

Wildlife Restoration



- Do you* Buy guns and ammunition?
Buy archery equipment?
Purchase a hunting license?

Every time you do these things, you are helping to improve your hunting and shooting experience. You are one of many hunters and archery and firearms owners who participate in the Wildlife Restoration Program. You support it and you benefit from it!

What is the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act?

Approved by Congress in 1937, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, provides funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research, and the distribution of information produced by the projects. The Act was amended Oct. 23, 1970, to include funding for hunter training programs and the development, operation and maintenance of public target ranges. Funds are collected through:

- 11% federal excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition & archery equipment
- 10% tax on handguns

The money collected is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and distributed to state agencies to fund management activities.



(Photo: Thomas Harvey)

Where does the Wildlife Restoration money go?

The USFWS apportions Wildlife Restoration funds to state fish and wildlife agencies using a formula that is based on each state's land area, and the number of certified license holders. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission received over \$18 million last year to support research and surveys for game animals, hunter and trapper surveys, cooperative research with universities, hunter education, private lands conservation and landowner engagement, habitat management on public lands (game lands), and the acquisition of public lands for the agency's Game Lands program. For each project, 75% of the total cost is provided by Wildlife Restoration funds and

25% comes from state funds, primarily hunting license fees. The agency also uses Wildlife Restoration funds for the construction and maintenance of shooting ranges throughout the state, with 90% of the cost of each range coming from Wildlife Restoration funds and 10% from state funds.



(Photo: Thomas Harvey)



How does the Wildlife Restoration Program benefit you and North Carolina?

The Wildlife Restoration Program is a “user-pay, everyone-benefits” system of resource enhancement. The NCWRC uses funds generated from excise tax paid on the sale of manufactured products provided through the Wildlife Restoration fund, and matched with your hunting license fees, to conduct projects that enhance hunting and shooting opportunities across the state. Examples include:

Research and Surveys

- Wildlife disease surveillance including special projects for Chronic Wasting Disease in white-tailed deer, West Nile Virus in ruffed grouse and White-Nose Syndrome in cave dwelling bats
- Black Duck Breeding Population Survey
- Statewide Wood Duck and Mourning Dove Banding
- Population Monitoring of Black Bears
- Ruffed Grouse Drumming Surveys

Hunter and Trapper Surveys

- Statewide Hunter Harvest Survey
- Deer Hunter Observation Survey
- Trapper Harvest Survey
- Avid Quail, Grouse and Rabbit Hunter Surveys

Cooperative Research with Universities

- Breeding Ecology of Black Ducks in Coastal North Carolina (University of Delaware)
- Breeding Ecology of Wild Turkeys in North Carolina (North Carolina State University)
- Ecology of Eastern Spotted Skunks (Clemson University)
- Survival and Abundance of Seaside and Saltmarsh Sparrows in Southeastern North Carolina (UNC-Wilmington)



Dove banding for population study (Photo: James Tomberlin)

Private Lands Conservation and Landowner Engagement

- Conservation Planning with private landowners and municipalities
- Technical Guidance to Private Landowners regarding habitat and species management on their property

Shooting Range Construction and Maintenance

- Seven shooting ranges statewide with additional ones in the planning process
- Working with partners, such as the Cleveland and Pender counties and U.S. Forest Service, to assist with operation and maintenance of shooting ranges



Controlled burn on an agency game land (Photo: Thomas Harvey)

Public Lands Wildlife Conservation

- Acquisition of priority lands for the agency’s Game Lands Program
- Habitat Management on Game Lands including emphasis for waterfowl, red-cockaded woodpeckers, bobwhite quail, golden-winged warbler and elk



More information:
ncwildlife.org/WR

