

Wescot Sportman's Club GHRA/CREP Habitat Project Update

As many of you are aware Wescot has entered into the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area (GHRA) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Through these programs Wescot has transitioned 37.7 acres into prime nesting habitat and created a great source of forage for ducks, pheasants, and songbirds and created a vital supply of native forbs for pollinators. Through the GHRA and CREP programs Wescot received an 82% cost sharing for transitioning our Ag fields into prime habitat for wildlife. We have entered into a 15 year contract with the USDA and will receive substantially higher rental rates through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) via Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) than we were currently receiving with our previous field renting. Besides the annual income the habitat will create a better hunting experience for our youth and member pheasant hunts. It will also enhance a higher quality habitat for all the wildlife in the area.

On another note, we are waiting on a Hydric & Hydraulic soil study, which is being done for us at no charge, by the FdL County Natural Resource Conservation Services. This study will determine if we can put a 1 acre scrape in the field west of the first ditch. If this study proves favorable and construction is allowed it will supply 1,200 yards of soil by which we can use to level the area east of the ditch to trap #2. By leveling this area, we will be able to reclaim more lead in these areas and install a 4th. trap. The costs associated with this scrap will be covered by U.S. Fish and Wildlife, through a D.U. program, and Wisconsin Waterfowl Association. The remaining acreage of that field will be transitioned into the same programs, costs sharing and annual income as the other fields are in.

Lastly there are a few important restrictions that we all need to observe and practice.

- No tree/bipod stands or ground blinds are allowed in designated fields
- No shooting lanes/paths can be created or maintained in designated fields
- No field admittance during prime nesting season (May 15 – August 1)

All designated fields will be marked and posted with their boundaries.

If you have any further questions or comments please direct them to the Wescot Board members.