

Facts about Pittman-Robertson and Conservation Funding

- Sept. 2, 2012 marks the 75th anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (PR).
- PR is a federal excise tax on the manufacturing of firearms, bows, crossbows, ammunition and accessories in which the funds are allocated to state wildlife agencies. Although the tax is on the manufacturing of these items, this cost is usually built into the wholesale cost of the equipment – which means the hunters and sports shooters that purchase the equipment ultimately end up paying for it.
- Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration (DJ) is a law much like PR but for fishing. It is an excise tax on fishing equipment and boat fuel that was signed into law in 1950.
- PR funds are allocated to the states based on the number of licensed hunters and land area in each state. The more licensed hunters a state has, the more PR funds they are allocated. Michigan currently ranks fourth in allocation amounts behind Alaska, Texas, and Pennsylvania.
- Since its implementation in 1937, PR has provided more than \$262 million to Michigan for wildlife conservation.
- PR funds can only be used for projects that benefit mammals and birds. Some approved projects include acquiring land, conducting research, acquiring and maintaining public target ranges, conducting ecological surveys, wildlife re-introductions, improving wildlife habitat, and hunter education programs.
- PR and license fees combined provide approximately 74% of the money spent by the Wildlife Division. General tax funds only account for less than 5% of the of the DNR's total budget.
- The vast majority of wildlife conservation is paid for by hunters, trappers, anglers and sports shooters through the equipment that they buy.
- Anyone who enjoys watching wildlife, hiking through forests, photographing birds or picking mushrooms is benefitting from people who have purchased hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses.
- Hunters, thank you for all you have done for Michigan's wildlife. If you know a hunter, thank them for their continual investment in Michigan's wildlife.