

# Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

## Quick Sheet

(Technical and Financial Assistance)

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. Through WHIP, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. Most WHIP contracts are completed within 1 to 3 years.

### WHIP PENNSYLVANIA PRIORITIES

- Establishment of native grasses and forbs
- Improvement of wetland habitat
- Stream Habitat and Stream Corridor Management
- Early Successional Habitat Development

### WHIP ELIGIBILITY

Applicants can be a person, legal entity or joint operation that has an interest in an agricultural operation, (including non-industrial private forestland) as an owner or renter or otherwise having control of the land for the contract period.

Applicants must be in compliance with USDA highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions, and not exceed maximum Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limits. They must also be in compliance with their terms of all other USDA-administered conservation program contracts they are already participating in.

Eligible land for WHIP includes Agricultural Lands such as cropland, grassland, pasture, non-industrial private forest land and other land suitable for fish and wildlife habitat development, on which agricultural and forest-related products or livestock are produced or have the potential to be produced. Agricultural lands may include cropped woodland, marshes, incidental areas included in the agricultural operation, and other types of land used for production of livestock.

Non-Industrial Private Forestland is rural land with existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees; and is owned by any non-industrial private individual, group association, corporation, Indian tribe, or other private legal entity that has definitive decision-making authority over the land.

### EVALUATION AND RANKING

WHIP uses an evaluation and ranking process to assess needs and cost effectiveness. Ranking occurs after applications are first put through a screening tool and are determined to have at least minimal environmental benefits and meet program purposes. The review of applications for Fiscal Year 2010 contract requests will begin in late 2009 and will continue as long as funds are available.

*For more information about this or other funding programs  
contact:*

