

The hunters' license system was created by Chapter 468, Acts of 1918, and requires those who enjoy the great outdoors to contribute to a fund for the support of the Department. Until this law was enacted the Department was one in name only due to lack of finances.

Through the hunters' license system, the Department has a salaried staff of law enforcement officers numbering 31 and through the cooperation of an interested public has about 500 non-salaried Deputy Game Wardens.

The anglers' license was created by Chapter 471, Acts of 1929 and through this system the Fresh Water Fisheries Division has been greatly benefited.

The Department has in operation two State-owned game farms; namely, the Gwynnbrook State Game Farm in Baltimore County, and the Wicomico State Game Farm in Wicomico County. At these plants large numbers of bob-white, pheasants, chukor partridges, wild ducks, wild geese and Virginia white tail deer are raised in captivity and liberated annually in the covers of the State.

The Department also operates a propagation plant at the Montgomery County Game Refuge where bob-white and pheasants are raised, and at the Washington County Game Refuge where wild turkeys are raised.

The Department owns 6,546 acres of land with necessary buildings thereon purchased from hunters' license receipts and said areas are used as State Game Refuge and propagation plants; and in addition the Department has under lease 31,357 acres of land which are used as inviolate game sanctuaries.

During the fiscal year of 1940 the Department (acting through the Pittman-Robertson Act, which is a Federal Law, providing that the tax on firearms of 10% shall be set aside in the Federal Treasury in a dedicated fund for the purpose of cooperating with the States in acquiring lands on which to establish wildlife demonstration areas to conserve soil, water, forests and when preventives have been used for preserving these natural resources the effects are beneficial to wildlife. The Federal Government furnished 75%, the State 25% in the purchase of these projects), purchased the Indian Spring Wildlife Demonstration Area located near Indian Spring, Washington County, Maryland, comprising 1265 acres and in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service are establishing on said area a wildlife demonstration project. Two large signs have been erected on Route 40 calling the public's attention to this area and extending to them a welcome to investigate same.

The Commission in January 1940 appointed an advisory Council in each county of this State. These councils are composed of twelve members not less than five of whom must be landowners, or tenants on farms, five from outdoor groups such as Farm Bureau, Farm Grange, etc, and two at large. A bulletin was prepared on the Conservation of soil, forests and wildlife in the Farm Program and each member of each council provided with same, giving information as to how a program could be carried out with very little expense to the landowners or tenants on farms in conserving the soil thereby prohibiting erosion and also reforesting areas of submarginal land which were unprofitable for cultivation and restore wildlife to said properties.