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**W.VA. TO RECEIVE \$3 MILLION
FOR FISHING & WILDLIFE PROGRAMS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) today announced that West Virginia will receive approximately \$3 million in federal funds to finance fish and wildlife restoration programs.

According to Rahall, about half of the funds are to be directed toward sport fish restoration projects such as improving fishing and boating access, developing and maintaining fish habitat and conducting fishery research. The other half of the funds are used to assist wildlife habitat programs, wildlife research and hunter education.

"As a long time supporter of programs beneficial to sport fishing and wildlife in West Virginia, I am pleased to see this funding distributed to projects of benefit to sportsmen and the public at large," Rahall said.

The funding, derived from federal excise taxes on various sporting goods, will be managed by the state wildlife agency.