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# News Release

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## **\$740 Million Goes to States for Fish and Wildlife Projects** *Pacific Region States Receive \$57 Million*

Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced yesterday more than \$740.9 million will be distributed to the fish and wildlife agencies of the 50 states, commonwealths, the District of Columbia, and territories to fund fish and wildlife conservation, boater access to public waters, and hunter and aquatic education. These Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program funds come from excise taxes and import duties on sporting firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, sportfishing equipment, electric outboard motors, and fuel taxes attributable to motorboats and small engines.

"The funds raised under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs have helped conserve our fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation for more than half a century. These investments, which help create jobs while protecting our nation's natural treasures, are particularly important in these tough economic times," Salazar said. "All those who pay into this program – the hunting and fishing industries, boaters, hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters – should take pride in helping to conserve our land and its fish and wildlife and provide benefits to all Americans who cherish the natural world and outdoor recreation."

Nationwide the Wildlife Restoration apportionment for 2009 totals nearly \$336 million, with more than \$64.7 million marked for hunter education and firearm and archery range programs. The Sport Fish Restoration apportionment for 2009 totals more than \$404 million.

### **Pacific Region Apportionment**

Pacific Region states, which include Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and the commonwealth and territories of American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, received a total of nearly \$24.5 million in Wildlife Restoration funds (also called Pittman-Robertson) and \$32.6 million in Sport Fish Restoration funds (also called Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux). This is an increase from last year for all states and territories.

	<b>Wildlife Restoration/Hunter Education</b>	<b>Sport Fish Restoration</b>
<b>Hawaii</b>	\$2,004,425	\$4,044,499
<b>Idaho</b>	\$6,485,573	\$6,943,609
<b>Oregon</b>	\$7,729,971	\$9,268,415
<b>Washington</b>	\$6,579,110	\$8,310,668
<b>A. Samoa</b>	\$ 560,243	\$1,348,166
<b>Guam</b>	\$ 560,243	\$1,348,166
<b>N. Mariana</b>	\$ 560,243	\$1,348,166

Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act funding is available based on a formula that takes into account land area and the number of paid hunting license holders. State fish and wildlife agencies use the money to manage wildlife populations, conduct habitat research, acquire wildlife lands and public access, carry out surveys and inventories, administer hunter education, and construct and maintain shooting ranges.

To maintain these funds, the states must have legislation in place to make sure all hunting and fishing license monies, and federal grant monies, are used only to benefit the state’s fish and wildlife or to fund the administration of the state fish and game agency.

Sport Fish Restoration is funded by the collection of excise taxes and import duties on sport fishing equipment, motorboat and small engine fuels, and pleasure boats. These funds are apportioned to the states based on a formula that includes the land and water area, inland waters and the Great Lakes and marine coastal areas where applicable, and the number of paid fishing license holders. States use the funds to pay for stocking fish; acquiring and improving sport fish habitat; providing aquatic resource education opportunities; conducting fisheries research; maintaining public access, and the construction at boat ramps, fishing piers, and other facilities for recreational boating access.

More than 62 percent of Wildlife Restoration funds are used to buy, develop, maintain, and operate wildlife management areas. Since the program began, state, commonwealth, and territorial fish and wildlife agencies have acquired 68 million acres through fee simple, leases, or easements, and operated and maintained more than 390 million acres for hunting since the program began. In addition, agencies certified over 9 million participants in hunter education.

“This source of conservation funding is important not only measured by its dollar amount, but also by legislative safeguards preventing its diversion away from state fish and wildlife agencies,” said Rowan Gould, acting Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. “For states working to ensure a future for fish and wildlife – and opportunities for people to enjoy them – precious few programs offer this level of support and reliability.”

Numerous species including the wild turkey, white-tailed deer, and black bears have increased in population due to improved research and habitat management funded by Wildlife Restoration. In the program's history, fish and

wildlife agencies have assisted more than 9.2 million landowners on fish and wildlife management. States, commonwealth, and territorial fish and wildlife agencies have improved more than 35 million acres of habitat and developed more than 44,000 acres of waterfowl impoundments.

Since the interception of the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, states, commonwealth, and territorial fish and wildlife agencies have acquired 360,000 acres through fee simple, leases, or easements. They have operated and maintained more than 1.5 million acres annually and they stocked over 6.8 billion fish and restored more than 1.7 billion fish throughout the country; renovated or improved 6,400-boat access sites; and had over 11.9 million participants in the aquatic resource education program.

Please visit the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program web site at <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/> for state, commonwealth, and territory funding allocations.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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