



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 25, 1991

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**RAHALL ANNOUNCES \$4 MILLION FOR WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE PROJECTS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall, (D-WV) today announced that a total of almost \$4 million will be made available for West Virginia's wildlife agencies to help finance fish and wildlife restoration programs.

West Virginia will be receiving \$1,955,158 of wildlife restoration funds and \$1,965,100 aid in fish restoration funds. This distribution constitutes the final apportionment of federal funding for fiscal year 1991 by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"We should credit this \$4 million funding to the many hunters and anglers of West Virginia," stated Rahall. "Due to a voluntary tax paid on each purchase of sporting equipment," Rahall continued, "sportsmen and women have helped finance habitat management, land acquisition, courses in hunter education, and improved public access. These are advantages that can be enjoyed by all West Virginians."

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# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

W. VA Gets \$4 million  
total  
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Fish and Wildlife Service

For release: March 19, 1991

Patricia W. Fisher 202-208-5634

### INTERIOR SECRETARY LUJAN ANNOUNCES \$354 MILLION FOR STATE WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today announced \$354 million will be made available to state wildlife agencies this year to help finance fish and wildlife restoration programs. This distribution of Federal Aid funding by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service constitutes the final apportionment for fiscal year 1991.

A portion of the funds made available includes fiscal year 1990 money withheld to meet the Federal deficit reduction targets of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, commonly called the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act.

These revenues are generated by excise taxes paid by sporting goods manufacturers and credited to the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Fund (Pittman-Robertson) and the Sport Fish Restoration Account of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund (Dingell-Johnson). The funds are then automatically appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Service Director John Turner said, "We can thank America's hunters and anglers for many of the outdoor recreation opportunities we all enjoy today. Through a voluntary tax paid on each purchase of sporting equipment, they have helped pay for such things as land acquisition, habitat management, courses in

(more)

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hunter education and outdoor ethics, and improved public access. Whether you just like to observe wildlife or are an amateur nature photographer, hiker, camper, or boater, it is likely your outdoor experience is more rewarding due to the funds generated by these taxes."

The apportionment for wildlife restoration and hunter education programs for fiscal year 1991 totals \$157.4 million. Of that amount, \$17.6 million is money withheld in fiscal year 1990 under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act. This money results 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 available for state hunter education programs.

The apportionment for sport fish restoration for fiscal year 1991 totals \$196.5 million. Of that amount, \$14.5 million is money withheld in fiscal year 1990. This funding results from a 10-percent excise tax on fishing equipment and a 3-percent tax on electric trolling motors and sonar fish finders. In addition, the "Wallop-Breaux" legislation of 1984 increased the tax base for sport fish restoration to include a portion of the Federal motorboat 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 apportionments reflect the total amount of Federal money available to each state for fish and wildlife restoration programs. State funding must pay for 25 percent of the cost for each project approved under the two programs.

The attached tables show the allocation of the final apportionments for fiscal year 1991.