

# Wildlife Management Area

## REGULATIONS

Regulations in red are new this year.  
Purple text indicates an important note.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED:** alcoholic beverages, camping, cutting or damaging vegetation, dumping, fires, swimming and picnicking.

Regulations for use of wildlife management areas (WMAs) are established by the Division of Fish and Wildlife with penalties of not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,500. A second violation of *any* WMA regulation will result in a five-year loss of *all* sporting licenses and privileges.

Information on these regulations and permit applications may be obtained by writing to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, MC 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420, or NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaregs.htm.

Fish and Wildlife may revoke any permit or other authorization issued for violation or due cause.

### WMA Update

**Cox Hall Creek WMA** is closed to hunting with the following exceptions: The eastern-most wooded portion of the WMA bounded by Bayshore Rd. to the east and the red trail to the west is open for hunting during winter bow season ONLY. All tidal marsh and the upland portion of the tract lying east of Cox Hall Creek are open for hunting during all seasons. A map illustrating these restrictions can be found at [http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/pdf/wmamaps/cox\\_hall\\_creek.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/pdf/wmamaps/cox_hall_creek.pdf).

### Boat Ramp Maintenance Permit

Any vehicle used to transport or launch a vessel or water conveyance on the following WMAs must have affixed to the lower corner of the driver's side rear window a boat ramp maintenance permit, or a photocopy of a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license. Be sure your Conservation ID number is clearly displayed; all other personal information may be blacked out for reasons of privacy. The boat ramp maintenance permit fee is \$15, available from a license agent or at Fish and Wildlife's Internet sales site, NJFishandWildlife.com/wmaregs.htm.

Persons 70 years and older are not required to obtain a boat ramp maintenance permit and need no license, but must affix to their window proof of age, such as a former license displaying your date of birth.

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Round Valley Angler Access | 5. Mad Horse Creek  |
| 2. Assunpink                  | 6. Union Lake       |
| 3. Dennis Creek               | 7. Menantico Ponds  |
| 4. Tuckahoe                   | 8. Prospertown Lake |

### Dog Training, Exercising and Hunting

A person may exercise or train dogs only in designated dog training areas from May 1 to Aug. 31, inclusive and only on the following select WMAs:

- |                   |                 |                    |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Assunpink      | 6. Hainesville  | 11. Stafford Forge |
| 2. Black River    | 7. Manasquan    | 12. Tuckahoe       |
| 3. Clinton        | 8. Millville    | 13. Whittingham    |
| 4. Colliers Mills | 9. Pequest      | 14. Winslow        |
| 5. Glassboro      | 10. Salem River |                    |

All dogs must be properly licensed. A person may exercise or train dogs on any WMA from Sept. 1 to April 30. There shall be no exercising or training of dogs on any WMA on Nov. 9, 2012, the Friday before the opening day of the regular small game season.

Additional regulations involve the release of game birds for training, the use of pigeons, the use of firearms, frozen game birds, the use of call back pens and the release of fox, raccoon, rabbit and hare. For more information call (609) 984-0547.

### Field Trials

Permits for use of wildlife management areas for running of field trials may be granted by the Fish and Wildlife. Permits may be obtained by calling (609) 259-2132.

### Higbee Beach

Higbee Beach WMA is closed to hunting from Sept. 1 to Dec. 9, 2012.

### Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is allowed on designated WMAs only by permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Apply online at [www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com](http://www.NJ.WildlifeLicense.com). Horseback riding permits should be displayed on outer clothing while riding. For more information on horseback riding permits, call (609) 259-2132.

### Hunting Regulations

Hunting with firearms is prohibited on Nov. 9, 2012 on those WMAs designated as Pheasant and Quail Stamp areas except in tidal marsh open to an ongoing waterfowl season. See *Pheasants*, page 64.

For the purpose of hunting, it is legal to possess and use a .22 caliber rifle and .22 caliber rimfire short cartridge on WMAs only for hunting raccoon and opossum and dispatching trapped animals other than muskrat.

Rifles, including muzzleloading rifles, may not be used to hunt woodchucks on WMAs.

### Motor Vehicles and Other Forms of Conveyance

No person shall operate an unregistered vehicle on any state WMA. All motor vehicles are restricted to established public roads and parking areas.

All motor boats must be properly registered and have all the required safety equipment. (See *Outboard Motors*, below.)

**The use of dog sleds and dog carts, off road vehicles, ATVs, trail bikes, or snowmobiles is prohibited on all WMAs unless authorized by Fish and Wildlife.**

### Outboard Motors

Only electric motors are allowed on freshwater lakes and ponds owned by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife areas with the exception of Union Lake where an outboard motor, not exceeding 9.9 hp, may be used. On Prospertown Lake, only manually operated boats and canoes are allowed.

All titled boats must also be registered. Any boat mechanically propelled, regardless of length, must be registered. All boats greater than 12 feet, regardless of propulsion means, must be titled and registered.

### Restricted Hours

Wildlife management areas are closed from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. unless engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities. Special permission may be granted for Fish and Wildlife-approved activities.

### Target Practice

Only archery, shotgun, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, .17 and .22 caliber rimfire rifle shooting is allowed in designated hunter training ranges according to regulations posted at the training area.

The following types of ranges are available on designated WMAs statewide:

- **Shotgun Range:** for use with clay birds and the patterning of fine shot;
- **Archery Range:** approved backstops at select ranges, no broadheads allowed;
- **Muzzleloading Rifle and Shotgun Slug Range:** for sighting in with shotgun slugs or buckshot, .17 or .22 caliber rimfire rifles and muzzleloaders; no other firearms allowed. See page 75 for a list of ranges and requirements.

### Waterfowl Blinds

No permanent waterfowl blinds, including pit blinds, shall be constructed, hunted from or used in any manner on any of the following WMAs:

- |                   |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Assunpink      | 6. Manahawkin     | 11. Salem River |
| 2. Black River    | 7. Stafford Forge | 12. Prospertown |
| 3. Colliers Mills | 8. Whittingham    | 13. Paulinskill |
| 4. Hainesville    | 9. Beaver Swamp   |                 |
| 5. Tuckahoe       | 10. Sedge Island  |                 |

Any blind used in these designated areas must be portable and shall be completely removed at the end of the day. Blinds remaining in WMAs will be subject to confiscation and properly disposed of by Fish and Wildlife. ➤

### Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Ranges

The following information pertains to New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife facilities. Information on privately operated facilities is available at "Where To Shoot," a site maintained by the National Shooting Sports Foundation at [www.wheretoshoot.org](http://www.wheretoshoot.org)

- All WMA regulations apply.
- Ranges are open 8 a.m. to sunset.
- At least one member of the shooting party must have a current, valid New Jersey hunting license in possession.
- **Shotgun range:** fine shot only. No buckshot or rifled slugs.
- **Archery range:** target or practice tips only (NO broadheads.)
- **Muzzleloading rifle and shotgun range:** muzzleloading firearms, shotguns with rifled slugs or buckshot and modern rimfire (both .17 and .22 caliber) rifles only.
- No handguns or centerfire rifles permitted.

#### NORTHERN REGION

##### Hunterdon County Clinton WMA

Route 173W, Clinton

- Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)
- All target frames must measure a minimum 30 inches from its base to the bottom of the paper target held in the frame. Frames must be placed only on top of a target mound located at the 25, 50 and 100 yard lines. This minimum target height requirement will eliminate the risk of ricochet and ensure that all projectiles are collected in the berm behind the 100 yard target.
- Spinner type targets for .17 caliber and .22 caliber firearms MUST be placed directly at the base of the 25 yard berm so that all bullets are directed into the berm. These targets are not to be used at other yardage or target mound placements.

##### Morris County

**Black River WMA**  
Route 513 (Dover-Chester Rd.),  
Chester

- Archery, open year-round.
- Shotgun: Closed weekends from the third Saturday in May through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, as well as on Christmas and Easter. Operating hours are 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. during this summer period, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the rest of the year. Hunter education classes will continue at the range and are not affected by these new hours.

##### Sussex County

**Flatbrook WMA**

Route 615, Layton

- Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (75 yards)

##### Warren County

**Pequest WMA**

- Pequest Rd., Oxford
- Archery

#### CENTRAL REGION

##### Monmouth County Assunpink WMA

Imlaystown-Hightstown Rd.,  
Upper Freehold Twp.

- Archery
- Shotgun range is restricted to the use of non-toxic shot, no lead shot is allowed.

##### Turkey Swamp Park

Georgia Rd., Freehold Twp.

- Archery (Special regulations apply; call 732-842-4000.)

##### Ocean County

**Colliers Mills WMA**

Off Colliers Mills and Hawkins Rds.,  
Jackson Twp.

- Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)
- Shotgun range is closed.

##### Stafford Forge WMA

Off Route 539, south of Warren  
Grove, Little Egg Harbor Twp.

- Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)

#### SOUTHERN REGION

##### Atlantic County

**Makepeace Lake WMA**

Elmwood-Weymouth Rd.,  
Weymouth

- Shotgun, Archery,  
Muzzleloader (50 yards)

##### Gloucester County

**Winslow WMA**

Piney Hollow Rd., Monroe Twp.

- Archery
- Shotgun and muzzleloader ranges are closed.

##### Cape May County

**Tuckahoe WMA**

Off Tuckahoe Rd. (Rt. 631), Tuckahoe

- Archery
- Shotgun range is closed.

##### Cumberland County

**Millville WMA**

Ackley Rd. (Rt. 718), Millville

- Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader (100 yards)

## Landowner-Hunter/Trapper Agreement Card

### HUNT/TRAP SMART Courtesy Card

#### Visitor's Copy — Not Transferable

I request permission to enter your property for the following purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Limitations \_\_\_\_\_

Hunter may hunt within 450 feet (150 feet for bow)

of buildings:  Yes  No

Landowner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Landowner Copy

Permission given to \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Make \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. \_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Lic. No. \_\_\_\_\_ No. in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Dates from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Limitations \_\_\_\_\_

Other licenses, tag no. \_\_\_\_\_

Permission dates from \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Limitations \_\_\_\_\_

Hunter may hunt within 450 feet (150 feet for bow)

of buildings:  Yes  No

# Wildlife Programs

## OUTSTANDING DEER



These photos were taken on December 17, 2011. The non-profit organization **Hunters Helping Heroes** partnered with local inspection and certification company, **SGS**, to donate a guided pheasant and chukar hunting trip to veterans of all military branches in the New York and New Jersey area.

The daylong hunt took place at **Indian Creek Shooting Preserve** located in Sussex County, N.J. Three active-duty soldiers stationed at Picatinny Arsenal participated in this first-class event.

*Central Jersey-based **Hunters Helping Heroes** was created by sportsmen who have a passion for the outdoors. The organization focuses on extending gratitude to all of our country's heroes by organizing hunting excursions for service members, firefighters, police officers and Wounded Warriors as a small thank you for protecting the freedoms we all enjoy at home and abroad every day.*

# Garden State Deer Classic

## January 10-13, 2013

**At the Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show • Raritan Center, Edison, New Jersey**

**See New Jersey's most outstanding white-tailed deer for 2011-12**

Awards ceremony on Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

**Applications must be received by Nov. 1, 2012 to enter a deer harvested during last year's 2011-12 hunting seasons. No exceptions!**

To arrange for an official measurer to score your New Jersey white-tail, contact Cindy Kuenstner at (609) 633-7598.

Deer will not be measured at the Deer Classic.

**See entry details on page 77.**

**Brought to you by:**

- NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife
- NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
- United Bowhunters of New Jersey
- New Jersey Outdoor Alliance Conservation Foundation
- Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show

Visit [gsoss.com](http://gsoss.com)

Promises to be the show of the year!

## Landowner-Hunter/Trapper Agreement Card

I agree to conduct myself safely, responsibly and lawfully, respecting the landowner, property, and others using it. I accept the responsibilities which are part of the activities which I pursue. I agree to comply with the instructions of the landowner while on this property.

I understand that the laws of New Jersey absolve the landowner from liability for non-paying recreationists engaged in hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, hiking, and certain other activities, except in the case of willful or malicious failure to guard or warn of hazards.

Signed (visitor) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



This card provided by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife



## HUNT/TRAP SMART Courtesy Card

I hereby give permission to: (visitor's name)

\_\_\_\_\_ to enter my property for the purpose listed on the reverse side of this card. He/she has agreed to act safely, responsibly, and lawfully and to accept responsibility for his/her actions.

Signed (landowner, lessee, or operator) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



Outdoor Recreation on Private Property is a Privilege — NOT A RIGHT





Jason Hartman harvested this impressive buck ranking first place with a score of 183 1/8 in the Non-typical Archery category.

**NEW JERSEY'S OUTSTANDING** White-tailed Deer Program, initiated in 1964, includes categories for typical and non-typical antlered deer taken with bow, crossbow, shotgun and muzzleloading rifle, in addition to the weight categories listed below. A velvet category is added for early bow season deer.

In the Antlered Division, New Jersey's Outstanding Deer Program uses the most common system in North America used for rating antlers as developed by the Boone and Crockett Club. This scoring system gives credit to antler length, spread, number of points, massiveness and symmetry.

Category	Minimum score
Typical Firearm	125
Non-typical Firearm	135
Typical Archery	125
Non-typical Archery	135
Typical Muzzleloader	125
Non-typical Muzzleloader	135

This measurement system also is used by the Pope & Young Club's Bowhunting Big Game Records Program. Deer must have been taken under the Boone and Crockett-defined rules of fair chase. Deer taken from enclosed hunting lands are not eligible.

**Note:** It is best to have the rack measured *before* it is mounted. Don't wait!

In the Weight Division, the program recognizes exceptional body size as determined by the field dressed weight, including heart and liver removed. Two categories, one for bucks reaching or exceeding 200 pounds (proof of weight must be confirmed on a certified scale\* for buck entries—no truck scales\*\*—with the weighmaster's signature on a letterhead receipt or on the entry form, available on our website) and one for field dressed does reaching or exceeding 135 pounds (witnessed, non-certified scale at a Fish and Wildlife regional office or at a certified scale).

Any properly licensed hunter, regardless of residency, is eligible to enter the Outstanding Deer Program. Deer must be taken in accordance with New Jersey wildlife laws and regulations. **Applications are due Nov. 1—NO EXCEPTIONS.** Additional rules are included on the official application form which consists of the original score sheet, hunter information form plus a clear photo of the hunter with the deer. These forms with instructions are available on Fish and Wildlife's website [NJFishandWildlife.com/outdeer.htm](http://NJFishandWildlife.com/outdeer.htm) or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Outstanding Deer Program, MC 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. State the type of form (Antlered Division, typical or non-typical; Weight Division, 200 Pound Buck or 135 Pound Doe). There is no entry fee.

All qualified entries will be added to New Jersey's All Time List. For questions, call Cindy Kuenstner at (609) 633-7598.

Qualifying entries for deer taken during the previous hunting seasons are displayed and recognized at the annual Garden State Deer Classic. Join Fish and Wildlife in celebrating New Jersey's outstanding white-tailed deer at the Deer Classic in January at the Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show. See the ad on page 76 for details.

The table to the right is a list of the top-scoring deer and the hunters who participated in the 2012 Garden State Deer Classic. The Classic **showcased the outstanding deer taken during the 2010–11 deer hunting seasons, not the past 2011–12 hunting seasons.** Those deer will be honored at the January 2013 Deer Classic. 🍖

\* See entry form. A certified scale might be available at the following businesses:

- Warehouse with shipping department
- Concrete, sand and gravel company
- Junk yard or scrap metal recycler
- Marina with party and charter boat fishing

Visit our website for a partial list of certified scales or contact your county weights and measures office. Be sure to locate a scale *before* the hunting season begins!

\*\* A truck scale is not acceptable as the increments are too large.

### 2012 Garden State Deer Classic Winners\*

Rank	Name	Score / Weight	County Harvested	DM Zone
<b>135 Pound Doe—Archery</b>				
1st	Robert Staudt, Jr	138	Somerset	14
<b>135 Pound Doe—Crossbow</b>				
<b>135 Pound Doe—Muzzleloader</b>				
1st	Alexander Reszutek	152	Sussex	2
<b>200 Pound Buck—Archery</b>				
1st	Frank T. Sabatino	242	Mercer	14
2nd	Kenneth W. Baker	216	Morris	36
3rd	Darren Volker	215	Essex	36
<b>Non-typical Archery</b>				
1st	Jason R. Hartman	183 1/8	Somerset	12
2nd	Stephen Walkiewicz	182 1/8	Monmouth	50
3rd	Steve DeAnnuntis	145 4/8	Camden	25
<b>Non-typical Crossbow</b>				
1st	Nick Naperski	162 4/8	Monmouth	50
2nd	Robert Fisher	154 1/8	Salem	63
3rd	Mark Swift	150 2/8	Monmouth	50
<b>Non-typical Muzzleloader</b>				
1st	Timothy Camburn	149 4/8	Ocean	21
<b>Non-typical Shotgun</b>				
1st	Justin Cardinal	154 7/8	Gloucester	65
2nd	Keith Malespina	144 2/8	Mercer	14
<b>Typical Archery</b>				
1st	Charles Dyson	163 6/8	Somerset	14
2nd	Michael Gehling	157 4/8	Monmouth	50
3rd	Stephen D. Fox	152 0/8	Camden	49
<b>Typical Crossbow</b>				
1st	Rob Winkel	155 4/8	Mercer	17
2nd	Jack Kearns	151 3/8	Hunterdon	8
3rd	David Bojczak	144 6/8	Somerset	12
<b>Typical Muzzleloader</b>				
1st	Jeffrey Krohn	146 0/8	Sussex	1
2nd	Chris Schmidt	145 4/8	Monmouth	50
3rd	Jake Reuter, IV	138 6/8	Gloucester	35
<b>Typical Shotgun</b>				
1st	Timothy Snyder, Jr	140 5/8	Hunterdon	7
2nd	Eric Hensel	138 2/8	Atlantic	47
3rd	Wally Hopkins	136 6/8	Ocean	17
<b>Velvet—Typical Archery</b>				
1st	Lou Cornine	134 1/8	Monmouth	50

\* For deer harvested during the 2010–11 hunting seasons.



# W WILDLIFE & SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of a Conservation Legacy



It was a close call. So close it makes you catch your breath. By 1862, 32 million Americans had hopped aboard a runaway train barreling toward a natural resources disaster—and most of them didn't even know it. While they were busy creating the richest and most powerful nation in the world, they were also laying waste to its very foundation: the 4 million square miles of some of the richest fish and wildlife habitat on Earth.

By the time the first transcontinental railway system broke open the West in 1869, vast herds of 100 million bison and 40 million pronghorn antelope pounding across the plains had vanished. An estimated 60 million beavers had been reduced to 100,000. Thirty to 40 million passenger pigeons, so dense in numbers that reports said it took literally hours for the skies to clear during their migrations, had disappeared. Waterfowl populations had plummeted. Swamps had been drained,

prime habitat converted to agriculture, and market hunting continued unabated. Women in America and in Europe were parading the street in hats festooned with the feathers of egrets, herons, and 40 varieties of native birds. They would soon be wearing the entire bodies of birds on their heads. We were plucking America bare.

Nevertheless, most Americans at the time were not parading the streets with placards demanding conservation reform from their legislatures. Rather, they were toasting their good fortune built on the incalculable wealth of their land's rich soil, their free access to the silver and gold veins to be mined just under America's skin, and the seemingly limitless forests thrown over the country's mountains and lowlands like a cloak hiding a treasure of wildlife. America was just too vast, too fabulously abundant a landscape to succumb to the pinprick of mere mortals—or so we believed. We couldn't

have been more wrong.

It was a matter of taking too much with too little knowledge of the consequences—and far too little restraint. From New York to California, from North Dakota to Florida, we all were to blame. But as history has proved so often, it would be the incremental steps of the few, committed for a lifetime, to wake the conservation consciousness of a slumbering nation. And it would take 75 years—nearly a century—to secure the restoration and future of America's fish and wildlife.

Awakening America to the need for conservation was a painfully slow process, with a monumental learning curve. We simply did not understand the intricate workings of the natural systems we were destroying. We did not understand predator/prey relationships, or habitat or range requirements. We did not understand the interrelatedness of all living things.

Nevertheless, by the late 1800s and early 1900s, a handful of unorthodox and strong-minded free-thinkers emerged with the political will and commitment to save what they recognized as America's greatest treasure. They were, by and large, America's sportsmen. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, near total responsibility for natural resources fell directly on their shoulders. That's because state hunting and fishing license revenue provided the one stable funding source to protect, restore and manage fish and wildlife resources. With the creation of state fish and game agencies in the early 20th century, fish and wildlife were given a legislative voice—and a bank account. But it was not enough. Underfunded, understaffed and prone to political interference, these fledgling

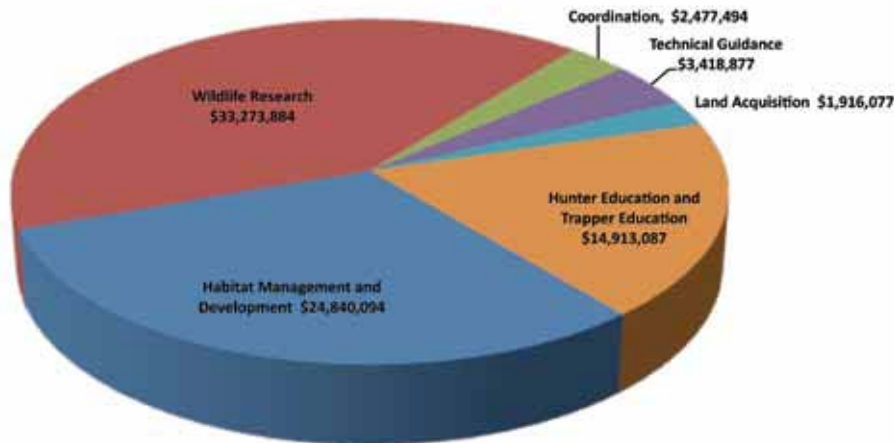
Wood Duck (©Perrykoo | Dreamstime.com)

Reforms are attained  
by evolution, not by  
prescription, of ideas.  
Real reforms are always  
home-made.

—Aldo Leopold, 1930

“...and which shall include a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by hunters for any other purpose than the administration of said State fish and game department.”

### 75 Years of Commitment to Conservation



wildlife agencies more often than not confronted frustration and failure rather than success. The science of fish and wildlife management simply did not exist, and funds to better understand the principles of fish and wildlife restoration were non-existent. Little money was available to acquire land or pursue informed re-stocking schemes. Law enforcement was a slipshod ineffective affair, often the work of ill-equipped, political appointees.

Nevertheless, like it or not, fish and game agencies were the sole stewards and watchdogs of their states' natural resources, operating in an unrestricted free-for-all, where horrific fish kills from industrial runoff were commonplace and protective environmental legislation an affront to a free-market economy. To top it off, agencies' precious hunting and fishing license revenues were perpetually threatened by cash-strapped state legislatures for diversion to other projects. As fish and wildlife populations continued their nosedive, there seemed very little those who cared most deeply about our country's fish and wildlife

legacy could do about it. In 1929, a weary A. Willis Robertson, then director of Virginia's state fish and game agency, wrote to his good friend Billy Reed: *"I have been rushed to death all of the summer and owing to the unsettled political conditions, or the inactivity of our wardens, or a growing consciousness of the value of wild life, I have gotten more kicks recently concerning various and sundry matters than at any time during the past three years and it has kept me busy trying to keep the various complainers and criticizers satisfied."*

*"Anyone who has an idea that a public job is a bed of roses should just lie on it for a few months and he will so find that the thorns are more prominent than the perfume."*

But such men did not give up. All across the country, men like Robertson dug in, put down their heads and pushed forward. It took decades of persistence, of patience, and the certain cultivated williness of born sportsmen, because the problem of developing an effective program to restore our failing fish and wildlife populations was not only ecologically complex, it was politically complicated

as well. Unlike our European counterparts, the United States had embraced a bold philosophy concerning its wildlife resources. We claimed our wildlife heritage as a public treasure, not a private one. Our unique North American Model of Wildlife Conservation designated the country's wildlife legacy a public responsibility owned by all, not by the few. But...if America's wildlife belonged to the people, and not to the landowners on whose land it might be found, then under whose jurisdiction did fish and wildlife governance fall? Was it a state or federal responsibility? And who then should foot the bill?

It was during the years of 1900 to 1937 that such questions were ironed out and the most effective program of fish and wildlife conservation in the world emerged. When Teddy Roosevelt was ushered into the White House in 1901, federal legislation got a presidential jumpstart. Emergency protective measures were launched, designed to secure great swathes of land as refuges for beleaguered wildlife. By 1913, the federal government had claimed custody of the migratory birds of the nation, establishing waterfowl hunting seasons in every state, and soon established protective international treaties. State fish and game agencies assumed responsibility for virtually all non-migratory fish and wildlife.

Nevertheless, the essential funding mechanisms necessary to fund long-term wildlife restoration programs on both state and federal levels was lacking. There simply wasn't enough money available to implement what people were beginning to realize would be a long-term and monumental task involving close state and federal cooperation and organizational partnerships. It took more than thirty years of coalition building, endless proposals and defeated legislation, bitter disappointment and deteriorating land use before an unusual opportunity arose, and the conditions miraculously right to grab it.

In 1936, a 10 percent federal excise tax on sporting guns and ammunition existed on the books. Congress at the time was in the process of abolishing such excise taxes, but sportsmen groups and other conservationists instead saw an opportunity to propose a diversion rather than a repeal of the tax. The idea was to divert the proceeds from the tax to the states for wildlife restoration projects to be matched on a 3:1 basis with state hunting and fishing license revenue. The ammunition companies supported the proposal, and Carl Shoemaker, former chief of the Oregon Department of Fish and Game, drafted the legislation. Shoemaker enlisted the support of Senator Key Pittman of Nevada to introduce the bill in the Senate. On the House side, Shoemaker approached Congressman A. Willis Robertson, who had moved to Congress from the Virginia Game Department four years earlier. When Shoemaker sat down with Robertson and handed him the bill, Robertson penciled in 29 words: *"...and which shall include a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by hunters for any other purpose than the administration of said State fish and game department."* With those words, Robertson secured the future of our fish and wildlife legacy. Robertson's work in Virginia had

Year	Project	Accomplishments
1938		NJ assents to provisions of Pittman Robertson Act
1940s	\$928.12—New Jersey Game Management Plan	First Pittman-Robertson funded grant used to lease 271 acres in Warren County for seed stock
	\$13,276.29—Purchase of Greenwood Forest	10,292 acres preserved as a wildlife management area in Ocean County
1950s	\$66,484.91—Farm Game Habitat Restoration	2,741,950 trees and shrubs planted on lands owned or leased by cooperators
1960s	\$6,200—A Study of the New Jersey Deer Herd	Estimated deer population in 1965: 43,547
	An Ecological Study of Shallow Saline Impoundments	22,227 waterfowl banded to obtain population, production and harvest information
1974	\$1,333,333—Great Bay Absecon Wetlands Acquisition	6,693 acres preserved as wildlife management area in Atlantic and Ocean counties
1971	Statewide Wildlife Habitat Development	Management activities carried out on 135,000 acres of wildlife management areas
1972	NJ Firearm Safety Project	First mandatory hunter education course offered. 17,295 students completed firearm course
1977	\$16,700—Wild Turkey Research	22 wild turkeys released
1978	Furbearer Research	2 Bobcats released in northwest New Jersey
1981	Wild Turkey Research	Statewide population 800-1200 birds. First spring turkey season opened
1981	Furbearer Research	Black bear capture and mark program begins with eight individuals tagged
1982	Furbearer Research	Bobcat reintroduction complete with 24 individuals released
1994	Wildlife Research and Mangement	Community Based Deer Management implemented in Watchung Reservation, Union County
	Wildlife Research and Mangement	First coyote season held in 1997
2003	Wildlife Research and Mangement	Black bear population 1,490 in research area. First hunt held in 30 years; 328 individuals harvested
2009	NJ Hunter Education	Home Study course instituted; 5607 students graduated in 2009. Hours of instruction by volunteers: 9,357
2011	\$2,410,282—NJ Statewide Development	330,000 acres managed and maintained
	Wildlife Research and Mangement	NJ deer herd estimated at approximately 132,000

taught him how capricious state legislatures could be with its income and he wanted to make sure that the science of fish and wildlife management was taken out of the political arena. If a state wanted federal money to help them restore their wildlife, the state had to guarantee their fish and game department's right to use every dime of hunting and fishing license revenue to support it—period.

The Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act sailed through Congress. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the bill into law on September 2, 1937 turning a deaf ear to protests from his budget office insisting that earmarking funds from excise taxes were not in the country's best interest. Today, on its 75th anniversary, the program has proved without a doubt that it has been in the very best of its country's interest. Its success has been nothing short of astounding.

The P-R program birthed the science of scientific wildlife management in this country. The program has always focused on "can-do" projects, like making white-tailed deer restoration possible by funding research on how to trap and transport deer to repopulate their historic range. And it has made it a priority to partner with sportsmen's groups like the National Wild Turkey Federation and Ducks Unlimited, partnerships which provide matching funds and support for research projects that embody the North American Model's philosophy of "public responsibility" for wildlife. Since 1937, more than \$6.4 billion has been invested in wildlife restoration through the P-R program. It has turned into one of the most successful federal-state-conservationist-sportsmen partnerships in history.

With the passage of the P-R Act in 1937, sportsmen and other conservationists had built up a head of steam they were bound and determined to keep using. A companion bill to establish a stable and secure mechanism to fund the restoration of America's fisheries was the next goal. In California, Congressman Frank H. Buck introduced legislation in 1939 designed along the lines of the P-R Act to impose a 10 percent manufacturers' excise tax on

fishing equipment and lures used for recreational fishing. Unfortunately, the bill died in committee. Undaunted, Congressman Buck introduced a similar bill two years later, but World War II halted its progress. Six years later in 1947, Congressman John Dingell, Sr. of Michigan revived the fisheries restoration bill, but it failed again to pass. Senator Edwin Johnson of Colorado introduced an identical bill the following year. Still, it would not be until 1950 that the United States finally had a Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act that would be the genesis of a reliable funding source that has generated more than \$5.4 billion for fisheries research, habitat restoration, recreational boating access, construction of fish hatcheries and aquatic education.

Through excise taxes and license revenues, sportsmen have contributed more than \$12 billion to conservation through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs (WSFR) and annually provide more than 80 percent of the funding for most state fish and wildlife agencies.

For 75 years, WSFR has been the engine driving the restoration and management of our fish and wildlife resources. It has been justly called the most successful conservation management program in the world. America's hunters, shooters, anglers and boaters can be proud to have held the program on their shoulders for 75 years. But WSFR is not the exclusive club of the sporting community. As Aldo Leopold, one of our country's greatest conservationists and crafters of the P-R Act reminds us: "One cannot divorce esthetics from utility, quality from quantity, present from future, either in deciding what is done to or for soil, or in educating the persons delegated to do it. All land-uses and land-users are interdependent, and the forces which connect them follow channels still largely unknown."

So, buy a hunting license even if you don't hunt. Buy a fishing license not because you fish, but as an affirmation of

what is worth saving in this great country of ours. WSFR is an American legacy, fought for by sportsmen, supported by sportsmen, but open to all.

And if you are hunter, shooter, angler or boater—well, A. Willis Robertson would pipe up just about now that you ought to stop everything and march yourself right out into the great outdoors. In 1932, he wrote "...I feel that the high tension at which the average man has been living is wrecking entirely too many nervous systems. Hunting and fishing is the best nerve tonic I know, and I believe that a greater opportunity for the average citizen to engage in this type of outdoor recreation would greatly promote both the health and happiness of our people." 🦃



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