

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program 2008 Farm Bill

Natural Resources Conservation Service Contacts:

Aiea Service Center

99-193 Aiea Heights Drive,
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Phone: (808) 483-8600

Hilo Service Center

154 Waiianuenue Avenue,
Room 322
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-2452
Phone: (808) 933-8381

Hoolehua Service Center

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Kealahou Service Center

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Lihue Service Center

4334 Rice Street, Room 104
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Kahului Service Center

77 Hookele St. Ste. 202
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Waimea Service Center

Kamuela Business Center Bldg.
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American Samoa Service Center

Pago Plaza, Suite 211
P.O. Box 4078
Pago Pago, AS 96799
Phone: (684) 633-1031

Guam Service Center

Barrigada Plaza, Suite 101
494 West Route 8
Barrigada, Guam 96913-2011
Phone: (671) 735-2111

Saipan Service Center

DY Bldg, Beach Road
South Garapan, Saipan, MP
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Saipan, MP 96950-5082
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www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov



Hawaiian Duck - Koloa

Purpose

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) conservation program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, and local significance.

Through WHIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to develop fish and wildlife habitat for upland, wetland, threatened and endangered species, and other types of wildlife on the landowner's property.

Person and Land Eligibility

Eligible lands include **privately owned** agricultural land, non-industrial private forest land and Indian land. Applicants must have uninterrupted control of the land for the contract period. Public lands are currently ineligible **except trust land owned in fee title by a State, including an agency or subdivision of a State, when such trust land is held under a long-term lease by a person or non-governmental entity (i.e. Hawaii Homelands)**

Selection Process and Contract Requirements

The USDA NRCS evaluates and ranks applications based upon the ecological, economic, and social benefits of the planned conservation practices. If selected to receive funding, the length of a contract is from two to 10 years. The contract will list and schedule all practices to be installed and cost-shared on a WHIP Plan of Operations (WPO).

In limited circumstances, NRCS may enter into long-term agreements of at least 15 years to protect and or restore critical plant or animal habitat.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Farm Service Agency Contacts:

Hawaii County Office
Phone: (808) 933-8381

Honolulu County Office
Phone: (808) 483-8600

Kauai County Office
Phone: (808) 245-9014

Maui County Office
Phone: (808) 871-5500

American Samoa Office
Phone: (684) 633-1031 ext 21 or 26

Guam and Saipan
Phone: (671) 472-7359

In Partnership with Soil and Water Conservation Districts:

Big Island

Hamakua
Ka'u
Kona
Mauna Kea
Puna
Waiakea

Kauai

East Kauai
West Kauai

Maui

Central Maui
Hana
Olinda-Kula
West Maui

Molokai

Molokai-Lanai

Oahu

South Oahu
West Oahu
Windward Oahu

American Samoa

American Samoa

Guam

Northern and Southern Guam

CNMI

Saipan, Rota, & Tinian

All conservation practices must meet NRCS technical standards and be maintained according to the terms of the agreement.

Identified Wildlife Priority Habitats

- Native habitat connected to a native forest reserve, wildlife refuge, or other preserved forest/riparian area
- Habitat that supports "Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need", flora and fauna, listed in the State Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy and "At Risk Species and Habitats"
- Wetlands ("Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.")
- Streams with native animals
- Anchialine pools (a land locked body of water connected to the ocean by a subterranean tunnel)
- Migratory bird habitat
- Threatened/endangered species habitat (vertebrates, invertebrates, plants)
- Caves with native plants or animals
- Lands USFWS designated as "Critical Habitat"

Eligible Practices

Structural, Vegetative, and Management Practices include, but are not limited to:

- Cover Crop, Critical Area Planting
- Diversion, Grassed Waterway, and Terrace
- Fence, Pipeline, Watering Facility – Tank or Trough
- Pond, Water Harvesting Catchment
- Native Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

Program Payments

Payments will be made to the program participant upon successful implementation of the practice at an established payment rate.

An eligible participant may receive no more than \$50,000 per year for the life of the contract. An individual or entity with an average adjusted gross income (AGI) of over \$1.0 million for the preceding three years may not receive WHIP payments unless 66.66% of the total AGI is from farming, ranching, or forestry interests.

Application Process

Applications are available at any USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office, Farm Service Agency (FSA) county office, or local Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) office.

Application Deadline

USDA program applications are accepted at any time.

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