

State Wildlife Management Areas Hunt – Fish- Connect with Nature – Conserve Habitat

Since its inception in 1937, State Fish and Wildlife Agencies have used Pittman-Robertson (PR) Wildlife Restoration funds to help build a premier network of conserved lands, known as Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), dedicated to wildlife conservation and public access. These state-owned and managed WMAs provide the public with opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, recreational shooting, wildlife observation, photography, and other outdoor activities. Regulations governing WMAs vary from state to state but are generally open to hunting, trapping, fishing and other wildlife related outdoor activities. Other uses may require a special use permit or may be prohibited.

State Wildlife Management Areas in the Northeastern United States – A conservation legacy

Within the 13 States that make up the Northeast Region, 3.25 million acres of wildlife habitat are protected in more than 1,183 WMAs. State Fish and Wildlife Agencies began assembling these WMAs in the early 1900's to meet the critical needs of habitat protection and management for fish and wildlife as well as providing access to the public for hunting, fishing and fish and wildlife-oriented recreation. These WMAs were purchased with a diverse array of Federal, state and private funding sources including PR Wildlife Restoration, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund, revenue from the sale of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, state bond funds, and private contributions. State fish and Wildlife Agencies have spent decades planning and implementation strategic acquisition and management actions with the ends result being a landscape of conserved and well-managed lands that sustain healthy wildlife populations and are available for the enjoyment of current and future generations.



Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

The stewardship of many state wildlife management area are supported by volunteers who maintain signs, bird nest boxes and helping with other types of field work.



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Well maintained parking areas and signs to inform the public visiting WMA's of allowed and prohibited activities are important.



Providing Access and Management Operations on Wildlife Management Areas

To ensure that these WMAs fulfill their wildlife and recreation purposes into the long-term, State fish and wildlife agencies must provide consistent and ongoing management. States primarily use PR Wildlife Restoration funds and license revenue to operate, maintain and conduct habitat management activities on these WMAs to benefit wildlife and the public who recreate on these lands. Diverse staff including wildlife biologists, foresters, engineers, contractors and volunteers to conduct this work. Examples of management activities that occur on WMAs include:

- Creation and maintenance of young forest habitat through commercial timber cutting and prescribed burns
- Wildlife habitat improvement through controlling invasive plants using fire, herbicides or mechanical removal
- Construction and maintenance of shooting ranges, observation towers, and hunting blinds
- Creation and maintenance of wetland habitat by controlling water level in marshes

- Installation and maintenance of wildlife structures like wood duck boxes, osprey platforms, and loon rafts
- Construction and maintenance of critical infrastructure including roads, bridges, culverts, trails, parking lots, boundary fences, kiosks and signs

Stable and consistent funding through contributions of hunters, trappers and recreational shooters have been and will continue to be critical to ensuring that millions of acres of land provide habitat to sustain healthy wildlife populations and that the public can access and recreate on these lands.



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Each year states acquire more acreage to their WMA's to provide important habitat and places for wildlife based outdoor activities. Wetlands are some of the most productive habitat types for many species of wildlife.



Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

Fire crews from the state of Vermont conduct a prescribed burn to create young forest habitat on the Victory WMA in northern Vermont.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program is the nation's oldest and most successful wildlife restoration program. The Program provides grant funds to the state fish and wildlife agencies for projects to restore, conserve, manage and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitat. Projects also include providing public use and access to wildlife resources, hunter education and development and management of shooting ranges. Funding for the Program is derived from excise taxes on the sale of firearms, ammunitions and archery equipment and is a highly successful user pay, public benefit program.

HOW IT WORKS

✓ Hunters and target shooters purchase guns and ammunition.

✓ Manufacturers pay federal excise taxes on guns and ammunition.

✓ Revenue from these excise taxes is distributed to state wildlife agencies.



✓ State wildlife agencies use these funds to purchase land for wildlife habitat and to manage wildlife populations.

✓ In turn, millions of acres of important habitat have been set aside to help ensure future wildlife abundance.

This System Has Provided

MORE THAN
\$10
Billion

For Conservation
So Far

