



# 2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

## Program Focus —

Rhode Island NRCS partnered with the Aquidneck Island Land Trust to fund a particularly special project through WHIP. The multiple benefits of this project cannot be adequately described in feet or acres. What appears on a contract as 5,400 feet of fence, is actually a contribution to the preservation of 43 acres. The land trust has purchased the development rights on three adjacent farms in Middletown, RI. Conservation Plans, developed by NRCS, were a major part of the agreements. Practices recommended in their plans, such as fencing livestock out of streams and rotational grazing, will be implemented through participation in USDA cost-share programs WHIP and Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Not only will wildlife habitat be created through these practices, but a critical drinking water supply will also be protected from contamination by animal waste. The effects of this project will be far reaching. Benefits will be shared by the landowners, users of the drinking water supply, and the wildlife. Additionally, a valuable partnership has been created with the Aquidneck Island Land Trust. Recently, the executive director of the land trust was quoted in a local paper saying, "We recognize the value and the character of these properties. We wanted to conserve the land, the animal population and assure that its current natural scene would be around for years to come."

## Rhode Island 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 (NRCS) 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.

In Rhode Island, strong interest and participation in WHIP continued through FY 2001. Applications requesting Federal cost-share funds totaled \$76,500 were submitted by 11 landowners. The Rhode Island FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$50,000. This is a shortfall of about \$27,000. NRCS staff developed and approved 4 WHIP conservation plans and contracts.

### Accomplishments

Rhode Island NRCS received 11 applications with a dollar value of applications received \$76,500, there were 4 contracts approved with 27.7 acres under contract. The dollar value of partner contributions totaled \$2,000.

### Program Benefits

Program funding, besides providing landowners with financial resources to improve wildlife habitat, is creating the partnerships in Rhode Island that can provide them with the best technical expertise. All 4 Rhode Island contracts will encourage the wildlife to return, and will have a positive impact on the watersheds involved.

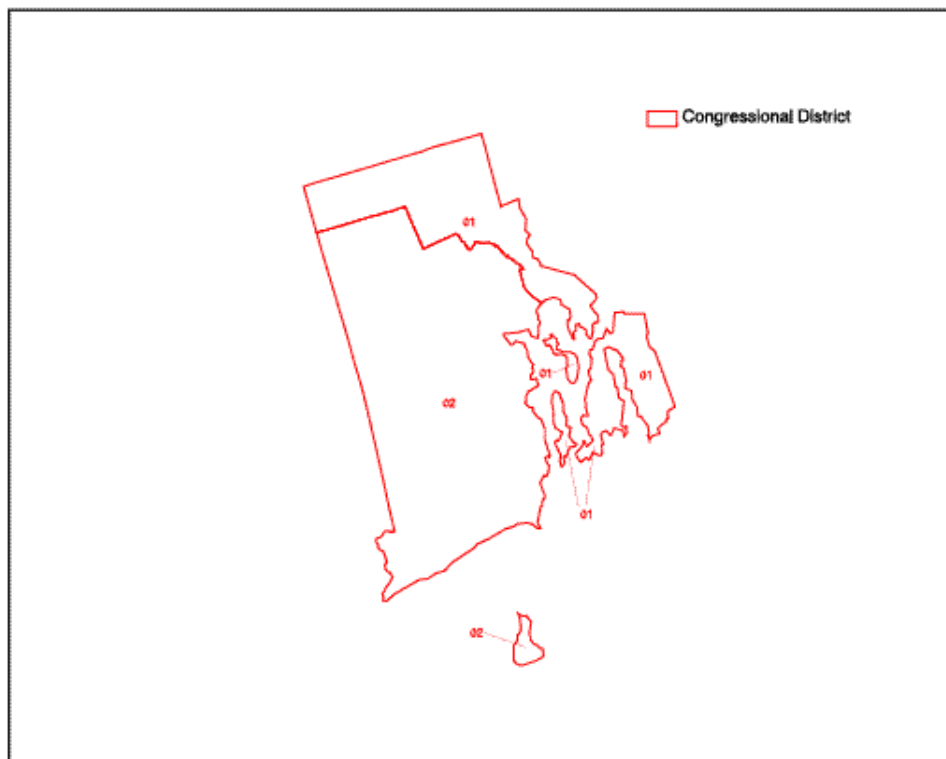
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Stream before buffer

## Rhode Island WHIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



### Rhode Island WHIP Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (98-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	29,450	2	211,772	18
District 2	16,775	2	155,358	18
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>46,225</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>367,130</b>	<b>36</b>

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