

The Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife

# Wildlife Section

A History of Conservation



Ted Harvey Wildlife Area  
Photo By: Jesse Baird

# Early 1900's



Unregulated hunting activities were becoming unsustainable and habitat was decreasing.

License sales alone could not support national wildlife conservation efforts.



# 1937 Wildlife Restoration Act passed

User pay/user benefit model – excise taxes on sporting firearms, ammunition, and hunting gear fund national wildlife restoration and conservation programs.



# Wildlife Restoration Act

11% tax on firearms  
and ammunition

10% tax on pistols,  
handguns and  
revolvers

11% tax on archery  
equipment  
\$.43 per arrow shaft

Wildlife Restoration  
Account

Interest  
Earned

North American  
Wetlands  
Conservation  
Fund

Wildlife  
Restoration Act  
Administration

\$ Given to  
States

Multistate  
Conservation  
Grant Program

**Section 10** – Fixed amount  
allocated to each state for  
**hunter education & shooting  
range enhancement**

**Section 4 (c)** –  $\frac{1}{2}$  of taxes collected on  
pistols, revolvers, and archery  
equipment allocated to states for  
**hunter education & wildlife/habitat  
restoration**

**Remaining Funds** –  
Allocated to states for  
**Wildlife Restoration  
Programs**

# Matching the Grant Funds

States apply for grant funding

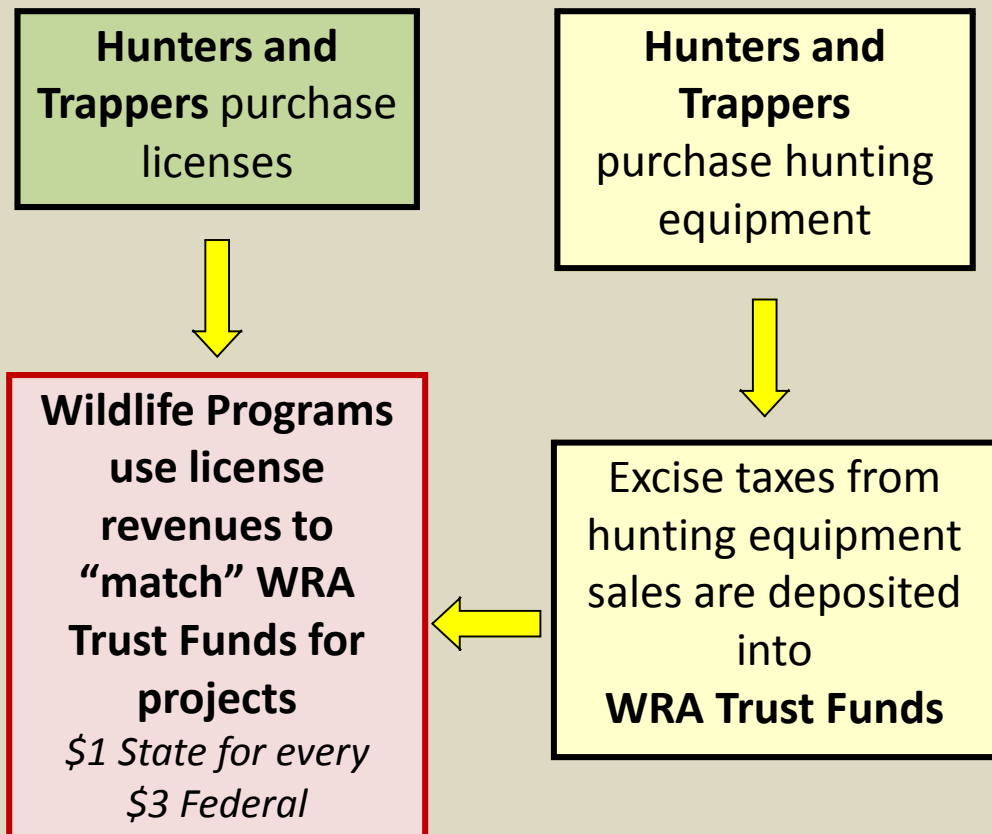


WRA provides 75% of project costs  
States must provide (match) 25%

License \$\$ must be used first, but other funding sources are also used to help create the 25% match needed.

- Volunteer hours
- State merit employee time
- Donations
- One-time state appropriations
- In-kind match from universities

*These are not continuous sources of matching funds.*



# Wildlife Restoration Act Funding Facts

- Once a grant is awarded, payment is made as a cost reimbursement as the work is completed
- The funds must be used within 2 years
- Use of Federal WRA grants requires compliance with several Federal acts, regulations and Executive Orders:
  - National Environmental Policy Act
  - Section 7 of Endangered Species Act
  - National Historic Preservation Act
- States may **only** use WRA funding for management of wildlife and wildlife habitat, hunter education and approved wildlife-associated activities
- There is a formula for how each state receives WRA funds
  - 50% of square mileage of state's land and inland waterways
  - 50% of the number of licenses sold in that state
  - No state receives more than 5% or less than half of 1% of the total WRA trust fund















# State Wildlife Grants

State Wildlife Grants are used for Fish & Wildlife projects supporting ***Species and Habitats of Conservation Need*** in each state.

