

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 655

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to ensure adequate funding for conservation and restoration of wildlife, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. THUNE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to ensure adequate funding for conservation and restoration of wildlife, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Teaming with Wildlife
5 Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) a diverse array of species of fish and wild-
9 life is of significant value to the United States for

1 many reasons, including aesthetic, ecological, edu-
2 cational, cultural, recreational, economic, and sci-
3 entific reasons;

4 (2) millions of citizens in the United States par-
5 ticipate in outdoor recreation through hunting, fish-
6 ing, and wildlife observation, all of which have sig-
7 nificant value to the citizens who engage in those ac-
8 tivities and economic benefits for local communities;

9 (3) it is in the national interest of the United
10 States—

11 (A) to retain for present and future gen-
12 erations the opportunity to observe, understand,
13 and appreciate a wide variety of wildlife; and

14 (B) to prevent wildlife from declining to
15 the point of requiring Federal protection under
16 the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.
17 1531 et seq.);

18 (4) hunters and anglers have for more than 70
19 years willingly paid user fees in the form of Federal
20 excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment to
21 support a Federal investment in wildlife diversity
22 and abundance, through the enactment of the Pitt-
23 man-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C.
24 669 et seq.) and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish

1 Restoration Act) (commonly known as the “Wallop-
2 Breaux Act”) (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.);

3 (5) Congress created the Wildlife Conservation
4 and Restoration Account under section 3(a)(2) of
5 the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16
6 U.S.C. 669b(a)(2)) to expand support for the full
7 array of fish and wildlife conservation needs, includ-
8 ing species that are not hunted and fished, but only
9 authorized appropriations for the Account for 1 fis-
10 cal year;

11 (6) while appropriated funds have been made
12 available through the State Wildlife Grants program
13 of United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the lack
14 of assured and dedicated funding for the Wildlife
15 Conservation and Restoration Account has left unre-
16 realized the goals of the Account, allowing wildlife to
17 continue to decline across the United States;

18 (7) partly as a requirement of the unfunded
19 Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account, each
20 State has produced a comprehensive wildlife strat-
21 egy, which presents an action plan for conserving
22 the full array of wildlife and wildlife habitats of each
23 State; and

24 (8) providing assured and dedicated funding to
25 the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account

1 advances the national interest in keeping wildlife
2 from becoming endangered by supporting States in
3 implementing the comprehensive wildlife conserva-
4 tion strategies of the States.

5 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

6 (1) to provide reliable and assured funding to
7 advance the national interest in keeping wildlife
8 from becoming endangered by supporting programs
9 in each State that address the conservation needs of
10 the full array of declining wildlife; and

11 (2) to provide the Federal share of support
12 needed to implement the comprehensive wildlife con-
13 servation strategies prepared by each State as a re-
14 quirement of obtaining funds from the Wildlife Con-
15 servation and Restoration Account established under
16 section 3(a)(2) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife
17 Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669b(a)(2)).

18 **SEC. 3. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION AC-**
19 **COUNT.**

20 Section 3(a) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Res-
21 toration Act (16 U.S.C. 669b(a)) is amended by striking
22 paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

23 “(2) WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND RESTORA-
24 TION ACCOUNT.—

1 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-
2 lished in the Federal aid to wildlife restoration
3 fund a subaccount to be known as the ‘Wildlife
4 Conservation and Restoration Account’ (re-
5 ferred to in this paragraph as the ‘Account’).

6 “(B) USE.—Amounts in the Account shall
7 be available without further appropriation, for
8 each fiscal year, for apportionment in accord-
9 ance with this Act to carry out State wildlife
10 conservation and restoration programs.

11 “(C) REVENUES.—

12 “(i) OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF
13 REVENUES.—For each of fiscal years 2011
14 through 2016, from amounts deposited in
15 the Treasury under section 9 of the Outer
16 Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C.
17 1338), the Secretary of the Treasury shall
18 transfer to the fund for deposit in the Ac-
19 count \$175,000,000.

20 “(ii) MINING REVENUES.—For each
21 of fiscal years 2011 through 2016, from
22 amounts deposited in the Treasury under
23 section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30
24 U.S.C. 191), after the withdrawal of funds
25 to the States under section 35(a) of that

1 Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall
2 transfer to the fund for deposit in the Ac-
3 count \$175,000,000.”.

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