



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FEDERAL AID WILDLIFE PROGRAM FOR STATES GETS \$9,000,000

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug announced today that for the first time since the Pittman-Robertson Act became effective on July 1, 1938, the Congress appropriated an amount equal to the Federal tax collected on firearms, shells, and cartridges for the year ended June 30, 1947, to provide Federal funds for the restoration and development of wildlife resources in the various States during fiscal year 1948.

The sum appropriated was \$9,031,273.51--more than three and one-half times the appropriation for fiscal year 1947.

Under the terms of the Pittman-Robertson Act, as amended on July 24, 1946, appropriated funds are apportioned to the States on the basis of land area and the number of paid hunting license holders in each State, but no State may receive more than five percent nor less than one-half of one percent of the total amount apportioned to all the States which, for fiscal year 1948, amounts to \$8,263,771.63.

Under the new formula Michigan and Texas are reduced to \$413,188.58 each and therefore top the list in funds. In applying the minimum formula Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Vermont are boosted to receive \$41,318.86 each. California ranks second with \$374,283.09; New York receives \$349,520.79; Pennsylvania \$344,642.91, and Ohio \$297,778.46.

Nevada became eligible to participate in the Pittman-Robertson program by centralizing its game administration and establishing a State Game Commission. It will be entitled to utilize for the first time the Federal apportionment of \$159,078.02 by matching it with 25 percent or approximately \$53,000.00.

All States are now participating in the program. They match the Federal funds of \$8,263,771.63 by providing State funds of \$2,754,590.55, making a potential sum of \$11,018,362.18 available for wildlife restoration projects, in addition to \$45,000 deducted for projects in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. From the total amount appropriated, \$722,501.88 has been deducted for administration of the Act.

Projects submitted by the States are approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of Secretary Krug to determine soundness of character and design. They consist of surveys and investigations, land acquisition, development of areas, coordination, and maintenance of completed projects. Project costs are borne

initially by the State game departments, after which reimbursement is made from Federal funds for the Federal pro-rata share which may not exceed 75 percent of the cost of the project. Each State, therefore, is required to contribute 25 percent or more of project costs from its own funds.

The Federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition collected and set aside in the Treasury in the "Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund" from July 1, 1938, to June 30, 1947, has amounted to \$36,898,742.12. From this \$23,431,273.51 has been appropriated to date, to leave a balance of \$13,467,468.61 which is earmarked for wildlife restoration in the States subject to appropriation by the Congress.

One-half of the funds apportioned to the States is determined on the basis of area in square miles and one-half is on the basis of paid hunting license holders certified to the Secretary for the prior fiscal year. There were 9,854,313 paid hunting licenses certified for fiscal year 1946 as compared with 8,194,296 for fiscal year 1945, an increase of 1,660,017, or more than 20 percent.

Allotments to States are listed in alphabetical order as follows:

Alabama, \$128,574.99; Arizona, \$174,148.30; Arkansas, \$131,821.18; California, \$374,283.09; Colorado, \$261,843.50; Connecticut, \$41,318.86; Delaware, \$41,318.86; Florida, \$111,340.94; Georgia, \$116,023.87; Idaho, \$184,351.38; Illinois, \$212,640.75; Indiana, \$208,421.69; Iowa, \$201,525.79; Kansas, \$169,584.71; Kentucky, \$99,038.39; Louisiana, \$133,931.68; Maine, \$94,909.43; Maryland, \$55,087.73; Massachusetts, \$59,574.38; Michigan, \$413,188.58; Minnesota, \$262,709.71; Mississippi, \$119,691.49; Missouri, \$225,989.56; Montana, \$258,831.77; Nebraska, \$175,329.46; Nevada, \$159,078.02; New Hampshire, \$53,922.15; New Jersey, \$76,208.96; New Mexico, \$182,054.65; New York, \$349,520.79; North Carolina, \$129,448.04; North Dakota, \$124,022.65; Ohio, \$297,778.46; Oklahoma, \$161,976.67; Oregon, \$198,084.53; Pennsylvania, \$344,642.91; Rhode Island, \$41,318.86; South Carolina, \$76,491.03; South Dakota, \$189,858.99; Tennessee, \$128,714.97; Texas, \$413,188.58; Utah, \$157,102.83; Vermont, \$41,318.86; Virginia, \$136,494.58; Washington, \$246,709.55; West Virginia, \$139,329.35; Wisconsin, \$203,862.68; Wyoming, \$157,163.43.

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