



Farm Wildlife Habitat Program (FWHP)

The TWRA provides free technical assistance to landowners and managers desiring to improve their farmland, woodland, or recreational properties while improving the value to wildlife.

TWRA's Farm Wildlife Habitat Program is a modestly funded cost-share program intended to complement and "fill in the gaps" in major conservation programs available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program is used for projects on lands not eligible for USDA funding, or for practices that complement existing habitat conversions already under a USDA contract, or to assist a landowner to begin implementing habitat projects in a timely manner when USDA funds are not available.

Under an approved plan written by a TWRA Private Lands Biologist, the program provides 75% cost share reimbursement up to a total maximum of \$2,000 in any state fiscal year to implement prescribed habitat practices intended to restore and manage native habitats. Habitat improvements are targeted to assist grassland and shrubland species in decline including bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbits, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and many songbirds.



Landscapes that include woodlands and a diversity of native grasses, forbs and shrubs provide great habitat for many species of wildlife.

Cost-shared habitat improvements include restoration of native grassland and "old field" habitats, hedgerow renovation, shrub thicket development, forest edge thinning, eradication of invasive plants, savanna creation, and management practices such as prescribed burning, strip disking, herbicide application, and interseeding of native forbs and wildflowers.

Upon approval of a FWHP plan that includes at least 5 acres of habitat practices, the landowner signs the contract agreeing to protect the improved habitat for 5 years. After the practices are implemented, the landowner is reimbursed at the specified practice rates based on 75% of established state average practice costs.

A public lands segment of the program can also assist conservation groups cooperating on public lands habitat projects.

Contact your local TWRA Private Lands Biologist (see www.twraprivatedlands.org) or call the TWRA Wildlife and Forestry Division at 615-781-6610 or 615-781-6614.

NOTE: While State employees and/or their spouses can receive free technical assistance from TWRA through the Farm Wildlife Habitat Program, Tennessee state law prohibits them from receiving any direct or indirect payments. Money received through the FWHP is considered taxable by the IRS. Consult a tax advisor regarding your tax situation.