

Pittman-Robertson/Dingell-Johnson Act Grants
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Program Summary

Program Overview

A primary responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) is to conserve, enhance and restore the state's wildlife resources and habitats. The department funds that mission with state funds and Federal Funds, the most notable of which come from the Pittman-Robertson Act and the Dingell-Johnson Act. Each act is funded through federal tax revenues that are appropriated to the Department of Interior and then apportioned to state wildlife agencies. Agencies submit project work plans for approval by Department of Interior and have their expenses reimbursed through these grants upon completion. The states must provide at least 25% of the project costs from a non-federal source, which can include in-kind contributions.

Background

Established in 1937, the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, also called the Pittman-Robertson Act, provides federal aid to states for projects that include: acquisition and improvement of wildlife habitat and public use facilities; introduction of wildlife into suitable habitat; research, surveys and inventories of wildlife issues; hunter education programs and construction and operation of public target ranges. The grants are funded from a manufacturer excise tax of 10% on pistols, handguns and revolvers and 11% on other firearms, ammunition, bows, quivers, broadheads and points. Please see *Table 1* for AGFD's Pittman-Robertson Act program statistics.

Table 1				
Pittman-Robertson Act Program Statistics				
	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2018 (est.)</u>	<u>FY 2019 (est.)</u>
Big Game Hunter Days	581,100	422,600	450,000	450,000
Hunter Education Program Participants	4,400	4,500	4,200	4,200
Construction Projects at Public Ranges	14	14	12	12

The program's formula apportions funds to states based 50% on the area of the state and 50% on the number of paid hunting license holders, where no state may receive more than 5% or less than 0.5% of the total apportionment. In FY 2018, the Department of Interior made a total of \$797.2 million available to the states and territories. Of that amount, Arizona was apportioned \$22.1 million.

The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, referred to as the Dingell-Johnson Act, was established in 1950 and authorizes federal assistance for the acquisition and improvement of sport fish habitat; stocking of fish; research, surveys and inventories of fishery resource issues and sport fish populations; aquatic education programs and acquisition and development of public use facilities. The program earns revenues from a 3% tax on electric motor boats; import duties on fish tackle, recreational boats, and yachts; a 10% tax on fishing equipment; a portion of motorboat fuel tax; a portion of small engine fuel tax and interest earnings. Please see *Table 2* for the department's Dingell-Johnson program statistics.

Table 2				
Dingell-Johnson Act Program Statistics				
	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2018 (est.)</u>	<u>FY 2019 (est.)</u>
Completed Public Facility Projects	10	12	7	7
Pounds of Sportfish Stocked	730,300	856,200	610,000	610,000
Aquatic Education Program Participants	12,100	7,600	9,000	9,000

Funds are apportioned to state wildlife agencies based on formula weighted 60% on the number of the state's licensed wildlife anglers and 40% on its land and water area, where no state may receive more than 5% or less than 1% of the fiscal year's total apportionment. Of the total FY 2018 apportionment to the states and territories of \$351.9 million, Arizona was apportioned \$7.2 million.

Program Funding

In the Game and Fish Department budget, the Pittman-Robertson/Dingell-Johnson (PRDJ) Act line item provides the state's appropriated matching funds for Federal Funds used for projects reimbursable by the programs. The PRDJ Act line item receives funding from the appropriated Game and Fish Fund. The department also uses non-appropriated funds for its state match, including the Wildlife Conservation Fund and Heritage Fund. Since FY 2016, the department has budgeted the following amounts for its state match, for a total of \$5,658,000 in state funds:

- \$3,058,000 from the Game and Fish Fund
- \$1,750,000 from the Wildlife Conservation Fund
- \$850,000 from the Heritage Fund

The grants and matching funds are then transferred to the Game and Fish Federal Revolving Fund, along with other federal grants.

The department allocates its funding according to recommendations by department staff, which are then approved by the Game and Fish Commission. Upon approval, the department submits a work plan for approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (within the Department of Interior).

In FY 2017, the department was reimbursed \$23.3 million from Pittman-Robertson grants and \$8.4 million from Dingell-Johnson grants, for a total of \$31.7 million. Based on the program's 75%/25% matching requirement, the state was required to provide a matching amount of \$10.6 million. Of this amount, \$5.7 million came directly from state funds (as listed above), while \$4.9 million was derived from in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions, such as volunteer work at the department for specified activities, is valued at an hourly rate determined by the federal government for the purposes of counting as matching funds.