



2001 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Program Focus —

Tennessee has established six WHIP priority areas. Priority areas were established based on criteria such as high potential for habitat restoration and locations where habitat and wildlife populations were known to have decreased and a high percent of cropland exists.

Benefits to be derived from the selection of priority areas are increased numbers of bobwhite quail, increased shelter for songbirds, increase in native plant diversity, improved water quality, and aquatic habitat improvement.

WHIP priority areas established in Tennessee are Forked Deer, Obion, Caney Fork/Collins, Duck, Nolichucky, and Holston River Watersheds.

Tennessee Summary

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. The Tennessee WHIP goals are to restore and enhance critical upland and wetland habitats for threatened and endangered species and riparian habitats beneficial to fish and aquatic species. Special emphasis is placed on improving native grassland and shrub habitats to positively and measurably increase the number of early successional wildlife species.

Accomplishments

In Fiscal Year 2001, 33 contracts on 1,550 acres of land were approved. Conservation practices targeted to wildlife were applied on over 3,000 acres of contracts (1998-2001 contract implementation). Over 90 percent of the acres were planted to native warm season grasses. Riparian forest buffers were established on 38 acres. Field borders were planted on 112,000 feet of field edges.

Tennessee has 236 contracts currently enrolled involving 11,307 acres. This includes contracts from fiscal years 1998-2001. To date, over 9,200 acres have been established to native warm season grasses. Wetlands have been created or enhanced on 72 acres. Protection measures on streambanks have been implemented on 13,500 feet of Tennessee streams. Field borders have been planted on 280,350 feet of field edges.

Program Benefits

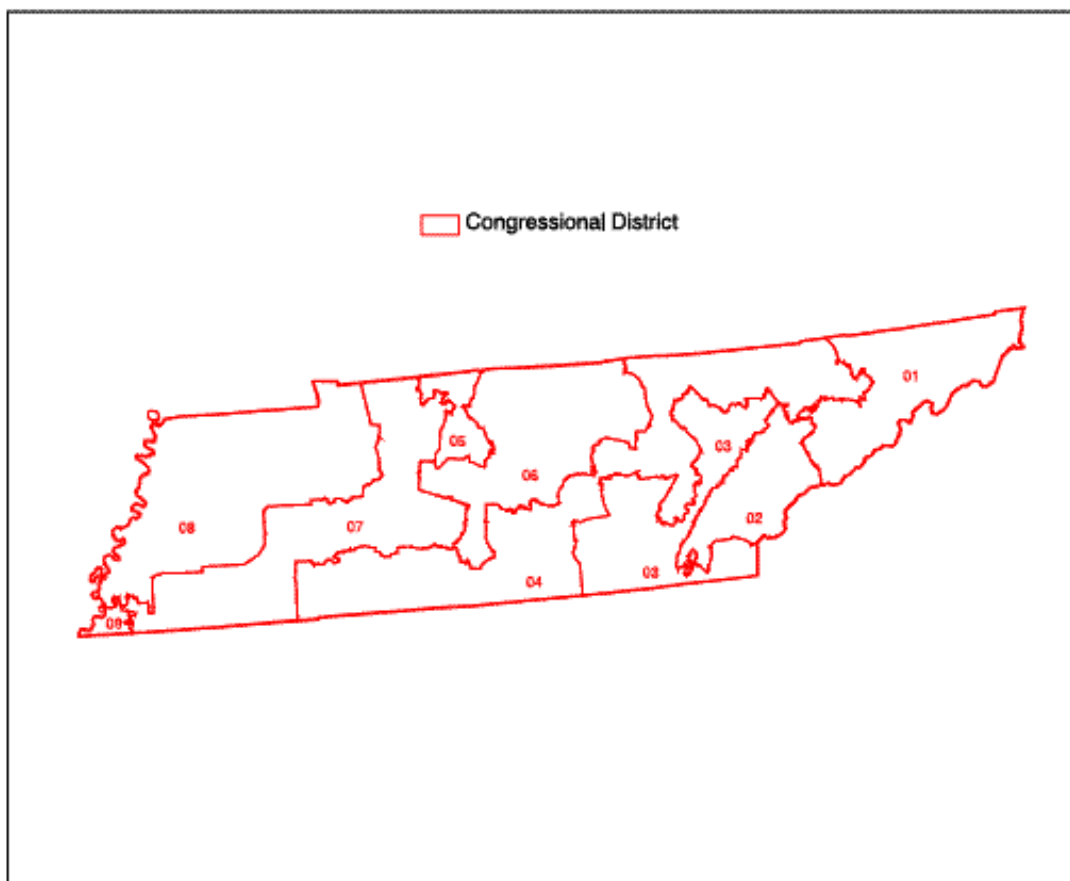
Implementation of WHIP in Tennessee has resulted in numerous environmental, social, and economic benefits as follows:

1. Improve habitat critical to declining populations of bobwhite quail, small game, and songbirds.
2. Improvement of over 7,000 acres of habitat desirable for T&E species.
3. Decreased levels of bacteria, nutrients, and sediment in streams.
4. Increased plant diversity on farms and in communities.
5. Decreased fragmentation of woodland corridors beneficial to wildlife.
6. Restored shade alongside streams resulting in improved water quality.
7. Restoration or enhancement of approximately 70 acres of wetlands.
8. Wildlife related hunting enterprises enhanced.
9. Improved outdoor educational opportunities.
10. Wildlife observation opportunities increased.

State contact

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Tennessee Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



TENNESSEE Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1			\$58,121	22
District 2			\$26,394	7
District 3	\$46,999	3	\$144,118	22
District 4	\$54,003	7	\$250,963	61
District 5			\$20,285	5
District 6	\$38,250	14	\$153,964	51
District 7	\$22,960	6	\$173,504	46
District 8	\$16,687	3	\$109,824	22
State Totals	\$178,899	33	\$937,173	236

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