



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 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 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 outdoor memories,” said Kelly 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.”



www.sdpheasants.com

Properties to be stocked for the holiday season include:

[Albany Wildlife Area](#), Green County

[Avoca Unit of Lower Wisconsin State Riverway](#), Iowa County

[Avon Bottoms Wildlife Area](#), Rock County

[Badfish Creek Wildlife Area](#), Dane County

[Boscobel Unit of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway](#), Grant County

[Brooklyn Wildlife Area](#), Dane & Green Counties

[Evansville Wildlife Area](#), Rock County

[Footville Wildlife Area](#), Rock County

[French Creek Wildlife Area](#), Columbia County

[Goose Lake Wildlife Area](#), Dane County

[Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area](#), Dodge & Fond du Lac Counties

[Jackson Marsh Wildlife Area](#), Washington County

[Jefferson Marsh Wildlife Area](#), Jefferson County

[Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit](#), Waukesha County

[Lake Mills Wildlife Area](#), Jefferson County

erson County

[Mazomanie Unit of Lower Wisconsin State Riverway](#), Dane County

[Mud Lake Wildlife Area](#), Columbia County

[Mud Lake Wildlife Area](#), Dodge County

[Pine Island Wildlife Area](#), Columbia County

[Richard Bong State Recreation Area](#), Kenosha County

[Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area](#), Sauk County

[Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area](#), Washington & Dodge Counties

[Vernon Wildlife Area](#), Waukesha County

[Waterloo Wildlife Area](#), Jefferson County

[Yellowstone Wildlife Area](#), Lafayette County

Hunters can use the [DNR's Fields and Forest Lands Interactive Gamebird Hunting Tool \(FFLIGHT\)](#) to locate cover suitable for ruffed grouse and woodcock, managed dove fields and properties stocked with game farm pheasants.

To pursue these birds, hunters are required to purchase a 2022 Wisconsin pheasant stamp. With stamp-funded revenue, the DNR creates and maintains grassland habitats required for pheasants to survive and reproduce year-round.

All hunting regulations and bag limits are still in effect. Hunters are encouraged to read through [the 2022 regulations](#) before heading out.

That's it for State News this issue.

MARKETPLACE

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Industry News

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

By Joe Bartozzi

Wildlife conservation in the United States is seeing another windfall, thanks to the firearm and ammunition industry.

NSSF announced that firearm and ammunition manufacturers paid a record-setting \$300,498,588.23 in the first quarter of 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-

ment "lockbox." The excise taxes collected do not go into the general fund but are set apart for wildlife conservation purposes.



The tax is currently administered 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 (USFWS). 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 distributed 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 recreational 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 recreational shooters to access a 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 nearly everywhere. Pittman-Robertson funds make it possible for states to increase access to public lands for hunting and recreational shooting. Those funds have proven critical in sustaining the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which is the envy of the world. When the Pittman-Robertson

excise tax was established in 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 waterfowl 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 number 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.

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