



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Elk Refuge

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TETON COUNTY RECEIVES \$720,620 IN REVENUE SHARING FROM U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

National Elk Refuge Manager Barry Reiswig recently presented Teton County, Wyoming with a \$720,620 check, issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Fiscal Year 2006 revenue sharing allotment.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service makes revenue sharing payments to counties for the lands they administer. Lands acquired by the Service are removed from the tax rolls, but the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act, as amended, offsets the tax losses by annually paying the county or other local unit of government an amount that often equals or exceeds that which would have been collected from taxes if in private ownership.

Teton County received payment based upon the acreage and current value of National Elk Refuge and Jackson National Fish Hatchery properties, both operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional Wyoming counties receiving revenue sharing allotments include Albany County (Bamforth, Hutton Lake, and Mortenson Lake National Wildlife Refuges), Carbon County (Saratoga National Fish Hatchery), Lincoln County (Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuge), and Sweetwater County (Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge). A total of \$744,583 was paid to the Wyoming counties, which may utilize the annual payments for any local governmental purpose.

A portion of the funds comes from income generated by the sale of products or privileges on areas within the National Wildlife Refuge System, while the remainder comes from funds appropriated by Congress.

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