



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

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WV FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAMS TO RECEIVE \$2.3 MILLION
Progress Made On Related Rahall Initiatives

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) today announced that West Virginia is scheduled to receive \$2.3 million in federal assistance for its fish and wildlife restoration efforts.

"Due to the popularity of fishing and hunting in West Virginia we are faced with an ever increasing need to enhance our fish and wildlife habitat, stock more trout and provide for better public access points for recreational purposes," Rahall said.

The federal funding comes from two special accounts financed by hunters and anglers through excise taxes paid on sporting equipment. West Virginia will receive \$1,199,415 in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Funds and \$1,090,000 in Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Funds. The Division of Natural Resources will be the grant recipient.

Rahall also noted that a Senate Committee has reported his legislation to establish a new fish hatchery in southern West Virginia that would use water from an abandoned coal mine. The provision is part of H.R. 3338, passed by the House in July, that would authorize \$2.5 million for the necessary studies and construction costs to build the project which is proposed for McDowell County. The hatchery would be undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in consultation with the State of West Virginia.

On another fish and wildlife matter, Rahall said that the House recently passed legislation allowing the Division of Natural Resources to construct a facility on the Cranberry River to deacidify the stream in order to restore its fishery resources.

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