



2006 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 demonstrable 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.

2006 Accomplishments

Minnesota received a total of 130 eligible applications in FY-06, and the dollar value of applications received exceeded \$650,000. Minnesota was able to fund 122 contracts establishing and enhancing over 3000 acres at a cost share of over \$615,000.

Practices include:

- establishment of 1057 acres of native shrubs, grasses and forbs,
- 169 acres of brush land management,
- 881 acres of prescribed burning,
- 527 acres of timber stand improvement to remove invasive species,
- 50 acres of wetlands were restored,
- 188 acres of tree planting,
- 550 feet of stream bank and shoreline protection, and
- 167 acres of declining species habitat enhanced.

Program Benefits

NRCS has worked closely with several tribal conservation departments to utilize WHIP in meeting 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; declining species habitat restoration and wildlife friendly green spaces.

State contact

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