

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration

*Keeping  
Our Outdoor  
Traditions  
Alive*



## Unwavering Support From All the Players



The Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs enjoy broad support. The programs join the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State fish and wildlife agencies, the firearms, fishing tackle and boating industries, and hunters, shooters, anglers, and boaters in a partnership that has achieved results for more than 60 years. Working together, these groups have accomplished what none could do alone---restore our precious natural heritage.

Before the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs, the future looked dim for fish and wildlife. By the early 1930's, unregulated market hunting and destruction of habitat had devastated many wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and wood duck. Some species, such as the passenger pigeon, were driven to extinction. Conservation efforts were limited to enforcing game laws; no funds were available to purchase habitat or conduct scientific research.

In an effort to establish a stable funding mechanism to reverse the decline of wildlife populations, the hunting community and the firearms and ammunition industries united in support of an innovative program to restore wildlife.

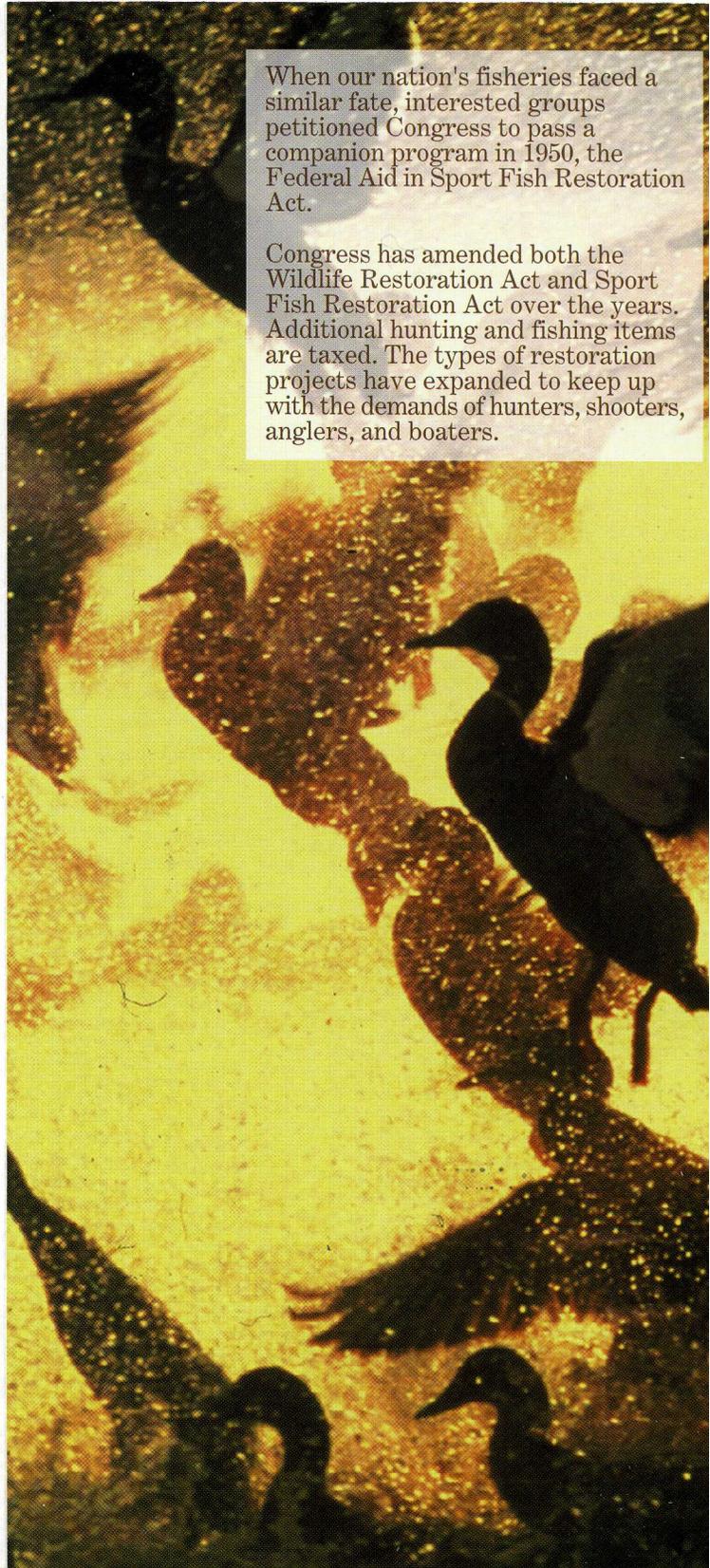
The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act was passed by Congress in 1937. It directed an existing federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition to fund State wildlife projects, enabling State agencies to move beyond law enforcement and actively restore our natural heritage. More than \$3.2 billion have been used for wildlife since the program was established.

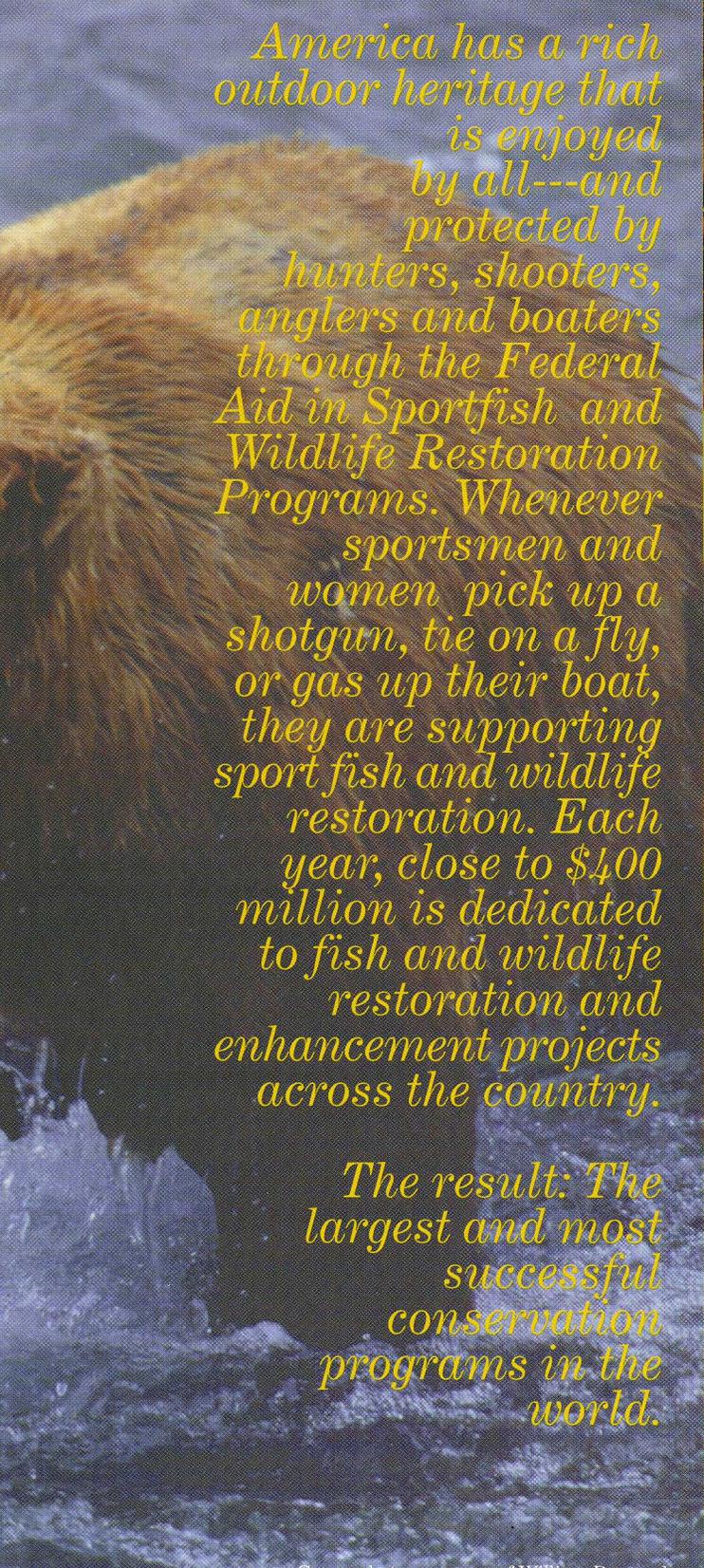
*"I believe the American people are in sympathy with the efforts of our fish and game associations...The people of this country will give wholehearted approval to the efforts of the Congress to stay the wanton destruction of our game life ..."*

Senator Wallace H. White, Jr. (R-Maine)  
August 10, 1937. Speaking to the Senate floor in support of Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act.

When our nation's fisheries faced a similar fate, interested groups petitioned Congress to pass a companion program in 1950, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act.

Congress has amended both the Wildlife Restoration Act and Sport Fish Restoration Act over the years. Additional hunting and fishing items are taxed. The types of restoration projects have expanded to keep up with the demands of hunters, shooters, anglers, and boaters.





*America has a rich outdoor heritage that is enjoyed by all---and protected by hunters, shooters, anglers and boaters through the Federal Aid in Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration Programs. Whenever sportsmen and women pick up a shotgun, tie on a fly, or gas up their boat, they are supporting sport fish and wildlife restoration. Each year, close to \$400 million is dedicated to fish and wildlife restoration and enhancement projects across the country.*

*The result: The largest and most successful conservation programs in the world.*

**Making a Difference** The Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs have made a difference between survival and abundance for some species. Many fish and wildlife populations are at historically high levels. Americans enjoy more hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities than ever before.

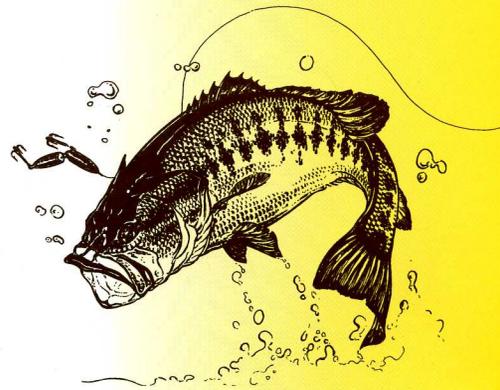
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program helps:

- Protect habitat, more than 5 million acres have been purchased
- Monitor the status of wildlife populations nationwide on a State-by-State basis
- Graduate 750,000 students each year from a hunter education course
- Develop public shooting ranges
- Improve wildlife management through research

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program helps:

- Improve fisheries management through research
- Educate people about aquatic resources
- Keep the water clean by building 2,200 pumpout stations for boat sewage and 14,000 dump stations
- Support 624 million days of fishing each year for both saltwater and freshwater species
- Protect and restore aquatic habitat

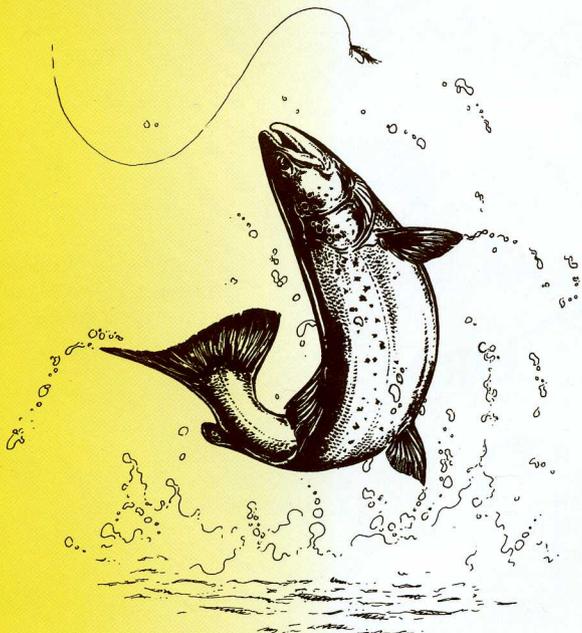
Together the two programs have built a solid base for the conservation of our nation's fish and wildlife resources.





State fish and wildlife agencies apply for their apportioned funds through a grant process. States must provide at least 25 percent of the grant project cost, often using hunting or fishing license revenues for the match. Payment is made on a cost reimbursable basis after the work is completed.

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs are a tribute to the men and women who have enjoyed and protected our outdoor heritage through the years. Know that with the support of the hunting, shooting, fishing and boating communities, these programs keep our outdoor traditions alive.



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