

NEWS RELEASE



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USDA RELEASES ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT

INDIANAPOLIS, June 11, 2008—With the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill comes additional funding for this year's Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). An additional \$391,000 is available through July 16, 2008.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for developing and improving wildlife habitat. Through WHIP, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance and up to 75 percent of the cost to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years.

Landowners, government organizations, and not for profit groups interested in the program can receive up to \$50,000 for wildlife habitat projects. "Because changes in the 2008 Farm Bill limit the WHIP program to private landowners, this may be the last chance for cities and towns to take advantage of this program," said NRCS State Conservationist Jane Hardisty. "These changes will take effect October 1 with the beginning of a new federal fiscal year."

For more information about WHIP and eligibility requirements, please visit <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/whip.html>.

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