



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SIMMONS PAYS TRIBUTE TO SPORTSMEN  
IN ANNOUNCING PAYMENT OF \$82.6 MILLION  
TO STATES FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Payment of \$82.6 million in special taxes from American sportsmen is on the way to the 50 States, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands to support their fish and wildlife research and management programs, Under Secretary of the Interior J. J. Simmons, III, announced.

The funds come from excise taxes paid by sportsmen on hunting and fishing equipment and are used to finance sport fish and wildlife restoration and hunter education programs. This is the first of two apportionments of the Federal aid funds made each year to the States and Territories under the popular Dingell-Johnson and Pittman-Robertson Acts. The second installment will be distributed after the 1983 fiscal year tax receipts are tallied by the Treasury Department.

"I am reminded of the debt we owe sportsmen every year at this time as we witness the spectacle of millions of birds on their annual migration south," Simmons said. "These special taxes, paid willingly by sportsmen, ensure that the songbirds, as well as gamebirds, have places to rest and feed along the arduous route to their wintering grounds. And they also help ensure a healthy diversity of fish in our lakes, ponds, and streams."

(over)

Of the total funds available, \$25 million are for fish restoration, \$47.5 million for wildlife restoration, and \$10.1 million for hunter education programs.

Funds for wildlife restoration and hunter education programs come from an 11 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, a 10 percent tax on pistols and revolvers, and an 11 percent tax on certain 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 funds may be used on approved State wildlife projects such as the acquisition of land for habitat, development and management of habitat, and research to aid in managing game species.

Distribution of hunter education funds is based on the relative population of each state. Funds may also be used for State hunter education programs that include the construction, operation, and maintenance of public target ranges. The States, however, may also use these funds for wildlife restoration projects.

Fish restoration funds come from a 10 percent excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, and artificial baits, lures, and flies. Distribution of these funds is made according to a formula based on the number of license holders and the land area of each State, including coastal and Great Lakes waters. Activities performed by the State include purchase of land and water areas, construction and rehabilitation of lakes, development of access sites and facilities for fishermen, and research to aid in the management of sport fisheries.

The attached tables show the distribution of funds by State.

Preliminary Apportionment for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration  
Fiscal Year 1984

	<u>Wildlife Restoration</u>	<u>Hunter Safety</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alabama	\$ 789,478	\$ 244,557	\$ 1,034,035
Alaska	2,375,000	101,000	2,476,000
Arizona	1,102,369	170,864	1,273,233
Arkansas	862,688	143,683	1,006,371
California	1,907,553	303,000	2,210,553
Colorado	1,248,086	181,612	1,429,698
Connecticut	237,500	195,364	432,864
Delaware	237,500	101,000	338,500
Florida	788,822	303,000	1,091,822
Georgia	932,781	303,000	1,235,781
Hawaii	237,500	101,000	338,500
Idaho	958,272	101,000	1,059,272
Illinois	890,695	303,000	1,193,695
Indiana	747,280	303,000	1,050,280
Iowa	827,501	183,156	1,010,657
Kansas	939,863	148,568	1,088,431
Kentucky	723,288	230,184	953,472
Louisiana	899,609	264,291	1,163,900
Maine	559,417	101,000	660,417
Maryland	309,615	265,076	574,691
Massachusetts	237,500	303,000	540,500
Michigan	1,970,161	303,000	2,273,161
Minnesota	1,353,527	256,318	1,609,845
Mississippi	742,649	158,465	901,114
Missouri	1,154,074	303,000	1,457,074
Montana	1,398,833	101,000	1,499,833
Nebraska	828,348	101,000	929,348
Nevada	927,152	101,000	1,028,152
New Hampshire	237,500	101,000	338,500
New Jersey	238,923	303,000	541,923
New Mexico	1,115,051	101,000	1,216,051
New York	1,417,239	303,000	1,720,239
North Carolina	845,087	303,000	1,148,087
North Dakota	655,471	101,000	756,471
Ohio	942,241	303,000	1,245,241
Oklahoma	912,574	190,190	1,102,764
Oregon	1,267,430	165,508	1,432,938
Pennsylvania	2,090,191	303,000	2,393,191
Rhode Island	237,500	101,000	338,500
South Carolina	504,863	196,095	700,958
South Dakota	801,946	101,000	902,946
Tennessee	1,081,744	288,607	1,370,351
Texas	2,375,000	303,000	2,678,000
Utah	964,186	101,000	1,065,186
Vermont	257,313	101,000	358,313
Virginia	907,287	303,000	1,210,287
Washington	962,632	259,651	1,222,284
West Virginia	622,816	101,000	723,816
Wisconsin	1,428,879	295,811	1,724,689
Wyoming	972,065	101,000	1,073,065
Guam	79,167	---	79,167
Northern Mariana Is.	79,167	---	79,167
Puerto Rico	237,500	---	237,500
Virgin Islands	79,167	---	79,167
Total	<u>\$47,500,000</u>	<u>\$10,100,000</u>	<u>\$57,600,000</u>

Preliminary Apportionment for Federal Aid in Fish Restoration  
Fiscal Year 1984

Alabama	\$ 417,650
Alaska	1,250,000
Arizona	542,273
Arkansas	433,659
California	1,250,000
Colorado	631,816
Connecticut	250,000
Delaware	250,000
Florida	493,490
Georgia	464,865
Hawaii	250,000
Idaho	421,024
Illinois	572,990
Indiana	420,182
Iowa	380,733
Kansas	381,567
Kentucky	406,618
Louisiana	378,408
Maine	250,000
Maryland	250,000
Massachusetts	250,000
Michigan	903,838
Minnesota	1,013,306
Mississippi	320,030
Missouri	628,181
Montana	570,523
Nebraska	325,560
Nevada	389,053
New Hampshire	250,000
New Jersey	250,000
New Mexico	454,263
New York	602,341
North Carolina	374,053
North Dakota	279,578
Ohio	648,160
Oklahoma	487,331
Oregon	591,188
Pennsylvania	631,877
Rhode Island	250,000
South Carolina	283,785
South Dakota	306,191
Tennessee	456,314
Texas	1,250,000
Utah	435,400
Vermont	250,000
Virginia	388,457
Washington	606,318
West Virginia	250,000
Wisconsin	877,525
Wyoming	398,121
American Samoa	83,333
Guam	83,333
Northern Mariana Islands	83,333
Puerto Rico	250,000
Virgin Islands	83,333
Total	<u>\$25,000,000</u>