



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration

Program Overview

Our Program

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) and the partnerships it has fostered are considered among the most successful conservation efforts in the nation's history of fish and wildlife management. The WSFR administers six major grant programs that provide funding to state and territorial fish and wildlife agencies for resource management and recreation-related purposes. The WSFR also provides administrative support for other Service grant programs, including Endangered Species (Section 6), National Coastal Wetlands Conservation, and Tribal Wildlife Grants.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, enacted in 1937, and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, enacted in 1950, established a user pay-user benefit, excise tax mechanism enabling each state fish and wildlife agency to receive formula-based, dedicated funding through a permanent appropriation to manage fish



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and wildlife resources. The funding comes from industry partners that pay excise taxes on equipment and gear manufactured for hunters, anglers, boaters, archers, and recreational

shooters. Boaters also pay a tax on motorboat fuels.

Since the program's inception, the Service has apportioned to States over \$11.4 billion for fish and wildlife management, species restoration, habitat protection and restoration,

scientific study, population monitoring, hunter and aquatic education, and access for hunting, fishing, and boating.



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State Wildlife Grants

The WSFR also manages the State Wildlife Grant Program. States receive these annually appropriated funds, also on a formula-basis, to stabilize, restore, enhance, and protect species and habitats that are of greatest conservation need as identified in State Wildlife Action Plans. Initiated in 2002, this program has distributed over \$441 million to the various state wildlife agencies.

Conservation Successes

Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson funding):

- 8.9 million hunter education students trained



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- 68 million acres acquired through fee simple, leases, or easements
- More than 401 million acres operated and maintained for wildlife purposes

Sport Fish Restoration (Dingell-Johnson funding)

Stocked more than 72 million fish in public waters

Boating Infrastructure Grants

- Developed and improved more than 332 boating access sites
- Constructed 143 tie ups and other facilities for larger boats

Clean Vessel Act Grants

- Constructed 192 coastal and inland pump-out facilities



KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN-USE PUMPOUTS

State Wildlife Grants

- Acquired, protected, and restored more than 678,000 acres

Facts and Figures

During FY 2008, the following dollar amounts were distributed under the various grant programs:

- Wildlife Restoration \$309.7 M
- Sport Fish Restoration \$398.3 M
- State Wildlife Grants \$61.5 M
- Competitive State Wildlife Grants \$4.9 M
- Clean Vessel Act \$13.6 M
- Boating Infrastructure Grants \$13.6 M

The headquarters office is located in Arlington, VA and there are eight Regional Offices. The program currently has 120 FTEs.

Laws the Program Administers

- Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 669-669k
- Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 777-777n
- Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, Public Law 106-408

Emerging Issues and Hot Topics

- Wallop-Breaux Reauthorization to continue use of motorboat fuels taxes for Sport Fish Restoration purposes is scheduled for Congressional action in 2009
- Program accountability and the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Improvement Act
- Adequate and dedicated staff support for analysis of information from the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation
- New Competitive State Wildlife Grant Program to encourage landscape level cooperative partnerships
- Reinvigorating the American Conservation Model through the Excise Tax Partnership
- WSFR Financial Assistance Support for Grants and Cooperative Agreements with partners



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