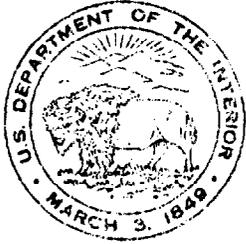


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FEDERAL AID FUNDS USED TO INCREASE SPORT FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

If a fishing lake does not exist, make one.

If a fishing site exists, make it available to the public.

If the lake is there and if it is accessible to the public but needs improvement, develop it.

In the course of putting these simple rules into effect, the various States spent more than \$1,000,000 on Federal Aid land acquisitions for fishing purposes in the year ending June 30, 1956, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton said today. Of this amount, \$790,000 was Federal Aid funds.

Tennessee, for example, cleared a \$73,296 Federal Aid project to purchase 2,809 acres of land in the Laurel Hill area south of Nashville for the purpose of "building" a 309-acre lake for sport fishing. Erosion problems which might have led to early filling of the lakes with silt, necessitated the purchase of the 2,809-acre area.

And Michigan spent about \$55,000 on Federal Aid projects for the purchase of 323 acres of land to provide access to 20 lakes and five streams in 19 of its counties.

Ohio, on the other hand, already had a lake in the environs of Alliance--one which had been a cooling basin for condenser water from an industrial plant but which was no longer used for that purpose. So, for \$35,000, Ohio purchased a 93-acre tract including this 23-acre lake. It will develop the lake for sport fishing.

During the year, approval was given 17 States for the construction of 31 lakes having a total of 2,500 surface acres, and to 20 States for the acquisition of 6,358 acres of land and the leasing of an additional 56,846 acres for fishing and access to fishing areas.

Federal Aid funds for the restoration of fish are obtained through a 10 percent tax on certain sport fishing equipment.

In addition to Federal Aid projects, the various States make or develop other fishing areas or provide access to existing fishing spots using only State funds or money raised by civic-minded individuals or groups.

In providing access to fishing areas, State fish and game departments must meet the peculiarities of their own State water and trespass laws, considering such things as the navigability of the stream or lake. In many instances the public is entitled to proceed up and down a streambed, either wading or afloat. Here the problem may be only access to the edge of the stream. In other places and under certain conditions wading or floating is not practical or legal and the right to use the stream or bank must be acquired. The same general principles apply to lakes.

Oregon's program includes acquisition of access sites to seven coastal streams to improve sport fishing opportunities for trout and salmon. Most of the acquisitions have been for boat access but some have included stream frontage which permits bank fishing.

Connecticut is providing fishermen access to the Willimantic River by the purchase of permanent fishing easements on streambank strips ten feet wide, and on the Blackledge and Jeremy's Rivers by purchasing parcels bordering the streams.

Rhode Island is providing access to fishermen by obtaining 99-year leases on 33-foot strips along river banks. North Carolina has purchased one access site on each of seven streams in the coastal plains and Piedmont sections of the State. Delaware has begun acquisitions of combined boat and bank fishing access areas on the Delaware River and an access site on Delaware Bay. Iowa secured eight access areas to streams to provide boat fishing and in some places bank fishing. In two instances both hunters and fishermen will benefit from the acquisitions.

Vermont purchased access sites on 21 lakes and ponds and an additional four sites on the shores of Lake Champlain, bringing its total of Federal Aid access areas to 25 on 22 lakes in 10 of her 14 counties, with two leases on other ponds.

Michigan, since 1952 when the program started, has purchased or is in the process of buying a total of 100 sites, most of which are on lakes. Indiana has 32 sites, mostly on lakes. The State of Washington has acquired sites on 17 lakes in 10 counties in the western part of the State.

New Jersey is planning a development along the Pequest River in the northern part of the State. It has acquired 140 acres for \$55,000, giving the State about two miles of trout stream and adjoining lands.

Pennsylvania has several big lake projects. One is the purchase of 324 acres in Wayne and Monroe Counties including the 278-acre Gouldsboro Lake. The purchase price is about \$40,000. It is an artificial lake created 50 years ago as a source of ice. The lake will be developed as an addition to the fishing resources of the Poconos region. Another project is the Dutch Fork area near Pittsburgh. There the State is spending \$46,000 on a Federal Aid acquisition of 588 acres where it will build an artificial lake which will cover 91 acres.

Wyoming is spending \$48,300 to get land on each side of the North Platte River about nine miles above the well-known sport fishing center of Saratoga. About two and a half miles of river is involved. The State of Washington is acquiring 408-acre Silver Lake in Cowlitz for \$62,550.

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