



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release April 1, 1983

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AMERICAN SPORTSMAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION
TOPS \$1.5 BILLION; INTERIOR SECRETARY WATT CALLS FEDERAL AID PROGRAM
"BACKBONE OF STATES' CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES"

Calling the American sportsman "the financial backbone of State fish and wildlife management programs," Interior Secretary James Watt announced today that ongoing Federal aid programs for fish and wildlife restoration have turned over more than \$1.5 billion to the States and Territories since these grant projects first began.

The funds are derived from special excise taxes paid by sportsmen on hunting and fishing equipment.

Watt's summation of the totals for these programs, popularly known as the "Dingell-Johnson" and "Pittman-Robertson" programs, came as he announced an additional \$57.8 million in funds for the States and Territories for the 1983 fiscal year. This amount is the second installment in the 1983 allocation and brings to \$139.8 million the total turned over this year to the 50 States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Mariana Islands.

"Hundreds of fish and wildlife restoration projects have been supported by State conservation agencies with Federal aid money through the years," Watt said. "Their fish and game agencies have made significant progress in the management of game species with the tax money that the American sportsman provides annually. Over the years, no two States have had quite the same management needs and no two States have spent their money exactly alike. That's one of the program's strongest assets -- the flexibility it allows the States and Territories to use their share of these tax receipts wherever the need is greatest."

Among the many State projects planned with 1983 Federal aid funds, for instance, Ohio intends to study the yellow perch in Lake Erie, while New Mexico will develop harvest recommendations for big game species such as Barbary sheep, javelina, and wild turkey. Connecticut proposes to acquire 421 acres of upland wildlife habitat, including a 107-acre lake for public recreation. Virginia plans to build boating access areas for fishermen in various parts of the State and Alaska will undertake studies of salmon and trout distribution and migration in its lakes and streams.

Of the 1983 total announced today, \$32.7 million are for fish restoration, \$88.2 million for wildlife restoration, and \$18.8 million for hunter education (a part of the "Pittman-Robertson" program).

Federal aid funds are made available to the States and Territories in two annual apportionments as tax receipts become available at the Treasury Department. For 1983, a preliminary apportionment of \$82 million was made in September 1982.

Fish restoration funds come from a 10 percent excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, and artificial baits, lures, and flies. Their distribution is based on a formula that considers the number of fishing license holders and the land area of each State, including coastal and Great Lakes waters. State agencies use these funds to buy land and water areas for development and rehabilitation, for fishing access sites and facilities, and for fishery management research.

Funds for wildlife restoration and hunter safety education programs come from an 11 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, a 10 percent tax on handguns, and an 11 percent tax on archery equipment. Distribution of wildlife restoration funds is based on a formula that takes into account the number of hunting license holders and the land area of each State. The money may be used to acquire, develop, and manage wildlife habitat, and for wildlife management research. Hunter education funds, distributed on the basis of each State's relative population, may be used by State wildlife agencies for hunter safety programs, including the construction, operation, and maintenance of public target ranges.

The "Dingell-Johnson" and "Pittman-Robertson" programs first began apportioning excise tax receipts to the States in 1952 and 1939, respectively. The attached tables show the fiscal year 1983 distribution of funds by State.

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"Dingell-Johnson"
 Final Apportionment for Federal Aid in Fish Restoration
 Fiscal Year 1983

Alabama	\$ 540,262
Alaska	1,639,000
Arizona	707,281
Arkansas	564,564
California	1,639,000
Colorado	843,469
Connecticut	327,800
Delaware	327,800
Florida	663,744
Georgia	667,870
Hawaii	327,800
Idaho	574,969
Illinois	713,180
Indiana	516,696
Iowa	498,476
Kansas	501,658
Kentucky	536,229
Louisiana	503,860
Maine	327,800
Maryland	327,800
Massachusetts	327,800
Michigan	1,242,445
Minnesota	1,260,520
Mississippi	439,022
Missouri	810,300
Montana	745,460
Nebraska	420,146
Nevada	509,497
New Hampshire	327,800
New Jersey	327,800
New Mexico	592,662
New York	775,646
North Carolina	493,992
North Dakota	358,959
Ohio	790,999
Oklahoma	629,121
Oregon	812,487
Pennsylvania	822,554
Rhode Island	327,800
South Carolina	395,013
South Dakota	385,421
Tennessee	583,759
Texas	1,639,000
Utah	564,748
Vermont	327,800
Virginia	501,719
Washington	828,781
West Virginia	327,800
Wisconsin	1,172,339
Wyoming	524,484
Guam	109,267
Puerto Rico	327,800
Virgin Islands	109,267
American Samoa	109,267
Mariana Islands	109,267
TOTAL	252,780,000

"Pittman-Robertson"

Final Apportionment for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
Fiscal Year 1983

	<u>Wildlife Restoration</u>	<u>Hunter Safety</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alabama	\$ 1,488,153	\$ 455,699	\$ 1,943,852
Alaska	4,412,000	188,200	4,600,200
Arizona	2,077,342	318,383	2,395,725
Arkansas	1,599,830	267,735	1,867,565
California	3,582,847	564,600	4,147,447
Colorado	2,289,882	338,411	2,628,293
Connecticut	441,200	364,035	805,235
Delaware	441,200	188,200	629,400
Florida	1,461,392	564,600	2,025,992
Georgia	1,795,558	564,600	2,360,158
Hawaii	441,200	188,200	629,400
Idaho	1,811,959	188,200	2,000,159
Illinois	1,615,059	564,600	2,179,659
Indiana	1,344,284	564,600	1,908,884
Iowa	1,540,424	341,287	1,881,711
Kansas	1,739,964	276,836	2,016,800
Kentucky	1,335,355	428,916	1,764,271
Louisiana	1,662,630	492,471	2,155,101
Maine	1,024,157	188,200	1,212,357
Maryland	567,844	493,933	1,061,777
Massachusetts	441,200	564,600	1,005,800
Michigan	3,629,299	564,600	4,193,899
Minnesota	2,474,028	477,615	2,951,643
Mississippi	1,394,291	295,278	1,689,569
Missouri	2,147,087	564,600	2,711,687
Montana	2,589,113	188,200	2,777,313
Nebraska	1,530,786	188,200	1,718,986
Nevada	1,671,080	188,200	1,859,280
New Hampshire	441,200	188,200	629,400
New Jersey	468,310	564,600	1,032,910
New Mexico	2,060,153	188,200	2,248,353
New York	2,600,069	564,600	3,164,669
North Carolina	1,588,375	564,600	2,152,975
North Dakota	1,226,441	188,200	1,414,641
Ohio	1,762,655	564,600	2,327,255
Oklahoma	1,757,915	354,393	2,112,308
Oregon	2,379,639	308,402	2,688,041
Pennsylvania	3,862,670	564,600	4,427,270
Rhode Island	441,200	188,200	629,400
South Carolina	975,928	365,398	1,341,326
South Dakota	1,472,442	188,200	1,660,642
Tennessee	2,017,620	537,780	2,555,400
Texas	4,412,000	564,600	4,976,600
Utah	1,775,433	188,200	1,963,633
Vermont	454,711	188,200	642,911
Virginia	1,673,046	564,600	2,237,646
Washington	1,866,245	483,825	2,350,070
West Virginia	1,135,746	188,200	1,323,946
Wisconsin	2,608,530	551,203	3,159,733
Wyoming	1,828,107	188,200	2,016,307
Guam	147,067	---	147,067
Puerto Rico	441,200	---	441,200
Virgin Islands	147,067	---	147,067
Mariana Islands	147,067	---	147,067
Total	\$88,240,000	\$18,820,000	\$107,060,000