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

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

Source: USFWS

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

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

The $6.4 billion in annual federal tax money generated by hunters’ spending could cover the annual paychecks of 210,000 U.S. Army Sergeants.

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 nearly one-third of 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 Revenues include special taxes and receipts from the sale of Duck & Wildlife stamps, and dues and contributions 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.

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 for many of the 50 state conservation agencies. Sportsmen are clearly the largest contributors to conservation, paying for programs that benefit all Americans and all wildlife.