



# 2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

## South Dakota Summary

### Customer Focus —

Utilizing a WHIP contract agreement, Dr. Bernard Heilman of Lake County, South Dakota, was able to enhance wildlife habitat on his home acreage. His goal, in addition to providing a small sanctuary for migratory water fowl, was simply to create a wildlife area adjacent to the home that would provide some aesthetic qualities.

"The Heilman project offered an opportunity to be creative and design an area that maximized the value of the habitat," says Mark Benton, NRCS soil conservationist, Madison, SD.

To meet this objective, the previously altered wetland basin was restored by breaking a drain tile and installing a tile riser. Two nesting islands were constructed within the basin and the upland area adjacent to the wetland was seeded to a native forb and grasses mix: Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Prairie Coneflower, and Plains Coreopsis.

Through WHIP, we were able to work with the landowner to accomplish his goal of attracting wildlife. "I enjoyed this project. It is not every day that we get to work with someone wanting to build nesting islands for habitat," says Benton.

### 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.

### Accomplishments

Wildlife is one of South Dakota's natural resource treasures. To date, 313 WHIP contracts have been funded in South Dakota, encompassing 121,177 acres. WHIP made a successful return to South Dakota in 2001 after receiving no funding in 2000. NRCS received 143 applications in 2001, resulting in 49 funded contracts worth \$250,658, while enrolling 36,215 acres.

### Program Benefits

WHIP is a voluntary program that helps landowners in South Dakota develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. Interested landowners seek help from NRCS and other federal, state and private organizations to develop conservation plans that improve wildlife habitat. The program was authorized by the 1996 Farm Bill and helps landowners develop habitat for upland wildlife, wetland wildlife, threatened and endangered species, fish, and other wildlife in South Dakota.

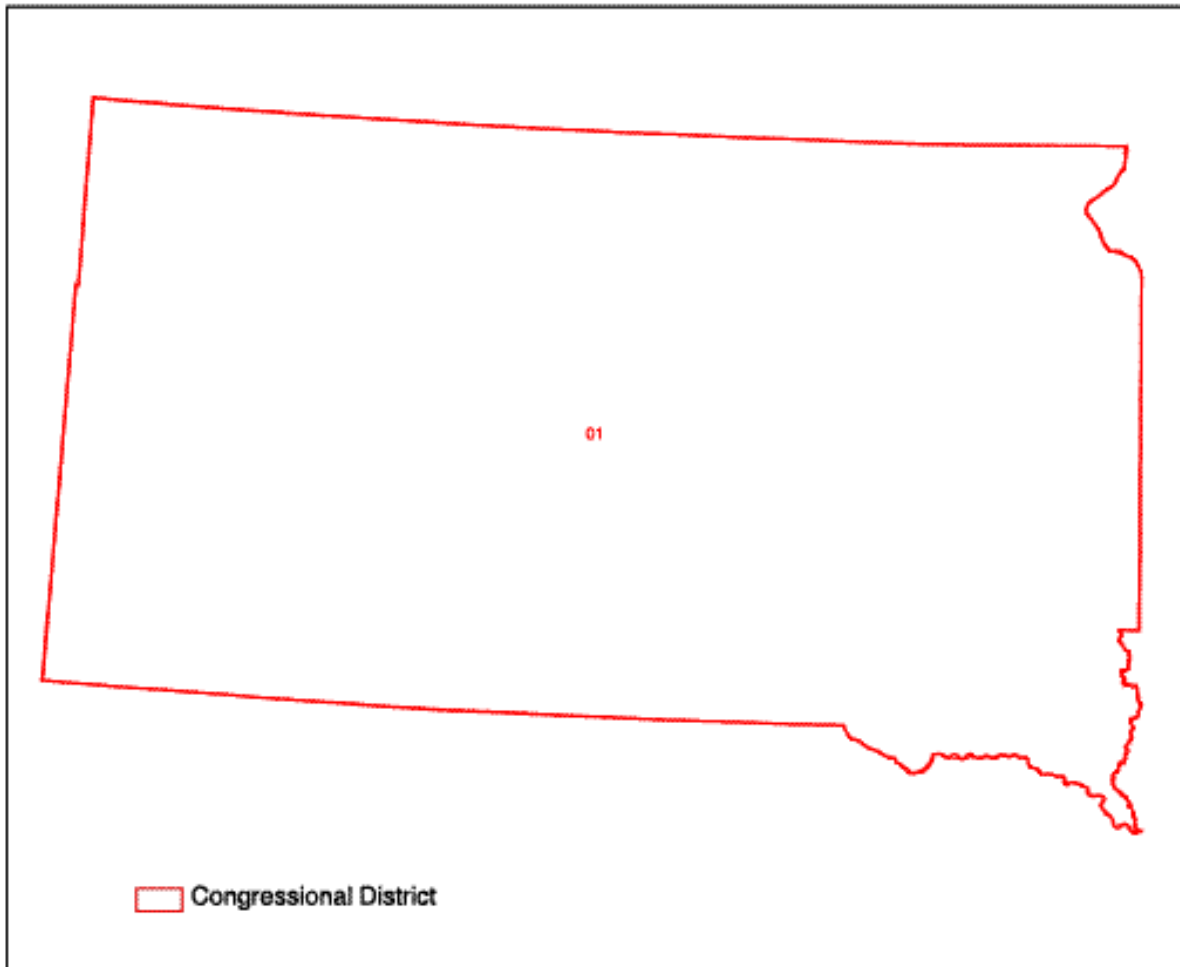
### State contact

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*Dr. Bernard Heilman of Lake County, SD, used WHIP to benefit the many species of wildlife on his property.*

## South Dakota Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



### South Dakota 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
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$768,088</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1,739,350</b>	<b>310</b>

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