



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rhode Island State Office

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Second Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Application Deadline Opened for 2009. Application Period Opened Until June 30-Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Selected as a Priority Area

Warwick, RI (June 15, 2009) - Pooh Vongkhamdy, Rhode Island State Conservationist has opened a second application period for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) until **June 30, 2009**. This extended application period will cover all of Rhode Island but will give priority to applications that benefit aquatic habitat within the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed which is located in the southern part of Rhode Island. All WHIP applications received since the first deadline of March 15, 2009 will be considered for the second ranking period.

The purpose of the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is to help participants develop fish and wildlife habitat on private agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, and Indian Tribal land.

The 2008 Farm Bill has made some significant changes to the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program that could impact potential program participants. Potential applicants should consider the following changes:

Eligible Lands:

Private agricultural land;
Nonindustrial private forest land;
Tribal land.

Ineligible Lands:

Public Lands: *State, county and local government lands* will no-longer be eligible to participate in WHIP.

Cost share payments made or attributed to a participant, directly or indirectly, may not exceed in the aggregate **\$50,000 per year**.

Additional information on WHIP and application materials may be obtained online at <http://www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/WHIP.html> or by contacting Joe Bachand at (401) 822-8818. Completed applications should be submitted to:

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60 Quaker Lane, Suite 46
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