The Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 and subsequent amendments placed a federal manufacturers’ excise tax on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment. These funds are eligible to state and territorial fish and wildlife agencies for public hunting access, hunter education, wildlife management and research and new facilities where hunters and target shooters can hone their skills. This law is unique and is essential to the conservation, management and enhancement of wildlife and their habitats, and to provide safe hunting access in the United States for current and future generations.

What do these funds do?

**Restore Wildlife**
Biologists study, monitor and manage over 500 species of mammals and birds using excise taxes, like the many grants used to study and restore black bears — including more than 87 bear projects in 17 states since 2017.

**Support Shooting Facilities**
Today, over 850 shooting ranges have been designed, constructed, renovated or opened to the public using excise taxes, like Arizona’s Ben Avery shooting complex, the largest of its kind in the United States.

**Educating the Public**
Every year, over 1 million people receive hunter education supported by excise taxes, like at Vermont’s Green Mountain Conservation Camp, where individuals learn to shoot in addition to many other outdoor skills.

**Conserve Public Land**
More than 35 million acres are maintained for public access or habitat management with excise taxes, like West Virginia’s 25,155 acre Tomblin Wildlife Management Area, acquired in 2015 and now open to the public.