



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release February 26, 1985

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PRESENTS NONGAME FUNDING REPORT TO CONGRESS

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has presented its report to Congress on national funding to support "nongame" species of fish and wildlife.

The report concludes over a year of study into potential sources of funds to be distributed nationally through State nongame conservation programs under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980. The study was requested by Congress.

The Service made no specific funding recommendations in its report. Eighteen potential sources, ranging from excise taxes to direct Federal appropriations, had been identified at the start of the agency's study.

"Given the present fiscal situation and Administration policies on Federal spending and taxation, I cannot recommend either the raising of new taxes or appropriations from the general fund of the Treasury for financing the nongame act this year," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director Robert Jantzen in a letter accompanying the report to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Jantzen praised the efforts of the 36 States that have already introduced nongame conservation programs, most of them publicly supported through voluntary State income tax "checkoff" options, and suggested that the Federal Government encourage the expansion of these existing projects.

Nongame animals are those species not ordinarily fished, trapped, or hunted, that do not receive the direct financial support accorded to game animals through hunting and fishing license revenues and excise taxes on hunting and fishing gear. Nongame species include, for example, songbirds, some wading birds, flying squirrels, chipmunks, lizards, and turtles, among others.