



NEWS

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

April 1, 1997

Hugh Vickery 202-208-5634

STATE WILDLIFE AGENCIES TO SHARE RECORD \$439 MILLION FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS

State wildlife agencies will receive a record \$439 million collected from Federal excise taxes paid by anglers, hunters, and recreational shooters to support fish and wildlife restoration and recreation projects in 1997.

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will distribute the funds under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs, helping to pay for thousands of wildlife conservation and recreation projects throughout the United States and its territories.

"This is outstanding news for anyone who cherishes our Nation's natural heritage," Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt said. "As we mark the 60th anniversary of the Federal Aid program, we can thank hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters who have made it possible for states to have effective fish and wildlife conservation programs. The record amount collected in 1996 under the Federal Aid program will continue this long tradition and help improve conservation in every part of our country."

The Federal Aid program began in 1937 when a group of hunters lobbied Congress to dedicate an excise tax on firearms and ammunition to state conservation projects and programs. This was in response to sharp wildlife population declines caused in large part by the "Dust Bowl" drought. Since then, these taxes have helped recover many popular species including white-tailed deer, wood ducks, and wild turkeys. In 1950, Congress created the parallel Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration to promote conservation in the Nation's lakes, rivers, and other waterways and to expand recreational opportunities for boaters and anglers. In the past 60 years, the two Federal Aid programs have raised more than \$5 billion.

"We have reason to be proud as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the program," said Acting Service Director John Rogers. "Federal Aid is a model of partnership among the Federal Government, state governments, and the sportsmen and -women who contribute funds to conservation through the excise taxes." The \$439 million collected in 1996 surpasses the previous record of \$411 million collected in 1994.

A total of \$165.2 million will be apportioned to the states under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson program after its Congressional sponsors.

This compares to \$202.4 million in 1996. The decrease is due to a return to a normal sales pattern for firearms and ammunition after a brief spurt in 1994 and 1995.

The money is derived 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. One-half of the tax on handguns and archery equipment is made available for state hunter education programs.

Projects include acquisition and improvement of wildlife habitat, introduction of wildlife into suitable habitat, research on wildlife problems, surveys and inventories of wildlife, acquisition and development of wildlife-related recreational facilities, and hunter education programs, including construction and operation of public shooting ranges.

Another \$273.2 million will be passed along under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, often called the Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux program. This compares to \$197.1 million in FY 1996. The increase is a result of \$20 million held in reserve in FY 1996 pending legislation that did not pass, thus making the funds available in FY 1997, as well as a slight increase in motorboat fuel receipts and improved excise tax collection procedures.

Federal Aid in Sport fish Restoration funding is made possible by a 10-percent excise tax on fishing equipment, a 3-percent tax on electric trolling motors and sonar fish finders, taxes on motorboat fuels, and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

Projects funded under this program include acquisition and improvement of sport fish habitat, stocking of fish, research into fishery resource problems, surveys and inventories of sport fish populations, and acquisition and development of boat ramps, fishing piers, and other recreational facilities.

Distribution of sport fish restoration funds to the states is based on the land and water area and the number of fishing license holders in each state. Wildlife restoration funds are made available based on land area and the number of hunting license holders in each state. Distribution of hunter education funds is based on the relative population of each state.

The attached tables show the allocation of the final apportionment for fiscal year 1997.

**FINAL APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE
RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997**

STATE	WILDLIFE RESTORATION	HUNTER EDUCATION	TOTAL
ALABAMA	2,281,510	677,588	2,959,098
ALASKA	6,847,483	288,406	7,135,889
ARIZONA	3,230,268	614,642	3,844,910
ARKANSAS	2,517,455	288,406	2,805,861
CALIFORNIA	4,917,403	865,218	5,782,621
COLORADO	3,497,435	552,455	4,049,890
CONNECTICUT	684,748	551,234	1,235,982
DELAWARE	684,748	288,406	973,154
FLORIDA	2,046,150	865,218	2,911,368
GEORGIA	2,762,571	865,218	3,627,789
HAWAII	684,748	288,406	973,154
IDAHO	2,798,632	288,406	3,087,038
ILLINOIS	2,597,751	865,218	3,462,969
INDIANA	2,211,355	865,218	3,076,573
IOWA	2,334,739	465,649	2,800,388
KANSAS	2,564,190	288,406	2,852,596
KENTUCKY	2,102,135	618,007	2,720,142
LOUISIANA	2,163,869	707,670	2,871,539
MAINE	1,581,766	288,406	1,870,172
MARYLAND	870,409	801,830	1,672,239
MASSACHUSETTS	684,748	865,218	1,549,966
MICHIGAN	5,253,980	865,218	6,119,198
MINNESOTA	4,275,085	733,684	5,008,769
MISSISSIPPI	2,076,796	431,517	2,508,313
MISSOURI	3,423,925	858,110	4,282,035
MONTANA	4,414,510	288,406	4,702,916
NEBRASKA	2,451,072	288,406	2,739,478
NEVADA	2,606,591	288,406	2,894,997
NEW HAMPSHIRE	684,748	288,406	973,154
NEW JERSEY	684,748	865,218	1,549,966
NEW MEXICO	3,092,518	288,406	3,380,924
NEW YORK	4,141,913	865,218	5,007,131
NORTH CAROLINA	2,702,412	865,218	3,567,630
NORTH DAKOTA	1,971,665	288,406	2,260,071
OHIO	3,194,955	865,218	4,060,173
OKLAHOMA	2,648,256	527,500	3,175,756
OREGON	3,395,027	476,644	3,871,671
PENNSYLVANIA	5,843,994	865,218	6,709,212
RHODE ISLAND	684,748	288,406	973,154
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,597,243	584,704	2,181,947
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,552,184	288,406	2,840,590
TENNESSEE	3,471,359	817,882	4,289,241
TEXAS	6,847,483	865,218	7,712,701
UTAH	2,531,648	288,406	2,820,054
VERMONT	684,748	288,406	973,154
VIRGINIA	2,380,149	865,218	3,245,367
WASHINGTON	2,767,682	816,122	3,583,804
WEST VIRGINIA	1,717,429	288,406	2,005,835
WISCONSIN	4,559,305	820,327	5,379,632
WYOMING	2,631,623	288,406	2,920,029
PUERTO RICO	684,748	0	684,748
GUAM	228,250	48,068	276,318
VIRGIN ISLANDS	228,250	48,068	276,318
AMERICAN SAMOA	228,250	48,068	276,318
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	228,250	48,068	276,318
TOTAL	136,949,657	28,840,603	165,790,260

**FINAL APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN
SPORT FISH RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997**

ALABAMA	4,252,972
ALASKA	13,661,447
ARIZONA	5,791,939
ARKANSAS	4,489,514
CALIFORNIA	13,661,447
COLORADO	6,769,980
CONNECTICUT	2,732,289
DELAWARE	2,732,289
FLORIDA	7,086,130
GEORGIA	4,983,680
HAWAII	2,732,289
IDAHO	4,613,478
ILLINOIS	5,727,984
INDIANA	4,256,164
IOWA	3,738,218
KANSAS	4,030,353
KENTUCKY	4,049,907
LOUISIANA	4,594,403
MAINE	2,732,289
MARYLAND	3,047,342
MASSACHUSETTS	2,732,289
MICHIGAN	10,035,511
MINNESOTA	10,055,268
MISSISSIPPI	3,501,905
MISSOURI	7,022,466
MONTANA	6,440,365
NEBRASKA	3,526,327
NEVADA	4,184,760
NEW HAMPSHIRE	2,732,289
NEW JERSEY	2,732,289
NEW MEXICO	4,909,697
NEW YORK	6,889,348
NORTH CAROLINA	4,415,670
NORTH DAKOTA	2,732,289
OHIO	6,933,850
OKLAHOMA	4,820,397
OREGON	6,466,118
PENNSYLVANIA	7,025,969
RHODE ISLAND	2,732,289
SOUTH CAROLINA	3,399,610
SOUTH DAKOTA	3,385,725
TENNESSEE	5,891,802
TEXAS	13,661,447
UTAH	5,110,927
VERMONT	2,732,289
VIRGINIA	4,374,353
WASHINGTON	6,157,845
WEST VIRGINIA	2,732,289
WISCONSIN	8,554,155
WYOMING	4,369,170
PUERTO RICO	2,732,289
GUAM	910,763
VIRGIN ISLANDS	910,763
AMERICAN SAMOA	910,763
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	910,763
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	910,763
TOTAL	273,228,927