



Hunters and Anglers – Investing in Michigan’s Wildlife for 75 Years

Most Michigan residents know the Department of Natural Resources is responsible for things like fish and wildlife management, hunting and fishing regulations and habitat protection, but many don’t know where the funding for these efforts comes from.

You may assume that your tax dollars fund the DNR’s conservation work, but in reality, only about 5 percent of the DNR’s funding comes from General Fund (tax) dollars. For the last 75 years, the protection, preservation and management of Michigan’s natural resources have been primarily funded by the people who hunt, trap and fish through their purchase of equipment and licenses.

In 2012, we proudly observe the 75th anniversary of the federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program, which has contributed more than \$12 billion to fish and wildlife conservation in the U.S. – more than any other single conservation effort. Learn more at www.wsfr75.com.

How Do Hunters and Anglers Help Fund Conservation in Michigan?

In addition to the state’s appropriation, the DNR welcomes a variety of funding sources, including:

- **Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (PR).** Established in 1937, Pittman Robertson established an 11-percent excise tax on guns, ammunition, bows, arrows and other hunting-related equipment. That money is apportioned to state wildlife agencies based on the land area and the number of licensed hunters of each state. These funds are matched by the states with their hunting license fees to help pay for wildlife restoration, hunter education and research. The act also ensures that money from hunting and fishing license sales can only be used for fish and wildlife management.
- **Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ).** Building on the momentum of Pittman Robertson, Dingell-Johnson (in 1950) set a similar excise tax on fishing poles, tackle and other fishing equipment, along with motor boat fuel taxes – all for the benefit of sport fish management and boating access.

Why Are Hunters and Anglers So Important to Michigan?

Consistent Conservation Funding = Healthier Fish and Wildlife Populations and Habitat

Healthier Fish and Wildlife Populations and Habitat = Better Outdoor Recreation

Better Outdoor Recreation = Stronger, More Vital Michigan

If you’re a hunter or angler, have bought a license and/or have purchased hunting and fishing equipment, thank you for investing in Michigan’s wildlife. If you know a hunter or angler, please share this message and thank them for their contributions.

What Can You Do to Help?

- Buy a hunting or fishing license, even if you don’t plan to go hunting or fishing. Michigan can earn a greater percentage of PR and DJ funding by having more licensed hunters and anglers. License fees are also needed to meet the \$3 federal to \$1 match requirement (for every \$3 of these federal funds Michigan spends, they must be matched with \$1 of state funds).
- Buy a wildlife habitat license plate or make a tax-deductible donation to the Nongame Wildlife Fund.