

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release June 13, 1974

McGarvey 202/343-5634

FISH AND WILDLIFE AID TO STATES TOPS \$37 MILLION

Over \$37 million of Federal Aid funds for sport fish and wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs has been apportioned by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton to the States and the governments of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa for use after July 1.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Lynn A. Greenwalt said the \$37 million is the first of two annual installments that will be distributed to the States from excise taxes collected in fiscal year 1974. It will be used by the States to finance their fish and wildlife programs during the first half of fiscal year 1975. The second installment will be paid in December after the tally of FY 74 tax receipts is completed by the Treasury Department. Last fiscal year a total of \$62 million in Federal Aid funds was distributed in two installments to State governments.

Funds for fish restoration programs come from a 10 percent excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, and artificial baits, lures, and flies. Funds for wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs come from an 11 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition and a 10 percent excise tax on pistols and revolvers.

"This self-taxing concept has stood the test of 35 years," Greenwalt said. "Since 1938 over \$700 million has been collected in excise taxes

on these items. Fifty percent of these funds has gone into improving habitat for game such as building dikes to impound duck marshes, constructing watering sites on desert lands for quail and deer, managing forest lands, and fencing elk and deer from farmlands. Twenty-five percent has supported research into such things as census-guided selection of hunting seasons and bag limits and life history studies on a variety of animals such as wolves, grizzly bears, and the Florida panther. Another 20 percent has been spent buying land such as prairie duck sloughs, winter big game ranges, bottomlands, desertlands--in all, more than 54 million acres or over 84,000 square miles, an area larger than the six New England States, Maryland and Hawaii combined. Only five percent of the funds has gone to administrative overhead."

Of the distribution announced today, \$26.8 million was distributed according to a formula based on hunting license holders and the area of each State for wildlife projects. Another \$1.8 million was distributed, on the basis of State population, for hunter safety programs. Under the Federal Aid to Fish Restoration Program, \$8.8 million was distributed on a formula based on the number of sport fishing license holders and the area of each State.

The attached tables show funds distribution by State. Texas, Alaska, California, and Pennsylvania are the largest recipients with over \$1.1 million going to each. Maximum and minimum limits are placed on the distribution of these funds so that States smaller in area and population like Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Hawaii receive reasonable apportionments.

x x x

Apportionment for Federal Aid in Fish Restoration
Fiscal Year 1975

Alabama	\$ 152,854
Alaska	440,000
Arizona	176,464
Arkansas	171,468
California	440,000
Colorado	207,167
Connecticut	88,000
Delaware	88,000
Florida	218,930
Georgia	175,549
Hawaii	88,000
Idaho	158,020
Illinois	211,758
Indiana	157,986
Iowa	138,828
Kansas	146,361
Kentucky	136,216
Louisiana	116,152
Maine	88,000
Maryland	88,000
Massachusetts	88,000
Michigan	292,811
Minnesota	353,644
Mississippi	112,492
Missouri	233,390
Montana	197,906
Nebraska	120,663
Nevada	135,983
New Hampshire	88,000
New Jersey	88,000
New Mexico	152,490
New York	209,630
North Carolina	143,072
North Dakota	95,065
Ohio	189,463
Oklahoma	173,243
Oregon	225,845
Pennsylvania	206,173
Rhode Island	88,000
South Carolina	98,341
South Dakota	108,904
Tennessee	204,868
Texas	440,000
Utah	156,440
Vermont	88,000
Virginia	134,516
Washington	162,940
West Virginia	88,000
Wisconsin	321,030
Wyoming	139,339
American Samoa	29,333
Guam	29,333
Puerto Rico	88,000
Virgin Islands	29,333
Total	\$8,800,000

Apportionment for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
Fiscal Year 1975

	<u>Wildlife Restoration</u>		<u>Hunter Safety</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alabama	\$ 478,751	\$	47,211	\$ 525,962
Alaska	1,343,750		18,750	1,362,500
Arizona	601,924		18,750	620,674
Arkansas	489,619		18,750	508,369
California	1,192,955		56,250	1,249,205
Colorado	655,961		30,256	686,217
Connecticut	134,375		41,565	175,940
Delaware	134,375		18,750	153,125
Florida	450,891		56,250	507,141
Georgia	521,171		56,250	577,421
Hawaii	134,375		18,750	153,125
Idaho	543,593		18,750	562,343
Illinois	627,386		56,250	683,636
Indiana	513,988		56,250	570,238
Iowa	497,992		38,725	536,717
Kansas	535,776		30,829	566,605
Kentucky	395,099		44,129	439,228
Louisiana	477,422		49,939	527,361
Maine	298,392		18,750	317,142
Maryland	195,684		53,767	249,451
Massachusetts	134,375		56,250	190,625
Michigan	857,800		56,250	914,050
Minnesota	696,673		52,158	748,831
Mississippi	463,391		30,389	493,780
Missouri	687,968		56,250	744,218
Montana	793,244		18,750	811,994
Nebraska	488,276		18,750	507,026
Nevada	524,639		18,750	543,389
New Hampshire	134,375		18,750	153,125
New Jersey	184,972		56,250	241,222
New Mexico	630,547		18,750	649,297
New York	739,027		56,250	795,277
North Carolina	564,673		56,250	620,923
North Dakota	381,325		18,750	400,075
Ohio	621,456		56,250	677,706
Oklahoma	498,256		35,081	533,337
Oregon	699,198		28,668	727,866
Pennsylvania	1,117,188		56,250	1,173,438
Rhode Island	134,375		18,750	153,125
South Carolina	285,404		35,510	320,914
South Dakota	465,207		18,750	483,957
Tennessee	570,953		53,791	624,744
Texas	1,343,750		56,250	1,400,000
Utah	566,203		18,750	584,953
Vermont	157,409		18,750	176,159
Virginia	540,661		56,250	596,911
Washington	542,038		46,732	588,770
West Virginia	310,070		18,750	328,820
Wisconsin	751,835		56,250	808,085
Wyoming	542,274		18,750	561,024
Guam	44,792			44,792
Puerto Rico	134,375			134,375
Virgin Islands	44,792			44,792
Total	\$26,875,000		\$1,875,000	\$28,750,000