

[CHAPTER 899]

AN ACT

To provide that the United States shall aid the States in wildlife-restoration projects, and for other purposes.

September 2, 1937
[S. 2670]
[Public, No. 415]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to cooperate with the States, through their respective State fish and game departments, in wildlife-restoration projects as hereinafter set forth; but no money apportioned under this Act to any State shall be expended therein until its legislature, or other State agency authorized by the State constitution to make laws governing the conservation of wildlife, shall have assented to the provision of this Act and shall have passed laws for the conservation of wildlife which shall include a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by hunters for any other purpose than the administration of said State fish and game department, except that, until the final adjournment of the first regular session of the legislature held after the passage of this Act, the assent of the Governor of the State shall be sufficient. The Secretary of Agriculture and the State fish and game department of each State accepting the benefits of this Act shall agree upon the wildlife-restoration projects to be aided in such State under the terms of this Act and all projects shall conform to the standards fixed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Wildlife-restoration projects.
Federal cooperation through State game, etc., departments.
Assent, etc., of State.

Agreement to terms.

SEC. 2. For the purposes of this Act the term "wildlife-restoration project" shall be construed to mean and include the selection, restoration, rehabilitation, and improvement of areas of land or water adaptable as feeding, resting, or breeding places for wildlife, including acquisition by purchase, condemnation, lease, or gift of such areas or estates or interests therein as are suitable or capable of being made suitable therefor, and the construction thereon or therein of such works as may be necessary to make them available for such purposes and also including such research into problems of wildlife management as may be necessary to efficient administration affecting wildlife resources, and such preliminary or incidental costs and expenses as may be incurred in and about such projects; the term "State fish and game department" shall be construed to mean and include any department or division of department of another name, or commission, or official or officials, of a State empowered under its laws to exercise the functions ordinarily exercised by a State fish and game department.

"Wildlife-restoration project" defined.

"State fish and game department."

SEC. 3. An amount equal to the revenue accruing during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939, and each fiscal year thereafter, from the tax imposed by section 610, title IV, of the Revenue Act of 1932 (47 Stat. 169), as heretofore or hereafter extended and amended, on firearms, shells, and cartridges, is hereby authorized to be set apart in the Treasury as a special fund to be known as "The Federal aid to wildlife-restoration fund" and is hereby authorized to be appropriated and made available until expended for the purposes of this Act. So much of such appropriation apportioned to any State for any fiscal year as remains unexpended at the close thereof is authorized to be made available for expenditure in that State until the close of the succeeding fiscal year. Any amount apportioned to any State under the provisions of this Act which is unexpended or unobligated at the end of the period during which it is available for expenditure on any project is authorized to be made available for expenditure by the Secretary of Agriculture in carrying out the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

"The Federal aid to wildlife-restoration fund" set apart.
47 Stat. 264.

Availability.

Use of balances.

16 U. S. C. §§ 715-715c.

Administrative expenses.

Apportionment of balance.

Proviso.
Maximum State apportionment.
Provision where apportionment less than \$15,000.

Certification of estimate for administrative expenses.

State acceptance.

Statements to be furnished.

Proviso.
Approval.

SEC. 4. So much, not to exceed 8 per centum, of the revenue covered into said fund in each fiscal year as the Secretary of Agriculture may estimate to be necessary for his expenses in the administration and execution of this Act and the Migratory Bird Conservation Act shall be deducted for that purpose, and such sum is authorized to be made available therefor until the expiration of the next succeeding fiscal year, and within sixty days after the close of such fiscal year the Secretary of Agriculture shall apportion such part thereof as remains unexpended by him, if any, and make certificate thereof to the Secretary of the Treasury and to the State fish and game departments on the same basis and in the same manner as is provided as to other amounts authorized by this Act to be apportioned among the States for such current fiscal year. The Secretary of Agriculture, after making the aforesaid deduction, shall apportion the remainder of the revenues in said fund for each fiscal year among the several States in the following manner, that is to say, one-half in the ratio which the area of each State bears to the total area of all the States and one-half in the ratio which the number of paid hunting-license holders of each State in the preceding fiscal year, as certified to said Secretary by the State fish and game departments, bears to the total number of paid hunting-license holders of all the States: *Provided*, That the apportionment for any one State shall not exceed the sum of \$150,000 annually: *Provided further*, That where the apportionment to any State under this section is less than \$15,000 annually, the Secretary of Agriculture may allocate not more than \$15,000 of said fund to said State to carry out the purposes of this Act when said State certifies to the Secretary of Agriculture that it has set aside not less than \$5,000 from its fish and game funds or has made, through its legislature, an appropriation in this amount, for said purposes.

SEC. 5. Within sixty days after the approval of this Act the Secretary of Agriculture shall certify to the Secretary of the Treasury and to each State fish and game department the sum which he has estimated to be deducted for administering and executing this Act and the Migratory Bird Conservation Act and the sum which he has apportioned to each State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939, and on or before February 20 next preceding the commencement of each succeeding fiscal year shall make like certificates for such fiscal year. Any State desiring to avail itself of the benefits of this Act shall notify the Secretary of Agriculture to this effect within sixty days after it has received the certification referred to in this section. The sum apportioned to any State which fails to notify the Secretary of Agriculture as herein provided is authorized to be made available for expenditure by the Secretary of Agriculture in carrying out the provisions of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

SEC. 6. Any State desiring to avail itself of the benefits of this Act shall by its State fish and game department submit to the Secretary of Agriculture full and detailed statements of any wildlife-restoration project proposed for that State. If the Secretary of Agriculture finds that such project meets with the standards set up by him and approves said project, the State fish and game department shall furnish to him such surveys, plans, specifications, and estimates therefor as he may require: *Provided, however*, That the Secretary of Agriculture shall approve only such projects as may be substantial in character and design and the expenditure of funds hereby authorized shall be applied only to such approved projects and if otherwise applied they shall be replaced by the State before it may participate in any further apportionment under this Act.

Items included for engineering, inspection, and unforeseen contingencies in connection with any works to be constructed shall not exceed 10 per centum of the cost of such works and shall be paid by the State as a part of its contribution to the total cost of such works. If the Secretary of Agriculture approves the plans, specifications, and estimates for the project, he shall notify the State fish and game department and immediately certify the fact to the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary of the Treasury shall thereupon set aside so much of said fund as represents the share of the United States payable under this Act on account of such project, which sum so set aside shall not exceed 75 per centum of the total estimated cost thereof. No payment of any money apportioned under this Act shall be made on any project until such statement of the project and the plans, specifications, and estimates thereof shall have been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 7. When the Secretary of Agriculture shall find that any project approved by him has been completed or, if involving research relating to wildlife, is being conducted, in compliance with said plans and specifications, he shall cause to be paid to the proper authority of said State the amount set aside for said project: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may, in his discretion, from time to time, make payments on said project as the same progresses; but these payments, including previous payments, if any, shall not be more than the United States' pro-rata share of the project in conformity with said plans and specifications. Any construction work and labor in each State shall be performed in accordance with its laws and under the direct supervision of the State fish and game department, subject to the inspection and approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and in accordance with rules and regulations made pursuant to this Act. The Secretary of Agriculture and the State fish and game department of each State may jointly determine at what times and in what amounts payments, as work progresses, shall be made under this Act. Such payments shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury, on warrants drawn by the Secretary of Agriculture against the said fund to such official or officials, or depository, as may be designated by the State fish and game department and authorized under the laws of the State to receive public funds of the State.

SEC. 8. To maintain wildlife-restoration projects established under the provisions of this Act shall be the duty of the States according to their respective laws.

SEC. 9. Out of the deductions set aside for administering and executing this Act and the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to employ such assistants, clerks, and other persons in the city of Washington and elsewhere, to be taken from the eligible lists of the Civil Service; to rent or construct buildings outside of the city of Washington; to purchase such supplies, materials, equipment, office fixtures, and apparatus; and to incur such travel and other expenses, including purchase, maintenance, and hire of passenger-carrying motor vehicles, as he may deem necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 10. The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to make rules and regulations for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 11. The Secretary of Agriculture shall make an annual report to the Congress of the sum set apart in "The Federal aid to wildlife restoration fund", giving detailed information as to the projects and expenditures therefor.

Approved, September 2, 1937.

Limitation.

Notice of approval.

Allocations.

Restriction on payments.

Payments on approved completed projects.

Proviso.
Installments during construction.

State maintenance of established projects.

Personal services.

Rent, etc.
Contingent expenses.

Rules and regulations.

Annual report to Congress.