

APPENDIX 7: GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS FOR NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL

Major Federal Regulations Affecting Nonpoint Source Pollution

CLEAN WATER ACT ([HTTP://WWW.EPA.GOV/REGION5/DEFS/HTML/CAA.HTM](http://www.epa.gov/region5/DEFS/HTML/CAA.HTM))

The Clean Water Act (CWA) was passed in 1972 and signaled the creation of federal legislation to protect and restore the biological, chemical, and physical properties of the nation's water. This protection was to be achieved through legislation requiring a permit for the discharge of pollutants, the encouragement of best management practices to control pollution, and funding for the construction of sewage and wastewater treatment plants and facilities. The act was amended five years later and placed more stringent controls on the discharge of toxic materials and allowed states to assume responsibility over federal clean water programs.

The primary focus of the CWA and the 1977 amendments was the prevention of pollution discharges from point sources. In 1987 the act was again amended, this time to focus on nonpoint sources of pollution (NPS). The Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program was enacted to aid states, territories and tribal lands in reducing NPS. This is accomplished through technical and financial assistance, training, education, and the monitoring of projects aimed at curbing NPS. In addition, the EPA has requested that funding provided under section 106 of the act for water quality program assistance grants be used by states, territories, and tribal lands for the inclusion and development of programs that reduce NPS. In 1996, Section 319 funding was used in place of Clean Lakes Program (Section 314 Federal Water Pollution Control Act) funding to provide technical and financial assistance for restoring public lakes.

STORMWATER AND EROSION CONTROL ([HTTP://WWW.EPA.GOV/OWM/SW/INDEX.HTM](http://www.epa.gov/owm/sw/index.htm))

Phase I of the USEPA's Storm Water Program was promulgated in 1990 under the CWA.

Phase I relies on National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) (<http://www.epa.gov/owm/sw/index.htm#program>) permit coverage to address storm water runoff from: (1) "medium" and "large" municipal separate storm water systems (MS4s) generally serving populations of 100,000 or greater, (2) construction activity disturbing 5 acres of land or greater, and (3) ten categories of industrial activity. In NYS NPDES permitting is under the purview of the NYSDEC, which issues a State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit (for more information see Appendix I - Stormwater Management Regulations).

The **Storm Water Phase II Final Rule** (<http://www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2/>) was published on December 8, 1999. The permitting authority of the Storm Water Phase II Rule will be phased in over a 5-year period. The Phase II program expands the Phase I program by requiring additional operators of MS4s in urbanized areas and operators of small construction sites, through the use of NPDES permits, to implement programs and practices to control polluted storm water runoff.

Phase II is intended to further reduce adverse impacts to water quality and aquatic habitat by instituting the use of controls on the unregulated sources of stormwater discharges that have the greatest likelihood of causing continued environmental degradation, the environmental problems associated with discharges from MS4s in urbanized areas and discharges resulting from construction activity including lowering the construction activity threshold for a permit from 5 acres to 1 acre or more.

SECTION 404 WETLANDS ([HTTP://WWW.EPA.GOV/OWOW/WETLANDS/FACTS/FACT10.HTML](http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/facts/fact10.html))

Section 404 of the CWA establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jointly administer the program. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and State resource agencies have important advisory roles. Activities in waters of the United States that are regulated under this program include fills for development, water resource projects (such as dams and levees), infrastructure development (such as highways and airports), and conversion of wetlands to uplands for farming and forestry.

The basic premise of the program is that no discharge of dredged or fill material can be permitted if a practicable alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment or if the nation's waters would be significantly degraded. In other words, when you apply for a permit, you must show that you have a) taken steps to avoid wetland impacts where practicable; b) minimized potential impacts to wetlands; and c) provided compensation for any remaining, unavoidable impacts through activities to restore or create wetlands.

Regulated activities are controlled by a permit review process. An individual permit is usually required for potentially significant impacts. However, for most discharges that will have only minimal adverse effects, the Army Corps of Engineers often grants up-front general permits. These may be issued on a nationwide, regional, or state basis for particular categories of activities (for example, minor road crossings, utility line backfill, and bedding) as a means to expedite the permitting process.

Section 404(f) exempts some activities from regulation under Section 404. These activities include many ongoing farming, ranching, and silviculture practices. Farmers who own or manage wetlands are directly affected by two important Federal programs: (1) Section 404 of the CWA, which requires individuals to obtain a permit before discharging dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including most wetlands, and (2) the Swampbuster provisions of the Food Security Act, which withholds certain Federal farm program benefits from farmers who convert or modify wetlands. Together, these two programs have helped to reduce the rate at which wetlands are converted to agriculture and other uses.

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS (TMDL) ([HTTP://WWW.DEC.STATE.NY.US/WEBSITE/DOW/TMDL.HTML](http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/tmdl.html))

Section 303(d)(1)(C) of the Clean Water Act and EPA's implementing regulations (40CFR Part 130) require states to identify those waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards after application of the technology-based effluent limitations required by the Act. The states are then required to develop a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/>) analysis for the pollutants that are not meeting water quality standards in those waterbodies.

By definition, a TMDL specifies the allowable pollutant loading from all contributing sources (e.g., point sources, nonpoint sources, and natural background) at a level necessary to attain the applicable water quality standards with seasonal variations and a margin of safety that takes into account any lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between the sources of the pollutant and water quality.

CLEAN WATER ACTION PLAN (CWAP)

In 1997, twenty-five years after the passage of the CWA, the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) was launched. As part of President Clinton's Clean Water Initiative, the CWAP provides funding for programs developed by the EPA and USDA in conjunction with other federal agencies and state and local governments focusing on restoring and sustaining the quality and health of water resources. The CWAP is based upon four primary elements:

1. **Watershed Approach** – more effective means of planning and managing water resources compared to approaches based on political boundaries.
2. **Stricter Standards** – tighter controls and enforcement of NPS regulations as they relate to water quality at the federal and state levels.
3. **Stewardship** – greater public and private involvement in the planning and management of natural resources and their protection from NPS at the state and local levels.
4. **Informed Citizens and Officials** – increase the monitoring and reporting of water quality and the effects of NPS with greater involvement of state and local officials and agencies.

SAFE WATER DRINKING ACT ([HTTP://WWW.EPA.GOV/REGION5/DEFS/HTML/SDWA.HTM](http://www.epa.gov/region5/defs/html/sdwa.htm))

The Safe Drinking Water Act was passed in 1974 to protect drinking water supplies from harmful contaminants. The legislation attempts to provide safe drinking water through primary drinking water regulations, underground injection control regulations, and protection of sole source aquifers. In 1986 the act was revised to speed up implementation and included additional provisions for regulating contaminants, filtration systems, distributions systems, and wellhead protection systems.

The Safe Water Drinking Act establishes both health-related (primary) and nuisance-related (secondary) standards for public drinking water. Under the original legislation, the EPA set primary standards for 25 contaminants. The 1986 amendments required the EPA to include an additional 48 contaminants, raising the total number of chemicals regulated in drinking water to 83.

In August 1996, the Safe Water Drinking Act was amended to include a program that requires states to monitor and evaluate the quality of sources of drinking water supplies through the **Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP)** (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/summ.html#1A>). In addition, more stringent standards for drinking water and reporting of contaminant levels by water providers to their customers were also included. Other amendments passed in 1996 included financial assistance to communities attempting to upgrade or replace existing water treatment facilities and train and certify water treatment plant operators. The 1996 amendments also granted states the authority to require public water suppliers with over 10,000 customers to annually disclose the levels of contaminants in public water.

The Safe Drinking Water Act is important in that it not only protects the water humans consume directly, but also water used for agriculture and the production of livestock. The identification and control of NPS is a major consideration in attaining the standards set by the EPA to ensure the quality of water used for drinking and agricultural purposes.

Additional Information on Safe Water Drinking Act - 25 Years of the Safe Drinking Water Act: History and Trends can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/trends.html>.

COASTAL ZONE ACT ([HTTP://WWW.EPA.GOV/OWOW/NPS/CZMACT.HTML](http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/czmaact.html))

In 1990, under the Authority of Section 6217(g) of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), the EPA issued **Guidance Specifying Management Measures for Sources of Nonpoint Pollution in Coastal Waters** (<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/MMGI/>). This document is intended to serve as a compilation of technical measures that states should include in their coastal NPS control programs.

The management measures outlined therein are not designed to replace existing programs, but rather to compliment existing programs through updated technical documentation and the introduction of newly developed management measures. Management measures are defined in the CZARA as:

economically achievable measures for the control of ... nonpoint sources of pollution, which reflect the greatest degree of pollutant reduction achievable through the application of the best available nonpoint pollution control practices, technologies, processes, siting criteria, operating methods, or other alternatives. [Section 6217(g)(5)]

The guidance provided is an attempt to focus on nonpoint sources that are regarded as large contributors to reduced water quality in coastal areas. The management measures apply to five main sources of NPS that threaten water quality throughout the nation. The five main sources are:

- Agricultural runoff
- Urban runoff
- Forestry (silviculture) runoff
- Marinas and recreational boating
- Hydromodification (channelization and channel modifications, dams, and streambank and shoreline erosion)

Management measures are also included for wetlands, vegetated treatment systems, and riparian areas as applicable to NPS. The EPA has recognized that the most effective means of controlling NPS include measures aimed at controlling point source pollution as well. The overlap between point and nonpoint sources is substantial in many instances.

FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT (FIFRA) ([HTTP://WWW.EPA.GOV/REGION5/DEFS/HTML/FIFRA.HTM](http://www.epa.gov/region5/defs/html/fifra.htm))

Also passed in 1972, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) provides for the control of the distribution, sale, and use of pesticides. Enforcement is accomplished through the regulations requiring users of pesticides to register at the time of purchase. Amendments to the law now require that persons applying pesticides be certified to reduce accidents and misuses that may result in increased NPS.

State Agencies With Water Resources Regulatory Authority Affecting Nonpoint Sources

DEPARTMENT OF STATE ([HTTP://WWW.DOS.STATE.NY.US](http://www.dos.state.ny.us))

The NYDOS, Division of Coastal Resources provides financial and technical assistance and promotes initiatives at the local, regional, and state level to protect and enhance the coastal ecosystems and economies of New York State. A large portion of the funding for the RPP is funded through the NYDOS, Division of Coastal Resources' Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Technical assistance includes information and data on programs including CZARA, GIS data, and land use.

The NYDOS has a tremendous influence on land use regulation in New York State. While New York is a "home rule" state, the enabling legislation for the development of land use regulations and the process for developing, implementing, and appealing decisions based on them is the product of the NYSDOS.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (NYSDEC) ([HTTP://WWW.DEC.STATE.NY.US](http://www.dec.state.ny.us))

NYSDEC is charged with conserving, improving, and protecting natural resources and the environment, and controlling water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well being. The NYSDEC attempts to reduce NPS through a number of activities including technical assistance for prevention, education, and monitoring and financial assistance for demonstration programs, improvement of existing facilities, and the construction of new ones.

The NYSDEC provides technical assistance and funding for programs aimed at preventing NPS through watershed management, dissemination of resources on best management practices, water quality monitoring, and assessing waterbodies throughout the state.

The New York Environmental Conservation Law (NYECL) contains several provisions relating to the implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of measures aimed at eliminating or reducing NPS. The NYECL establishes enforcement of penalties pertaining to the discharge of matter if such discharge violates the standards set in section 17-0101 regarding water quality and the endangerment of fisheries set in sections 17-0503, 11-1301 (1)(a), 71-01-919 (1)(b), 71-0923, and 71-0925.

Unified Watershed Assessments and Watershed Protection and Restoration Strategies

The NYSDEC has developed the Unified Watershed Assessments (UWA) (<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/uwa/index.htm>) and Watershed Protection and Restoration Strategies (WRAPS) as a result of the federal Clean Water Action Plan (see Appendix P). Each of the watersheds within the state has been classified into one of four categories based on groundwater and surface water quality and impairments. The watersheds were then ranked according to the level of impairments and targeted for WRAPS and improvements based on these rankings.

Priority Waterbodies List (PWL)

Section 17-0301 of the New York Environmental Conservation Law (NYECL) establishes water quality standards and classifications of waterbodies in relation to these standards also known as the Priority Waterbodies List (PWL). Section 17-0101 requires “the use of all known available and reasonable methods to prevent and control the pollution of the waters of the state” to guarantee the quality of water in New York State waterbodies meets acceptable standards based on these classifications.

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

The NYSDEC oversees implementation of the FIFRA.

State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR)

The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) (<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dcs/seqr/index.html>) is a preventive measure that requires the completion of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed state and local development. SEQR requires investigation into alternative actions and the mitigation of harmful effects of the proposed development. Potential NPS can be remediated through revised design or other measures.

State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES)

In NYS, NPDES permitting is under the purview of the NYSDEC, which issues a State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit.

Neighbor Notification Law

The Neighbor Notification Law, formally known as Chapter 285 of the Laws of 2000, added Sections 33-1004 and 33-1005 the Environmental Conservation Law. These new sections add requirements for 48 hour notice to neighbors for certain commercial lawn applications, posting of visual notification markers for most residential lawn applications, providing notice to occupants of multiple dwellings and other occupied structures, and posting of an information sign by retailers who sell general use lawn pesticides. New regulations (6 NYCRR Part 325 Section 41) to implement the Neighbor Notification Law go into effect on March 1, 2001. The amendments to the Environmental Conservation Law and the new regulations are only effective in a County, or in New York City, that has adopted a local law to “opt into” the Neighbor Notification Law in its entirety and without any changes.

Additional Neighbor Notification Law Information can be found at <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dshh/pesticid/neighbor.htm>.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & MARKETS ([HTTP://WWW.AGMKT.STATE.NY.US](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us))

In addition, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets provides administrative support to the State Soil & Water Conservation Committee (SWCC), which in turn provides guidance to the county Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). SWCD's receive guidance from the SWCC in administering the NYS Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program and planning and implementing Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) programs (see Appendix H). The Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program funds the Graze New York Program that assists farmers in select counties to implement more intensive grazing, practices.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ([HTTP://WWW.HEALTH.STATE.NY.US](http://www.health.state.ny.us))

The NYS Department of Health (DOH) monitors the impacts of NPS as it relates to the health of the citizens of New York through water quality monitoring and reporting programs. The New York Public Health Law includes statutes regulating the

protection of public water supplies from contaminants due to source and nonpoint source pollution including the enactment of Watershed Rules and Regulations (see Appendix R). The commissioner of the NYSDOH and commissioners of County DOH's determine violations and subsequent penalties.

The 1996 amendments to the SWDA require states to evaluate the quality of sources of public drinking water. Beginning in 1998 and continuing through 2001, the NYSDOH will administer the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) (<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/water/swap.htm>) to aid local and state efforts to develop and implement strategies to protect drinking water supplies from both point and nonpoint source pollutants. Under the enabling legislation and the Source Water Assessment Program, the NYSDOH is responsible for overseeing public water supply supervision and wellhead protection among other programs.

Agricultural Programs

FARMLAND PROTECTION/AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS PROGRAM (NYS)

One of the critical issues involved in land use planning decisions for agricultural uses is to ensure that agriculture protection deals primarily with the preservation of agriculture as an economic activity and not just as a use of open space. Traditionally, agricultural uses are part of large lot, low density, residential zoning districts. With increased residential development, however, conflicts between agricultural and residential uses have increased. Complaints about noise, odors, dust, chemicals, and slow-moving farm machinery may occupy enough of the resources of a farmer so as to have a negative impact on the viability of his or her farming activities.

Article 25-AA of the Agriculture and Markets Law is intended to conserve and protect agricultural land for agricultural production and as a valued natural and ecological resource. Under this statute, territory can be designated as an agricultural district. To be eligible for designation, an agricultural district must be certified by the county for participation in the State program. Once a district is designated, participating farmers within it can receive reduced property assessments and relief from local nuisance claims and certain forms of local regulation.

Agricultural district designation under Article 25-AA does not generally prescribe land uses. Under section 305-a of Article 25-AA, municipalities are, however, restricted from adopting regulations applicable to farm operations in agricultural districts which unreasonably restrict or regulate farm structures or practices, unless such regulations are directly related to the public health or safety (Agriculture & Markets Law, §305-a(1); Town Law §283-a; Village Law §7-739). The law also requires municipalities to evaluate and consider the possible impacts of certain projects on the functioning of nearby farms. Projects that require "agricultural data statements" include certain land subdivisions, site plans, special use permits, and use variances. Farm operations within agricultural districts also enjoy a measure of protection from proposals by municipalities to construct infrastructure such as water and sewer systems, which are intended to serve non-farm structures. Under Agriculture and Markets Law, §305, the municipality must file a notice of intent with both the State and the county in advance of such construction. The notice must detail the plans and the potential impact of the plans on agricultural operations. If, on review at either the county or State levels, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets determines that there would be an unreasonable adverse impact, he or she may issue an order delaying construction, and may hold a public hearing on the issue. If construction eventually goes forward, the municipality must make adequate documented findings that all adverse impacts on agriculture will be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. "Right-to-farm" is a term that has gained widespread recognition in the State's rural areas within the past several decades. Section 308 of the Agriculture and Markets Law grants protection from nuisance lawsuits to farm operators within agricultural districts or on land outside a district which is subject to an agricultural assessment under section 306 of the Law. The protection is granted to the operator for any farm activity which the Commissioner has determined to be a "sound agricultural practice." Locally, many rural municipalities have used their home rule power to adopt local "right-to-farm" laws. These local laws commonly grant particular land-use rights to farm owners and restrict activities on neighboring non-farm land which might interfere with agricultural practices.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a USDA-NRCS initiative authorized by the 1996 Farm Bill that provides farmers with technical, financial, and educational assistance to address soil, water, and natural resource concerns in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. A conservation plan is required to receive EQIP funding. EQIP addresses natural resource concerns through the implementation of structural, vegetative, and land use practices such as manure management facilities, abandoned well capping, tree planting, filter strips, nutrient, pest, and grazing management, and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement. Agricultural producers enter into five-to-ten year contracts with federal funding limited to \$10,000 per year with a maximum of \$50,000 for the total contract.

Additional Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Information can be found at
<http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/COD/cit/eqipsmry.htm>.

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (AEM)

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is a program to assist farmers in identifying environmental issues on their farms and implementing measures to maintain their economic viability while simultaneously protecting natural resources. Farmers voluntarily enter into these partnerships and remain the primary decision-maker throughout the AEM process. The AEM program focuses on helping farmers comply with federal, state and local regulations relating to water quality and other environmental concerns. The NRCS and County Soil and Water Conservation Districts coordinate the program.

AEM is designed to provide a system for planning and implementing environmentally suitable farming practices through the following steps or tiers:

- Tier 1 – Farmers complete a survey that includes questions regarding current farm activities, future activities or plans, and areas of possible environmental concern. Where no concerns are identified, the AEM process ends and the farmer's good stewardship is documented.
- Tier 2 – Areas for environmental concern identified in the Tier 1 survey are further detailed through the completion of a corresponding worksheet. Technical assistance in completing the worksheet is often provided by a local agricultural agency. Through the worksheet, the need for a management plan is determined. If the related environmental concerns can be easily remedied the farmer's good stewardship is documented and the AEM process ends.
- Tier 3 – A plan to remedy the specific environmental concerns identified in Tiers 1 and 2 is developed and completed. The plan takes into account the economic concerns of the farmer as well as environmental concerns resulting from current agricultural processes. Existing waste management, nutrient management, and conservation plans may be included in the AEM plan.
- Tier 4 – The plan developed in Tier 3 is implemented through Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Agricultural agency staff provide technical, educational, and (when available) financial assistance to farmers in implementing these BMPs.
- Tier 5 – On-going evaluation of the AEM program at the individual farm, county, watershed, and state level is conducted to insure that environmental concerns related to nonpoint source pollution and the economic viability of agriculture production are addressed.

Additional Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) information can be found at
<http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/soilwater/AEM.html>.

ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS

Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) means a lot or facility (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period, and the animal confinement areas do not sustain crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues in the normal growing season. Two or more animal feeding operations under common ownership are a single animal feeding operation if they physically adjoin each other, or if they use a common area or system for the disposal of wastes.

AFOs include Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). CAFOs are point sources of pollution under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and are regulated under Section 301 of the CWA. CAFO General Permit GP-99-01 is a single permit that covers all CAFOs (who apply for coverage) Statewide. Therefore, all CAFOs who are covered by General Permit GP-99-01 will have identical permit language and requirements. Unique facility-specific requirements will be detailed in the Agricultural Waste Management Plan, a requirement for all CAFOs.

CAFO definitions and additional Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) information can be found at
<http://www.epa.gov/owmitnet/afo.htm>.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a State-federal conservation partnership program targeted to address specific State and nationally significant water quality, soil erosion and wildlife habitat issues related to agricultural use. The program uses financial incentives to encourage farmers and ranchers to voluntarily enroll in contracts of 10 to 15 years in duration to remove lands from agricultural production. This community-based conservation program provides a flexible design of conservation practices and financial incentives to address environmental issues.

Additional Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) information can be found at
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crep/fact_sheet.htm.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private lands. It provides both technical assistance and cost-share payments to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. Participants who own or control land agree to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat development plan. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS) offers participants technical and financial assistance for the establishment of wildlife habitat development practices. In addition, if the landowner agrees, cooperating State wildlife agencies and nonprofit or private organizations may provide expertise or additional funding to help complete a project.

Additional Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) information can be found at
<http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/wwd/whipindex.htm>.