Hunter Education and Safety Program
The Hunter Education and Safety (HE) Program was created in 1970, when Congress amended PR to allow a portion of the funding to be used for hunter education and safety programs. Projects must have objectives related to one or more of the following: hunter and sporting firearm safety programs; hunter development programs; the enhancement of interstate coordination and development of hunter education and shooting range programs; archery ranges, and the updating of safety features of firearm shooting ranges and archery ranges. In 2000, Congress approved the Enhanced Hunter Education program that directs additional resources to this effort.

Sport Fish Restoration
The DJ program is a cooperative effort involving Federal and State government agencies, the sport fishing industry, anglers and boaters. The program increases sport fishing and boating opportunities through wise investment of excise tax dollars. The Wallop-Breaux Amendment of 1984 expanded the program by adding more tackle and sport fishing equipment under the excise tax and included Federal fuel taxes attributable to motorboats and small engines. The program has helped State wildlife agencies restore and better manage America’s fisheries resources. As of 2018 the SFR Program provided about $9 billion in funds utilized by the States for a variety of eligible activities.

Aquatic Resource Education
The Aquatic Resource Education Program is authorized in the DJ Act. Up to 15 percent of the State’s total DJ funding may be used for aquatic resource education. The Program provides grant funds to States for angler education, including stewardship and conservation to enhance public understanding and conservation of the nation’s water resources.

Unquestionably, the Sport Fish Restoration program is a cornerstone of excellence for anglers, boaters and fisheries resources.

Boating Access
The Boating Access (BA) Program funds projects that provide recreational boaters with access to America’s waterways by developing new access facilities and renovating or improving existing facilities. The program mandates that States use 15 percent of DJ funding on recreational boating access projects. In addition, the BA program funds fish cleaning stations, parking areas, and restrooms, among other boating amenities.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program
The Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program was established through the Sport Fishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998. BIG provides grant funds for facilities to support transient boaters in vessels 26 feet or more in length. BIG also funds information and educational materials about the program. Two percent of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund comprises the annual funding for this competitive program.

Clean Vessel Act Program
The Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Program was authorized by the Clean Vessel Act of 1992. Two percent of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund comprises the annual funding for the CVA Program. CVA provides nationally competitive grant funds to States to construct, renovate, operate, and maintain pumpout stations and waste facilities for recreational boaters. Also funded are educational programs that inform boaters of the importance of proper sewage disposal.

What’s in a logo?
When you see these logos on outdoor sports equipment, the manufacturer has paid an excise tax on the product. Proceeds go to support fish and wildlife management and conservation to enhance and expand access to recreational resources.

Look for these logos at a shooting range, hunter education class, wildlife management area, fish hatchery, boat ramp or a project site. These logos say WSFR funds are at work!

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December 2018
Who benefits from the Program?
The American public benefits from the PR and DJ programs. Outdoor enthusiasts get more and better places to hunt, fish and recreate; the industry gets a growing base of hunters, shooters, anglers, boaters, archers, and other recreational users who purchase more supplies and equipment; and State and Federal agencies get more funds to meet on-the-ground conservation needs. The general public benefits from better stewardship of the nation’s natural resources.

With your help, we create better fishing, hunting, recreational shooting and boating opportunities for the future.

How are the funds used?
The funds are used for activities such as: fish and wildlife population management; habitat management; research; surveys and inventories; land acquisition; construction and maintenance of wildlife management areas and hatcheries; facilities construction; technical guidance; aquatic resource education; construction and maintenance of public shooting and archery ranges; hunter education and safety training; fishing and hunting opportunities and access; and boating access facilities, including ramps, piers and parking.

As of 2018, the WSFR Program Federal/State partnership has resulted in about $20.5 billion of Federal funds, matched with approximately $6.8 billion provided by the States.

Land acquisition is an investment for the future, providing for conservation of species and habitat in perpetuity.

What are the Core Grant Programs?

Wildlife Restoration
The PR and DJ Acts authorize funding for fish and wildlife agencies in the States, Commonwealths of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa, collectively referred to as the States. To be eligible, States must have passed laws that include a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by hunters and anglers for any other purpose than the administration of the State fish and wildlife agency.

No other single conservation effort in the United States can claim a greater contribution to fish and wildlife conservation than the excise tax-funded portion of the WSFR Program.