

**Game and Fish Department
Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2015-17 legislative appropriations	163.00	\$0	\$77,231,739	\$77,231,739
2015-17 base budget	158.00	0	67,553,639	67,553,639
Legislative increase (decrease) to base budget	5.00	\$0	\$9,678,100	\$9,678,100

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE BASE BUDGET AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS

Salaries and Wages

The legislative action affecting the recommended appropriation for the Game and Fish Department is in accordance with legislative salary and fringe benefits guidelines as contained in Senate Bill No. 2015.

	Changes to Base Budget			Total
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	
The legislative action:				
Added funding for base payroll changes for cost-to-continue 2013-15 biennium salaries and benefit increases and for other base payroll changes.			\$336,636	\$336,636
Added funding for 2015-17 biennium performance salary adjustments of 2 to 4 percent per year.			1,086,912	1,086,912
Added funding for employee health insurance premiums to reflect a premium estimate of \$1,130.22 per month.			566,829	566,829
Added funding to change 3 part-time employees to FTE positions:				
1 administrative assistant I FTE position - Williston	1.00		\$92,966	\$92,966
1 administrative assistant I FTE position - Bismarck	1.00		92,966	92,966
1 biologist I FTE position	1.00		136,683	136,683
Total part-time to FTE positions.	3.00		\$322,615	\$322,615
Added funding for 1 administrative officer II FTE position.	1.00		139,475	139,475
Added funding for 1 licensing specialist II FTE position.	1.00		117,973	117,973
Increased funding for capital assets.			847,935	847,935
Increased funding for grants.			211,912	211,912
Increased funding for operating expenses.			634,114	634,114

Increased funding for land habitat and deer depredation.			2,758,157	2,758,157
Adjusted funding for the Wildlife Division.			200,161	200,161
Added funding for Devils Lake storage building (\$200,000) and State Fair shooting skills building (\$200,000).			400,000	400,000
Increased funding for the wildlife private land initiative.			2,000,000	2,000,000
Added funding for licensing system programming costs.			55,381	55,381
Total	<u>5.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$9,678,100</u>	<u>\$9,678,100</u>

FTE Changes

The 2015-17 biennium appropriation includes funding for 163 FTE positions, an increase of 5 FTE positions from the 2013-15 biennium authorized level of 158 FTE positions. The Legislative Assembly:

- Converted 2 part-time employees to 2 administrative assistant I FTE positions;
- Converted 1 part-time employee to 1 biologist I FTE position;
- Added 1 administrative officer II FTE position; and
- Added 1 licensing specialist II FTE position due to the effect of House Bill No. 1158, see **Related Legislation** section below.

Capital Assets, Payments, and Projects

The Legislative Assembly provided \$5,712,996 from other funds for capital assets, payments, and projects during the 2015-17 biennium. The schedule below details funding provided in the 2013-15 and 2015-17 bienniums for capital assets, payments, and projects:

Projects	2013-15 Biennium	2015-17 Biennium
Extraordinary repairs	\$485,891	\$1,125,000
Wildlife management area (WMA) improvements	148,170	100,000
Fishing area projects	467,980	985,000
Shooting range improvements	425,000	400,000
Lonetree WMA heated storage building expansion	150,000	
Lonetree WMA improvements		50,000
Land acquisition	800,000	800,000
Payment in lieu of taxes	1,000,000	1,000,000
Enforcement division equipment	210,000	209,997
Fisheries equipment	142,020	277,002
Lonetree WMA equipment	67,200	65,000
Wildlife Division equipment	206,000	300,997
Devils Lake storage building		200,000
State Fair shooting skills building		200,000
Other capital payments	135,000	
Total	\$4,237,261	\$5,712,996

Other Sections in Bill

Grants, gifts, and donations line - Section 2 identifies \$400,000 received by the Game and Fish Department in the grants, gifts, and donations line item for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.

Governor's proclamation - Section 3 authorizes the Governor to make available a license to hunt elk for Annie's House at Bottineau Winter Park to use in a raffle, and Section 5 provides an expiration date of June 30, 2017, for Section 3.

Legislative Management study - Section 4 provides for a study of the use of hunting licenses for fundraising.

Related Legislation

Senate Bill No. 2077 - Provides for the Game and Fish Department to request criminal history record checks on volunteers and final applicants for employment at the discretion of the Director.

House Bill No. 1081 - Amends North Dakota Century Code Section 20.1-04-07 regarding the Governor's proclamation concerning the taking of wild turkeys and provides up to two licenses to hunt a turkey in the spring to the Outdoor Adventure Foundation for raffle.

House Bill No. 1156 - Creates a new section to Chapter 20.1-03 to require the Game and Fish Department to provide an option for unsuccessful deer lottery applicants to donate their refund to the private land open to sportsmen program.

House Bill No. 1158 - Amends Section 20.1-03-17 to remove the requirement for county auditors to issue game and fish licenses.

House Bill No. 1197 - Prohibits the purchase of certain real property and easements by nongovernmental nonprofit organizations with public funds. This does not apply to a state governmental entity in a partnership with a nongovernmental entity.