



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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STATES RECEIVE \$16½ MILLION IN FEDERAL AID FUNDS  
FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION WORK

Projects for the restoration and development of sport fishery and wildlife resource in the 48 States will have a banner year during fiscal year 1956 with an operating base of \$16,537,900 of Federal aid funds, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay said today.

On the basis of one dollar from the State for every three of Federal funds, \$22,050,533 will be available to State conservation departments for this work.

The combined Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration program is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service under the terms of the Pittman-Robertson Act for wildlife, and the Dingell-Johnson Act for sport fish. As prescribed in the two Acts, investments are made so that benefits go to the hunters and anglers who seek recreation and food from the Nation's fields and streams.

This year the various State fish and game departments will receive \$11,610,500 for their wildlife restoration projects and \$4,927,400 for their sport fishery activities. The wildlife total represents an increase of \$1,813,700 over last year's apportionment of \$9,796,800. The amount available for sport fishery projects is \$504,600 more than the 1955 total of \$4,422,800 and is the largest of any year to date.

Under the Pittman-Robertson Act, the total appropriation of \$12,400,508 includes \$120,000 set aside for wildlife restoration in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and funds for the administration of the Act. This total represents the entire amount credited to the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Funds during the preceding fiscal year from the 11 percent Federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition levied on the manufacturers.

The revenue for the Federal share of the sport fish restoration program comes from the 10 percent excise tax on fishing rods, creels, reels, artificial lures, baits, and flies, paid by the manufacturers of those products. Collections from this source during the year ended June 30, 1955, total \$5,347,425. From this total is taken the annual apportionments of \$75,000 to Alaska, \$25,000 to Hawaii, \$10,000 each to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and the cost of administering the Act by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The formula prescribed for use by the Fish and Wildlife Service in making State allotments for wildlife projects is: One-half the sum to be apportioned is divided according to the ratio which the area of each State bears to the area of

all the States. The remaining half is divided on the ratio of paid hunting license holders in each State to the total number of paid license holders in all States.

The Pittman-Robertson Act also provides that no State shall receive more than five percent, nor less than one-half of one percent, of the total amount available to all the States. On this basis, Michigan and Texas are given the maximum apportionment this year of \$580,525 each, while Connecticut, Delaware, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont receive the minimum of \$58,053 each.

To provide fair distribution of Federal funds for sport fishery projects, 40 percent of the sum to be apportioned is computed in the ratio which the area of each State including coastal and Great Lakes waters bears to the total area of all the States, and 60 percent in the ratio which the number of paid sport fishing license holders in the State bears to the number of such persons in all the States.

The Dingell-Johnson Act also provides that no State shall receive less than one percent nor more than five percent of the total funds apportioned to all States. This provision allows the small States enough working capital to finance comparatively big projects. On this basis, California and Minnesota are given the maximum apportionment this year of \$246,370 each, while Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia, will receive the minimum of \$49,274 each.

To obtain the benefits of the Federal grants, the States submit project proposals to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Such proposals may consist of surveys, investigations, land acquisitions, land and water development, management of restoration areas, and maintenance of the completed projects. Acting for the Secretary of the Interior, the Service reviews these proposals to determine whether they are substantial in character and design, within the meaning of the Acts.

When Federal Aid projects are approved by the Service, the State fish and game departments proceed to carry out the plans, spending their own funds. The States then submit reimbursement claims for 75 percent of the costs of the project, either periodically or at the completion of the work. The remaining 25 percent of project expenditure is financed out of regular State funds. All equipment, lands, and structures become the property of the States. All project workers are hired by the States and are State employees.

Apportionments to the 48 States for fiscal year 1956 for both fish and wildlife projects are as follows:

	<u>Wildlife</u>	<u>Fish</u>
Alabama	\$202,151	\$65,898
Arizona	257,255	86,396
Arkansas	193,301	93,752
California	557,127	246,370
Colorado	379,001	124,405
Connecticut	58,053	49,274
Delaware	58,053	49,274
Florida	159,904	91,495
Georgia	279,267	99,794
Idaho	234,611	86,741
Illinois	325,581	159,108
Indiana	247,558	115,249

	<u>Wildlife</u>	<u>Fish</u>
Iowa	\$253,334	96,734
Kansas	230,847	84,681
Kentucky	181,617	89,375
Louisiana	196,811	62,204
Maine	134,257	52,018
Maryland	79,660	49,274
Massachusetts	66,117	49,274
Michigan	580,525	240,625
Minnesota	359,982	246,370
Mississippi	167,344	60,811
Missouri	251,815	130,131
Montana	357,726	119,666
Nebraska	233,018	81,313
Nevada	224,834	72,076
New Hampshire	58,053	49,274
New Jersey	84,447	49,274
New Mexico	262,046	87,236
New York	475,742	161,728
North Carolina	242,139	86,667
North Dakota	155,004	52,448
Ohio	344,625	166,940
Oklahoma	205,587	105,291
Oregon	288,985	107,157
Pennsylvania	455,933	143,178
Rhode Island	58,053	49,274
South Carolina	126,258	67,413
South Dakota	214,573	64,462
Tennessee	260,005	146,899
Texas	580,525	222,547
Utah	224,486	71,115
Vermont	58,053	49,274
Virginia	229,018	81,778
Washington	273,119	117,957
West Virginia	146,323	49,274
Wisconsin	353,832	210,475
Wyoming	243,944	85,432

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