

Wisconsin during the week of Dec. 19 to increase hunting opportunities throughout the holiday season.

The pheasant holiday stocking began in 2017 to provide pheasant hunters an additional opportunity to County hunt during the holiday season. Five state properties were initially stocked in 2017 with another three in 2018.

Pheasants are one of the most sought-after gamebirds in North America and due to continued interest and popularity among Wisconsin pheasant hunters, the DNR & Green Counties will stock 2,800 pheasants across 25 state properties over a two-day period during the week of Dec. 19.

Pheasant season in Wisconsin runs until Jan. 8, 2023.

"We are excited to once again offer this unique hunting opportunity at a time when friends and family are gathering to make incredible Dodge & Fond du Lac Counoutdoor memories," said Kel-ties ly Maguire, DNR State Game Farm Manager. "The selected areas are located near population centers to provide accessible opportunities to as many hunters as possible, as well as areas that see high hunter use throughout the pheasant hunting season."

**Properties to be stocked for** ferson County the holiday season include:

County

consin State Riverway, Iowa lumbia County

**Rock County** 

Dane County

Wisconsin Riverway, Grant

County

Columbia County

Dane County

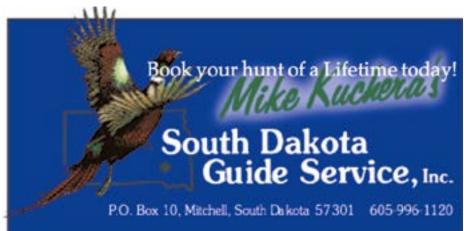
Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area,

Washington County

Jefferson County

Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit, Waukesha County

Lake Mills Wildlife Area, Jef-



www.sdpheasants.com

Mazomanie Unit of Lowe

Mud Lake Wildlife Area, Co

Mud Lake Wildlife Area

Pine Island Wildlife Area, Co

Richard Bong State Recreation

Sauk Prairie State Recreation

Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area

Vernon Wildlife Area, Wauke-

Waterloo Wildlife Area, Jef-

Yellowstone Wildlife Area, La-

Hunters can use the **DNR**'s

Fields and Forest Lands Inter

active Gamebird Hunting Tool

(FFLIGHT) to locate cover

suitable for ruffed grouse

and woodcock, managed

dove fields and properties

stocked with game farm

ers are required to purchase

a 2022 Wisconsin pheasant

habitats required for pheas-

ants to survive and repro-

and bag limits are still in

effect. Hunters are encour-

aged to read through the

2022 regulations before head-

duce year-round.

Washington & Dodge Coun-

Area, Kenosha County

Area, Sauk County

ferson County

fayette County

pheasants.

Wisconsin State Riverway

Dane County

Dodge County

lumbia County

Albany Wildlife Area, Green

Avoca Unit of Lower Wis-

Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area,

Badfish Creek Wildlife Area,

Boscobel Unit of the Lower

Brooklyn Wildlife Area, Dane

Evansville Wildlife Area, Rock

Footville Wildlife Area, Rock sha County

French Creek Wildlife Area,

Goose Lake Wildlife Area,

Jackson Marsh Wildlife Area,

lefferson Marsh Wildlife Area,

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That's it for State News this issue.

# **Industry News**

# Firearm and Ammo Industry Pays Record \$300M for Conservation in Q1

# By Joe Bartozzi

**T**ildlife conserva- ment "lockbox." The excise ing another windfall, thanks to the firearm and ammunition purposes. tion industry.

**NSSF** that nounced firearm and ammunition manufacturers paid a record-setting \$300,498,588.23 first in the quarter 2022. That's the most-ever firearm and ammunition excise

tax for the first quarter of any year and brings the total contributions to the Pittman-Robertson excise taxes to over \$15.3 billion since the fund was established in 1937.

The latest Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Collection report released by the Department of Treasury indicates that firearm and ammunition manufacturers reported tax liabilities are up 1.2 percent over the same time period reported in 2021. The report, which covers the time period of Jan. 1 through March 31, 2022, shows that \$103.4 million was due in taxes for Pistols and Revolvers, \$88.4 million for Firearms (other)/ Long Guns and \$108.7 million for Ammunition (shells and cartridges).

# **Conservation** Leader

This is proof, yet again, that the firearm industry is a leader in wildlife conservation. These 10 to 11 percent excise tax dollars collected since 1937 under the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act are designated to be used by state wildlife agencies for conservation. It is one of the few taxes that is in a govern-

tion in the Unit- taxes collected do not go into the general fund but are set apart for wildlife conserva-

> The tax is currently admine excise tax was established in istered by the Alcohol and

Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) in the Treasury Department, which turns the funds over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US-FWS). USFWS then deposits the PR revenue into a special account called the Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund, which is administered by the USFWS. These funds are made available to states and territories the year following their collection. Last year, USFWS distrib-

uted over \$1.5 billion to the states for wildlife conservation. Of that total, \$1.1 billion was sourced from excise taxes paid by firearm and ammunition manufacturers.

# Benefitting Recreational **Shooters & Hunters**

Those funds are being put to good use to benefit recre-

ational shooters, hunters and those who admire wildlife. NSSF championed the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act, which was signed into law in 2019 by President Donald Trump. That law changed the formula for states to access Pittman-Robertson funds to build new or expand and improve existing public gun ranges. The law reduced the

matching down payments from states to start a project from 25 percent to just 10 percent and increased the number of years states have to finish building new or improving existing gun ranges

That allows more recre ational shooters to access safe shooting range to practice, which makes for safer gun owners. More practice equals more ammunition consumed, which in turn generates more funds for conservation.

For hunters and wildlife enthusiasts, the benefits are

> recreational Pittman-Robertson

1937, wildlife in the United States was in dire straits.

In the early 1900s, there were just a half a million Whitetail deer, only 41,000 Rocky Mountain elk, 100,000 wild turkeys, 12,000 pronghorn antelope and water fowl were few in number Today, it's a different picture because of the conservation investments in wildlife and the habitats in which they thrive. Whitetail deer num ber over 32 million, over 1 million Rocky Mountain elk roam, including in states like Virginia that just opened elk hunting for the first time in nearly a century. More than 7 million wild turkeys are found across the landscape and over 1.1 million pronghorn antelope run free. Waterfowl populations exceed 44 million.

This \$300.5 million paid by firearm and ammunition manufacturers is sowing the seeds for generations to come. It's a badge of honor that these manufacturers are proud to wear. Hunters and recreational shooters support conservation when they buy their products and combined with the sale of hunting licenses, stamps and fees, makes hunters and recreational shooters the greatest contributor to wildlife conservation.

nearly everywhere. Pittman-Robertson funds make it possible for states to increase access to public ands for hunting and shoot ing. Those funds have proven critical in sus taining the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which is the envy o the world. When the

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