



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

The Voice of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Hall of the States
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Fact Sheet: Legislative Program

The management of wildlife is an integral and vital component of our North American heritage. Public policy provides a framework for federal, provincial, territorial and nongovernmental programs to drive conservation for an array of wild organisms and their habitats—including wild plants, invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds and mammals.

For decades, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has worked on behalf of the federal, provincial, and territorial agencies to make sure wildlife issues are a part of our national legislative climate. This partnership, deploying the skills and resources of all participants, will help to secure wildlife, optimize its benefits, and enhance quality of life for North America.

Important Wildlife Legislation

The Pitman-Robertson Act, or Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, was passed in 1938. It was designed to counteract the wildlife crisis by providing local funding for wildlife management research; the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat; and public education related to same.

In 1950, the Dingell-Johnson Act or Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act was created to provide similar management, conservation and restoration improvements for fisheries. Together, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs (SFWR) have transformed the landscape and immeasurably improved the conditions and prospects for many species. In short, both acts encourage a scientific approach toward managing—and restoring—fish and wildlife in every state.

Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs: User-pay, user-benefit

The idea of "user-pay, user benefit" is simple: every time an American hunter buys a gun or ammunition he chips in to improve his sport. It's just as true today: SFWR programs are funded by revenues collected from the manufacturers of sporting arms, handguns, ammunition and archery equipment, fishing rods, reels, lures and other fishing gear. Motorboat fuel taxes and boat registration fees also help fund the system. The money is paid back to the state or territory from where it was purchased—to be used on specific wildlife restoration projects in that same state or territory. By continuing to purchase hunting, shooting, fishing and boating equipment, people who enjoy these activities contribute directly to their success.

For more information about conservation legislation, contact Gary Taylor at 202/624-7890 or gtaylor@fishwildlife.org.

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Fact Sheet: Management Assistance Team

The Management Assistance Team (MAT) is the Association's most unique and diverse program. Located in the heart of the National Conservation Training Center, MAT is a consulting and training resource for all fifty of the United State's fish and wildlife agencies.

More than a century ago, the United States' fish and wildlife agencies were charged with management of the nation's fish and wildlife resources. Today, these agency professionals still maintain a healthy reputation for being the experts in the biological aspects required to conserve fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

Continuing this legacy of fish and wildlife conservation success means using the best and latest resources available. That's where the Management Assistance Team steps in. To help with this continued learning process, MAT works to consultant and train fish and wildlife professionals on a wide range of agency management challenges.

MAT consultants can help on a wide range of topics including organization development, planning, budgeting, leadership development, programmatic and agency review, work force diversity, commissions and boards, and organization effectiveness.

More information about the Management Assistance Team and its training programs can be found online at <http://training.fws.gov/IAFWA/mat.html>.

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