

MICHIGAN WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP) GENERAL INFORMATION FOR FY 2011

WHIP is a voluntary program that reimburses landowners for a portion of their eligible costs for enhancing wildlife habitat on private lands. In return for the cost-share, landowners agree to manage their contract acreage primarily for wildlife according to a plan based on the landowners' intentions and identified resource concerns for the life of the contract.

Michigan has the following Habitat Priorities

- **Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E):** Projects that positively address a habitat need for a State, Federal, T&E species, or state at-risk species as found on the "Michigan at-risk Indicator Species List".
- **Rare Habitats:** Projects that restore a remnant or degraded High-Priority Habitat as found in the "Michigan WHIP Priority Habitat List".
- **Aquatic Buffers:** Grasses, trees and shrubs along streams, wetlands and other water bodies.
- **Grassland Habitats:** Grasslands, Prairies, Savannas, and Barrens.
- **Forestland Habitats:** Planting of trees and shrubs beneficial to wildlife to reduce habitat fragmentation, or improve existing forest stands.

WHIP cost-share is NOT available for:

- Ponds
- Wetland Restoration
- Shallow Water for Wildlife
- Annual Food Plots
- Decks, Docks, Trails, Scenic Overlooks, Boat Launches, Campgrounds or other recreational practices.
- Bird Houses, Nesting Structures (Unless needed as a critical element for T&E species).
- Planting of non-native invasive plants.
- Landscaping, orchards, or the planting of ornamental trees.
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection
- Soil Conservation Practices (Except for Grade Stabilization Structure to ensure the function of a Riparian Forest Buffer).

General Requirements for WHIP applicants:

- WHIP applications must be privately owned or part of a Federally Recognized American Indian Tribe. WHIP is no longer available for state and local units of government.
- WHIP projects cannot be used for mitigation or to remedy a violation of Federal, State, or local law.
- WHIP is subject to a \$50,000 annual payment limitation.
- The primary purpose of WHIP is to benefit wildlife. All management activities on the project acreage will be in accordance with and NRCS approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan, and will be designed only for the benefit of wildlife for the life of the contract.
- WHIP is not eligible for land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), or any other Federal Cost-Share or Easement Program.
- WHIP participants are required to be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended.
- WHIP participants are required to be in compliance with the Adjusted Gross Income Provisions of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.
- WHIP payments will only be made through Direct Deposit into your bank account.