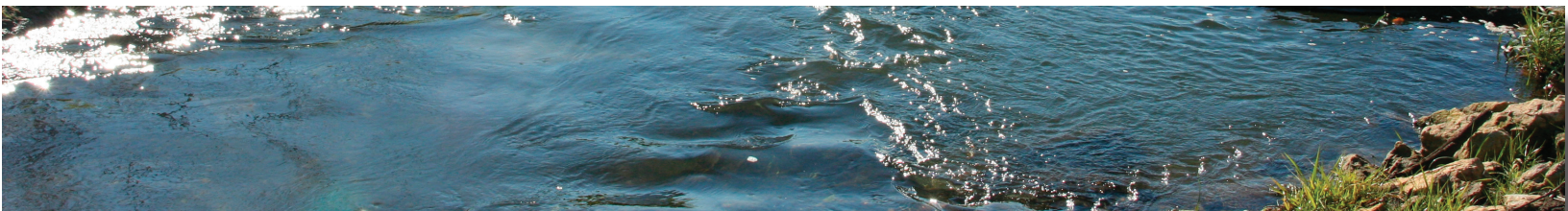




Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program



What is the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program?

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on private lands. WHIP offers technical and financial assistance to help protect, restore, develop or enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

How WHIP Works

Landowners apply for the program at their local NRCS Office. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical resources to applicants to help plan eligible practices which benefit wildlife habitat.

The Plan

Participants work with NRCS to prepare a contract and WHIP plan of operations, which describes the landowner's goals for improving wildlife habitat. The plan includes:

- a list of practices
- schedule for installation
- payment rates to be received upon completion
- details of maintenance needed for the life of the contract.

Some of the Opportunities:

- Install in-stream structures to provide fish habitat
- Restore prairie and oak savannahs
- Control brush and invasive species



WHIP Financial Assistance

WHIP payments help with the practice implementation costs. The contract lasts one year past the last scheduled practice and may be as long as 10 years. Under the contract, the landowner agrees to implement and maintain the contracted practices and allow NRCS access to monitor the effectiveness of the practices. Payments are limited to \$50,000 per fiscal year.

What's Eligible?

Private agricultural and non-industrial private forestland currently in production, or capable of production, may be eligible. To participate in WHIP, you must own or have control of the land under consideration.

What Land is Not Eligible?

Publicly owned land is not eligible. Land currently enrolled in the Water Bank Program, Conservation Reserve Program, or Wetlands Reserve Program is not eligible. Land enrolled in the Emergency Watershed Program or Grassland Reserve Program may not be eligible; check with the local NRCS office for details. Land is also ineligible if USDA determines that onsite or offsite conditions would undermine or reduce the benefits of habitat development.

How to Apply

Landowners may apply by contacting the NRCS office in the county in which the land is located.

More information is available on the web at www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs

List of Eligible Practices

- *Brush Management*
- *Conservation Cover*
- *Critical Area Planting*
- *Fence*
- *Field Border*
- *Firebreak*
- *Fish Passage*
- *Herbaceous Weed Control*
- *Mulching*
- *Obstruction Removal*
- *Prescribed Burning*
- *Stream Crossing*
- *Streambank and Shoreline Protection*
- *Stream Habitat Improvement and Management*
- *Tree and Shrub Establishment*
- *Wetland Creation*
- *Wetland Restoration*
- *Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management*

Wisconsin Priorities

WHIP proposals will be evaluated based on Wisconsin wildlife habitat priorities. Applications are scored on a number of factors, including type of habitat to be established, location within designated priority area if applicable, practice lifespan, and benefit to at-risk species.



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.