80
District 2	69,622	10	237,241	62
District 3	48,703	16	89,949	37
District 4	123,421	21	327,144	85
District 5	0	0	128,520	28
District 6	5,244	2	33,404	8
District 7	38,171	10	201,922	67
District 8	11,714	3	62,391	19
District 9	0	0	460	1
District 10	0	0	726	1
District 16	0	0	788	1

State Totals

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