



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov

Fact Sheet

Contact:
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2008 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program in Connecticut

What Is WHIP? The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is intended to help landowners implement practices to maintain or establish wildlife habitat. WHIP is a cost-share program that will reimburse participants up to 75% of the cost for planned conservation practices. Typically, contracts are 5-10 years in length, and in some cases, 15-year contracts can be developed. At least one cost-share practice must be started within the first 12 months after signing the contract. There is no maximum funding cap. Applications are funded on a competitive basis, statewide, and are dependent upon available funding.

What Type of Areas Qualify?

- Grasslands
- Old Fields
- Early Successional Woodlands
- Riparian Areas
- Streams and Rivers
- Wetlands (tidal and non-tidal)
- State Identified Imperiled Habitats
- Shallow and Deep Water Habitats

How Do I Sign-Up?

NRCS is taking applications from now until November 2, 2007. Applicants are required to:

- Sign up using Conservation Agreement Form CCC-1200
- Work with NRCS and Farm Service Agency (FSA) personnel to identify property
- Work with NRCS and FSA to determine participant eligibility
- Work with NRCS field staff to evaluate the property and develop a Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP)

Application Considerations:

- Minimum acreage: 1 acre upland; ¼ acre wetland or riparian, or imperiled habitat of any size
- Compliance with USDA Farm Bill provisions required
- A certified Forest Stewardship Plan must be in place for all woodland clearing applications
- Average Adjusted Gross Income compliance required
- Funds cannot be used for mitigation

Whom Do I Contact for More Information?

Fairfield/Litchfield Counties
 (860) 626-0258
Kathleen.Johnson@ct.usda.gov

New London County
 (860) 887-3604
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Hartford/Tolland Counties
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