



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

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### STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES TO SHARE \$268 MILLION IN EXCISE TAX RECEIPTS

Continuing a conservation tradition spanning more than 60 years, state fish and wildlife agencies will be sharing \$268 million in excise taxes paid by America's hunters, target shooters, boaters, and anglers, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced today.

The agencies will use the money for wildlife conservation through land acquisition, habitat improvement, research, education, and other programs. The funds also will help pay for hunting education programs and wildlife-related recreation projects.

"Hunters, anglers, and other sports enthusiasts have done more to support America's conservation programs than any other group," Babbitt said. "In the 1930s, hunters lobbied Congress to impose these excise taxes on themselves, something that may be a unique occurrence in American history, because they cared deeply about our fish and wildlife resources and knew that we could not conserve them without adequate funding. Anglers followed suit in 1950. In all, sportsmen and -women have contributed billions of dollars in excise taxes, translating into more wildlife and wildlife habitat for everyone to enjoy."

The funds are administered by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act), signed in 1937, and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson Act), signed in 1950, collectively have raised more than \$4.8 billion.

The money is distributed to the states for projects proposed by the states and approved by the Service. Federal Aid funds pay up to 75 percent of the cost of each project while the states contribute at least 25 percent of the cost.

The preliminary apportionment for wildlife restoration and hunter education programs for fiscal year 1996 totals \$148 million. The money is derived from an 11-percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, a 10-percent tax on pistols and revolvers, and an 11-percent tax on certain archery equipment. One-half of the tax on handguns and archery equipment is made available for state hunter education and safety programs.

The \$148 million represents a decrease from the FY 1995 preliminary apportionment of \$159 million. The decrease was the result of larger-than-normal collections available last year from improved record-keeping and collection of back taxes. The \$148 million in preliminary FY 1996 apportionments compares with \$139 million in FY 1994.

The preliminary apportionment for sport fish restoration for FY 1995 totals \$120 million, down from \$129 million last year. Excise tax receipts under the Sport Fish program actually increased during the past year, but the amount deducted from the account under the Clean Vessel Act to provide pump-out and dump stations for boaters to dispose of waste in an environmentally safe manner will climb from \$7.5 million to \$10 million. In addition, legislation pending in Congress would increase the Coast Guard's share for its boat safety grants from \$7.5 million to \$30 million.

The Sport Fish funding results from a 10-percent excise tax on fishing equipment and a 3-percent tax on electric trolling motors and sonar fish finders. The "Wallop-Breaux" legislation of 1984 increased the tax base for sport fish restoration to include a portion of the Federal fuels tax and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

Distribution of sport fish restoration funds to the states is based on the land and water area and the number of fishing license holders in each state. Wildlife restoration funds are made available based on land area and the number of hunting license holders in each state. Distribution of hunter education funds is based on the relative population of each state.

The attached tables show the allocation of the preliminary apportionment for fiscal year 1996. Final apportionments will be announced in the spring of 1996.

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**PRELIMINARY APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE  
RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>WILDLIFE RESTORATION</b>	<b>HUNTER EDUCATION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
ALABAMA	1,971,429	698,216	2,669,645
ALASKA	5,914,098	297,180	6,211,278
ARIZONA	2,779,743	633,342	3,413,085
ARKANSAS	2,133,539	297,180	2,430,719
CALIFORNIA	4,270,481	891,541	5,162,022
COLORADO	3,034,459	569,262	3,603,721
CONNECTICUT	591,410	568,005	1,159,415
DELAWARE	591,410	297,180	888,590
FLORIDA	1,782,369	891,541	2,673,910
GEORGIA	2,367,651	891,541	3,259,192
HAWAII	591,410	297,180	888,590
IDAHO	2,454,088	297,180	2,751,268
ILLINOIS	2,232,371	891,541	3,123,912
INDIANA	1,889,248	891,541	2,780,789
IOWA	1,894,484	479,816	2,374,300
KANSAS	2,232,122	297,180	2,529,302
KENTUCKY	1,816,406	636,809	2,453,215
LOUISIANA	1,864,698	729,200	2,593,898
MAINE	1,372,430	297,180	1,669,610
MARYLAND	741,645	826,225	1,567,870
MASSACHUSETTS	591,410	891,541	1,482,951
MICHIGAN	5,220,254	891,541	6,111,795
MINNESOTA	3,631,361	756,005	4,387,366
MISSISSIPPI	1,809,873	444,645	2,254,518
MISSOURI	2,912,504	884,216	3,796,720
MONTANA	3,720,310	297,180	4,017,490
NEBRASKA	2,056,755	297,180	2,353,935
NEVADA	2,239,634	297,180	2,536,814
NEW HAMPSHIRE	591,410	297,180	888,590
NEW JERSEY	591,410	891,541	1,482,951
NEW MEXICO	2,662,610	297,180	2,959,790
NEW YORK	3,662,931	891,541	4,554,472
NORTH CAROLINA	2,261,750	891,541	3,153,291
NORTH DAKOTA	1,711,486	297,180	2,008,666
OHIO	2,726,194	891,541	3,617,735
OKLAHOMA	2,329,660	543,549	2,873,209
OREGON	2,907,464	491,145	3,398,609
PENNSYLVANIA	5,058,894	891,541	5,950,435
RHODE ISLAND	591,410	297,180	888,590
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,361,959	602,493	1,964,452
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,116,659	297,180	2,413,839
TENNESSEE	2,953,064	842,764	3,795,828
TEXAS	5,914,098	891,541	6,805,639
UTAH	2,173,933	297,180	2,471,113
VERMONT	591,410	297,180	888,590
VIRGINIA	2,060,890	891,541	2,952,431
WASHINGTON	2,253,280	840,951	3,094,231
WEST VIRGINIA	1,485,752	297,180	1,782,932
WISCONSIN	3,878,275	845,285	4,723,560
WYOMING	2,309,869	297,180	2,607,049
PUERTO RICO	591,410	0	591,410
GUAM	197,137	49,530	246,667
VIRGIN ISLANDS	197,137	49,530	246,667
AMERICAN SAMOA	197,137	49,530	246,667
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	197,137	49,530	246,667
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>118,281,958</b>	<b>29,718,042</b>	<b>148,000,000</b>

**PRELIMINARY APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN SPORT FISH  
RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996**

ALABAMA	1,807,594
ALASKA	6,000,000
ARIZONA	2,528,445
ARKANSAS	1,948,692
CALIFORNIA	6,000,000
COLORADO	3,050,627
CONNECTICUT	1,200,000
DELAWARE	1,200,000
FLORIDA	3,113,446
GEORGIA	2,219,539
HAWAII	1,200,000
IDAHO	2,098,082
ILLINOIS	2,468,804
INDIANA	1,851,977
IOWA	1,490,665
KANSAS	1,797,927
KENTUCKY	1,772,266
LOUISIANA	2,015,343
MAINE	1,200,000
MARYLAND	1,300,404
MASSACHUSETTS	1,200,000
MICHIGAN	4,482,224
MINNESOTA	4,366,867
MISSISSIPPI	1,616,025
MISSOURI	2,947,299
MONTANA	2,838,548
NEBRASKA	1,506,029
NEVADA	1,839,333
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1,200,000
NEW JERSEY	1,200,000
NEW MEXICO	2,168,870
NEW YORK	3,068,986
NORTH CAROLINA	1,842,160
NORTH DAKOTA	1,200,000
OHIO	3,080,146
OKLAHOMA	2,431,117
OREGON	2,830,132
PENNSYLVANIA	3,153,066
RHODE ISLAND	1,200,000
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,498,927
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,449,473
TENNESSEE	2,514,383
TEXAS	6,000,000
UTAH	2,221,562
VERMONT	1,200,000
VIRGINIA	1,930,829
WASHINGTON	2,527,660
WEST VIRGINIA	1,200,000
WISCONSIN	3,881,479
WYOMING	1,941,074
PUERTO RICO	1,200,000
GUAM	400,000
VIRGIN ISLANDS	400,000
AMERICAN SAMOA	400,000
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	400,000
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120,000,000</b>