



## Modernizing the Pittman–Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs

Please Co-Sponsor S. 2690 / H.R. 4818



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In the early 1900s, many wildlife species were dwindling or disappearing. To stem this decline, state fish and wildlife agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) partnered with hunters, conservationists, and the shooting sports industry to help enact the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. Known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, it became law in 1937.

The Pittman Robertson Act redirected an existing federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition used by hunters and recreational shooters to a Wildlife Restoration Fund established in the USFWS. The excise tax is set at 10% of the wholesale price for pistols and revolvers, and 11% for other firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. The funds are apportioned the state fish and wildlife agencies based on the geographic area of the state and the number of hunting licenses annually sold by the state.

Eligible uses of the Fund include wildlife conservation, habitat acquisition and management, hunter education and safety, and shooting ranges affiliated with hunter safety programs. The state agencies receive 75% of their funding from the Fund with the remaining 25% largely derived from the revenues from state hunting licenses and stamps.

Hunting license fees and excise taxes paid by hunters and recreational shooters provide the funds that support the management of wildlife populations and their habitats for both game and non-game animals. States have spent these funds over the years to restore game and non-game species, including white-tailed deer, turkey, duck, beaver, woodcock, elk, osprey and bald eagle populations.

**Since the program’s inception, over \$8 billion has been collected from hunters and recreational shooters and awarded to states to fund conservation and public access.**

Preserving and enhancing this volunteer user pay / public benefit revenue source enables state agencies to provide recreational opportunities for all Americans who enjoy the outdoors.

The increasing urbanization and suburbanization of our population has made it more difficult for the public to participate in hunting and recreational shooting. The average age of Americans purchasing hunting licenses is steadily rising. To prevent the imminent decline in revenue for the Wildlife Restoration Fund, it is necessary to update the provisions of the Pittman-Robertson Act. S. 2690 & H.R 4818 will provide state and territorial wildlife agencies the tools needed to recruit, retain and reactivate recreational shooters and hunters. This will ensure that funding for wildlife conservation will keep pace with the demands of our growing national population.

**Without a federal mandate or any increase in user fees or taxes, our legislation will preserve the current user pay / public benefit funding of wildlife conservation for generations to come.**

**Among the Supporting Organizations are: Archery Trade Association; Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies; Boone & Crockett Club; Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation; Delta Waterfowl; Ducks Unlimited; Isaak Walton League; Mule Deer Foundation; National Wild Turkey Federation; Pheasants Forever; Quail Forever; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Safari Club International; Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership; and the Wildlife Management Institute**