



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FEDERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR WILDLIFE WORK IN ALASKA, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO

Federal funds appropriated under the Pittman-Robertson Act will this year be available for the first time for wildlife restoration work in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, it was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The announcement followed President Roosevelt's signing of an amendment to the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, popularly called the Pittman-Robertson Act, under which Congress appropriates money for the restoration of wildlife in the States.

The amendment authorizes Secretary Ickes to conduct wildlife restoration work in the Territories "upon such terms and conditions as he shall deem fair, just, and equitable."

Amounts to be expended were limited to \$25,000 annually in Alaska, and \$10,000 each in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

As with other Pittman-Robertson projects, the work will be administered for the Secretary by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Secretary Ickes said that definite plans for restoration work in the four regions had not yet been consummated although preliminary arrangements have been made with territorial game commissions.

Restoration activities that could be conducted in the Territories were outlined in a statement prepared by Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, for the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs.

"In Alaska, surveys should be made to secure more adequate information on the status of the important fur-animal resources of the Territory," Dr. Gabrielson stated in his report. "Areas for big-game management should be selected and developed in interior Alaska for buffalo, Dall's bighorn, mountain goat, and caribou, in southern Alaska for the brown bear, and in other areas for various species as environmental and other conditions prove practicable."

In Hawaii, the Hawaiian goose requires attention. This bird is rare and is in danger of extermination unless steps are taken to save it, the statement continued.

Waterfowl and upland game birds require the attention of conservationists in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, the Service Director pointed out. At one time quail and introduced guinea hens were quite numerous in Puerto Rico, and introduced quail were common in St. Thomas and St. Croix of the Virgin Islands.

Now it is doubtful if there are any upland game birds remaining in either Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

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