



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Program Focus —

Missouri has utilized both geographic target areas and priority habitats in applying WHIP to the Missouri landscape.

The geographic target areas allow matching funds and personnel to be concentrated to restore declining native habitats. The focus areas allow a greater impact on habitat improvements because they place more contracts in a landscape-management approach.

Priority habitats allow limited funds to be used in those areas that would benefit most from applied management.

Both focus areas and priority habitats concentrate funds in areas where declining native habitats have been most affected.



Missouri Summary

Overview

Missouri landowners continue to show significant interest in WHIP. Available funds can support only half of the applications received.

Missouri's WHIP plan emphasizes the restoration and management of native plant communities and their associated wildlife species. Statewide, the program focuses on reestablishing declining habitats, including prairies, glades and savannas. Many species of birds, reptiles, insects and mammals will benefit from restoration of these native habitats.

Management of woodland for quality wildlife habitat has also been emphasized in southeastern Missouri.

Accomplishments

Missouri developed 85 contracts in fiscal year 2001. More than \$455,000 was committed to improving habitat conditions on 8,000 acres. Woody cover control will be applied on 1,300 acres to restore native prairies and savannas. Prescribed fire will be used on 2,400 acres to provide quality vegetative composition and structure. Non-native vegetation will be eradicated on 800 acres, and wildlife-friendly vegetation will be seeded on almost 1,100 acres.

Funds from previous program years have allowed the development of 274 WHIP contracts. These contracts have allowed habitat improvements on almost 37,000 acres of upland habitat. Almost half of these acres are benefiting threatened and endangered species. Prescribed fire on almost 11,000 acres, woody cover control on 4,300 acres, and the reestablishment of wildlife-friendly plant communities on 3,500 acres will begin to provide significant gains for declining species.

Program Benefits

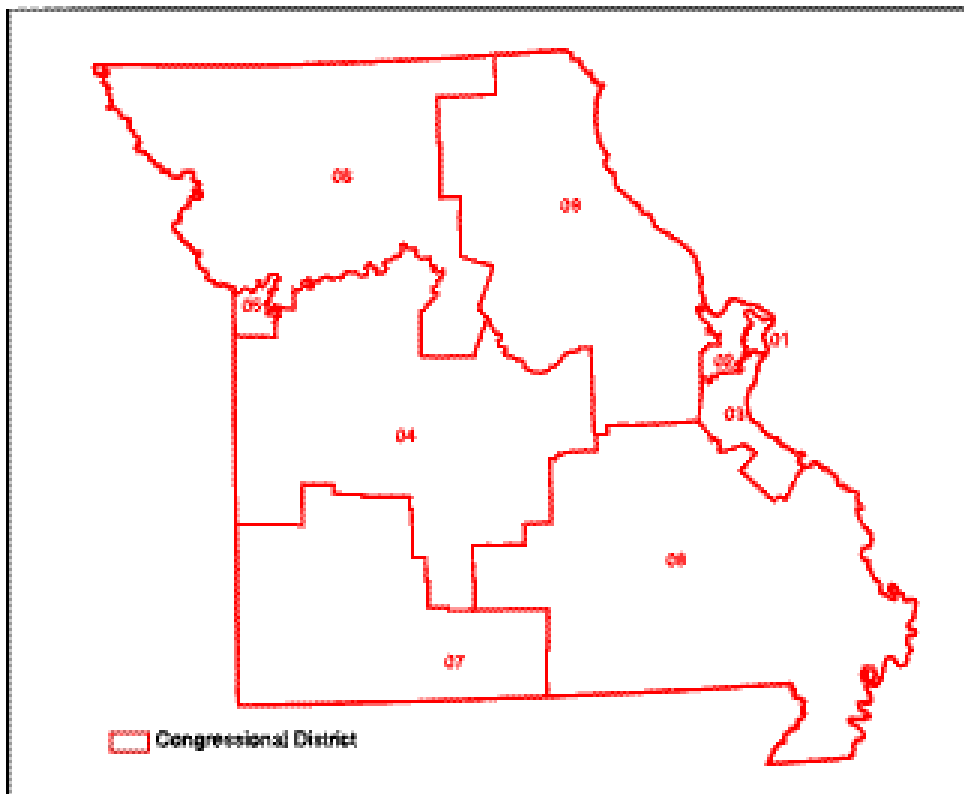
Missouri's WHIP program has allowed NRCS to interact with a new customer base. Many of the WHIP contracts are on lands owned by hobby and recreational landowners. The opportunity to introduce new clientele to USDA programs has provided a stronger support base for proper resource management. WHIP has also strengthened the cooperative work that NRCS conducts with the Missouri Department of Conservation. The sharing of both staff and funding arrangements has allowed WHIP to reach many more customers.

The WHIP contract areas are serving as demonstrations of how quality habitat and agricultural production can be realized on the same acres. WHIP has provided the focus to concentrate on declining habitat restoration.

State contact

Terry Cosby, Asst. State Conservationist, (573) 876-0901, terry.cosby@mo.usda.gov
Pat Graham, State Biologist, (573) 876-0908, pat.graham@mo.usda.gov

Missouri Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Missouri 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	0	0
District 2	0	0	0	0
District 3	0	0	0	0
District 4	\$44,925	11	\$310,042	63
District 5	0	0	0	0
District 6	\$204,236	33	\$353,368	86
District 7	\$84,593	9	\$190,908	31
District 8	\$98,219	28	\$243,736	42
District 9	\$23,421	4	\$324,134	52
State Totals	\$455,394	85	1,422,188	274

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