

## **Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Quote Sheet**

“State wildlife agencies play an essential role in the conservation of America’s wildlife, while also generating billions of dollars for the nation’s economy through increased hunting and fishing opportunities. It’s fitting that those very sporting activities help sustain wildlife, their habitats and the agencies that manage them,” said **Service Director Dan Ashe**. “Our role in administering these funds reflects our long-standing partnership with the states across a broad spectrum of wildlife conservation issues.”

“The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program has been providing critical conservation funding to State Fish and Wildlife Agencies for decades,” said **Dave Chanda, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies President and New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife Director**. “WSFR funds complement and enhance millions of dollars contributed to State Fish and Wildlife Agencies from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. Working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to administer this grant program, WSFR and agency license monies provide a stable funding source for conservation activities during periods of fiscal and economic uncertainty.”

**Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment Michael Teague** said, “We welcome the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Oklahoma to announce this year’s federal apportionments for wildlife and sportfish restoration funding. Every state in the union is impacted by the availability of this funding that comes through the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson acts. The importance of these grants that share in the costs for wildlife and sportfish restoration activities across the nation cannot be overstated. And we in Oklahoma are proud to host both the Bassmaster Classic and this major announcement from the Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result of this cost-share program, the fishermen competing in the Bassmaster Classic are enjoying some fantastic new facilities that have improved boating access at Grand Lake.”

“We are delighted that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has chosen to make this important announcement in Tulsa as part of the 2016 Bassmaster Classic. Funding that comes back to the states through wildlife and sportfish restoration grants is vitally important to the fishing, hunting and conservation efforts of all 50 states”, said **Richard Hatcher, director of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation**. “You don’t need to look far to see these funds in action. In fact, the anglers and fans attending each morning’s boat launch from Wolf Creek Park on Grand Lake are using a multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art boat launching area that was paid for mostly with these sportfish monies.”

“One of the most successful wildlife conservation programs in this nation is funded through Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson apportionments received by states that was made possible by the collaborative efforts of state fish and wildlife agencies, United States Fish and Wildlife Service and our industry partners. This is a user pay program that has broad public benefit that not only continues our proud hunting and fishing heritage and but also improves overall family health and is a significant economic

driver”, said **Kelly Hepler, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks**. “I am proud to be associated with this program and want to offer my sincere appreciation to the continued support of all of our partners.”

“The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program provides critical funding to support fish and wildlife conservation in Florida. This program plays a vital role in our ability to effectively manage Florida’s diverse fish and wildlife habitats and species”, said **Nick Wiley, Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**. “The FWC is grateful for the long standing financial support from the fishing, hunting, and shooting sports industry, those sportsmen and women who participate in these great activities, and their collective dedication to providing a strong conservation legacy for future generations.”

“For 66 years, our nation’s anglers and boaters have been the bedrock for fisheries conservation funding in the U.S.,” said **Mike Nussman, president and CEO, American Sportfishing Association**. “Today’s announcement serves to highlight their investment in and commitment to fisheries conservation in this country.”

**Thom Dammrich, President of the National Marine Manufacturers Association** said, “NMMA is pleased to see the continuation of so many important boating, fishing and educational programs through the Pittman-Robertson/Dingell-Johnson allocations. These funds will go a long way in preserving boater and angler access, enhancing boater experiences and providing educational programming for generations of on-water enthusiasts to come.”

“Firearms and ammunition manufacturers have long been an integral part of this unique funding mechanism, collecting the excise taxes that hunters and shooters pay on sales of their products and providing those funds to the federal government prior to distribution to state wildlife agencies,” said **Steve Sanetti, President and CEO of the National Shooting Sports Foundation**. “Thanks to the significant increase in firearms and ammunition sales in recent years to a growing and diverse participant base, even more funds are being provided in support for conservation, public shooting ranges and hunter education. Our industry is proud that 10-11 percent of the cost of every new rifle, pistol and shotgun, and every round of ammunition sold, goes for these vital programs.”

“Following passage late last year of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (SFRBTF) reauthorization by Congress, boaters are very pleased with today’s funding announcement. As one of the primary implementing agencies of the Trust Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plays a crucial role in the fulfillment of a promise to boaters that their tax dollars are put back into programs that help them get the most out of boating,” said **Margaret B. Podlich, President of the Boat Owners Association of The United States**. “This cornerstone of boating infrastructure, safety and aquatic conservations programs nationwide is a true user pay/everyone benefits program.”