



PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN & CONSERVATIONISTS

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On the Front Lines – So You Can Be in the Woods, On the Water or At the Range!

PFSC's Mission: To protect and conserve Pennsylvania's Natural Resources, outdoor heritage and 2nd Amendment Rights.

PFSC E-News - September 2023

"Being a leader isn't about being in charge, but taking care of those in our charge!" — Simon Sinek

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[Fall Conference/Board Meeting](#)

September 16, 2023

Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Assoc

[NW Sporting Clays Fun Shoot](#)

September 23, 2023

[Poster / Photo Contest](#)

[2024 Theme](#)

"Native and Invasive"

Details

[Fall Conservation Lantern](#)

Providing leadership and advocacy for enhancing our fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of all hunters, trappers, anglers and conservationists. Protecting our 2nd Amendment Rights.

Legislative Alert:

Senate Fiscal Code Bill Transfers \$150 Million from Game Fund to State-Controlled Clean Streams Fund

The Senate returned to session on August 30th for what we all thought would be some routine work on finalizing the fiscal code for this coming year's budget. However, thanks to the alertness of PFSC and our Director of Government Affairs having boots on the ground in the Capitol, we found out the Senate Republicans had inserted last-minute amended language on a proposed amendment to House Bill 1300 (which is being used as the vehicle to move the fiscal code bills) that would transfer \$150,000,000 from the Game Fund to the Clean Streams Fund.

PFSC was the first organization to catch this and alert the PGC and other legislative entities and organizations about the amendment.

Yes, you read that correctly! They intend to transfer \$150 MILLION from the Game Fund (your hunting and trapping dollars) into a new Clean Streams Fund. (See the distribution summary below.)

While we can all agree that the Clean Streams Fund is a worthy cause, why should it be funded only by hunters and trappers? Especially when the state is sitting on a \$13 Billion surplus. The amended bill passed the Republican-controlled Senate 29-18 and will have to go back to the Democrat-controlled House for concurrence. (HB 1300 had already passed the House.) The House is scheduled to return to session on September 26, so we have a short window of time to get this appropriation amendment removed from the House's version.

PFSC's Director of Government Affairs, Mike Kriner, is working feverishly with House and Senate leadership to have this transfer from the Game Fund rescinded. As stated above, we understand the importance of clean streams, but we don't believe the costs should be funded by sportsmen/women. We are also very concerned that allowing such a transfer will jeopardize

Pittman Robertson's funding for the state. (Approximately \$30 - 40 Million/year.) We have reached out to the US Fish & Wildlife Service for their legal opinion and preliminary feedback says this raid on the Game Fund **WILL jeopardize PR Funding**. We were able to stop the last legislative attempt to transfer oil & gas revenues from the Game Fund in 2003 due to the threat of loss of the PR Funds.

Allowing this transfer of monies from the Game Fund to the State treasury would set a very bad precedence and it violates the trust of the hunters and trappers in the Commonwealth. The Game Fund monies are derived from the state's share of Pittman-Robertson funds (the excise tax on hunting and shooting), oil, gas and timber sales on Game Lands and hunters' and trappers' license and permit sales. No General Fund or tax dollars. The Game Fund is to be used for the benefit of the Commonwealth's wildlife, wildlife habitats and the administration of the agency responsible for them, the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC).

If these raids are allowed to take place, the Commission's ability to carry out its mission will be gravely affected.

Please contact your legislators now! We are working feverishly directly with the House and Senate leadership, trying to work things out internally, but your legislators need to hear from their constituents that we **DO NOT Support this attempt of the legislature to raid the Game Fund**.

When you contact your House of Representative member, ask them to oppose this transfer of Game Funds to the state's Clean Streams Fund in the fiscal code bill (HB 1300). Having clean streams is an important cause, but all Commonwealth citizens should share in the costs. The burden should not be placed on the backs of hunters and trappers. And we cannot risk losing federal Pittman-Robertson funding.

Amendment Summary:

Clean Streams

Transfer \$150 million from Game Fund to Clean Streams Fund

Distributes money in the Clean Stream Funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as follows:

- 80% to the State Conversation Commission to implement the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program.
- 8% to the Pennsylvania Investment Authority to implement the Pennsylvania Clean Water Procurement Program.
- 8% to the Nutrient Management Fund.
- 4% to the Department of Environmental Protection for grants and reimbursements to municipalities and counties under the Storm Water Management Act.

Prior to the above distributions occurring, the Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Investment Authority and the Department of Environmental Protection shall expend no less than 75% of the money appropriated from COVID Relief – ARPA – Transfer to Clean Streams Fund.

More on Pittman-Robertson Funding:

[eCFR :: 50 CFR Part 80 -- Administrative Requirements, Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Acts](#)

[Find Your Legislator - PA General Assembly \(state.pa.us\)](#)

Other sportsmen's organizations are opposing this diversion of funds:

-- [PA Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Oppose Transfer Of \\$150 Million From Game Fund To Clean Streams Fund In Senate Budget Bill; Could Make State Ineligible For Federal Wildlife Funds](#)



[View PFSC Tracked Legislation](#)

PFSC Website Files Password:

PFSC2021

Contact Us

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Comments to the PGC Commissioners:

pgccomments@pa.gov

2023 Senate Session Schedule

September 18, 19, 20
October 2, 3, 4, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25
November 13, 14, 15
December 11, 12, 13

2023 House Session Schedule

September 26, 27
October 2, 3, 4, 16, 17, 18, 30, 31
November 1, 13, 14, 15

State Legislative & Regulatory News:

2023 Bill Count Update:

House Bills Introduced: 1773
PFSC Tracked House Bills: 148

Senate Bills Introduced: 966
PFSC Tracked Senate Bills: 76

PFSC is Tracking 224 Bills – [View Tracked Bills](#)

On the Calendar:

[Governor Shapiro Launches Pennsylvania Office of Outdoor Recreation, Highlights Largest Budget Investment in State Parks and Forests in Decades](#)

Co-Sponsor Memos:

Sen. L. WILLIAMS [Updating Personal Watercraft Safety Requirements in Pennsylvania](#)

New Legislation:

[HB 1300](#) Finances of State Government - provides for appropriations. (Transfers \$150M from Game Fund to Clean Streams Fund.)

[HB 1629](#) By Briggs. Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in minors, providing for the offense of access to firearms by minors; and imposing penalties.

Upcoming Legislative Committee Events:

Tuesday – 9/26/23

House Game and Fisheries (New)

9:00 a.m., Room 523, Irvis Office Building
Informational meeting on the problems relating to the PA Game Commission's launch of license sales both online, as well as physical retail locations for the 2023-24 season.

Federal Issues:

-- [Biden Administration Stabs Gun Control Partners in the Back with Treacherous Overreach](#)

-- [Congress Needs to fix Biden's Hunter Education, Youth Program](#)

Sportsmen across the U.S. were stunned to read reports in the media that the Biden Administration was interpreting language in a newly passed gun-control law to ban federal education funding for hunter safety/education classes held at schools along with funding for the popular National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). According to reports, this decision will pull funding for such programs that are enjoyed by millions of students nationwide at thousands of schools. Not to be confused with hunter education programs provided by state fish and wildlife agencies through the Pittman-Robertson excise tax program, the funds the Biden Administration are now canceling are provided directly through the U.S. Department of Education for physical education and other extracurricular activities. [READ MORE](#)

-- [CSC, CSF Leaders Urge Department of Education to Revisit Hunter Education Interpretation](#)

-- [SCI and SAF File Intent to Sue Education Department Over Archery & Hunter Education Policies](#)

Take Action

New Federal Legislation:

[H.R. 5110: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify that the prohibition on the use of Federal education funds for certain weapons does not apply to the use of such weapons for training in archery, hunting, or other shooting](#)

Sponsor: [Rep. Mark E. Green \[R-TN7\]](#)

[H.R. 5217: To amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to prohibit the possession or use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for other purposes.](#)

Sponsor: [Rep. Jerrold Nadler \[D-NY12\]](#)

[H.R. 5281: To require the Secretary of the Interior to prohibit the use of lead ammunition on United States Fish and Wildlife Service lands, and for other purposes.](#)

Sponsor: [Rep. Ted Lieu \[D-CA36\]](#)

[H.R. 5286: To prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system.](#)

Sponsor: [Rep. Chip Roy \[R-TX21\]](#)

News Clips

Featured News:

-- **Wildlife Conservation Applications**

The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary **Cindy Adams Dunn** announced the opening of Pennsylvania's Wildlife Conservation applications. These programs, designed to provide grants to protect our state's native biodiversity, will be distributed to parks departments across the Commonwealth. Since 1982, this initiative has been effective at protecting our wildlife and benefiting Pennsylvanians' non-game animals, native plants, and their habitats.

-- [First Quarter Excise Tax Obligations for 2023 Down 23.9 Percent Over Last Year](#)

-- [Wildlife Leadership Academy, PA Fly Fishing Assn. Announce New Youth Fly Fishing Education 'Stepping Stones' Program For 2024](#)

Firearms:

-- With back-to-school season in full swing, Democratic U.S. Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon met with gun control and public school advocates in Philadelphia to [call for a federal assault weapons ban.](#)

-- Researchers, activists and law enforcement officials say allowing people over 21 who pass a state background check to purchase as many handguns at a time as they want to creates the opportunity for straw purchasing – a term that refers to people buying weapons and selling them to others who aren't allowed to have them, [WHYY reports.](#)

-- [The Pennsylvania Legislature needs to pass sensible gun laws, instead of pandering to pro-gun interests](#)

-- [Gun Ownership Twice as High as Previously Thought?](#)

Results from a Rutgers University New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center study, released in late June, indicate the number of Americans who own guns could be twice that of the widely accepted figure of roughly 30 percent. Applying a probability model based on a statistical analysis of 3,500 respondents, the researchers determined reluctance to provide personal details to a stranger...

[Read More](#)

-- [The Slanted Findings of a Gun-Control "Study"](#)

Everytown for Gun Safety is a Michael Bloomberg-funded gun-ban group that has never heard of an anti-gun proposal that it hasn't supported. So, when Everytown recently joined with The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and the Polarization & Extremism Research & Innovation Lab to study "youth" and guns, it should come as no surprise that they "found" exactly what they were looking for.

[Read More](#)

-- [Once again: No, children are not more likely to die by guns than motor vehicles](#)

In further evidence of Americans' waning attention spans, the once annual ritual of gun control activists and their media lackeys manipulating CDC fatal injury data to push a misleading factoid about children and firearms has become semiannual.

Hunting/Trapping:

-- [City Of Pittsburgh Weighs Bowhunting Program To Cull Deer Population](#)

Misc:

-- [PA Launches Office Of Outdoor Recreation](#)

State officials yesterday launched the new Office of Outdoor Recreation, which will coordinate work across state agencies that seeks to grow and expand the state's outdoor sector.

-- [Tracking America's Outdoor Pursuits](#)

No great dichotomy exists between humans and nature. Interacting with nature makes us human, and those relations come in many ways.

PGC Press Releases:

[GAME COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW BUREAU DIRECTOR](#)

08/23/2023

[ELK CAM BACK FOR ANOTHER SEASON](#)

08/22/2023

[DMAP PERMITS AVAILABLE ON STATE GAME LANDS THIS YEAR](#)

08/07/2023

PFBC Press Releases:

[HALLSTEAD ACCESS IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY TO BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY FOR IMPROVEMENTS](#)

08/25/2023

[PFBC NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE CLEAN VESSEL ACT GRANT PROGRAM](#)

08/18/2023

[PARKING AREAS AROUND FISHERMAN'S PARADISE IN CENTRE COUNTY TO BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY FOR MAINTENANCE](#)

08/14/2023

[PFBC BOATING ADVISORY BOARD TO MEET VIRTUALLY ON AUGUST 14](#)

08/09/2023

[PFBC DOCUMENTS INVASIVE SNAKEHEAD FISH REPRODUCTION IN LOWER SUSQUEHANNA RIVER, ADVISES ANGLERS TO REPORT AND DISPOSE OF ANY FISH CAUGHT](#)

08/02/2023