

1

00:00:12,220 --> 00:00:20,160

Some of the greatest successes in wildlife and fisheries conservation has been made thanks to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's

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00:00:20,820 --> 00:00:23,160

Wildlife and Sports Fish Restoration Program.

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00:00:23,820 --> 00:00:28,320

For nearly 80 years the Wildlife and Sports Fish Restoration Program

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00:00:28,980 --> 00:00:34,220

has funded conservation through an excise tax on sporting gear.

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00:00:34,320 --> 00:00:43,500

When you buy a box of shotgun shells, or fishing lure, or associated other items used for hunting, fishing, boating, or shooting,

6

00:00:44,049 --> 00:00:48,929

you pay a tax that ensures that state fish and wildlife managers

7

00:00:49,239 --> 00:00:52,798

have adequate funding to research and manage

8

00:00:53,379 --> 00:01:01,109

wildlife and fisheries. Outdoor men and women make a positive difference in conservation in the United States

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00:01:01,600 --> 00:01:06,150

I work for the Wildlife and Sports Fish Restoration Program. It's been around for

10

00:01:06,670 --> 00:01:08,670

78 years and

11

00:01:08,950 --> 00:01:15,210

it's cumulatively produced over 19 billion dollars for conservation in the United States

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00:01:16,560 --> 00:01:22,040

Excise taxes are collected off of sporting goods like firearms, ammunition,

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00:01:23,020 --> 00:01:30,280

motorboat fuels, fishing equipment - by the Treasury, and then it's a portioned back out to the state's through our program.

14

00:01:30,940 --> 00:01:36,599

That's the primary funding source for state game and fish agencies, so hunters and anglers

15

00:01:37,060 --> 00:01:42,180

directly benefit through stocking programs, hunter education programs, and

16

00:01:43,090 --> 00:01:45,210

game management, all the survey work

17

00:01:45,220 --> 00:01:48,500

that's done across across the country.

18

00:01:48,840 --> 00:01:53,460

Across this country every autumn, hunters go afield with friends and family.

19

00:01:54,070 --> 00:01:57,000

They feel the scratch of gravel under their boots,

20

00:01:57,580 --> 00:02:00,479

the bristle of thorns on their pant legs.

21

00:02:00,909 --> 00:02:05,969

They watch with a heightened sense of self as a pointing dog set stiff as

22

00:02:06,250 --> 00:02:11,399

he detects a bird scent in the bush. The sudden whirl of quail wings

23

00:02:11,520 --> 00:02:16,780

followed by a dull thud of a shotgun kick on your shoulder fills your senses

24

00:02:18,100 --> 00:02:18,640

Let it go!

25

00:02:18,940 --> 00:02:19,740
[2 Gun Shots]

26
00:02:19,960 --> 00:02:20,600
I hit one.

27
00:02:21,060 --> 00:02:22,120
I think I got one too.

28
00:02:22,380 --> 00:02:27,580
They are all part of the real, full-emersion experience of hunting

29
00:02:28,100 --> 00:02:33,820
that could never be duplicated, and hunting is a key part of conservation
in the United States.

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00:02:34,640 --> 00:02:40,520
It is an enjoyable family experience that has been shared by generations
of Americans.

31
00:02:40,920 --> 00:02:44,740
I love being outdoors with my family: my kids.

32
00:02:44,900 --> 00:02:49,660
It gives us gives us an opportunity to do things together.

33
00:02:49,980 --> 00:02:51,980
It's a bonding experience.

34
00:02:52,800 --> 00:02:54,980
I got to hunt with with my father, and

35
00:02:55,920 --> 00:03:00,460
I feel like I'm passing down a hunting heritage to my daughter.

36
00:03:02,600 --> 00:03:09,300
It brings us together in nature so we get to see wildlife really up close
and personal.

37
00:03:09,300 --> 00:03:14,480
It's memories. Coming with my dad, we have stories to tell,

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00:03:14,700 --> 00:03:16,980

things that we can remember for a long time.

39

00:03:17,640 --> 00:03:20,660

It's fun to come and bond over

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00:03:21,180 --> 00:03:26,329

wildlife and things that he loves to do, and I'm glad that he brings me out here like he said he

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00:03:26,780 --> 00:03:34,880

went hunting with his dad and so him passing it down is just pretty cool, so I get the experience and memories.

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00:03:35,240 --> 00:03:37,940

Hunting is a colorful part of the American heritage.

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00:03:39,000 --> 00:03:42,229

It's been practiced by virtually all of our ancestors.

44

00:03:42,840 --> 00:03:50,780

Hunting fuels an intimacy one feels with wildlife and wild places and stirs one to care about conservation

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00:03:51,240 --> 00:03:58,060

We're holding two male Mearns quail.

46

00:03:58,100 --> 00:04:04,220

To me, it's the trophy bird of the Southwest.

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00:04:04,460 --> 00:04:06,520

They're incredibly great for dogs.

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00:04:06,750 --> 00:04:13,609

They hold really tight and they've got great scent for the dogs, and as you can see from this bird's plumage

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00:04:13,609 --> 00:04:15,919

they're just beautiful birds.

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00:04:16,769 --> 00:04:20,629

One of the names for this bird is "elegant quail" I believe and

51

00:04:21,269 --> 00:04:23,100

Harlequin quail.

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00:04:23,100 --> 00:04:26,020

The feathers on these birds are just incredible.

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00:04:26,060 --> 00:04:37,820

So the Mearns quail, unlike all the other species of quail in the Southwest, digs for its food and this bird has really long nails that it uses for digging

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00:04:39,810 --> 00:04:45,619

roots and tubers out of the ground. That's very distinct and very different than the other birds.

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00:04:45,930 --> 00:04:48,349

Other birds will eat seeds on the top of the

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00:04:49,020 --> 00:04:53,870

ground or just off the plant. That's a very unique to this bird.

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00:04:54,260 --> 00:04:57,880

It reminds me of something that Aldo Leopold wrote:

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00:04:58,740 --> 00:05:02,740

There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm.

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00:05:03,600 --> 00:05:08,360

One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery.

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00:05:08,520 --> 00:05:12,480

The other: that heat comes from the furnace.

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00:05:12,800 --> 00:05:14,800

As it is with farmers,

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00:05:15,440 --> 00:05:21,260

hunters are not merely observers of nature, but intimate participants.

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00:05:21,720 --> 00:05:24,140
I've only ever hunted quail twice:

64
00:05:24,900 --> 00:05:28,520
this time and one time before.

65
00:05:28,680 --> 00:05:35,960
It's really interesting hunting behind dogs because you're always watching how they're going to react how they're moving

66
00:05:36,320 --> 00:05:38,320
throughout the field and

67
00:05:39,389 --> 00:05:44,239
what when they pick up a bird it's a huge adrenaline rush.

68
00:05:45,740 --> 00:05:53,980
All your senses are focused on that on trying to get that bird. It's just amazing.

69
00:05:54,540 --> 00:05:58,560
Hunters care about conservation. They care about habitat.

70
00:05:58,940 --> 00:06:02,840
They were on the forefront of an emerging conservation ethic

71
00:06:03,200 --> 00:06:10,220
some 80 years ago, and today remain an integral part of the future of conservation.

72
00:06:10,400 --> 00:06:13,260
Hunting is hugely important to the American economy

73
00:06:13,940 --> 00:06:21,480
and conservation funded by the Wildlife and Sports Fish Restoration program extends far beyond quail covers and deer woods.

74
00:06:21,660 --> 00:06:23,660
It's an amazing program

75
00:06:23,849 --> 00:06:25,560
That was created by

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00:06:25,560 --> 00:06:27,560

some people who had some

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00:06:27,860 --> 00:06:30,320

incredible vision and passion for the outdoors

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00:06:30,380 --> 00:06:32,360

and really wanted to see it

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00:06:32,370 --> 00:06:34,849

managed better than it had been in the past.

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00:06:35,550 --> 00:06:37,550

There was a Depression-Era

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00:06:38,420 --> 00:06:43,480

legislation that was developed to basically protect what resources were left.

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00:06:43,700 --> 00:06:47,140

What we have left is a legacy like no other.

83

00:06:47,660 --> 00:06:49,660

Eighty years ago

84

00:06:49,680 --> 00:06:55,849

wildlife species such as elk, whitetail deer, wild turkey, rough grouse,

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00:06:56,610 --> 00:07:01,370

bighorn sheep, and pronghorn populations were dangerously low.

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00:07:02,220 --> 00:07:06,120

Today, thanks to the Wildlife and Sports Fish Restoration Program

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00:07:06,640 --> 00:07:10,900

and scientific management, these iconic species have rebounded,

88

00:07:11,200 --> 00:07:17,600

and provide sustainable hunting as well as wildlife viewing opportunities for the American public.

