

2009 NJ WHIP Ranking Criteria

Answers to these questions, in combination with a cost-efficiency factor that is based on the actual practices contracted, is the basis for a WHIP application's 2009 rank.

Answer EITHER 1a or 1b, but not both:		Points
1a.	The project is located within one mile of, but is not contiguous with, a state Wildlife Management Area, National Wildlife Refuge or local, county or non-governmental protected open space, including farmland preserved properties, that provide quality habitat.	13
1b.	The project is contiguous to a state Wildlife Management Area, National Wildlife Refuge or local, county or non-governmental protected open space, including farmland preserved properties, that provide quality habitat.	23
2.	The planned habitat improvement is specifically related to Bog turtle habitat enhancement or development, or the area has a NJ Heritage Data Biodiversity Rank of 1 to 5.	10
3.	The project provides quality habitat in the Delaware Bay Shore area (Cape May, Cumberland and Salem counties).	13
4.	The applicant has an existing conservation plan they wish to implement through the WHIP program.	15
5.	In addition to the habitat benefits, the project provides opportunities for public wildlife-related recreation.	8
6.	Project is receiving formal assistance from or through a partnership with an additional NRCS recognized wildlife partner agency or organization.	11
Answer EITHER 7a or 7b, but not both:		
7a.	The project scope just meets or is only marginally better (between 100% and 120%) than the minimum ecological criteria for the habitat elements or target species.	10
7b.	The project scope exceeds (at least 120% of) the minimum ecological criteria for the habitat elements or target species, providing significantly greater benefits to the wildlife habitat. (e.g. grassland planting is greater than 24 acres)	20
8.	In addition to the habitat benefits, the project provides water resource protection benefits.	20
Answer ONE of 9a, 9b, 9c, or 9d:		
Habitat Suitability Index, Table 2, for each habitat type are located on the NJ WHIP web page.		
9a.	The improvement in the HSI score is between 15.1 and 20.	40
9b.	The improvement in the HSI score is between 10.1 and 15.	20
9c.	The improvement in the HSI score is between 5.1 and 10.	10
9d.	The improvement in the HSI score is between 0 and 5.	5
10.	Will the treatment intended to implement using WHIP result in the restoration of declining or important native fish and wildlife habitats?	17
11.	Are the planned restoration of declining or important native fish and wildlife habitat conservation practices of a self-sustaining nature such as a native perennial plant?	15
12.	Will the treatment intended to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat to benefit at-risk species?	11
13.	Will the treatment intended to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of wildlife habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered wildlife species?	13
14.	Will the treatment intended to implement using WHIP result in the reduction of invasive species on fish and wildlife habitats?	14
15.	Will the treatment intended to implement using WHIP result in the protection, restoration, development or enhancement of declining or important aquatic wildlife species' habitats?	10