In 1937, sportsmen encouraged Congress to impose an excise tax on the sale of firearms, ammunition (and later archery equipment) to help fund wildlife conservation in the U.S.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act

10-11% excise tax on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment, provides up to three quarters of the cost for states to support projects, such as habitat improvement, population surveys, species reintroductions, wildlife research, hunter education, and the building and maintenance of public shooting ranges.

To date, more than $12.5 billion has been disbursed for state conservation and education projects.

These funds for state fish and wildlife agencies have also resulted in the recovery and wise management of deer, turkeys and more, plus many nongame species with benefits to hunters and nonhunters, alike.

By the Numbers

$796 Million: Amount hunters spend annually by purchasing licenses, permits and/or paying mandatory fees that go directly to state wildlife agencies to manage wildlife.

$1.8 Billion: Annual revenue generated by hunters and shooters for wildlife conservation in the U.S.

$2.2 Million: Decline in hunter numbers from 2011-2016, which means less funding for wildlife conservation.

Wild Turkey Population

Early 1900s: ~200,000

Today: more than 6 million