

# 2003 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program



## Program Focus —

The goal of WHIP in Minnesota is to "Maintain a healthy, diverse ecosystem through the improvement, enhancement and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, in cooperation with private agricultural landowners".

Promote wildlife habitat restoration and management on private lands through cooperative endeavors between landowners and Federal, state and local conservation partners.

To maximize habitat and species benefits, focus WHIP financial and technical resources towards projects statewide which are a component of a comprehensive plan with the highest demonstratable outcomes.

Utilize WHIP, to the extent practicable, to benefit State and Federal at risk species.

## Minnesota Summary

### Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on tribal and private lands. It provides both technical assistance and cost sharing to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Minnesota's WHIP plan focuses on the establishment and management of native habitats, including at risk species. WHIP contracts are coordinated with other local, state, tribal and federal initiatives which allows the program to reach many more customers.

### 2003 Accomplishments

Minnesota received a total of 120 eligible applications in FY-05, and the dollar value of applications received exceeded \$1.2 million. Minnesota was able to fund 103 contracts establishing and enhancing over 2000 acres at a cost share of over \$475,000.

Practices include the establishment of 470 acres of native grasses and forbs, 540 acres of native trees and shrubs, 600 acres of brushland management, 700 acres of prescribed burning, and 300 acres of timber stand improvement to remove invasive species and improve woodlands for wildlife. Additionally, 40 acres of wetlands were restored.

### Program Benefits

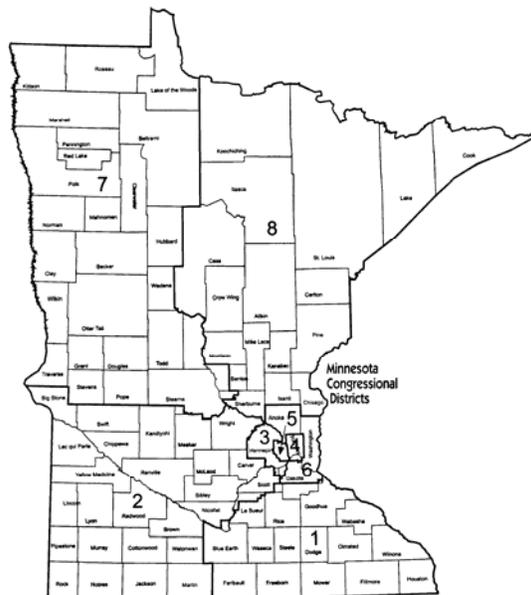
NRCS has worked closely with several tribes to utilize WHIP in meeting tribal comprehensive wildlife management plans. WHIP has provided NRCS the opportunity to reach non-traditional clients and introduce them to USDA programs and services.

WHIP has been used to demonstrate the value of non-traditional habitat projects. Examples include; endangered species habitat restoration and outdoor environmental education projects.

### State contact

Mark Oja  
State Biologist  
(651) 602-7868  
[mark.oja@mn.usda.gov](mailto:mark.oja@mn.usda.gov)

# Minnesota Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



## Minnesota Dollars and Contracts

Fiscal Year 2003

<b>Congressional Districts</b>	<b>Obligated Dollars</b>	<b>Number of Contracts</b>
District 1	\$161,000	26
District 2	\$42,153	10
District 3	0	0
District 4	0	0
District 5	0	0
District 6	\$2,687	1
District 7	\$51,800	9
District 8	\$92,300	22
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>	<b>68</b>