### Hunter Education and Safety Program

The Hunter Education and Safety (HE) Program was created in 1970, when Congress amended PR to allow a portion of the funding to be used for hunter education and safety programs. Projects must have objectives related to one or more of the following: hunter and sporting firearm safety programs; hunter development programs; the enhancement of interstate coordination and development of hunter education and shooting range programs; archery ranges, and the updating of safety features of firearm shooting ranges and archery ranges. In 2000, Congress approved the Enhanced Hunter Education program that directs additional resources to this effort.

### Sport Fish Restoration

The DJ program is a cooperative effort involving Federal and State government agencies, the sport fishing industry, anglers and boaters. The program increases sport fishing and boating opportunities through wise investment of excise tax dollars in sport fishery development and management projects. Funds are derived from a 10 percent Federal excise tax on selected fishing tackle and equipment. The Wallop-Breaux Amendment of 1984 expanded the program by adding more tackle and sport fishing equipment under the excise tax and included the Federal fuel taxes attributable to motor boats and small engines. The program has helped State wildlife agencies restore and better manage America's fisheries resources. As of 2018 the SFR Program provided about $9 billion in funds utilized by the States for a variety of eligible activities.

***Unquestionably, the Sport Fish Restoration program is a cornerstone of excellence for anglers, boaters and fisheries resources.***

### Aquatic Resource Education

The Aquatic Resource Education Program is authorized in the DJ Act. Up to 15 percent of the State's total DJ funding may be used for aquatic resource education. The Program provides grant funds to States for angler education, including stewardship and conservation to enhance public understanding and conservation of the nation's water resources and associated aquatic life forms.

### Boating Access

The Boating Access (BA) Program funds projects that provide recreational boaters with access to America's waterways by developing new access facilities and renovating or improving existing facilities. The program mandates that States use 15 percent of DJ funding on recreational boating access projects. In addition, the BA program funds fish cleaning stations, parking areas, and restrooms, among other boating amenities.

### Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

The Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program was established through the Sport Fishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998. BIG provides grant funds for facilities to support transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length. BIG also funds information and educational materials about the program. Two percent of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund comprises the annual funding for this competitive program.

### Clean Vessel Act Program

The Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Program was authorized by the Clean Vessel Act of 1992. Two percent of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund comprises the annual funding for the CVA Program. CVA provides nationally competitive grant funds to States to construct, renovate, operate, and maintain pumpout stations and waste facilities for recreational boaters. Also funded are educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper sewage disposal.

### What's in a logo?

When you see these logos on outdoor sports equipment, the manufacturer has paid an excise tax on the product. Proceeds go to support fish and wildlife management and conservation to enhance and expand access to recreational resources.

Look for these logos at a shooting range, hunter education class, wildlife management area, fish hatchery, boat ramp or a project site. These logos say WSFR funds are at work!

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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

# Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

*This program and the partnerships it fosters are among the most successful conservation efforts in the nation's rich history of fish and wildlife management.*

## Program Overview

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program addresses the challenges of managing America's natural resources with effective, targeted grant programs designed to benefit fish and wildlife while capitalizing on recreational opportunities across the country. The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (PR), passed in 1937, and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ), passed in 1950, authorized grant programs that provide funding to States and territories for on-the-ground wildlife and fisheries conservation. The majority of PR funds are spent on acquisition, development, and operation of wildlife management and public use areas involving about 68 million acres. The PR Hunter Education Program trains students on conservation values and safe, responsible use of firearms. Various DJ funded programs address conservation and public recreation needs in fresh, estuarine and marine waters. DJ funds support projects that improve and manage aquatic habitats and fisheries resources, protect coastal wetlands, and provide critical infrastructure for recreational boaters. The DJ funded Aquatic Resources Education Program reaches into classrooms and other environments to teach aquatic conservation principles.

The WSFR Program also administers the State Wildlife Grant program which supports a strategic national conservation framework through individual State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans, developed in coordination with government agencies, conservation organizations and the public, are integral to national efforts to effectively address threats to priority habitats and species of greatest conservation need. The core value of all WSFR Programs is fostering cooperative partnerships between Federal and State agencies, working alongside hunters, anglers, and other outdoor interests, to enhance recreational opportunities while advancing sustainable resource goals. This publication elaborates on the PR and DJ grant programs and their primacy as stalwart national funding sources for state efforts.

## How does PR and DJ Work?

### Collecting the funds

Industry partners pay excise taxes and import duties on equipment and gear manufactured for purchase by hunters, anglers, boaters, archers, and recreational shooters. Federal taxes on motorboat and small engine fuels are also a source of DJ funding. Federal tax collection agencies are responsible for collecting the excise taxes. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau collects taxes on firearms, and ammunition. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection collects taxes on goods imported for sport fishing and boating. The Internal Revenue Service collects excise taxes from fishing and archery items. The collecting agencies deposit PR and DJ funds into the Wildlife Restoration Account, and the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, respectively.

### Eligible Recipients

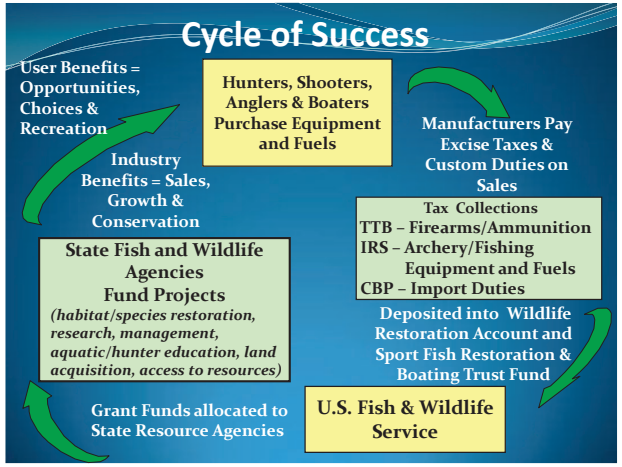
The PR and DJ Acts authorize funding for fish and wildlife agencies in the States, Commonwealths of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa, collectively referred to as the States. To be eligible, States must have passed laws that include a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by hunters and anglers for any other purpose than the administration of the State fish and wildlife agency.

### Distributing the Funds

Eligible States receive PR and DJ funds through formula-based permanent appropriations. The distribution formulas are based primarily on land and water area and the number of paid recreational hunting and fishing license holders in each State. The State fish and wildlife agencies make their own management decisions as to how the funds are utilized. State agencies can use funds for a variety of purposes, as long as they accomplish program goals and are eligible under the Acts. Grants typically fund up to 75 percent of the project costs. Most States must provide a matching share of up to 25 percent. Usually the matching share comes from State hunting and fishing license revenues.

***No other single conservation effort in the United States can claim a greater contribution to fish and wildlife conservation than the excise tax-funded portion of the WSFR Program.***

## Your Excise Taxes at Work




## Who benefits from the Program?

The American public benefits from the PR and DJ programs. Outdoor enthusiasts get more and better places to hunt, fish and recreate; the industry gets a growing base of hunters, shooters, anglers, boaters, archers, and other recreational users who purchase more supplies and equipment; and State and Federal agencies get more funds to meet on-the-ground conservation needs. The general public benefits from better stewardship of the nations natural resources.

***With your help, we create better fishing, hunting, recreational shooting and boating opportunities for the future.***

## How are the funds used?

The funds are used for activities such as: fish and wildlife population management; habitat management; research; surveys and inventories; land acquisition; construction and maintenance of wildlife management areas and hatcheries; facilities construction; technical guidance; aquatic resource education; construction and maintenance of public shooting and archery ranges; hunter education and safety training; fishing and hunting opportunities and access; and boating access facilities, including ramps, piers and parking. As of 2018, the WSFR Program Federal/State partnership has resulted in about $20.5 billion of Federal funds, matched with approximately $6.8 billion provided by the States.

***Land acquisition is an investment for the future, providing for conservation of species and habitat in perpetuity.***

## What are the Core Grant Programs?

### Wildlife Restoration

The PR Act authorizes a grant program for State fish and wildlife agencies to carry out projects to restore, conserve, manage and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitats. PR funded activities also include wildlife-related recreation, hunter education and development, and the construction and operations of shooting ranges. Funds are derived from an 11 percent Federal excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition, and archery equipment, and a 10 percent tax on handguns. As of 2018, this program has provided about $11.5 billion in funds to the State fish and wildlife agencies.

***The Wildlife Restoration Program is the oldest and most successful wildlife management program in the nation's history.***