



# 2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

## Customer Focus —

Andrew Hautzinger, owner of a small farm in the Rio Grande valley, took notice of the urban sprawl around his farm when wildlife began moving away. The Rio Grande valley is a major fly-zone for many migratory birds. Urban sprawl is using up habitat and isolated resting areas and food sources are being affected.

Mr. Hautzinger applied for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, WHIP, in 1998 to convert his small acreage into habitat that would meet migratory and local wildlife needs. NRCS met with Andrew and prepared a habitat plan proposal, which received funding in 1998. A pond was planned with a permanent water source along with various tree, shrub, and grass planting projects.

Mr. Hautzinger agreed to an extraordinary effort of tracking tree/shrub survival and growth. He also agreed to maintain a diary of wildlife sightings and use of habitat. Andrew provides a copy each year, computer graphed with excellent notes, of the tree/shrub survival and progress. This information is invaluable to help NRCS make sound recommendations to others seeking to establish good wildlife habitat. The wildlife diary is extremely interesting with unexpected guests showing up such as Cooper Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, and Western Tanager.

A drip watering system has aided in a near 95% survival rate of plantings. A nearby NRCS Plant Material Center provided over 30 species of trees and shrubs. The charted results provided by Andrews have shown which species grow best and provide the best source of food. The partnership of Mr. Hautzinger and NRCS has benefited many wildlife species. It is amazing how much impact one small farm and one determined landowner can have on so many wildlife species.

## New Mexico Summary

### Overview

In New Mexico, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land, continues to be sought after through fiscal year (FY) 2001. Through WHIP USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. Applications requesting Federal cost-share funds totaling over \$170,000 dollars were submitted by 27 landowners. The New Mexico FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$110,000. This is a shortfall of about \$60,000 to meet current client needs. NRCS staff and our partners developed and approved 16 WHIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated all of the available financial assistance funds.

### Accomplishments

WHIP has proven to be a highly effective and widely accepted program across the New Mexico. By targeting wildlife habitat projects on all lands and aquatic areas, WHIP provides assistance to conservation minded landowners who are unable to meet the specific eligibility requirements of other USDA conservation programs.

FY 2001 WHIP conservation plans and contracts covered nearly 13,965 acres throughout the State. About 50 clients were provided assistance associated with WHIP in New Mexico. Since the inception of WHIP in New Mexico, over 250 distinct conservation practices have been planned in WHIP contracts.

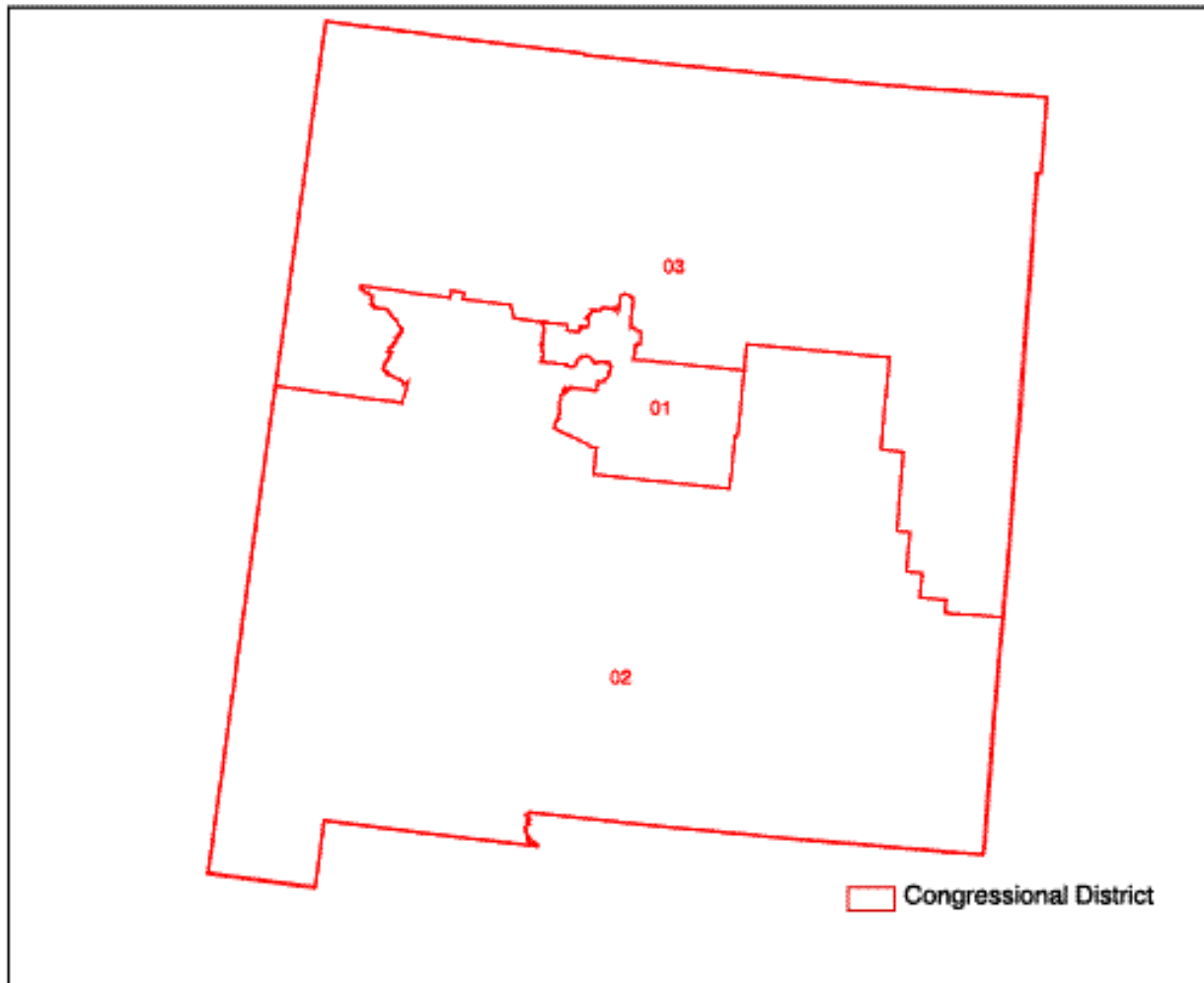
### Program Benefits

Participants who own or control land agree to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat development plan. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers participants technical and financial assistance for the establishment of wildlife habitat development practices. NRCS helps participants prepare a wildlife habitat development plan to describes the landowner's goals for improving wildlife habitat, includes a list of practices and a schedule for installing them, and details the steps necessary to maintain the habitat for the life of the agreement. In New Mexico, (number) practices were installed in FY01 to benefit (number) acres of wildlife habitat with (number) of participating clients.

### State contact

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## New Mexico Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



### New Mexico Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$3968	2	\$42,960	12
District 2	29,117	6	239230	36
District 3	76,300	8	597386	72
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$109,387</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>\$879,576</b>	<b>120</b>

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