

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR)



WSFR Mission...

- Working through partnerships to conserve and manage fish and wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.



WSFR Vision...

- Healthy, diverse, and accessible fish and wildlife populations that offer recreation, economic activity, and other societal benefits, in addition to sustainable ecological functions.



WSFR Guiding principle...

- Society benefits from conservation-based management of fish and wildlife and their habitats and opportunities to use and enjoy them.



About WSFR...

- The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) works with states, insular areas and the District of Columbia to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, their habitats, and the hunting, sport fishing and recreational boating opportunities they provide.



About WSFR...

- The Division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program provides oversight and/or administrative support to many grant programs, such as:

- Wildlife Restoration Grant Prog.

- Sport Fish Restoration Grant Prog.

- Clean Vessel Act Grant Prog.

- Boating Infrastructure Grant Prog.

- Nat'l Coastal Wetlands Cons'n Grant Prog.

- State Wildlife Grant Prog.

- Multistate Grant Prog.

- Landowner Incentive Grant Prog.

- Tribal Landowner Inc. Grant Prog.

- Tribal Wildlife Grant Prog.



Two Main WSFR Programs



Wildlife Restoration

Pittman-Robertson Act

Sport fish Restoration

Dingell-Johnson Act



These two main programs, Wildlife Restoration Grant Program and Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program...

- Have contributed ~ \$22 billion to the nation's conservation since inception.
 - (P-R 1937 & DJ 1950)
- Comprise ~ 45% of NDOW's budget annually.



Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson Act)



What is the Pittman-Robertson Act?

- In the early 1900's, when many wildlife species were disappearing or declining, the firearms and ammunition industry asked Congress to impose an excise tax on the sale of firearms and ammunition to help fund wildlife conservation in the United States.



What is the Pittman-Robertson Act?

- The resulting Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act, passed in 1937, interestingly enough was named after its sponsors, Key Pittman, a Nevada Senator and Absalom Willis Robertson, a Virginia Congressman.



What is the Pittman-Robertson Act?

- Revenues generated from these excise taxes are apportioned to state wildlife agencies for their conservation efforts, hunter education programs, and operation of archery and shooting ranges.



How does the Pittman-Robertson Act work?

- The excise tax is set by law at 11% of the wholesale price for long guns and ammunition and 10% for handguns. It is paid by manufacturers, producers, and importers and applies to all commercial sales and imports, whether their purpose is hunting, sport shooting, or personal defense.



How does the Pittman-Robertson Act work?

- This tax is handled by the Department of the Treasury, which turns the funds over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for apportionments to states.



How are the Pittman-Robertson funds distributed to states?

- USFWS deposits P-R revenue into a special account called the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund. These funds are made available to states the year following their collection. Funds are then distributed through the following process:



How are the Pittman-Robertson funds distributed to states?

- 1) \$8 m is dedicated to Enhanced Hunter Education programs, including the construction or maintenance of public target ranges.



How are the Pittman-Robertson funds distributed to states?

- 2) \$3 m is set aside for projects that require cooperation among the states.
- 3) One-half of the excise tax collected on handguns is set aside for Basic Hunter Education programs.



How are the Pittman-Robertson funds distributed to states?

- The remainder of the trust fund is then divided in half with 50% apportioned to states based on the land area of the state in proportion to the total land area of the country. The remaining 50% is apportioned based on the number of individual paid hunting license holders in the state in proportion to the national total.



How are the Pittman-Robertson funds distributed to states?

- Program funds are matched with State funds, 25% Non-Federal: 75% Program. Non-federal funds are generated through the sale of fishing licenses.



What type of projects are funded by Pittman-Robertson?

- States use their P-R funds to restore, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitat.
- P-R projects also include providing public access to wildlife resources, Hunter Education, and development and management of shooting ranges.



What type of projects are funded by Pittman-Robertson?

- Additionally, funds contribute to Hunter Education programs and support construction and operation of shooting ranges.



What type of projects are funded by Pittman-Robertson?

- Now that restoration is complete for many hunted species, the emphasis has shifted to active management, applied wildlife research, and ensuring of public access. Current P-R funding priorities include acquiring land for public use, operating and managing Wildlife Management Areas, conducting research projects that address specific needs, and providing technical guidance to landowners to meet their wildlife management objectives.



Why is Pittman-Robertson so effective?

- A key reason for the success of P-R was the inclusion of wording in the original 1937 law that prohibits the diversion of license fees paid by hunters for any other purpose than the administration of the state wildlife agency.



Why is Pittman-Robertson so effective?

- This user pay/public benefit model is extremely successful because our sportsmen and women and the industries that serve them have always been willing to commit the resources necessary to protect, enhance, and expand conservation, hunting, and shooting heritage.



Sport Fish Restoration (Dingell-Johnson Act)



Sport Fish Restoration Program

- The Sport Fish Restoration Program involves the cooperative efforts of state and federal wildlife agencies, the fishing tackle industry, anglers, and boaters.



Sport Fish Restoration Program

- What started as an excise tax on rods, reels, creels, and fishing lures used to help fund US efforts during World War II was redirected in 1950 thanks to the efforts of outdoor enthusiasts Congressman John Dingell of Michigan and Senator Edwin Johnson of Colorado.



Sport Fish Restoration Program

- Excise taxes are placed on fishing tackle such as rods and reels, line, hooks and sinkers, all types of artificial lures, electric motors, import duties on boats, sailboats and yachts, and a motorboat fuel tax on gasoline are collected and placed in a trust fund in the Department of Treasury in Washington, D.C.



Sport Fish Restoration Program

Purpose:

- Restoration and management of fish species of material value for sport-fishing and recreation.
- Provide facilities that create or add to public access for recreational boating.
- Provide aquatic education to public to increase understanding of water resources and associated aquatic life.



Sport Fish Restoration Program

Source of funds:

- Excise taxes on sport fishing equip, electric motors, and sonar.
- Import duties on fishing tackle, yachts, and pleasure craft.
- Portion of gasoline tax attributable to motorboats and small engines.
- Interest earned on Trust Fund.

\$370 million was apportioned in 2019 fiscal year.

Sport Fish Restoration Program

- The Sport Fish Restoration Program (SFR) provides grant funds to the states, the District of Columbia and insular areas fish and wildlife agencies for fishery projects, boating access and aquatic education.
- The Program is authorized by the Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson DJ) of 1950.



Sport Fish Restoration Program

- The SFR Program was created to restore and better manage America's declining fishery resources and was modeled after the successful Wildlife Restoration Program.
- Through the purchases of fishing equipment, motorboat and small engine fuels and import duties the SFR Program is one of the most successful user pay, user benefit programs.



How are the Dingell-Johnson funds distributed to states?

- Funds distributed to states for the various programs funded in the Act are collected in an account known as the Sport Fish Restoration Account, one of two accounts in the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund established under the authority of the internal revenue code.



How are the Dingell-Johnson funds distributed to states?

- The distribution formula for sport fish funds is based 40% on a state's size in square miles, including land and both inland and coastal waters, in proportion to other states, and 60% on annual license sales, also in proportion to license sales in other states.



How are the Dingell-Johnson funds distributed to states?

- Program funds are matched with State funds, 25% Non-Federal: 75% Program. Non-federal funds are generated through the sale of fishing licenses, donations & in-kind contributions.
- The Program requires that funds be spent on sport fishing and boating related activities.



Questions ??

