



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release OCTOBER 21, 1949

#### NEARLY \$10 MILLION APPORTIONED TO STATES FOR FEDERAL AID TO WILDLIFE

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug announced today that \$9,913,397 will be available to the 48 states during fiscal year 1950 for the restoration and development of their wildlife resources. This sum -- made available under the terms of the Pittman-Robertson Act -- is a decrease of \$867,223 from last year's apportionment.

This year, as was the case the last two years, Congress has appropriated a sum equal to that credited to the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund during fiscal year 1949 from the 11 percent Federal excise tax on the manufacture of sporting arms and ammunition. Prior to fiscal year 1948, Congress had appropriated sums less than the amount collected from the excise tax. From this appropriation sums have been set aside for the territories and island possessions, and for administration -- prior to apportioning the remainder to the 48 states.

In order to obtain the Federal grants, the states must contribute 25 percent of the cost of the projects in their areas. On this basis of one dollar from the state for every three of Federal funds, the total amount available for Federal-aid wildlife work will be \$13,217,863.

State wildlife restoration projects are submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service and these are approved on behalf of the Secretary if found substantial in character and design. The projects consist of surveys and investigations, land acquisitions, development of wildlife areas, coordination of active projects, and maintenance of completed projects. Project costs are borne initially by the state game departments, after which reimbursement is claimed from Federal funds -- with the Federal pro rata share not to exceed 75 percent of the total cost.

The state apportionments are based on the following formulas: one-half of the sum to be apportioned is based on the ratio that the area of each state bears to the area of all the states, and one-half of the sum is based on the ratio which the number of paid hunting licenses in each state bears to the number of paid license holders of all of the states.

In addition, the Act provides that no state may receive more than five percent, nor less than one-half of one percent of the total apportioned to all of the states. On this basis, this year, Texas receives the maximum apportionment -- \$495,670 -- and Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island and Vermont benefit by receiving the minimum apportionment of \$49,567.

The apportionments to the territories and island possessions this year are as follows: Alaska, \$25,000; Hawaii, \$10,000; Puerto Rico, \$7,500; and the Virgin Islands, \$7,500. The law provides that as much as eight percent of the funds may be used to administer the Act, but only four percent -- or \$415,142 -- has been set aside for this purpose by the Fish and Wildlife Service. This economy makes possible additional funds for use by the states.

The states are allowed two years in which to use their annual apportionments. If they fail to encumber their money on approved projects within this period, or if it is not expended, the money reverts to the Fish and Wildlife Service as provided in the Act and is used for carrying out the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

Although there are no major restrictions on the states in the use of their allotments, most of the funds go for improving wildlife living quarters on the land. This work provides food, nesting and escape cover for farmland wildlife, rather than more temporary and expedient types of work formerly engaged in by the states.

While all Pittman-Robertson projects must aid wildlife primarily, improving conditions for ducks and geese frequently create excellent fishing opportunities. Lands retired for wildlife purposes contribute to moisture conservation and curb soil erosion. Recommended soil conservation practices go hand-in-hand with good wildlife management.

Since the Act became effective on July 1, 1938, the following amounts have been apportioned to the states, exclusive of territories and islands, for each fiscal year: 1939, \$890,000; 1940, \$1,400,000; 1941, \$2,300,000; 1942, \$2,530,000; 1943, \$1,128,000; 1944, \$910,000; 1945, \$806,500; 1946, \$880,000; 1947, \$2,260,000; 1948, \$8,263,772; 1949, \$10,780,620.

Allotments to the states for fiscal year 1950 are listed in alphabetical order as follows:

Alabama, \$179,616; Arizona, \$215,869; Arkansas, \$163,924; California, \$478,584; Colorado, \$324,399; Connecticut, \$49,567; Delaware, \$49,567; Florida, \$140,906; Georgia, \$157,435; Idaho, \$205,083; Illinois, \$270,192; Indiana, \$225,480; Iowa, \$207,716; Kansas, \$214,439; Kentucky, \$147,327.

Louisiana, \$155,851; Maine, \$100,170; Maryland, \$64,945; Massachusetts, \$64,557; Michigan, \$441,776; Minnesota, \$286,791; Mississippi, \$161,952; Missouri, \$244,433; Montana, \$305,883; Nebraska, \$208,315; Nevada, \$195,253; New Hampshire, \$58,187; New Jersey, \$72,200; New Mexico, \$227,502; New York, \$412,503; North Carolina, \$190,920; North Dakota, \$156,513; Ohio, \$332,780.

Oklahoma, \$184,645; Oregon, \$250,846; Pennsylvania, \$431,889; Rhode Island, \$49,567; South Carolina, \$104,611; South Dakota, \$192,334; Tennessee, \$182,970; Texas, \$495,670; Utah, \$196,896; Vermont, \$49,567; Virginia, \$177,205; Washington, \$277,252; West Virginia, \$162,404; Wisconsin, \$254,461; and Wyoming, \$192,446.

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