

**Game and Fish Department
Budget 720
House Bill No. 1017**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2013-15 legislative appropriation	158.00	\$0	\$67,596,101	\$67,596,101
2011-13 legislative appropriation	<u>157.00</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>65,687,742</u>	<u>65,987,742</u>
2013-15 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2011-13 appropriation	1.00	(\$300,000)	\$1,908,359	\$1,608,359

NOTE: The 2013-15 legislative appropriations amounts include \$42,462 from other funds for the agency's share of the \$8.5 million funding pool appropriated to the Office of Management and Budget for state agency needs resulting from energy development.

Item Description

Accrued leave payments - In Section 1 of House Bill No. 1017, the Legislative Assembly identified \$816,366 from other funds for accrued leave payments.

North Dakota outdoor heritage fund awards - The North Dakota outdoor heritage fund was established in 2013 House Bill No. 1278 to provide grants to state agencies, tribal governments, political subdivisions, and nonprofit organizations to:

- Provide access to private and public lands for sportsmen, including projects that create fish and wildlife habitat and access for sportsmen;
- Improve, maintain, and restore water quality, soil conditions, plant diversity, animal systems, and to support other practices of stewardship to enhance farming and ranching;
- Develop, enhance, conserve, and restore wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands; and
- Conserve natural areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Funding for Wildlife Services - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$384,400 from the game and fish fund to be transferred to the Agriculture Commissioner for the Wildlife Services program.

Funding for the State Board of Animal Health - The 2013-15 biennium appropriation includes \$100,000 from the game and fish fund for a grant to the Department of Agriculture for the State Board of Animal Health.

Funding for Parks and Recreation Department - The 2013-15 biennium appropriation includes \$122,000 from the game and fish fund for a grant to the Parks and Recreation Department for state park boat ramp maintenance and improvements.

Status/Result

The Game and Fish Department has spent \$10,433 for payment of accrued leave. The department anticipates using funds in the accrued leave payments line item for salaries and wages.

In January 2014 the Industrial Commission approved a grant of \$1.9 million from the North Dakota outdoor heritage fund to the Game and Fish Department. The grant will assist the Game and Fish Department in fulfilling its mission by protecting, conserving, and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat on private land through the private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) and Save Our Lakes programs. The Game and Fish Department received Emergency Commission and Budget Section approval in March 2014 to increase special funds spending authority in the 2013-15 biennium by \$500,000 in the land habitat and deer depredation line item to accommodate spending a portion of the grant funds. The Game and Fish Department has not spent any of the grant moneys as of April 2014, as it has not yet received the funds.

The Game and Fish Department anticipates it will apply for additional North Dakota outdoor heritage fund grants this biennium.

The Game and Fish Department has transferred \$98,040 to the Agriculture Commissioner for Wildlife Services. The Game and Fish Department anticipates transferring the remaining funds by the end of the 2013-15 biennium.

The Game and Fish Department anticipates providing the grant funding to the Agriculture Commissioner for the State Board of Animal Health by the end of the 2013-15 biennium.

The Parks and Recreation Department has not requested any of the funding as of April 2014. The Game and Fish Department anticipates providing the grant funding by the end of the 2013-15 biennium.

Hunting and fishing license fees - In Section 1 of Senate Bill No. 2231, the Legislative Assembly increased fees for game and fish licenses and permits.

Capital assets, payments, and projects - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$4,237,261 from other funds for the following capital assets, payments, and projects for the 2013-15 biennium:

Project	Other Funds
Extraordinary repairs	\$485,891
Wildlife management area (WMA) improvements	148,170
Fishing area projects	467,980
Shooting range improvements	425,000
Lonetree WMA heated storage building expansion	150,000
Land acquisition	800,000
Payment in lieu of taxes	1,000,000
Enforcement division equipment	210,000
Fisheries equipment	142,020
Lonetree WMA equipment	67,200
Wildlife Division equipment	206,000
Other capital payments	135,000
Total	\$4,237,261

PLOTS program - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$12,707,403 from the game and fish fund for land habitat and deer depredation funding for the 2013-15 biennium. In addition, the Game and Fish Department received \$1.9 million grant from the North Dakota outdoor heritage fund for the PLOTS and Save Our Lakes programs. The Game and Fish Department received Budget Section approval in March 2014 to increase special funds spending authority in the 2013-15 biennium by \$500,000 in the land habitat and deer depredation line item to accommodate spending of the grant funds. Considering this additional funding, the PLOTS program budget is approximately \$11.5 million for the 2013-15 biennium.

The Game and Fish Department has increased all license fees as provided in the bill.

The Game and Fish Department anticipates spending the capital assets, payments, and projects funding by the end of the 2013-15 biennium. The department received Budget Section approval in March 2014 to spend an additional \$368,250 of federal funds and \$122,750 from the game and fish fund for projects at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery.

The following table summarizes the total annual PLOTS acreage available for public access:

Year	Acres
2003	374,245
2004	745,979
2005	853,954
2006	978,735
2007	1,027,088
2008	1,041,611
2009	1,010,384
2010	1,007,999
2011	969,834
2012	838,548
2013	759,383