

# HUNTER'S POCKET FACT CARD<sup>SM</sup>








This wallet card contains current facts and statistics on the hunter's vital role in wildlife conservation – ready whenever needed to debate the merits of hunting.

Statistics provided by NSSF®.

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## KEY FACTS

-  Sportsmen contribute nearly **\$8 million** every day, adding more than **\$2.9 billion** every year for conservation.  
(Flip for pie chart)
-  Hunters and target shooters have paid **\$7.1 billion** in excise taxes since the inception of the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937.
-  Hunting in America is big business, generating **600,000 jobs** in the United States.
-  For more than 80 years, sportsmen have paid more than **\$14 billion** for on-the-ground projects in every state, protecting our natural environment and our fish and wildlife.
-  The **\$4.95 billion** in annual federal tax money generated by hunters' spending could cover the annual paychecks of 150,000 U.S. Army Sergeants.

## WHITE-TAILED DEER

In 1900, less than half a million white-tailed deer remained in the nation. Today, conservation programs have returned the whitetail population to some 32 million.

Source: Quality Deer Management Association, 2013

**THEN 500,000**

**NOW 32,000,000**



## DUCKS/WATERFOWL

In 1901, few ducks remained. Today, there are more than 46 million ducks populating the United States and Canada.

Source: USFWS, 2013

**THEN FEW**

**NOW 46,000,000**



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK

In 1907, only about 41,000 elk could be counted in the United States. Today, populations in 23 states total approximately 1 million.

Source: National Park Service, 2013

**THEN 41,000**

**NOW 1,000,000**



## WILD TURKEYS

By the early 1900's, encroaching civilization and habitat loss may have reduced the wild turkey population to under 100,000. Today, conservation programs have restored the population to more than 7 million birds. Source: National Wild Turkey Federation, 2013

**THEN 100,000**

**NOW 7,000,000**



## PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

About 50 years ago, the total U.S. population of pronghorn was only about 12,000. Today, conservation programs have helped increase the population to more than one million.

Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife, 2011

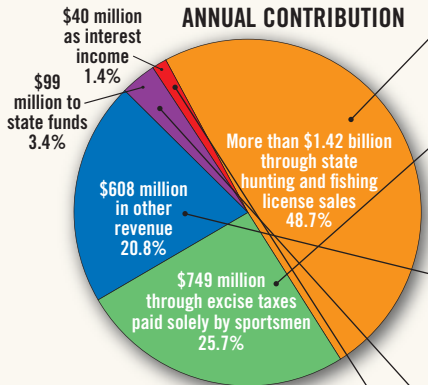
**THEN 12,000**

**NOW 1,100,000**



# Sportsmen contribute nearly \$8 million daily to conservation...Here's how:

## ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION



**License Revenues** fund nearly half the budget, on average, for state fish and wildlife agencies. The money supports wildlife management and restoration programs, habitat improvement and general conservation efforts.

**Excise Taxes** on sporting equipment (such as firearms, ammunition and fishing tackle) provide more than one-fifth the revenue for state fish and wildlife agencies. The funds are used to acquire, maintain and improve wildlife habitat and to make the nation's lands and waters more accessible and enjoyable to **all** its citizens, sportsmen and non-sportsmen alike.

**Other Revenue Sources** include special taxes and receipts from the sale of Duck & Wildlife stamps (\$81 million), and dues and contributions (\$527 million) from sportsmen to conservation groups. Duck stamp proceeds are used by the government to buy or lease wetland habitat for ducks, geese and hundreds of non-game birds and animals.

This money is derived through the **states' overall budgets**, supported by taxes paid by everyone (including sportsmen). A 25% match from state funds is necessary to utilize excise tax dollars.

**Interest income** is from investment earnings on wildlife funds deposited in state treasuries.

**Summary:** Hunters and anglers provide more than 75% of the annual funds of the 50 state conservation agencies. Sportsmen are clearly the largest contributors to conservation, paying for programs that benefit all Americans and all wildlife.

Fish & Wildlife Agency Funding Survey 2006-2010,  
Wildlife Conservation Fund of America, Columbus, OH

The National Shooting Sports Foundation® (NSSF) is the trade association for the hunting, shooting sports, firearms and ammunition industry. For more information about NSSF programs and safety and conservation educational materials, visit [nssf.org](http://nssf.org) or contact:

National Shooting Sports Foundation  
11 Mile Hill Road  
Newtown, CT 06470-2359

Tel: 203-426-1320, Fax: 203-426-1245

E-mail: [literature@nssf.org](mailto:literature@nssf.org)

