

# **WHIP**

## **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Vermont**

**Through WHIP, NRCS can provide technical assistance and pay up to 75% of the cost of practices to restore these ecosystems.**

### **Our Priorities...**

#### **\*Restoration of Riparian Corridors**

- streambank stabilization primarily through bioengineering
- establishment of forested riparian buffers through fencing and native shrub and tree plantings
- livestock watering devices for displaced livestock
- In-Stream habitat restoration

#### **\*Wetland Restoration**

- restoring the hydrology in degraded wetlands
- native shrub and tree plantings
- excluding livestock from wetlands with fencing

#### **\*Grassland Restoration**

- delayed mowing
- seeding of native grasses
- Invasive species control

#### **\*Early Successional and “Old Field” Habitat Restoration**

- brush cutting and brush hogging to maintain openings or young growth
- plantings with native shrubs and grasses
- apple tree release and pruning

#### **\*Rare and Sensitive Species Habitat Improvement**

#### **\*Other Underrepresented and Rare Vermont Habitats Such As:**

- Clayplain and Sandplain Forests, Cedar Swamps, VT State Significant Habitats, etc.

### **What is NOT covered under WHIP...**

- ponds
- wetland enhancement where no degradation exists
- access roads
- food plots and non native plantings
- timber stand improvement
- harvesting mature, late successional forests
- payment for preexisting practices