



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APRIL 2, 1992**

**CONTACT: STEVE SPINA**

**PHONE: (202) 225-3452**

**WEST VIRGINIA BAGS OVER \$3.7 MILLION FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- West Virginia will receive more than \$3.7 million in federal funds for fish and wildlife restoration projects from the Department of Interior, according to U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV).

"With these funds, West Virginia will be able to manage the land, purchase new areas, improve public access and provide courses in hunter education," said Rahall, a senior member of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee which has jurisdiction over the Interior Department.

The \$3.7 million will be divided into three categories: \$1,479,944 will be earmarked for wildlife restoration, \$279,000 for hunter education and \$2,028,000 for fish restoration.

The Division of Natural Resources (DNR) estimates that West Virginia is an important recreational spot for almost 800,000 anglers and hunters each year. The DNR maintains this translates into \$254 million in direct expenditures, the creation of over 6,200 jobs, \$79 million in earnings from these jobs and over \$27 million in state revenue.

"The numbers are proof of the impact hunting and fishing has on West Virginia," said Rahall. "These funds will help West Virginia continue its strategy of replenishing our trout stocks, protecting our sportsmen and women, and providing an additional boost to our local economies."

--30--





# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

### Office of the Secretary

For Release: March 30, 1992

Steve Goldstein O/ (202) 208-6416  
H/ (202) 887-5248

### INTERIOR SECRETARY LUJAN ANNOUNCES APPORTIONMENT OF MORE THAN \$350 MILLION FOR STATE WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan said today that more than \$350 million from hunting, fishing, and wildlife revenues will go toward fish and wildlife restoration programs in the United States and territories this year.

"These revenues will be used for projects ranging from land acquisition for wildlife to construction projects for public hunting and fishing areas," Lujan said. "This will help achieve President Bush's goals of creating new recreational opportunities and generating dollars for local economies."

The revenues are made available to the states through Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A total of \$353,400,000 is the final apportionment for fiscal year 1992 under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson program after its Congressional sponsors, and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, often called the Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux program. Excise taxes collected from manufacturers and importers of angling and hunting equipment are paid to the U.S. Department of Treasury and then transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for distribution to the states.

"Hunters and anglers have long been the backbone of the American conservation movement," said Mike Hayden, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. "They were the first to provide major financial support for this Nation's wildlife conservation programs through special taxes on hunting and fishing equipment."

(over)

Total = \$3,786,944



Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Turner said, "Through the years, this Federal Aid funding has been the key to the success of an extraordinary number of fish and wildlife conservation projects at the state level. In essence, this year's final apportionment means hunters and anglers have indirectly donated over \$350 million to help restore and maintain our Nation's fish and wildlife resources."

The apportionment for sport fish restoration for fiscal year 1992 totals \$202.8 million. 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.

The apportionment for wildlife restoration and hunter education programs for fiscal year 1992 totals \$150.6 million. 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 Federal Aid Program allows states to set priorities and develop projects based on their own wildlife resource needs. Up to 75 percent of every Sport Fish Restoration and Wildlife Restoration project is funded through these apportioned excise taxes while the remaining 25 percent is funded through state matching funds.

Also, in fiscal year 1992, \$27.9 million will be used to fund hunter education and safety programs. These programs for beginning hunters teach safe handling of firearms and archery equipment, respect for wildlife, ethical outdoor behavior, wilderness survival, and how to avoid hunting accidents. To date, over 20 million hunters, about 700,000 per year, have graduated from state hunter education programs.

Hayden added, "The Fish and Wildlife Service has long been an advocate of safe outdoor recreation, especially when it comes to hunting. By making hunter education a priority, we are helping to ensure a safer, more enjoyable outdoor experience." Statistics indicate that since 1970, hunting accidents have decreased by 41 percent.

The attached tables show the allocation of the final apportionments for fiscal year 1992.