Louisiana

Federal Aid in Sport Fish & Wildlife Restoration

Division of Federal Assistance
404/679 4162

Where the money comes from

- Federal excise taxes paid by hunters, anglers and boaters on hunting and fishing equipment.
- A portion of the Federal fuel tax.
- Import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

What the money can be used for

- Fish and wildlife research.
- Habitat enhancement.
- Technical assistance to private landowners.
- Environmental review of public projects.
- Land acquisition.
- Operation and maintenance of areas and facilities.
- Boating and angler access improvements.
- Comprehensive planning for fish and wildlife resources.
- Hunter and aquatic education.

Amount Louisiana received in 2008:

- Sport Fish Restoration: $6,633,102
- Wildlife Restoration: $5,423,425
- Endangered Species: $70,227
- State Wildlife Conservation: $932,911
- Boating Infrastructure Program: $2,133,463

Number of participants and economic benefits to Louisiana*:

Fishing
Number of anglers: 702,000
Fishing expenditures: $1,007,231,000

Hunting
Number of hunters: 284,000
Hunting expenditures: $525,505,000

**based on 2006 Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.*

Questions and Answers

What are the Acts that authorize the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Grant Programs?
The Wildlife Restoration Grant Program is authorized by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program is authorized by the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act.

Where does the money come from that supports the Federal Assistance program?
The money does not come from the income tax base. Instead, funds are generated by hunters, boaters, and fishermen. For instance, a hunter pays a tax when he or she purchases a firearm, ammunition or archery equipment. A boater pays a tax when the person buys motorboat fuel. A fisherman pays a tax when they purchase fishing equipment. These dollars go to trust funds.

Where does the money go?
The trust fund money is transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Treasury. The Service then distributes the money to state fish and wildlife agencies or the appropriate agency in state government to address the resource management needs.

Why doesn't the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spend the money?
Some of the funds are spent by the Service to administer the program and provide needed administrative support to the states. However, the mission of the Service's Federal Assistance Program is to strengthen the ability of state and territorial fish and wildlife agencies to restore and manage fish and wildlife to effectively meet the public's consumptive and non-consumptive needs for fish and wildlife resources. The states have the authority to manage resident species of wildlife unless otherwise defined by Federal law.

How successful have the programs been?
The restoration of numerous wildlife species, many fish management programs, boat ramps and fishing piers for sport fishing, the acquisition of coastal wetlands, the creation of several education and outreach projects, and the construction of pumpouts for boat sewage are examples of some of the benefits the outdoor user receives from these programs. Whitetail deer, wild turkey, black bear, striped bass, and numerous sport fish populations were restored by these programs. Boat ramps and handicap accessible fishing piers improved access to fisheries resources. The acquisition of lands for wildlife management areas enabled states to greatly increase wildlife populations for both game and non-game species. In turn, taxes from dollars spent by hunters on hunting equipment and ammunition enabled states to buy more land. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Assistance Program to the states is known to be one of the most efficient and effective Federal programs in the nation.

What management formula lead to these successes?
These programs operate as true partnerships. Program funding and administration take place at the Federal level. Project planning and development take place jointly. Resource management decisions are made at the state level. Funds are distributed between states and territories using formulas based on land area and numbers of users. Most of the funds are permanent indefinite appropriations which allows the states to plan projects and be assured that funding will be there in latter years.

What are some of the other grant programs administered by the Division of Federal Assistance?
The Division of Federal Assistance administers several other grant programs such as Boating Infrastructure Grants, Clean Vessel Act Grants, State Wildlife Grants and Multistate Conservation Grants. In addition, the Division of Federal Assistance shares responsibility for several other grant programs with other divisions of the Fish and Wildlife Service such as Tribal Wildlife Grants, Endangered Species Grants, and National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grants.
All of the aforementioned grants except for State Wildlife Grants and Endangered Species Grants are competitively funded to state game and fish agencies. State Wildlife Grants and Endangered Species Grants are apportioned to state game and fish agencies by a formula-prescribed basis.

How can someone apply for Federal Aid Funds?
They can't. These funds are specifically appropriated by Congress to the states. State agencies apply to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for funds to accomplish specific projects. Service Federal Assistance employees review the projects for substantiality in character and design and approve funding. Partners, such as conservation groups and local governments, participate in some of the programs with state agencies.

Where can someone find additional information about the Federal Assistance Program?
For additional information about the Federal Assistance program, visit our website at http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov