

2023 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2017

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department
Senate Bill No. 2017

Executive Budget Comparison to Base Level

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Executive Budget	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601
2023-25 Base Level	0	89,581,634	89,581,634
Increase (Decrease)	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967

Selected Budget Changes Recommended in the Executive Budget

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Adds funding for state employee salary and benefit increases, of which \$2,588,174 is for salary increases and \$888,946 is for health insurance increases	\$0	\$3,477,120	\$3,477,120
2. Adds 3 FTE positions and operating costs for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access, of which \$622,604 is for salaries and wages, \$4,035,370 is for ongoing operating expenses, and \$35,600 is for one-time operating expenses	\$0	\$4,693,574	\$4,693,574
3. Adds 1 FTE position and operating costs for the aquatic nuisance initiative, of which \$442,648 is for salaries and wages, \$755,941 is for ongoing operating expenses, and \$208,250 is for one-time operating expenses	\$0	\$1,406,839	\$1,406,839
4. Adds 4 FTE positions, including 2 enforcement warden investigator positions, 1 fisheries biologist II position, and 1 account budget specialist III position, of which \$913,534 is for salaries and wages, \$169,708 is for ongoing operating expenses, \$68,805 is for one-time operating expenses, and \$36,000 is for one-time capital assets	\$0	\$1,188,047	\$1,188,047
5. Adds funding from federal funds in various line items, of which \$1,383,088 is for salaries and wages, \$185,442 is for operating expenses, (\$1,374,109) is for capital assets, \$1,166,633 is for game and fish grants, \$1,285,000 is for land habitat and deer depredation, \$13,754 is for Missouri River enforcement, and \$306,585 is for Lonetree Reservoir	\$0	\$2,966,393	\$2,966,393
6. Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements	\$0	\$2,777,778	\$2,777,778
7. Adds funding for motor pool cost increase	\$0	\$1,157,192	\$1,157,192
8. Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

A summary of the executive budget changes to the agency's base level appropriations is attached as an appendix.

A copy of the draft appropriations bill containing the executive budget recommendations is attached as an appendix.

Selected Bill Sections Recommended in the Executive Budget

Grants, gifts, and donations - Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Line item transfer authority - Section 4 would authorize the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Contingent appropriation and FTE positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act - Section 5 would appropriate \$27,150,000 and would authorize 7 FTE positions to the Game and Fish Department to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Continuing Appropriations

There are no continuing appropriations for this agency.

Deficiency Appropriations

There are no deficiency appropriations for this agency.

Significant Audit Findings

There are no significant audit findings for this agency.

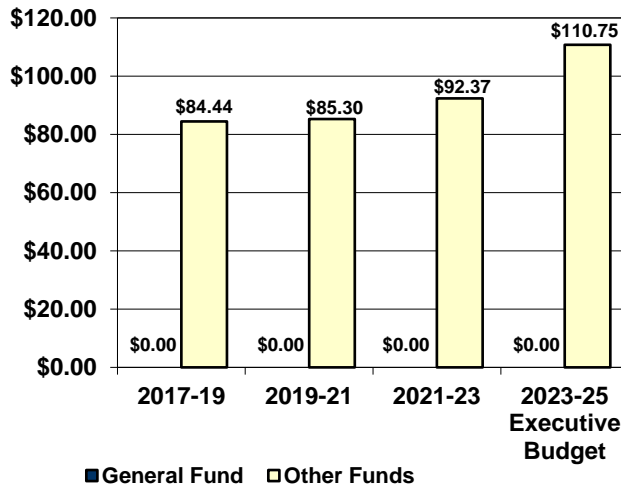
Major Related Legislation

At this time, no major legislation has been introduced affecting this agency.

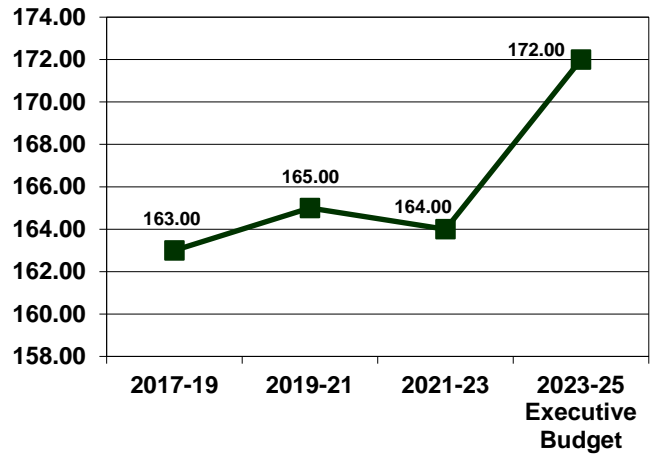
Historical Appropriations Information

Agency Appropriations and FTE Positions

Agency Funding (Millions)



FTE Positions



Ongoing Other Funds Appropriations

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Executive Budget
Ongoing other funds appropriations	\$77,231,739	\$83,227,498	\$85,303,632	\$89,581,634	\$107,275,946
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	\$5,995,759	\$2,076,134	\$4,278,002	\$17,694,312
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	7.8%	2.5%	5.0%	19.8%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2015-17 biennium	N/A	7.8%	10.5%	16.0%	38.9%

Major Increases (Decreases) in Ongoing Other Funds Appropriations

2017-19 Biennium

1. Increased funding for credit card fee charges on the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses	\$180,000
2. Reduced funding for rent allowance for oil-impacted areas	(\$100,000)
3. Added funding for replacement of pond liners	\$572,000
4. Added funding for replacement of lighting in the salmon building	\$130,000
5. Increased funding for capital assets	\$200,000
6. Added funding for equipment replacement	\$747,000
7. Increased funding for grants from Pittman-Robertson federal funds	\$1,590,000
8. Increased funding for operating expenses	\$839,186
9. Reduced funding for capital assets	(\$1,063,040)
10. Provided funding for the Parks and Recreation Department for operation of boating access at state parks	\$122,000
11. Increased funding for grants	\$1,353,772
12. Increased funding for land and deer depredation	\$1,153,880
13. Increased funding for noxious weed control operating expenses	\$120,135
14. Added increased funding for a grant to the Agriculture Commissioner for wildlife services	\$115,600

2019-21 Biennium

1. Underfunded salaries and wages and reduced funding for temporary employees	(\$385,721)
2. Reduced grant funding	(\$1,703,549)

- 3. Increased funding for operating expenses, primary for fees and services and reclassified funding from grants for boat access and development, Save Our Lakes program, and aquatic nuisance species (\$400,000) and for state wildlife grant projects (\$200,000) \$1,074,294
- 4. Increased federal funds for shooting range grants to provide a total of \$1,762,500 \$500,000
- 5. Reduced funding for motor vehicles (\$179,859)
- 6. Reduced funding for capital assets (\$213,930)
- 7. Reduced other IT funding (\$207,000)
- 8. Added funding for Microsoft 365 licensing expenses \$122,634
- 9. Increased funding for equipment over \$5,000 \$108,344
- 10. Added funding from the aquatic nuisance species program fund for use in aquatic nuisance species education, inspection, and monitoring programs under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 20.1-17 and authorized 2 FTE positions for the program (Senate Bill No. 2293) \$1,500,000

2021-23 Biennium

- 1. Added funding for capital assets by increasing extraordinary repairs (\$527,679), motor vehicles (\$568,180), and other capital payments (\$111,292), and reducing land, building and maintenance (\$50,000), and equipment over \$5,000 (\$243,505) \$913,646
- 2. Increased funding for operating expenses by increasing land, buildings, and maintenance (\$172,440), IT (\$233,000), Microsoft Office 365 licenses (\$18,507), and other operating expenses (\$843,653) \$1,267,600

2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)

- 1. Adds 8 FTE positions and ongoing operating expenses for 1 fisheries biologist position, 1 account budget specialist III position, 2 enforcement warden investigator positions, 1 aquatic nuisance species program position, and 3 wildlife habitat and access initiative positions \$6,939,805
- 2. Adds funding for salaries and wages to provide a base budget total of \$16,543,132 \$1,383,088
- 3. Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements \$2,777,778
- 4. Removes funding for capital assets to provide a total of \$5,400,661 (\$1,374,109)
- 5. Adds funding for game and fish grants to provide a total of \$10,089,976 \$1,166,633
- 6. Adds funding for land habitat and deer depredation to provide a total of \$19,280,597 \$1,285,000

One-Time Other Funds Appropriations

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Executive Budget
One-time other funds appropriations	\$0	\$748,724	\$0	\$2,786,500	\$3,478,655

Major One-Time Other Funds Appropriations

2017-19 Biennium

- 1. Airplane replacement \$250,000
- 2. Dakota Access Pipeline protest \$423,724
- 3. Electronic payment processing system \$75,000

2019-21 Biennium

None \$0

2021-23 Biennium

- 1. Private land open to sportsmen payments \$1,485,090
- 2. Red River basin wildlife and water quality enhancement program \$500,000
- 3. Radio equipment replacement \$801,500

2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)

- 1. Fisheries pond liners \$1,000,000
- 2. Car video system and body cameras \$550,000
- 3. Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility \$850,000
- 4. Fisheries dam repairs \$380,000
- 5. Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements \$350,000

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Executive Budget Recommendation			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes				
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116
Salary increase			2,588,174	2,588,174
Health insurance increase			888,946	888,946
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position	1.00		230,938	230,938
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	2.00		613,556	613,556
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393
ITD shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778
Total ongoing funding changes	8.00	\$0	\$17,694,312	\$17,694,312
One-time funding items				
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position			7,575	7,575
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			93,980	93,980
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,478,655	\$3,478,655
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	8.00	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967
2023-25 Total Funding	172.00	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			\$52,386,176	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%		19.8%	19.8%
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%		23.6%	23.6%

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

Executive Budget Recommendation

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

Executive Budget Recommendation

Grants, gifts, and donations

Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Line item transfer authority

Section 4 would authorize the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Contingent authority and full-time equivalent positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Section 5 would appropriate \$27,150,000 and would authorize 7 FTE to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

**SENATE BILL NO. 2017
(Governor's Recommendation)**

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

(At the request of the Governor)

A bill for an act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department and to provide a contingent appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the game and fish fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and Wages	\$33,741,592	\$5,710,239	\$39,451,831
Operating Expenses	16,276,782	1,662,055	17,938,837
Capital Assets	6,774,770	1,791,891	8,566,661
Grants – Game and Fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Shooting Sports Grant Program	250,000	0	250,000
Land Habitat and Deer Depredation	17,995,597	8,962,358	26,957,955
Noxious Weed Control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River Enforcement	296,999	22,270	319,269
Grants-Gift-Donation	670,133	17,912	688,045
Nongame Wildlife Conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Aquatic Nuisance Species	1,509,009	1,459,604	2,968,613
Lonetree Reservoir	1,818,409	380,005	2,198,414
Wildlife Services	<u>500,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>500,000</u>
Total Special Funds	\$89,581,634	\$21,172,967	\$110,754,601
Full-time Equivalent Positions	164.00	8.00	172.00

SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the 2023-25 biennium one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of the Act:

<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
Red River basin wildlife and water quality program	\$ 500,000	\$0
Additional PLOTS payments	1,485,000	0
State radio equipment	801,500	0
Operating expenses	0	81,655
Equipment over \$5,000	0	267,000
Aquatic Nuisance lab and storage facility	0	850,000
Bunkhouse Improvements	0	350,000
Car video system and body cameras	0	550,000
Dam repairs	0	380,000
Pond liners	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total special funds	\$2,786,500	\$3,478,655

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The game and fish department shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 3. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS LINE. The grants, gifts, and donations line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$100,000 received by the game and fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department owned or managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.

SECTION 4. LINE ITEM TRANSFER AUTHORITY. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants -game and fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025. The game and fish department shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.

SECTION 5. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS-RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT. Subject to the provisions of this section, there is appropriated out of other funds in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$27,150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, and seven full-time equivalent positions to the Game and Fish Department for Recovering America's Wildlife Act for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025. The funding and positions authorized in this section are available only upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
1/11/2023

A bill for an act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the Game and Fish Department.

9:32 AM Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing on SB 2017.

Members present: Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, and Mathern.

Discussion Topics:

- Customer expectations
- Wildlife values
- Economic value
- Fisheries/water bodies
- Aquatic nuisance species
- Chronic wasting disease
- Conservation P.L.O.T.S.
- Conservation and communications
- Mobile ap
- Enforcement; game wardens' challenges
- Partnerships
- Wildlife crossings
- Tribal engagement
- Shooting range opportunities
- Electronic posting

9:37 AM Executive Director Jeb Williams presented SB 2017 and testified affirmatively. #12798, #12812

10:16 AM Division Chief of Administrative Services Kim Kary presented revenue and funding projections. #12798, #12813

Additional Testimony: #21206

Chairman Bekkedahl assigned this bill to the Education and Environment

Division. 10:36 AM Vice Chairman Wanzek closed the hearing.

Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
1/25/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

2:02 PM Chairman Sorvaag opened the hearing on SB 2017.

Members present : Senators Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Rust, Schaible, and Meyer

Discussion Topics:

- North Dakota Game and Fish Department
- Revenue sources
- Fund balances
- Organizational chart & divisions
- Budget change requests
- Divisional budgets
- Funded programs

2:02 PM Kim Kary, Administrative Services Division Chief of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, presented overview of the budget. Testimony #16761, #16829 and #16885

3:18 PM Dani Quissell, Executive Vice President North Dakota Water Users Association, testified in favor, she had no written testimony, however she handed out testimony for Dave Lang who was not present.

Additional written testimony:

- Dave Lang, North Dakota Water Users Association, testimony in favor # 16299
- Rick Mohan, President North Dakota Sport Fishing Congress, testimony in favor #16414
- John Bradley, Executive Director North Dakota Wildlife Federation, testimony in favor # 16637
- Toby Mertz, Legislative Council, #23886

3:19 PM Chairman Sorvaag closed the hearing.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
2/1/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

3:15 PM Chairman Sorvaag opened the hearing on SB 2017.

Members present: Senators Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Rust, and Meyer
Members absent: Senator Schaible

Discussion Topics:

- Game and Fish appropriations
- Budget history
- Salaries
- Personnel
- Programs
- Other line items

3:15 PM Toby Mertz, Legislative Council, explained the “green sheets” and the “long sheets”, testimony Green Sheet #21206 and Long Sheets #21254.

3:28 PM Kim Kary, Division Chief of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, answered questions from the committee, no new written testimony.

3:37 PM Jeb Williams, Director North Dakota Game and Fish Department, answered questions from the committee, no written testimony.

3:44 PM Chairman Sorvaag closed the hearing.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
2/8/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

2:39 PM Chairman Sorvaag opened the hearing on SB 2017.

Members present: Senators Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Rust, Schaible, and Meyer

Discussion Topics:

- Game and Fish
- Additional requests
- Workforce additions

2:39 PM Committee discussion regarding “long sheets”, testimony # 21255

2:39 PM Kim Kary, Administrative Services Division Chief of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, answered questions from the committee, no written testimony

2:40 PM Brian Hosick, Business Operations Manager North Dakota Game and Fish Department, no written testimony

2:43 PM Jeb Williams, Director North Dakota Game and Fish Department, answered questions from the committee, no written testimony

3:14 PM Chairman Sorvaag closed the hearing.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
2/14/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

8:05 AM Chairman Sorvaag opened the meeting on SB 2017.

Members present: Senators Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Rust, Schaible, and Meyer

Discussion Topics:

- Game and Fish
- Budget request priorities
- Committee work

8:05 AM Committee discussion regarding long sheet # 21256

8:09 AM Kim Kary, Division chief North Dakota Game and Fish, answered questions from the committee, testimony # 25884.

8:39 Jeb Williams, Director North Dakota Game and Fish, answered questions from the committee, no written testimony

8:49 AM Chairman Sorvaag closed the meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
2/16/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

11:09 AM Chairman Sorvaag opened the meeting on SB 2017.

Members present: Senators Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Rust, Schaible, and Meyer

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

11:09 AM Toby Mertz, LC Fiscal Analyst testified. #23887

11:11 AM Senator Meyer moved to adopt amendment LC 23.0270.01002 (#21045).
Senator Schaible seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

11:12 AM Senator Meyer moved DO PASS AS AMENDED.
Senator Rust seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Senator Meyer will carry the bill to the full committee.

11:12 AM Chairman Sorvaag closed the meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division Red River Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
2/16/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; to provide a contingent appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an exemption.

6:48 pm **Chairman Bekkedahl** opened the meeting. **Senators** Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, Mathern are present.

Discussion Topics:

- Budget components
- Amendment footnotes
- Reserve fund balance
- Loss of CRP
- Monarch butterfly program
- Federal Recovery of Wildlife Act

6:48 **Senator Meyer** introduced SB 2017 in favor

Senator Meyer moves to adopt amendment #23.0271.01002.

Senator Sorvaag seconded.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion passed 16-0-0.

Senator Meyer moves **DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

Senator Mathern seconded.

Roll call vote.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion passed 16-0-0.

Senator Meyer will carry SB 2017.

7:12 **Chairman Bekkedahl** closed the meeting.

Patricia Lahr on behalf of Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk

*AKS
2-16-23*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2017

Page 1, line 2, after "department" insert "; to provide a contingent appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an exemption"

Page 1, remove lines 10 through 24

Page 2, replace lines 1 and 2 with:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$4,686,592	\$38,428,184
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	8,926,706	26,922,303
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	20,588	317,587
Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	14,824	684,957
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	367,205	2,185,614
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,450,655</u>	<u>2,959,664</u>
Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$19,950,810	\$109,532,444
Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	6.00	170.00"

Page 2, line 3, after "FUNDING" insert "- EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO THE SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY"

Page 2, line 4, after "biennium" insert "and the 2023-25 biennium one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act"

Page 2, replace lines 8 and 9 with:

"State radio equipment	801,500	0
Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility	0	850,000
In-car video system and body cameras	0	550,000
Fisheries pond liners	0	1,000,000
Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements	0	350,000
Fisheries dam repairs	0	380,000
Wash stations and other equipment	0	205,000
Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions	<u>0</u>	<u>89,090</u>
Total special funds	\$2,786,500	\$3,424,090

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The game and fish department shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025."

Page 2, after line 13, insert:

"SECTION 4. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS - RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT. Subject to the provisions of this section, there is appropriated from federal funds, the sum of \$27,150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the game and fish department for the purpose of administering programs approved under the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The department is authorized seven full-time equivalent positions for this purpose. The funding and positions authorized in this section are available only upon passage of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

*AGC
2-16-23*

SECTION 5. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The game and fish department shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section."

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - Senate Action

	Base Budget	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$4,686,592	\$38,428,184
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
Grants - Game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	8,926,706	26,922,303
Noxious weed control	725,000		725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	20,588	317,587
Grants - Gifts - Donations	670,133	14,824	684,957
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000		100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	367,205	2,185,614
Wildlife services	500,000		500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,509,009	1,450,655	2,959,664
Contingent Funding		27,150,000	27,150,000
Total all funds	\$89,581,634	\$47,100,810	\$136,682,444
Less estimated income	89,581,634	47,100,810	136,682,444
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	164.00	13.00	177.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Senate Changes

AGS
2-16-83

	Adds Funding for the Cost to Continue Salaries ¹	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ²	Adds FTE Positions ³	Adds Funding for Additional Emphasis on Wildlife Habitat ⁴	Adds Funding for Aquatic Nuisance Species Program ⁵	Adjusts Funding in Line Items ⁶
Salaries and wages	\$295,116	\$2,550,796	\$457,592			\$1,383,088
Operating expenses			87,934			185,442
Capital assets						(1,374,109)
Grants - Game and fish						1,166,633
Land habitat and deer depredation		170,354		\$4,657,974		1,285,000
Noxious weed control						
Missouri River enforcement		6,834				13,754
Grants - Gifts - Donations		14,824				
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lonetree reservoir		60,620				306,585
Wildlife services						
Shooting sports grant program						
Aquatic nuisance species program		43,816			\$1,198,589	
Contingent Funding						
Total all funds	\$295,116	\$2,847,244	\$545,526	\$4,657,974	\$1,198,589	\$2,966,393
Less estimated income	295,116	2,847,244	545,526	4,657,974	1,198,589	2,966,393
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	0.00

	Adds Funding for ITD Increases ⁷	Adds Funding for Motor Pool Increases ⁸	Adds Funding for Midterm Conservation Agreements ⁹	Adds One-Time Funding for Supplies for New FTE Positions ¹⁰	Adds One-Time Funding for Capital Assets ¹¹	Adds Contingent Funding for Recovering America's Wildlife Act ¹²
Salaries and wages						
Operating expenses	\$80,908	\$1,157,192		\$32,240		
Capital assets				18,000	\$3,130,000	
Grants - Game and fish						
Land habitat and deer depredation			\$2,777,778	35,600		
Noxious weed control						
Missouri River enforcement						
Grants - Gifts - Donations						
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lonetree reservoir						
Wildlife services						
Shooting sports grant program						
Aquatic nuisance species program				208,250		
Contingent Funding						\$27,150,000
Total all funds	\$80,908	\$1,157,192	\$2,777,778	\$294,090	\$3,130,000	\$27,150,000
Less estimated income	80,908	1,157,192	2,777,778	294,090	3,130,000	27,150,000
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00

AG
2-16-23

	Total Senate Changes
Salaries and wages	\$4,686,592
Operating expenses	1,543,716
Capital assets	1,773,891
Grants - Game and fish	1,166,633
Land habitat and deer depredation	8,926,706
Noxious weed control	
Missouri River enforcement	20,588
Grants - Gifts - Donations	14,824
Nongame wildlife conservation	
Lonetree reservoir	367,205
Wildlife services	
Shooting sports grant program	
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,450,655
Contingent Funding	27,150,000
Total all funds	\$47,100,810
Less estimated income	47,100,810
General fund	\$0
FTE	13.00

¹ Funding is added for the cost to continue salary increases.

² The following funding is added for 2023-25 biennium salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,429 to \$1,648 per month:

<u>Other Funds</u>	
Salary increase	\$1,937,848
Health insurance increase	<u>909,396</u>
Total	\$2,847,244

³ The following FTE positions and related funding are added:

<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Salaries and Wages</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fisheries biologist II	1.00	\$228,958	\$9,790	\$238,748
Warden investigator	1.00	228,634	<u>78,144</u>	306,778
Total	2.00	\$457,592	\$87,934	\$545,526

⁴ Funding is added for the additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands including 3 FTE positions and the following:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
Salaries and wages	\$622,604
Operating expenses	35,370
Habitat / non-access payments	1,000,000
PLOTS payments	<u>3,000,000</u>
Total	\$4,657,974

⁵ Funding is added for the aquatic nuisance species program, including 1 FTE biologist I position and the following:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
Salaries and wages	\$197,648
Temporary salaries	245,000
Operating expenses	687,941
Grants	<u>68,000</u>
Total	\$1,198,589

⁶ Funding is added from federal funds from various line items to adjust the base budget.

⁷ Funding is added for Information Technology Department shared software and rate increases.

⁸ Funding is added from other funds for motor pool cost increases.

⁹ Funding is added from federal and special funds for midterm conservation agreements.

¹⁰ One-time funding is added from federal and special funds for the following supplies and equipment related to new FTE positions:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
Uniforms, laptop, and other supplies	Fisheries biologist II	\$3,250
Uniforms, computer, radio, weapons, and vehicle package	Warden investigator	46,990
Uniforms, computers, ATV, and other equipment	Wildlife habitat biologists	35,600
Uniforms, laptop, and other equipment	Aquatic nuisance species biologist	3,250
Wash stations and other equipment	Aquatic nuisance species biologist	<u>205,000</u>
Total		\$294,090

*ABx
216-23*

¹¹ One-time funding of \$3,130,000 is added for the following capital assets:

	<u>Other Funds</u>
In-car video system and body cameras	\$550,000
Fisheries pond liners	1,000,000
Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility	850,000
Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements	350,000
Fisheries dam repairs	<u>380,000</u>
Total	\$3,130,000

¹² A section is added providing a contingent appropriation from federal funds for 7 FTE positions, operating expenses, and grant payments to administer programs approved under the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act contingent on the passage of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

This amendment adds a section authorizing the Game and Fish Department to transfer up to \$2 million between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items, during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2017: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (16 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2017 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

Page 1, line 2, after "department" insert "; to provide a contingent appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an exemption"

Page 1, remove lines 10 through 24

Page 2, replace lines 1 and 2 with:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$4,686,592	\$38,428,184
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	8,926,706	26,922,303
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	20,588	317,587
Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	14,824	684,957
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	367,205	2,185,614
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,450,655</u>	<u>2,959,664</u>
Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$19,950,810	\$109,532,444
Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	6.00	170.00"

Page 2, line 3, after "**FUNDING**" insert "**- EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO THE SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**"

Page 2, line 4, after "biennium" insert "and the 2023-25 biennium one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act"

Page 2, replace lines 8 and 9 with:

"State radio equipment	801,500	0
Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility	0	850,000
In-car video system and body cameras	0	550,000
Fisheries pond liners	0	1,000,000
Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements	0	350,000
Fisheries dam repairs	0	380,000
Wash stations and other equipment	0	205,000
Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions	<u>0</u>	<u>89,090</u>
Total special funds	\$2,786,500	\$3,424,090

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The game and fish department shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025."

Page 2, after line 13, insert:

"SECTION 4. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS - RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT. Subject to the provisions of this section, there is appropriated from federal funds, the sum of \$27,150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the game and fish department for the purpose of administering programs approved under the federal

Recovering America's Wildlife Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The department is authorized seven full-time equivalent positions for this purpose. The funding and positions authorized in this section are available only upon passage of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

SECTION 5. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The game and fish department shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section."

ReNUMBER accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - Senate Action

	Base Budget	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$4,686,592	\$38,428,184
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
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Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	8,926,706	26,922,303
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Missouri River enforcement	296,999	20,588	317,587
Grants - Gifts - Donations	670,133	14,824	684,957
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000		100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	367,205	2,185,614
Wildlife services	500,000		500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,509,009	1,450,655	2,959,664
Contingent Funding		27,150,000	27,150,000
Total all funds	\$89,581,634	\$47,100,810	\$136,682,444
Less estimated income	89,581,634	47,100,810	136,682,444
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	164.00	13.00	177.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Senate Changes

	Adds Funding for the Cost to Continue Salaries ¹	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ²	Adds FTE Positions ³	Adds Funding for Additional Emphasis on Wildlife Habitat ⁴	Adds Funding for Aquatic Nuisance Species Program ⁵	Adjusts Funding in Line Items ⁶
Salaries and wages	\$295,116	\$2,550,796	\$457,592			\$1,383,088
Operating expenses			87,934			185,442
Capital assets						(1,374,109)
Grants - Game and fish						1,166,633
Land habitat and deer depredation		170,354		\$4,657,974		1,285,000
Noxious weed control						
Missouri River enforcement		6,834				13,754
Grants - Gifts - Donations		14,824				
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lonetree reservoir		60,620				306,585
Wildlife services						
Shooting sports grant program						
Aquatic nuisance species program		43,816			\$1,198,589	
Contingent Funding						
Total all funds	\$295,116	\$2,847,244	\$545,526	\$4,657,974	\$1,198,589	\$2,966,393
Less estimated income	295,116	2,847,244	545,526	4,657,974	1,198,589	2,966,393
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	0.00

	Adds Funding for ITD Increases ²	Adds Funding for Motor Pool Increases ³	Adds Funding for Midterm Conservation Agreements ³	Adds One-Time Funding for Supplies for New FTE Positions ¹⁰	Adds One-Time Funding for Capital Assets ¹¹	Adds Contingent Funding for Recovering America's Wildlife Act ¹²
Salaries and wages						
Operating expenses	\$80,908	\$1,157,192		\$32,240		
Capital assets				18,000	\$3,130,000	
Grants - Game and fish						
Land habitat and deer depredation			\$2,777,778	35,600		
Noxious weed control						
Missouri River enforcement						
Grants - Gifts - Donations						
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lonetree reservoir						
Wildlife services						
Shooting sports grant program						
Aquatic nuisance species program				208,250		
Contingent Funding						\$27,150,000
Total all funds	\$80,908	\$1,157,192	\$2,777,778	\$294,090	\$3,130,000	\$27,150,000
Less estimated income	80,908	1,157,192	2,777,778	294,090	3,130,000	27,150,000
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00

	Total Senate Changes
Salaries and wages	\$4,686,592
Operating expenses	1,543,716
Capital assets	1,773,891
Grants - Game and fish	1,166,633
Land habitat and deer depredation	8,926,706
Noxious weed control	
Missouri River enforcement	20,588
Grants - Gifts - Donations	14,824
Nongame wildlife conservation	
Lonetree reservoir	367,205
Wildlife services	
Shooting sports grant program	
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,450,655
Contingent Funding	27,150,000
Total all funds	\$47,100,810
Less estimated income	47,100,810
General fund	\$0
FTE	13.00

¹ Funding is added for the cost to continue salary increases.

² The following funding is added for 2023-25 biennium salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,429 to \$1,648 per month:

	Other Funds
Salary increase	\$1,937,848
Health insurance increase	909,396
Total	\$2,847,244

³ The following FTE positions and related funding are added:

Position	FTE	Salaries and Wages	Operating Expenses	Total
Fisheries biologist II	1.00	\$228,958	\$9,790	\$238,748
Warden investigator	1.00	228,634	78,144	306,778
Total	2.00	\$457,592	\$87,934	\$545,526

⁴ Funding is added for the additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands including 3 FTE positions and the following:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
Salaries and wages	\$622,604
Operating expenses	35,370
Habitat / non-access payments	1,000,000
PLOTS payments	<u>3,000,000</u>
Total	\$4,657,974

⁵ Funding is added for the aquatic nuisance species program, including 1 FTE biologist I position and the following:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
Salaries and wages	\$197,648
Temporary salaries	245,000
Operating expenses	687,941
Grants	<u>68,000</u>
Total	\$1,198,589

⁶ Funding is added from federal funds from various line items to adjust the base budget.

⁷ Funding is added for Information Technology Department shared software and rate increases.

⁸ Funding is added from other funds for motor pool cost increases.

⁹ Funding is added from federal and special funds for midterm conservation agreements.

¹⁰ One-time funding is added from federal and special funds for the following supplies and equipment related to new FTE positions:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
Uniforms, laptop, and other supplies	Fisheries biologist II	\$3,250
Uniforms, computer, radio, weapons, and vehicle package	Warden investigator	46,990
Uniforms, computers, ATV, and other equipment	Wildlife habitat biologists	35,600
Uniforms, laptop, and other equipment	Aquatic nuisance species biologist	3,250
Wash stations and other equipment	Aquatic nuisance species biologist	<u>205,000</u>
Total		\$294,090

¹¹ One-time funding of \$3,130,000 is added for the following capital assets:

	<u>Other Funds</u>
In-car video system and body cameras	\$550,000
Fisheries pond liners	1,000,000
Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility	850,000
Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements	350,000
Fisheries dam repairs	<u>380,000</u>
Total	\$3,130,000

¹² A section is added providing a contingent appropriation from federal funds for 7 FTE positions, operating expenses, and grant payments to administer programs approved under the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act contingent on the passage of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

This amendment adds a section authorizing the Game and Fish Department to transfer up to \$2 million between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items, during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

2023 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2017

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department
Senate Bill No. 2017

First Chamber Comparison to Base Level

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 First Chamber Version	\$0	\$136,682,444	\$136,682,444
2023-25 Base Level	0	89,581,634	89,581,634
Increase (Decrease)	\$0	\$47,100,810	\$47,100,810

First Chamber Changes

A summary of the first chamber's changes to the agency's base level appropriations and the executive budget is attached as an appendix.

Selected Bill Sections Included in the First Chamber Version

Grants, gifts, and donations - Section 3 identifies \$100,000 of funds in the grants, gifts, and donations line item received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act - Section 4 authorizes 7 FTE positions and \$27,150,000 from other funds to the Game and Fish Department for the purpose of administering programs approved under the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The funding and positions authorized in this section are available only upon passage of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Line item transfer authority - Section 5 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Continuing Appropriations

There are no continuing appropriations for this agency.

Deficiency Appropriations

There are no deficiency appropriations for this agency.

Significant Audit Findings

There are no significant audit findings for this agency.

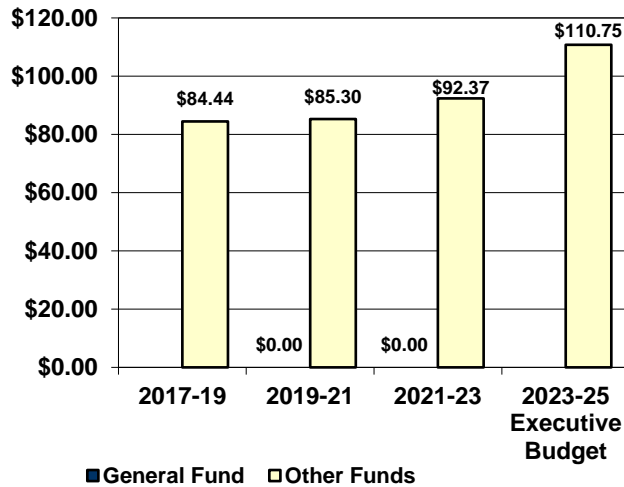
Major Related Legislation

House Bill No. 1183 - Includes game and fish wardens within the Public Employees' Retirement System retirement plan as peace officers.

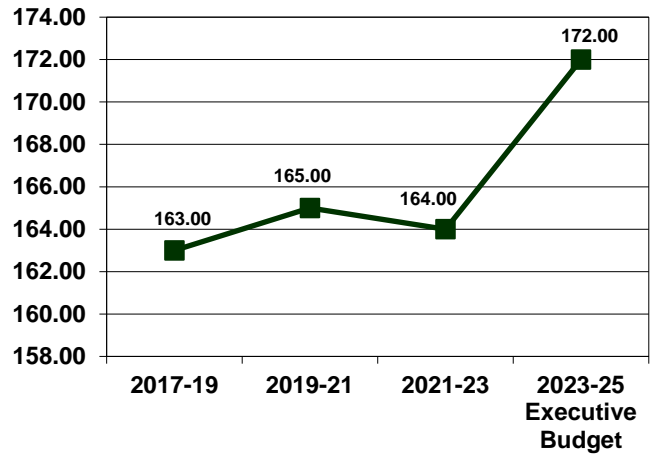
Historical Appropriations Information

Agency Appropriations and FTE Positions

Agency Funding (millions)



FTE Positions



Ongoing Other Funds Appropriations

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Executive Budget
Ongoing other funds appropriations	\$77,231,739	\$83,227,498	\$85,303,632	\$89,581,634	\$107,275,946
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	\$5,995,759	\$2,076,134	\$4,278,002	\$17,694,312
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	7.8%	2.5%	5.0%	19.8%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2015-17 biennium	N/A	7.8%	10.5%	16.0%	38.9%

Major Increases (Decreases) in Ongoing Other Funds Appropriations

2017-19 Biennium

1. Increased funding for credit card fee changes on the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses	\$180,000
2. Reduced funding for rent allowance for oil-impacted areas	(\$100,000)
3. Added funding for replacement of pond liners	\$572,000
4. Added funding for replacement of lighting in the salmon building	\$130,000
5. Increased funding for capital assets	\$200,000
6. Added funding for equipment replacement	\$747,000
7. Increased funding for grants from Pittman-Robertson federal funds	\$1,590,000
8. Increased funding for operating expenses	\$839,186
9. Reduced funding for capital assets	(\$1,063,040)
10. Provided funding for the Parks and Recreation Department for operating of boating access at state parks	\$122,000
11. Increased funding for grants	\$1,353,772
12. Increased funding for land and deer depredation	\$1,153,880
13. Increased funding for noxious weed control operating expenses	\$120,135
14. Added increased funding for a grant to the Agriculture Commissioner for wildlife services	\$115,600

2019-21 Biennium

1. Underfunded salaries and wages and reduced funding for temporary salaries	(\$385,721)
2. Reduced grant funding	(\$1,703,549)

- 3. Increased funding for operating expenses, primary for fees and services and reclassified funding from grants for boat access and development, Save Our Lakes program, and aquatic nuisance species (\$400,000) and for state wildlife grant projects (\$200,000) \$1,074,294
- 4. Increased federal funds for shooting range grants to provide a total of \$1,762,500 \$500,000
- 5. Reduced funding for motor vehicles (\$179,859)
- 6. Reduced funding for capital assets (\$213,930)
- 7. Reduced other IT funding (\$207,000)
- 8. Added funding for Microsoft 365 licensing expenses \$122,634
- 9. Increased funding for equipment over \$5,000 \$108,344
- 10. Added funding from the aquatic nuisance species program fund for use in aquatic nuisance species education, inspection, and monitoring programs under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 20.1-17 and authorized 2 FTE positions for the program (Senate Bill No. 2293) \$1,500,000

2021-23 Biennium

- 1. Added funding for capital assets by increasing extraordinary repairs (\$527,679), motor vehicles (\$568,180), and other capital payments (\$111,292), and reducing land, building and maintenance (\$50,000), and equipment over \$5,000 (\$243,505) \$913,646
- 2. Increased funding for operating expenses by increasing land, buildings, and maintenance (\$172,440), IT (\$233,000), Microsoft Office 365 licenses (\$18,507), and other operating expenses (\$843,653) \$1,267,600

2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)

- 1. Adds 8 FTE positions and ongoing operating expenses for 1 fisheries biologist position, 1 account budget specialist III position, 2 enforcement warden investigator positions, 1 aquatic nuisance species program position, and 3 wildlife habitat and access initiative positions \$6,939,805
- 2. Adds funding for salaries and wages to provide a base budget total of \$16,543,132 \$1,383,088
- 3. Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements \$2,777,778
- 4. Removes funding for capital assets to provide a total of \$5,400,661 (\$1,374,109)
- 5. Adds funding for game and fish grants to provide a total of \$10,089,976 \$1,166,633
- 6. Adds funding for land habitat and deer depredation to provide a total of \$19,280,597 \$1,285,000

One-Time Other Funds Appropriations

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Executive Budget
One-time other funds appropriations	\$0	\$748,724	\$0	\$2,786,500	\$3,478,655

Major One-Time Other Funds Appropriations

2017-19 Biennium

- 1. Airplane replacement \$250,000
- 2. Dakota Access Pipeline protest \$423,724
- 3. Electronic payment processing system \$75,000

2019-21 Biennium

None \$0

2021-23 Biennium

- 1. Private land open to sportsmen payments \$1,485,090
- 2. Red River basin wildlife and water quality enhancement program \$500,000
- 3. Radio equipment replacement \$801,500

2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)

- 1. Fisheries pond liners \$1,000,000
- 2. Car video system and body cameras \$550,000
- 3. Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility \$850,000
- 4. Fisheries dam repairs \$380,000
- 5. Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements \$350,000

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Executive Budget Recommendation				Senate Version			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes								
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116			\$295,116	\$295,116
Salary increase			2,588,174	2,588,174			1,937,848	1,937,848
Health insurance increase			888,946	888,946			909,396	909,396
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748	1.00		238,748	238,748
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position	1.00		230,938	230,938				0
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	2.00		613,556	613,556	1.00		306,778	306,778
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393			2,966,393	2,966,393
Information Technology Department shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908			80,908	80,908
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192			1,157,192	1,157,192
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778			2,777,778	2,777,778
Total ongoing funding changes	8.00	\$0	\$17,694,312	\$17,694,312	6.00	\$0	\$16,526,720	\$16,526,720
One-Time Funding Items								
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250			\$3,250	\$3,250
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position			7,575	7,575				0
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			93,980	93,980			46,990	46,990
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000			850,000	850,000
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000			550,000	550,000
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000			1,000,000	1,000,000
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000			350,000	350,000
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000			380,000	380,000
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600			35,600	35,600
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250			208,250	208,250
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,478,655	\$3,478,655	0.00	\$0	\$3,424,090	\$3,424,090
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	8.00	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967	6.00	\$0	\$19,950,810	\$19,950,810
2023-25 Total Funding	172.00	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601	170.00	\$0	\$109,532,444	\$109,532,444
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			\$52,386,176				\$52,124,743	

<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%	19.8%	19.8%	3.7%	18.4%	18.4%
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%	23.6%	23.6%	3.7%	22.3%	22.3%

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

	<u>Executive Budget Recommendation</u>	<u>Senate Version</u>
Grants, gifts, and donations	Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.	Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.
Contingent authority and full-time equivalent positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act	Section 5 would appropriate \$27,150,000 and would authorize 7 FTE positions to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.	Section 4 appropriates \$27,150,000 and authorizes 7 FTE positions to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.
Line item transfer authority	Section 4 would authorize the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.	Section 5 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
3/8/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

8:31 AM Chairman Monson called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Monson, Vice Chair Brandenburg, Rep. Bellew, Rep. Kempenich, Rep. Meier, Rep. Pyle, Rep. Mock

Discussion Topics:

- Agency overview
- Water Bodies
- Aquatic Nuisance Species
- Chronic Wasting Disease
- Enforcement
- Federal Funding

Jeb Williams, Executive Director ND Game and Fish-Testified in favor of the bill.
Testimony (#22774)

Kim Kary, ND Game and Fish Administrative Division Chief -Testified in favor of the bill.
Testimony (#22789)

Additional written testimony: Dave Lang, ND Water Users Association Testimony
(#22654)

11:50 AM Vice Chairman Brandenburg closed the meeting.

Amy Liepke, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
3/8/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

3:08 PM Chairman Monson called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Monson, Vice Chair Brandenburg, Rep. Bellew, Rep. Kempenich, Rep. Meier, Rep. Pyle, Rep. Mock

Discussion Topics:

- Federal and Special Revenue
- Fund Balance
- Legislative base changes
- 23-25 Budget changes
- Pembina Gorge

Kim Kary, Administrative Division Chief, ND Game and Fish, testified in favor of the bill.
Testimony (# 22789)

Jeb Williams, Executive Director ND Game and Fish, testified in favor of the bill.
Testimony (#22774)

Deb Thompson, Cavalier, ND resident spoke in opposition to the bill. Testimony (#23050)

Additional written testimony: Rep. Kempenich (#23381)

4:28 PM Chairman Monson closed the meeting.

Amy Liepke, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
3/22/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

Chairman Monson opened the meeting at 2:57 PM

Members present: Chairman Monson, Vice Chair Brandenburg, Rep. Bellew, Rep. Kempenich, Rep. Meier, Rep. Pyle, Rep. Mock

Discussion Topics:

- Additional FTE's
- Budget 720
- Additional facilities across the state

Kim Kary, North Dakota Game and Fish, (#22789) (#26379)

Jeb Williams, Director of the North Dakota Games and Fish, Answered questions for the committee

Green Budget explanation and Budget 720, (#26374, #26369)

Kim Kary continues with testimony.

Jeb Williams, Answers questions for the committee.

Kim Kary continues with testimony.

Jeb Williams, answers questions for the committee.

Kim Kary continues with testimony.

Jeb Williams, answers questions for the committee.

Chairman Monson closed the hearing at 4:23 PM

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
3/31/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

Chairman Monson opened the meeting at 8:33 AM

Members present: Chairman Monson, Vice Chair Brandenburg, Rep. Bellew, Rep. Kempenich, Rep. Meier, Rep. Pyle, Rep. Mock

Discussion Topics:

- Budget 720
- Additional FTE's
- Federal Funding
- Amendments

Kim Kary, ND Game and Fish administrative services, went over budget 720 (#26374) (#27135) (#27133)

Jeb Williams, Director of the ND Game and Fish, Answered questions for the committee.

Kim Kary, went over recommended budget changes (#27138)

Jeb Williams, Answered questions for the committee.

Kim Kary answered questions for the committee. (#27143)

Jeb Williams, answered questions for the committee 10:10 AM

Kim Kary, answers questions for the committee

Representative Brandenburg introduces amendments (#27149) (#27159)

Kim Kary answers questions for the committee. (#27160)

Chairman Monson closed the hearing at 10:39 AM

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
4/4/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

Chairman Monson opened the meeting at 10:04 AM

Members present: Chairman Monson, Vice Chair Brandenburg, Rep. Bellew, Rep. Kempenich, Rep. Meier, Rep. Pyle, Rep. Mock

Discussion Topics:

- Budget 720
- Federal funding
- Farming plots

Legislative Council goes over budget 720 (#27273)

Kim Kary, ND Game and Fish administrative services, answers questions for the committee

Jeb Williams, Director of the ND Game and Fish Department, answers questions for the committee

Chairman Monson closed the hearing at 11:25 AM

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
4/5/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

Chairman Monson opened the meeting at 3:12 PM

Members present: Chairman Monson, Vice Chair Brandenburg, Rep. Bellew, Rep. Kempenich, Rep. Meier, Rep. Pyle, Rep. Mock

Discussion Topics:

- Plots program

Chairman Monson discussed putting 4 million dollars towards "PLOTS."

Chairman Monson closed the hearing at 3:20 PM

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
4/6/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

3:11 PM Chairman Monson opened the meeting for SB 2017- Roll call was taken.

Members present: Chairman Monson, Vice Chair Brandenburg, Rep. Bellew, Rep. Kempenich, Rep. Meier, Rep. Pyle, Rep. Mock

Members not Present- Representative Mock and Representative Pyle

Discussion Topics:

- Final Budget
- Federal Environmental Law Impact
- Committee Action

Representative Kempenich (Testimony # 27356)

Kim Kary- ND Game and Fish- Answers questions for the committee

Representative Brandenburg (Testimony # 27159)

Representative Kempenich Move to adopt amendment 23.0271.02002 (Testimony # 27357)

Representative Brandenburg Seconds the motion.

Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Corey Mock	AB
Representative Brandy Pyle	AB

Motion Carries 5-0-2

Representative Kempenich Move for a Do Pass as Amended

Representative Brandenburg Seconds the motion.

Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	N
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Corey Mock	AB
Representative Brandy Pyle	AB

Motion Carries 4-1-2

Representative Kempenich will carry the bill.

3:36 PM Chairman Monson- Closed the meeting for SB 2017

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk by Risa Berube

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
4/7/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department.

10:56 AM Chairman Vigesaa Called the meeting to order and roll call was taken-

Members present; Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Kempenich, Representative Bellew, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

Members not Present- Representative Mitskog and Representative B. Anderson

Discussion Topics:

- Amendment
- Committee Action

Representative Kempenich- Gives the statement of purpose and amendment 23.0271.02002 (Testimony #27385)

Representative Kempenich- Move to adopt amendment 23.0271.02002

Representative Monson Seconds the motion.

Committee Discussion- Roll call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	A
Representative Larry Bellew	N
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	A
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y

Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	N
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

Motion Carries 19-2-2

Representative Kempenich- Move for a Do Pass as Amended

Representative Monson Seconds the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	A
Representative Larry Bellew	N
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	A
Representative Corey Mock	Y
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	Y
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	N
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

Motion Carries 19-2-2 Representative Kempenich will carry the bill

11:18 AM Chairman Vigesaa Closed the meeting for SB 2017

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

April 6, 2023

AG
4-7-23
(1-3)

Fiscal No. 1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2017

Page 1, remove lines 13 through 24

Page 2, replace lines 1 through 3 with:

"Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$2,730,370	\$36,471,962
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,436,582	17,713,364
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,755,891	8,530,661
Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	7,486,424	25,482,021
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	16,342	313,341
Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	6,853	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	334,235	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,229,835</u>	<u>2,738,844</u>
Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$16,163,165	\$105,744,799
Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	3.00	167.00"

Page 2, replace lines 18 and 19 with:

"Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions		<u>0</u>	<u>9,700</u>
Total special funds		\$2,786,500	\$3,344,700"

Page 3, line 2, replace "seven" with "three"

Page 3, line 4, replace "passage" with "enactment"

Page 3, line 4, after "Act" insert "and after corresponding federal funds have been made available to the state. The department shall regularly coordinate with and consider input from the federal environmental law impact review committee in the expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section. If the contingent funding in this section becomes effective, the department may request the office of management and budget to transfer up to \$641,480 from the new and vacant FTE funding pool for salaries and wages of the full-time equivalent positions identified in this section"

Page 3, after line 4, insert:

"SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish department may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 1 of this Act for midterm conservation agreements with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum of fifteen years."

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - House Action

AG
4-7-23
(2-3)

	Base Budget	Senate Version	House Changes	House Version
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$38,428,184	(\$1,956,222)	\$36,471,962
Operating expenses	16,276,782	17,820,498	(107,134)	17,713,364
Capital assets	6,774,770	8,548,661	(18,000)	8,530,661
Grants - Game and fish	8,923,343	10,089,976		10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	26,922,303	(1,440,282)	25,482,021
Noxious weed control	725,000	725,000		725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	317,587	(4,246)	313,341
Grants - Gifts - Donations	670,133	684,957	(7,971)	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	100,000		100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	2,185,614	(32,970)	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	500,000		500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,509,009	2,959,664	(220,820)	2,738,844
Contingent Funding		27,150,000		27,150,000
Total all funds	\$89,581,634	\$136,682,444	(\$3,787,645)	\$132,894,799
Less estimated income	89,581,634	136,682,444	(3,787,645)	132,894,799
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	164.00	177.00	(7.00)	170.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of House Changes

	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ¹	Removes Funding for Multiple FTE Positions ²	Remove Salary Funding for Funding Pool ³	Removes Funding for One-Time Items ⁴	Total House Changes
Salaries and wages	\$520,644	(\$228,634)	(\$2,248,232)		(\$1,956,222)
Operating expenses		(78,144)		(\$28,990)	(107,134)
Capital assets				(18,000)	(18,000)
Grants - Game and fish					
Land habitat and deer depredation	9,364	(420,872)	(996,374)	(32,400)	(1,440,282)
Noxious weed control					
Missouri River enforcement	1,682		(5,928)		(4,246)
Grants - Gifts - Donations	3,088		(11,059)		(7,971)
Nongame wildlife conservation					
Lonetree reservoir	12,800		(45,770)		(32,970)
Wildlife services					
Shooting sports grant program					
Aquatic nuisance species program	8,949		(229,769)		(220,820)
Contingent Funding					
Total all funds	\$556,527	(\$727,650)	(\$3,537,132)	(\$79,390)	(\$3,787,645)
Less estimated income	556,527	(727,650)	(3,537,132)	(79,390)	(3,787,645)
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	(7.00)	0.00	0.00	(7.00)

¹ Salaries and wages funding is adjusted to provide for the 2023-25 biennium salary increases of 6 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and for adjustments to health insurance premium rates as follows:

	Other Funds
Salary increase	\$577,222
Health insurance adjustment	(20,695)
Total	\$556,527

The Senate provided salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024.

² Funding of \$727,650 from other funds is removed for the following 7 FTE positions:

- 1 FTE warden investigator - Total funding of \$306,778, of which \$228,634 is for salaries and wages and \$78,144 is for related operating expenses;
- 2 FTE biologist I - Total funding of \$420,872, of which \$395,292 is for salaries and wages and \$25,580 is for related operating expenses; and
- 4 FTE contingent positions related to federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

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4-7-23
(3-3)

³ Funding for new FTE positions and estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed as shown below. These amounts are available to the agency if needed by submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget for a transfer from the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

	<u>Other Funds</u>
New FTE positions	(\$1,295,398)
Vacant FTE positions	<u>(2,241,734)</u>
Total	(\$3,537,132)

⁴ One-time funding of \$79,390 from other funds is removed for the following:

	<u>Other Funds</u>
Uniforms and equipment for warden investigator position	\$46,990
Equipment for biologist I positions	<u>32,400</u>
Total	\$79,390

This amendment also:

- Changes provisions of the contingent appropriation section for the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act funding to provide that the department coordinate with and consider input from the Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee for any expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section.
- Adds a section relating to funding for midterm conservation agreements and limiting the agreements with private landowners to a term of up to 15 years.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2017, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (19 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2017 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, remove lines 13 through 24

Page 2, replace lines 1 through 3 with:

"Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$2,730,370	\$36,471,962
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,436,582	17,713,364
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,755,891	8,530,661
Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	7,486,424	25,482,021
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	16,342	313,341
Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	6,853	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	334,235	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,229,835</u>	<u>2,738,844</u>
Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$16,163,165	\$105,744,799
Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	3.00	167.00"

Page 2, replace lines 18 and 19 with:

"Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions		<u>0</u>	<u>9,700</u>
Total special funds	\$2,786,500		\$3,344,700"

Page 3, line 2, replace "seven" with "three"

Page 3, line 4, replace "passage" with "enactment"

Page 3, line 4, after "Act" insert "and after corresponding federal funds have been made available to the state. The department shall regularly coordinate with and consider input from the federal environmental law impact review committee in the expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section. If the contingent funding in this section becomes effective, the department may request the office of management and budget to transfer up to \$641,480 from the new and vacant FTE funding pool for salaries and wages of the full-time equivalent positions identified in this section"

Page 3, after line 4, insert:

"SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish department may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 1 of this Act for midterm conservation agreements with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum of fifteen years."

ReNUMBER accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - House Action

	Base Budget	Senate Version	House Changes	House Version
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$38,428,184	(\$1,956,222)	\$36,471,962
Operating expenses	16,276,782	17,820,498	(107,134)	17,713,364
Capital assets	6,774,770	8,548,661	(18,000)	8,530,661

Grants - Game and fish	8,923,343	10,089,976		10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	26,922,303	(1,440,282)	25,482,021
Noxious weed control	725,000	725,000		725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	317,587	(4,246)	313,341
Grants - Gifts - Donations	670,133	684,957	(7,971)	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	100,000		100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	2,185,614	(32,970)	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	500,000		500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,509,009	2,959,664	(220,820)	2,738,844
Contingent Funding		27,150,000		27,150,000
Total all funds	\$89,581,634	\$136,682,444	(\$3,787,645)	\$132,894,799
Less estimated income	89,581,634	136,682,444	(3,787,645)	132,894,799
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	164.00	177.00	(7.00)	170.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of House Changes

	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ¹	Removes Funding for Multiple FTE Positions ²	Remove Salary Funding for Funding Pool ³	Removes Funding for One-Time Items ⁴	Total House Changes
Salaries and wages	\$520,644	(\$228,634)	(\$2,248,232)		(\$1,956,222)
Operating expenses		(78,144)		(\$28,990)	(107,134)
Capital assets				(18,000)	(18,000)
Grants - Game and fish					
Land habitat and deer depredation	9,364	(420,872)	(996,374)	(32,400)	(1,440,282)
Noxious weed control					
Missouri River enforcement	1,682		(5,928)		(4,246)
Grants - Gifts - Donations	3,088		(11,059)		(7,971)
Nongame wildlife conservation					
Lonetree reservoir	12,800		(45,770)		(32,970)
Wildlife services					
Shooting sports grant program					
Aquatic nuisance species program	8,949		(229,769)		(220,820)
Contingent Funding					
Total all funds	\$556,527	(\$727,650)	(\$3,537,132)	(\$79,390)	(\$3,787,645)
Less estimated income	556,527	(727,650)	(3,537,132)	(79,390)	(3,787,645)
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	(7.00)	0.00	0.00	(7.00)

¹ Salaries and wages funding is adjusted to provide for the 2023-25 biennium salary increases of 6 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and for adjustments to health insurance premium rates as follows:

	Other Funds
Salary increase	\$577,222
Health insurance adjustment	(20,695)
Total	\$556,527

The Senate provided salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024.

² Funding of \$727,650 from other funds is removed for the following 7 FTE positions:

- 1 FTE warden investigator - Total funding of \$306,778, of which \$228,634 is for salaries and wages and \$78,144 is for related operating expenses;
- 2 FTE biologist I - Total funding of \$420,872, of which \$395,292 is for salaries and wages and \$25,580 is for related operating expenses; and
- 4 FTE contingent positions related to federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

³ Funding for new FTE positions and estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed as shown below. These amounts are available to the agency if needed by submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget for a transfer from the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

	<u>Other Funds</u>
New FTE positions	(\$1,295,398)
Vacant FTE positions	<u>(2,241,734)</u>
Total	(\$3,537,132)

⁴ One-time funding of \$79,390 from other funds is removed for the following:

	<u>Other Funds</u>
Uniforms and equipment for warden investigator position	\$46,990
Equipment for biologist I positions	<u>32,400</u>
Total	\$79,390

This amendment also:

- Changes provisions of the contingent appropriation section for the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act funding to provide that the department coordinate with and consider input from the Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee for any expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section.
- Adds a section relating to funding for midterm conservation agreements and limiting the agreements with private landowners to a term of up to 15 years.

2023 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2017

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
4/17/2023
Conference Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; to provide a contingent appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an exemption.
--

4:39 PM Chairman Senator Meyer called the meeting to order.

Members present: Senators Scott Meyer, Ronald Sorvaag, and David Rust.
Representatives Keith Kempenich, Mike Brandenburg, and David Monson.

Discussion Topics:

- North Dakota game and fish department
- Conference committee discussion

4:40 PM Representative Kempenich explained amendments made by the House, testimony # 27635.

4:46 PM Kim Kary, Division Chief Game and Fish Department, answered questions from the committee, no written testimony.

4:51 PM Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
4/19/2023
Conference Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; to provide a contingent appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an exemption.
--

3:38 PM Chairman Senator Meyer called the meeting to order.

Members present: Senators Scott Meyer, Donald Schaible, and David Rust.
Representatives Keith Kempenich, Mike Brandenburg, and David Monson.

Discussion Topics:

- North Dakota game and fish department
- Midterm conservation agreements
- Contract buyouts
- Federal funded grants
- Grassland protection
- Line item authority
- Sunset clause
- FTE numbers
- Conference committee discussion

3:38 PM Senator Meyer welcomed the conference committee..

3:39 PM Representative Brandenburg explains ideas on midterm conservation agreements, testimony # 27719 and # 27720.

3:40 PM Jeb Williams, Director Game and Fish Department, answered questions from the committee, no written testimony.

3:49 PM Kim Kary, Game and Fish Department, answered questions from the committee, testimony # 27722.

3:56 PM Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
4/20/2023
Conference Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; to provide a contingent appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an exemption.
--

9:13 AM Chairman Senator Meyer called the meeting to order.

Members present: Senators Scott Meyer, Donald Schaible, and David Rust.
Representatives Keith Kempenich and David Monson.

Members absent: Representative Mike Brandenburg

Discussion Topics:

- North Dakota game and fish department
- Midterm conservation agreements
- Contract buyouts
- Federal funded grants
- Grassland protection
- Line item authority
- Sunset clause
- FTE numbers
- Conference committee discussion

9:13 AM Senator Meyer reviewed amendment conversation from previous conference.

9:23 AM Kim Kary, Game and Fish Department, answered questions from the committee, no written testimony.

9:30 AM Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2017
4/20/2023
Conference Committee

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; to provide a contingent appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an exemption.

2:05 PM Chairman Meyer called the meeting to order.

Members present: Senators Scott Meyer, Donald Schaible, and David Rust.
Representatives Keith Kempenich , Mike Brandenburg and David Monson.

Discussion Topics:

- North Dakota game and fish department
- Midterm conservation agreements
- Contract buyouts
- Federal funded grants
- Grassland protection
- Line item authority
- Sunset clause
- FTE numbers
- Conference committee discussion

2:05 PM Senator Meyer reviewed long sheet, testimony # 27750.

2:09 PM Conference committee discussion regarding proposed amendments.

2:14 PM Representative Kempenich moved to recede from House amendments and adopt LC 23.0271.02004 plus further amend by adding additional FTE's, testimony # 27751.
Senator Schaible seconded the motion.

Motion PASSED 6-0-0.

Representative Kempenich is the House bill carrier.

Senator Meyer is the Senate bill carrier.

2:15 PM Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

JA
4-21-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2017

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on pages 1569-1571 on the Senate Journal and pages 1773-1775 of the House Journal and that Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2017 be amended as follows:

Page 1, remove lines 13 through 24

Page 2, replace lines 1 through 3 with:

"Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$2,746,155	\$36,487,747
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	9,212,172	27,207,769
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	16,342	313,341
Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	6,853	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	334,235	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,229,835</u>	<u>2,738,844</u>
Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$18,029,832	\$107,611,466
Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	6.00	170.00"

Page 2, replace lines 18 and 19 with:

"Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions		<u>0</u>	<u>89,090</u>
Total special funds		\$2,786,500	\$3,424,090"

Page 3, line 2, replace "seven" with "four"

Page 3, line 4, replace "passage" with "enactment"

Page 3, line 4, after "Act" insert "and after corresponding federal funds have been made available to the state. The department shall regularly coordinate with and consider input from the federal environmental law impact review committee in the expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section"

Page 3, after line 4 insert:

"SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish department may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 1 of this Act for national fish and wildlife foundation midterm conservation agreements with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum of thirty years. The department shall provide buyback provisions after the fifteenth, twentieth, and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a portion of acreage from the lease."

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Handwritten: 4-21-23

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - Conference Committee Action

	Base Budget	Senate Version	Conference Committee Changes	Conference Committee Version	House Version	Comparison to House
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$38,428,184	(\$1,940,437)	\$36,487,747	\$36,471,962	\$15,785
Operating expenses	16,276,782	17,820,498		17,820,498	17,713,364	107,134
Capital assets	6,774,770	8,548,661		8,548,661	8,530,661	18,000
Grants - Game and fish	8,923,343	10,089,976		10,089,976	10,089,976	
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	26,922,303	285,466	27,207,769	25,482,021	1,725,748
Noxious weed control	725,000	725,000		725,000	725,000	
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	317,587	(4,246)	313,341	313,341	
Grants - Gifts - Donations	670,133	684,957	(7,971)	676,986	676,986	
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	100,000		100,000	100,000	
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	2,185,614	(32,970)	2,152,644	2,152,644	
Wildlife services	500,000	500,000		500,000	500,000	
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	250,000		250,000	250,000	
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,509,009	2,959,664	(220,820)	2,738,844	2,738,844	
Contingent Funding		27,150,000		27,150,000	27,150,000	
Total all funds	\$89,581,634	\$136,682,444	(\$1,920,978)	\$134,761,466	\$132,894,799	\$1,866,667
Less estimated income	89,581,634	136,682,444	(1,920,978)	134,761,466	132,894,799	1,866,667
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	164.00	177.00	(3.00)	174.00	170.00	4.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Conference Committee Changes

	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ¹	Adjusts Funding for FTE Positions ²	Removes Salary Funding for Funding Pool ³	Adds Funding for PLOTS Program ⁴	Total Conference Committee Changes
Salaries and wages	\$536,429		(\$2,476,866)		(\$1,940,437)
Operating expenses					
Capital assets					
Grants - Game and fish					
Land habitat and deer depredation	35,652	(\$98,823)	(651,363)	\$1,000,000	285,466
Noxious weed control					
Missouri River enforcement	1,682		(5,928)		(4,246)
Grants - Gifts - Donations	3,088		(11,059)		(7,971)
Nongame wildlife conservation					
Lonetree reservoir	12,800		(45,770)		(32,970)
Wildlife services					
Shooting sports grant program					
Aquatic nuisance species program	8,949		(229,769)		(220,820)
Contingent Funding					
Total all funds	\$598,600	(\$98,823)	(\$3,420,755)	\$1,000,000	(\$1,920,978)
Less estimated income	598,600	(98,823)	(3,420,755)	1,000,000	(1,920,978)
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	(3.00)	0.00	0.00	(3.00)

¹ Salaries and wages funding is adjusted to provide for the 2023-25 biennium salary increases of 6 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and for adjustments to health insurance premium rates as follows:

	<u>Other Funds</u>
Salary increase	\$619,050
Health insurance adjustment	(20,450)
Total	\$598,600

The Senate provided salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024.

24
4-21-23

² Funding of \$98,823 from other funds is removed for a biologist I position for the 1st year of the biennium by the Conference Committee. The position may be hired for the 2nd year of the biennium.

The Conference Committee removed 3 of the 7 contingent FTE positions related to the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The House removed 4 of the 7 contingent FTE positions.

³ Funding for new FTE positions and estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed as shown below. These amounts are available to the agency if needed by submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget for a transfer from the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

	Other Funds
New FTE positions	(\$1,179,021)
Vacant FTE positions	<u>(2,241,734)</u>
Total	(\$3,420,755)

The House also removed funding for the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

⁴ Funding of \$1 million from other funds is added to the \$4 million increase included in the Senate and House version for the private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) program by the Conference Committee.

 This amendment also:

- Changes provisions of the contingent appropriation section for the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act funding to provide that the department coordinate with and consider input from the Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee for any expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section, the same as the House version.
- Changes the section relating to funding for midterm conservation agreements and limiting the agreements with private landowners to a maximum of 30 years with buyout options at 15, 20, and 25 years. The House had limited the agreements to a maximum of 15 years.

**2023 SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES**

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. _SB 2017_ as engrossed

Senate Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division

- Action Taken**
- SENATE accede to House Amendments**
 - SENATE accede to House Amendments and further amend**
 - HOUSE recede from House amendments**
 - HOUSE recede from House amendments and amend as follows**
 - Unable to agree**, recommends that the committee be discharged and a new committee be appointed

Motion Made by: Representative Kempenich Seconded by: Senator Schaible

Senators	4/20		Yes	No		Representatives	4/20		Yes	No
Senator Meyer	x		Y			Representative Kempenich	X		Y	
Senator Schaible	x		Y			Representative Brandenburg	X		Y	
Senator Rust	x		Y			Representative Monson	x		Y	
Total Senate Vote			3	0		Total Rep. Vote			3	0

Vote Count Yes: 6 No: 0 Absent: 0

Senate Carrier Meyer House Carrier Kempenich

LC Number 23.0271 . 02005 of amendment

LC Number 23.0271 . 04000 of engrossment

Emergency clause added or deleted

Statement of purpose of amendment

Insert LC: 23.0271.02005
Senate Carrier: Meyer
House Carrier: Kempenich

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SB 2017, as engrossed: Your conference committee (Sens. Meyer, Schaible, Rust and Reps. Kempenich, Brandenburg, Monson) recommends that the **HOUSE RECEDE** from the House amendments as printed on SJ pages 1569-1571, adopt amendments as follows, and place SB 2017 on the Seventh order:

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on pages 1569-1571 on the Senate Journal and pages 1773-1775 of the House Journal and that Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2017 be amended as follows:

Page 1, remove lines 13 through 24

Page 2, replace lines 1 through 3 with:

"Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$2,746,155	\$36,487,747
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	9,212,172	27,207,769
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	16,342	313,341
Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	6,853	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	334,235	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,229,835</u>	<u>2,738,844</u>
Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$18,029,832	\$107,611,466
Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	6.00	170.00"

Page 2, replace lines 18 and 19 with:

"Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions		<u>0</u>	<u>89,090</u>
Total special funds		\$2,786,500	\$3,424,090"

Page 3, line 2, replace "seven" with "four"

Page 3, line 4, replace "passage" with "enactment"

Page 3, line 4, after "Act" insert "and after corresponding federal funds have been made available to the state. The department shall regularly coordinate with and consider input from the federal environmental law impact review committee in the expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section"

Page 3, after line 4 insert:

"SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish department may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 1 of this Act for national fish and wildlife foundation midterm conservation agreements with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum of thirty years. The department shall provide buyback provisions after the fifteenth, twentieth, and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a portion of acreage from the lease."

ReNUMBER accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - Conference Committee Action

	Base Budget	Senate Version	Conference Committee Changes	Conference Committee Version	House Version	Comparison to House
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$38,428,184	(\$1,940,437)	\$36,487,747	\$36,471,962	\$15,785
Operating expenses	16,276,782	17,820,498		17,820,498	17,713,364	107,134
Capital assets	6,774,770	8,548,661		8,548,661	8,530,661	18,000
Grants - Game and fish	8,923,343	10,089,976		10,089,976	10,089,976	
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	26,922,303	285,466	27,207,769	25,482,021	1,725,748
Noxious weed control	725,000	725,000		725,000	725,000	
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	317,587	(4,246)	313,341	313,341	
Grants - Gifts - Donations	670,133	684,957	(7,971)	676,986	676,986	
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	100,000		100,000	100,000	
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	2,185,614	(32,970)	2,152,644	2,152,644	
Wildlife services	500,000	500,000		500,000	500,000	
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	250,000		250,000	250,000	
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,509,009	2,959,664	(220,820)	2,738,844	2,738,844	
Contingent Funding		27,150,000		27,150,000	27,150,000	
Total all funds	\$89,581,634	\$136,682,444	(\$1,920,978)	\$134,761,466	\$132,894,799	\$1,866,667
Less estimated income	89,581,634	136,682,444	(1,920,978)	134,761,466	132,894,799	1,866,667
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	164.00	177.00	(3.00)	174.00	170.00	4.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Conference Committee Changes

	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ¹	Adjusts Funding for FTE Positions ²	Removes Salary Funding for Funding Pool ³	Adds Funding for PLOTS Program ⁴	Total Conference Committee Changes
Salaries and wages	\$536,429		(\$2,476,866)		(\$1,940,437)
Operating expenses					
Capital assets					
Grants - Game and fish					
Land habitat and deer depredation	35,652	(\$98,823)	(651,363)	\$1,000,000	285,466
Noxious weed control					
Missouri River enforcement	1,682		(5,928)		(4,246)
Grants - Gifts - Donations	3,088		(11,059)		(7,971)
Nongame wildlife conservation					
Lonetree reservoir	12,800		(45,770)		(32,970)
Wildlife services					
Shooting sports grant program					
Aquatic nuisance species program	8,949		(229,769)		(220,820)
Contingent Funding					
Total all funds	\$598,600	(\$98,823)	(\$3,420,755)	\$1,000,000	(\$1,920,978)
Less estimated income	598,600	(98,823)	(3,420,755)	1,000,000	(1,920,978)
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	(3.00)	0.00	0.00	(3.00)

¹ Salaries and wages funding is adjusted to provide for the 2023-25 biennium salary increases of 6 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and for adjustments to health insurance premium rates as follows:

	Other Funds
Salary increase	\$619,050
Health insurance adjustment	(20,450)
Total	\$598,600

The Senate provided salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024.

² Funding of \$98,823 from other funds is removed for a biologist I position for the 1st year of the biennium by the Conference Committee. The position may be hired for the 2nd year of the

biennium.

The Conference Committee removed 3 of the 7 contingent FTE positions related to the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The House removed 4 of the 7 contingent FTE positions.

³ Funding for new FTE positions and estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed as shown below. These amounts are available to the agency if needed by submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget for a transfer from the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

	<u>Other Funds</u>
New FTE positions	(\$1,179,021)
Vacant FTE positions	(2,241,734)
Total	(\$3,420,755)

The House also removed funding for the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

⁴ Funding of \$1 million from other funds is added to the \$4 million increase included in the Senate and House version for the private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) program by the Conference Committee.

This amendment also:

- Changes provisions of the contingent appropriation section for the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act funding to provide that the department coordinate with and consider input from the Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee for any expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section, the same as the House version.
- Changes the section relating to funding for midterm conservation agreements and limiting the agreements with private landowners to a maximum of 30 years with buyout options at 15, 20, and 25 years. The House had limited the agreements to a maximum of 15 years.

Engrossed SB 2017 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

TESTIMONY

SB 2017



SB 2017 TESTIMONY SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

Jeb Williams, Director

January 11, 2023

Our Mission

The mission of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use



Customer Expectations

Great hunting / fishing opportunities

Abundant facilities
(docks, ramps, ranges, ...)

Superior
communications

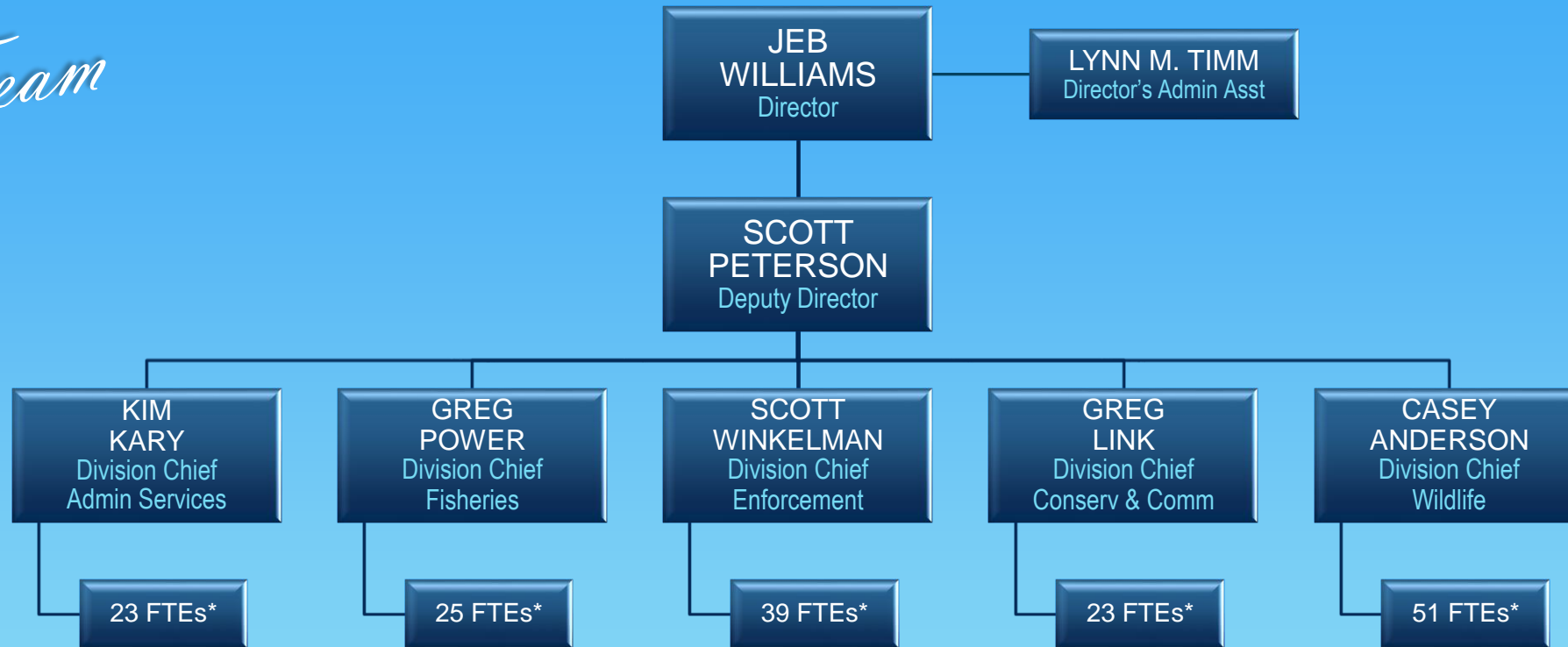
Limited barriers: online education

Quality service / tools

Ample access



Our Team



07/2021 = 164 total Full-Time Equivalents

* Includes Division Chiefs

- 30 employees are retirement eligible
- Only 18 out of the 164 FTEs are funded 100% Special funds
- 44% of FTEs are biologist or wildlife technicians – 75% Federal funds
- 90 out of the current 164 FTEs were seasonal employees (55%)



Wildlife Values

Public Trust Percentage

76%



America's Wildlife Values
The Social Context of Wildlife
Management in the U.S.

AMERICA'S
WILDLIFE
VALUES

WAFWA
WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF
FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Colorado
State
University

THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Responsive Management

Economic Value

- Hunting and fishing is important to North Dakota. It's part of our heritage, and it's important to the state's economy
 - Gross business volume of hunting and fishing in North Dakota was estimated at \$2.1 billion
 - Overall, anglers and hunters in North Dakota spent \$974.4 million dollars on equipment, vehicles, boats, travel, lodging, food and many other items
 - Hunting and fishing accounted for over 3,250 full-time equivalent jobs and generated over \$48 million in state tax collections

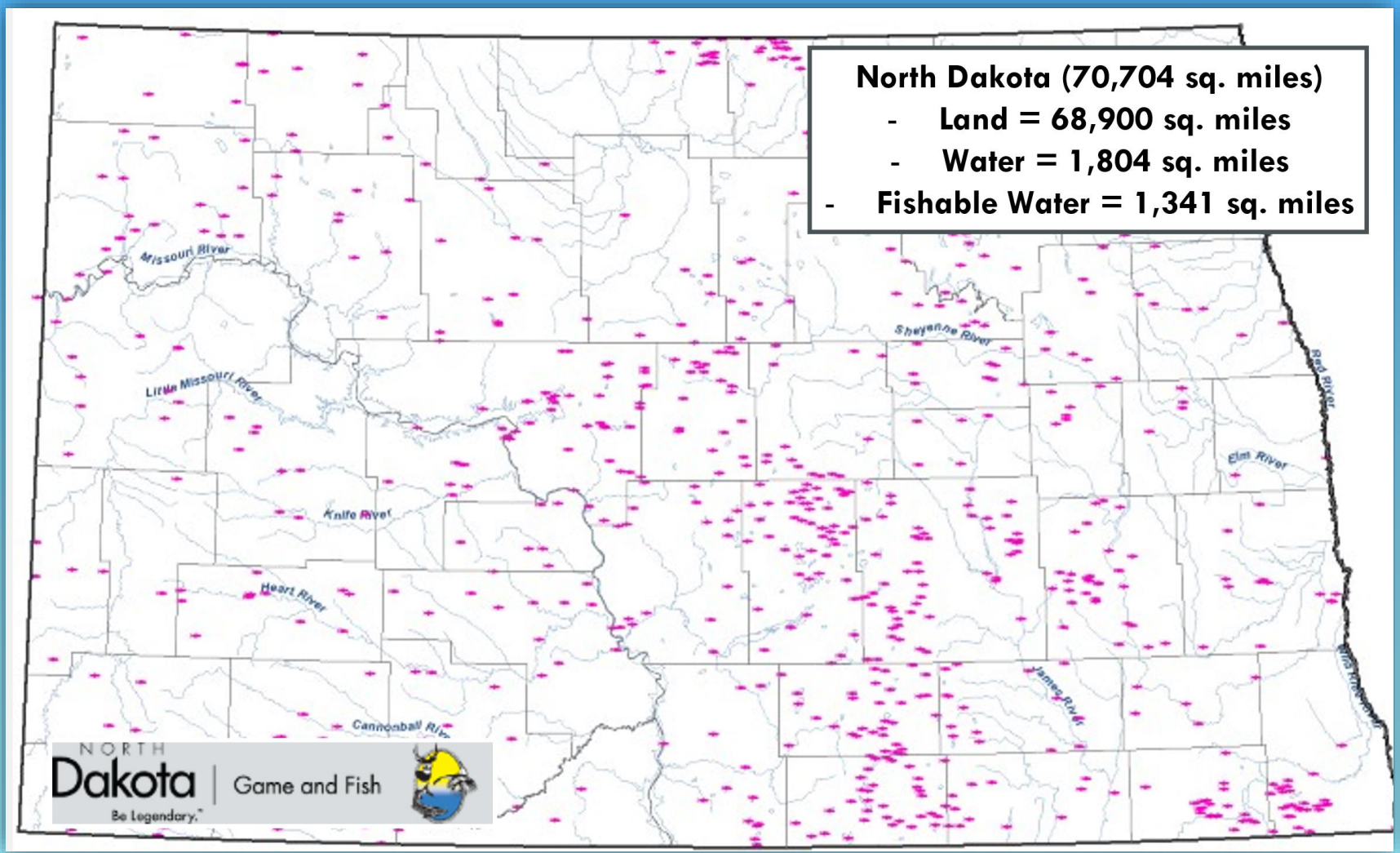
Resident and Nonresident Hunter and Angler Expenditures, Characteristics, and Economic Effects, North Dakota, 2017-18.
NDSU Ag. Econ. 2019.



FISHERIES



Fishing Water Bodies



- 449 Waters
- 841,000 acres

Aquatic Nuisance Species

Zebra Mussel



WILDLIFE

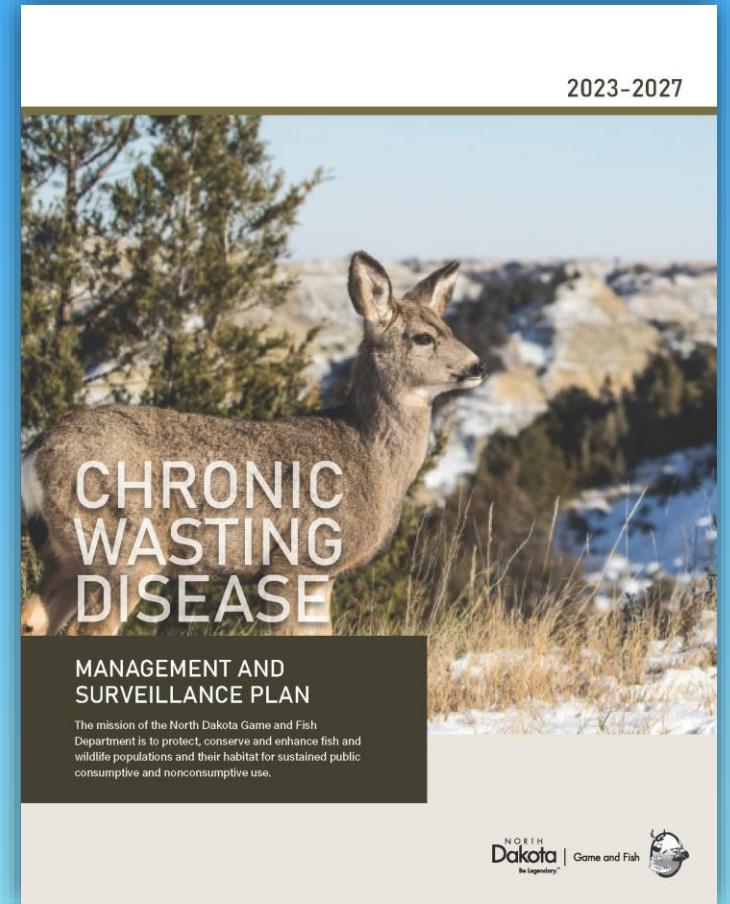


Chronic Wasting Disease

CWD

Why we care about CWD

- Prion disease
- *Always* fatal
- Strong deer hunting culture
- Economic fallout





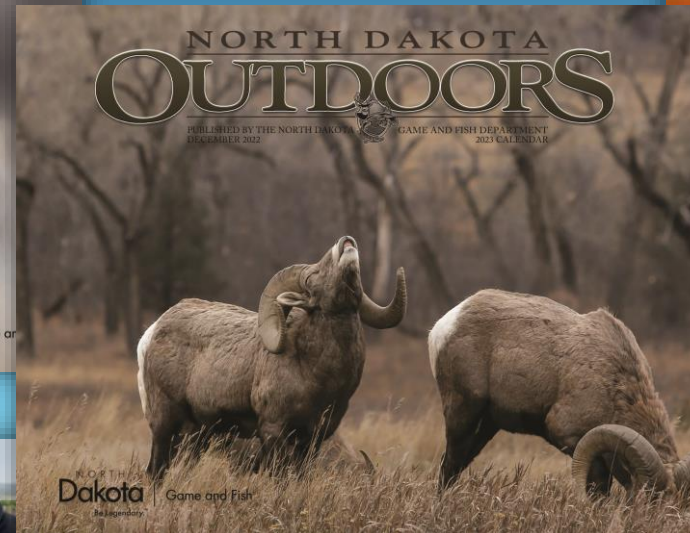
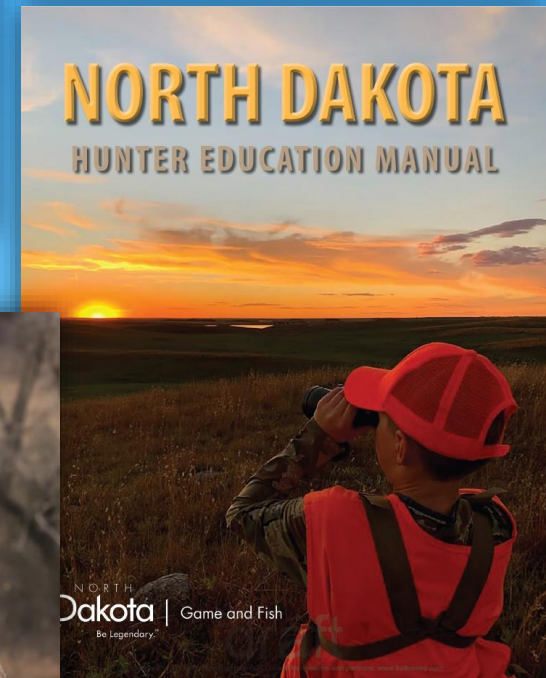
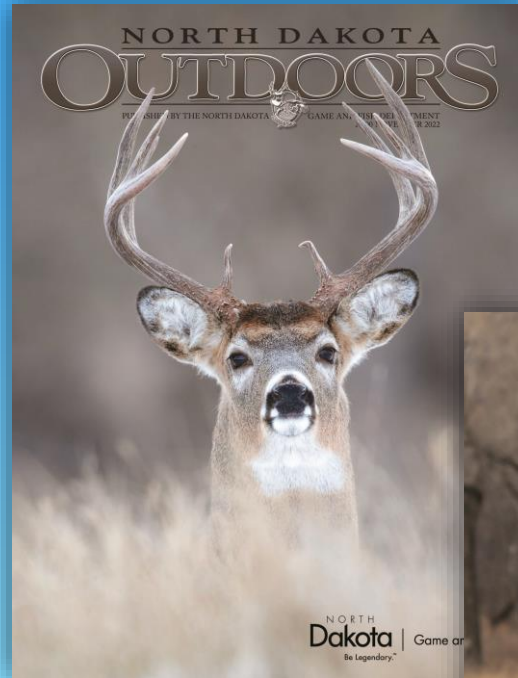
Habitat Matters



NORTH
Dakota | Game and Fish
Be Legendary.™



CONSERVATION & COMMUNICATIONS



NORTH
Dakota | Game and Fish
Be Legendary.™



R3

Recruiting – Retention – Reactivation



ADMINISTRATION



Bismarck Headquarters and Wildlife Health Lab



Lonetree



Williston



Dickinson



Jamestown



Riverdale



Devils Lake



Mobile App

Coming Soon !

The Official App of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Convenience
View licenses in the digital wallet or quickly access Department Buy & Apply services

Stay Informed
Receive messages and notifications directly to your personal inbox

Be Prepared
Select or use your current location to view sunrise/sunset times or weather forecasts

Follow Us
Subscribe to News and Alerts or follow us on Department communication channels

Follow Us
Subscribe - News and Alerts
Facebook
Instagram
Youtube
NDO Podcast

North Dakota Game and Fish
Be Legendary!

ENFORCEMENT



Law Enforcement Officers

Game Wardens



- North Dakota is 70,705 square miles in size
- Has the *third smallest* number of game wardens in the nation at 38 full-time law enforcement officers
- Average area covered by a District Game Warden – 2,438 square miles
 - Field checks (through 12/13/22):
 - 2022 – 31,628 residents; 11,753 non-residents
 - 2021 – 38,439 residents; 12,671 non-residents
 - Citations (through 12/13/22):
 - 2022 – 2,370
 - 2021 – 2,711

For comparison; South Dakota has 87 Conservation Officers



PARTNERSHIPS

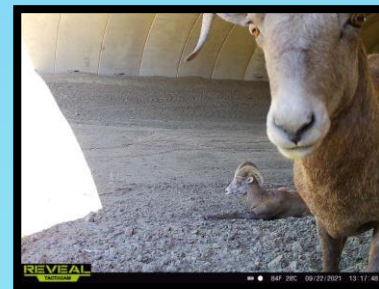
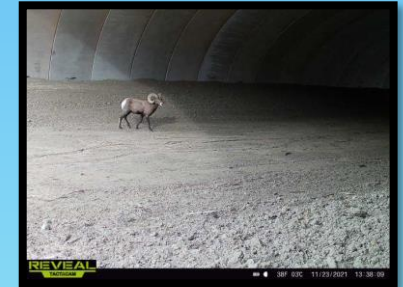
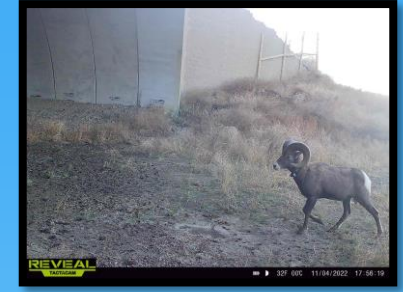
- Private Landowners
- Federal Partners
 - USFWS, USACE
- Non-Government Organizations
 - Mule Deer, Elk, Turkey, Pheasants, Ducks
- Ag Partnerships
 - NDGLC, NDSA
- Legislative Branch



Wildlife Crossings

partnering with

NDDOT



Tribal Engagement

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Elk and MHA Nation Bighorn Sheep MOU's



Shooting Range Opportunities

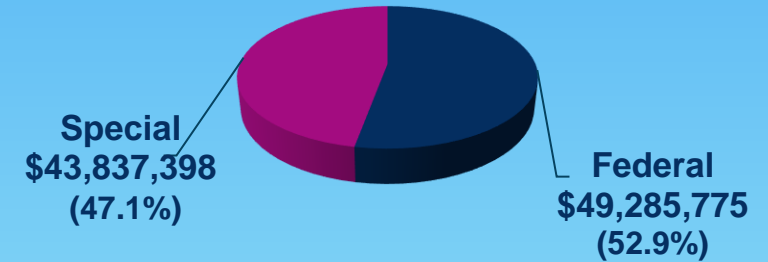
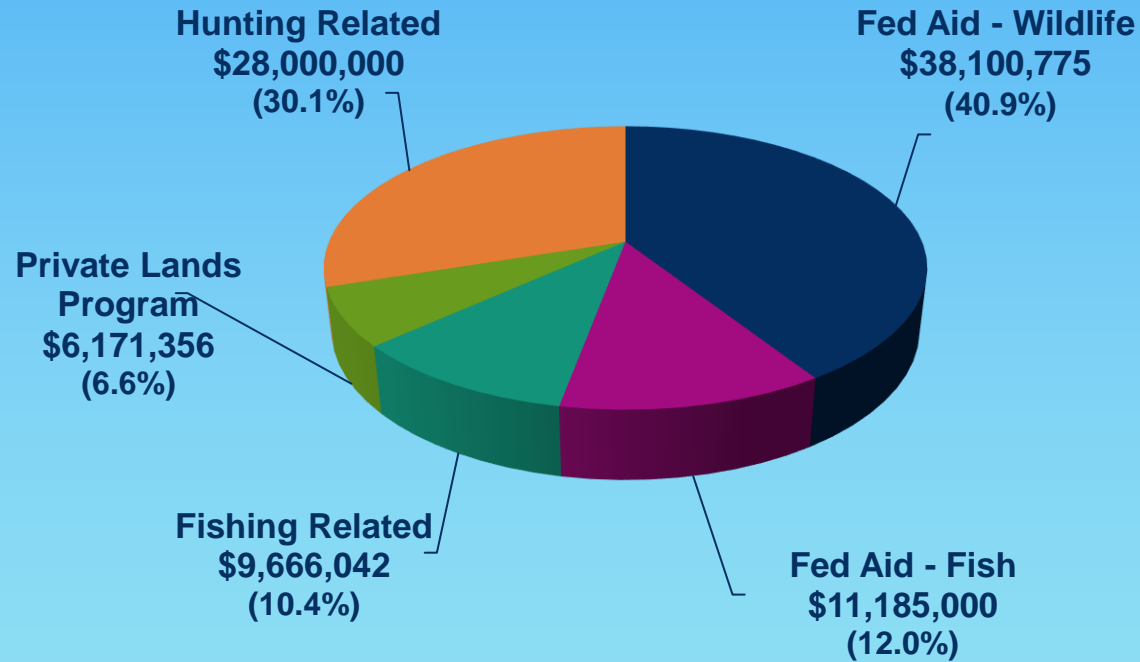
Watford City



Medora – TRMF
(1M)



2023 – 2025 REVENUE PROJECTION



Total = \$93,123,173*

* Excludes Donation Account, Nongame Fund and Outdoor Heritage Funds



USFWS FEDERAL FUNDS

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act Pittman-Robertson (PR)

- **21-23 Revenue Projection: \$25,700,000**
- **23-25 Revenue Projection : \$31,000000**

Funds are from excise taxes on the sale of guns, ammo and archery equipment which is allocated to the states by a formula based 50% on the amount of land area of the state relative to the rest of the states, and 50% based on the number of hunting license holders in a state relative to other states. These funds are referred to as PR funds.



USFWS FEDERAL FUNDS

Federal Aid in Sport Fishing Act Dingell Johnson (DJ)

- **21-23 Revenue Projection: \$9,000,000**
- **23-25 Revenue Projection : \$9,500000**

Funds are from excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat fuel which is allocated to the states by the same formula above with the exception of using the number of fishing license holders vs hunting licenses. These funds are referred to as DJ funds.



USFWS Federal Funds

N.D.C.C. 20.1-02-17

Hunting and fishing license fees and application fees may only be used for departmental programs and administration.

Noncompliance will result in a diversion of all USFWS federal funds.

USFWS PR & DJ funds equate to 82% of our federal funds in 23-25:

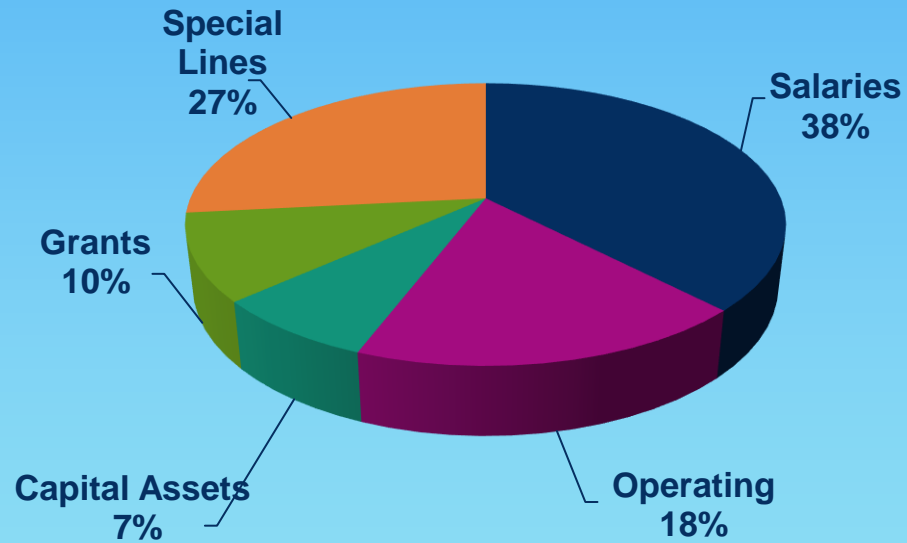
These funds are apportioned to States from USFWS by law and are not dependent on Congress approval. These funds have a 2-year window to be obligated by the department; otherwise, we will lose the funds and they will revert back to the USFWS to be allocated to other states.

USFWS federal funds require a 25% match. In some cases, the 25% match comes from local partners such as park boards, wildlife clubs, etc.

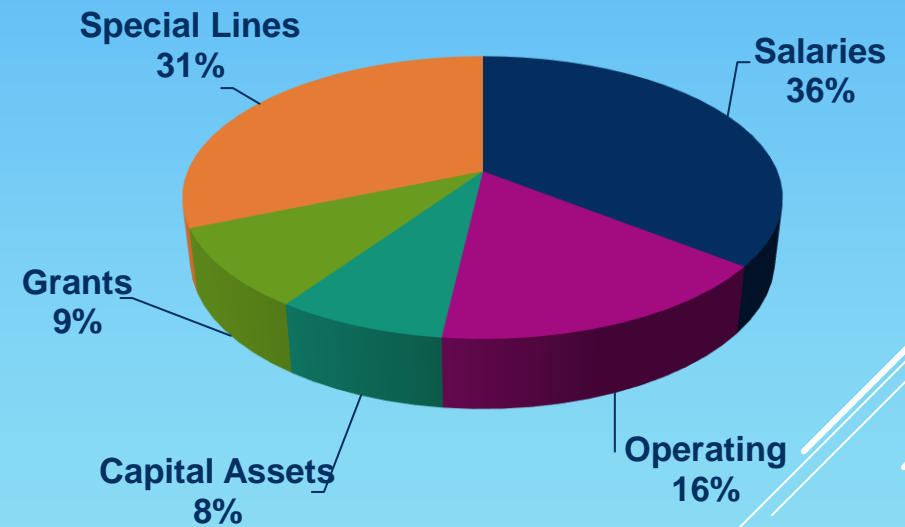


2023 – 2025 APPROPRIATION

Legislative Base Budget \$89.6 Million



Proposed Budget \$110.8 Million





2023 – 2025 BUDGET CHANGES

	Request	Federal	Special
Aquatic Nuisance Species increase – WRDA Funding	\$1,406,839	\$703,419	\$703,420
♦ includes 1 Biologist FTE			
Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat and Access on private lands	\$4,693,574	\$3,460,104	\$1,233,470
♦ includes 3 Biologist FTEs			
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$2,777,778	\$2,500,000	\$277,778
♦ Mid-term conservation agreements			
Fisheries - 1 Biologist FTE	\$241,998	\$181,497	\$60,501
Fisheries – Dam Repairs	\$380,000	\$0	\$550,000
♦ Camel Hump and Baukol Noonan			
Fisheries – Pondliners	\$1,000,000	\$750,000	\$250,000
♦ GDNFH Pondliners			



2023 – 2025 BUDGET CHANGES

	Total Request	Federal	Special
Enforcement – 2 Investigation Warden FTEs	\$707,536	\$53,136	\$654,400
Enforcement – Replace in Car Video System & Add Body Cameras	\$550,000	\$0	\$550,000
Admin Services – 1 Account Budget Specialist FTE	\$238,513	\$0	\$238,513
Agency Motorpool	\$1,157,192	\$0	\$1,157,192
FACILITIES			
♦ ANS Lab and Storage Facility - Jamestown	\$850,000	\$0	\$850,000
♦ Bunkhouse improvements – Devils Lake	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
TOTAL	\$14,353,430	\$7,648,156	\$6,705,274

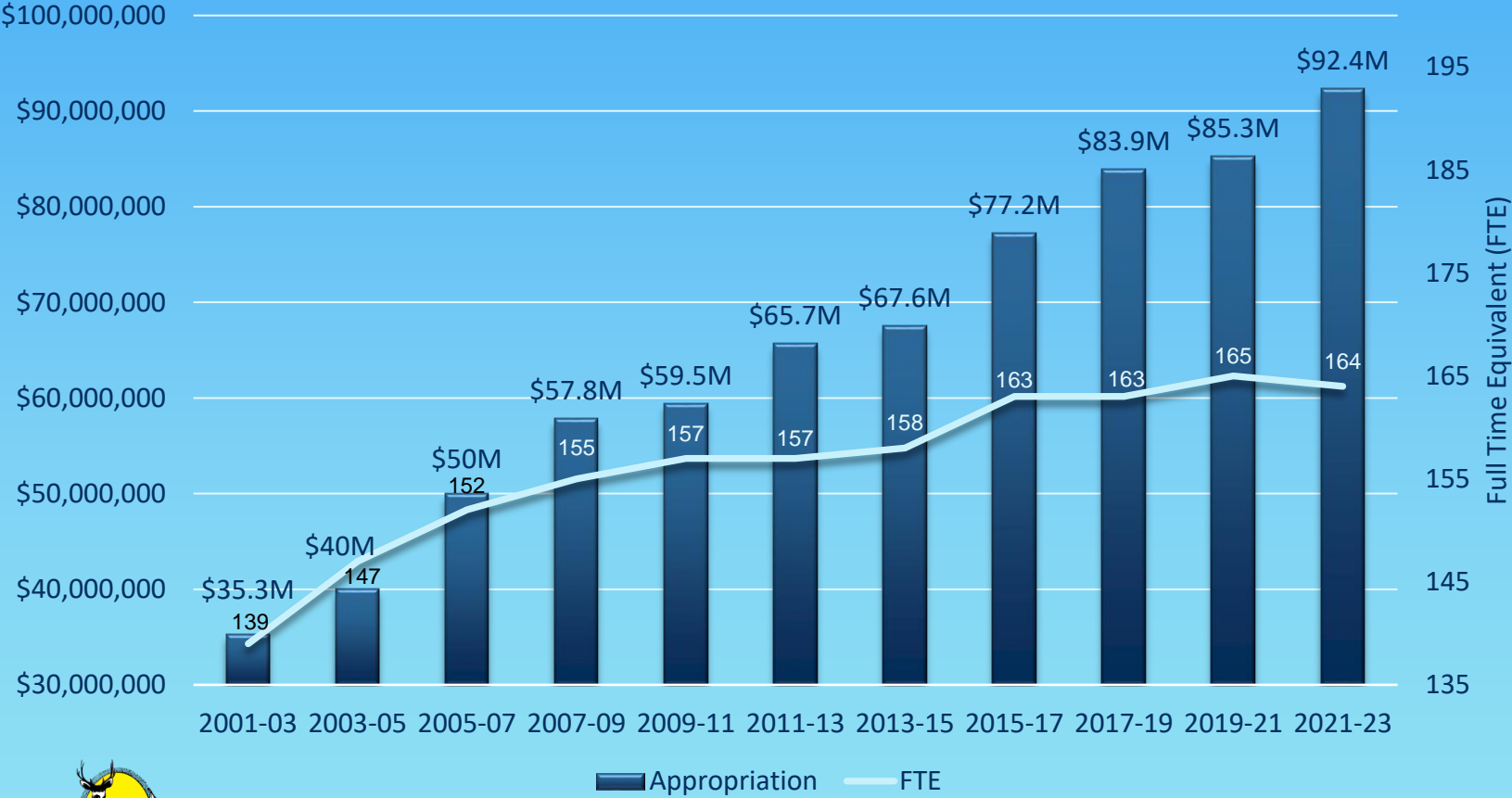
2023 – 2025 CONTINGENT FUNDING

	Request	Federal	Special
Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) - new Special Line	\$27,150,000	\$22,775,000	\$4,375,000
♦ includes 7 Biologist FTEs			

*Dependent upon Congress approval of Recovering America's Wildlife Act

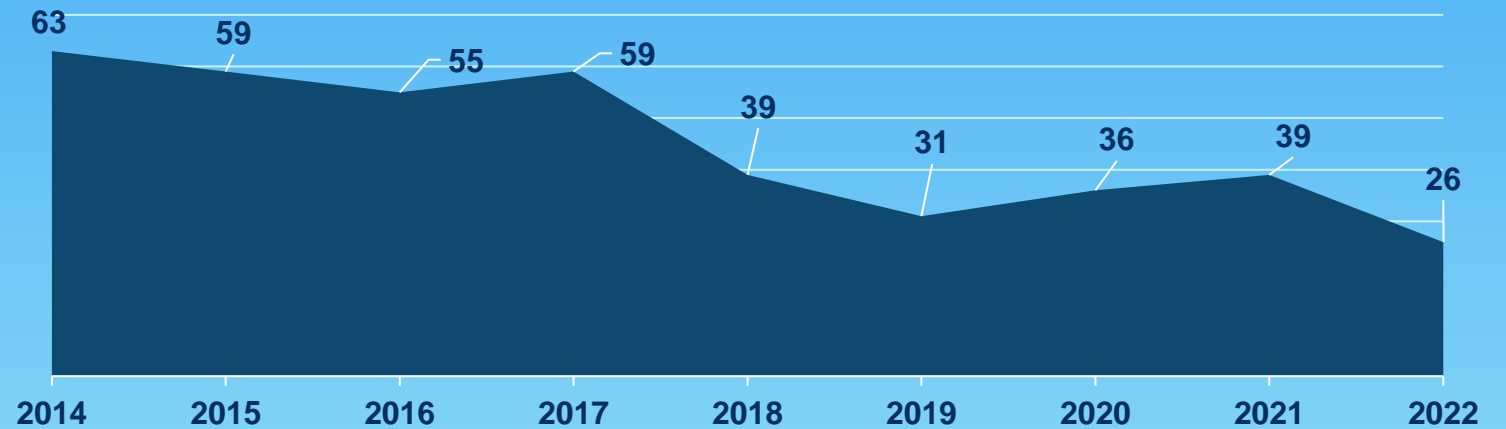


APPROPRIATION and FTE HISTORY



WORKFORCE

WILDLIFE SEASONAL POSITION APPLICANTS – LAST 8 YEARS

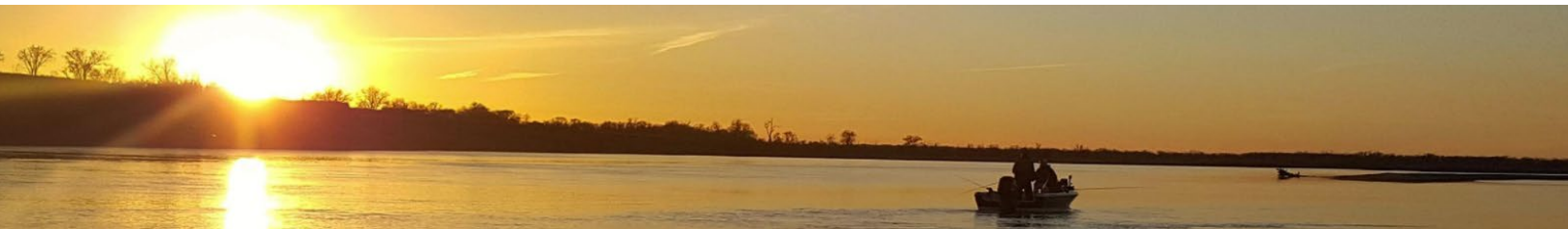


Along with decrease in the number of applicants, the quality of applicants is decreasing, lacking skills necessary to perform jobs efficiently and effectively. When seasonal positions are not filled, applicants don't have the experience to meet the minimum qualifications of a full-time classified position. Pay for seasonal employees averages less than a shelf stocker at a retail store.



Questions?





North Dakota Game and Fish Department

WHO WE ARE

164

Full-time Team Members

11

Year-round Temporary Team Members

55

Seasonal Temporary Team Members

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

Mission: The mission of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use.

Vision: Sustain an abundant fish and wildlife resource that meets the demand of customers, provides a quality experience and benefits North Dakota citizens. Provide reasonable opportunity for citizens of the state, and visitors, to access those resources.

Values: Opportunities for Citizens – hunting, fishing, recreational; Fish and Wildlife Resources; Balance – various interests within North Dakota; Exceptional Customer Service; Citizen Engagement; Public Trust

Goals/Objectives: Provide access and opportunities for hunters, anglers and trappers; Manage fish and wildlife resources; Provide accurate, timely and quality outreach and customer service; Foster landowner/sportsmen relations; Maintain citizen engagement

Strategic Priorities: Reduce the risk and contain the spread of CWD and ANS through education, monitoring and enforcement. Implement Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) strategies to increase and monitor current and future participation in hunting and angling.

WHO WE SERVE

Hunters/Trappers

Individuals who specialize in harvesting wild game animals with firearms, archery, and trapping equipment for the purpose of gaining food and other animal products, recreation, trade or wildlife management.



Boaters

Individuals who use boats for fishing or pleasure.



Anglers

Individuals who participate in fishing, spearing and/or snagging for table fare and/or simple enjoyment.



Landowners/Operators

Individuals who own land and/or make a living off the land with agriculture products.



Recreational Shooters

Individuals who engage in the discharge of firearms or weapons at fixed or moveable artificial targets.



Others

Individuals who participate in watchable wildlife, gardening and habitat, foraging, and other activities.

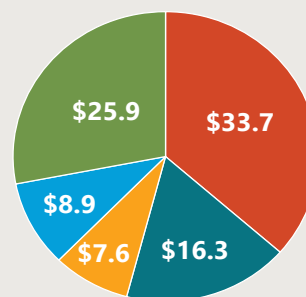


HOW WE DO IT

**Total Agency Budget:
\$92,368,134**

- General: \$0
- Special: \$50,911,601
- Federal: \$41,456,533

- Salary
- Operating
- Capital
- Grants
- Special Lines



In Millions

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

WHAT WE'RE PROUD OF

Customer Service

- 100% online licensing, lotteries, watercraft
- Timely lottery results
- Online Hunter Education
- Gov Delivery Messaging

Citizen Engagement

- State Fair, Sports Shows
- Social Media – Facebook, Instagram, YouTube
- Website, Webcasts, TV/Radio Segments, Magazine, Publications
- Blog: The Drift, Behind the Badge
- Education Programs

Landowner Relationships

- Meadowlark Initiative
- Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS)
- Electronic Posting
- Fishing Access Easements
- Wildlife Depredation timely response

Responsible Fish and Wildlife Management

- Maintain and enhance healthy wildlife populations and their habitat
- Provide fishing/hunting opportunities while protecting fish and wildlife populations

45,489
Warden
Field
Contacts

6,379,721
Website
Views

\$2.1 billion*
ND Gross
Business
Volume

282,401
Customers
Served

40,168
Social Media
Followers

1,247,750
Website
Users

5,336
Hunter
Education
Certificates

2,948
High School
Clay/Target
League
Participants

9,070
NASP
Participants

799,314
PLOTS
Acres

219,694
Wildlife
Management
Acres

Record
Number (450)
Fishing
Waters

292 Water
Bodies with
Public Boat
Ramps

58.2M Fish
Stocked in
the Previous
4 Years

*NDSU Survey/Ndembe et al. 2019

Note - Data based on 2022 unless otherwise indicated.

WHAT WE DO

Fisheries

Provide diverse and valued fishing opportunities for public enjoyment while safeguarding the fishery resource.

Conservation & Communications

Informs, educates and promotes fish and wildlife related opportunities. Manages nongame species and Species of Conservation Priority. Consults with developers to avoid, minimize, and offset impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

Administrative Services

Provides policy, planning and support services and is responsible for all game and fish licensing.

Wildlife

Provides for the responsible management of diverse wildlife resources in the state. As well as ensuring access to those resources.

Enforcement

Provides community outreach, public safety, and enforcement of laws and regulations governing the use of the state's wildlife resources and recreational waters.

HOW WE MEASURE SUCCESS

License Sales

Monitor license sales and trends of participating resident and nonresident hunters, anglers and trappers.

User Days

Number of days hunters and anglers spend in the field or participate in the outdoors. This information is used to determine effort and success. In addition, this relates to the quality of life and economic benefits to North Dakota.

Surveys

Surveys sent to hunters, anglers and trappers to determine success and measure effort while pursuing fish and wildlife species.

Landowner Satisfaction

PLOTS surveys used to analyze and determine the best department programs for the benefit of landowners, hunters, habitat and wildlife.

Education Event Participants

Students participating in hunter education, shooting sports, National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), and other education events, may result in future participation in hunting, angling and trapping.



NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH WORKFORCE

VISION - Sustain an abundant fish and wildlife resource that meets the demand of customers, provide a quality experience and benefits North Dakota citizens. Provide reasonable opportunity for citizens of the state, and visitors, to access those resources.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE CAN'T DO OUR JOB...



Decreased public access and opportunities (WMA, PLOTS, boat ramps, fishing docks and piers)

Inability to maintain positive landowner relations and public engagement

Unable to manage invasive species and diseases (ANS, CWD, noxious weeds, etc.)

Difficulty providing timely response to law enforcement complaints and public safety calls

Unable to address the public demand for fish and wildlife populations

Unable to provide timely customer service (licensing, boat registrations, hunter education, communications, etc.)

CURRENT AGENCY TEAM MEMBER STATS

164

full-time team members

30

retirement-eligible team members

3

vacancies

65%

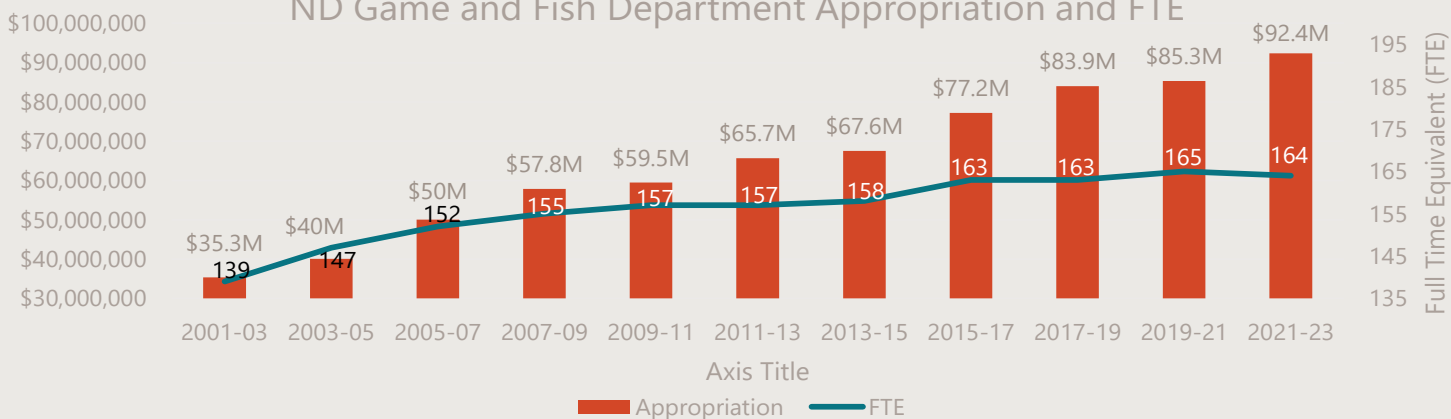
current FTE Techs, Biologists, and Wardens were former wildlife/ fisheries seasonal employees

\$52K

Average annual starting salary of Wildlife Bio. Technicians, Biologists, & Game Wardens

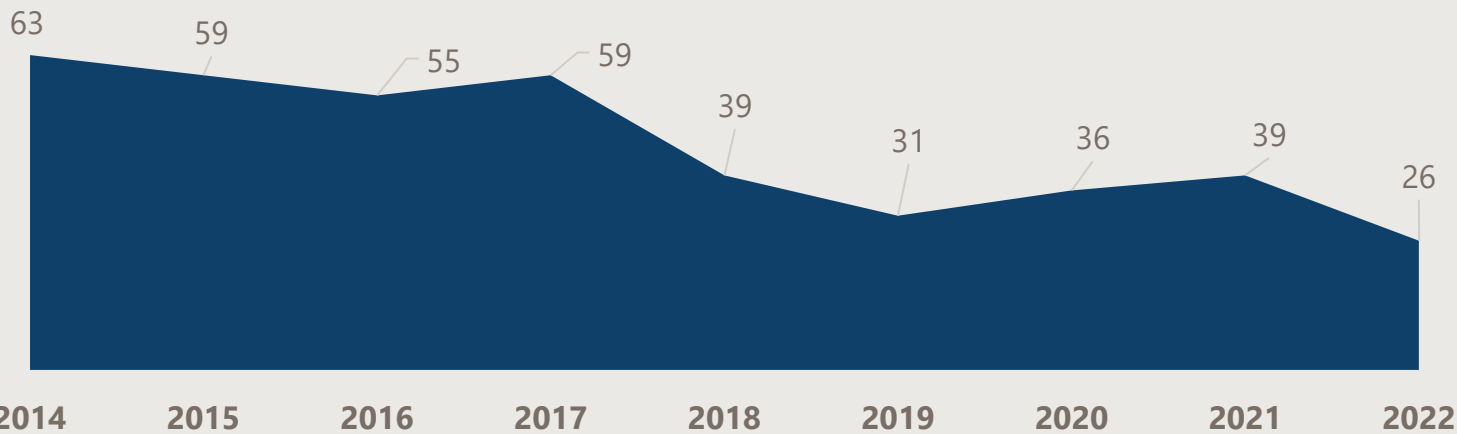
HOW WE COMPARE

ND Game and Fish Department Appropriation and FTE



NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH WORKFORCE

WILDLIFE SEASONAL POSITION APPLICANTS – LAST 8 YEARS



Along with decrease in the number of applicants, the quality of applicants is decreasing, lacking skills necessary to perform jobs efficiently and effectively. When seasonal positions are not filled, applicants don't have the experience to meet the minimum qualifications of a full-time classified position. Pay for seasonal employees averages less than a shelf stocker at a retail store.

COST OF TURNOVER

Up to \$167K
per Game Warden

- Game Wardens train for up to 12 months to develop all the skills needed to enforce Game and Fish laws.
- A large number of employees are eligible for retirement which means a dramatic loss of institutional knowledge.
- 3rd smallest Game and Fish Department in the nation, means hard to perform current duties as well as training new employees on their new duties.

WORKFORCE COMPETITION



Competition

US Fish and Wildlife – pay averages from \$500-\$1000 more per month



Competition

Game Warden positions – Highway Patrol, City police and County Sheriffs offices



Competition

Our other partners – Natural Resources Conservation Service, ND Natural Resources Trust, Fish & Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK:

- * Enforcement recruitment challenges with inconsistent Total Rewards package (retirement, etc.)
- * Seasonal recruitment difficulties with competitors offering higher pay
- * Geographic issues of our district offices (i.e. Williston, Riverdale, Lonetree)



DEDICATED TO PROTECTING, DEVELOPING, AND MANAGING NORTH DAKOTA'S WATER RESOURCES
 PO Box 2254, Bismarck, ND 58502-2254 701-223-4615 • 701-223-4645 (Fax)

**Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division
 Hearing for SB 2017
 January 25, 2023
 Testimony of Dave Lang, North Dakota Water Users Association**

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2017. The Water Users Association is the state-wide member organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota's water resources. We have more than 150 members including local, statewide and regional organizations in North Dakota who have an active interest in water. The Water Users has as its members many of the project sponsors who receive their funding from SB 2020.

As the Division works on the budget for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the Water Users asks that you support the efforts of the Game and Fish Department in preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS). The North Dakota Water Users has a policy resolution addressing the vital need to combat the spread of ANS. Our policy reads:

We urge aggressive prevention of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) for North Dakota waters as outlined in the North Dakota aquatic species management plan prepared by the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee. We urge all federal and state agencies to adequately fund and provide the necessary authorities to implement aquatic nuisance species prevention programs in all North Dakota waters, and we support adequate funding for ANS education and enforcement. We support the actions and initiatives of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in their efforts to educate, inform public and protect our states' waters from ANS. As these efforts are limited in scope due to their funding through licensing fees, we strongly encourage and support direct State funding to better protect our waters from the high risks associated with the invasion and adverse impacts associated with ANS.

As the threat of ANS, particularly zebra mussels grows, additional work will need to be done to curb the spread through inspection and education. Zebra mussels are especially damaging to any type of infrastructure within an infected body of water, including irrigation and water supply intakes. Once introduced zebra mussels can NOT be eradicated. The thumbnail-sized mollusks spread rapidly, a single female mussel can produce about a half a billion offspring in her 3 to 5-year life span. Eventually they silently, but completely upend the delicate ecology of a lake. They overwhelm and kill native mussels. They strain out and devour tiny, edible material, robbing native fish of nutrients. They excrete a carpet of waste that fosters the growth of hairy, stinky, toxic mats of algae. Zebra mussels have a jagged, razor-sharp shell that can slice a swimmer's foot or leave your hand bloody when grabbing onto anything submerged in the infested waters.

It only takes one infected boat to introduce zebra mussels and infect an entire body of water. This is why a robust inspection strategy is vital to prevention. We ask the Division to support a strong ANS prevention line item within the Department's budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony,

**NORTH DAKOTA
SPORTFISHING
CONGRESS**

P.O. BOX 2472 • BISMARCK, ND 58502

BARNES COUNTY WILDLIFE FED
PO Box 148
Valley City, ND 58072

Dear members of the Senate Appropriations' Education & Environment
Division,

BIS-MAN REEL & REC CLUB
PO Box 2525
Bismarck, ND 58502

On behalf of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress, I am asking for you to
support strong funding for inspection and enforcement activities related to
preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) in SB 2017.

DAKOTA ANGLERS
PO Box 1411
Jamestown, ND 58401

F.M. MUSKIES, INC.
PO Box 2021
Fargo, ND 58107

The threat of ANS, particularly zebra mussels, is real and would impact
recreational opportunities in North Dakota as well as the drinking water and
irrigation water supply for many North Dakotans. Zebra mussels, and many
other ANS, are spread through contaminated boats, ramps, intakes, or other
objects that are moved from an infested body of water to one that is not. It
only takes one contaminated object to infest a body of water. That's why
inspection and enforcement is a necessity to halting the spread of ANS.

F.M. WALLEYES UNLIMITED, INC.
PO Box 1017
Moorhead, MN 56560

FRIENDS OF LAKE SAKAKAWEA
PO Box 309
Garrison, ND 58540

Inspection and enforcement activities are conducted by the ND Game and Fish
Department. Their current funding for these activities is not adequate to
addressing the problem. Please consider additional funding for ANS inspection
and enforcement as you work on SB 2017.

GREAT PLANERS TROUT & SALMON
PO Box 1972
Bismarck, ND 58502

LAKE REGION ANGLERS ASSN.
PO Box 456
Devils Lake, ND 58301

Thank you,

LURE EM FOR LIFE
PO Box 547
Bismarck, ND 58502

Rick

Rick Mohan

ND FISHING HALL OF FAME
PO Box 445
Garrison, ND 58540

President, North Dakota Sport Fishing Congress
701-840-7792
rgmohan1@outlook.com

RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMENS
PO Box 1
Wahpeton, ND 58074

UNITED SPORTSMAN OF WILLISTON
PO Box 11393
Williston, ND 58803

VOICES FOR LAKE OAHE
PO Box 482
Linton, ND 58552



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

**Testimony of John Bradley
North Dakota Wildlife Federation
Senate Bill 2017
Senate Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Division
January 25, 2023**

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). I am here today representing our thousands of members and 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's club across North Dakota. While I cannot speak for the 100,000 plus hunters and anglers that took to the field last year, I would say our views are representative of many of them.

The Department's budget has always been comprised of revenue from hunting and fishing licenses (attached), and federal excise taxes based on the sale of sporting goods. The Department does not receive any money from the state's general fund. The Game and Fish Department programs provide habitat for fish and wildlife, access for hunters and anglers, and other programs which result in billions of dollars to lodges, restaurants, gas stations, bars, and other small-town businesses.

But the need for funding has surpassed the amount of funding available to effectively deliver Department programs. If more money is made available, then the Department can significantly improve programs and practices such as PLOTS, land purchases, access to land locked tracts, ice fishing access, habitat enhancements, etc., along with many other important programs benefiting our state's outdoor recreation economy.

Therefore, the 2023 legislation should support a strong, robust Game and Fish budget and provide an increase to the Department's PLOTS and Aquatic Nuisance Species line items in the budget. An investment in these programs will benefit our citizens and our local economies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that the committee might have.



North Dakota Game and Fish Department License Sales Trend

01/17/2023

* This report displays change in license sales from 03/01/2022 - 01/14/2023 compared to the same date range of the previous year.

License Name	2021	2022	Percent Change	License Totals
NR FISH LIC	17,793	16,192	-9.0%	-1,601
NR 3-DAY FISH	21,439	18,111	-15.5%	-3,328
NR 10-DAY FISH	6,898	5,076	-26.4%	-1,822
NR MARRIED COUPLE FISH LIC	5,941	5,377	-9.5%	-564
NR SPOUSAL FISHING	5,934	5,378	-9.4%	-556
NR GEN GAME & HABITAT	41,282	42,717	3.5%	1,435
NR 14-DAY SMALL GAME LIC	21,209	21,996	3.7%	787
NR 14-DAY WATERFOWL LIC	15,963	16,969	6.3%	1,006
NR 14-DAY STATEWIDE WATERFOWL LIC	7,099	7,658	7.9%	559
NR EARLY CANADA GOOSE LIC	1,813	1,788	-1.4%	-25
NR SPRING SNOW GOOSE LIC	1,402	1,231	-12.2%	-171
NR CRANE	2,316	2,686	16.0%	370
NR WHITETAIL DEER BOW	2,721	2,491	-8.5%	-230
NR NONGAME	1,278	1,248	-2.3%	-30
NR FURBEARER & NONGAME	2,376	2,235	-5.9%	-141
RES FISH LIC	42,177	39,040	-7.4%	-3,137
RES MARRIED COUPLE FISH LIC	11,924	11,175	-6.3%	-749
RES SPOUSAL FISHING	11,929	11,176	-6.3%	-753
RES SR CIT FISH LIC	14,670	15,084	2.8%	414
RES COMBINATION LICENSE	63,760	61,838	-3.0%	-1,922
RES GEN GAME & HABITAT LIC	42,281	41,592	-1.6%	-689
RES SM GAME HUNTING	12,714	13,181	3.7%	467
RES DEER BOW LIC	24,383	22,656	-7.1%	-1,727
RES DEER BOW - YOUTH	1,855	1,739	-6.3%	-116
RES EARLY CANADA GOOSE LIC	5,978	5,420	-9.3%	-558
RES CRANE	2,581	2,857	10.7%	276
RES FURBEARER	6,427	6,277	-2.3%	-150



January 25, 2023

**SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department**

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Education and Environmental Division of Senate Appropriations, my name is Kim Kary, Administrative Services Division Chief of the ND Game and Fish Department. I will be testifying on SB2017, our appropriation bill.

The ND Game and Fish Dept is largely directed under NDCC Title 20.1 and many of those responsibilities reside under 20.1-02-05 which lists the power of the Director. The major statutory responsibilities can be summarized as: to manage and regulate the state's wildlife resources, game and non-game, for the use, enjoyment, possession, disposition and conservation for the public of North Dakota.

The 2023-25 executive budget recommendation is \$110,754,601. This is an increase of \$21,172,967 from the 2021-2023 legislative base level appropriation of \$89,581,634.

My testimony will cover the following for the Department:

- Federal and Special Revenue
- Fund Balance
- Legislative base changes
- 23-25 Budget Changes
- Other Sections included in the executive bill draft for SB2017
- Budget by Divisions

The Game and Fish Department is a special fund agency receiving revenue from game and fish license sales (hunting, fishing, and boat registrations) and federal funding. We receive no general fund dollars.

23-25 Revenue Projections:

Federal revenue is projected to be as follows:

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (PR funds)*	\$31,000,000	
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ funds)**	\$ 9,500,000	
Recreational Boating Safety Program	\$ 1,487,000	
State Wildlife Grants	\$ 1,180,650	
Misc. Federal Grants	\$ 733,962	
Bureau of Reclamation (Lonetree)	\$ 2,180,744	
Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)	\$ 703,419	
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)	\$ 2,500,000	
Total Federal Revenue	\$49,285,775	52%

Game & Fish (G&F) Revenue by Fund:

Game and Fish Fund (Licenses + Misc.)	\$38,445,797	
Private Land Habitat Fund	\$ 6,171,356	
Nongame Wildlife Fund (Donations)	\$ 68,000	
Aquatic Nuisance Species Fund	<u>\$ 1,382,042</u>	
Total Game & Fish Revenue	\$46,067,195	48%

Total All Revenue \$95,352,970

* **Wildlife Restoration Act** – funds are from excise taxes on the sale of guns, ammo and archery equipment which is allocated to the states by a formula based 50% on the amount of land area of the state relative to the rest of the states, and 50% based on the number of hunting license holders in a state relative to other states. These funds are referred to as Pittman-Robertson (PR) funds.

****Sport Fish Restoration Act** – funds are from excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat fuel which is allocated to the states by the same formula above with the exception of using the number of fishing license holders vs hunting licenses. These funds are referred to as Dingell-Johnson (DJ) funds.

Federal Revenue Levels

- USFWS Sport Fish Restoration Act funds (DJ) – Since 2008, our DJ fund apportionment has been over \$4M except for 3 years (2011, 2012, 2014) when it was between \$3.6M-\$3.9M. Thus in 2013 we changed the funding source from federal to state for one of our fisheries projects. Since 2015 DJ funds have continued to be over \$4M. In 2022, the amount was \$4.6M. We project the funds to remain slightly above the \$4M level annually for 2023-25. The funds require a 25% match.
- USFWS Wildlife Restoration Act funds (PR) – In 2013 PR funds were \$7.7M and have steadily increased to \$15.8M in 2022. We project the funds to remain around the \$15M level annually for 2023-25. The funds require a 25% match.
These funds are apportioned to States from the USFWS by law and are not dependent on Congress approval. The PR funds have a 2-year window to be obligated by the department; otherwise, we will lose the funds and they will revert back to the USFWS to be allocated to other states.
- U.S. Coast Guard, Recreational Boating Safety Program – We project the funds to remain approximately the same for 2023-25. The funds require a 50% match.
- USFWS State Wildlife Grant funds – have remained the same the last several years, but it is dependent on Congress. These funds pay for 2 biologist positions and projects involving nongame and endangered species. We project the funds to remain approximately the same for 2023-25. The match varies.
- Bureau of Reclamation - have remained the same the last few years. 100% federal.

I will explain a couple other federal revenue sources, WRDA, NFWF, Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), later when I talk about the budget changes.

The USFWS DJ & PR funds equate to 82% of our total federal funds. These funds are not dependent on congress. They are apportioned to states each year based on the formula explained on the previous page. If these federal funds decrease, we would cut programs or use our special funds (licensing revenue).

Another important part of these DJ and PR funds is they require each Game and Fish agency to have the following in law:

NDCC 20.1-02-17

Hunting and fishing license fees and application fees may only be used for departmental programs and administration. Noncompliance will result in a diversion of all USFWS federal funds.

Any misuse of our special funds will result in what is called a “diversion”. A diversion of federal funds means we become ineligible for future USFWS federal funds until the diversion is resolved. This equates to approximately \$40M.

License & Special Revenue

We project our license revenue to remain approximately the same for 2023-25. The license sales for General Game, Resident Deer Gun and Fishing are shown below.

GENERAL GAME

2012	Res	102,274	NR	47,433
2013	Res	101,423	NR	45,016
2014	Res	96,026	NR	45,021
2015	Res	95,324	NR	46,985
2016	Res	96,011	NR	45,703
2017	Res	93,949	NR	37,044
2018	Res	97,524	NR	38,086
2019	Res	99,353	NR	36,660
2020	Res	109,252	NR	41,326
2021	Res	106,610	NR	41,282
	*2022 Res	103,430	NR	42,717

*Data as of 1/17/23. The 2022 license year ends 3/31/2023.

RESIDENT DEER GUN

2009	125,583
2010	101,216
2011	94,130
2012	48,605
2013	43,625
2014	34,640
2015	29,559
2016	34,970
2017	40,438
2018	41,068
2019	52,347
2020	54,809
2021	54,662
2022	50,950

FISHING LICENSE SALES

Resident fishing license sales spiked during COVID.

2012	Res	159,502	NR	58,894
2013	Res	160,132	NR	59,311
2014	Res	157,187	NR	64,911
2015	Res	157,663	NR	64,949
2016	Res	152,102	NR	60,994
2017	Res	152,056	NR	62,958
2018	Res	147,573	NR	62,501
2019	Res	144,339	NR	64,156
2020	Res	162,177	NR	67,579
2021	Res	147,249	NR	64,090
	*2022 Res	138,866	NR	50,141

*Data as of 1/17/23. The 2022 license year ends 3/31/2023.

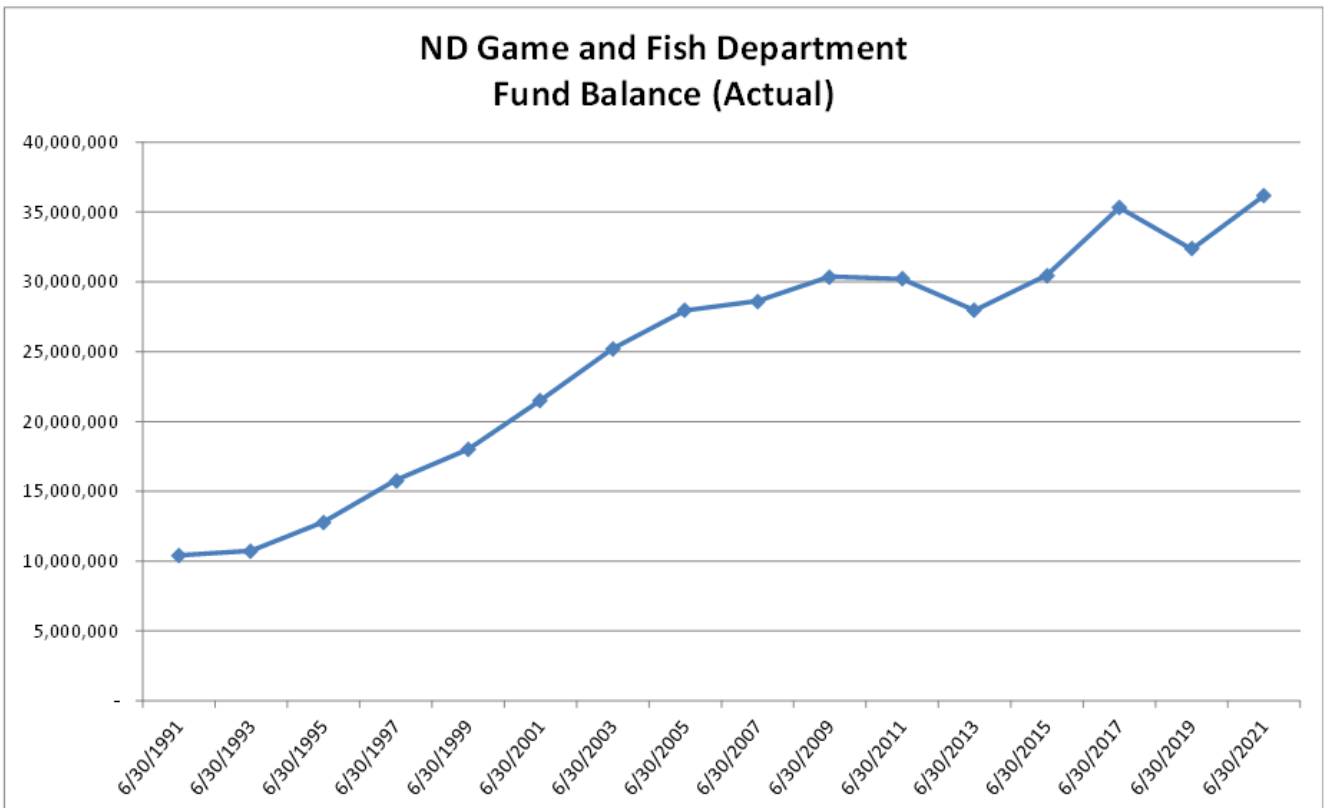
Fund Balances - Fund balance projections are as follows:

	<u>Actual</u> <u>6/30/2021</u>	<u>Projected</u> <u>6/30/2023</u>	<u>Projected</u> <u>6/30/2025</u>
Game and Fish Fund	\$33,434,612	\$28,952,216	\$18,494,070
Private Land Habitat Fund	\$1,594,095	\$3,425,261	\$1,775,677
Non-Game Wildlife Fund	\$163,669	\$177,669	\$145,669
Aquatic Nuisance Species Fund	\$983,317	\$419,794	\$258,294
Total	\$36,175,693	\$32,974,940¹	\$20,673,710
			RAWA ²
			(\$4,375,000)
Adjusted Total with RAWA			\$16,298,710

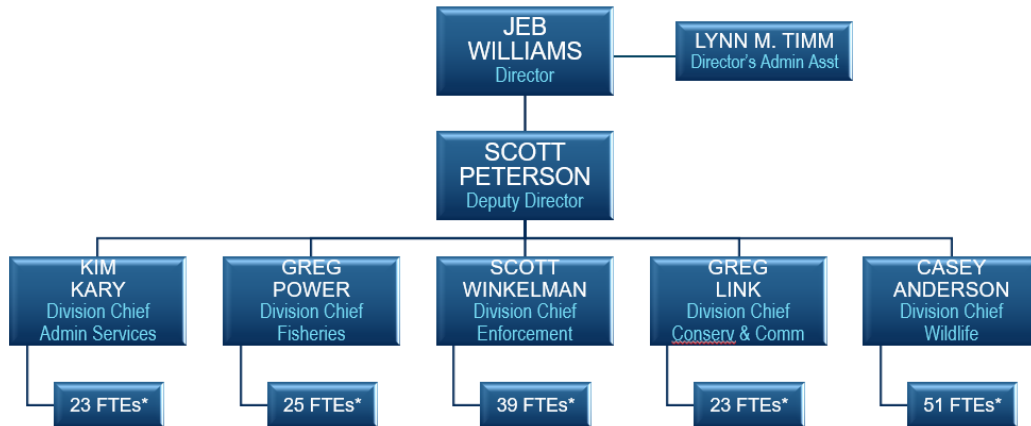
1 - Balance if spend entire appropriation in all lines

2 - RAWA decision package does not include increase for compensation plan.

Per NDCC 20.1-02-16.1, the fund balance shall not be reduced below \$15M unless authorized by the budget section.



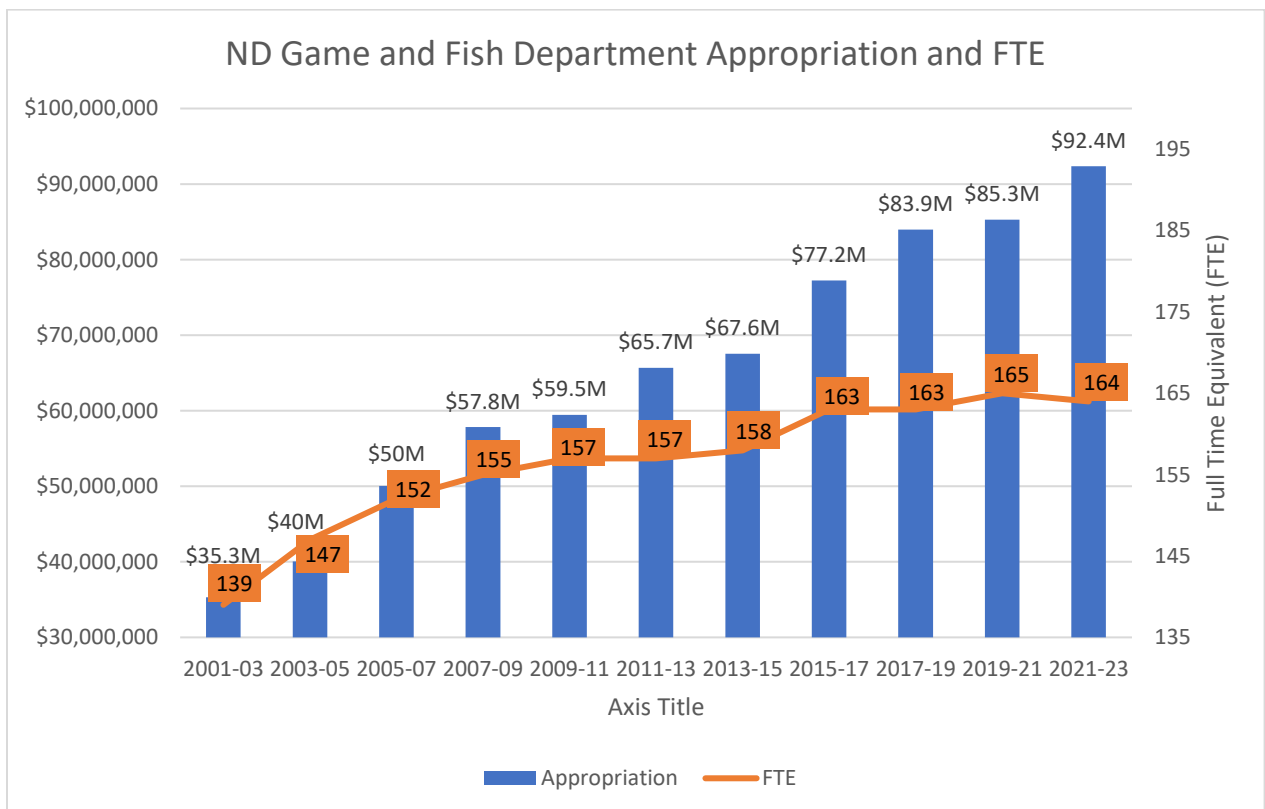
NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT



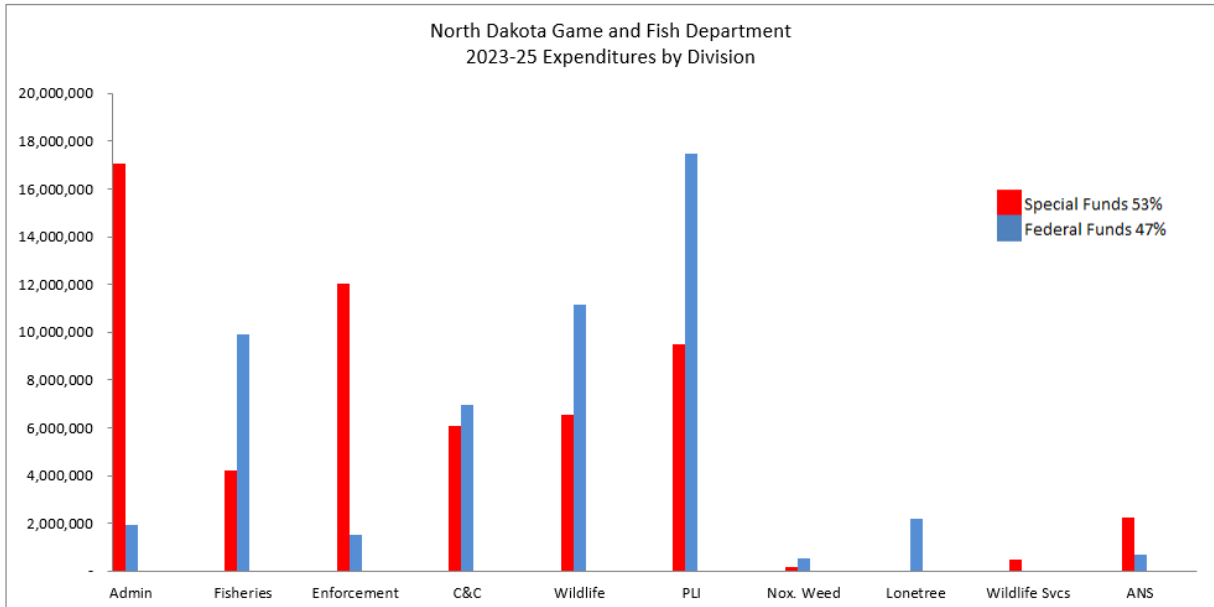
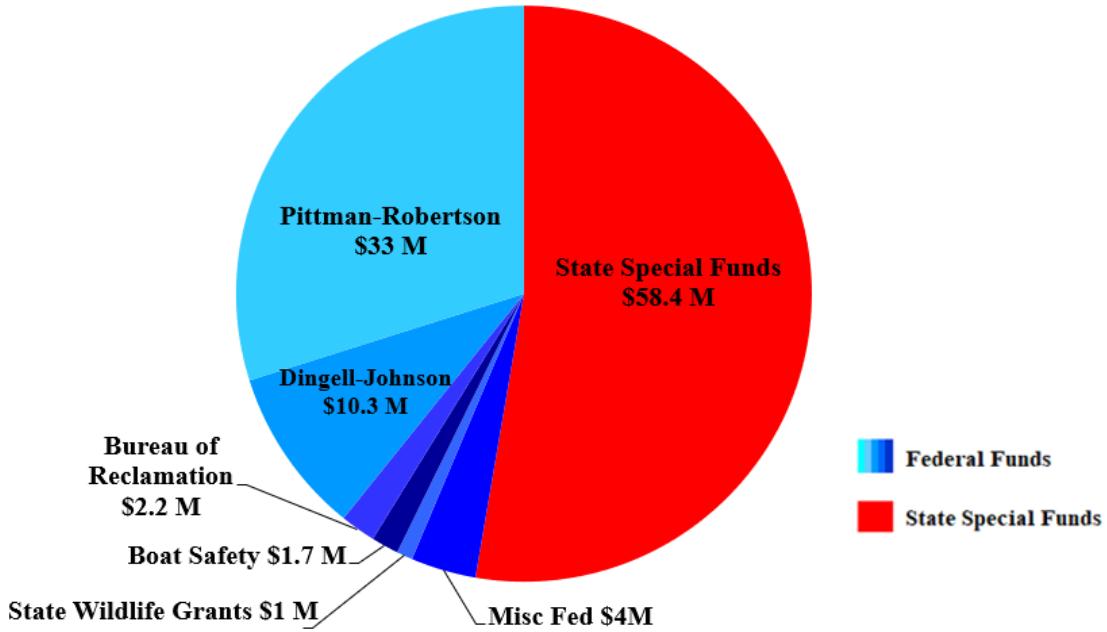
07/2021 = 164 total Full-Time Equivalents

* Includes Division Chiefs

- 30 employees are retirement eligible
- Only 18 out of the 164 FTEs are funded 100% Special funds
- 44% of FTEs are biologist or wildlife technicians – 75% Federal funds
- 90 out of the current 164 FTEs were seasonal employees (55%)



ND Game and Fish Department 2023-25 Expenditures by Funding Source



23-25 Legislative Base Change to Executive Recommendation by Line Item

	Code	23-25 Legislative Base	23-25 Increase (Decrease)	23-25 Recommended Budget
Salaries & Wages	72010	33,741,592	5,710,239	39,451,831
Operating Expenses	72030	16,276,782	1,662,055	17,938,837
Capital Assets	72050	6,774,770	1,791,891	8,566,661
Grants	72060	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Shooting Sports Grant Program	72062	250,000	0	250,000
Habitat & Deer Depredation	72070	17,995,597	8,962,358	26,957,955
Noxious Weed Control	72071	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River Enforcement	72073	296,999	22,270	319,269
Grant-Gift-Donation	72074	670,133	17,912	688,045
Nongame Wildlife	72075	100,000	0	100,000
Aquatic Nuisance Species	72076	1,509,009	1,459,604	2,968,613
Lonetree Reservoir	72077	1,818,409	380,005	2,198,414
Wildlife Services	72078	500,000	0	500,000
Total		89,581,634	21,172,967	110,754,601
FTEs		164	8	172

23-25 Legislative Base Change to Executive Recommendation - Green Sheet Items

2023-25 Legislative Base	\$89,581,634
Cost to continue salaries	\$295,116
ITD Shared software & service rate changes	\$80,908
Misc Base Budget Changes	\$2,966,393
<hr/>	
2023-25 Dept. Base Budget Request	\$92,924,051
Compensation Package	\$3,477,120
Budget Changes	\$14,353,430
<hr/>	
2023-25 Total Recommended Budget	\$110,754,601
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23-25 Budget Changes to Base Budget - \$14,353,430

	Total Request	Federal	Special
1) Fisheries – 1 Biologist New FTE	\$241,998	\$181,497	\$60,501
2) Aquatic Nuisance Species increase – WRDA Funding ♦ includes 1 Biologist New FTE	\$1,406,839	\$703,419	\$703,420
3) Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat and Access on private lands ♦ includes 3 Biologist New FTEs	\$4,693,574	\$3,460,104	\$1,233,470
4) National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ♦ Mid-term conservation agreements	\$2,777,778	\$2,500,000	\$277,778
5) ANS Lab and Storage Facility – Jamestown [one-time]	\$850,000	\$0	\$850,000
6) Bunkhouse improvements – Devils Lake [one-time]	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
7) Admin Services – 1 Account Budget Specialist New FTE	\$238,513	\$0	\$238,513
8) Enforcement – 2 Warden Investigator New FTEs	\$707,536	\$53,136	\$654,400
9) Enforcement – Replace In-Car Video System & Add Body Cameras [one-time]	\$550,000	\$0	\$550,000
10) Agency Motorpool	\$1,157,192	\$0	\$1,157,192
11) Fisheries – Dam Repairs [one-time] ♦ Camel Hump and Baukol Noonan	\$380,000	\$0	\$550,000
12) Fisheries – Pondliners [one-time] ♦ GDNFH Pondliners	\$1,000,000	\$750,000	\$250,000
TOTAL	\$14,353,430	\$7,648,156	\$6,705,274

23-25 BUDGET CHANGE DETAIL \$14,353,430

1. Fisheries - New FTE Biologist II: \$241,998 (75% federal)

We are requesting one (1) new FTE and related operating expenses for a Biologist II District Supervisor in Williston.

The state is divided into six fisheries districts of roughly equal size, with a District Fisheries Supervisor historically stationed in each district. The northwest and southwest fisheries districts cover approximately the western one-third of North Dakota, with district offices located in Williston and Dickinson, respectively. When the Northwest District Fisheries Supervisor retired in 2016, that position was converted to the Department's Aquatic Nuisance Species Supervisor to direct more effort to Department efforts to curb the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species. Since 2016, the Southwest District Fisheries Supervisor has overseen fisheries management activities in both the northwest and southwest. The Southwest District Fisheries Supervisor retired in 2022, and that position was also reprioritized to direct manpower to other areas of the Fisheries Division that were short-staffed. This most recent change left both the northwest and southwest fisheries districts without a supervisor.

The District Fisheries Supervisor serves an important role developing fisheries program directives throughout the district, planning and leading biological surveys, overseeing data entry and analysis, developing technical summaries and reports, and conducting applicable research projects as needed. District Fisheries Supervisors provide outreach materials for various media and respond directly to public inquiries for information in their district. They supervise field staff ranging from District Fisheries Biologists (Biologist I), District Fisheries Technicians (Wildlife Technician I) and seasonal fisheries aides. Currently, fisheries staff of the northwest and southwest consists of a single Biologist I in each. These staff conduct surveys and management in their respective district, but are limited to available assistance from seasonal aides and other Department staff to fill in. This request is for re-establishing a District Fisheries Supervisor in Williston. This position will supervise both the northwest and southwest district biologists and their activities. Although the combined districts cover a large geographic area, the combined number of waters is in line with the management responsibilities of other fisheries districts statewide. Lastly, there is an immediate need for more biological support staff on the upper end of the Missouri River System. If approved by the legislature, this position will assist in addressing these needs.

2. Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) (Line 76): \$1,406,839 (50% federal)

- New FTE – Biologist I ANS and related operating expenses
- Temporary salaries for seasonal watercraft inspectors - \$245K
- Equipment – 2 wash stations, 3 Internet Landing Installed Device Sensors (ILIDS) - \$205K
- Grants for ANS outreach \$68K

The 2020 WRDA legislation passed by Congress established a new federal cost-share reimbursement program for Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination (WID) for states in the Missouri River Basin. Therefore, the Department will be eligible to participate in the program that awards states a 50 percent reimbursement for work associated with establishing and operating watercraft inspection stations. Work-related to the monitoring of ANS is also eligible

for reimbursement. The WRDA WID cost-share program would increase the funds in the ANS line by over \$700,000 a biennium. We have been awarded the funds and are working on signing a Programmatic Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The WRDA cost share will further support the critical elements of the Department's ANS program. It will fund one (1) new ANS biologist position. Additional funds will allow the Department to increase the size of its seasonal watercraft inspection crew and enable the Department to keep seasonals employed later into the fall. Funds will bolster the ANS education/outreach campaign and allow the Department to diversify its current campaign further to reach a broad demographic of water users. Finally, cost-share dollars will help the Department place ANS prevention devices like wash stations, CD3s, and ILIDS that help contain the spread of current ANS population and prevent new introductions.

3. Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat & Access on Private Lands (Line 70): \$4,693,574 (\$3,460,104 fed PR funds & \$1,233,470 special funds)

We are requesting appropriation authority in Special Line 70-Habitat & Deer Depredation (Private Lands Initiative) for:

- **Two (2) New PLI Biologist FTEs** in the field to deliver habitat and access through the Department's Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program. The primary objective for each of these FTE positions would be to develop habitat and increase public access. *(75% federal PR funds)*
- **One (1) New FTE to manage the partners, grants and habitat program.** Examples of Grant opportunities include: USFWS PR, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Outdoor Heritage Fund, USDA, etc. This FTE will be in Bismarck to manage the habitat program, obtaining new grants and working with partners. *(50% federal PR funds)*
- **\$3,000,000** for expansion of current PLOTS program (access payments to landowners). *(75% federal PR funds)*
- **\$1,000,000** to develop habitat without required access. *(75% federal PR funds)*

This request is being made to address the need for a significant change to the Private Lands Initiative (PLI), to adapt to decreasing habitat conditions on the landscape, and to be responsive to additional grants and funding opportunities that are not currently pursued due to staff constraints. While the current funding for PLI is substantial, the changes occurring on the landscape are resulting in a higher cost to develop habitat and acquire additional public access. Developing habitat and access together requires significantly more staff time than acquiring access alone. The current funding and staffing arrangement of PLI has been able to steadily maintain around 800,000 acres for several years, but this request is being made to utilize additional federal USFWS Pittman-Robertson (PR) funds to develop additional habitat and increase to one million acres of PLOTS. In the last decade, North Dakota has lost over 2.5 million acres of grasslands, including Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and native prairie. In addition, nearly 60% of North Dakota's wetlands have been converted, tree rows, fence lines and abandoned farmsteads have been removed. This is most evident in eastern ND, but central and western ND are experiencing this as well. Some deer units in eastern ND have seen an 85% decrease in deer harvested due to habitat loss. Habitat conditions in North Dakota are at a crossroads. With over 90% of land in North Dakota held in private ownership, the Department must increase efforts on private land by developing critical wildlife habitat without requiring public access as it has done through the Save Our Lakes program for many years.

For landowners wanting to develop habitat there are limited options. USDA programs, such as CRP, provide options for habitat without access, but changes to the program have resulted in many offers not being accepted (63% acceptance). Furthermore, there is hesitancy by some landowners to enter into USDA programs due to lengthy process and requirements. Programs available through various conservation partners provide options but primarily consist of cost share centered around livestock grazing infrastructure. This creates a gap for landowners wanting to develop habitat but not wanting to work with USDA, those not wanting to enroll into PLOTS or those not set up for livestock grazing. The Department's PLI program can provide habitat development options through private lands biologists across the state. The Department is a trusted source whom landowners are comfortable working with, however, not all are interested in allowing unrestricted walk-in hunting access through PLOTS. The Department must reach beyond the PLOTS program to deliver habitat on to private lands.

These federal funds are apportioned to States from USFWS by law and are not dependent on Congress approval. These PR funds have a 2-year window and need to be obligated by the Department by 9/30/23; otherwise, we will lose the funds and they will revert back to the USFWS to be allocated to other states.

This request for additional federal and special spending authority will benefit hunters seeking more habitat and hunting access and private landowners who have expressed interest in developing wildlife habitat on their land.

4. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) (PLI Line 70): \$2,777,778 (90% federal)

The request is being made to address needs for grassland dependent species and their habitats. It is for mid-term conservation agreements for private landowners who have expressed interest in mid-term conservation program agreements on restored native grasslands through the Department's Meadowlark Initiative. Hunters will also benefit from the additional habitat and wildlife on these lands. While public access is not a required component, landowners may also be eligible for the PLOTS program if they are willing to allow walk-in hunting access.

5. ANS Lab & Storage Facility – Jamestown: \$850,000 (100% special) [one-time funding]

In 2019, the North Dakota legislature passed Senate Bill 2293, which gave North Dakota's Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program an estimated \$1.5 million per biennium. These funds were used to hire additional FTE/seasonal staff and bolster education, monitoring, and prevention efforts. Although the total number of FTE and seasonal staff has quadrupled over the past two years, facility size and storage capacity have primarily remained the same. In addition, the Department has purchased and will continue to buy large ANS prevention devices, whose electronics need to be housed in a heated facility in the winter months. Currently, those electronics are housed in shared areas in regional offices.

ANS staff collect more than 400 water samples per year from waterbodies, hatcheries, and bait vendor facilities to look for nuisance larval invertebrates, including zebra mussels, golden clams, and spiny water flea. These samples are prepared and processed using specialized compound light microscopy to look for nuisance invertebrates. All lab-based ANS monitoring takes place in small office rooms that don't have access to running water, or wastewater disposal, which adds considerable time and effort to processing samples. Storage space for water samples and general

voucher specimens is limited to the same few heated office rooms. The lack of workable lab space could contribute to incidental sample contamination. A new ANS facility that doubles as a lab and a heated storage building would allow for the continual accumulation of ANS related assets without seeking additional space to meet storage and lab needs.

The Department currently hires 9 seasonal employees to work out of our Jamestown District Office each year. However, we are restricted who to hire, due to our temporary housing situation. Currently we can accommodate 4 seasonal employees in our temporary housing. We have 2 FEMA park model campers that house up to 2 employees each (depending on gender).

The Department's proposed solution is to construct a 40'x100' building that will serve as an ANS Lab & Storage Facility. The building will also provide temporary housing for up to 10 seasonal staff.

6. Bunkhouse improvements – Devils Lake: \$350,000 (100% special) [one-time funding]

Seasonal employees are essential to the Department to complete necessary work every summer. The Department currently hires 7 seasonal employees to work out of our Devils Lake District Office each year. The Aquatic Nuisance Species program is expanding, and the Devils Lake area is a high priority for this effort. However, we are restricted due to our temporary housing situation. Currently we can accommodate 4-5 seasonal employees in our temporary housing. The number we can house greatly depends on the gender of seasonal employees. We have 3 campers that house 1 employee each and 1 bunkhouse that comfortably houses 2 employees. Additionally, all seasonal employees share one bathroom located in the bunkhouse. This is not suitable for a mixed gender work force. Further, the condition of the campers has deteriorated to the point that spending additional funds for repairs is not in the best interest of the state.

The Department's proposed solution is to renovate our current bunkhouse which would create 5 separate living quarters and 2-3 bathrooms. Each room could house 2 seasonal employees. The overall dimensions of the new bunkhouse would be approximately 30' x 40'.

7. Administrative Services - New FTE Account Budget Specialist III: \$238,513 (100% special)

We are requesting one (1) New FTE for an Account Budget Specialist III and related operating expenses.

This biennium, the department has received over \$6M in additional federal funds from USFWS Pittman-Robertson, new federal funds for Chronic Wasting Disease work from USDA-APHIS, and the potential of additional funds from USFWS for CWD, and the Water Resources Development Act funds from the Corps of Engineers for Aquatic Nuisance Species work. There is also the addition of millions of federal funds that the department has the potential to be awarded: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (\$2.5M) and Recovering America's Wildlife Act (\$22,775,000).

Currently we have 1 FTE in Administrative Services that is the Federal Aid Manager who handles these duties for all federal funds for the department (approx. \$37M per biennium).

The amount of federal funds the department received in 2013-15 was \$25M and 2015-17 was \$30.2M, an increase in federal revenue of \$5M. In 2015-17, we requested and received an FTE to assist with the growing workload.

Since 2015-17, when we received the additional FTE, federal revenue has again increased approx. \$7M (15-17 \$30.2M to 21-23 est. \$37M). Any addition of federal funds above current levels is not sustainable by existing staff.

The amount of federal regulations, grant application processing requirements, and reporting requirements in the new federal systems have increased and it now takes a lot more time to administer the grants. The workload involved with these federal funds pertaining to understanding and maintaining compliance with federal regulations, keeping up with and implementing changes, processing applications and amendments, monitoring budgets and grant balances, requesting reimbursements, preparing subgrant agreements and monitoring subgrantees, and preparing, reviewing, and submitting financial and performance reports in multiple different federal systems will require another position to manage and perform these duties.

8. Enforcement – 2 New FTE Warden Investigators: \$707,536 (\$53,136 federal)

We are requesting two (2) New FTE for Warden Investigators and related operating and equipment expenses. One will be located in Eastern ND and one in Western ND. The majority of the funding will be special funds with a minimal amount from the US Coast Guard for boat safety work.

Looking ahead to future needs for the Enforcement Division, there is a need for a non-district regional Warden Investigator to increase investigative presence for the North Dakota Game and Fish Enforcement Division. An increase in population has increased enforcement activity. Time dedicated to investigations has been on the rise since 2011. Investigations have become more complex involving multiple people, violations, and locations. When more time is spent on investigations, time dedicated to patrol suffers. Covering an average of 2400 sq miles of a warden's district becomes even more challenging when long hours are spent on investigations. Work for the wardens is compounded when neighboring districts are empty or the adjacent warden is off work hours. Work level saturations occur with the balance between investigations, patrol, and reporting fit into a standard hour schedule. If you also include time and distance for travel within a district you have a finite number of tasks that can be accomplished. It should also be noted that keeping staff at extremely high work levels for extended times will cause a drop in productivity.

Time is difficult to track on investigations as each is not completed on a linear timeline. Investigations may stop and start on many occasions over multiple months or even years until completion. The combination of incidents, public outreach, reporting, mandatory training, meetings, biological data collection and wildlife response calls make it extremely difficult to put sufficient time and effort towards long term investigations. Assignment of investigations to the Department's only commercial investigations supervisor causes time and distance issues making the effort less productive and cannot be done in a sufficient manner by a lone investigator.

Other factors we considered when looking at the issue of adding a non-district warden/investigator.

1. Not all officers are top investigators and were hired as field wardens.

2. Field Wardens do not have the specialized training to complete complex investigations that may lead into other jurisdictions.
3. Lack of time for compliance checks (e.g. Guides, Outfitters, Taxidermists, Bait Vendors, etc.) by district wardens that could be better handled by trained commercial investigators.
4. Loss of patrol affecting public safety by district wardens while doing investigations.
5. Increased ability and time for ANS/Wildlife health enforcement.
6. A warden investigator has more freedom to complete investigations as they are not tied to district calls on wildlife and complaints.
7. Warden investigator can assist field wardens on special projects without having to pull other district wardens out of their districts.
8. A warden investigator would give the region more flexibility to fill in when injuries, retirements, and job openings occur in a district.
9. With 29 field wardens currently in the state the volume of work often exceeds the capacity of workers. Many county sheriff's offices employ more deputies for one county than the ND Game and Fish employ Game Wardens in an 11-13 county region.
10. The number of outfitters has increased over time resulting in an increase demand for oversight.

9. Enforcement – Replace In-Car Video System & Add Body Cams: \$550,000 (100% special) [one-time funding]

This request is for replacing 40 in-car video systems and adding 40 body cameras. The current in-car video systems are over 10 years old and are no longer in production. Due to their age they are malfunctioning at increasing rates and are difficult to service due to age/lack of parts. The Enforcement Division currently does not have body cameras. Body cameras are becoming a normal and expected equipment item for all law enforcement officers. Adding body cameras will improve department credibility and protection against complaints, protect citizens, and help document evidence in criminal cases. The new in car video systems and body cameras are a package that work together for improved efficiency and ease of use for the officer.

10. Agency Motorpool: \$1,157,192 (100% special)

Increase in motorpool costs due to rising fuel prices based on Department of Transportation Fleet Services Budget Guideline rates.

Motorpool costs are incurred during the day to day operations of the Department and are essential in serving our customer base. A reduction in motor pool allocation would result in a reduction of services such as enforcement activities, management of our state's big game, small game, and furbearing resources, management of our Wildlife Management Areas, delivery of our Private Lands Initiative, management and development of the state's fisheries, monitoring and surveillance of Aquatic Nuisance Species and wildlife diseases including Chronic Wasting Disease, and the responsibility of implementing the Statewide Action Plan for species of conservation priority. Our entire customer base including hunters, anglers, trappers, and watercraft operators would be impacted, at varying levels, by a reduction of motor pool cost allocation.

11. Fisheries – Dam Repairs: \$380,000 (100% special) [one-time funding]

Camels Hump Dam: This work will include both a geotechnical study to identify water movements through the dam and solutions to correct these movements as well as partnering with DOT to cure in place and line the principal spillway to correct the rusting steel pipe.

Baukol-Noonan Dam: This work is to repair the failed riser pipe that has rusted through as well as also cure in place line the principal spillway to correct its rusting steel pipe. Cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining is one of several methods used to repair existing pipelines that don't require that you dig up the pipes. CIPP is a jointless, seamless, pipe-within-a-pipe with the capability to repair pipes ranging in diameter from 4–110 inches.

12. Fisheries – Pondliners: \$1,000,000 (75% federal) [one-time funding]

As in past bienniums, there is a continued need to invest money at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery (GDNFH) by continuing the pond lining program which eliminates water loss issues with the current ponds as well as increases fish production capacity. Depending on the liner cost, the request should line approximately four (4) 1.5 acre ponds (the cost includes engineering fees). There are 40 ponds in the Department owned east rearing unit with 15 of the 40 lined to date.

Other Sections Included in the Executive Bill Draft for SB2017

We are requesting the following two Sections be included in SB2017:

SECTION 4. LINE ITEM TRANSFER AUTHORITY. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants – game and fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025. The game and fish department shall notify the legislative council of any transfer made pursuant to this section.

The Department currently has this language in its 21-23 appropriation bill, but it ends 6/30/23.

The continuation of this limited transfer authority will benefit the department by allowing it to be responsive to changing circumstances and be able to operate in a more efficient and effective manner.

- We have a wide range of expenditures (e.g. construction, building maintenance, boat ramps/docks, food plots, weed spraying, contract pilots, law enforcement, research grants, surveys, shooting ranges, etc.) that can be challenging to project a budget 3 years in advance.
- When maintaining buildings/facilities, things happen and based on the type of repair and the cost, it will determine whether it should be paid from the Operating line or the Capital Asset line.
- It is hard to project new boat ramp/dock projects. We have appropriation in the Grants line but if we are doing boat ramp maintenance on our Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), it needs to come out of the Capital Asset line. If it is not on our WMA, it can come out of the Grants line.
- There are O&M situations that depending on the circumstances will determine if the cost should be coded to Operating line or Grants line. For example, paying a club or political sub for O&M of fish cleaning stations or docks/boat ramps on our WMA is a service contract paid from the Operating line. We can give a grant (Grants line) to do the same if the O&M is on their land and not our land. In addition, wet years versus dry years can dictate the types and locations of maintenance required on boat ramps and facilities. The location (our WMA versus club land) dictates the line from which the funding comes.
- It is hard to budget for unplanned situations and try to make the appropriation and accounting rules match. An unplanned situation could arise where a ramp is compromised or access road is washed out on our WMA and we need to repair but only have budget available in the Grants line.

The Department makes a concerted effort to spend sportsman/angler money wisely. This is demonstrated by the following:

- 1) prior to the license fee increase in April 2014, fees had not been increased since 1983 for deer and 1991 for fishing;
- 2) having a healthy Special fund balance;
- 3) monitoring our revenue and keeping a handle on expenditures accordingly.

4) Also, per NDCC 20.1-02-17 - hunting and fishing license fees and application fees may only be used for Departmental programs and administration. No one else can use our Special funds. Noncompliance with this law will result in a diversion of Federal funds.

Having this limited transfer authority would allow the Department to be more responsive to changing circumstances as noted above and have the broader flexibility that the Legislature has already granted to a select few executive branch agencies, as well as the legislative and judicial branches of government.

SECTION 5. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS-RECOVERING AMERICA’S WILDLIFE ACT. Subject to the provisions of this section, there is appropriated out of other funds in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$27,150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, and seven full-time equivalent positions to the Game and Fish Department for Recovering America’s Wildlife Act for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025. The funding and positions authorized in this section are available only upon passage of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act.

	Total	Federal	Special
Research/Surveys/Inventories	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000	\$0
Develop/restore (all habitats)	\$12,243,578	\$9,182,683	\$3,060,895
Midterm grass conservation agreements	\$2,500,000	\$1,875,000	\$625,000
Habitat enhance/improvement	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$0
Communications/Outreach/Marketing	\$80,000	\$60,000	\$20,000
Grants - Meadowlark Initiative	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0
Grants - Partner Farm Bill Biologists	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$0
Various operating expenses	\$940,972	\$705,728	\$235,244
4 Temps (4 months) and operating expenses	\$120,000	\$90,000	\$30,000
4 PLI Biologists, operating expenses & equipment	\$894,544	\$670,909	\$223,635
3 Conservation Biologists and operating expenses	\$720,906	\$540,680	\$180,226
TOTAL	\$27,150,000	\$22,775,000	\$4,375,000

We are requesting that this Section be included in SB 2017. If the funding of RAWA passes, we are requesting this be set up as a new Special Line appropriation. We need the flexibility of spending these funds as a Special Line to effectively implement the various RAWA components. The purpose and outcome of certain RAWA activities could frequently shift (i.e. between Operating and Grants) considering the specific method and party doing the work. Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA) presents a new funding opportunity for the ND Game and Fish Department (NDGFD) which is different than traditional funding in which licenses and fees paid by hunters, anglers, shooters, and other sources are used as match for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program. RAWA could potentially invest \$1.4 billion annually in fish and wildlife conservation nationally. If passed by Congress, an estimate of over \$14 million annually could ultimately be allocated to North

Dakota, the largest investment in state-based fish and wildlife conservation in history. This funding stream was specifically developed to address the needs of rare and declining Species of Conservation Priority (SCP) and their habitats which are identified in each state's Wildlife Action Plan. RAWA funding will require a 25% match from states; however, one unique attribute of RAWA is that eligible match can be from any federal agency except the Department of Interior and Agriculture. In addition, RAWA is also eligible to be used for ANS prevention which is a very important issue to ND citizens.

21-23 ONE-TIME FUNDING ITEMS STATUS

- **PLOTS payments \$1,485,000:**

Total Spent - \$1,484,170.45

- \$699,897.20 has been spent on Wetland Reserve Program access agreements totaling approximately 3,892.51 acres.
- \$784,273.25 has been spent on Conservation Reserve Program Access agreements totaling approximately 7,264.65 acres.

- **Red River basin wildlife and water quality enhancement program \$500,000:**

Spent \$34,427.50 on 129.7 acres.

- **Radio equipment replacement (SIREN) \$801,500:**

Currently spent \$752,163. All of the handheld radios have been programmed and distributed to our officers. Of the 66 truck/boat radios, we have 11 left to install. They will be installed in new State Fleet trucks and our boats by 6/30/23.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET BY DIVISION

The Department included in its 23-25 budget request the following funds appropriated for grant expenditures to other state agencies:

- **\$122,000** to ND Parks & Recreation Department. This is the same amount included as revenue in the Parks and Recreation Department. It is for operation and maintenance of the public boating and fishing facilities located in state parks. The amount is the same as 2021-23. (100% federal funds; Parks & Rec provides the match)
- **\$148,228** to Board of Animal Health, Ag Dept. (100% G&F funds).
- **\$500,000** to Wildlife Services, Ag Dept. This is the same amount as 2021-23. (100% G&F funds)

DIVISIONAL BUDGETS

Total 2023-25 Department FTE is 172 in the executive recommendation. We are not requesting any changes to the executive recommendation.

Below are brief details on the budgets for the Department's five (5) divisions: Administrative Services, Fisheries, Enforcement, Conservation/Communications, and Wildlife.

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION** (27 FTEs – includes 1 new FTE, see page 14.)

This budget includes business operations, data/technology, licensing, facilities management, and administrative services for the department. The majority of this division is funded with G&F funds.

Operating costs in this division include:

- Secretarial support for all Divisions
- Licensing section costs including lotteries
- Accounting costs
- Information Technology costs
- All Department utility, telephone, office rental, janitorial, office supplies, insurance, postage, aircraft costs, office machine rental, and other similar costs
- Credit card transaction fees
- Legal services from Attorney General's office
- Costs for the Game and Fish Advisory Board
- Statewide Cost Allocation payment to OMB
- North Dakota Risk Management fund
- Buildings, Grounds, Vehicle Maintenance Supplies
- Travel costs for the Director, Deputy Director, Administrative Services Division Chief, Business Manager and IT staff.

Capital Assets – \$3,519,491

- \$784,891 for extraordinary repairs to Department owned facilities statewide (100% G&F funds)

- \$1,525,600 for In Lieu of Tax payments for all Department lands WMAs (75% federal funds)
- \$850,000 budget change for ANS Lab and Storage Facility. See page 13.
- \$350,000 budget change for Devils Lake Bunkhouse Improvements. See page 14.
- \$9,000 – zero turn lawn mower for Bismarck Main Headquarters. (100% G&F Funds)

Grants – \$295,000 for cooperative grants to local groups and organizations for game and fish related projects, funding for Tribal access agreements, ND Natural Resources Trust, other Director’s grants and sponsorship grants (e.g. ND Landowners Sportsman Council, ND Stockmen’s Assoc., etc.). (100% G&F funds)

The Department’s **Grant-Gift-Donation** line is \$688,045 (Admin \$400,000; Wildlife \$288,045) is used as follows: (100% G&F funds)

- Grants and gifts received for special projects are used as desired by the donor.
- Revenue received for surface damage, easements, and reclamation on department owned or department managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities. The department manages Corps of Engineers (COE) and department lands along Lake Sakakawea, the Missouri River and the Killdeer Mountain WMA. There is significant oil activity on these lands. The COE and other applicable federal agencies require that this money be spent by the department on these areas that are affected. This line allows the department to receive revenue and turn around and spend the funds on the appropriate areas. This funding is often used for road repairs, fencing, habitat development and similar work.
- Royalty payments received for the department’s 160-acre mineral lease in the Killdeer Mountains WMA. These funds are used to employ one full-time biologist to assist with the increase in workload due to oil activity on our WMA’s. The federal paperwork is time consuming.

2. FISHERIES DIVISION (27 FTEs – includes 2 new FTEs, see page 11.)

This budget includes fish production and distribution, fishery research and surveys, fishing area and boating facility development and maintenance, and the Aquatic Nuisance Species program.

Grants – Total \$2,187,304:

- \$690,000 for boating access and development. These grants are used for cost sharing with local governments on fishing and boating facilities. The Department receives 75% federal funding for this work. In some cases, the 25% match comes from local partners such as park boards.
- \$850,000 in grants is to pay the Department’s share of costs for the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. (75% federal funds)
- \$60,000 base amount in grants used for Aquatic Nuisance Species. (100% G&F funds)
- \$122,000 to ND Parks and Recreation Department for boating access related costs on state parks. (100% federal funds)

- \$170,304 in grants for general administration, management, Valley City State University stream survey work, and other miscellaneous grants. (68% federal funds)
- \$125,000 for Sweet Briar fish study.
- \$70,000 for non-boating access.
- \$100,000 for community fisheries.

Capital Assets line – Total \$2,582,000:

- \$524,000 in capital repairs which includes dam repairs, fishing and boating facility development work and repairs such as toilets, fish cleaning stations, boat ramps, etc., on lands owned by the Department (WMAs) or areas we cooperatively manage. High and low water conditions at Devils Lake, Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri River have been major challenges for the boating access program. (75% is federal funds)
- \$678,000 for equipment – boat motor replacements, power rake skid steer attachment, vibratory compactor skid steer attachment, Clark work boats with motors and trailers, tracked ATV, small excavator, wheel loader, compact track loader, etc. (75% is federal funds)
- \$380,000 – budget change dam repairs (Camel Hump and Baukol Noonan). See page 17.
- \$1,000,000 – budget change for GDNFH pondliners. See page 17.

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) – This Special Line item was created by passing SB2293 during the 2019 Legislative Session. The Legis. base appropriation is \$1,509,009.

The Department has 2 ANS fisheries biologists and temporary seasonal staff, operating expenses, grants and capital expenditures. It allows for ANS watercraft inspections, enforcement surveillance, monitoring of North Dakota waters for ANS, and working with partners to increase information and education programs. These expenditures are funded through surcharges for resident fishing and combination licenses and nonresident fishing and waterfowl licenses as well as requiring aquatic nuisance species fees for motorboats.

Also salaries and respective operating expenses for travel and motorpool for wardens to conduct watercraft inspections at boat ramps, inspections at fishing cleaning stations, and check stations. Various wardens code time to this line for ANS work. We budget for cumulative hours to be equal to 1 FTE.

Budget Change: WRDA Funding for ANS Line \$1,406,839. See page 11.

Executive Recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$52,765. Total ANS 23-25 appropriation = \$2,968,613.

3. ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (41 FTEs – includes 2 new FTEs, see page 15.)
This budget supports a staff of one administrative assistant and thirty-eight law

enforcement employees. The majority of the Operating budget is for State Fleet and travel costs. Game wardens are very dependent on vehicles to do their work and drive almost 2M miles per biennium.

Capital Assets Line - \$190,000 for replacement of equipment included are: 21' fiberglass boat/motor/trailer, 17' aluminum boat/motor/trailer, 16' aluminum flat bottom boat/motor/trailer, and UTV with tracks (39% federal funds).

Budget Change: Replace In-Car Video System & Add Body Cams \$550K. See page 16.

Grants - \$90,000 for Boating Safety Grants to county law enforcement to assist in the promotion and enforcement of boat and water safety on their local recreational waters. (50% federal funds)

Missouri River Enforcement line – \$310,753 base budget for this special line includes salaries, operating, and equipment related to enforcement activities on and along the Missouri River in the Burleigh and Morton County area. Grants are also given to local law enforcement agencies to help with the Missouri River enforcement. This line is funded 50% from federal boat safety funds.

Executive Recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$8,516. Total 23-25 appropriation = \$319,269.

4. CONSERVATION/COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION (23 FTEs) – The division includes the communication section, education section and conservation section.

Communication includes the ND Outdoors magazine, ND Outdoors weekly television program, web page and social media management, blogs, bi-monthly podcast, design brochures and publications, marketing, handling of phone and email inquiries from the public. Some education programs include: aquatic, hunter, fur harvester and boating education. We have a youth mentoring program, national archery in the schools program, a nongame wildlife program and outreach staff located statewide.

Conservation section conducts environmental reviews, deals with issues related to nongame wildlife, work involving the Endangered Species Act and rare and declining species, including federally listed species.

Grants – Total \$4,962,500:

- \$3,520,000 for shooting range grants throughout the state. Included in the total are funds for the following: \$1M for a range in Medora with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation; \$1.2M to Richland County Wildlife Club for a shooting range near Hankinson; \$500K to Red River Regional Marksmanship Center in West Fargo. All but \$60,000 of the total is federal PR funds which is passed on to local clubs/groups that provide the matching funds for shooting facilities for public use and for hunter education. New shooting ranges only require a 10% match and existing ranges is 25%.
- \$284,000 is included for youth programs: National Archery in the Schools Program, Hooked on Fishing, Encourage Tomorrows Hunter grants, trout in the

- schools program, trapper education, etc. All but \$32K is game and fish funds.
- \$639,780 is included in grants for the State Wildlife Grant Program. This federally funded program works primarily with wildlife species that are not hunted. The match is normally provided by the grant recipient.
 - \$138,720 administration/coordination grants.
 - \$80,000 for Innovative R3 (**R**ecruitment, **R**etention, and **R**eactivation) which encompasses any new and innovative opportunities and strategies the Department may identify to implement on its own or through cooperation with partners and stakeholders to increase or enhance the **R**ecruitment, **R**etention, and **R**eactivation of hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, and recreational shooters of all ages, genders, and abilities. R3 done right requires adaptability to seek and find unique and novel ways to attract and engage non-traditional participation from all sectors of our public. Innovative R3 includes the efforts of the Department's R3 Coordinator to develop and implement the agency's R3 strategic plan, enlisting and engaging Department staff, conservation organizations, partners, and other stakeholders to achieve desired R3 results. The development and implementation of effective methods for attaining and tracking participation data, and monitoring and evaluating new and on-going R3 programs and strategies fall under this, as well. These R3 strategies may include, but are not limited to, promotional outreach and marketing campaigns, tools, and activities to reach new prospective participants; introductory and follow-up "How To" events, demonstrations, and mentoring; unique public and private land access opportunities; customer engagement through retail incentive; etc. To achieve R3 objectives when working with partners, the Department will develop cooperative agreements to lay out clear roles and expectations of involved parties, as well as the duration and measurable outcomes of the project. (75% federal funds)
 - \$300,000 for Pollinator Plots Program for the establishment of diverse native wildflower and pollinator (e.g. monarch butterflies, bees, etc.) planting in urban and public areas, such as schools, parks, campgrounds, recreational areas, ROW's, and other "green" spaces. These urban wildflower plots mesh with the Main Street Initiative for enhancing healthy and vibrant communities. This will provide grant funds to cooperating groups and entities to help cover site preparation, seed and planting materials, interpretive information, and other establishment costs which often exceed \$500/acre. (100% G&F funds)

Capital Assets line – Total \$70,000:

- \$50,000 in extraordinary repairs for WMA shooting ranges. (100% federal funds)
- \$20,000 in extraordinary repairs for Department's Conservation and Outdoor Skills Park area located on the State Fair grounds. (100% G&F funds)

Shooting Sports Grant Program line - \$250,000 is budgeted for shooting sports grants made available to schools, clubs, and organized groups in the state which are used to promote and facilitate increased shooting sports participation in the state. The clubs pay the 25% match for the majority of these grants. (75% federal funds)

Nongame Wildlife line - \$100,000 is budgeted for this special line which is supported by the income tax check off. (100% G&F funds)

5. WILDLIFE DIVISION (54 FTEs – includes 3 new FTEs, see page 12.)

This budget includes operating costs for Department managed lands, wildlife surveys and investigations, grants to organizations on cooperative projects. It also includes the following Special Lines: Noxious Weed Control, Lonetree, Wildlife Services, and Private Land Habitat and Deer Depredation.

Grants – Total \$2,555,172:

- \$2,406,944 Includes work for grants with wildlife groups and organizations on cooperative projects and wildlife research projects conducted through universities. These include chronic wasting disease (CWD) work, North American Wetland Conservation Act, Central Flyway studies, waterfowl habitat projects, studies/research on various species such as elk, pronghorn, sage grouse, deer, moose, mountain lions, etc. (48% federal PR funds)
- \$148,228 to reimburse the State Veterinarian for costs related to oversight of farmed wildlife producers and the administration of wildlife propagation permits. The amount in 2021-23 biennium was \$119,329 and increased to \$148,228 (19-21 \$115,481). (100% G&F funds)

Capital Assets line – Total \$1,619,170:

- \$425,000 for extraordinary repairs (e.g. fences, roads, water control structures) and similar work on department wildlife management areas (WMA) statewide. (75% federal funds)
- \$102,170 for repairs to miscellaneous projects
- \$292,000 for equipment – replace 2 heavy equipment trailers, replace 1 grass drill, replace 1 grain drill, replace 4 ATV/UTV's and replace 2 tractors. (75% federal funds)
- \$800,000 is included for land acquisitions of small tracts near wildlife management areas, possibly in-holding or round-outs that may come up during the biennium. This amount is the same as the 2019-21 biennium. (100% G&F funds)

Noxious Weed Control line - \$725,000 is requested for the work on department lands. This line is the same amount as 2021-23. (75% federal funds)

Lonetree line – \$2,198,414. The Lonetree area consists of over 30,000 acres of land managed for wildlife purposes. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department manages and provides technical services for this area for the State of North Dakota as laid out in the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act. The budget for this line increased approx. \$300k from 21-23, mainly due to the replacement of equipment >\$5k. The budget continues to include funding for 5 staff, operating, equipment, maintenance and

development for this area. It is funded 100% by federal funds from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Wildlife Services line - \$500,000 is to support Wildlife Service's animal damage control work in the Ag Department. (100% G&F funds) This is the same amount as the 2021-23 biennium.

Private Land Habitat and Deer Depredation line – The base budget for this special line is \$19,280,597. This line is funded with interest earned on game and fish funds, habitat stamp sales, cash from the regular game and fish fund, and from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Pittman Robertson (PR) federal funds.

This line is commonly called the Private Land Initiative (PLI) line. This line is not just for our Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program in which private landowners enter into agreements for walk-in hunting access. It also includes funds to cost share trees, grass and other wildlife habitat management practices. In addition, funds are used to enhance and restore aquatic habitat along priority lakes and streams. As well as, big game depredation and administrative costs for the PLI line.

Of the total line, the base budget for the PLOTS Program is approx. \$15.3 million of which approx. \$13.2 million is landowner payments. We had a goal to reach 1 million acres of public hunting access on private land by the year 2009. We reached that goal two years early in September 2007. The number of PLOTS acres for the 2022 hunting season was approximately 797,000 acres. A chart of PLOTS acres by program is attached to this testimony.

The line also includes \$1,100,000 mandated in the 2010 session by SB2227 to be budgeted to provide wildlife feeding and other winter management practices on lands impacted by big game depredation. Per NDCC 20.1-02-05(17h) - Any unexpended funds, up to two million dollars, may be carried forward for these types of expenditures in future bienniums.

This line includes 2 budget changes as discussed on pages 12-13:

1. Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat & Access on Private Lands (PLI Line 70)
\$4,693,574
2. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) (PLI Line 70): \$2,777,778

The remaining increase is due to the executive recommended compensation package. Total executive budget request for this line is **\$26,957,955**.



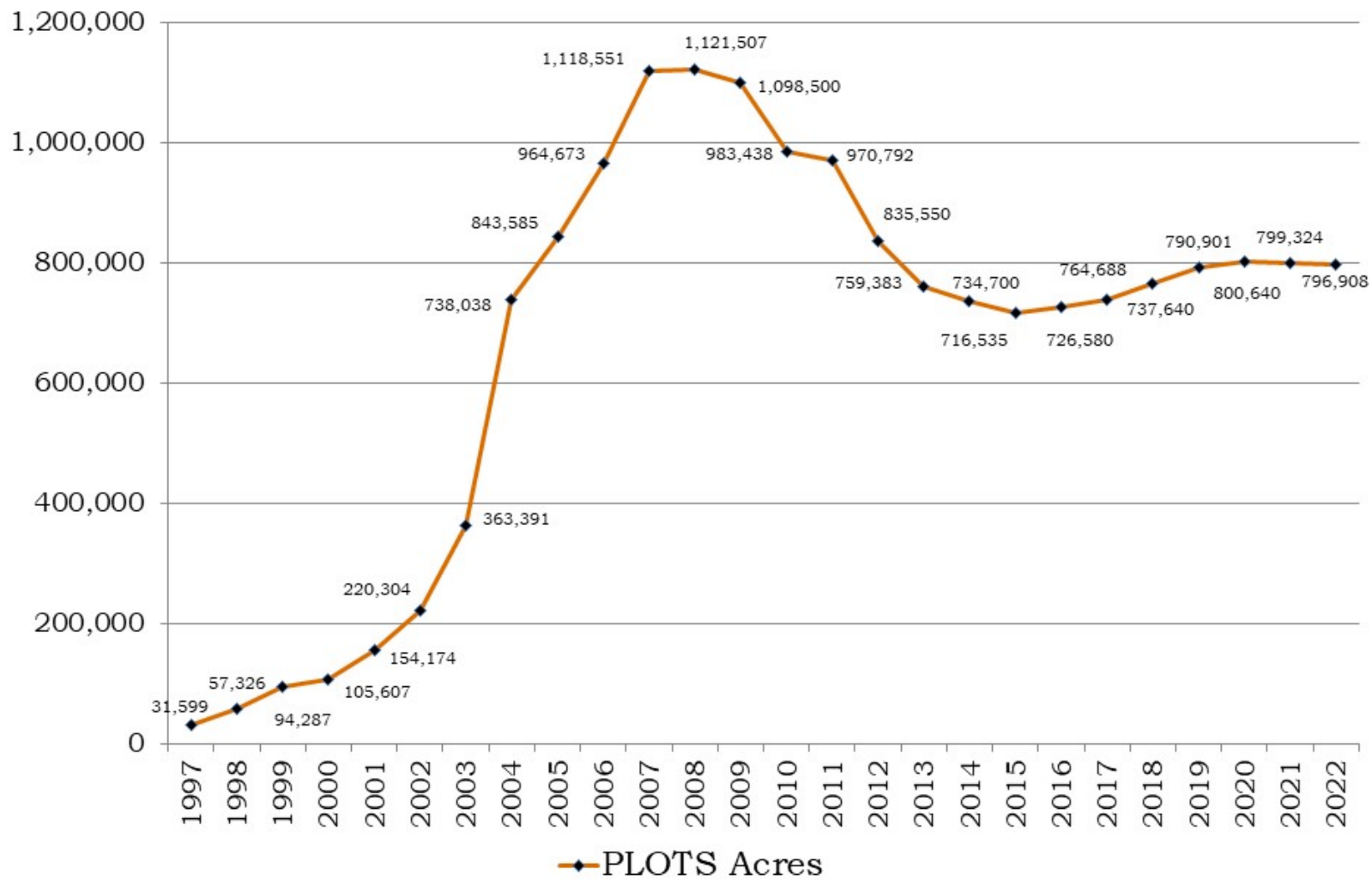
North Dakota Game and Fish Department Private Land Initiative 2022 PLOTS Program Acreage

8/3/2022

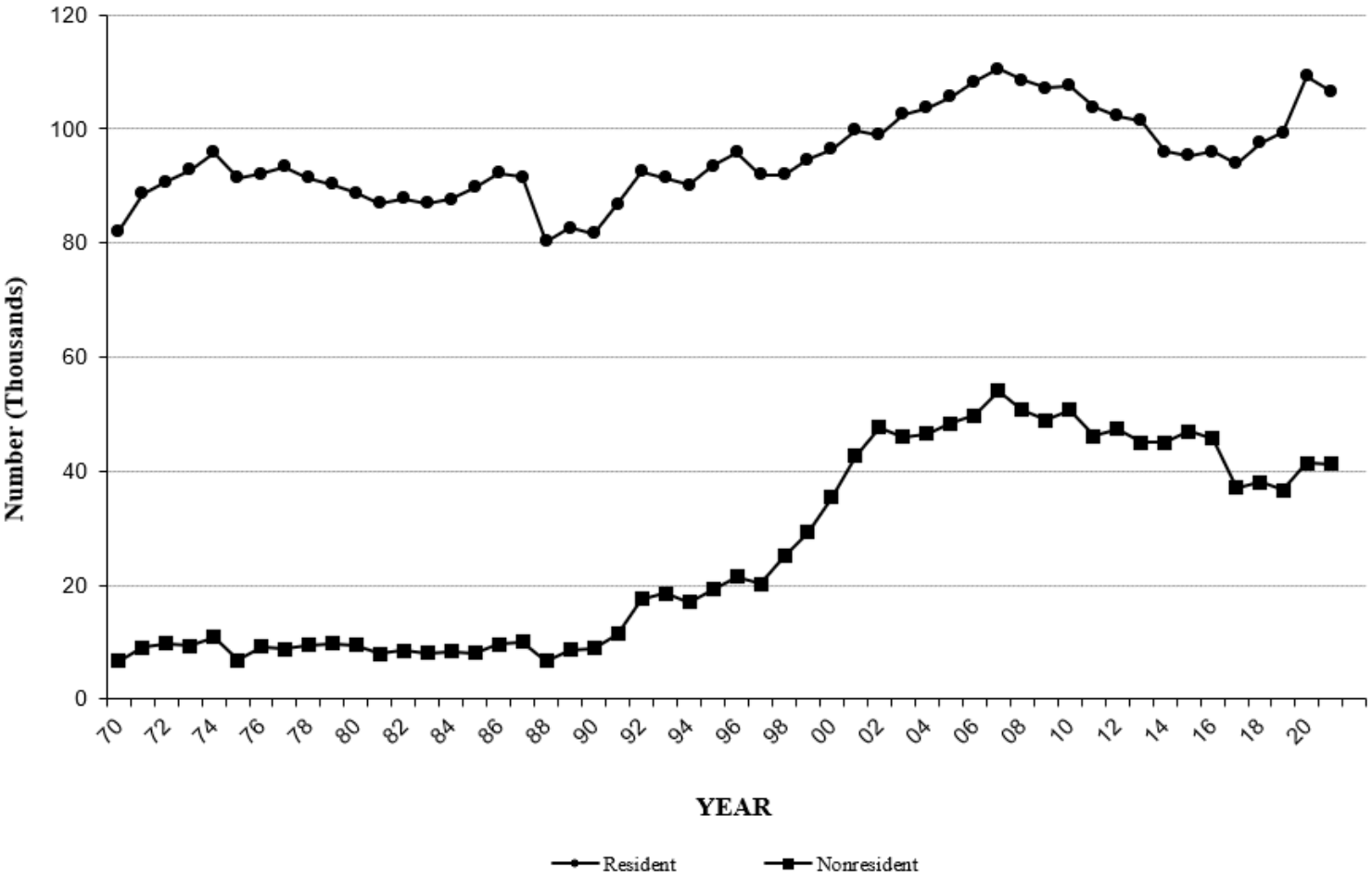
<u>Program Type</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>Program Acres</u>	<u>Access Acres</u>
Beginning Farmer Program	2,520	2,520	0
CREP II	2,444	2,179	265
CREP/Coverlocks	13,142	1,703	11,439
CRP Access Program	193,324	181,739	11,585
Habitat Plots	81,833	74,197	7,636
Other	3,256	3,256	0
Private Forest Conservation Program	4,353	3,305	1,048
Working Lands Program	459,397	458,572	825
WRP Incentive Program	36,639	33,596	3,043
Totals	796,908	761,067	35,841



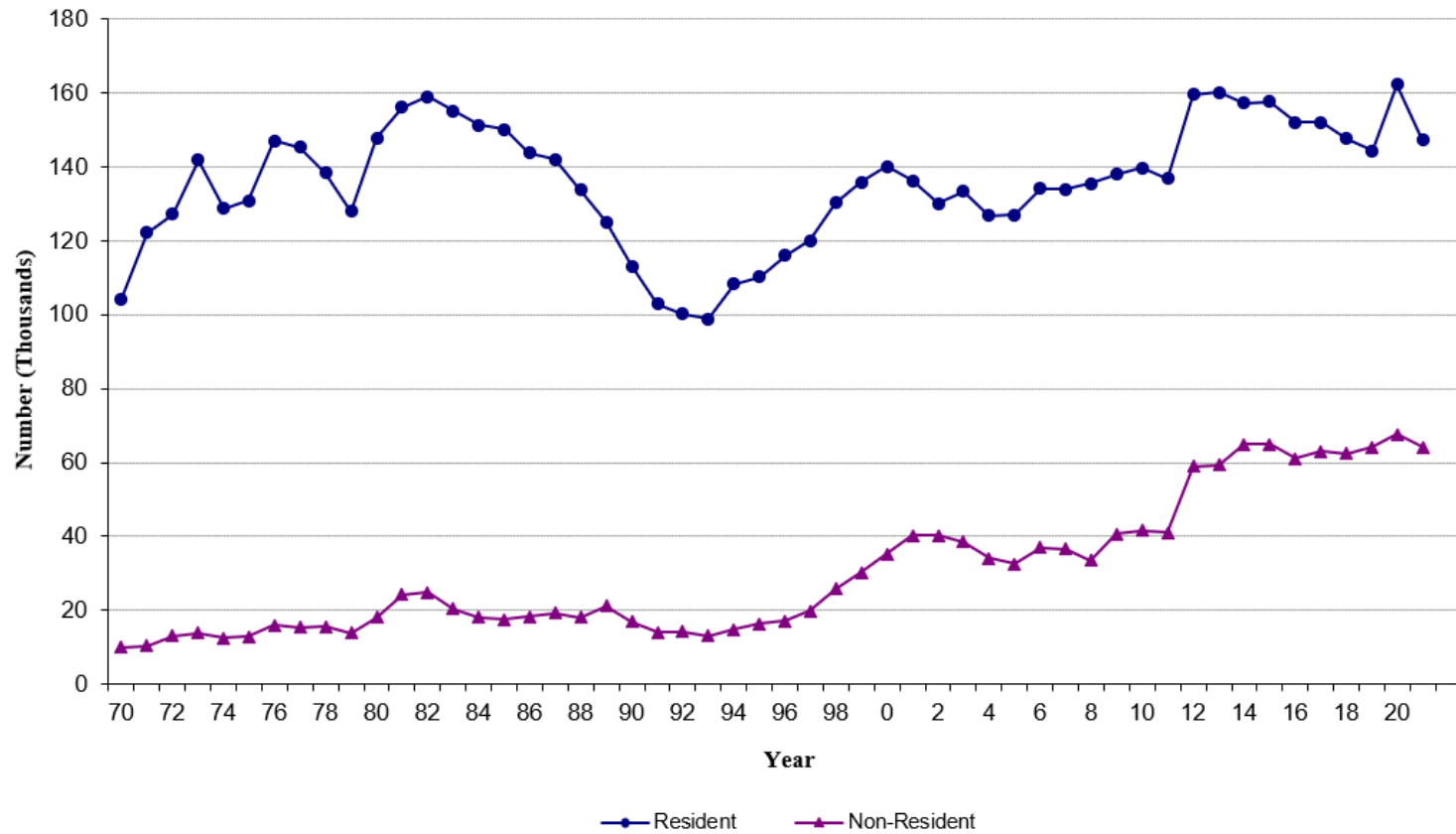
Annual PLOTS Acres Available for Fall Hunting Seasons



North Dakota General Game License Sales



North Dakota Fishing License Sales





**SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department**

The following are responses to the request from the Divisions of the Appropriations Committee pertaining to the testimony presentation outline. The item number of the outline was used. All other information requested is included in the agency's written testimony.

1. Cite the North Dakota Century Code chapter(s) associated with the agency and list its major statutory responsibilities.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is largely directed under Title 20.1 and many of those responsibilities reside under 20.1-02-05, which lists the powers of the Director, e.g. Private Lands Open to Sportsmen program. The major statutory responsibilities can be summarized very easily, which is to manage and regulate the state's wildlife resources, game and non-game, for the use, enjoyment, possession, disposition and conservation for the public of North Dakota.



SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department

- 2. Explain the purpose of the agency's various divisions/programs.**
- 1) Administrative services division.** This division includes the following:
 - a) Business operations. Responsible for business operations such as accounting functions, grant management, federal aid coordination, etc.
 - b) Data/technology. Responsible for department data and analytics. Provides coordination and management of department data, systems and technical resources.
 - c) Licensing. Responsible for all licensing related functions for fishing, hunting, trapping and boating. This section includes department customer support services.
 - d) Facilities management. Responsible for the management of facilities for the department headquarters and district offices throughout the state. Responsible for department print service management.

 - 2) Enforcement division.** The law enforcement program enforces game and fish laws and rules and regulations necessary for proper management of fish and game resources. Enforcement officers called district game wardens have districts averaging approximately two thousand six hundred square miles [673396.92 hectares]. In addition to their enforcement activities, they must carry out education programs, and assist other divisions during busy periods of the year.

 - 3) Fisheries division.** This division is divided into four programs:
 - a) Fish production. Fish are raised at two fish hatcheries and stocked into waters of the state. Also, adult fish are trapped and transported into various waters.
 - b) Fish management/research Responsible for research and survey work connected with sport fishing. It gathers information about the status of lakes and fish populations and carries out management practices on lakes.
 - c) Fisheries development. Provides public use facilities, lake improvement systems, lake and pond construction, and other developments on public fishing waters.

- d) Aquatic nuisance species. Implements measures to reduce the spread of aquatic nuisance species throughout the state. Measures include education, monitoring, and inspections.

4) Conservation and communications division. This division has three major sections:

- a) Conservation. Since the enactment of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in 1970, state game and fish agencies across the nation are routinely asked to conduct environmental reviews on development projects that have a federal nexus (e.g. a project that is funded with federal money or occurs on federal land). Staff within the Conservation Section carry out those reviews. The Conservation Section also deals with all issues related to nongame wildlife and rare and declining species, including federally listed species.
- b) Communications. Responsible for department communication including marketing/R3, digital media, North Dakota Outdoors/publications, and video production. Staff in this section write news releases, publish a monthly magazine, manage production of hunting guides and an annual PLOTS guide, produce weekly webcasts and television news segments, manage social media accounts, write blogs, manage the website, produce a bi-monthly podcast, design brochures and publications, handling of phone and email inquiries from the public, manage the department's marketing efforts, and direct the agency's recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters and anglers.
- c) Education. Includes hunter education, fur harvester education, bowhunter education, aquatic education, boating education, educator resources, NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program), and public information outreach staff located statewide.

5) Wildlife division. This division is divided into three sections:

- a) Resource management. Responsible for all habitat development, and management and maintenance on wildlife management areas. This involves tree plantings, herbaceous cover and food plantings, road construction, weed control, signing, water developments, and any other activity that enhances these areas for wildlife, hunting, and other compatible uses.
- b) Game management. Responsible for population surveys that are used to determine annual harvest seasons and conduct research with the objective of improving population management on various species of game for the citizens of the state.
- c) Private lands. Responsible for carrying out private land habitat improvements and hunting access programs. The program involves annual leasing and development of fish and wildlife habitat and hunting access on private land, entering into cost-sharing agreements with landowners or partners to develop conservation practices which benefit fish and wildlife. The section also carries out practices which will alleviate big game and predatory animal depredation.



SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department

3. Report any financial audit findings included in the most recent audit of your department or institution and action taken to address each finding.

No findings from the most recent State Auditor's Office financial and federal audit for the audit period FY19&20.



SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department

4. Discuss current biennium accomplishments and challenges and next biennium goals and plans.

21-23 Accomplishments

- Meadowlark Initiative
- OHF partnership lake enhancement project
- Partnership with McLean County on flood control land acquisition project
- Administer electronic posting program
- Record number of fishing lakes

21-23 Challenges

- **Changing Landscape**
Habitat loss, fragmentation, degradation
Nature: wetlands, drought, etc.
Receding lake levels
Policies/programs: Conservation Reserve Program
- **Access**
Public resources on private land
Gaining and improving access to public waters
- **Wildlife Health and Invasive Species**
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)
Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)

23-25 Goals

- Shooting range partnership with Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation
- Partner with interested landowners on habitat only projects
- Mobile app
- Increase PLOTS acreage
- Maximize federal funding opportunities



SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department

11. Discuss any other bills being considered by the Legislative Assembly and their potential budgetary impact on the agency.

HB 1183 – Relating to a public employees retirement system plan for peace officers.



**SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department**

- 12. Provide a one-page itemized listing of the changes your agency is requesting the committee to make to the executive recommendation.**

The Department is not asking for any changes to the executive recommendation.



SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department

13. Provide a comparison of your agency's major requests to those recommended in the executive budget.

The following requests were not included in the executive budget:

- New FTE – Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program manager
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) – we requested 11 FTE and we received 7 FTE. The request was included as a Section in the bill contingent upon passage by congress.



SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department

- 14. Identify the purpose and amount of federal state fiscal recovery funding appropriated to your agency during the November 2021 special legislative session, the amount of funds spent to date, the timeline for obligating and spending the remaining funds, and any amounts that will not be obligated by December 2024.**

The Department received \$303,000 of the \$10M that was appropriated to OMB from the American Rescue Plan Act to be allocated to deferred maintenance projects.

The Department had 3 projects funded:

Facility	Description	Approp.	Expense	Completion Date
Lonetree Office	Fire alarm system upgrade	\$14,500	\$9,946	Oct. 2022
Riverdale Office	Lighting retrofit	\$41,500	\$23,987	Sept. 2022
Bismarck Main Headquarters	Energy management & DDC upgrade	\$247,000	\$178,640 (contract amt)	Est. 6/30/2023
	TOTAL	\$303,000	\$212,573	

The Department will not obligate \$90,427 since bids for the projects came in less than budgeted. OMB has decreased our appropriation by that amount.



#3

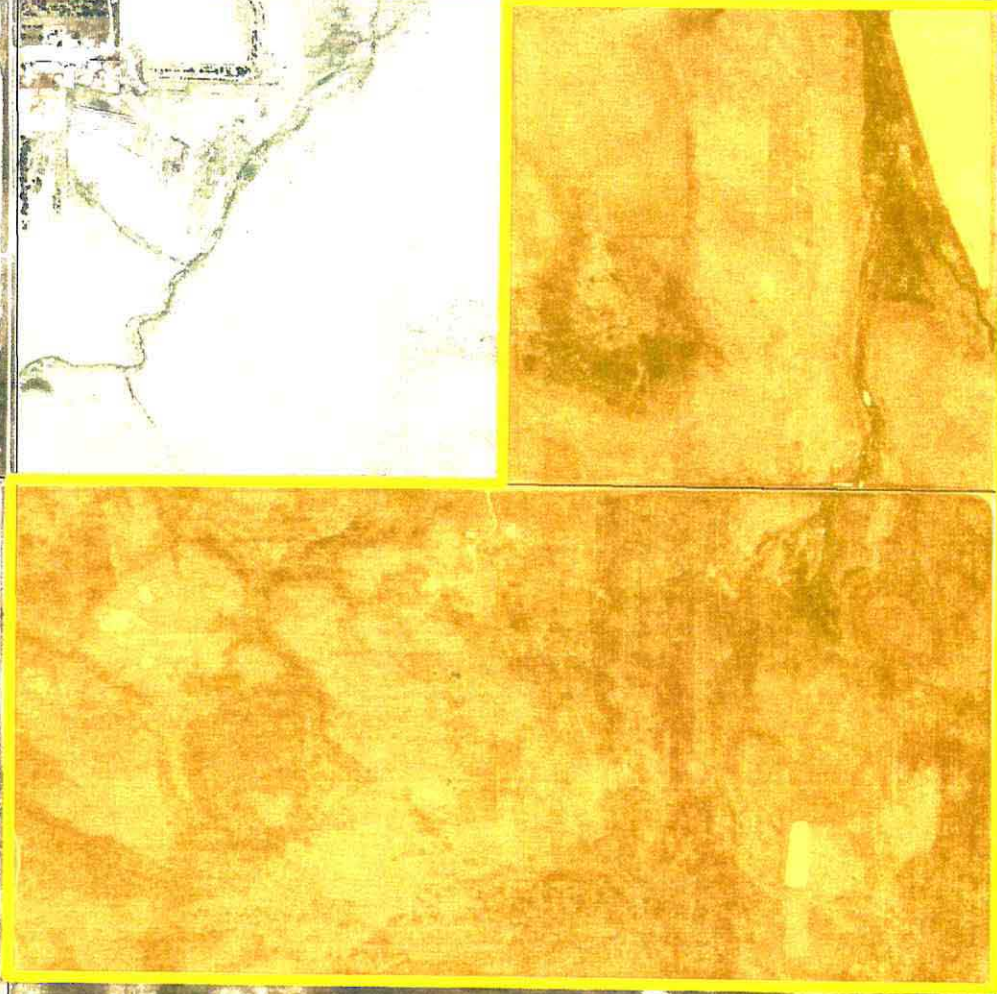
SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department Potential Land Acquisitions
As of January 3, 2023

The Department has been contacted by individuals with the following tracts. They are interested in selling these tracts to the Department to be maintained as Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Some opportunities may arise throughout the biennium that could get higher priority. The following list is in no particular order.

- 1) Adams County – 480 acres – Land is currently in CRP.
- 2) Burleigh County – 152 acres – Property is entirely wetlands.
- 3) Dunn County – 950 acres – Mostly Pastureland near Killdeer WMA.
- 4) Hettinger County – 80 acres – Land is currently in CRP.
- 5) Lamoure County – 160 acres – Primarily wetlands.
- 6) McLean County – 30 acres – Addition to the Coal Lake WMA for improved access.
- 7) McLean County – 160 acres – Mostly pastureland with native woodlands.
- 8) Pembina County – 360 – Dunklee WMA addition. Enrolled in NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection, so no agricultural practices are allowed.
- 9) Walsh County – 140 acre – Located along Red River and enrolled in NRCS Wetland Reserve Program, so no agricultural practices are allowed.
- 10) Williams County – 348 acres – Trenton WMA Addition (floodplain and access to WMA).

A map for each potential acquisition is included.

Adams County
480 acres



Map Features



Offer



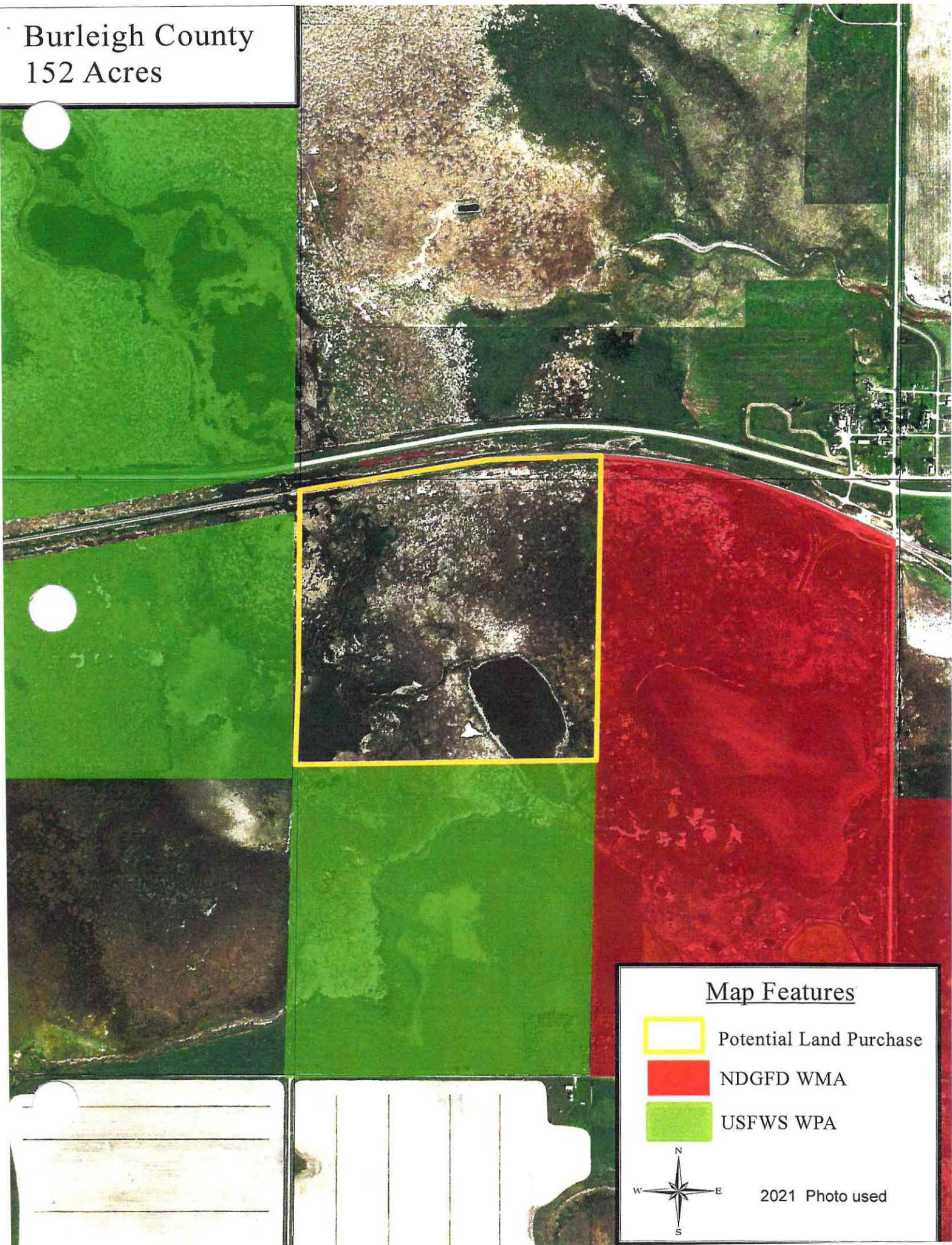
NDGD PLOTS






2012 Photo used.

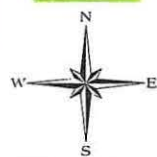
Anderson 2014

Burleigh County
152 Acres



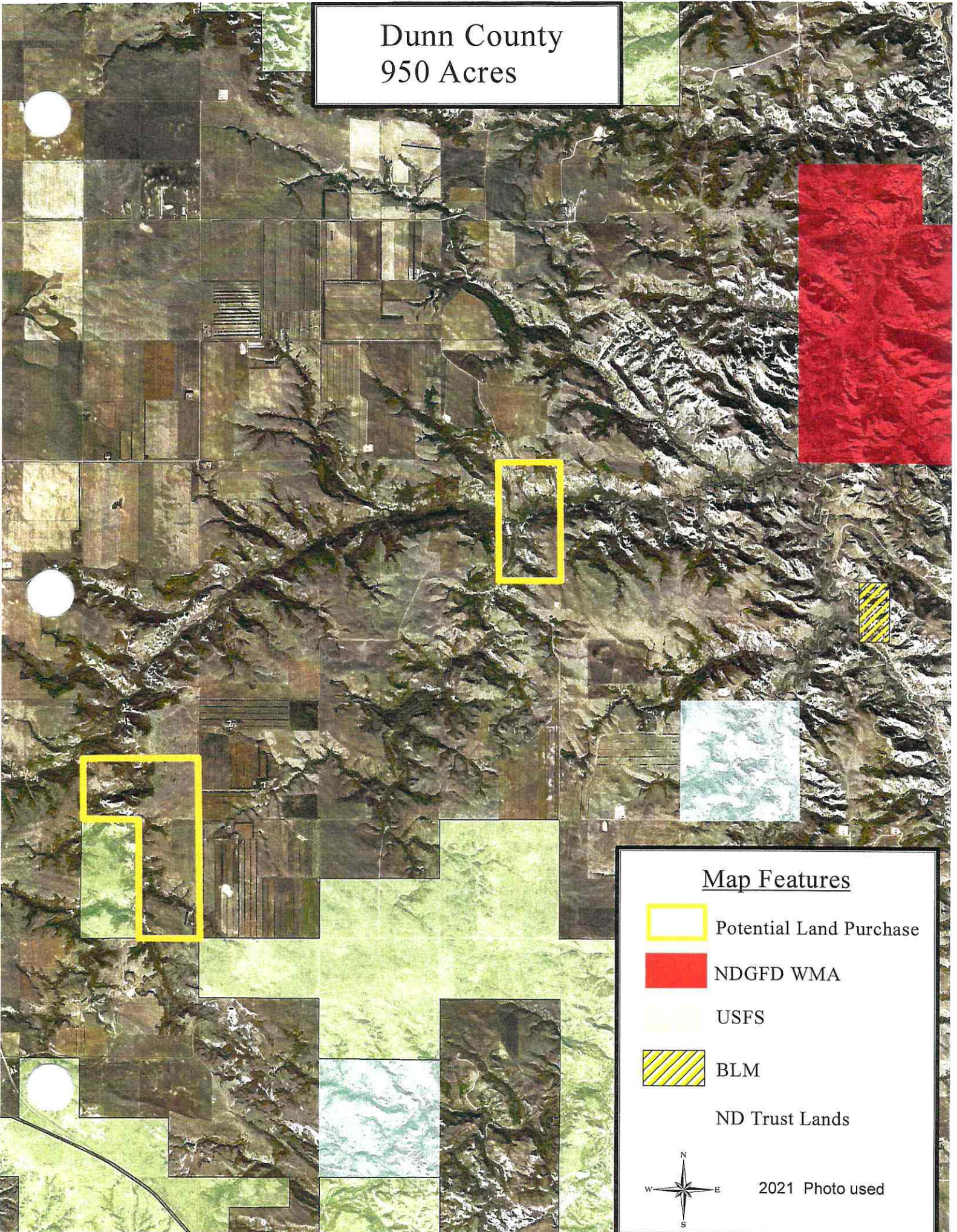
Map Features

-  Potential Land Purchase
-  NDGFD WMA
-  USFWS WPA



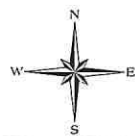
2021 Photo used

Dunn County 950 Acres



Map Features

-  Potential Land Purchase
-  NDGFD WMA
-  USFS
-  BLM
-  ND Trust Lands



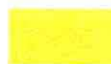
2021 Photo used

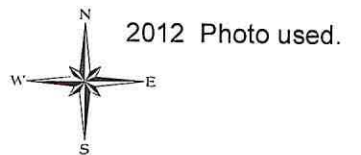
Hettinger County
80 acres



Map Features

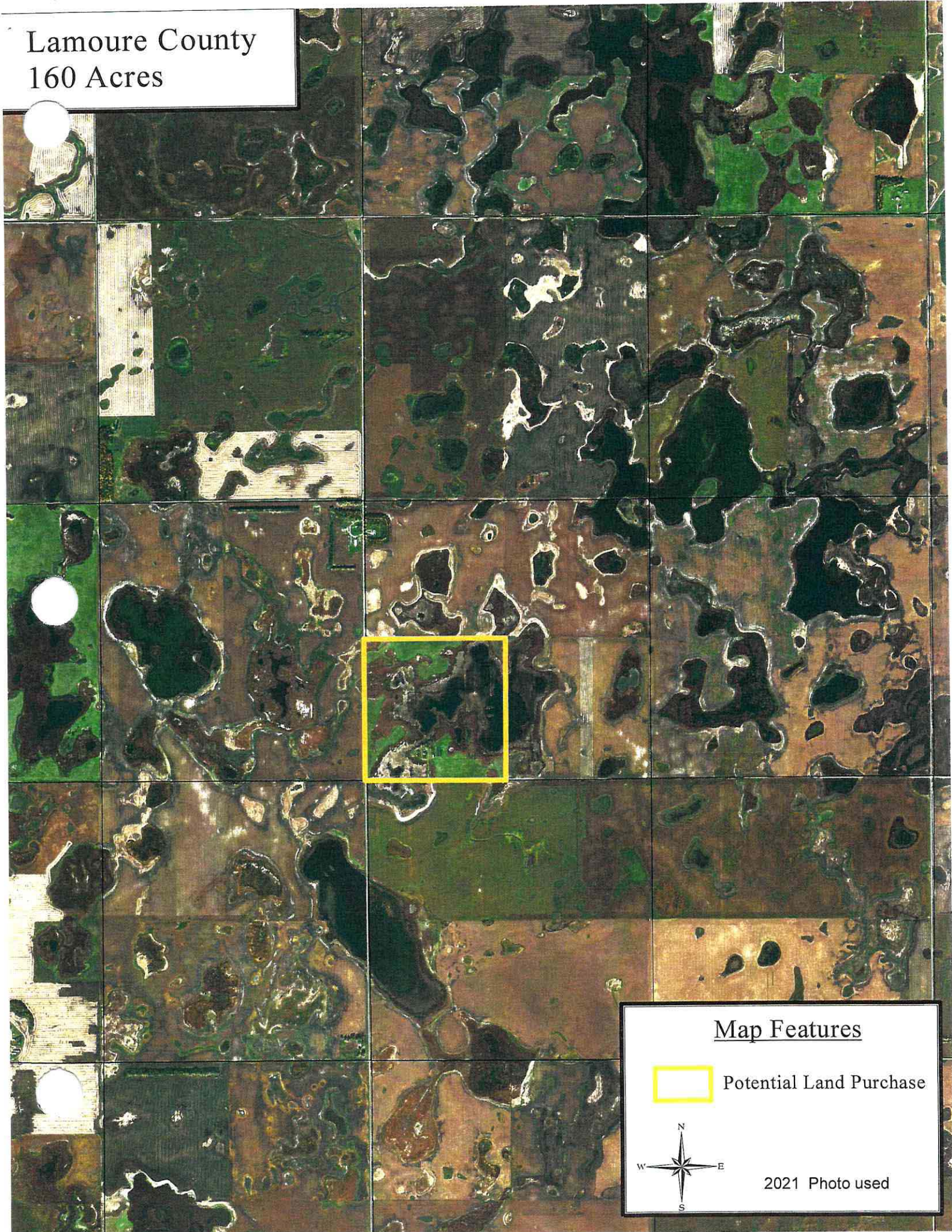
 Offer

 NDGD PLOTS



Anderson 2014

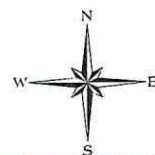
Lamoure County
160 Acres



Map Features

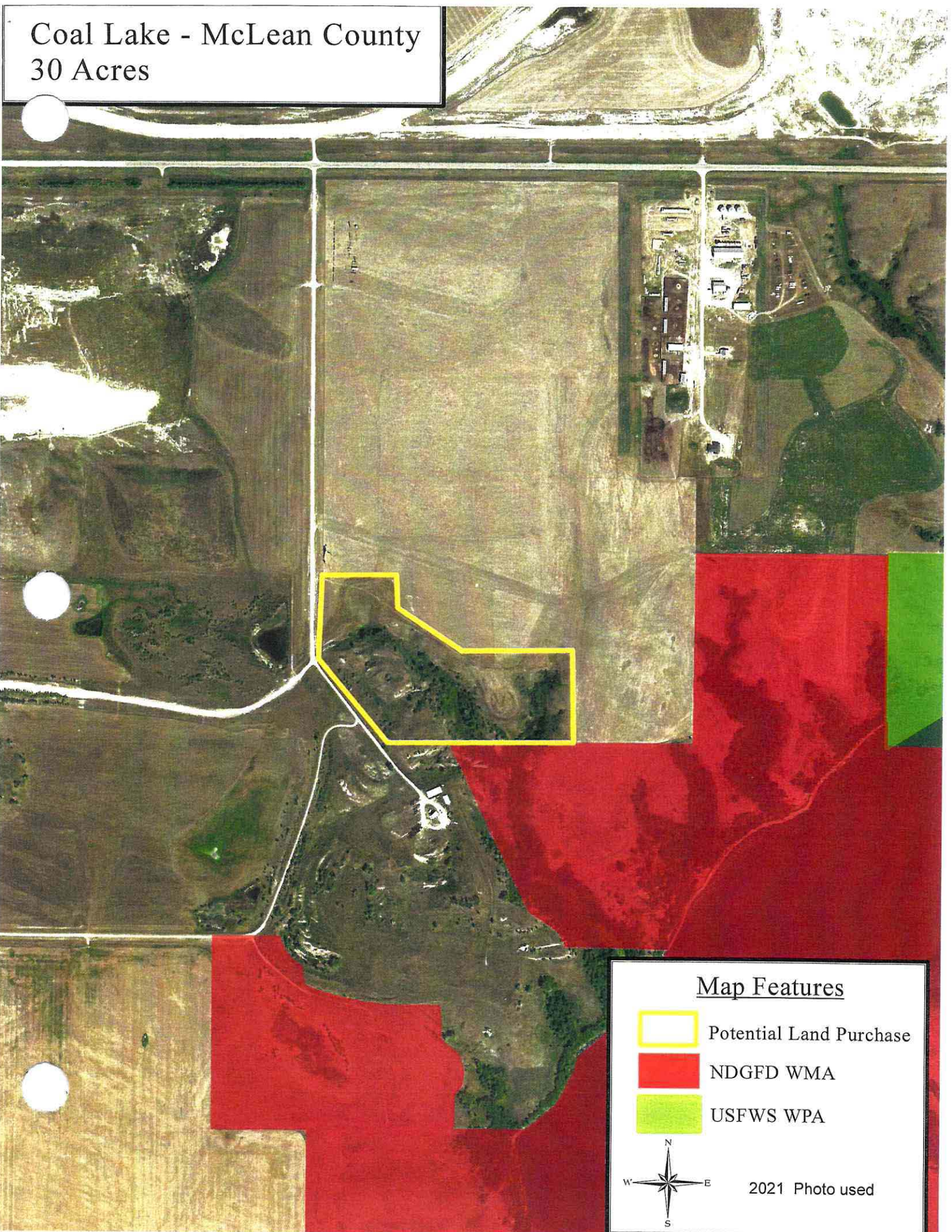


Potential Land Purchase






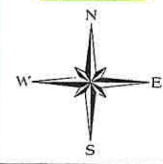
2021 Photo used

Coal Lake - McLean County
30 Acres



Map Features

-  Potential Land Purchase
-  NDGFD WMA
-  USFWS WPA



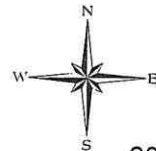
2021 Photo used

McLean County Potential Acquisition Approximately 160 acres

Butte, ND

Map Features

-  Potential Acq.
-  USFWS WPA



2014 Photo used.


Duncklee WMA Addition 360 acres



Map Features

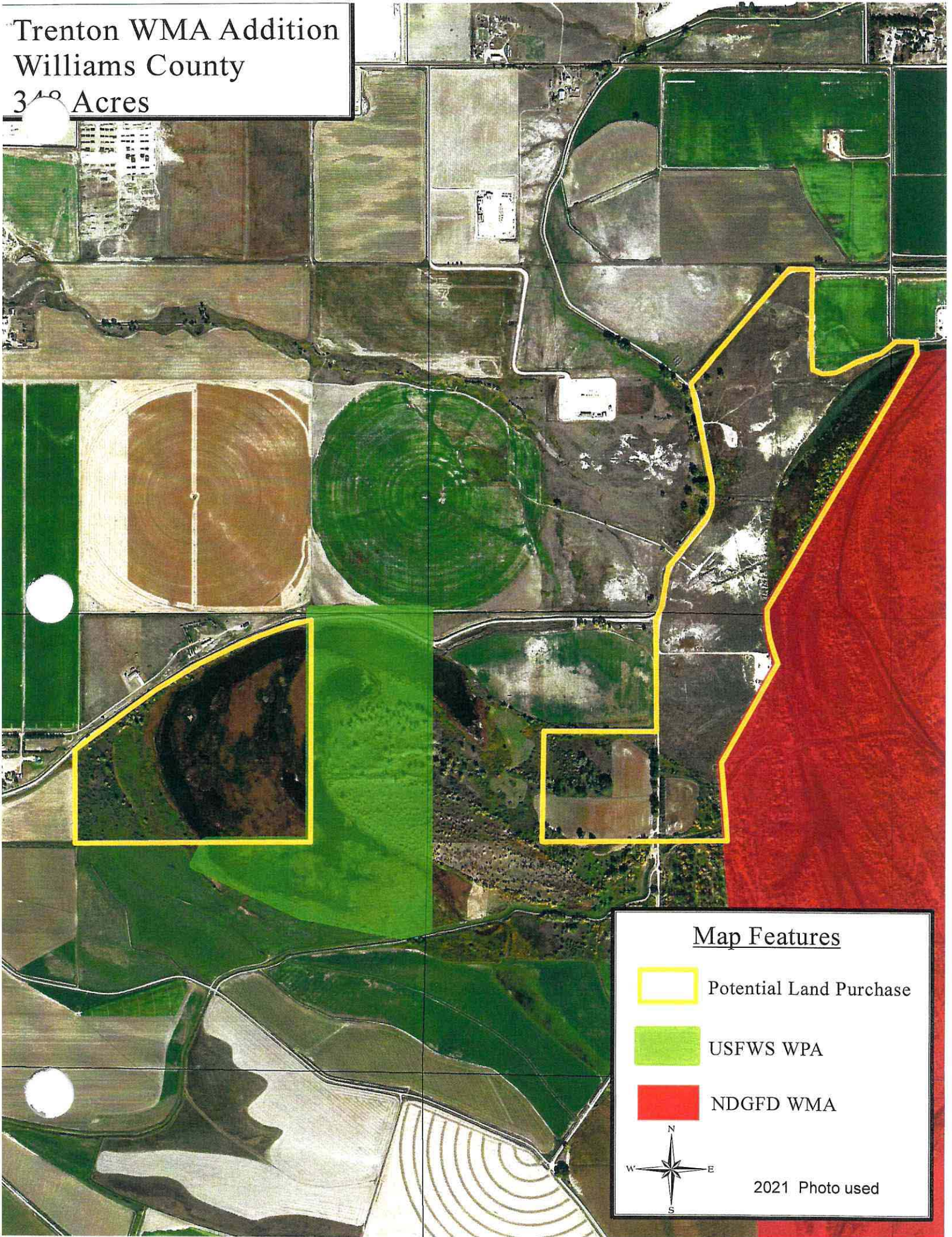
 Offer

 NDGFD WMA

 2012 Photo used.

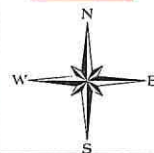
Anderson 2014

Trenton WMA Addition
Williams County
348 Acres



Map Features

-  Potential Land Purchase
-  USFWS WPA
-  NDGFD WMA



2021 Photo used

23.0271.01002
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
the Senate Appropriations - Education and
Environment Division Committee
February 16, 2023

Fiscal No. 2

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2017

Page 1, line 2, after "department" insert "; to provide a contingent appropriation; to provide for a transfer; and to provide an exemption"

Page 1, remove lines 10 through 24

Page 2, replace lines 1 and 2 with:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$4,686,592	\$38,428,184
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	8,926,706	26,922,303
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	20,588	317,587
Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	14,824	684,957
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	367,205	2,185,614
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,450,655</u>	<u>2,959,664</u>
Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$19,950,810	\$109,532,444
Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	6.00	170.00"

Page 2, line 3, after "FUNDING" insert "- EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO THE SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY"

Page 2, line 4, after "biennium" insert "and the 2023-25 one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act"

Page 2, line 8, remove "State radio equipment"

Page 2, line 8, remove "801,500"

Page 2, line 8, remove "0"

Page 2, replace line 9 with:

"State radio equipment	801,500	0
Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility	0	850,000
In-car video system and body cameras	0	550,000
Fisheries pond liners	0	1,000,000
Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements	0	350,000
Fisheries dam repairs	0	380,000
Wash stations and other equipment	0	205,000
Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions	<u>0</u>	<u>89,090</u>
Total special funds	\$2,786,500	\$3,424,090

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The game and fish department shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025."

Page 2, after line 13, insert:

"SECTION 4. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS - RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT. Subject to the provisions of this section, there is appropriated from federal funds, the sum of \$27,150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the game and fish department for the purpose of administering programs approved under the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The department is authorized seven full-time equivalent positions for this purpose. The funding and positions authorized in this section are available only upon passage of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

SECTION 5. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The game and fish department shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section."

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - Senate Action

	Base Budget	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$4,686,592	\$38,428,184
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
Grants - Game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	8,926,706	26,922,303
Noxious weed control	725,000		725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	20,588	317,587
Grants - Gifts - Donations	670,133	14,824	684,957
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000		100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	367,205	2,185,614
Wildlife services	500,000		500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,509,009	1,450,655	2,959,664
Contingent Funding		27,150,000	27,150,000
Total all funds	\$89,581,634	\$47,100,810	\$136,682,444
Less estimated income	89,581,634	47,100,810	136,682,444
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	164.00	13.00	177.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Senate Changes

	Adds Funding for the Cost to Continue Salaries ¹	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ²	Adds FTE Positions ³	Adds Funding for Additional Emphasis on Wildlife Habitat ⁴	Adds Funding for Aquatic Nuisance Species Program ⁵	Adjusts Funding in Line Items ⁶
Salaries and wages	\$295,116	\$2,550,796	\$457,592			\$1,383,088
Operating expenses			87,934			185,442
Capital assets						(1,374,109)
Grants - Game and fish						1,166,633
Land habitat and deer depredation		170,354		\$4,657,974		1,285,000
Noxious weed control						
Missouri River enforcement		6,834				13,754
Grants - Gifts - Donations		14,824				
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lonetree reservoir		60,620				306,585
Wildlife services						
Shooting sports grant program						
Aquatic nuisance species program		43,816			\$1,198,589	
Contingent Funding						
Total all funds	\$295,116	\$2,847,244	\$545,526	\$4,657,974	\$1,198,589	\$2,966,393
Less estimated income	295,116	2,847,244	545,526	4,657,974	1,198,589	2,966,393
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	0.00

	Adds Funding for ITD Increases ⁷	Adds Funding for Motor Pool Increases ⁸	Adds Funding for Midterm Conservation Agreements ⁹	Adds One-Time Funding for Supplies for New FTE Positions ¹⁰	Adds One-Time Funding for Capital Assets ¹¹	Adds Contingent Funding for Recovering America's Wildlife Act ¹²
Salaries and wages						
Operating expenses	\$80,908	\$1,157,192		\$32,240		
Capital assets				18,000	\$3,130,000	
Grants - Game and fish						
Land habitat and deer depredation			\$2,777,778	35,600		
Noxious weed control						
Missouri River enforcement						
Grants - Gifts - Donations						
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lonetree reservoir						
Wildlife services						
Shooting sports grant program						
Aquatic nuisance species program				208,250		
Contingent Funding						\$27,150,000
Total all funds	\$80,908	\$1,157,192	\$2,777,778	\$294,090	\$3,130,000	\$27,150,000
Less estimated income	80,908	1,157,192	2,777,778	294,090	3,130,000	27,150,000
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00

	Total Senate Changes
Salaries and wages	\$4,686,592
Operating expenses	1,543,716
Capital assets	1,773,891
Grants - Game and fish	1,166,633
Land habitat and deer depredation	8,926,706
Noxious weed control	
Missouri River enforcement	20,588
Grants - Gifts - Donations	14,824
Nongame wildlife conservation	
Lonetree reservoir	367,205
Wildlife services	
Shooting sports grant program	
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,450,655
Contingent Funding	27,150,000
Total all funds	\$47,100,810
Less estimated income	47,100,810
General fund	\$0
FTE	13.00

¹ Funding is added for the cost to continue salary increases.

² The following funding is added for 2023-25 biennium salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,429 to \$1,648 per month:

	<u>Other Funds</u>
Salary increase	\$1,937,848
Health insurance increase	909,396
Total	\$2,847,244

³ The following FTE positions and related funding are added:

<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Salaries and Wages</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fisheries biologist II	1.00	\$228,958	\$9,790	\$238,748
Warden investigator	1.00	228,634	78,144	306,778
Total	2.00	\$457,592	\$87,934	\$545,526

⁴ Funding is added for the additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands including 3 FTE positions and the following:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
Salaries and wages	\$622,604
Operating expenses	35,370
Habitat / non-access payments	1,000,000
PLOTS payments	3,000,000
Total	\$4,657,974

⁵ Funding is added for the aquatic nuisance species program, including 1 FTE biologist I position and the following:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
Salaries and wages	\$197,648
Temporary salaries	245,000
Operating expenses	687,941
Grants	68,000
Total	\$1,198,589

⁶ Funding is added from federal funds from various line items to adjust the base budget.

⁷ Funding is added for Information Technology Department shared software and rate increases.

⁸ Funding is added from other funds for motor pool cost increases.

⁹ Funding is added from federal and special funds for midterm conservation agreements.

¹⁰ One-time funding is added from federal and special funds for the following supplies and equipment related to new FTE positions:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
Uniforms, laptop, and other supplies	Fisheries biologist II	\$3,250
Uniforms, computer, radio, weapons, and vehicle package	Warden investigator	46,990
Uniforms, computers, ATV, and other equipment	Wildlife habitat biologists	35,600
Uniforms, laptop, and other equipment	Aquatic nuisance species biologist	3,250
Wash stations and other equipment	Aquatic nuisance species biologist	<u>205,000</u>
Total		\$294,090

¹¹ One-time funding of \$3,130,000 is added for the following capital assets:

	<u>Other Funds</u>
In-car video system and body cameras	\$550,000
Fisheries pond liners	1,000,000
Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility	850,000
Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements	350,000
Fisheries dam repairs	<u>380,000</u>
Total	\$3,130,000

¹² A section is added providing a contingent appropriation from federal funds for 7 FTE positions, operating expenses, and grant payments to administer programs approved under the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act contingent on the passage of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

This amendment adds a section authorizing the Game and Fish Department to transfer up to \$2 million between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items, during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

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

Executive Budget Comparison to Base Level

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Executive Budget	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601
2023-25 Base Level	0	89,581,634	89,581,634
Increase (Decrease)	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967

Selected Budget Changes Recommended in the Executive Budget

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Adds funding for state employee salary and benefit increases, of which \$2,588,174 is for salary increases and \$888,946 is for health insurance increases	\$0	\$3,477,120	\$3,477,120
2. Adds 3 FTE positions and operating costs for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access, of which \$622,604 is for salaries and wages, \$4,035,370 is for ongoing operating expenses, and \$35,600 is for one-time operating expenses	\$0	\$4,693,574	\$4,693,574
3. Adds 1 FTE position and operating costs for the aquatic nuisance initiative, of which \$442,648 is for salaries and wages, \$755,941 is for ongoing operating expenses, and \$208,250 is for one-time operating expenses	\$0	\$1,406,839	\$1,406,839
4. Adds 4 FTE positions, including 2 enforcement warden investigator positions, 1 fisheries biologist II position, and 1 account budget specialist III position, of which \$913,534 is for salaries and wages, \$169,708 is for ongoing operating expenses, \$68,805 is for one-time operating expenses, and \$36,000 is for one-time capital assets	\$0	\$1,188,047	\$1,188,047
5. Adds funding from federal funds in various line items, of which \$1,383,088 is for salaries and wages, \$185,442 is for operating expenses, (\$1,374,109) is for capital assets, \$1,166,633 is for game and fish grants, \$1,285,000 is for land habitat and deer depredation, \$13,754 is for Missouri River enforcement, and \$306,585 is for Lonetree Reservoir	\$0	\$2,966,393	\$2,966,393
6. Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements	\$0	\$2,777,778	\$2,777,778
7. Adds funding for motor pool cost increase	\$0	\$1,157,192	\$1,157,192
8. Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

A summary of the executive budget changes to the agency's base level appropriations is attached as an appendix.

A copy of the draft appropriations bill containing the executive budget recommendations is attached as an appendix.

Selected Bill Sections Recommended in the Executive Budget

Grants, gifts, and donations - Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Line item transfer authority - Section 4 would authorize the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Contingent appropriation and FTE positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act - Section 5 would appropriate \$27,150,000 and would authorize 7 FTE positions to the Game and Fish Department to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Continuing Appropriations

There are no continuing appropriations for this agency.

Deficiency Appropriations

There are no deficiency appropriations for this agency.

Significant Audit Findings

There are no significant audit findings for this agency.

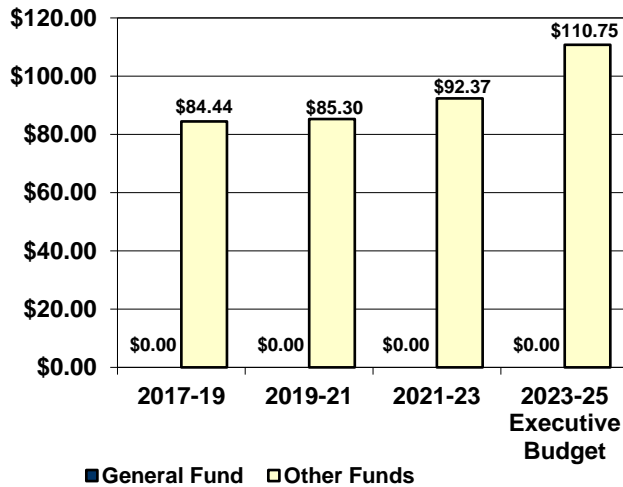
Major Related Legislation

At this time, no major legislation has been introduced affecting this agency.

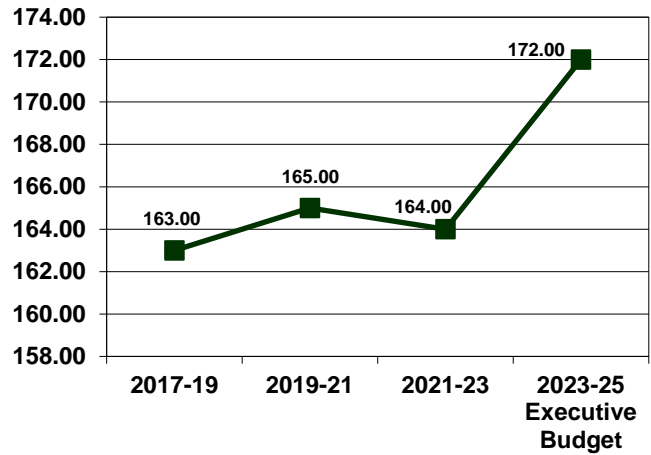
Historical Appropriations Information

Agency Appropriations and FTE Positions

Agency Funding (Millions)



FTE Positions



Ongoing Other Funds Appropriations

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Executive Budget
Ongoing other funds appropriations	\$77,231,739	\$83,227,498	\$85,303,632	\$89,581,634	\$107,275,946
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	\$5,995,759	\$2,076,134	\$4,278,002	\$17,694,312
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	7.8%	2.5%	5.0%	19.8%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2015-17 biennium	N/A	7.8%	10.5%	16.0%	38.9%

Major Increases (Decreases) in Ongoing Other Funds Appropriations

2017-19 Biennium

1. Increased funding for credit card fee charges on the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses	\$180,000
2. Reduced funding for rent allowance for oil-impacted areas	(\$100,000)
3. Added funding for replacement of pond liners	\$572,000
4. Added funding for replacement of lighting in the salmon building	\$130,000
5. Increased funding for capital assets	\$200,000
6. Added funding for equipment replacement	\$747,000
7. Increased funding for grants from Pittman-Robertson federal funds	\$1,590,000
8. Increased funding for operating expenses	\$839,186
9. Reduced funding for capital assets	(\$1,063,040)
10. Provided funding for the Parks and Recreation Department for operation of boating access at state parks	\$122,000
11. Increased funding for grants	\$1,353,772
12. Increased funding for land and deer depredation	\$1,153,880
13. Increased funding for noxious weed control operating expenses	\$120,135
14. Added increased funding for a grant to the Agriculture Commissioner for wildlife services	\$115,600

2019-21 Biennium

1. Underfunded salaries and wages and reduced funding for temporary employees	(\$385,721)
2. Reduced grant funding	(\$1,703,549)

- 3. Increased funding for operating expenses, primary for fees and services and reclassified funding from grants for boat access and development, Save Our Lakes program, and aquatic nuisance species (\$400,000) and for state wildlife grant projects (\$200,000) \$1,074,294
- 4. Increased federal funds for shooting range grants to provide a total of \$1,762,500 \$500,000
- 5. Reduced funding for motor vehicles (\$179,859)
- 6. Reduced funding for capital assets (\$213,930)
- 7. Reduced other IT funding (\$207,000)
- 8. Added funding for Microsoft 365 licensing expenses \$122,634
- 9. Increased funding for equipment over \$5,000 \$108,344
- 10. Added funding from the aquatic nuisance species program fund for use in aquatic nuisance species education, inspection, and monitoring programs under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 20.1-17 and authorized 2 FTE positions for the program (Senate Bill No. 2293) \$1,500,000

2021-23 Biennium

- 1. Added funding for capital assets by increasing extraordinary repairs (\$527,679), motor vehicles (\$568,180), and other capital payments (\$111,292), and reducing land, building and maintenance (\$50,000), and equipment over \$5,000 (\$243,505) \$913,646
- 2. Increased funding for operating expenses by increasing land, buildings, and maintenance (\$172,440), IT (\$233,000), Microsoft Office 365 licenses (\$18,507), and other operating expenses (\$843,653) \$1,267,600

2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)

- 1. Adds 8 FTE positions and ongoing operating expenses for 1 fisheries biologist position, 1 account budget specialist III position, 2 enforcement warden investigator positions, 1 aquatic nuisance species program position, and 3 wildlife habitat and access initiative positions \$6,939,805
- 2. Adds funding for salaries and wages to provide a base budget total of \$16,543,132 \$1,383,088
- 3. Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements \$2,777,778
- 4. Removes funding for capital assets to provide a total of \$5,400,661 (\$1,374,109)
- 5. Adds funding for game and fish grants to provide a total of \$10,089,976 \$1,166,633
- 6. Adds funding for land habitat and deer depredation to provide a total of \$19,280,597 \$1,285,000

One-Time Other Funds Appropriations

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Executive Budget
One-time other funds appropriations	\$0	\$748,724	\$0	\$2,786,500	\$3,478,655

Major One-Time Other Funds Appropriations

2017-19 Biennium

- 1. Airplane replacement \$250,000
- 2. Dakota Access Pipeline protest \$423,724
- 3. Electronic payment processing system \$75,000

2019-21 Biennium

None \$0

2021-23 Biennium

- 1. Private land open to sportsmen payments \$1,485,090
- 2. Red River basin wildlife and water quality enhancement program \$500,000
- 3. Radio equipment replacement \$801,500

2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)

- 1. Fisheries pond liners \$1,000,000
- 2. Car video system and body cameras \$550,000
- 3. Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility \$850,000
- 4. Fisheries dam repairs \$380,000
- 5. Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements \$350,000

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Executive Budget Recommendation			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes				
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116
Salary increase			2,588,174	2,588,174
Health insurance increase			888,946	888,946
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position	1.00		230,938	230,938
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	2.00		613,556	613,556
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393
ITD shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778
Total ongoing funding changes	8.00	\$0	\$17,694,312	\$17,694,312
One-time funding items				
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position			7,575	7,575
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			93,980	93,980
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,478,655	\$3,478,655
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	8.00	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967
2023-25 Total Funding	172.00	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			\$52,386,176	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%		19.8%	19.8%
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%		23.6%	23.6%

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

Executive Budget Recommendation

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

Executive Budget Recommendation

Grants, gifts, and donations

Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Line item transfer authority

Section 4 would authorize the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Contingent authority and full-time equivalent positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Section 5 would appropriate \$27,150,000 and would authorize 7 FTE to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

**SENATE BILL NO. 2017
(Governor's Recommendation)**

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

(At the request of the Governor)

A bill for an act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department and to provide a contingent appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the game and fish fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025, as follows:

	<u>Base Level</u>	<u>Adjustments or Enhancements</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and Wages	\$33,741,592	\$5,710,239	\$39,451,831
Operating Expenses	16,276,782	1,662,055	17,938,837
Capital Assets	6,774,770	1,791,891	8,566,661
Grants – Game and Fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Shooting Sports Grant Program	250,000	0	250,000
Land Habitat and Deer Depredation	17,995,597	8,962,358	26,957,955
Noxious Weed Control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River Enforcement	296,999	22,270	319,269
Grants-Gift-Donation	670,133	17,912	688,045
Nongame Wildlife Conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Aquatic Nuisance Species	1,509,009	1,459,604	2,968,613
Lonetree Reservoir	1,818,409	380,005	2,198,414
Wildlife Services	<u>500,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>500,000</u>
Total Special Funds	\$89,581,634	\$21,172,967	\$110,754,601
Full-time Equivalent Positions	164.00	8.00	172.00

SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SIXTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-seventh legislative assembly for the 2021-23 biennium and the 2023-25 biennium one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of the Act:

<u>One-Time Funding Description</u>	<u>2021-23</u>	<u>2023-25</u>
Red River basin wildlife and water quality program	\$ 500,000	\$0
Additional PLOTS payments	1,485,000	0
State radio equipment	801,500	0
Operating expenses	0	81,655
Equipment over \$5,000	0	267,000
Aquatic Nuisance lab and storage facility	0	850,000
Bunkhouse Improvements	0	350,000
Car video system and body cameras	0	550,000
Dam repairs	0	380,000
Pond liners	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total special funds	\$2,786,500	\$3,478,655

The 2023-25 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2025-27 biennium. The game and fish department shall report to the appropriations committees of the sixty-ninth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025.

SECTION 3. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS LINE. The grants, gifts, and donations line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$100,000 received by the game and fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department owned or managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.

SECTION 4. LINE ITEM TRANSFER AUTHORITY. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants -game and fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025. The game and fish department shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.

SECTION 5. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS-RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT. Subject to the provisions of this section, there is appropriated out of other funds in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$27,150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, and seven full-time equivalent positions to the Game and Fish Department for Recovering America's Wildlife Act for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025. The funding and positions authorized in this section are available only upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Executive Budget Recommendation				Senate Version			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes								
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116				\$0
Salary increase			2,588,174	2,588,174				0
Health insurance increase			888,946	888,946				0
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748				0
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position	1.00		230,938	230,938				0
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	2.00		613,556	613,556				0
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974				0
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589				0
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393				0
ITD shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908				0
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192				0
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778				0
Total ongoing funding changes	8.00	\$0	\$17,694,312	\$17,694,312	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
One-Time Funding Items								
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250				\$0
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position			7,575	7,575				0
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			93,980	93,980				0
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000				0
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000				0
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000				0
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600				0
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250				0
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,478,655	\$3,478,655	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	8.00	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
2023-25 Total Funding	172.00	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			\$52,386,176				\$40,342,783	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%		19.8%	19.8%	0.0%		0.0%	0.0%

Total changes as a percentage of base level 4.9% 23.6% 23.6% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

	<u>Executive Budget Recommendation</u>	<u>Senate Version</u>
Grants, gifts, and donations	Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.	
Line item transfer authority	Section 4 would authorize the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.	
Contingent authority and full-time equivalent positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act	Section 5 would appropriate \$27,150,000 and would authorize 7 FTE to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.	

#21255

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Executive Budget Recommendation				Senate Version				Senate Changes to Executive Budget			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	Increase (Decrease) - Executive Budget			
									FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes												
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116			\$295,116	\$295,116				\$0
Salary increase			2,588,174	2,588,174			1,937,848	1,937,848			(650,326)	(650,326)
Health insurance increase			888,946	888,946			909,396	909,396			20,450	20,450
Retirement contribution increase				0				0				0
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748				0				0
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position	1.00		230,938	230,938				0	(1.00)		(238,748)	(238,748)
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	2.00		613,556	613,556				0	(1.00)		(230,938)	(230,938)
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974				0	(2.00)		(613,556)	(613,556)
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589				0	(3.00)		(4,657,974)	(4,657,974)
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393				0	(1.00)		(1,198,589)	(1,198,589)
ITD shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908				0			(2,966,393)	(2,966,393)
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192				0			(80,908)	(80,908)
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778				0			(1,157,192)	(1,157,192)
Total ongoing funding changes	8.00	\$0	\$17,694,312	\$17,694,312	0.00	\$0	\$3,142,360	\$3,142,360	(8.00)	\$0	(\$14,551,952)	(\$14,551,952)
One-Time Funding Items												
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250				\$0			(\$3,250)	(\$3,250)
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position			7,575	7,575				0			(7,575)	(7,575)
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			93,980	93,980				0			(93,980)	(93,980)
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000				0			(850,000)	(850,000)
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000				0			(550,000)	(550,000)
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000				0			(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000				0			(350,000)	(350,000)
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000				0			(380,000)	(380,000)
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600				0			(35,600)	(35,600)
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250				0			(208,250)	(208,250)
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,478,655	\$3,478,655	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00	\$0	(\$3,478,655)	(\$3,478,655)
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	8.00	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967	0.00	\$0	\$3,142,360	\$3,142,360	(8.00)	\$0	(\$18,030,607)	(\$18,030,607)
2023-25 Total Funding	172.00	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601	164.00	\$0	\$92,723,994	\$92,723,994	(8.00)	\$0	(\$18,030,607)	(\$18,030,607)
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			\$52,386,176				\$41,416,337				(\$10,969,839)	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%		19.8%	19.8%	0.0%		3.5%	3.5%				

Total changes as a percentage of base level

4.9%

23.6%

23.6%

0.0%

3.5%

3.5%

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

Executive Budget Recommendation

Senate Version

Grants, gifts, and donations

Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Line item transfer authority

Section 4 would authorize the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Contingent authority and full-time equivalent positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Section 5 would appropriate \$27,150,000 and would authorize 7 FTE to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

#21256

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Executive Budget Recommendation				Senate Version				Senate Changes to Executive Budget Increase (Decrease) - Executive Budget			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes												
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116			\$295,116	\$295,116				\$0
Salary increase			2,588,174	2,588,174			1,937,848	1,937,848			(650,326)	(650,326)
Health insurance increase			888,946	888,946			909,396	909,396			20,450	20,450
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748					(1.00)		(238,748)	(238,748)
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position	1.00		230,938	230,938					(1.00)		(230,938)	(230,938)
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	2.00		613,556	613,556					(2.00)		(613,556)	(613,556)
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974					(3.00)		(4,657,974)	(4,657,974)
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589					(1.00)		(1,198,589)	(1,198,589)
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393							(2,966,393)	(2,966,393)
ITD shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908							(80,908)	(80,908)
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192							(1,157,192)	(1,157,192)
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778							(2,777,778)	(2,777,778)
Total ongoing funding changes	8.00	\$0	\$17,694,312	\$17,694,312	0.00	\$0	\$3,142,360	\$3,142,360	(8.00)	\$0	(\$14,551,952)	(\$14,551,952)
One-Time Funding Items												
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250				\$0			(\$3,250)	(\$3,250)
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position			7,575	7,575				0			(7,575)	(7,575)
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			93,980	93,980				0			(93,980)	(93,980)
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000				0			(850,000)	(850,000)
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000			550,000	550,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000			1,000,000	1,000,000				0
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000			350,000	350,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000			380,000	380,000				0
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600				0			(35,600)	(35,600)
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250				0			(208,250)	(208,250)
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,478,655	\$3,478,655	0.00	\$0	\$2,280,000	\$2,280,000	0.00	\$0	(\$1,198,655)	(\$1,198,655)
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	8.00	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967	0.00	\$0	\$5,422,360	\$5,422,360	(8.00)	\$0	(\$15,750,607)	(\$15,750,607)
2023-25 Total Funding	172.00	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601	164.00	\$0	\$95,003,994	\$95,003,994	(8.00)	\$0	(\$15,750,607)	(\$15,750,607)
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			<i>\$52,386,176</i>				<i>\$42,166,337</i>				<i>(\$10,219,839)</i>	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	<i>4.9%</i>		<i>19.8%</i>	<i>19.8%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>		<i>3.5%</i>	<i>3.5%</i>				
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	<i>4.9%</i>		<i>23.6%</i>	<i>23.6%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>		<i>6.1%</i>	<i>6.1%</i>				

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

Executive Budget Recommendation

Senate Version

Grants, gifts, and donations

Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Line item transfer authority

Section 4 would authorize the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Section 4 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Contingent authority and full-time equivalent positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Section 5 would appropriate \$27,150,000 and would authorize 7 FTE to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Section 5 appropriates \$27,150,000 and authorizes 7 FTE to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.



DEDICATED TO PROTECTING, DEVELOPING, AND MANAGING NORTH DAKOTA'S WATER RESOURCES
 PO Box 2254, Bismarck, ND 58502-2254 701-223-4615 • 701-223-4645 (Fax)

**House Appropriations Education and Environment Division
 Hearing for SB 2017
 March 8, 2023
 Testimony of Dave Lang, North Dakota Water Users Association**

Chairman Nathe and members of the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2017. The Water Users Association is the state-wide member organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota's water resources. We have more than 150 members including local, statewide and regional organizations in North Dakota who have an active interest in water.

As the Division works on the budget for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the Water Users asks that you support the efforts of the Game and Fish Department in preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS). The North Dakota Water Users has a policy resolution addressing the vital need to combat the spread of ANS. Our policy reads:

We urge aggressive prevention of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) for North Dakota waters as outlined in the North Dakota aquatic species management plan prepared by the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee. We urge all federal and state agencies to adequately fund and provide the necessary authorities to implement aquatic nuisance species prevention programs in all North Dakota waters, and we support adequate funding for ANS education and enforcement. We support the actions and initiatives of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in their efforts to educate, inform public and protect our states' waters from ANS. As these efforts are limited in scope due to their funding through licensing fees, we strongly encourage and support direct State funding to better protect our waters from the high risks associated with the invasion and adverse impacts associated with ANS.

As the threat of ANS, particularly zebra mussels grows, additional work will need to be done to curb the spread through inspection and education. Zebra mussels are especially damaging to any type of infrastructure within an infected body of water, including irrigation and water supply intakes. Once introduced zebra mussels can NOT be eradicated. The thumbnail-sized mollusks spread rapidly, a single female mussel can produce about a half a billion offspring in her 3 to 5-year life span. Eventually they silently, but completely upend the delicate ecology of a lake. They overwhelm and kill native mussels. They strain out and devour tiny, edible material, robbing native fish of nutrients. They excrete a carpet of waste that fosters the growth of hairy, stinky, toxic mats of algae. Zebra mussels have a jagged, razor-sharp shell that can slice a swimmer's foot or leave your hand bloody when grabbing onto anything submerged in the infested waters.

It only takes one infected boat to introduce zebra mussels and infect an entire body of water. This is why a robust inspection strategy is vital to prevention. We ask the Division to support a strong ANS prevention line item within the Department's budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



SB 2017 TESTIMONY

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS- GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DIVISION

Jeb Williams, Director

March 8, 2023

Our Mission

The mission of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use



Customer Expectations

Great hunting / fishing opportunities

Abundant facilities
(docks, ramps, ranges, ...)

Superior
communications

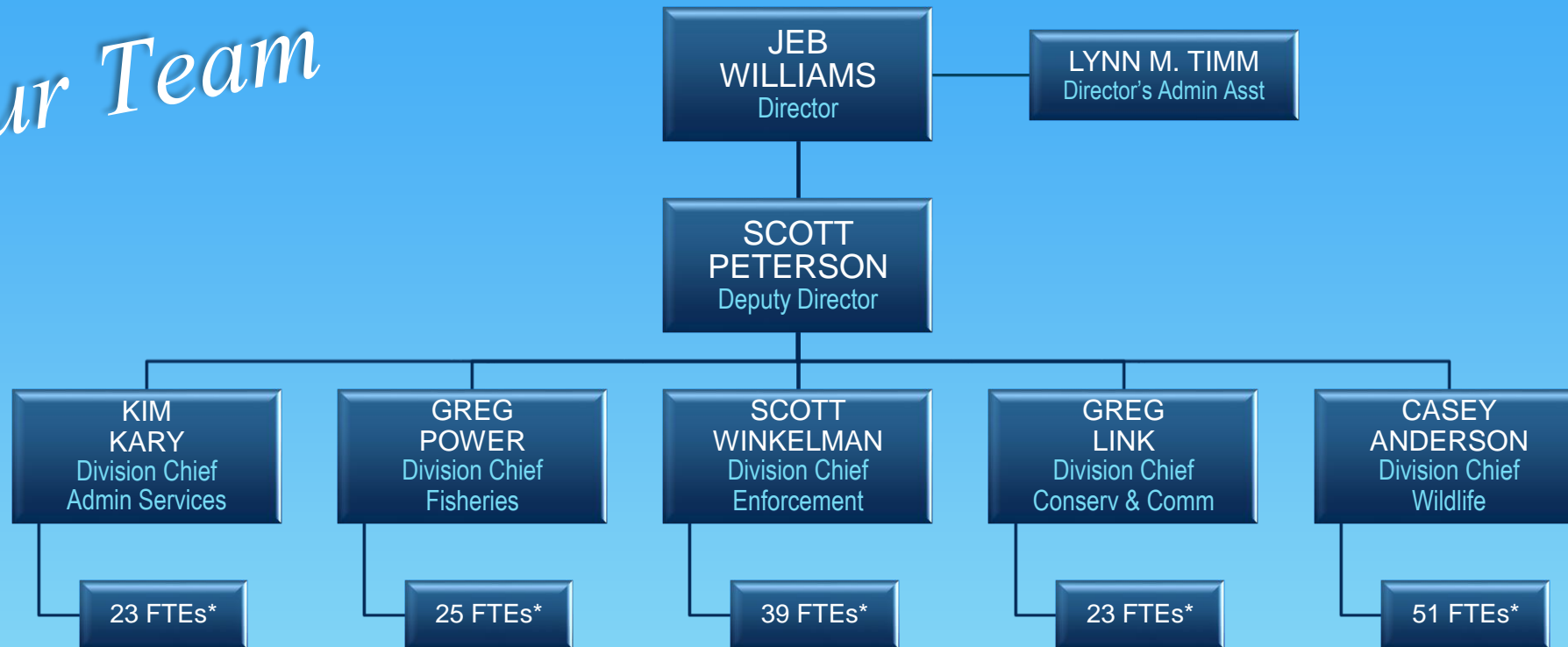
Limited barriers: online education

Quality service / tools

Ample access



Our Team



07/2021 = 164 total Full-Time Equivalents

* Includes Division Chiefs

- 30 employees are retirement eligible
- Only 18 out of the 164 FTEs are funded 100% Special funds
- 44% of FTEs are biologist or wildlife technicians – 75% Federal funds
- 90 out of the current 164 FTEs were seasonal employees (55%)



Wildlife Values

Public Trust Percentage

76%



America's Wildlife Values
The Social Context of Wildlife
Management in the U.S.

AMERICA'S
WILDLIFE
VALUES

WAFWA
WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF
FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Colorado
State
University

THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Responsive Management

Economic Value

- Hunting and fishing is important to North Dakota. It's part of our heritage, and it's important to the state's economy
 - Gross business volume of hunting and fishing in North Dakota was estimated at \$2.1 billion
 - Overall, anglers and hunters in North Dakota spent \$974.4 million dollars on equipment, vehicles, boats, travel, lodging, food and many other items
 - Hunting and fishing accounted for over 3,250 full-time equivalent jobs and generated over \$48 million in state tax collections

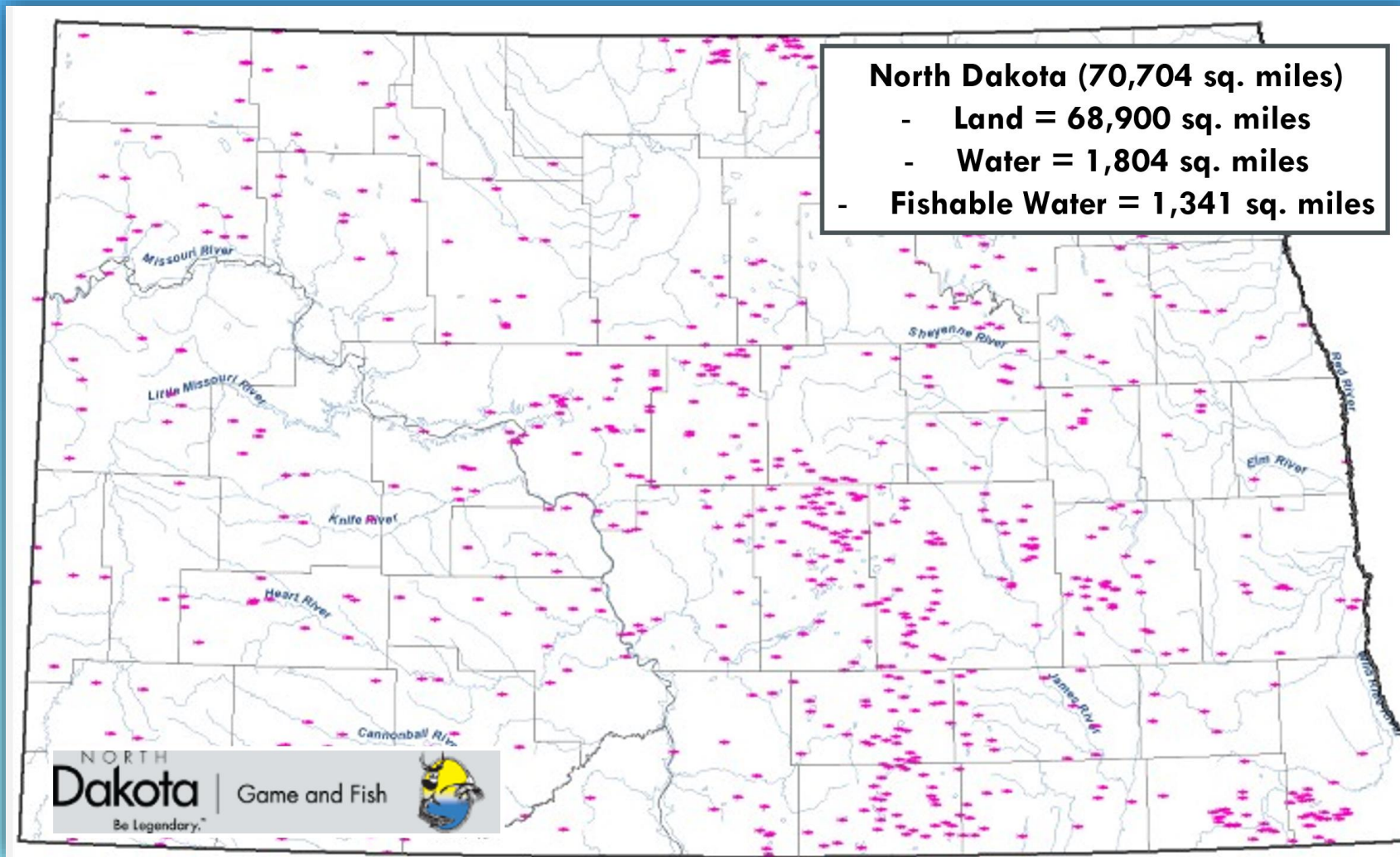
Resident and Nonresident Hunter and Angler Expenditures, Characteristics, and Economic Effects, North Dakota, 2017-18.
NDSU Ag. Econ. 2019.



FISHERIES



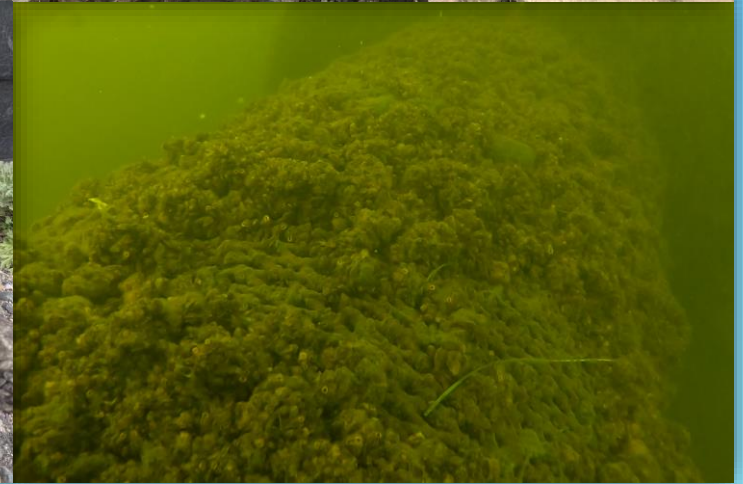
Fishing Water Bodies



- 449 Waters
- 841,000 acres

Aquatic Nuisance Species

Zebra Mussel



WILDLIFE

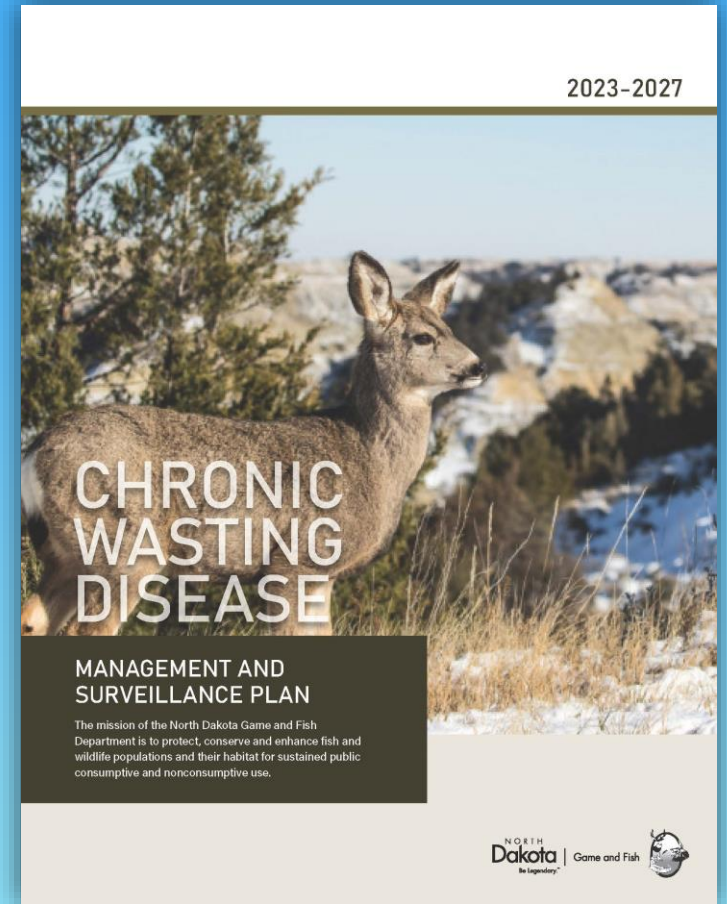


Chronic Wasting Disease

CWD

Why we care about CWD

- Prion disease
- *Always* fatal
- Strong deer hunting culture
- Economic fallout

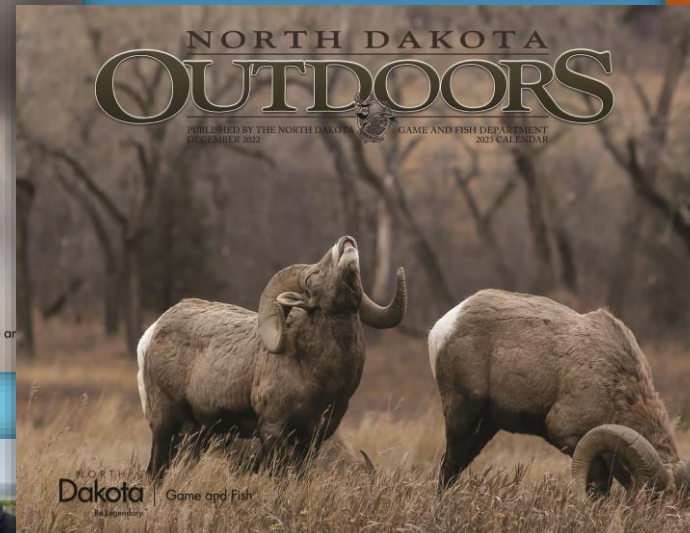
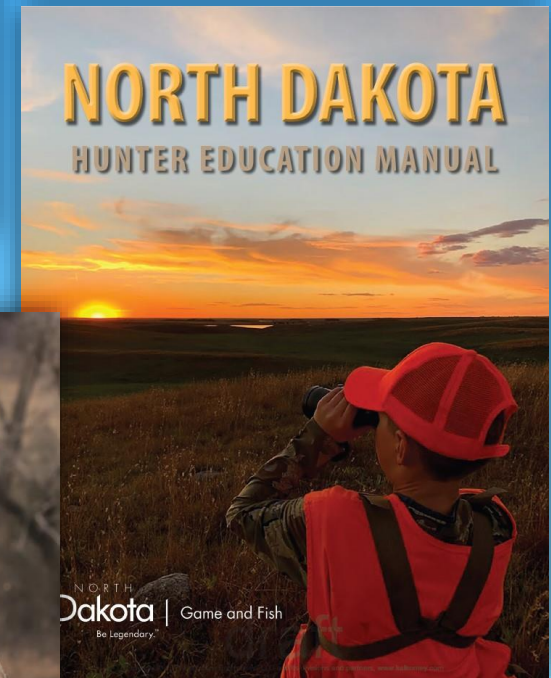
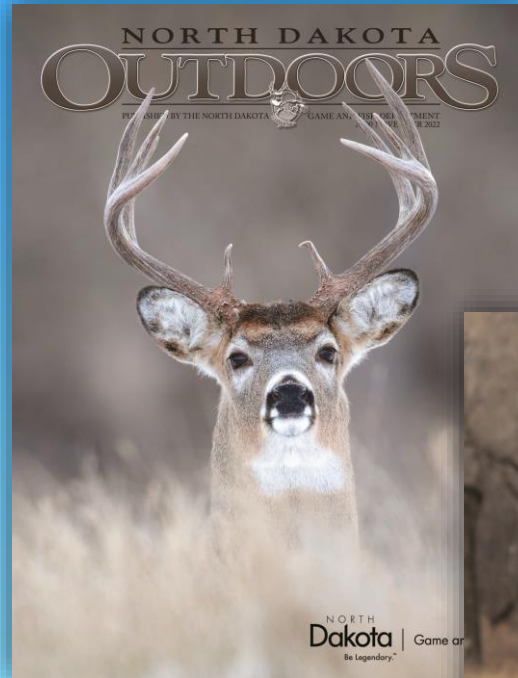




Habitat Matters



CONSERVATION & COMMUNICATIONS



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R3

Recruiting – Retention – Reactivation



ADMINISTRATION



Bismarck Headquarters and Wildlife Health Lab



Lonetree



Williston



Dickinson



Jamestown



Riverdale



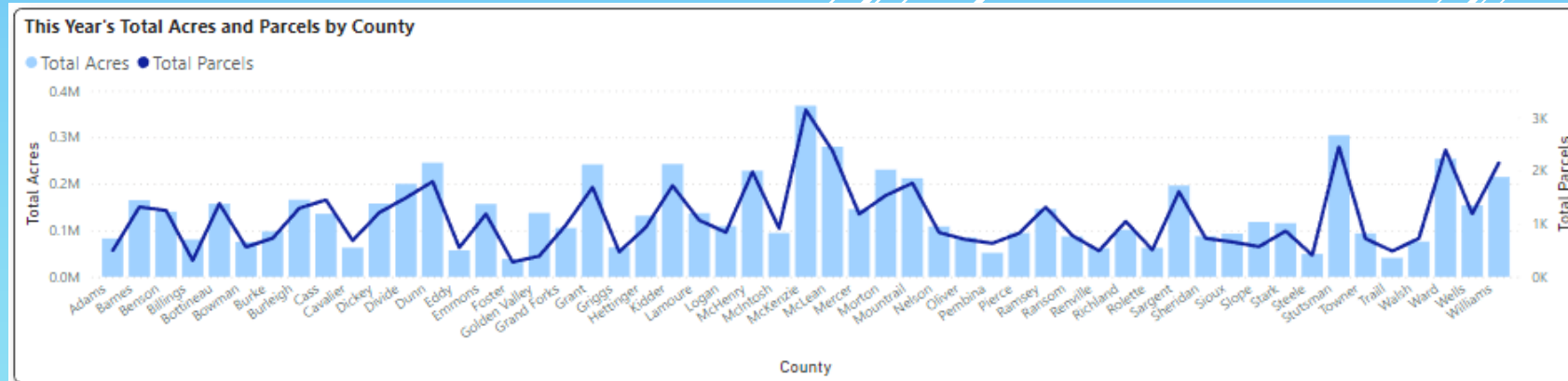
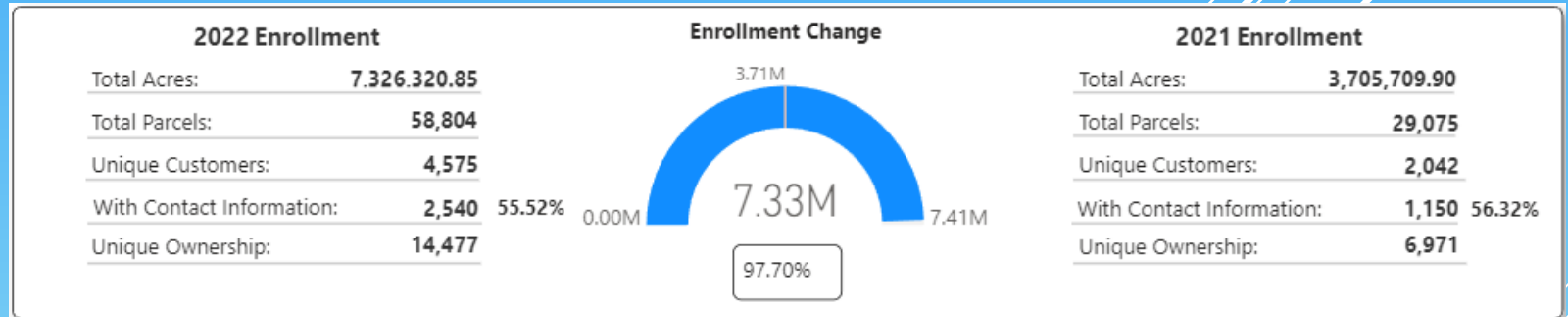
Devils Lake



Legislative Results

SB 2144 Criminal Trespass and Electronic Posting

E-Posting



Mobile App

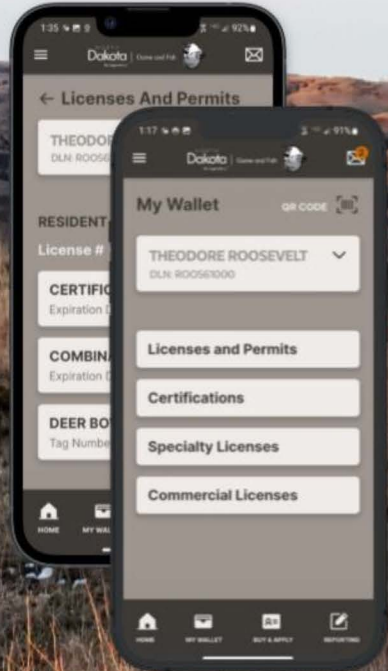
The Official App of the
North Dakota Game
and Fish Department



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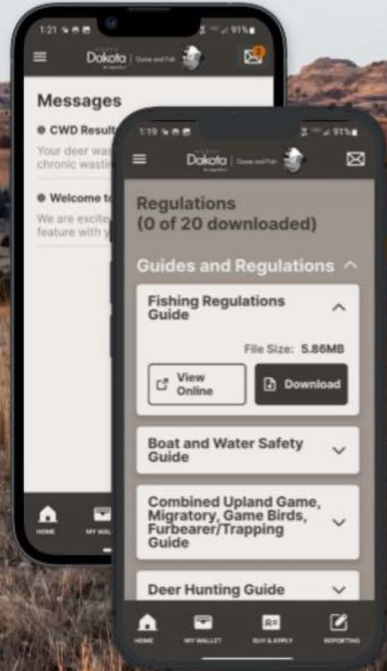
Convenience

View licenses in the digital wallet or
quickly access Department Buy &
Apply services



Stay Informed

Receive messages and notifications
directly to your personal inbox



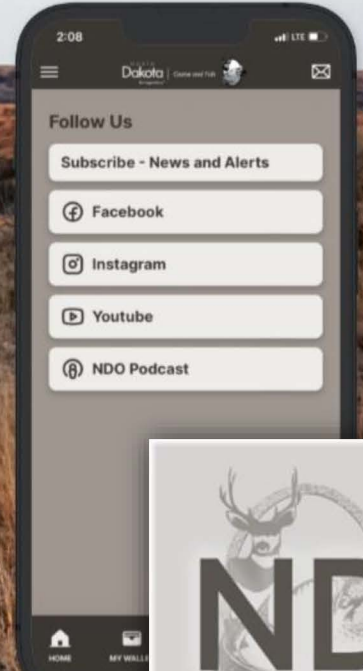
Be Prepared

Select or use your current location to
view sunrise/sunset times or weather
forecasts



Follow Us

Subscribe to News and Alerts or
follow us on Department
communication channels



ENFORCEMENT



Law Enforcement Officers

Game Wardens



- North Dakota is 70,705 square miles in size
- Has the *third smallest* number of game wardens in the nation at 38 full-time law enforcement officers
- Average area covered by a District Game Warden – 2,438 square miles
 - Field checks (through 12/13/22):
 - 2022 – 31,628 residents; 11,753 non-residents
 - 2021 – 38,439 residents; 12,671 non-residents
 - Citations (through 12/13/22):
 - 2022 – 2,370
 - 2021 – 2,711

For comparison; South Dakota has 87 Conservation Officers



PARTNERSHIPS

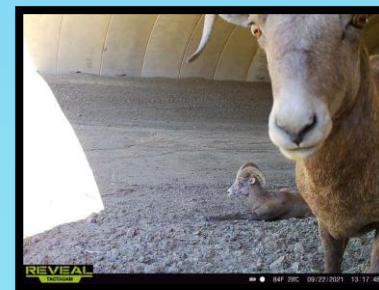
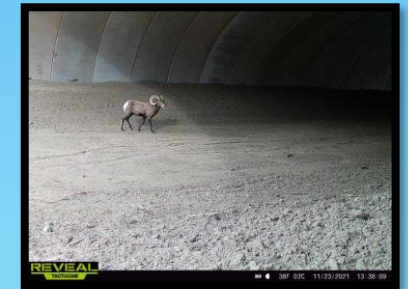
- Private Landowners
- Federal Partners
 - USFWS, USACE
- Non-Government Organizations
 - Mule Deer, Elk, Turkey, Pheasants, Ducks
- Ag Partnerships
 - NDGLC, NDSA
- Legislative Branch



Wildlife Crossings

partnering with

NDDOT

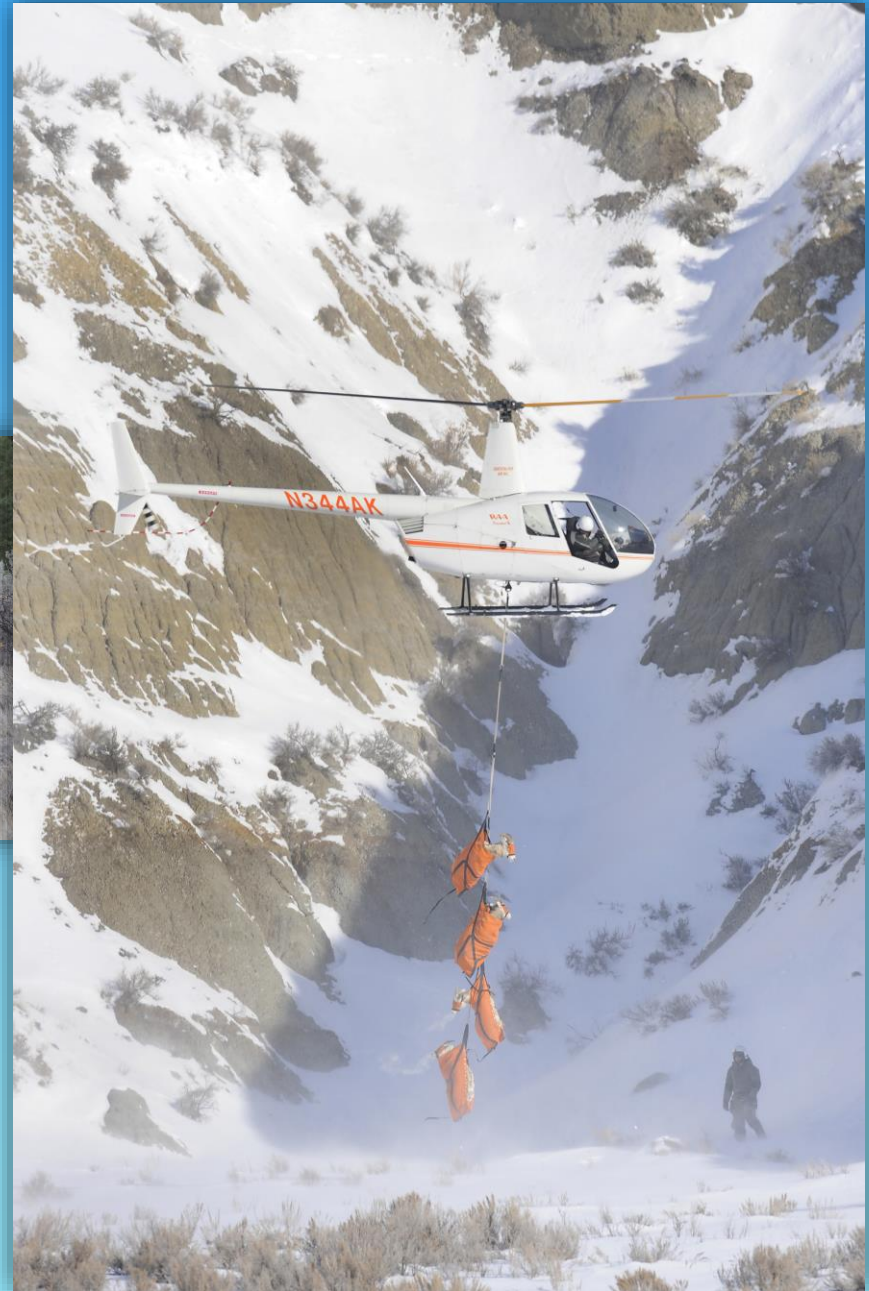


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Tribal Engagement

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Elk and MHA Nation Bighorn Sheep MOU's



Shooting Range Opportunities

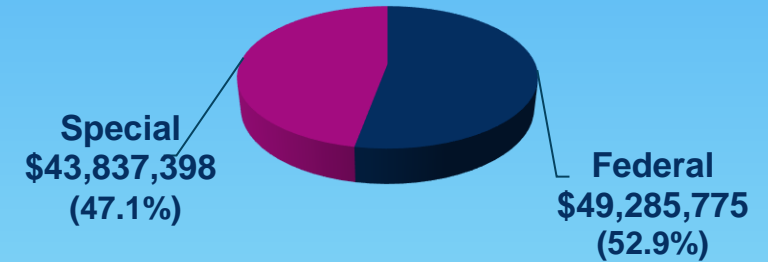
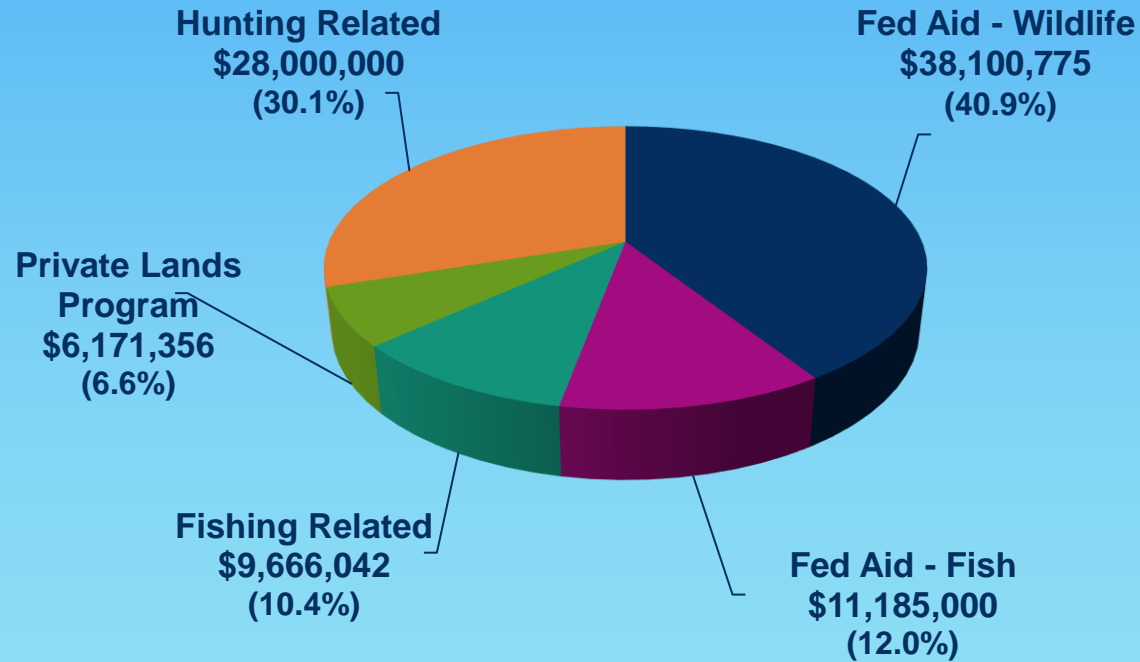
Watford City



Medora – TRMF
(1M)



2023 – 2025 REVENUE PROJECTION



Total = \$93,123,173*

* Excludes Donation Account, Nongame Fund and Outdoor Heritage Funds



USFWS FEDERAL FUNDS

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act Pittman-Robertson (PR)

- **21-23 Revenue Projection: \$25,700,000**
- **23-25 Revenue Projection : \$31,000000**

Funds are from excise taxes on the sale of guns, ammo and archery equipment which is allocated to the states by a formula based 50% on the amount of land area of the state relative to the rest of the states, and 50% based on the number of hunting license holders in a state relative to other states. These funds are referred to as PR funds.



USFWS FEDERAL FUNDS

Federal Aid in Sport Fishing Act Dingell Johnson (DJ)

- **21-23 Revenue Projection: \$9,000,000**
- **23-25 Revenue Projection : \$9,500000**

Funds are from excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat fuel which is allocated to the states by the same formula above with the exception of using the number of fishing license holders vs hunting licenses. These funds are referred to as DJ funds.



USFWS Federal Funds

N.D.C.C. 20.1-02-17

Hunting and fishing license fees and application fees may only be used for departmental programs and administration.

Noncompliance will result in a diversion of all USFWS federal funds.

USFWS PR & DJ funds equate to 82% of our federal funds in 23-25:

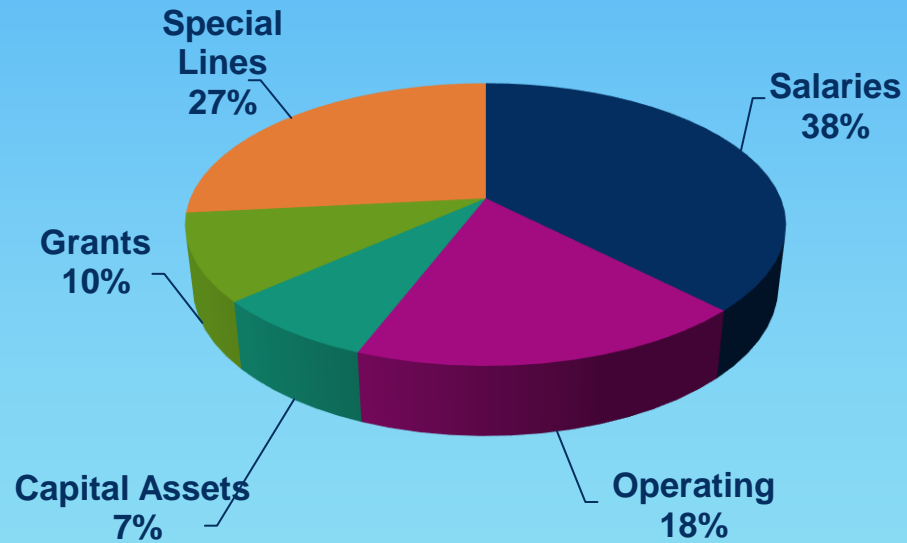
These funds are apportioned to States from USFWS by law and are not dependent on Congress approval. These funds have a 2-year window to be obligated by the department; otherwise, we will lose the funds and they will revert back to the USFWS to be allocated to other states.

USFWS federal funds require a 25% match. In some cases, the 25% match comes from local partners such as park boards, wildlife clubs, etc.

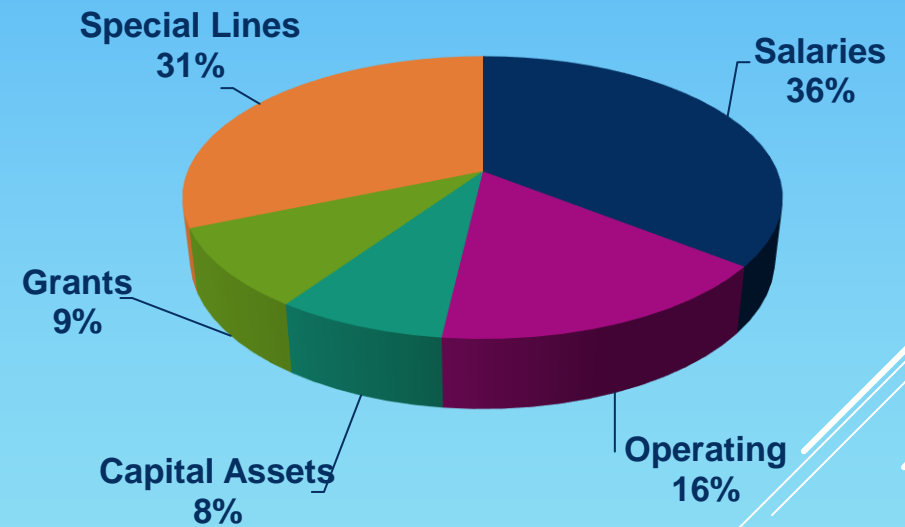


2023 – 2025 APPROPRIATION

Legislative Base Budget \$89.6 Million



Agency Requested Budget \$110.8 Million





2023 – 2025 BUDGET CHANGES

Senate Changes from Legislative Base Budget	Request	Federal	Special
Fisheries - 1 Biologist New FTE	\$241,998	\$181,497	\$60,501
Aquatic Nuisance Species increase – WRDA Funding	\$1,406,839	\$703,419	\$703,420
♦ includes 1 Biologist New FTE			
Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat and Access on private lands	\$4,693,574	\$3,460,104	\$1,233,470
♦ includes 3 Biologist New FTEs			
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$2,777,778	\$2,500,000	\$277,778
♦ Mid-term conservation agreements			
FACILITIES			
♦ ANS Lab and Storage Facility - Jamestown	\$850,000	\$0	\$850,000
♦ Bunkhouse improvements – Devils Lake	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
Enforcement – 1 Investigation Warden New FTE	\$353,768	\$26,568	\$327,200
Enforcement – Replace In-Car Video System & Add Body Cameras	\$550,000	\$0	\$550,000



2023 – 2025 BUDGET CHANGES

	Total Request	Federal	Special
Agency Motorpool	\$1,157,192	\$0	\$1,157,192
Fisheries – Dam Repairs	\$380,000	\$0	\$550,000
♦ Camel Hump and Baukol Noonan			
Fisheries – Pondliners	\$1,000,000	\$750,000	\$250,000
♦ GDNFH Pondliners			
TOTAL	\$13,761,149	\$7,621,588	\$6,139,561

Agency Requests not included in Senate Version	Total Request	Federal	Special
Admin Services – 1 Account Budget Specialist New FTE	\$238,513	\$0	\$238,513
Enforcement – 1 Investigation Warden New FTE	\$353,768	\$26,568	\$327,200
TOTAL	\$592,281	\$26,568	\$565,713

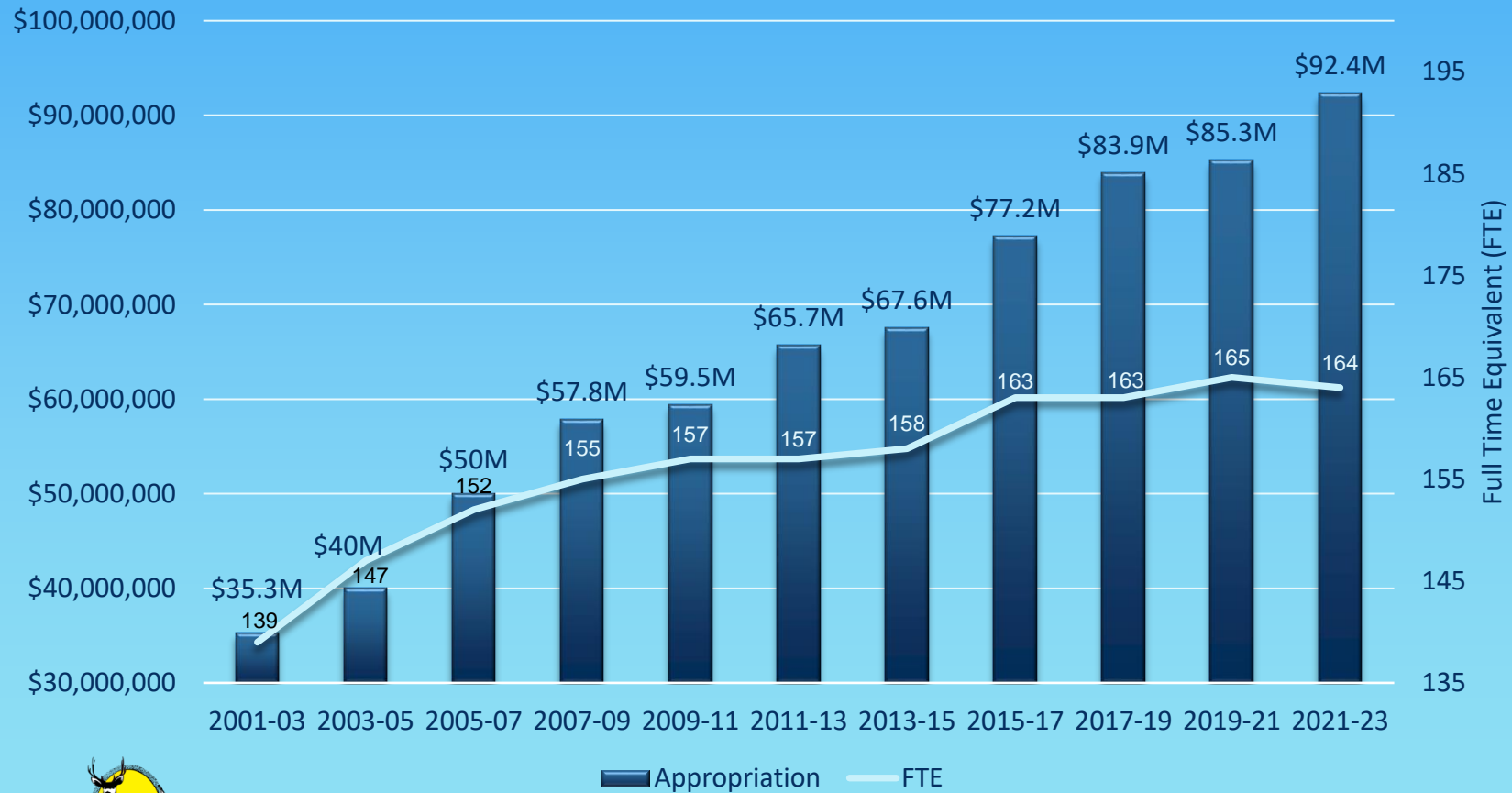
2023 – 2025 CONTINGENT FUNDING

	Request	Federal	Special
Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) - new Special Line	\$27,150,000	\$22,775,000	\$4,375,000
♦ includes 7 Biologist FTEs			

*Dependent upon Congress approval of Recovering America's Wildlife Act

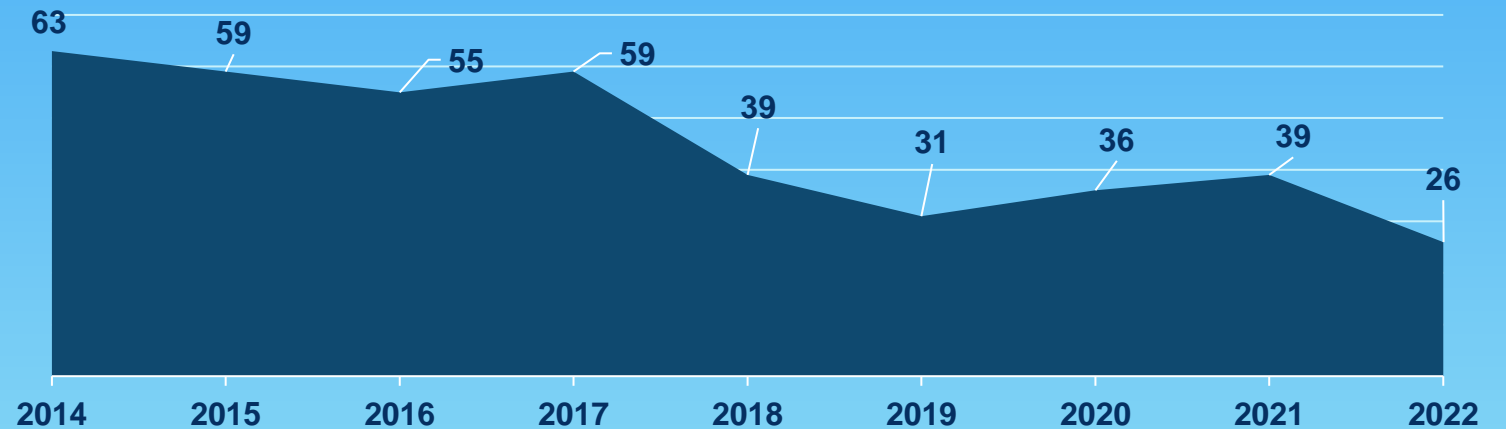


APPROPRIATION and FTE HISTORY



WORKFORCE

WILDLIFE SEASONAL POSITION APPLICANTS – LAST 8 YEARS



Along with decrease in the number of applicants, the quality of applicants is decreasing, lacking skills necessary to perform jobs efficiently and effectively. When seasonal positions are not filled, applicants don't have the experience to meet the minimum qualifications of a full-time classified position. Pay for seasonal employees averages less than a shelf stocker at a retail store.



Questions?





March 8, 2023

SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Chairman Monson and members of the Government Operations Division of House Appropriations, my name is Kim Kary, Administrative Services Division Chief of the ND Game and Fish Department. I will be testifying on SB2017, our appropriation bill.

The ND Game and Fish Dept is largely directed under NDCC Title 20.1 and many of those responsibilities reside under 20.1-02-05 which lists the power of the Director. The major statutory responsibilities can be summarized as: to manage and regulate the state's wildlife resources, game and non-game, for the use, enjoyment, possession, disposition, and conservation for the public of North Dakota.

2023-25 agency requested/executive budget recommendation: \$110,754,601

Senate version: \$109,532,444

Senate version is an increase of \$19,950,810 from the 2023-25 legislative base level appropriation of \$89,581,634.

My testimony will cover the following for the Department:

- Federal and Special Revenue
- Fund Balance
- Legislative base changes
- 23-25 Budget Changes
- Other Sections included in the Senate budget version for SB2017
- Budget by Divisions

The Game and Fish Department is a special fund agency receiving revenue from game and fish license sales (hunting, fishing, and boat registrations) and federal funding. We receive no general fund dollars.

23-25 Revenue Projections:

Federal revenue is projected to be as follows:

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (PR funds)*	\$31,000,000
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ funds)**	\$ 9,500,000
Recreational Boating Safety Program	\$ 1,487,000
State Wildlife Grants	\$ 1,180,650
Misc. Federal Grants	\$ 733,962
Bureau of Reclamation (Lonetree)	\$ 2,180,744
Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)	\$ 703,419
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)	\$ 2,500,000

Total Federal Revenue \$49,285,775 52%

Game & Fish (G&F) Revenue by Fund:

Game and Fish Fund (Licenses + Misc.)	\$38,445,797
Private Land Habitat Fund	\$ 6,171,356
Nongame Wildlife Fund (Donations)	\$ 68,000
Aquatic Nuisance Species Fund	<u>\$ 1,382,042</u>

Total Game & Fish Revenue \$46,067,195 48%

Total All Revenue \$95,352,970

* **Wildlife Restoration Act** – funds are from excise taxes on the sale of guns, ammo and archery equipment which is allocated to the states by a formula based 50% on the amount of land area of the state relative to the rest of the states, and 50% based on the number of hunting license holders in a state relative to other states. These funds are referred to as Pittman-Robertson (PR) funds.

****Sport Fish Restoration Act** – funds are from excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat fuel which is allocated to the states by the same formula above with the exception of using the number of fishing license holders vs hunting licenses. These funds are referred to as Dingell-Johnson (DJ) funds.

Federal Revenue Levels

- USFWS Sport Fish Restoration Act funds (DJ) – Since 2008, our DJ fund apportionment has been over \$4M except for 3 years (2011, 2012, 2014) when it was between \$3.6M-\$3.9M. Thus in 2013 we changed the funding source from federal to state for one of our fisheries projects. Since 2015 DJ funds have continued to be over \$4M. In 2022, the amount was \$4.6M. We project the funds to remain slightly above the \$4M level annually for 2023-25. The funds require a 25% match.
- USFWS Wildlife Restoration Act funds (PR) – In 2013 PR funds were \$7.7M and have steadily increased to \$15.8M in 2022. We project the funds to remain around the \$15M level annually for 2023-25. The funds require a 25% match.
These funds are apportioned to States from the USFWS by law and are not dependent on Congress approval. The PR funds have a 2-year window to be obligated by the department; otherwise, we will lose the funds and they will revert back to the USFWS to be allocated to other states.
- U.S. Coast Guard, Recreational Boating Safety Program – We project the funds to remain approximately the same for 2023-25. The funds require a 50% match.
- USFWS State Wildlife Grant funds – have remained the same the last several years, but it is dependent on Congress. These funds pay for 2 biologist positions and projects involving nongame and endangered species. We project the funds to remain approximately the same for 2023-25. The match varies.
- Bureau of Reclamation - have remained the same the last few years. 100% federal.

I will explain a couple other federal revenue sources, WRDA, NFWF, Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), later when I talk about the budget changes.

The USFWS DJ & PR funds equate to 82% of our total federal funds. These funds are not dependent on congress. They are apportioned to states each year based on the formula explained on the previous page. If these federal funds decrease, we would cut programs or use our special funds (licensing revenue).

Another important part of these DJ and PR funds is they require each Game and Fish agency to have the following in law:

NDCC 20.1-02-17

Hunting and fishing license fees and application fees may only be used for departmental programs and administration. Noncompliance will result in a diversion of all USFWS federal funds.

Any misuse of our special funds will result in what is called a “diversion”. A diversion of federal funds means we become ineligible for future USFWS federal funds until the diversion is resolved. This equates to approximately \$40M.

License & Special Revenue

We project our license revenue to remain approximately the same for 2023-25. The license sales for General Game, Resident Deer Gun and Fishing are shown below.

GENERAL GAME

2012	Res	102,274	NR	47,433
2013	Res	101,423	NR	45,016
2014	Res	96,026	NR	45,021
2015	Res	95,324	NR	46,985
2016	Res	96,011	NR	45,703
2017	Res	93,949	NR	37,044
2018	Res	97,524	NR	38,086
2019	Res	99,353	NR	36,660
2020	Res	109,252	NR	41,326
2021	Res	106,610	NR	41,282
	*2022 Res	103,430	NR	42,717

*Data as of 1/17/23. The 2022 license year ends 3/31/2023.

RESIDENT DEER GUN

2009	125,583
2010	101,216
2011	94,130
2012	48,605
2013	43,625
2014	34,640
2015	29,559
2016	34,970
2017	40,438
2018	41,068
2019	52,347
2020	54,809
2021	54,662
2022	50,950

FISHING LICENSE SALES

Resident fishing license sales spiked during COVID.

2012	Res	159,502	NR	58,894
2013	Res	160,132	NR	59,311
2014	Res	157,187	NR	64,911
2015	Res	157,663	NR	64,949
2016	Res	152,102	NR	60,994
2017	Res	152,056	NR	62,958
2018	Res	147,573	NR	62,501
2019	Res	144,339	NR	64,156
2020	Res	162,177	NR	67,579
2021	Res	147,249	NR	64,090
	*2022 Res	138,866	NR	50,141

*Data as of 1/17/23. The 2022 license year ends 3/31/2023.

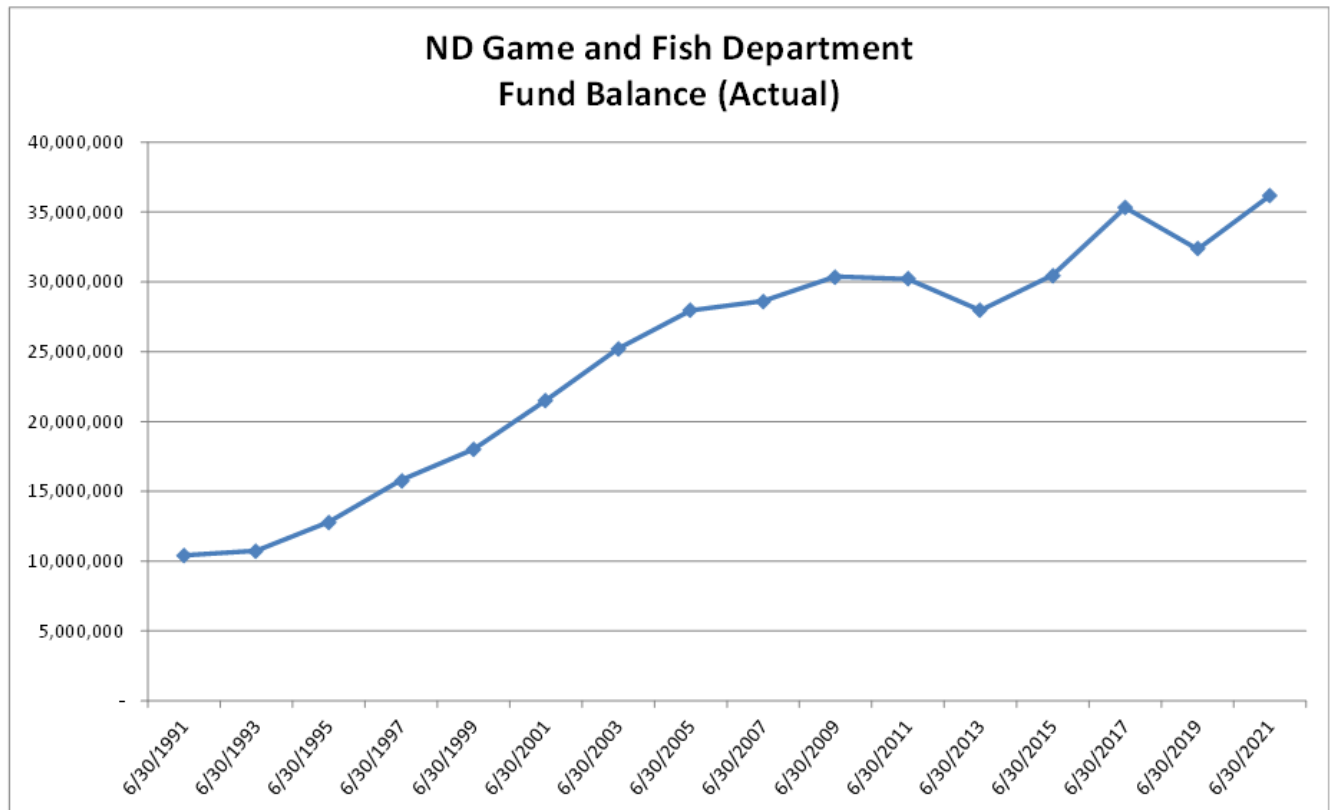
Fund Balances - Fund balance projections, based on Senate version, are as follows:

	<u>Actual</u> <u>6/30/2021</u>	<u>Projected</u> <u>6/30/2023</u>	<u>Projected</u> <u>6/30/2025</u>
Game and Fish Fund	\$33,434,612	\$28,952,216	\$19,059,783
Private Land Habitat Fund	\$1,594,095	\$3,425,261	\$1,775,677
Non-Game Wildlife Fund	\$163,669	\$177,669	\$145,669
Aquatic Nuisance Species Fund	\$983,317	\$419,794	\$258,294
Total	\$36,175,693	\$32,974,940¹	\$21,239,423
			RAWA ² (\$4,375,000)
Adjusted Total with RAWA			\$16,864,423

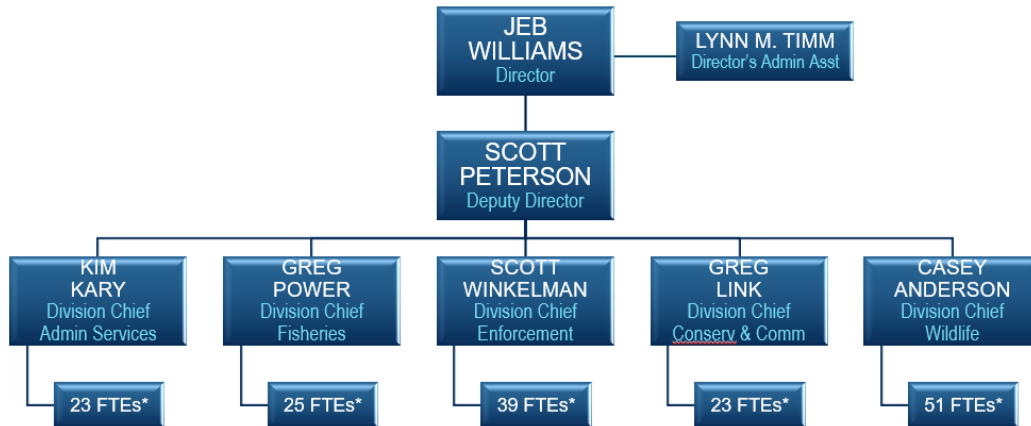
1 - Balance if spend entire appropriation in all lines

2 - RAWA decision package does not include increase for compensation plan.

Per NDCC 20.1-02-16.1, the fund balance shall not be reduced below \$15M unless authorized by the budget section.



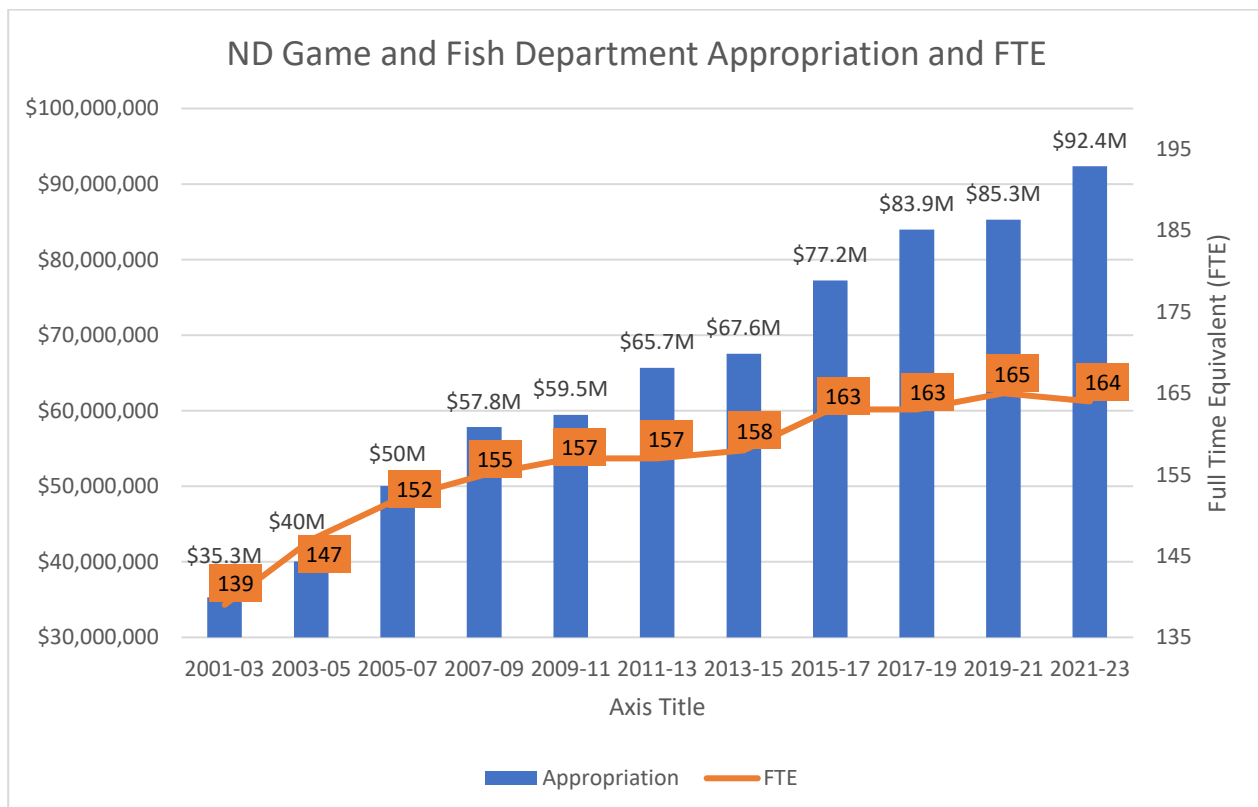
NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT



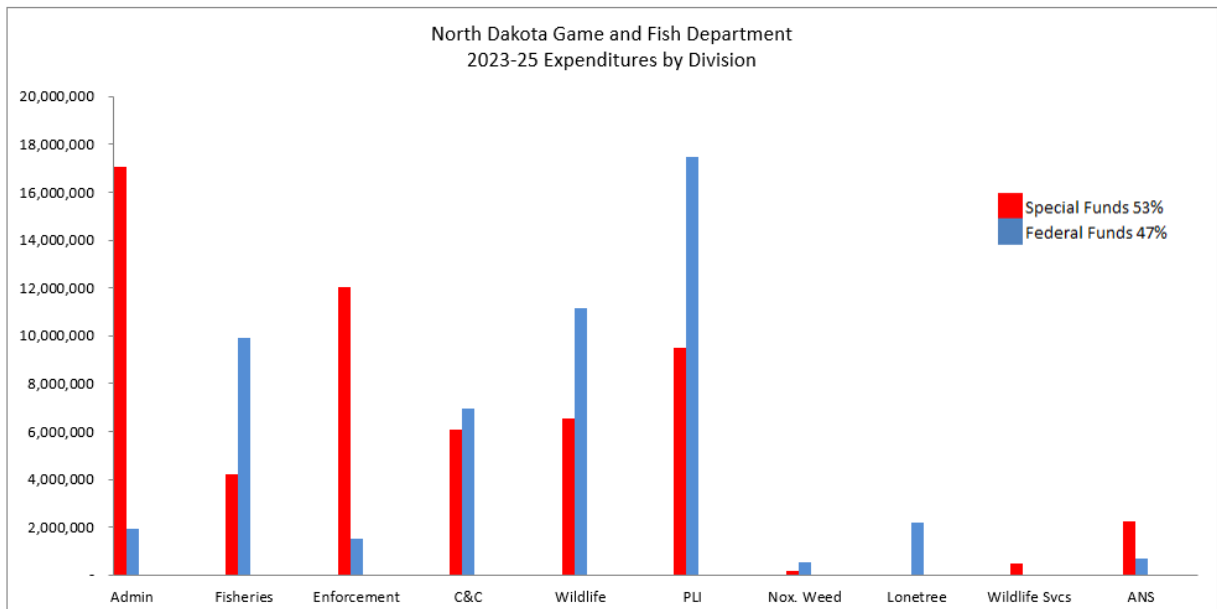
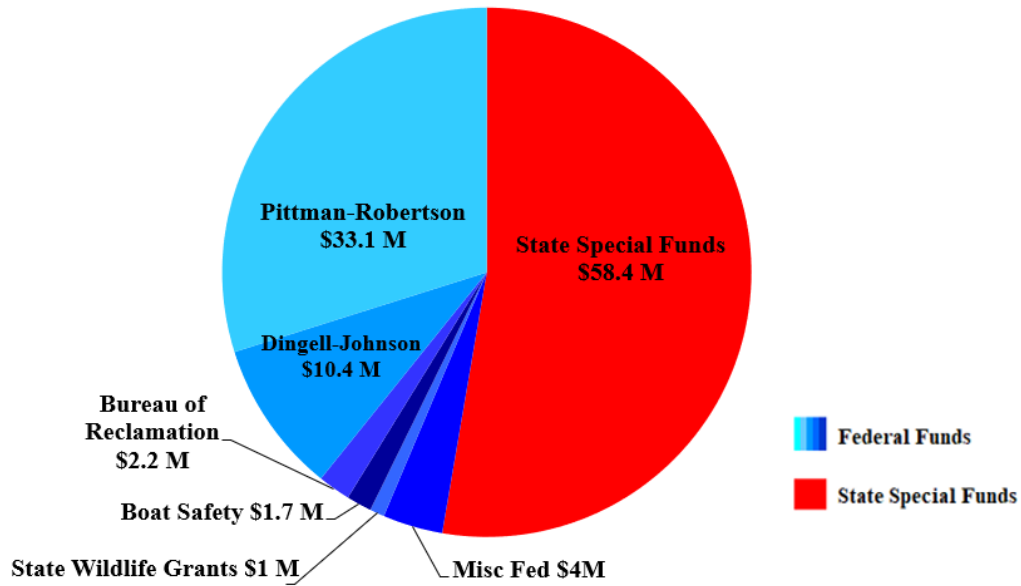
07/2021 = 164 total Full-Time Equivalents

* Includes Division Chiefs

- 30 employees are retirement eligible
- Only 18 out of the 164 FTEs are funded 100% Special funds
- 44% of FTEs are biologist or wildlife technicians – 75% Federal funds
- 90 out of the current 164 FTEs were seasonal employees (55%)



ND Game and Fish Department 2023-25 Expenditures by Funding Source Agency Requested Budget \$110.8 million



**2023-25 Senate Changes from Legislative Base - Green Sheet Items
North Dakota Game and Fish Department**

2023-25 Legislative Base	\$89,581,634
Cost to continue salaries	\$295,116
ITD Shared software & service rate changes	\$80,908
Misc. Base Budget Changes	\$2,966,393
<hr/>	
2023-25 Dept. Base Budget Request	\$92,924,051
Compensation Package	\$2,847,244
Budget Changes	\$13,761,149*
<hr/>	
2023-25 Total Senate Version	\$109,532,444
<hr/>	

*See details on page 10.

21-23 Biennium Budget and Compare 23-25 Legislative Base Budget to Senate Version

	Code	21-23 Biennium	23-25 Legislative Base	23-25 Increase (Decrease)	23-25 Senate Version
Salaries & Wages	72010	33,741,592	33,741,592	4,686,592	38,428,184
Operating Expenses	72030	16,276,782	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
Capital Assets	72050	7,576,270	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
Grants	72060	8,923,343	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Shooting Sports Grant Program	72062	250,000	250,000	0	250,000
Habitat & Deer Depredation	72070	19,980,597	17,995,597	8,926,706	26,922,303
Noxious Weed Control	72071	725,000	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River Enforcement	72073	296,999	296,999	20,588	317,587
Grant-Gift-Donation	72074	670,133	670,133	14,824	684,957
Nongame Wildlife	72075	100,000	100,000	0	100,000
Aquatic Nuisance Species	72076	1,509,009	1,509,009	1,450,655	2,959,664
Lonetree Reservoir	72077	1,818,409	1,818,409	367,205	2,185,614
Wildlife Services	72078	500,000	500,000	0	500,000
Total		92,368,134	89,581,634	19,950,810	109,532,444
FTEs		164	164	6	170

2023-25 Budget Changes

Senate changes from Legislative Base Budget	Page #	Total Request	Federal	Special
1) Fisheries - 1 Biologist New FTE	11	\$241,998	\$181,497	\$60,501
2) Aquatic Nuisance Species increase - WRDA Funding ♦ includes 1 Biologist New FTE	11-12	\$1,406,839	\$703,419	\$703,420
3) Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat & Access on private lands ♦ includes 3 Biologist New FTEs	12-13	\$4,693,574	\$3,460,104	\$1,233,470
4) National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ♦ Mid-term conservation agreements	13	\$2,777,778	\$2,500,000	\$277,778
5) ANS Lab and Storage Facility – Jamestown [one-time]	13-14	\$850,000	\$0	\$850,000
6) Bunkhouse improvements – Devils Lake [one-time]	14	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
7) Enforcement - 1 Investigation Warden New FTE	14-15	\$353,768	\$26,568	\$327,200
8) Enforcement - Replace In-Car Video System & Add Body Cameras [one-time]	15	\$550,000	\$0	\$550,000
9) Agency Motorpool	16	\$1,157,192	\$0	\$1,157,192
10) Fisheries – Dam Repairs [one-time] ♦ Camel Hump and Baukol Noonan	16	\$380,000	\$0	\$550,000
11) Fisheries – Pondliners [one-time] ♦ GDNFH Pondliners	16	\$1,000,000	\$750,000	\$250,000
TOTAL		\$13,761,149	\$7,621,588	\$6,139,561

Agency Requests not included in Senate version	Page #	Total Request	Federal	Special
Admin Services – 1 Account Budget Specialist New FTE	17	\$238,513	\$0	\$238,513
Enforcement – 1 Investigation Warden New FTE	17	\$353,768	\$26,568	\$327,200
TOTAL		\$592,281	\$26,568	\$565,713

23-25 EXPLANATION OF BUDGET CHANGES IN SENATE VERSION \$13,761,149

1. Fisheries - New FTE Biologist II: \$241,998 (75% federal)

We are requesting one (1) new FTE and related operating expenses for a Biologist II District Supervisor in Williston.

The state is divided into six fisheries districts of roughly equal size, with a District Fisheries Supervisor historically stationed in each district. The northwest and southwest fisheries districts cover approximately the western one-third of North Dakota, with district offices located in Williston and Dickinson, respectively. When the Northwest District Fisheries Supervisor retired in 2016, that position was converted to the Department's Aquatic Nuisance Species Supervisor to direct more effort to Department efforts to curb the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species. Since 2016, the Southwest District Fisheries Supervisor has overseen fisheries management activities in both the northwest and southwest. The Southwest District Fisheries Supervisor retired in 2022, and that position was also reprioritized to direct manpower to other areas of the Fisheries Division that were short-staffed. This most recent change left both the northwest and southwest fisheries districts without a supervisor.

The District Fisheries Supervisor serves an important role developing fisheries program directives throughout the district, planning and leading biological surveys, overseeing data entry and analysis, developing technical summaries and reports, and conducting applicable research projects as needed. District Fisheries Supervisors provide outreach materials for various media and respond directly to public inquiries for information in their district. They supervise field staff ranging from District Fisheries Biologists (Biologist I), District Fisheries Technicians (Wildlife Technician I) and seasonal fisheries aides. Currently, fisheries staff of the northwest and southwest consists of a single Biologist I in each. These staff conduct surveys and management in their respective district, but are limited to available assistance from seasonal aides and other Department staff to fill in. This request is for re-establishing a District Fisheries Supervisor in Williston. This position will supervise both the northwest and southwest district biologists and their activities. Although the combined districts cover a large geographic area, the combined number of waters is in line with the management responsibilities of other fisheries districts statewide. Lastly, there is an immediate need for more biological support staff on the upper end of the Missouri River System. If approved by the legislature, this position will assist in addressing these needs.

2. Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) (Line 76): \$1,406,839 (50% federal)

- New FTE – Biologist I ANS and related operating expenses
- Temporary salaries for seasonal watercraft inspectors - \$245K
- Equipment – 2 wash stations, 3 Internet Landing Installed Device Sensors (ILIDS) - \$205K
- Grants for ANS outreach \$68K

The 2020 WRDA legislation passed by Congress established a new federal cost-share reimbursement program for Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination (WID) for states in the Missouri River Basin. Therefore, the Department will be eligible to participate in the program that awards states a 50 percent reimbursement for work associated with establishing and operating watercraft inspection stations. Work-related to the monitoring of ANS is also eligible for reimbursement. The WRDA WID cost-share program would increase the funds in the ANS line by

over \$700,000 a biennium. We have been awarded the funds and are working on signing a Programmatic Agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The WRDA cost share will further support the critical elements of the Department's ANS program. It will fund one (1) new ANS biologist position. Additional funds will allow the Department to increase the size of its seasonal watercraft inspection crew and enable the Department to keep seasonals employed later into the fall. Funds will bolster the ANS education/outreach campaign and allow the Department to diversify its current campaign further to reach a broad demographic of water users. Finally, cost-share dollars will help the Department place ANS prevention devices like wash stations, CD3s, and ILIDS that help contain the spread of current ANS population and prevent new introductions.

3. Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat & Access on Private Lands (Line 70): \$4,693,574 (\$3,460,104 fed PR funds & \$1,233,470 special funds)

We are requesting appropriation authority in Special Line 70-Habitat & Deer Depredation (Private Lands Initiative) for:

- **Two (2) New PLI Biologist FTEs** in the field to deliver habitat and access through the Department's Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program. The primary objective for each of these FTE positions would be to develop habitat and increase public access. *(75% federal PR funds)*
- **One (1) New FTE to manage the partners, grants, and habitat program.** This FTE will be in Bismarck to manage a non-access habitat program which will largely be comprised of seeking grants for habitat work on private lands and managing associated budgets, obtaining new grants, reporting outcomes, and working with partners. This FTE will also be responsible for developing, and expanding partnerships with other state, federal and private entities to expand the Department's habitat programs outside of PLOTS but will also coordinate with the PLOTS program staff where possible to expand the habitat base on existing PLOTS agreements. Examples of Grant opportunities include: USFWS PR, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Outdoor Heritage Fund, USDA, etc. *(50% federal PR funds)*
- **\$3,000,000** for expansion of current PLOTS program (access payments to landowners). *(75% federal PR funds)*
- **\$1,000,000** to develop habitat without required access. *(75% federal PR funds)*

This request is being made to address the need for a significant change to the Private Lands Initiative (PLI), to adapt to decreasing habitat conditions on the landscape, and to be responsive to additional grants and funding opportunities that are not currently pursued due to staff constraints. While the current funding for PLI is substantial, the changes occurring on the landscape are resulting in a higher cost to develop habitat and acquire additional public access. Developing habitat and access together requires significantly more staff time than acquiring access alone. The current funding and staffing arrangement of PLI has been able to steadily maintain around 800,000 acres for several years, but this request is being made to utilize additional federal USFWS Pittman-Robertson (PR) funds to develop additional habitat and increase to one million acres of PLOTS.

In the last decade, North Dakota has lost over 2.5 million acres of grasslands, including Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and native prairie. In addition, nearly 60% of North Dakota's wetlands have been converted, tree rows, fence lines and abandoned farmsteads have been removed. This is most

evident in eastern ND, but central and western ND are experiencing this as well. Some deer units in eastern ND have seen an 85% decrease in deer harvested due to habitat loss. Habitat conditions in North Dakota are at a crossroads. With over 90% of land in North Dakota held in private ownership, the Department must increase efforts on private land by developing critical wildlife habitat without requiring public access as it has done through the Save Our Lakes program for many years. For landowners wanting to develop habitat there are limited options. USDA programs, such as CRP, provide options for habitat without access, but changes to the program have resulted in many offers not being accepted (63% acceptance). Furthermore, there is hesitancy by some landowners to enter into USDA programs due to lengthy process and requirements. Programs available through various conservation partners provide options but primarily consist of cost share centered around livestock grazing infrastructure. This creates a gap for landowners wanting to develop habitat but not wanting to work with USDA, those not wanting to enroll into PLOTS or those not set up for livestock grazing. The Department's PLI program can provide habitat development options through private lands biologists across the state. The Department is a trusted source whom landowners are comfortable working with, however, not all are interested in allowing unrestricted walk-in hunting access through PLOTS. The Department must reach beyond the PLOTS program to deliver habitat on to private lands.

These federal funds are apportioned to States from USFWS by law and are not dependent on Congress approval. These PR funds have a 2-year window and need to be obligated by the Department by 9/30/23; otherwise, we will lose the funds and they will revert back to the USFWS to be allocated to other states.

This request for additional federal and special spending authority will benefit hunters seeking more habitat and hunting access and private landowners who have expressed interest in developing wildlife habitat on their land.

4. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) (PLI Line 70): \$2,777,778 (90% federal)

The request is being made to address needs for grassland dependent species and their habitats. It is for mid-term conservation agreements for private landowners who have expressed interest in mid-term conservation program agreements on restored native grasslands through the Department's Meadowlark Initiative. Hunters will also benefit from the additional habitat and wildlife on these lands. While public access is not a required component, landowners may also be eligible for the PLOTS program if they are willing to allow walk-in hunting access.

5. ANS Lab & Storage Facility – Jamestown: \$850,000 (100% special) [one-time funding]

In 2019, the North Dakota legislature passed Senate Bill 2293, which gave North Dakota's Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program an estimated \$1.5 million per biennium. These funds were used to hire additional FTE/seasonal staff and bolster education, monitoring, and prevention efforts. Although the total number of FTE and seasonal staff has quadrupled over the past two years, facility size and storage capacity have primarily remained the same. In addition, the Department has purchased and will continue to buy large ANS prevention devices, whose electronics need to be housed in a heated facility in the winter months. Currently, those electronics are housed in shared areas in regional offices.

ANS staff collect more than 400 water samples per year from waterbodies, hatcheries, and bait vendor facilities to look for nuisance larval invertebrates, including zebra mussels, golden clams, and spiny water flea. These samples are prepared and processed using specialized compound light

microscopy to look for nuisance invertebrates. All lab based ANS monitoring takes place in small office rooms that don't have access to running water, or wastewater disposal, which adds considerable time and effort to processing samples. Storage space for water samples and general voucher specimens is limited to the same few heated office rooms. The lack of workable lab space could contribute to incidental sample contamination. A new ANS facility that doubles as a lab and a heated storage building would allow for the continual accumulation of ANS related assets without seeking additional space to meet storage and lab needs.

The Department currently hires 9 seasonal employees to work out of our Jamestown District Office each year. However, we are restricted who to hire, due to our temporary housing situation. Currently we can accommodate 4 seasonal employees in our temporary housing. We have 2 FEMA park model campers that house up to 2 employees each (depending on gender).

The Department's proposed solution is to construct a 40'x100' building that will serve as an ANS Lab & Storage Facility. The building will also provide temporary housing for up to 10 seasonal staff.

6. Bunkhouse improvements – Devils Lake: \$350,000 (100% special) [one-time funding]

Seasonal employees are essential to the Department to complete necessary work every summer. The Department currently hires 7 seasonal employees to work out of our Devils Lake District Office each year. The Aquatic Nuisance Species program is expanding, and the Devils Lake area is a high priority for this effort. However, we are restricted due to our temporary housing situation. Currently we can accommodate 4-5 seasonal employees in our temporary housing. The number we can house greatly depends on the gender of seasonal employees. We have 3 campers that house 1 employee each and 1 bunkhouse that comfortably houses 2 employees. Additionally, all seasonal employees share one bathroom located in the bunkhouse. This is not suitable for a mixed gender work force. Further, the condition of the campers has deteriorated to the point that spending additional funds for repairs is not in the best interest of the state.

The Department's proposed solution is to renovate our current bunkhouse which would create 5 separate living quarters and 2-3 bathrooms. Each room could house 2 seasonal employees. The overall dimensions of the new bunkhouse would be approximately 30' x 40'.

7. Enforcement – 1 New FTE Warden Investigators: \$353,768 (\$26,568 federal)

The Senate approved one (1) of the two (2) New FTE Warden Investigators that the agency requested. The amount includes related operating and equipment expenses. One would have been located in Eastern ND and one in Western ND. Now this one (1) position will need to be statewide. The majority of the funding will be special funds with a minimal amount from the US Coast Guard for boat safety work.

Looking ahead to future needs for the Enforcement Division, there is a need for a non-district regional Warden Investigator to increase investigative presence for the North Dakota Game and Fish Enforcement Division. An increase in population has increased enforcement activity. Time dedicated to investigations has been on the rise since 2011. Investigations have become more complex involving multiple people, violations, and locations. When more time is spent on investigations, time dedicated to patrol suffers. Covering an average of 2400 sq miles of a warden's district becomes even more challenging when long hours are spent on investigations. Work for the wardens is

compounded when neighboring districts are empty, or the adjacent warden is off work hours. Work level saturations occur with the balance between investigations, patrol, and reporting fit into a standard hour schedule. If you also include time and distance for travel within a district you have a finite number of tasks that can be accomplished. It should also be noted that keeping staff at extremely high work levels for extended times will cause a drop in productivity.

Time is difficult to track on investigations as each is not completed on a linear timeline. Investigations may stop and start on many occasions over multiple months or even years until completion. The combination of incidents, public outreach, reporting, mandatory training, meetings, biological data collection and wildlife response calls make it extremely difficult to put sufficient time and effort towards long term investigations. Assignment of investigations to the Department's only commercial investigations supervisor causes time and distance issues making the effort less productive and cannot be done in a sufficient manner by a lone investigator.

Other factors we considered when looking at the issue of adding a non-district warden/investigator.

1. Not all officers are top investigators and were hired as field wardens.
2. Field Wardens do not have the specialized training to complete complex investigations that may lead into other jurisdictions.
3. Lack of time for compliance checks (e.g., Guides, Outfitters, Taxidermists, Bait Vendors, etc.) by district wardens that could be better handled by trained commercial investigators.
4. Loss of patrol affecting public safety by district wardens while doing investigations.
5. Increased ability and time for ANS/Wildlife health enforcement.
6. A warden investigator has more freedom to complete investigations as they are not tied to district calls on wildlife and complaints.
7. Warden investigator can assist field wardens on special projects without having to pull other district wardens out of their districts.
8. A warden investigator would give the region more flexibility to fill in when injuries, retirements, and job openings occur in a district.
9. With 29 field wardens currently in the state the volume of work often exceeds the capacity of workers. Many county sheriff's offices employ more deputies for one county than the ND Game and Fish employ Game Wardens in an 11-13 county region.
10. The number of outfitters has increased over time resulting in an increase demand for oversight.

8. Enforcement – Replace In-Car Video System & Add Body Cams: \$550,000 (100% special) [one-time funding]

This request is for replacing 40 in-car video systems and adding 40 body cameras. The current in-car video systems are over 10 years old and are no longer in production. Due to their age, they are malfunctioning at increasing rates and are difficult to service due to age/lack of parts. The Enforcement Division currently does not have body cameras. Body cameras are becoming a normal and expected equipment item for all law enforcement officers. Adding body cameras will improve department credibility and protection against complaints, protect citizens, and help document evidence in criminal cases. The new in car video systems and body cameras are a package that work together for improved efficiency and ease of use for the officer.

9. Agency Motorpool: \$1,157,192 (100% special)

Increase in motorpool costs due to rising fuel prices based on Department of Transportation Fleet Services Budget Guideline rates.

Motorpool costs are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Department and are essential in serving our customer base. A reduction in motor pool allocation would result in a reduction of services such as enforcement activities, management of our state's big game, small game, and furbearing resources, management of our Wildlife Management Areas, delivery of our Private Lands Initiative, management and development of the state's fisheries, monitoring and surveillance of Aquatic Nuisance Species and wildlife diseases including Chronic Wasting Disease, and the responsibility of implementing the Statewide Action Plan for species of conservation priority. Our entire customer base including hunters, anglers, trappers, and watercraft operators would be impacted, at varying levels, by a reduction of motor pool cost allocation.

10. Fisheries – Dam Repairs: \$380,000 (100% special) [one-time funding]

Camels Hump Dam: This work will include both a geotechnical study to identify water movements through the dam and solutions to correct these movements as well as partnering with DOT to cure in place and line the principal spillway to correct the rusting steel pipe.

Baukol-Noonan Dam: This work is to repair the failed riser pipe that has rusted through as well as also cure in place line the principal spillway to correct its rusting steel pipe. Cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining is one of several methods used to repair existing pipelines that don't require that you dig up the pipes. CIPP is a jointless, seamless, pipe-within-a-pipe with the capability to repair pipes ranging in diameter from 4–110 inches.

11. Fisheries – Pondliners: \$1,000,000 (75% federal) [one-time funding]

As in past bienniums, there is a continued need to invest money at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery (GDNFH) by continuing the pond lining program which eliminates water loss issues with the current ponds as well as increases fish production capacity. Depending on the liner cost, the request should line approximately four (4) 1.5-acre ponds (the cost includes engineering fees). There are 40 ponds in the Department owned east rearing unit with 15 of the 40 lined to date.

23-25 AGENCY REQUESTS NOT INCLUDED IN SENATE VERSION

1. Administrative Services - New FTE Account Budget Specialist III: \$238,513 (100% special)

We are requesting one (1) New FTE for an Account Budget Specialist III and related operating expenses.

This biennium, the department has received over \$6M in additional federal funds from USFWS Pittman-Robertson, new federal funds for Chronic Wasting Disease work from USDA-APHIS, and the potential of additional funds from USFWS for CWD, and the Water Resources Development Act funds from the Corps of Engineers for Aquatic Nuisance Species work. There is also the addition of millions of federal funds that the department has the potential to be awarded: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (\$2.5M) and Recovering America's Wildlife Act (\$22,775,000).

Currently we have 1 FTE in Administrative Services that is the Federal Aid Manager who handles these duties for all federal funds for the department (approx. \$37M per biennium). The amount of federal funds the department received in 2013-15 was \$25M and 2015-17 was \$30.2M, an increase in federal revenue of \$5M. In 2015-17, we requested and received an FTE to assist with the growing workload. Since 2015-17, when we received the additional FTE, federal revenue has again increased approx. \$7M (15-17 \$30.2M to 21-23 est. \$37M). Any addition of federal funds above current levels is not sustainable by existing staff.

The amount of federal regulations, grant application processing requirements, and reporting requirements in the new federal systems have increased and it now takes a lot more time to administer the grants. The workload involved with these federal funds pertaining to understanding and maintaining compliance with federal regulations, keeping up with and implementing changes, processing applications and amendments, monitoring budgets and grant balances, requesting reimbursements, preparing subgrant agreements and monitoring subgrantees, and preparing, reviewing, and submitting financial and performance reports in multiple different federal systems will require another position to manage and perform these duties.

2. Enforcement – 1 New FTE Warden Investigators: \$353,768 (\$26,568 federal)

The Senate approved one (1) of the two (2) New FTE Warden Investigators that the agency requested. The amount includes related operating and equipment expenses. One would have been located in Eastern ND and one in Western ND. The Department is requesting the other FTE to allow for one Warden Investigator to be located in Eastern ND and Western ND.

The majority of the funding will be special funds with a minimal amount from the US Coast Guard for boat safety work.

Other Sections Included in the Executive Bill Draft for SB2017

We are requesting the following two Sections be included in SB2017:

SECTION 4. LINE ITEM TRANSFER AUTHORITY. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants – game and fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025. The game and fish department shall notify the legislative council of any transfer made pursuant to this section.

The Department currently has this language in its 21-23 appropriation bill, but it ends 6/30/23.

The continuation of this limited transfer authority will benefit the department by allowing it to be responsive to changing circumstances and be able to operate in a more efficient and effective manner.

- We have a wide range of expenditures (e.g., construction, building maintenance, boat ramps/docks, food plots, weed spraying, contract pilots, law enforcement, research grants, surveys, shooting ranges, etc.) that can be challenging to project a budget 3 years in advance.
- When maintaining buildings/facilities, things happen and based on the type of repair and the cost, it will determine whether it should be paid from the Operating line or the Capital Asset line.
- It is hard to project new boat ramp/dock projects. We have appropriation in the Grants line but if we are doing boat ramp maintenance on our Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), it needs to come out of the Capital Asset line. If it is not on our WMA, it can come out of the Grants line.
- There are O&M situations that depending on the circumstances will determine if the cost should be coded to Operating line or Grants line. For example, paying a club or political sub for O&M of fish cleaning stations or docks/boat ramps on our WMA is a service contract paid from the Operating line. We can give a grant (Grants line) to do the same if the O&M is on their land and not our land. In addition, wet years versus dry years can dictate the types and locations of maintenance required on boat ramps and facilities. The location (our WMA versus club land) dictates the line from which the funding comes.
- It is hard to budget for unplanned situations and try to make the appropriation and accounting rules match. An unplanned situation could arise where a ramp is compromised, or access road is washed out on our WMA and we need to repair but only have budget available in the Grants line.

The Department makes a concerted effort to spend sportsman/angler money wisely. This is demonstrated by the following:

- 1) prior to the license fee increase in April 2014, fees had not been increased since 1983 for deer and 1991 for fishing
- 2) having a healthy Special fund balance
- 3) monitoring our revenue and keeping a handle on expenditures accordingly
- 4) Also, per NDCC 20.1-02-17 - hunting and fishing license fees and application fees may only be used for Departmental programs and administration. No one else can use our Special funds. Noncompliance with this law will result in a diversion of Federal funds.

Having this limited transfer authority would allow the Department to be more responsive to changing circumstances as noted above and have the broader flexibility that the Legislature has already granted to a select few executive branch agencies, as well as the legislative and judicial branches of government.

SECTION 5. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS-RECOVERING AMERICA’S WILDLIFE ACT. Subject to the provisions of this section, there is appropriated out of other funds in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$27,150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, and seven full-time equivalent positions to the Game and Fish Department for Recovering America’s Wildlife Act for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025. The funding and positions authorized in this section are available only upon passage of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act.

	Total	Federal	Special
Research/Surveys/Inventories	\$1,800,000	\$1,800,000	\$0
Develop/restore (all habitats)	\$12,243,578	\$9,182,683	\$3,060,895
Midterm grass conservation agreements	\$2,500,000	\$1,875,000	\$625,000
Habitat enhance/improvement	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$0
Communications/Outreach/Marketing	\$80,000	\$60,000	\$20,000
Grants - Meadowlark Initiative	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0
Grants - Partner Farm Bill Biologists	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$0
Various operating expenses	\$940,972	\$705,728	\$235,244
4 Temps (4 months) and operating expenses	\$120,000	\$90,000	\$30,000
4 PLI Biologists, operating expenses & equipment	\$894,544	\$670,909	\$223,635
3 Conservation Biologists and operating expenses	\$720,906	\$540,680	\$180,226
TOTAL	\$27,150,000	\$22,775,000	\$4,375,000

We are requesting that this Section be included in SB 2017. If the funding of RAWA passes, we are requesting this be set up as a new Special Line appropriation. We need the flexibility of spending these funds as a Special Line to effectively implement the various RAWA components. The purpose and outcome of certain RAWA activities could frequently shift (i.e., between Operating and Grants) considering the specific method and party doing the work.

Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA) presents a new funding opportunity for the ND Game and Fish Department (NDGFD) which is different than traditional funding in which licenses and fees paid by hunters, anglers, shooters, and other sources are used as match for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program. RAWA could potentially invest \$1.4 billion annually in fish and wildlife conservation nationally. If passed by Congress, an estimate of over \$14 million annually could ultimately be allocated to North Dakota, the largest investment in state-based fish and wildlife conservation in history. This funding stream was specifically developed to address the needs of rare and declining Species of Conservation Priority (SCP) and their habitats which are identified in each state’s Wildlife Action Plan. RAWA funding will require a 25% match from states; however, one unique attribute of RAWA is that eligible match can be from any federal agency except the Department of Interior and Agriculture. In addition, RAWA is also eligible to be used for ANS prevention which is a very important issue to ND citizens.

21-23 ONE-TIME FUNDING ITEMS STATUS

- **PLOTS payments \$1,485,000:**

Total Spent - \$1,484,170.45

- \$699,897.20 has been spent on Wetland Reserve Program access agreements totaling approximately 3,892.51 acres.
- \$784,273.25 has been spent on Conservation Reserve Program Access agreements totaling approximately 7,264.65 acres.

- **Red River basin wildlife and water quality enhancement program \$500,000:**

Spent \$34,427.50 on 129.7 acres.

- **Radio equipment replacement (SIREN) \$801,500:**

Currently spent \$752,163. All of the handheld radios have been programmed and distributed to our officers. Of the 66 truck/boat radios, we have 11 left to install. They will be installed in new State Fleet trucks and our boats by 6/30/23.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET BY DIVISION

The Department included in its 23-25 budget request the following funds appropriated for grant expenditures to other state agencies:

- **\$122,000** to ND Parks & Recreation Department. This is the same amount included as revenue in the Parks and Recreation Department. It is for operation and maintenance of the public boating and fishing facilities located in state parks. The amount is the same as 21-23. (100% federal funds; Parks & Rec provides the match)
- **\$148,228** to Board of Animal Health, Ag Dept. (100% G&F funds).
- **\$500,000** to Wildlife Services, Ag Dept. This is the same amount as 21-23. (100% G&F funds)

DIVISIONAL BUDGETS

The 21-23 Department FTE is 164. The 23-25 Department FTE request is 172; the Senate version is 170.

Below are brief details on the budgets for the Department's five (5) divisions: Administrative Services, Fisheries, Enforcement, Conservation/Communications, and Wildlife.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION (26 FTEs)

This budget includes business operations, data/technology, licensing, facilities management, and administrative services for the department. The majority of this division is funded with Game & Fish (G&F) funds.

Operating costs in this division include:

- Secretarial support for all Divisions
- Licensing section costs including lotteries
- Accounting costs
- Information Technology costs
- All Department utility, telephone, office rental, janitorial, office supplies, insurance, postage, aircraft costs, office machine rental, and other similar costs
- Credit card transaction fees
- Legal services from Attorney General's office
- Costs for the Game and Fish Advisory Board
- Statewide Cost Allocation payment to OMB
- North Dakota Risk Management fund
- Buildings, Grounds, Vehicle Maintenance Supplies
- Travel costs for the Director, Deputy Director, Administrative Services Division Chief, Business Manager, and IT staff.

Capital Assets – \$3,519,491

- \$784,891 for extraordinary repairs to Department owned facilities statewide (100% G&F funds)

- \$1,525,600 for In Lieu of Tax payments for all Department lands WMAs (75% federal funds)
- \$850,000 budget change for ANS Lab and Storage Facility. [See pages 13-14.](#)
- \$350,000 budget change for Devils Lake Bunkhouse Improvements. [See page 14.](#)
- \$9,000 – zero turn lawn mower for Bismarck Main Headquarters. (100% G&F Funds)

Grants – \$295,000 for cooperative grants to local groups and organizations for game and fish related projects, funding for Tribal access agreements, ND Natural Resources Trust, other Director’s grants, and sponsorship grants (e.g., ND Landowners Sportsman Council, ND Stockmen’s Assoc., etc.). (100% G&F funds)

The Department’s **Grant-Gift-Donation** line Senate budget version, including compensation package: \$684,957 (Admin \$400,000; Wildlife \$284,957) is used as follows: (100% G&F funds)

- Grants and gifts received for special projects are used as desired by the donor.
- Revenue received for surface damage, easements, and reclamation on department owned or department managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities. The department manages Corps of Engineers (COE) and department lands along Lake Sakakawea, the Missouri River and the Killdeer Mountain WMA. There is significant oil activity on these lands. The COE and other applicable federal agencies require that this money be spent by the department on these areas that are affected. This line allows the department to receive revenue and turn around and spend the funds on the appropriate areas. This funding is often used for road repairs, fencing, habitat development and similar work.
- Royalty payments received for the department’s 160-acre mineral lease in the Killdeer Mountains WMA. These funds are used to employ one full-time biologist to assist with the increase in workload due to oil activity on our WMA’s. The federal paperwork is time consuming.

2. FISHERIES DIVISION (25 FTEs plus 2 new FTEs, [see pages 11-12.](#))

This budget includes fish production and distribution, fishery research and surveys, fishing area and boating facility development and maintenance, and the Aquatic Nuisance Species program.

Grants – Total \$2,187,304:

- \$690,000 for boating access and development. These grants are used for cost sharing with local governments on fishing and boating facilities. The Department receives 75% federal funding for this work. In some cases, the 25% match comes from local partners such as park boards.
- \$850,000 in grants is to pay the Department's share of costs for the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. (75% federal funds)
- \$60,000 base amount in grants used for Aquatic Nuisance Species. (100% G&F funds)
- \$122,000 to ND Parks and Recreation Department for boating access related costs on state parks. (100% federal funds)

- \$170,304 in grants for general administration, management, Valley City State University stream survey work, and other miscellaneous grants. (68% federal funds)
- \$125,000 for Sweet Briar fish study.
- \$70,000 for non-boating access.
- \$100,000 for community fisheries.

Capital Assets line – Total \$2,582,000:

- \$524,000 in capital repairs which includes dam repairs, fishing and boating facility development work and repairs such as toilets, fish cleaning stations, boat ramps, etc., on lands owned by the Department (WMAs) or areas we cooperatively manage. High and low water conditions at Devils Lake, Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri River have been major challenges for the boating access program. (75% is federal funds)
- \$678,000 for equipment – boat motor replacements, power rake skid steer attachment, vibratory compactor skid steer attachment, Clark work boats with motors and trailers, tracked ATV, small excavator, wheel loader, compact track loader, etc. (75% is federal funds)
- \$380,000 – budget change dam repairs (Camel Hump & Baukol Noonan). [See page 16.](#)
- \$1,000,000 – budget change for GDNFH pondliners. [See page 16.](#)

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) – This Special Line item was created by passing SB2293 during the 2019 Legislative Session. The Legislative base appropriation is \$1,509,009.

The Department has 2 ANS fisheries biologists and temporary seasonal staff, operating expenses, grants, and capital expenditures. It allows for ANS watercraft inspections, enforcement surveillance, monitoring of North Dakota waters for ANS, and working with partners to increase information and education programs. These expenditures are funded through surcharges for resident fishing and combination licenses and nonresident fishing and waterfowl licenses as well as requiring aquatic nuisance species fees for motorboats.

Also salaries and respective operating expenses for travel and motorpool for wardens to conduct watercraft inspections at boat ramps, inspections at fishing cleaning stations, and check stations. Various wardens code time to this line for ANS work. We budget for cumulative hours to be equal to 1 FTE.

Budget Change: WRDA Funding for ANS Line \$1,406,839. [See pages 11-12.](#)

Senate budget version for this line, including compensation package: \$2,959,664.

3. **ENFORCEMENT DIVISION** (39 FTEs plus 1 new FTE, [see pages 14-15.](#))

This budget supports a staff of one (1) administrative assistant and thirty-eight (38) law enforcement employees plus 1 new FTE. The majority of the Operating budget is for State Fleet and travel costs. Game wardens are very dependent on vehicles to do their work and drive almost 2M miles per biennium.

Capital Assets Line – \$190,000 for replacement of equipment included are: 21’ fiberglass boat/motor/trailer, 17’ aluminum boat/motor/trailer, 16’ aluminum flat bottom boat/motor/trailer, and UTV with tracks (39% federal funds).

Budget Change: Replace In-Car Video System & Add Body Cams \$550K. [See page 15.](#)

Grants – \$90,000 for Boating Safety Grants to county law enforcement to assist in the promotion and enforcement of boat and water safety on their local recreational waters. (50% federal funds)

Missouri River Enforcement line – \$310,753 base budget for this special line includes salaries, operating, and equipment related to enforcement activities on and along the Missouri River in the Burleigh and Morton County area. Grants are also given to local law enforcement agencies to help with the Missouri River enforcement. This line is funded 50% from federal boat safety funds.

Senate budget version for this line, including compensation package: \$317,587.

4. **CONSERVATION/COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION** (23 FTEs)

The division includes the communication section, education section and conservation section. Communication includes the ND Outdoors magazine, ND Outdoors weekly television program, web page and social media management, blogs, bi-monthly podcast, design brochures and publications, marketing, handling of phone and email inquiries from the public. Some education programs include: aquatic, hunter, fur harvester and boating education. We have a youth mentoring program, national archery in the schools program, a nongame wildlife program and outreach staff located statewide. Conservation section conducts environmental reviews, deals with issues related to nongame wildlife, work involving the Endangered Species Act and rare and declining species, including federally listed species.

Grants – Total \$4,962,500:

- \$3,520,000 for shooting range grants throughout the state. Included in the total are funds for the following: \$1M for a range in Medora with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation; \$1.2M to Richland County Wildlife Club for a shooting range near Hankinson; \$500K to Red River Regional Marksmanship Center in West Fargo. All but \$60,000 of the total is federal PR funds which is

passed on to local clubs/groups that provide the matching funds for shooting facilities for public use and for hunter education. New shooting ranges only require a 10% match and existing ranges is 25%.

- \$284,000 is included for youth programs: National Archery in the Schools Program, Hooked on Fishing, Encourage Tomorrows Hunter grants, trout in the schools program, trapper education, etc. All but \$32K is game and fish funds.
- \$639,780 is included in grants for the State Wildlife Grant Program. This federally funded program works primarily with wildlife species that are not hunted. The match is normally provided by the grant recipient.
- \$138,720 administration/coordination grants.
- \$80,000 for Innovative R3 (**R**ecruitment, **R**etention, and **R**eactivation) which encompasses any new and innovative opportunities and strategies the Department may identify to implement on its own or through cooperation with partners and stakeholders to increase or enhance the **R**ecruitment, **R**etention, and **R**eactivation of hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, and recreational shooters of all ages, genders, and abilities. R3 done right requires adaptability to seek and find unique and novel ways to attract and engage non-traditional participation from all sectors of our public. Innovative R3 includes the efforts of the Department's R3 Coordinator to develop and implement the agency's R3 strategic plan, enlisting and engaging Department staff, conservation organizations, partners, and other stakeholders to achieve desired R3 results. The development and implementation of effective methods for attaining and tracking participation data, and monitoring and evaluating new and on-going R3 programs and strategies fall under this, as well. These R3 strategies may include, but are not limited to, promotional outreach and marketing campaigns, tools, and activities to reach new prospective participants; introductory and follow-up "How To" events, demonstrations, and mentoring; unique public and private land access opportunities; customer engagement through retail incentive; etc. To achieve R3 objectives when working with partners, the Department will develop cooperative agreements to lay out clear roles and expectations of involved parties, as well as the duration and measurable outcomes of the project. (75% federal funds)
- \$300,000 for Pollinator Plots Program for the establishment of diverse native wildflower and pollinator (e.g., monarch butterflies, bees, etc.) planting in urban and public areas, such as schools, parks, campgrounds, recreational areas, ROW's, and other "green" spaces. These urban wildflower plots mesh with the Main Street Initiative for enhancing healthy and vibrant communities. This will provide grant funds to cooperating groups and entities to help cover site preparation, seed and planting materials, interpretive information, and other establishment costs which often exceed \$500/acre. (100% G&F funds)

Capital Assets line – Total \$70,000:

- \$50,000 in extraordinary repairs for WMA shooting ranges. (100% federal funds)
- \$20,000 in extraordinary repairs for Department's Conservation and Outdoor Skills Park area located on the State Fair grounds. (100% G&F funds)

Shooting Sports Grant Program line – \$250,000 is budgeted for shooting sports grants made available to schools, clubs, and organized groups in the state which are used to promote and facilitate increased shooting sports participation in the state. The clubs pay the 25% match for the majority of these grants. (75% federal funds)

Nongame Wildlife line - \$100,000 is budgeted for this special line which is supported by the income tax check off. (100% G&F funds)

5. **WILDLIFE DIVISION** (51 FTEs plus 3 new FTEs, [see pages 12-13.](#))

This budget includes operating costs for Department managed lands, wildlife surveys and investigations, grants to organizations on cooperative projects. It also includes the following Special Lines: Noxious Weed Control, Lonetree, Wildlife Services, and Private Land Habitat and Deer Depredation.

Grants – Total \$2,555,172:

- \$2,406,944 Includes work for grants with wildlife groups and organizations on cooperative projects and wildlife research projects conducted through universities. These include chronic wasting disease (CWD) work, North American Wetland Conservation Act, Central Flyway studies, waterfowl habitat projects, studies/research on various species such as elk, pronghorn, sage grouse, deer, moose, mountain lions, etc. (48% federal PR funds)
- \$148,228 to reimburse the State Veterinarian for costs related to oversight of farmed wildlife producers and the administration of wildlife propagation permits. The amount in 21-23 biennium was \$119,329 and increased to \$148,228 (19-21 \$115,481). (100% G&F funds)

Capital Assets line – Total \$1,619,170:

- \$425,000 for extraordinary repairs (e.g. fences, roads, water control structures) and similar work on department wildlife management areas (WMA) statewide. (75% federal funds)
- \$102,170 for repairs to miscellaneous projects
- \$292,000 for equipment – replace 2 heavy equipment trailers, replace 1 grass drill, replace 1 grain drill, replace 4 ATV/UTV's and replace 2 tractors. (75% federal funds)
- \$800,000 is included for land acquisitions of small tracts near wildlife management areas, possibly in-holding or round-outs that may come up during the biennium. This amount is the same as the 19-21 biennium. (100% G&F funds)

Noxious Weed Control line - \$725,000 is requested for the work on department lands. This line is the same amount as 21-23. (75% federal funds)

Lonetree line – \$2,198,414. The Lonetree area consists of over 30,000 acres of land managed for wildlife purposes. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department manages and provides technical services for this area for the State of North Dakota as laid out in the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act. The budget for this line increased approx. \$300k from 21-23, mainly due to the replacement of equipment >\$5k. The budget continues to include funding for 5 staff, operating, equipment, maintenance, and development for this area. It is funded 100% by federal funds from the Bureau of Reclamation.

Senate budget version for this line, including compensation package: \$2,185,614.

Wildlife Services line - \$500,000 is to support Wildlife Service's animal damage control work in the Ag Department. (100% G&F funds) This is the same amount as the 21-23 biennium.

Private Land Habitat and Deer Depredation line – The base budget for this special line is \$19,280,597. This line is funded with interest earned on game and fish funds, habitat stamp sales, cash from the regular game and fish fund, and from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Pittman Robertson (PR) federal funds.

This line is commonly called the Private Land Initiative (PLI) line. This line is not just for our Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program in which private landowners enter into agreements for walk-in hunting access. It also includes funds to cost share trees, grass, and other wildlife habitat management practices. In addition, funds are used to enhance and restore aquatic habitat along priority lakes and streams. As well as big game depredation and administrative costs for the PLI line.

Of the total line, the base budget for the PLOTS Program is approx. \$15.3 million of which approx. \$13.2 million is landowner payments. We had a goal to reach 1 million acres of public hunting access on private land by the year 2009. We reached that goal two years early in September 2007. The number of PLOTS acres for the 2022 hunting season was approximately 797,000 acres. A chart of PLOTS acres by program is attached to this testimony.

The line also includes \$1,100,000 mandated in the 2010 session by SB2227 to be budgeted to provide wildlife feeding and other winter management practices on lands impacted by big game depredation. Per NDCC 20.1-02-05(17h) - Any unexpended funds, up to two million dollars, may be carried forward for these types of expenditures in future bienniums.

This line includes 2 budget changes as discussed on [pages 12-13](#):

1. Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat & Access on Private Lands (PLI Line 70)
\$4,693,574
2. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) (PLI Line 70): \$2,777,778

Senate budget version for this line, including compensation package: \$26,922,303



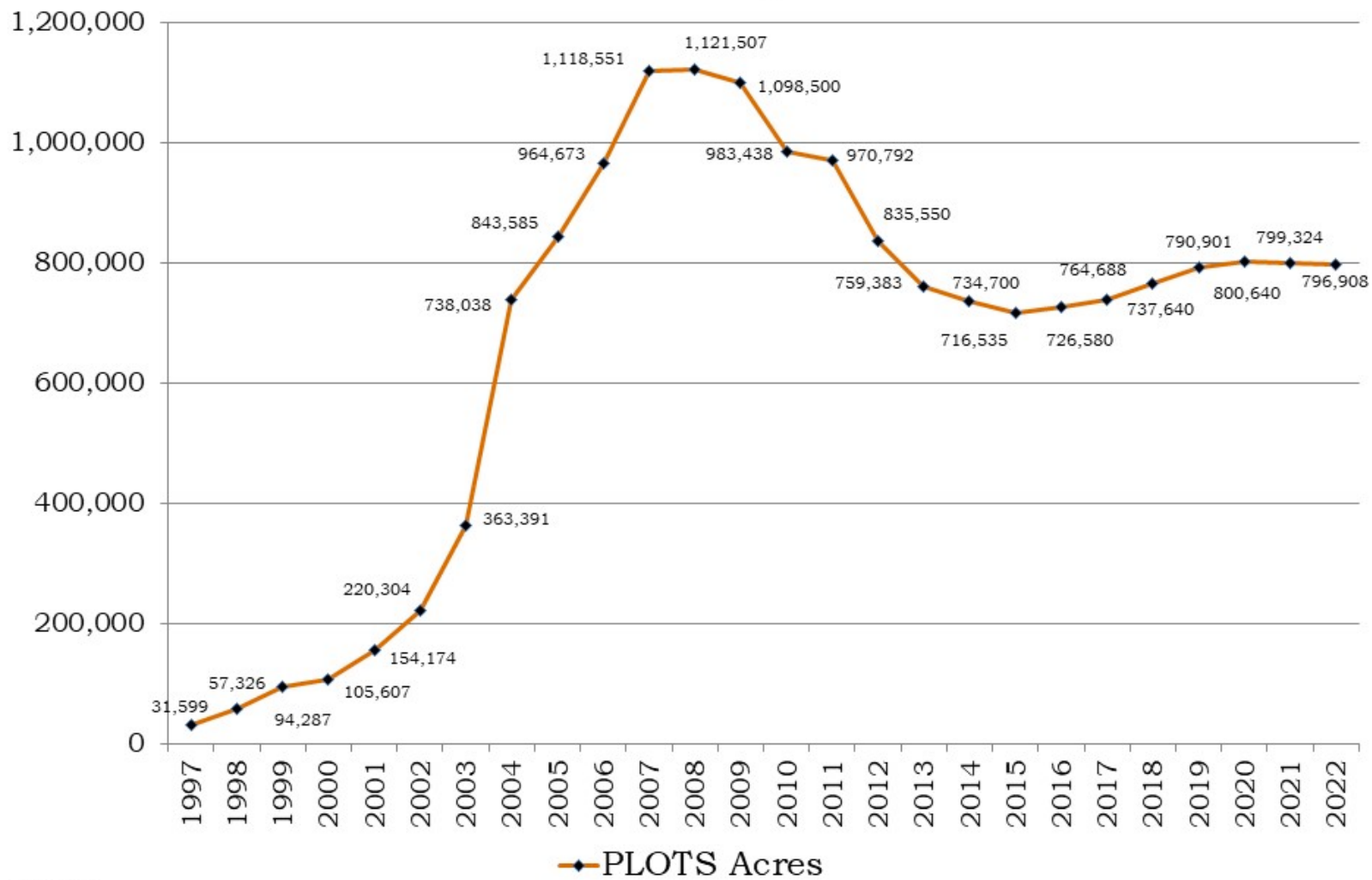
North Dakota Game and Fish Department Private Land Initiative 2022 PLOTS Program Acreage

8/3/2022

<u>Program Type</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>Program Acres</u>	<u>Access Acres</u>
Beginning Farmer Program	2,520	2,520	0
CREP II	2,444	2,179	265
CREP/Coverlocks	13,142	1,703	11,439
CRP Access Program	193,324	181,739	11,585
Habitat Plots	81,833	74,197	7,636
Other	3,256	3,256	0
Private Forest Conservation Program	4,353	3,305	1,048
Working Lands Program	459,397	458,572	825
WRP Incentive Program	36,639	33,596	3,043
Totals	796,908	761,067	35,841

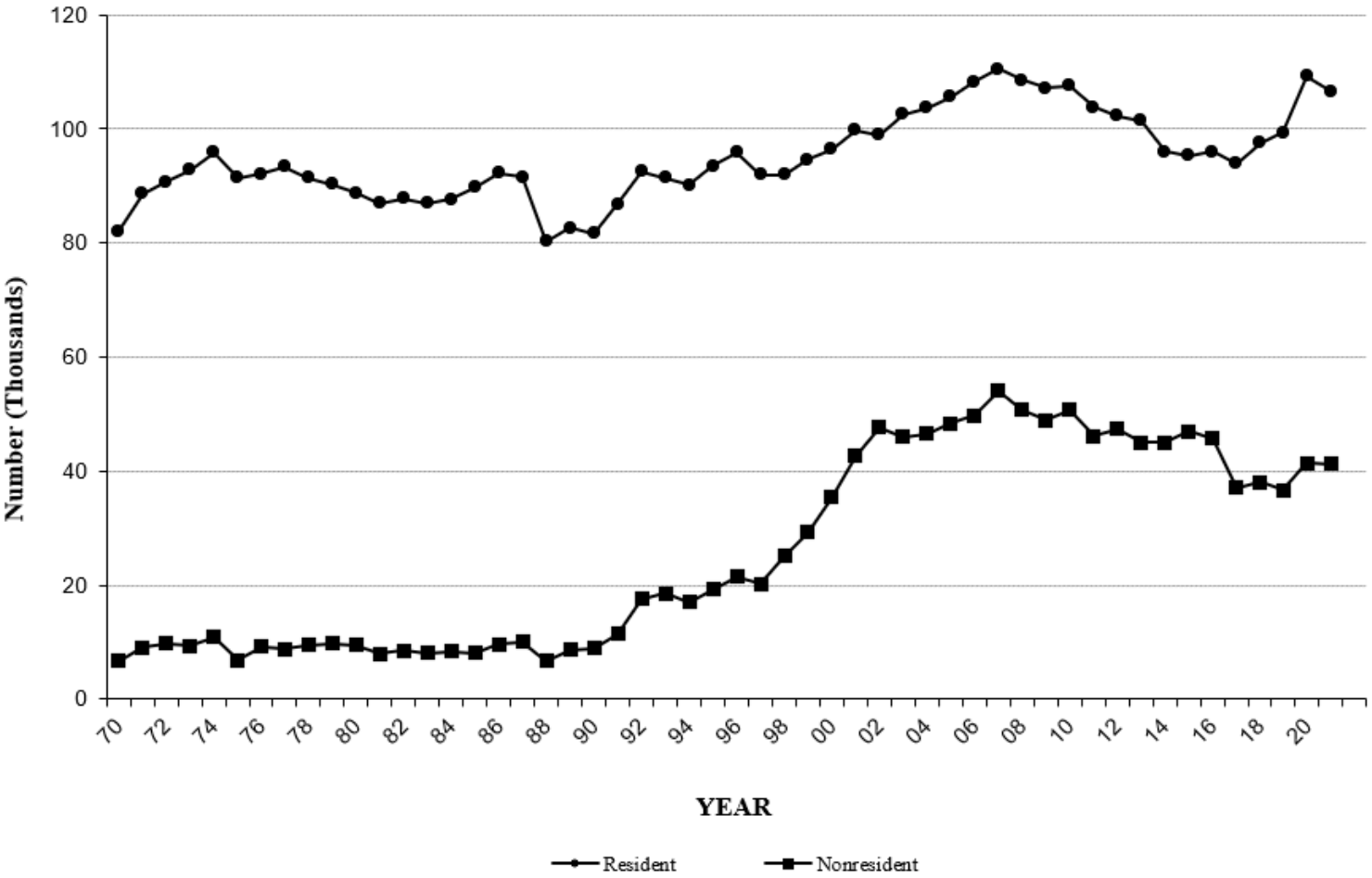


Annual PLOTS Acres Available for Fall Hunting Seasons

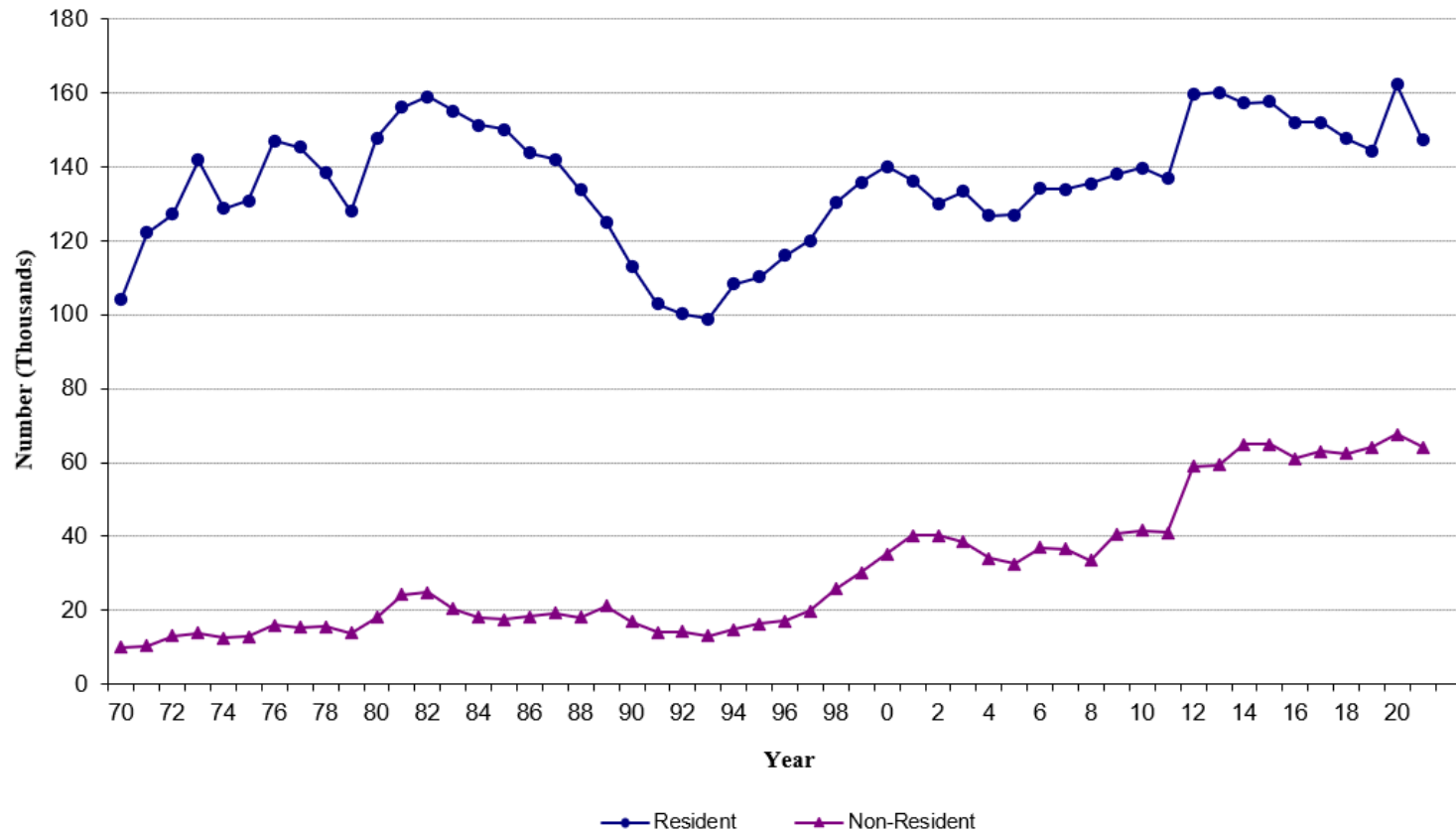


North Dakota

General Game License Sales



North Dakota Fishing License Sales



We, Svold Hall are in opposition of the closing of trails in Pembina County
Deb Thompson
Cavalier ND
701-520-7852





Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Executive Budget Recommendation				Senate Version			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes								
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116				\$0
Salary increase			2,588,174	2,588,174				0
Health insurance increase			888,946	888,946				0
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748				0
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position	1.00		230,938	230,938				0
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	2.00		613,556	613,556				0
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974				0
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589				0
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393				0
ITD shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908				0
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192				0
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778				0
Total ongoing funding changes	8.00	\$0	\$17,694,312	\$17,694,312	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
One-Time Funding Items								
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250				\$0
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position			7,575	7,575				0
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			93,980	93,980				0
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000				0
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000				0
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000				0
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600				0
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250				0
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,478,655	\$3,478,655	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	8.00	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
2023-25 Total Funding	172.00	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			<i>\$52,386,176</i>				<i>\$40,342,783</i>	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	<i>4.9%</i>		<i>19.8%</i>	<i>19.8%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>		<i>0.0%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>

<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%	23.6%	23.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
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Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

	<u>Executive Budget Recommendation</u>	<u>Senate Version</u>
Grants, gifts, and donations	Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.	
Line item transfer authority	Section 4 would authorize the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.	
Contingent authority and full-time equivalent positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act	Section 5 would appropriate \$27,150,000 and would authorize 7 FTE to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.	

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Executive Budget Recommendation				Senate Version				Senate Changes to Executive Budget			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	Increase (Decrease) - Executive Budget			
									FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes												
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116			\$295,116	\$295,116				\$0
Salary increase			2,588,174	2,588,174			1,937,848	1,937,848			(650,326)	(650,326)
Health insurance increase			888,946	888,946			909,396	909,396			20,450	20,450
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748	1.00		238,748	238,748				0
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position	1.00		230,938	230,938				0	(1.00)		(230,938)	(230,938)
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	2.00		613,556	613,556	1.00		306,778	306,778	(1.00)		(306,778)	(306,778)
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974				0
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589				0
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393			2,966,393	2,966,393				0
ITD shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908			80,908	80,908				0
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192			1,157,192	1,157,192				0
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778			2,777,778	2,777,778				0
Total ongoing funding changes	8.00	\$0	\$17,694,312	\$17,694,312	6.00	\$0	\$16,526,720	\$16,526,720	(2.00)	\$0	(\$1,167,592)	(\$1,167,592)
One-Time Funding Items												
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250			\$3,250	\$3,250				\$0
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position			7,575	7,575				0			(7,575)	(7,575)
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			93,980	93,980			46,990	46,990			(46,990)	(46,990)
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000			850,000	850,000				0
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000			550,000	550,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000			1,000,000	1,000,000				0
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000			350,000	350,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000			380,000	380,000				0
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600			35,600	35,600				0
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250			208,250	208,250				0
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,478,655	\$3,478,655	0.00	\$0	\$3,424,090	\$3,424,090	0.00	\$0	(\$54,565)	(\$54,565)
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	8.00	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967	6.00	\$0	\$19,950,810	\$19,950,810	(2.00)	\$0	(\$1,222,157)	(\$1,222,157)
2023-25 Total Funding	172.00	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601	170.00	\$0	\$109,532,444	\$109,532,444	(2.00)	\$0	(\$1,222,157)	(\$1,222,157)
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			\$52,386,176				\$52,124,743				(\$261,433)	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%		19.8%	19.8%	3.7%		18.4%	18.4%				
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%		23.6%	23.6%	3.7%		22.3%	22.3%				

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

	Executive Budget Recommendation	Senate Version
Grants, gifts, and donations	Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.	Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.
Line item transfer authority	Section 4 would authorize the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.	Section 5 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.
Contingent authority and full-time equivalent positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act	Section 5 would appropriate \$27,150,000 and would authorize 7 FTE to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.	Section 4 appropriates \$27,150,000 and authorizes 7 FTE to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department
Senate Bill 2017



Explanation of Changes from "Selected Budget Changes Recommended in the Executive Budget" Section of Green Sheet

	TOTAL		Div	LINE	ACCOUNT CODE	TOTAL AMOUNT	Kim's Notes
1. Adds funding for state employee salary and benefit increases, of which \$2,588,174 is for salary increases and \$888,946 is for health insurance increases	\$3,477,120	\$2,158,441	Admin	Line 10	511010 - Salary Increase	\$360,485	T = Testimony
			Fish	Line 10	511010 - Salary Increase	\$317,051	Executive Recommendation Compensation Package
			Enf	Line 10	511010 - Salary Increase	\$521,550	
			C&C	Line 10	511010 - Salary Increase	\$289,181	
			Wild	Line 10	511010 - Salary Increase	\$455,977	
			Wild	Line 74	511010 - Salary Increase	\$10,648	
			Enf	Line 73	511010 - Salary Increase	\$5,708	
			Wild	Line 70	511010 - Salary Increase	\$122,844	
			Fish	Line 76	511010 - Salary Increase	\$30,928	
			Wild	Line 77	511010 - Salary Increase	\$44,069	
	\$1,318,679		Admin	Line 10	516000 - Fringe Benefits Increase	\$227,842	
			Fish	Line 10	516000 - Fringe Benefits Increase	\$188,531	
			Enf	Line 10	516000 - Fringe Benefits Increase	\$309,469	
			C&C	Line 10	516000 - Fringe Benefits Increase	\$165,607	
			Wild	Line 10	516000 - Fringe Benefits Increase	\$282,808	
			Wild	Line 74	516000 - Fringe Benefits Increase	\$7,264	
			Enf	Line 73	516000 - Fringe Benefits Increase	\$2,808	
			Wild	Line 70	516000 - Fringe Benefits Increase	\$83,162	
			Fish	Line 76	516000 - Fringe Benefits Increase	\$21,837	
			Wild	Line 77	516000 - Fringe Benefits Increase	\$29,351	
2. Adds 3 FTE for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access, of which \$622,604 is for salaries and wages, \$4,035,370 is for ongoing operating expenses, and \$35,600 is for one-time operating expenses	\$4,693,574	\$4,693,574	Wild	Line 70	511000-Salaries-Permanent	\$429,600	T pg 12 #3
			Wild	Line 70	516000-Fringe Benefits	\$193,004	
			Wild	Line 70	521000-Travel	\$15,000	
			Wild	Line 70	533000-Food & Clothing	\$2,100	
			Wild	Line 70	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000	\$6,540	
			Wild	Line 70	552000-Other Equipment under \$5,000	\$3,000	
			Wild	Line 70	582000-Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	\$4,000,000	
			Wild	Line 70	601000-IT Data Processing	\$7,650	
			Wild	Line 70	602000-IT Communications	\$4,680	
			Wild	Line 70	621000=Operating Fees & Services	\$6,000	
		Wild	Line 70	691000-Equipment over \$5,000	\$26,000		
3. Adds 1 FTE for aquatic nuisance initiative, of which \$442,648 if for salaries and wages, \$755,941 is for ongoing operating expenses, and \$208,250 is for one-time operating expenses	\$1,406,839	\$442,648	Fish	Line 76	511000-Salaries-Permanent	\$134,496	T pg 11 #2
			Fish	Line 76	516000-Fringe Benefits	\$63,152	
			Fish	Line 76	513000-Temporary Salaries	\$245,000	
	\$964,191		Fish	Line 76	691000-Equipment over \$5000	\$205,000	
			Fish	Line 76	712000-Grants, Benefits & Claims	\$68,000	
			Fish	Line 76	621000-Operating Fees & Services	\$296,151	
			Fish	Line 76	521000-Travel	\$75,000	
			Fish	Line 76	531000-Supplies-IT Software	\$4,000	
			Fish	Line 76	533000-Food & Clothing	\$4,500	
			Fish	Line 76	535000-Miscellaneous Supplies	\$99,000	
			Fish	Line 76	551000=IT Equipment under \$5,000	\$2,180	
			Fish	Line 76	552000-Other Equipment under \$5,000	\$250	
			Fish	Line 76	553000-Office Equip & Furniture	\$6,000	
			Fish	Line 76	601000-IT Data Processing	\$2,550	
			Fish	Line 76	602000-IT-Communications	\$1,560	
		Fish	Line 76	621000-Operating Fees & Services	\$200,000		



Explanation of Changes from "Selected Budget Changes Recommended in the Executive Budget" Section of Green Sheet

	TOTAL		Div	LINE	ACCOUNT CODE	TOTAL AMOUNT	Kim's Notes	T = Testimony
4. Adds 4 FTE, including two enforcement warden investigators, a fisheries biologist II, and an account budget specialist III, of which \$913,534 is for salaries and wages, \$169,708 is for ongoing operating expenses, \$68,805 is for one-time operating expenses and, \$36,000 is for one-time capital assets	\$1,188,047	\$913,534	Enf	Line 10	511000-Salaries-Permanent	\$457,269		
		\$169,708	Enf	Line 30	521000-Travel	\$90,000		
		\$36,000	Enf	Line 30	531000-Supplies - IT Software	\$2,100		
		\$68,805	Enf	Line 30	533000-Food & Clothing	\$5,000		
			Enf	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000	\$7,000		
			Enf	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000	\$1,360		
			Enf	Line 30	552000-Other Equipment under \$5,000	\$45,980		
			Enf	Line 30	552000-Other Equipment under \$5,000	\$3,400		
			Enf	Line 30	601000-IT Data Processing	\$5,588		
			Enf	Line 30	602000-IT Communications	\$3,840		
			Enf	Line 30	621000-Operating Fees and Services	\$50,000		
			Enf	Line 50	691000-Equipment Over \$5000	\$36,000	\$707,536	T pg 15 #8
			Admin	Line 10	511000-Salaries-Permanent	\$160,608		
			Admin	Line 10	516000 - Fringe Benefits	\$66,700		
			Admin	Line 30	553000-Office Equip & Furniture	\$6,075		
			Admin	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000	\$1,500		
			Admin	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000	\$480		
			Admin	Line 30	601000-IT Data Processing	\$2,550		
			Admin	Line 30	602000-IT-Communications	\$600	\$238,513	T pg 14 #7
			Fish	Line 10	511000-Salaries-Permanent	\$228,957		
			Fish	Line 30	521000-Travel	\$5,000		
			Fish	Line 30	533000-Food & Clothing	\$1,500		
			Fish	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000	\$1,500		
		Fish	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000	\$680			
		Fish	Line 30	552000-Other Equipment under \$5,000	\$250			
		Fish	Line 30	601000-IT Data Processing	\$2,550			
		Fish	Line 30	602000-IT-Communications	\$1,560	\$241,998	T pg 11 #1	



Explanation of Changes from "Selected Budget Changes Recommended in the Executive Budget" Section of Green Sheet

	TOTAL		Div	LINE	ACCOUNT CODE	TOTAL AMOUNT	Kim's Notes	T = Testimony	
5. Adds funding from federal funds in various line items, of which \$1,383,088 is for salaries and wages, \$185,442 is for operating expenses, (\$1,374,109) is for capital assets, \$1,166,633 is for game and fish grants, \$1,285,000 is for land habitat and deer depredation, \$13,754 is for Missouri river enforcement, and \$306,585 is for Lonetree reservoir	\$2,966,393	Base Budget Changes							
		OPERATING LINE							
	\$185,442	Admin	Line 30	521000-Travel		(\$12,414)	23-25 travel total net increase \$182K in base		
		Admin	Line 30	531000-Supplies-IT Software		\$5,000			
		Admin	Line 30	535000-Miscellaneous Supplies		\$56,500			
		Admin	Line 30	536000-Office Supplies		\$20,000			
		Admin	Line 30	541000-Postage		\$45,000			
		Admin	Line 30	542000-Printing		\$68,000			
		Admin	Line 30	553000-Office Equip & Furniture Under		(\$5,000)			
		Admin	Line 30	561000-Utilities		\$38,000			
		Admin	Line 30	571000-Insurance		\$12,850			
		Admin	Line 30	582000-Rentals/Leases-Bldg/Land		\$4,000			
		Admin	Line 30	591000-Repairs		\$126,675			
		Admin	Line 30	601000-IT-Data Processing		\$481,000			
		Admin	Line 30	603000-IT Contractual Services &		(\$420,000)	Decrease for 21-23 IT development projects completed		
		Admin	Line 30	611000-Professional Development		\$8,000			
		Admin	Line 30	621000-Operating Fees & Services		(\$729,871)	(\$302,260)		
		Fish	Line 30	521000-Travel		\$200,272			
		Fish	Line 30	531000-Supplies-IT Software		\$1,000			
		Fish	Line 30	534000-Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply		\$25,000			
		Fish	Line 30	535000-Miscellaneous Supplies		\$20,000			
		Fish	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000		\$2,000			
		Fish	Line 30	552000-Other Equipment under \$5,000		\$80,000			
		Fish	Line 30	591000-Repairs		\$15,000			
		Fish	Line 30	603000-IT Contractual Services and Re		\$10,000			
		Fish	Line 30	621000-Operating Fees & Services		(\$209,945)			
		Fish	Line 30	623000-Professional Fees and Services		\$20,000	\$163,327		
		Enf	Line 30	521000-Travel		(\$54,400)			
		Enf	Line 30	532000-Supply/Material - Professional		\$10,000			
		Enf	Line 30	533000-Food & Clothing		\$5,000			
		Enf	Line 30	535000-Miscellaneous Supplies		\$10,000			
		Enf	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000		(\$1,000)			
		Enf	Line 30	591000-Repairs		\$5,000			
		Enf	Line 30	601000-IT-Data Processing		\$4,132			
		Enf	Line 30	611000-Professional Development		\$5,000			
		Enf	Line 30	621000-Operating Fees & Services		\$5,148			
		Enf	Line 30	623000-Professional Fees and Services		\$9,000			
		Enf	Line 30	625000-Medical, Dental and Optical		\$1,500	(\$620)		
		C&C	Line 30	521000-Travel		(\$79,663)			
		C&C	Line 30	531000-Supplies - IT Software		(\$4,000)			
		C&C	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000		(\$5,000)			
		C&C	Line 30	601000-IT-Data Processing		\$7,000			
	C&C	Line 30	603000-IT Contractual Services and Re		\$40,000				
	C&C	Line 30	621000-Operating Fees & Services		\$234,404	\$192,741	Increase part due to more advertising and marketing		
	Wild	Line 30	521000-Travel		\$128,176				
	Wild	Line 30	531000-Supplies - IT Software		\$21,000				
	Wild	Line 30	534000-Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply		\$60,000		Increase repairs-road maintenance, sand, gravel, trees, etc		
	Wild	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000		\$13,000				
	Wild	Line 30	603000-IT Contractual Services and Re		\$55,000				
	Wild	Line 30	621000-Operating Fees & Services		(\$74,014)				
	Wild	Line 30	623000-Professional Fees and Services		\$10,000	\$213,162			
	ADJ per TM	Line 30	ITD shared software/service rate Changes; Toby didn't include, added b		(\$80,908)				



Explanation of Changes from "Selected Budget Changes Recommended in the Executive Budget" Section of Green Sheet

	TOTAL		Div	LINE	ACCOUNT CODE	TOTAL AMOUNT	Kim's Notes
6. Adds funding for mid-term conservation agreements	\$2,777,778	\$2,777,778	Wild	Line 70	582000-Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	\$2,777,778	T pg 13 #4
7. Adds funding for motor pool cost increase	\$1,157,192	\$1,157,192	Admin	Line 30	521000 - Travel	\$1,157,192	T pg 16 #10
8. Adds one-time funding for fisheries pondliners	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Fish	LINE 50	684000 - Extraordinary Repairs	\$1,000,000	T pg 17 #12
Total of Green Section	\$18,666,943	\$18,666,943				\$18,666,943	
Major One-Time Other Funds Appropriations							
Enf car video system & body cameras	\$550,000					\$550,000	T pg 16 #9
ANS Lab & Storage Facility	\$850,000					\$850,000	T pg 13 #5
Fisheries Dam Repairs	\$380,000					\$380,000	T pg 17 #11
Devils Lake Bunkhouse Improvements	\$350,000					\$350,000	T pg 14 #6
Other On-going Funding Changes							
Cost to Continue salaries	\$295,116					\$295,116	
ITD share software & service rate changes	\$80,908					\$80,908	
Total of Budget Changes	\$21,172,967					\$21,172,967	
23-25 Legislative Base Budget	\$89,581,634					\$89,581,634	
23-25 Recommended Budget	\$110,754,601					\$110,754,601	

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

First Chamber Comparison to Base Level

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 First Chamber Version	\$0	\$136,682,444	\$136,682,444
2023-25 Base Level	0	89,581,634	89,581,634
Increase (Decrease)	\$0	\$47,100,810	\$47,100,810

First Chamber Changes

A summary of the first chamber's changes to the agency's base level appropriations and the executive budget is attached as an appendix.

Selected Bill Sections Included in the First Chamber Version

Grants, gifts, and donations - Section 3 identifies \$100,000 of funds in the grants, gifts, and donations line item received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act - Section 4 authorizes 7 FTE positions and \$27,150,000 from other funds to the Game and Fish Department for the purpose of administering programs approved under the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The funding and positions authorized in this section are available only upon passage of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Line item transfer authority - Section 5 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Continuing Appropriations

There are no continuing appropriations for this agency.

Deficiency Appropriations

There are no deficiency appropriations for this agency.

Significant Audit Findings

There are no significant audit findings for this agency.

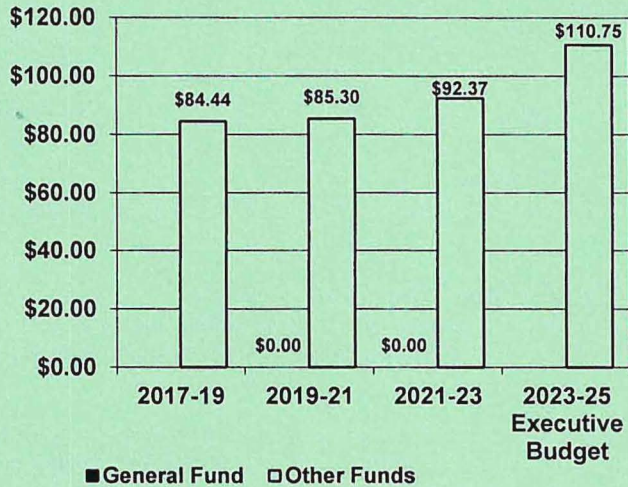
Major Related Legislation

House Bill No. 1183 - Includes game and fish wardens within the Public Employees' Retirement System retirement plan as peace officers.

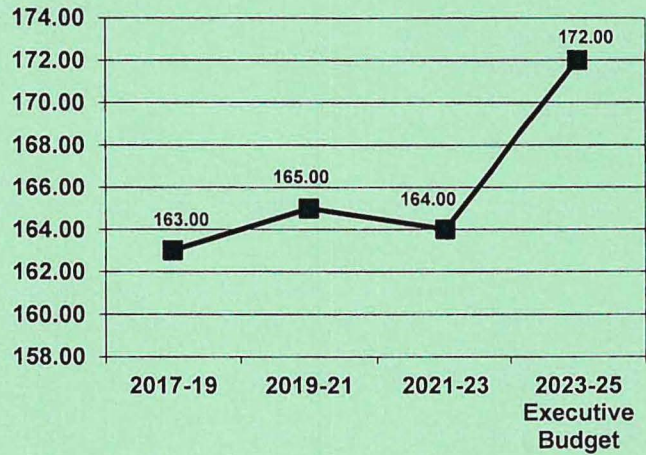
Historical Appropriations Information

Agency Appropriations and FTE Positions

Agency Funding (millions)



FTE Positions



Ongoing Other Funds Appropriations

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Executive Budget
Ongoing other funds appropriations	\$77,231,739	\$83,227,498	\$85,303,632	\$89,581,634	\$107,275,946
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	\$5,995,759	\$2,076,134	\$4,278,002	\$17,694,312
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	7.8%	2.5%	5.0%	19.8%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2015-17 biennium	N/A	7.8%	10.5%	16.0%	38.9%

Major Increases (Decreases) in Ongoing Other Funds Appropriations

2017-19 Biennium

1. Increased funding for credit card fee changes on the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses	\$180,000
2. Reduced funding for rent allowance for oil-impacted areas	(\$100,000)
3. Added funding for replacement of pond liners	\$572,000
4. Added funding for replacement of lighting in the salmon building	\$130,000
5. Increased funding for capital assets	\$200,000
6. Added funding for equipment replacement	\$747,000
7. Increased funding for grants from Pittman-Robertson federal funds	\$1,590,000
8. Increased funding for operating expenses	\$839,186
9. Reduced funding for capital assets	(\$1,063,040)
10. Provided funding for the Parks and Recreation Department for operating of boating access at state parks	\$122,000
11. Increased funding for grants	\$1,353,772
12. Increased funding for land and deer depredation	\$1,153,880
13. Increased funding for noxious weed control operating expenses	\$120,135
14. Added increased funding for a grant to the Agriculture Commissioner for wildlife services	\$115,600

2019-21 Biennium

1. Underfunded salaries and wages and reduced funding for temporary salaries	(\$385,721)
2. Reduced grant funding	(\$1,703,549)

- 3. Increased funding for operating expenses, primary for fees and services and reclassified funding from grants for boat access and development, Save Our Lakes program, and aquatic nuisance species (\$400,000) and for state wildlife grant projects (\$200,000) \$1,074,294
- 4. Increased federal funds for shooting range grants to provide a total of \$1,762,500 \$500,000
- 5. Reduced funding for motor vehicles (\$179,859)
- 6. Reduced funding for capital assets (\$213,930)
- 7. Reduced other IT funding (\$207,000)
- 8. Added funding for Microsoft 365 licensing expenses \$122,634
- 9. Increased funding for equipment over \$5,000 \$108,344
- 10. Added funding from the aquatic nuisance species program fund for use in aquatic nuisance species education, inspection, and monitoring programs under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 20.1-17 and authorized 2 FTE positions for the program (Senate Bill No. 2293) \$1,500,000

2021-23 Biennium

- 1. Added funding for capital assets by increasing extraordinary repairs (\$527,679), motor vehicles (\$568,180), and other capital payments (\$111,292), and reducing land, building and maintenance (\$50,000), and equipment over \$5,000 (\$243,505) \$913,646
- 2. Increased funding for operating expenses by increasing land, buildings, and maintenance (\$172,440), IT (\$233,000), Microsoft Office 365 licenses (\$18,507), and other operating expenses (\$843,653) \$1,267,600

2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)

- 1. Adds 8 FTE positions and ongoing operating expenses for 1 fisheries biologist position, 1 account budget specialist III position, 2 enforcement warden investigator positions, 1 aquatic nuisance species program position, and 3 wildlife habitat and access initiative positions \$6,939,805
- 2. Adds funding for salaries and wages to provide a base budget total of \$16,543,132 \$1,383,088
- 3. Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements \$2,777,778
- 4. Removes funding for capital assets to provide a total of \$5,400,661 (\$1,374,109)
- 5. Adds funding for game and fish grants to provide a total of \$10,089,976 \$1,166,633
- 6. Adds funding for land habitat and deer depredation to provide a total of \$19,280,597 \$1,285,000

One-Time Other Funds Appropriations

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25 Executive Budget
One-time other funds appropriations	\$0	\$748,724	\$0	\$2,786,500	\$3,478,655

Major One-Time Other Funds Appropriations

2017-19 Biennium

- 1. Airplane replacement \$250,000
- 2. Dakota Access Pipeline protest \$423,724
- 3. Electronic payment processing system \$75,000

2019-21 Biennium

- None \$0

2021-23 Biennium

- 1. Private land open to sportsmen payments \$1,485,090
- 2. Red River basin wildlife and water quality enhancement program \$500,000
- 3. Radio equipment replacement \$801,500

2023-25 Biennium (Executive Budget Recommendation)

- 1. Fisheries pond liners \$1,000,000
- 2. Car video system and body cameras \$550,000
- 3. Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility \$850,000
- 4. Fisheries dam repairs \$380,000
- 5. Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements \$350,000

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Executive Budget Recommendation				Senate Version			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes								
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116			\$295,116	\$295,116
Salary increase			2,588,174	2,588,174			1,937,848	1,937,848
Health insurance increase			888,946	888,946			909,396	909,396
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748	1.00		238,748	238,748
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position	1.00		230,938	230,938				0
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	2.00		613,556	613,556	1.00		306,778	306,778
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393			2,966,393	2,966,393
Information Technology Department shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908			80,908	80,908
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192			1,157,192	1,157,192
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778			2,777,778	2,777,778
Total ongoing funding changes	8.00	\$0	\$17,694,312	\$17,694,312	6.00	\$0	\$16,526,720	\$16,526,720
One-Time Funding Items								
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250			\$3,250	\$3,250
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position			7,575	7,575				0
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			93,980	93,980			46,990	46,990
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000			850,000	850,000
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000			550,000	550,000
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000			1,000,000	1,000,000
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000			350,000	350,000
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000			380,000	380,000
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600			35,600	35,600
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250			208,250	208,250
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,478,655	\$3,478,655	0.00	\$0	\$3,424,090	\$3,424,090
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	8.00	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967	6.00	\$0	\$19,950,810	\$19,950,810
2023-25 Total Funding	172.00	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601	170.00	\$0	\$109,532,444	\$109,532,444
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			<i>\$52,386,176</i>				<i>\$52,124,743</i>	

<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%	19.8%	19.8%	3.7%	18.4%	18.4%
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	4.9%	23.6%	23.6%	3.7%	22.3%	22.3%

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

	<u>Executive Budget Recommendation</u>	<u>Senate Version</u>
Grants, gifts, and donations	Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.	Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.
Contingent authority and full-time equivalent positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act	Section 5 would appropriate \$27,150,000 and would authorize 7 FTE positions to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.	Section 4 appropriates \$27,150,000 and authorizes 7 FTE positions to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.
Line item transfer authority	Section 4 would authorize the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.	Section 5 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

#26374

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Executive Budget Recommendation				Senate Version				Senate Changes to Executive Budget			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	Increase (Decrease) - Executive Budget			
									FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes												
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116			\$295,116	\$295,116				\$0
Salary increase			2,588,174	2,588,174			1,937,848	1,937,848			(650,326)	(650,326)
Health insurance increase			888,946	888,946			909,396	909,396			20,450	20,450
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748	1.00		238,748	238,748				0
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position	1.00		230,938	230,938				0	(1.00)		(230,938)	(230,938)
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	2.00		613,556	613,556	1.00		306,778	306,778	(1.00)		(306,778)	(306,778)
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974				0
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589				0
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393			2,966,393	2,966,393				0
Information Technology Department shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908			80,908	80,908				0
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192			1,157,192	1,157,192				0
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778			2,777,778	2,777,778				0
Total ongoing funding changes	8.00	\$0	\$17,694,312	\$17,694,312	6.00	\$0	\$16,526,720	\$16,526,720	(2.00)	\$0	(\$1,167,592)	(\$1,167,592)
One-Time Funding Items												
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250			\$3,250	\$3,250				\$0
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position			7,575	7,575				0			(7,575)	(7,575)
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			93,980	93,980			46,990	46,990			(46,990)	(46,990)
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000			850,000	850,000				0
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000			550,000	550,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000			1,000,000	1,000,000				0
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000			350,000	350,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000			380,000	380,000				0
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600			35,600	35,600				0
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250			208,250	208,250				0
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,478,655	\$3,478,655	0.00	\$0	\$3,424,090	\$3,424,090	0.00	\$0	(\$54,565)	(\$54,565)
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	8.00	\$0	\$21,172,967	\$21,172,967	6.00	\$0	\$19,950,810	\$19,950,810	(2.00)	\$0	(\$1,222,157)	(\$1,222,157)
2023-25 Total Funding	172.00	\$0	\$110,754,601	\$110,754,601	170.00	\$0	\$109,532,444	\$109,532,444	(2.00)	\$0	(\$1,222,157)	(\$1,222,157)
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			<i>\$52,386,176</i>				<i>\$52,124,743</i>				<i>(\$261,433)</i>	
<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	<i>4.9%</i>		<i>19.8%</i>	<i>19.8%</i>	<i>3.7%</i>		<i>18.4%</i>	<i>18.4%</i>				

Total changes as a percentage of base level 4.9% 23.6% 23.6% 3.7% 22.3% 22.3%

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

	<u>Executive Budget Recommendation</u>	<u>Senate Version</u>
Grants, gifts, and donations	Section 3 would include in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.	Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.
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<https://gf.nd.gov/ans/infested-waters>

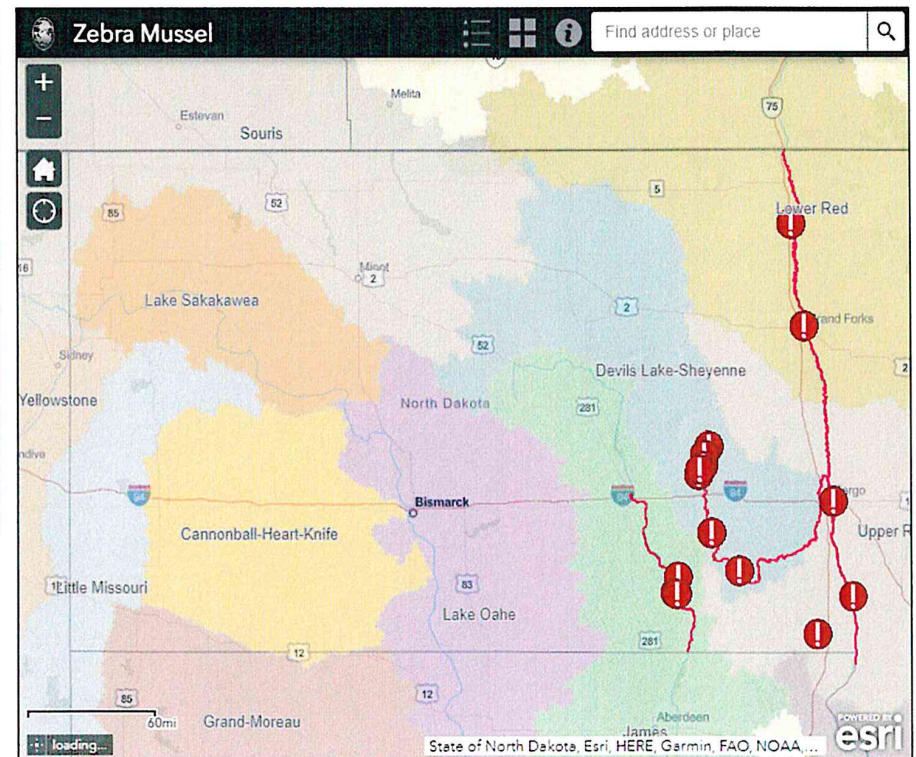
Bivalves (Class 1)

Zebra Mussel



Confirmed Presence

- Lake LaMoure and the James River - Dickey County
- Twin Lake - LaMoure County
- Lake Ashtabula - Barnes County
- Lake Elsie - Richland County
- Red River - entire length of the Red River including tributaries upstream to the first vehicular bridge or crossing
- Sheyenne River – entire length starting at Baldhill Dam in Barnes County, downstream to the Red River including tributaries upstream to the first vehicular bridge or crossing.





7/1/2019 to 3/17/2023

Shooting Sports Grant Program - Special Line 62

Shooting Sports Grants

Club Name	City	State/Federal	Type of Project	Amount Paid	Date
Capital City Gun Club	Bismarck	Federal	Trapfield/Sidewalks	12,686.81	05/31/20
Capital City Gun Club	Bismarck	Federal	Trapfield/Sidewalks	40,791.75	09/17/20
Capital City Gun Club	Bismarck	Federal	Trapfield/Sidewalks	1,788.82	09/23/20
Capital City Gun Club	Bismarck	Federal	Trapfield/Sidewalks	19,537.50	10/16/20
Tri-County Trap	Wimbledon	Federal	Pat traps/voice pulls	4,311.00	10/16/20
Grand Forks Gun Club	Grand Forks	Federal	Sidewalks	21,444.37	10/22/20
Grand Forks Gun Club	Grand Forks	Federal	Landscaping	14,835.70	06/07/21
Capital City Gun Club	Bismarck	Federal	Sidewalks, retaining wall, landscaping	81,467.51	06/29/21
Beaver Creek Archaeology Inc	Bismarck	Federal	Cultural Survey Coyote Clay	1,500.00	04/11/22
Beaver Creek Archaeology Inc	Bismarck	Federal	Cultural Survey Capital City Young Guns	1,250.00	04/11/22
Coyote Clay Target League Inc	Williston	Federal	Voice Releases	4,687.50	04/11/22
Coyote Clay Target League Inc	Williston	Federal	Pat traps/voice pulls	28,912.50	05/04/22
Coyote Clay Target League Inc	Williston	Federal	Pat traps/voice pulls	21,600.00	06/03/22
Coyote Clay Target League Inc	Williston	Federal	Storage Shed	6,805.50	06/28/22
Southwest Shooting Club		Federal	Range Building-payment 1	6,131.18	01/31/23
				267,750.14	

High School Trap Team Start-up Costs (Max \$1,000)

Club Name	City	State/Federal	Type of Project	Amount Paid	Date
DRAYTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	DRAYTON	State	HS TRAP TEAM	\$914.72	03/19/20
MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL DISTRICT	ROLLA	State	ROLLA TRAP TEAM	\$722.91	05/01/20
LAKOTA SCHOOL	LAKOTA	State	TRAP TEAM	\$1,000.00	05/20/20
CENTRAL CASS SCHOOLS	CASSELTON	State	HS TRAP TEAM	\$835.94	06/30/20
ST JOHN SCHOOL	ST JOHN	State	HS CLAY TARGET TEAM	\$1,000.00	06/30/20
HAZEN SCHOOL	HAZEN	State	CLAY TARGET LEAGUE	\$887.18	06/30/20
UNITED PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	DES LACS	State	HS TRAP TEAM	\$989.93	10/27/20
NAPOLEON WILDLIFE CLUB	NAPOLEON	State	CLAY TARGET TEAM GRANT	\$757.19	05/07/21
DAKOTA COLLEGE AT BOTTINEAU	BOTTINEAU	State	CLAY TARGET TEAM GRANT	\$1,000.00	06/01/21
WILTON SCHOOL	WILTON	State	HS CLAY TARGET TEAM	\$1,000.00	06/01/21
CMC TRAP LEAGUE	MCCLUSKY	State	TEAM GRANT	\$1,000.00	06/29/21
DRAEGER,DANIEL CLARE	MOORHEAD	State	HS CLAY TARGET LEAGUE	\$533.97	06/30/21
LEEDS SCHOOL	LEEDS	State	LEEDS HIGH SCHOOL TRAP TE	\$1,000.00	05/04/22
PULAK,ANTONIA JO	MINTO	State	HIGH SCHOOL CLAY TARGET L	\$952.94	05/09/22
WILLISTON STATE COLLEGE	WILLISTON	State	WILLSTON STATE CLAY TARGE	\$1,000.00	06/16/22
				13,594.78	

USA HIGH SCHOOL CLAY TARGET LEAGUE	EAGAN	State	State Tournament	\$10,000.00	10/04/22
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Other Range Grants

Club Name	City	State/Federal	Type of Project	Amount Paid	Date
Barnes County Wildlife Federation	Valley City	Federal	storage container and voice pulls	4,392.26	07/01/21
Bismarck Mandan Rifle and Pistol Ass	Bismarck	State	shot markers	4,668.75	06/21/21
Bismarck Mandan Rifle Pistol Ass	Bismarck	Federal	storage building	33,057.97	09/01/20
Bismarck/Mandan Rifle Pistol Club	Bismarck	Federal	berm work/cold storage concrete floor	21,495.89	10/01/21
Bottineau County Wildlife Club	Bottineau	Federal	Bathroom Installation	22,316.50	01/01/22
Buffalo City Gun Club	Jamestown	Federal	trap house	21,226.27	12/01/20
Buffalo City Gun Club	Jamestown	Federal	HVAC and lighting	5,403.00	08/01/21
Capital City Young Guns	Bismarck	State	trap houses	24,526.00	12/01/20
Cavalier County Gun Club	Langdon	State	skeet houses	5,985.42	12/01/20
Cavalier County Gun Club	Langdon	State	roof/doors/bury rock pile	7,647.44	07/21/21
Cavalier County Gun Club	Langdon	State	State range grant	4,705.58	04/22/20
Central Dakota Sportsmen's Club	Carrington	Federal	trap house, trap, parking lot, sidewalks	23,809.95	12/01/22
Cogswell Gun Club	Cogswell	Federal	interior finish	14,775.00	01/03/20
Cogswell Gun Club	Cogswell	Federal	well	11,097.28	01/01/21
Coyote Clay Target League	Williston	State	voice pulls	2,854.04	06/21/21
Eddy County Rod and Gun Club	New Rockford	Federal	trap sidewalks/shooting shelter	12,692.00	11/18/19
Grand Forks Gun Club	Grand Forks	Federal	trap house lids/sign	12,467.00	11/12/19
Harvey Wildlife Club	Harvey	Federal	concrete/parking lot gravel/targets	14,165.84	11/01/21
Mckenzie County	Watford City	Federal	build range	600,000.00	06/30/19
Mckenzie County	Watford City	Federal	build range	500,000.00	06/30/21
Napoleon Wildlife Club	Napoleon	Federal	lights and voice pulls	4,844.95	07/01/22
Red River Area Sportsman Club	Wahpeton	Federal	trap house	8,493.62	11/20/19
Red River Regional Marksmanship Center	West Fargo	State	cameras/projectors	5,425.89	07/21/21
Red River Regional Marksmanship Center	West Fargo	Federal	storage shed/door	8,861.25	12/10/19
Shepherd's Hill Retreat	St. John	Federal	archery building renovation	47,250.00	11/01/22
Zap Sportsman Club	Zap	State	lockers	2,257.61	01/01/20
Zap Sportsman Club	Zap	Federal	voice pulls	2,834.87	03/01/20
Zap Sportsman Club	Zap	Federal	new trap house and pat trap	13,570.56	08/01/21
				1,440,824.94	

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department
Senate Bill 2017



FTE REQUESTS IN PRIORITY ORDER

Senate Version from Legislative Base Budget

On-Going Funding		One-Time Funding	
Federal	Special	Federal	Special

FTE Priority	Description	Total	On-Going Funding		One-Time Funding	
			Federal	Special	Federal	Special
#1	Fisheries Biologist II	\$241,998	\$179,060	\$59,688	\$2,437	\$813
#2	ANS Biologist I	\$210,688	\$103,719	\$103,719	\$1,625	\$1,625
#3	Biologist II-Program Manager-Partners, Grants & Habitat	\$240,302	\$135,227	\$101,875	\$1,600	\$1,600
#4	Enforcement Warden Investigator	\$353,768	\$22,871	\$283,907	\$5,772	\$41,218
#5	PLI Biologist I	\$226,636	\$157,826	\$52,610	\$12,150	\$4,050
#6	PLI Biologist I	\$226,636	\$157,826	\$52,610	\$12,150	\$4,050

Agency Requested not included in Senate Version

#7	Account Budget Specialist III	\$238,513	\$0	\$230,938	\$0	\$7,575
#8	Enforcement Warden Investigator	\$353,768	\$22,871	\$283,907	\$5,772	\$41,218

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department
Senate Bill 2017



Explanantion of Changes from "Selected Budget Changes Recommended in the Executive Budget" Section of Green Sheet

	TOTAL		Div	LINE	ACCOUNT CODE	TOTAL AMOUNT	Kim's Notes	
5. Adds funding from federal funds in various line items, of which \$1,383,088 is for salaries and wages, \$185,442 is for operating expenses, (\$1,374,109) is for capital assets, \$1,166,633 is for game and fish grants, \$1,285,000 is for land habitat and deer depredation, \$13,754 is for Missouri river enforcement, and \$306,585 is for Lonetree reservoir	\$2,966,393	Base Budget Changes						
		OPERATING LINE						
	\$185,442	Admin	Line 30	521000-Travel		(\$12,414)	23-25 travel total net increase \$182K in base	
		Admin	Line 30	531000-Supplies-IT Software		\$5,000		
		Admin	Line 30	535000-Miscellaneous Supplies		\$56,500		
		Admin	Line 30	536000-Office Supplies		\$20,000		
		Admin	Line 30	541000-Postage		\$45,000		
		Admin	Line 30	542000-Printing		\$68,000		
		Admin	Line 30	553000-Office Equip & Furniture Under		(\$5,000)		
		Admin	Line 30	561000-Utilities		\$38,000		
		Admin	Line 30	571000-Insurance		\$12,850		
		Admin	Line 30	582000-Rentals/Leases-Bldg/Land		\$4,000		
		Admin	Line 30	591000-Repairs		\$126,675		
		Admin	Line 30	601000-IT-Data Processing		\$481,000		
		Admin	Line 30	603000-IT Contractual Services &		(\$420,000)	Decrease for 21-23 IT development projects completed	
		Admin	Line 30	611000-Professional Development		\$8,000		
		Admin	Line 30	621000-Operating Fees & Services		(\$729,871)	(\$302,260)	
		Fish	Line 30	521000-Travel		\$200,272		
		Fish	Line 30	531000-Supplies-IT Software		\$1,000		
		Fish	Line 30	534000-Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply		\$25,000		
		Fish	Line 30	535000-Miscellaneous Supplies		\$20,000		
		Fish	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000		\$2,000		
		Fish	Line 30	552000-Other Equipment under \$5,000		\$80,000		
		Fish	Line 30	591000-Repairs		\$15,000		
		Fish	Line 30	603000-IT Contractual Services and Re		\$10,000		
		Fish	Line 30	621000-Operating Fees & Services		(\$209,945)		
		Fish	Line 30	623000-Professional Fees and Services		\$20,000	\$163,327	
		Enf	Line 30	521000-Travel		(\$54,400)		
		Enf	Line 30	532000-Supply/Material - Professional		\$10,000		
		Enf	Line 30	533000-Food & Clothing		\$5,000		
		Enf	Line 30	535000-Miscellaneous Supplies		\$10,000		
		Enf	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000		(\$1,000)		
		Enf	Line 30	591000-Repairs		\$5,000		
		Enf	Line 30	601000-IT-Data Processing		\$4,132		
		Enf	Line 30	611000-Professional Development		\$5,000		
		Enf	Line 30	621000-Operating Fees & Services		\$5,148		
		Enf	Line 30	623000-Professional Fees and Services		\$9,000		
		Enf	Line 30	625000-Medical, Dental and Optical		\$1,500	(\$620)	
		C&C	Line 30	521000-Travel		(\$79,663)		
		C&C	Line 30	531000-Supplies - IT Software		(\$4,000)		
		C&C	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000		(\$5,000)		
		C&C	Line 30	601000-IT-Data Processing		\$7,000		
	C&C	Line 30	603000-IT Contractual Services and Re		\$40,000			
	C&C	Line 30	621000-Operating Fees & Services		\$234,404	\$192,741		
	Wild	Line 30	521000-Travel		\$128,176	Increase part due to more advertising and marketing		
	Wild	Line 30	531000-Supplies - IT Software		\$21,000			
	Wild	Line 30	534000-Bldg, Grounds, Vehicle Supply		\$60,000	Increase repairs-road maintenance, sand, gravel, trees, etc		
	Wild	Line 30	551000-IT Equipment under \$5,000		\$13,000			
	Wild	Line 30	603000-IT Contractual Services and Re		\$55,000			
	Wild	Line 30	621000-Operating Fees & Services		(\$74,014)			
	Wild	Line 30	623000-Professional Fees and Services		\$10,000	\$213,162		
	ADJ per TM	Line 30	ITD shared software/service rate Changes; Toby didn't include, added b		(\$80,908)			

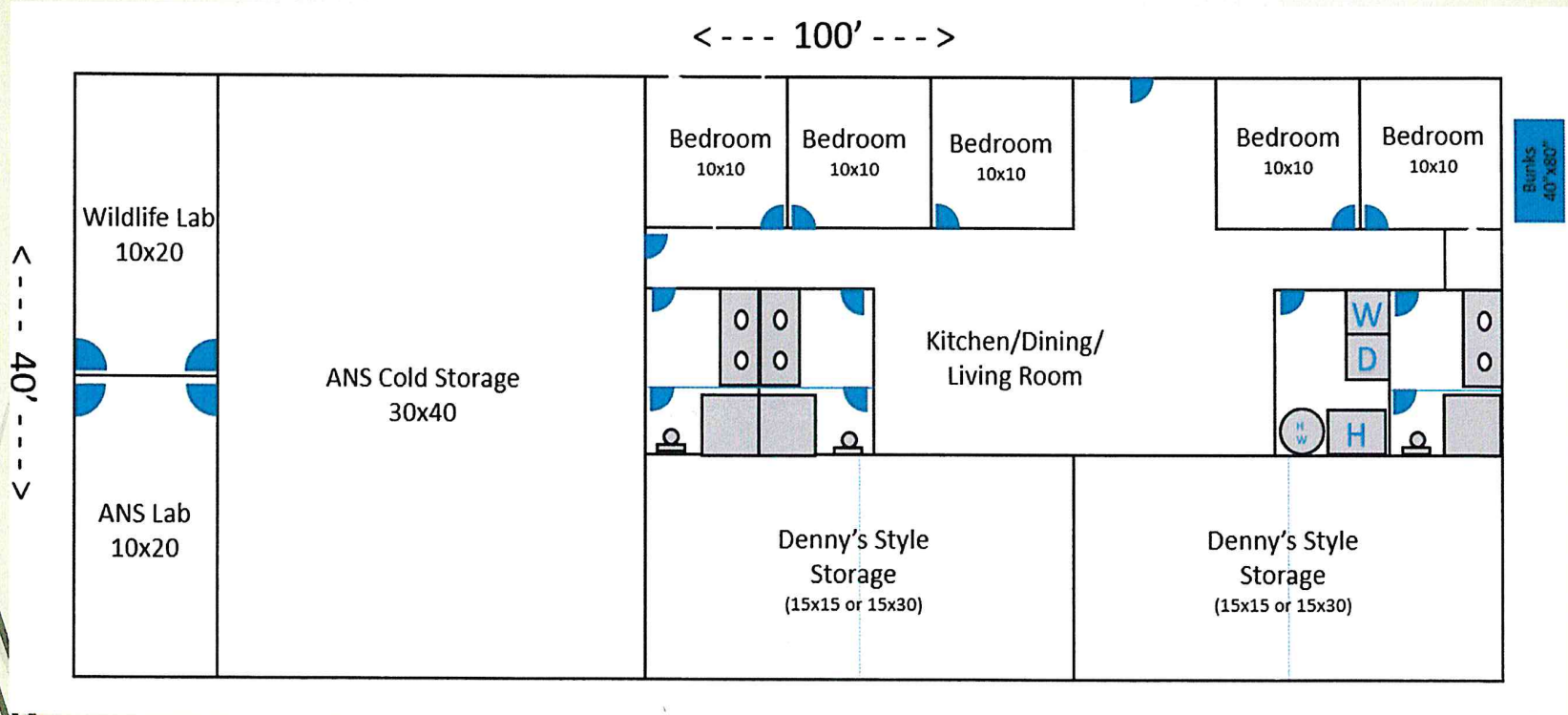
Explanation of Changes from "Selected Budget Changes Recommended in the Executive Budget" Section of Green Sheet



	TOTAL	Div	LINE	ACCOUNT CODE	TOTAL AMOUNT	Kim's Notes T = Testimony
				CAPITAL ASSETS LINE		
5. cont'd	(\$1,374,109)	Admin	Line 50	683000-Other Capital Payments	\$60,000	Increase In Lieu Taxes
		Admin	Line 50	684000-Extra Repairs/Deferred Main	(\$451,000)	Less facility repairs
		Admin	Line 50	691000-Equipment Over \$5000	(\$11,000)	(\$402,000)
		Fish	Line 50	682000-Land & Buildings	(\$370,000)	
		Fish	Line 50	683000-Other Capital Payments	\$99,000	
		Fish	Line 50	684000-Extra Repairs/Deferred Main	(\$90,000)	
		Fish	Line 50	691000-Equipment Over \$5000	(\$113,000)	
		Fish	Line 50	692000-Motor Vehicles	\$586,000	\$112,000 T pg 23 - boats, skid steer, small excavator, etc
		Enf	Line 50	692000-Motor Vehicles	(\$333,000)	(\$333,000) Less equipment than 21-23
		C&C	Line 50	682000-Land & Buildings	(\$595,000)	21-23 funds for a shooting range on our WMA
		C&C	Line 50	683000-Other Capital Payments	(\$50,000)	
		C&C	Line 50	684000-Extra Repairs/Deferred Main	\$20,000	(\$625,000)
		Wild	Line 50	683000-Other Capital Payments	\$27,170	
		Wild	Line 50	684000-Extra Repairs/Deferred Main	(\$10,279)	
		Wild	Line 50	691000-Equipment Over \$5000	(\$333,000)	Less equipment than 21-23
		Wild	Line 50	692000-Motor Vehicles	\$190,000	(\$126,109) T pg 26 - trailer, grass drill, ATVs, etc
				GRANTS LINE		
	\$1,166,633	Fish	Line 60	712000-Grants, Benefits & Claims	(\$1,028,237)	
		Enf	Line 60	712000-Grants, Benefits & Claims	\$10,000	
		C&C	Line 60	712000-Grants, Benefits & Claims	\$2,300,000	T pg 24 - increase 1M in shooting range grant
		Wild	Line 60	712000-Grants, Benefits & Claims	(\$115,130)	
	\$1,383,088	Admin	Line 10	511000-Salaries-Permanent	(\$5,100,241)	
		Fish	Line 10	511000-Salaries-Permanent	\$1,042,148	
		Enf	Line 10	511000-Salaries-Permanent	\$1,539,548	
		C&C	Line 10	511000-Salaries-Permanent	\$1,061,042	
		Wild	Line 10	511000-Salaries-Permanent	\$2,848,915	
		ADJ per TM	Line 10	511000-Salaries-Permanent	(\$8,324)	
Private Land Habitat & Deer Depredation Ln	\$1,285,000	Wild	Line 70	Add back one-time	\$1,485,000	T pg 27
		Wild	Line 70	Add back one-time	\$500,000	
		Wild	Line 70	remove 700,000 from fisheries	(\$700,000)	
Missouri River Special Line	\$13,754	Enf	Line 73	511000-Salaries-Permanent	\$39,252	T pg 24
		Enf	Line 73	516000-Fringe Benefits	(\$25,998)	
		Enf	Line 73	582000-Rentals/Leases - Bldg/Land	\$500	
Lonetree Special Line	\$306,585	Wild	Line 77	511000-Salaries-Permanent	\$62,370	T pg 26
		Wild	Line 77	513000-Temporary Salaries	\$4,000	
		Wild	Line 77	516000-Fringe Benefits	\$8,605	
		Wild	Line 77	521000-Travel	\$13,597	
		Wild	Line 77	591000-Repairs	(\$50,000)	
		Wild	Line 77	623000-Professional Fees & Services	(\$7,487)	
		Wild	Line 77	684000-Extra Repairs/Deferred Main	(\$50,000)	
		Wild	Line 77	691000-Equipment over \$5000	\$127,000	
		Wild	Line 77	692000-Motor Vehicles	\$198,500	



Jamestown ANS Building/Bunkhouse



SECTION 4. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS - RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT.

Subject to the provisions of this section, there is appropriated from federal funds, the sum of \$27,150,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the game and fish department for the purpose of administering programs approved under the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The department is authorized ~~three~~ seven full-time equivalent positions for this purpose. The funding and positions authorized in this section are available only upon enactment passage of the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act and after corresponding federal funds have been appropriated to the state. To best serve the agriculture, energy, and wildlife interests of the state, the department shall regularly coordinate with and consider input from the federal environmental law impact review committee. In the expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section.

4.1-01-18. Federal environmental law impact review committee.

1. The federal environmental law impact review committee consists of:
 - a. The commissioner, who shall serve as the chairman;
 - b. The governor or the governor's designee;
 - c. The majority leader of the house of representatives, or the leader's designee;
 - d. The majority leader of the senate, or the leader's designee;
 - e. One member of the legislative assembly from the minority party, selected by the chairman of the legislative management;
 - f. One individual appointed by the North Dakota corn growers association;
 - g. One individual appointed by the North Dakota grain growers association;
 - h. One individual appointed by the North Dakota soybean growers association;
 - i. One individual appointed by the North Dakota stockmen's association;
 - j. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farm bureau;
 - k. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farmers union;
 - l. The chairman of the public service commission or the chairman's designee;
 - m. The director of the department of water resources or the director's designee;
 - n. The director of the game and fish department, or the director's designee;
 - o. The director of the department of transportation, or the director's designee;
 - p. The director of the department of environmental quality, or the director's designee;
 - q. One representative of an investor-owned utility company;
 - r. One representative from the North Dakota association of rural electric cooperatives; and
 - s. Two individuals from the energy community appointed by the commissioner.
2. The committee shall review federal environmental legislation and regulations detrimentally impacting or potentially detrimentally impacting the state's agricultural, energy, or oil production sectors. The committee shall confer with the attorney general with respect to participation in administrative or judicial processes pertaining to the legislation or regulations.
3.
 - a. Any member of the legislative assembly serving on the committee is entitled to compensation at the rate provided for attendance at interim committee meetings and reimbursement for expenses, as provided by law for state officers, if the member is attending meetings of the committee or performing duties directed by the committee.
 - b. The compensation and reimbursement of expenses, as provided for in this subsection, are payable by the legislative council.

4.1-01-19. Environmental impact - Cost of participation.

1. Any expenses incurred by the commissioner or by the federal environmental law impact review committee in meeting the requirements of section 4.1-01-18 must be paid by the commissioner from the federal environmental law impact review fund.
2. If the attorney general elects to participate in an administrative or judicial process pertaining to federal environmental legislation or regulations, which detrimentally impact or potentially detrimentally impact the state's agricultural, energy, or oil production sectors, any expenses incurred by the attorney general in the participation must be paid by the commissioner from the federal environmental law impact review fund.
3. For purposes of this section, "expenses" include administrative costs, consulting fees, research costs, expert witness fees, attorney fees, and travel costs.

4.1-01-20. Gifts - Grants - Donations.

The commissioner may accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes set forth in section 4.1-01-19, provided the commissioner posts the amount and source of any gifts, grants, and donations on the department's website. Any moneys received in accordance with this section must be deposited in the federal environmental law impact review fund.



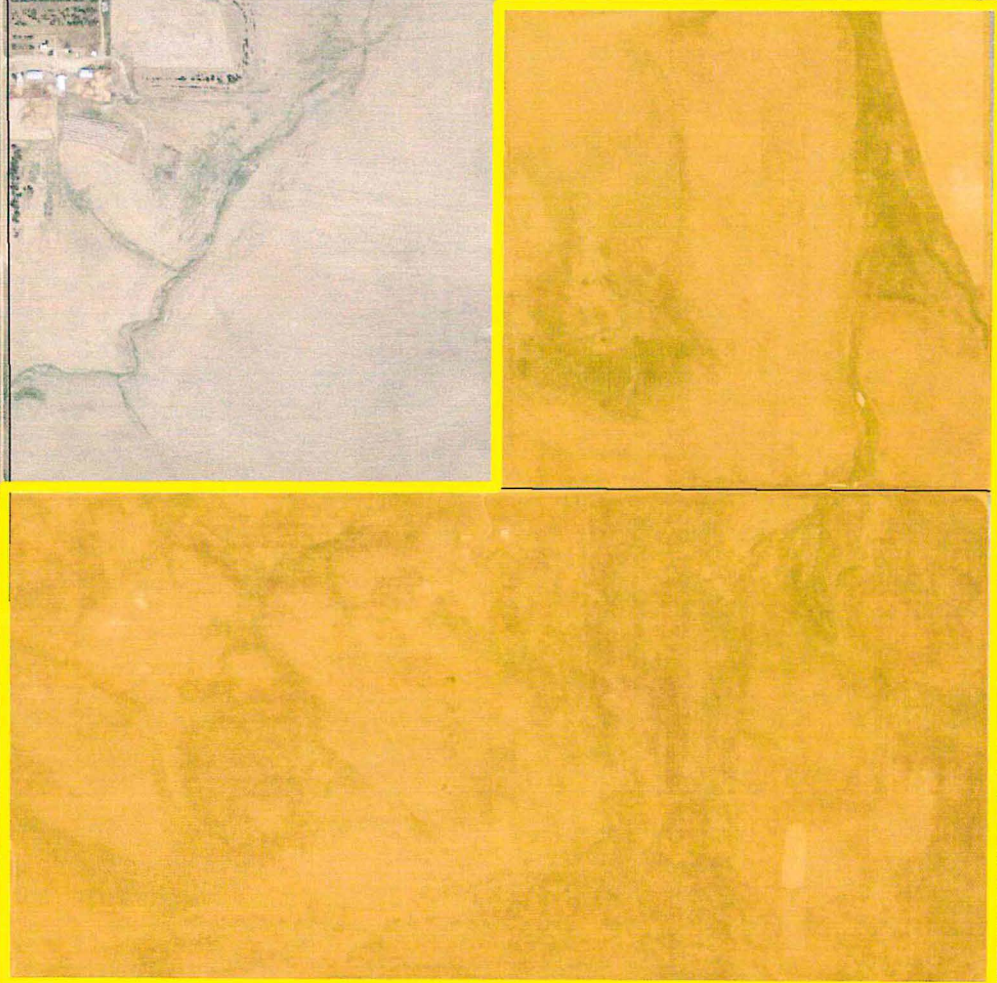
SB 2017
2023-25 Appropriation Request
North Dakota Game and Fish Department Potential Land Acquisitions
As of January 3, 2023

The Department has been contacted by individuals with the following tracts. They are interested in selling these tracts to the Department to be maintained as Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Some opportunities may arise throughout the biennium that could get higher priority. The following list is in no particular order.

- 1) Adams County – 480 acres – Land is currently in CRP.
- 2) Burleigh County – 152 acres – Property is entirely wetlands.
- 3) Dunn County – 950 acres – Mostly Pastureland near Killdeer WMA.
- 4) Hettinger County – 80 acres – Land is currently in CRP.
- 5) Lamoure County – 160 acres – Primarily wetlands.
- 6) McLean County – 30 acres – Addition to the Coal Lake WMA for improved access.
- 7) McLean County – 160 acres – Mostly pastureland with native woodlands.
- 8) Pembina County – 360 – Dunklee WMA addition. Enrolled in NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection, so no agricultural practices are allowed.
- 9) Walsh County – 140 acre – Located along Red River and enrolled in NRCS Wetland Reserve Program, so no agricultural practices are allowed.
- 10) Williams County – 348 acres – Trenton WMA Addition (floodplain and access to WMA).

A map for each potential acquisition is included.

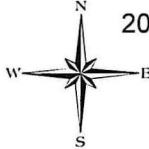
Adams County
480 acres



Map Features

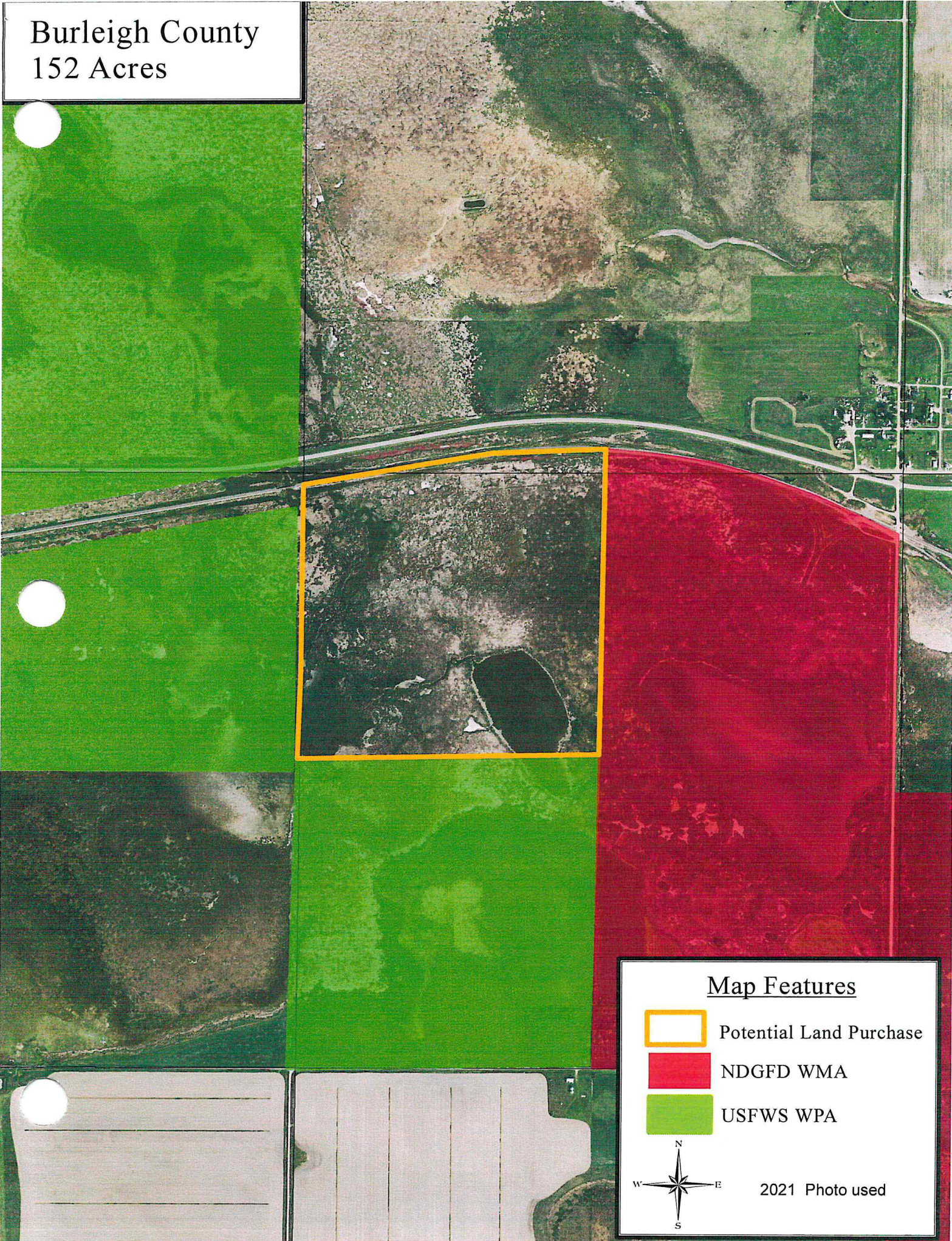
 Offer

 NDGD PLOTS




 2012 Photo used.

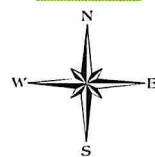
Anderson 2014

Burleigh County
152 Acres



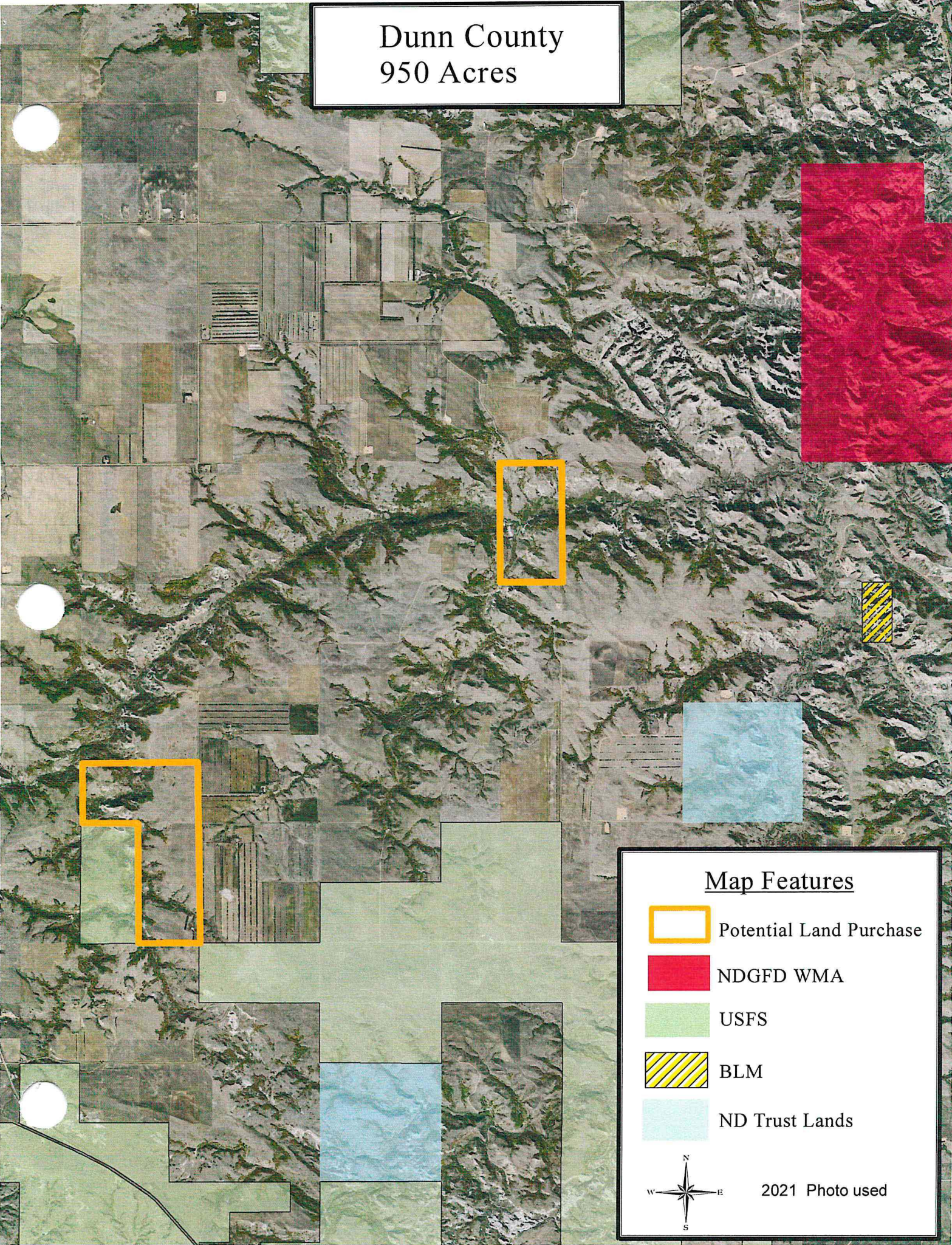
Map Features

-  Potential Land Purchase
-  NDGFD WMA
-  USFWS WPA








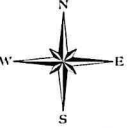
2021 Photo used

Dunn County 950 Acres



Map Features

-  Potential Land Purchase
-  NDGFD WMA
-  USFS
-  BLM
-  ND Trust Lands

 2021 Photo used

Hettinger County
80 acres



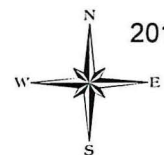
Map Features



Offer



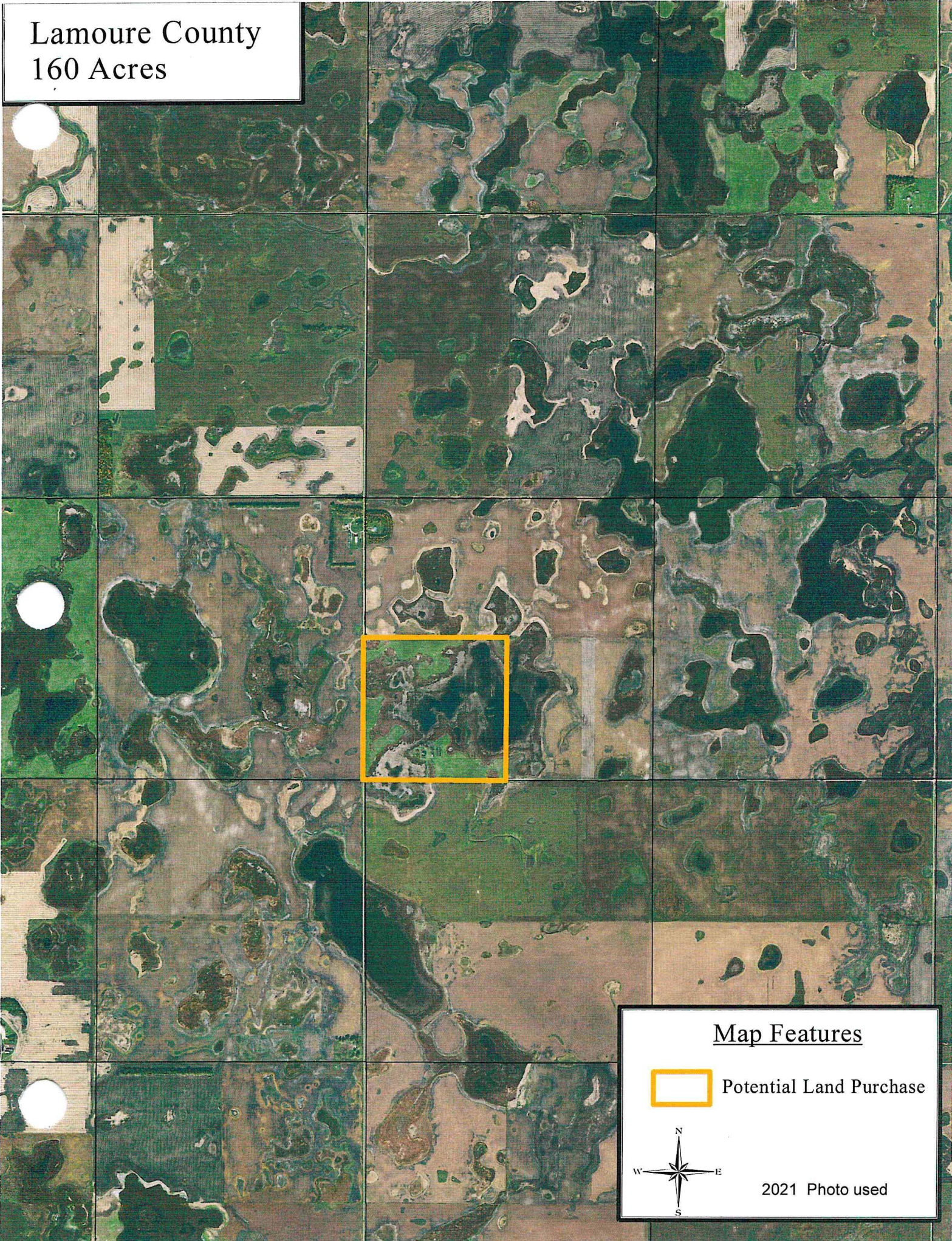
NDGD PLOTS



2012 Photo used.

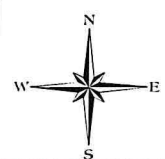
Anderson 2014

Lamoure County
160 Acres



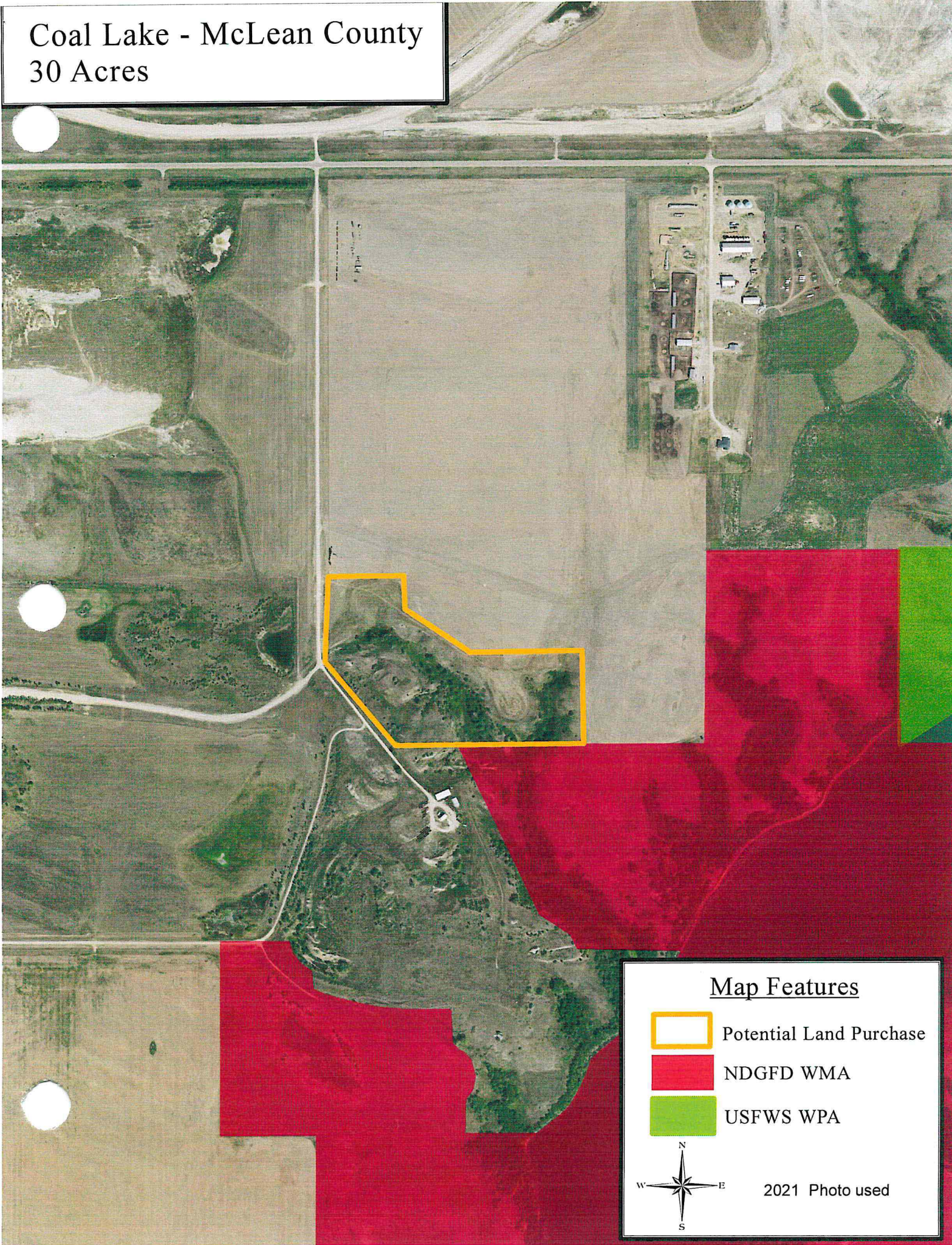
Map Features

 Potential Land Purchase






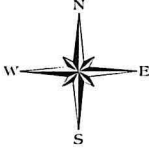
2021 Photo used

Coal Lake - McLean County 30 Acres



Map Features

-  Potential Land Purchase
-  NDGFD WMA
-  USFWS WPA

 2021 Photo used

McLean County Potential Acquisition Approximately 160 acres

Butte, ND

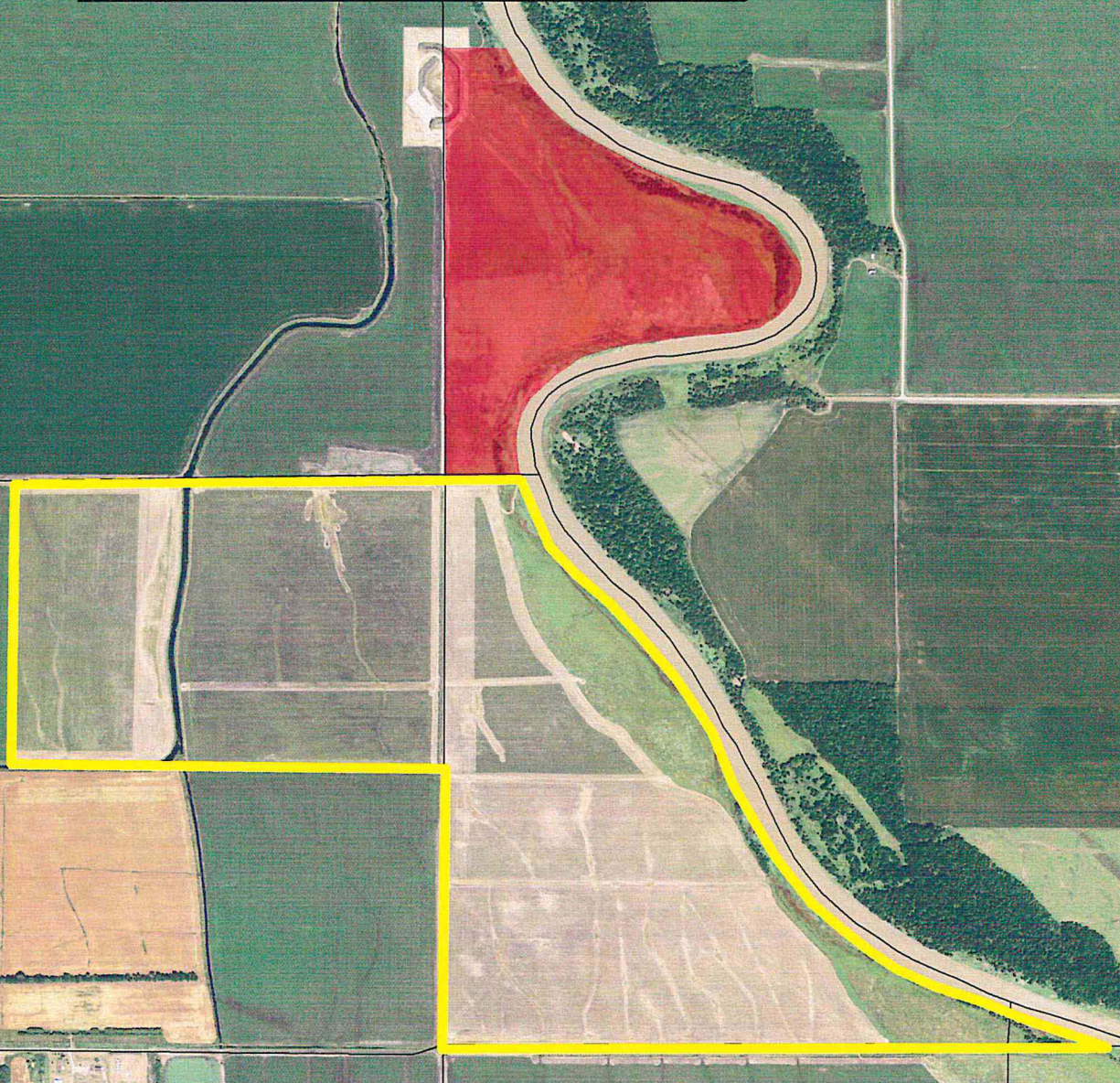
Map Features

-  Potential Acq.
-  USFWS WPA



2014 Photo used.


Duncklee WMA Addition 360 acres



Map Features

 Offer

 NDGFD WMA

 2012 Photo used.

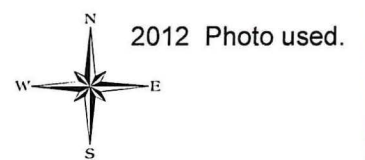
Walsh County
140 acre

Red River

Map Features

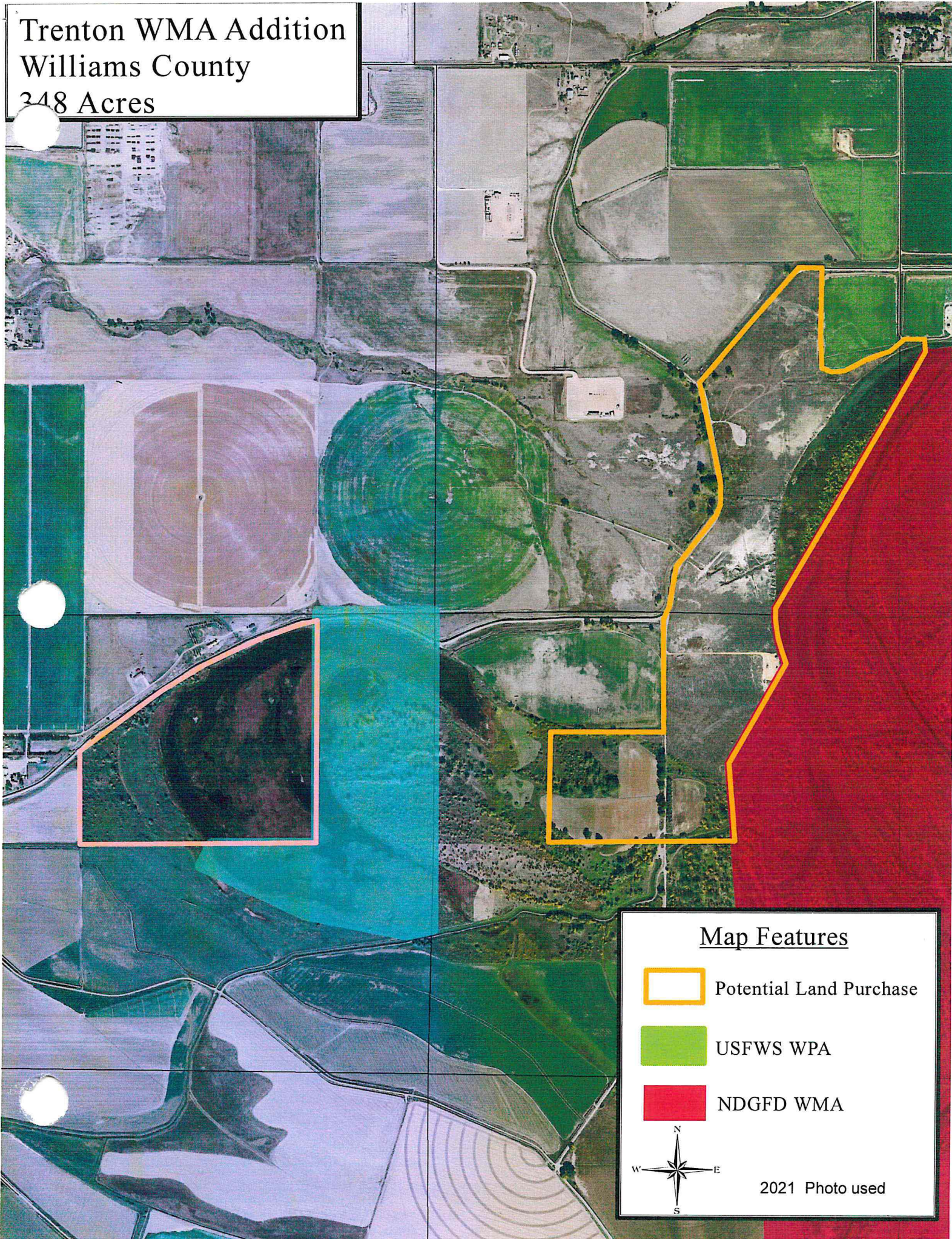
 Offer

 NDGD PLOTS




Anderson 2014

Trenton WMA Addition
Williams County
348 Acres

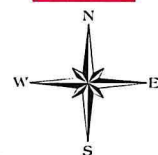


Map Features

 Potential Land Purchase

 USFWS WPA

 NDGFD WMA



2021 Photo used

#27273

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Senate Version				House Version				House Changes to Senate Version Increase (Decrease) - Senate Version			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes												
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116			\$295,116	\$295,116				\$0
Salary increase			1,937,848	1,937,848			2,515,070	2,515,070			577,222	577,222
Health insurance increase			909,396	909,396			888,701	888,701			(20,695)	(20,695)
Retirement contribution increase				0				0				0
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748	1.00		238,748	238,748				0
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position				0				0				0
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	1.00		306,778	306,778	0.00		0	0	(1.00)		(306,778)	(306,778)
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974	1.00		4,237,102	4,237,102	(2.00)		(420,872)	(420,872)
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589				0
Removes salary funding for funding pool				0			(3,537,132)	(3,537,132)			(3,537,132)	(3,537,132)
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393			2,966,393	2,966,393				0
Information Technology Department shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908			80,908	80,908				0
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192			1,157,192	1,157,192				0
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778			2,777,778	2,777,778				0
Total ongoing funding changes	6.00	\$0	\$16,526,720	\$16,526,720	3.00	\$0	\$12,818,465	\$12,818,465	(3.00)	\$0	(\$3,708,255)	(\$3,708,255)
One-Time Funding Items												
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250			\$3,250	\$3,250				\$0
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position				0				0				0
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			46,990	46,990			0	0			(46,990)	(46,990)
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000			850,000	850,000				0
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000			550,000	550,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000			1,000,000	1,000,000				0
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000			350,000	350,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000			380,000	380,000				0
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600			3,200	3,200			(32,400)	(32,400)
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250			208,250	208,250				0
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,424,090	\$3,424,090	0.00	\$0	\$3,344,700	\$3,344,700	0.00	\$0	(\$79,390)	(\$79,390)
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	6.00	\$0	\$19,950,810	\$19,950,810	3.00	\$0	\$16,163,165	\$16,163,165	(3.00)	\$0	(\$3,787,645)	(\$3,787,645)
2023-25 Total Funding	170.00	\$0	\$109,532,444	\$109,532,444	167.00	\$0	\$105,744,799	\$105,744,799	(3.00)	\$0	(\$3,787,645)	(\$3,787,645)
<i>Federal funds included in other funds</i>			<i>\$52,124,743</i>				<i>\$50,565,479</i>				<i>(\$1,559,264)</i>	

<i>Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level</i>	3.7%	18.4%	18.4%	1.8%	14.3%	14.3%
<i>Total changes as a percentage of base level</i>	3.7%	22.3%	22.3%	1.8%	18.0%	18.0%

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

	<u>Senate Version</u>	<u>House Version</u>
Grants, gifts, and donations	Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.	Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.
Contingent authority and full-time equivalent positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act	Section 4 appropriates \$27,150,000 and authorizes 7 FTE positions to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.	Section 4 appropriates \$27,150,000 and authorizes 3 FTE positions to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon enactment of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and after corresponding federal funds have been appropriated to the state. Any expenditures of funds under this section for conservation or research shall be coordinated with and input considered from the federal environmental law impact review committee.
Line item transfer authority	Section 5 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.	Section 5 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Senate Version				House Version				H Inc
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	0.00
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes									
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116			\$295,116	\$295,116	
Salary increase			1,937,848	1,937,848			2,515,070	2,515,070	
Health insurance increase			909,396	909,396			888,701	888,701	
Retirement contribution increase				0				0	
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748	1.00		238,748	238,748	
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position				0				0	
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	1.00		306,778	306,778	0.00		0	0	(1.00)
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974	1.00		237,102	237,102	(2.00)
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589	
Removes salary funding for funding pool				0			(3,537,132)	(3,537,132)	
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393			2,966,393	2,966,393	
Information Technology Department shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908			80,908	80,908	
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192			1,157,192	1,157,192	
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778			2,777,778	2,777,778	
Adds funding for private land open to sportsmen program				0			4,000,000	4,000,000	
Total ongoing funding changes	6.00	\$0	\$16,526,720	\$16,526,720	3.00	\$0	\$12,818,465	\$12,818,465	(3.00)
One-Time Funding Items									
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250			\$3,250	\$3,250	
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position				0				0	
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			46,990	46,990			0	0	
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000			850,000	850,000	
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000			550,000	550,000	
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000			1,000,000	1,000,000	
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000			350,000	350,000	
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000			380,000	380,000	
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600			3,200	3,200	
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250			208,250	208,250	
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,424,090	\$3,424,090	0.00	\$0	\$3,344,700	\$3,344,700	0.00
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	6.00	\$0	\$19,950,810	\$19,950,810	3.00	\$0	\$16,163,165	\$16,163,165	(3.00)
2023-25 Total Funding	170.00	\$0	\$109,532,444	\$109,532,444	167.00	\$0	\$105,744,799	\$105,744,799	(3.00)

\$52,124,743

\$50,565,479

(\$1,559,264)

3.7%	18.4%	18.4%	1.8%	14.3%	14.3%
3.7%	22.3%	22.3%	1.8%	18.0%	18.0%

udget No. 720

Senate Version

House Version

Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Section 4 appropriates \$27,150,000 and authorizes 7 FTE positions to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Section 4 appropriates \$27,150,000 and authorizes 3 FTE positions to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon enactment of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and after corresponding federal funds have been appropriated to the state. Any expenditures of funds under this section for conservation or research shall be coordinated with and input considered from the federal environmental law impact review committee.

Section 5 identifies that the \$2,777,778 included in the land habitat and deer depredation line item can be used for mid-term conservation agreements entered with private landowners for terms up to 15 years.

Section 5 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Section 6 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

23.0271.02002
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
the House Appropriations - Government
Operations Division Committee

Fiscal No. 1

April 6, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2017

Page 1, remove lines 13 through 24

Page 2, replace lines 1 through 3 with:

"Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$2,730,370	\$36,471,962
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,436,582	17,713,364
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,755,891	8,530,661
Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	7,486,424	25,482,021
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	16,342	313,341
Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	6,853	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	334,235	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,229,835</u>	<u>2,738,844</u>
Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$16,163,165	\$105,744,799
Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	3.00	167.00"

Page 2, replace lines 18 and 19 with:

"Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions		<u>0</u>	<u>9,700</u>
Total special funds		\$2,786,500	\$3,344,700"

Page 3, line 2, replace "seven" with "three"

Page 3, line 4, replace "passage" with "enactment"

Page 3, line 4, after the first "Act" insert "and after corresponding federal funds have been made available to the state. The department shall regularly coordinate with and consider input from the federal environmental law impact review committee in the expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section. If the contingent funding in this section becomes effective, the department may request the office of management and budget to transfer up to \$641,480 from the new and vacant FTE funding pool for salaries and wages of the full-time equivalent positions identified in this section"

Page 3, after line 4, insert:

"SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish department may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 1 of this Act for midterm conservation agreements with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum of fifteen years."

Re-number accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - House Action

	Base Budget	Senate Version	House Changes	House Version
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$38,428,184	(\$1,956,222)	\$36,471,962
Operating expenses	16,276,782	17,820,498	(107,134)	17,713,364
Capital assets	6,774,770	8,548,661	(18,000)	8,530,661
Grants - Game and fish	8,923,343	10,089,976		10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	26,922,303	(1,440,282)	25,482,021
Noxious weed control	725,000	725,000		725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	317,587	(4,246)	313,341
Grants - Gifts - Donations	670,133	684,957	(7,971)	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	100,000		100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	2,185,614	(32,970)	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	500,000		500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,509,009	2,959,664	(220,820)	2,738,844
Contingent Funding		27,150,000		27,150,000
Total all funds	\$89,581,634	\$136,682,444	(\$3,787,645)	\$132,894,799
Less estimated income	89,581,634	136,682,444	(3,787,645)	132,894,799
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	164.00	177.00	(7.00)	170.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of House Changes

	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases¹	Removes Funding for Multiple FTE Positions²	Remove Salary Funding for Funding Pool³	Removes Funding for One-Time Items⁴	Total House Changes
Salaries and wages	\$520,644	(\$228,634)	(\$2,248,232)		(\$1,956,222)
Operating expenses		(78,144)		(\$28,990)	(107,134)
Capital assets				(18,000)	(18,000)
Grants - Game and fish					
Land habitat and deer depredation	9,364	(420,872)	(996,374)	(32,400)	(1,440,282)
Noxious weed control			(5,928)		(4,246)
Missouri River enforcement	1,682		(11,059)		(7,971)
Grants - Gifts - Donations	3,088				
Nongame wildlife conservation					
Lonetree reservoir	12,800		(45,770)		(32,970)
Wildlife services					
Shooting sports grant program					
Aquatic nuisance species program	8,949		(229,769)		(220,820)
Contingent Funding					
Total all funds	\$556,527	(\$727,650)	(\$3,537,132)	(\$79,390)	(\$3,787,645)
Less estimated income	556,527	(727,650)	(3,537,132)	(79,390)	(3,787,645)
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	(7.00)	0.00	0.00	(7.00)

¹ Salaries and wages funding is adjusted to provide for the 2023-25 biennium salary increases of 6 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and for adjustments to health insurance premium rates as follows:

	Other Funds
Salary increase	\$577,222
Health insurance adjustment	(20,695)
Total	\$556,527

The Senate provided salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024.

² Funding of \$727,650 from other funds is removed for the following 7 FTE positions:

- 1 FTE warden investigator - Total funding of \$306,778, of which \$228,634 is for salaries and wages and \$78,144 is for related operating expenses;
- 2 FTE biologist I - Total funding of \$420,872, of which \$395,292 is for salaries and wages and \$25,580 is for related operating expenses; and
- 4 FTE contingent positions related to federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

³ Funding for new FTE positions and estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed as shown below. These amounts are available to the agency if needed by submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget for a transfer from the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

	<u>Other Funds</u>
New FTE positions	(\$1,295,398)
Vacant FTE positions	<u>(2,241,734)</u>
Total	(\$3,537,132)

⁴ One-time funding of \$79,390 from other funds is removed for the following:

	<u>Other Funds</u>
Uniforms and equipment for warden investigator position	\$46,990
Equipment for biologist I positions	<u>32,400</u>
Total	\$79,390

This amendment also:

- Changes provisions of the contingent appropriation section for the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act funding to provide that the department coordinate with and consider input from the Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee for any expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section.
- Adds a section relating to funding for midterm conservation agreements and limiting the agreements with private landowners to a term of up to 15 years.

23.0271.02002
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
the House Appropriations - Government
Operations Division Committee
April 6, 2023

Fiscal No. 1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2017

Page 1, remove lines 13 through 24

Page 2, replace lines 1 through 3 with:

"Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$2,730,370	\$36,471,962
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,436,582	17,713,364
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,755,891	8,530,661
Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	7,486,424	25,482,021
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	16,342	313,341
Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	6,853	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	334,235	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,229,835</u>	<u>2,738,844</u>
Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$16,163,165	\$105,744,799
Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	3.00	167.00"

Page 2, replace lines 18 and 19 with:

"Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions		<u>0</u>	<u>9,700</u>
Total special funds		\$2,786,500	\$3,344,700"

Page 3, line 2, replace "seven" with "three"

Page 3, line 4, replace "passage" with "enactment"

Page 3, line 4, after the first "Act" insert "and after corresponding federal funds have been made available to the state. The department shall regularly coordinate with and consider input from the federal environmental law impact review committee in the expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section. If the contingent funding in this section becomes effective, the department may request the office of management and budget to transfer up to \$641,480 from the new and vacant FTE funding pool for salaries and wages of the full-time equivalent positions identified in this section"

Page 3, after line 4, insert:

"SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish department may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 1 of this Act for midterm conservation agreements with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum of fifteen years."

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

Senate Bill No. 2017 - Game and Fish Department - House Action

	Base Budget	Senate Version	House Changes	House Version
Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$38,428,184	(\$1,956,222)	\$36,471,962
Operating expenses	16,276,782	17,820,498	(107,134)	17,713,364
Capital assets	6,774,770	8,548,661	(18,000)	8,530,661
Grants - Game and fish	8,923,343	10,089,976		10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	26,922,303	(1,440,282)	25,482,021
Noxious weed control	725,000	725,000		725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	317,587	(4,246)	313,341
Grants - Gifts - Donations	670,133	684,957	(7,971)	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	100,000		100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	2,185,614	(32,970)	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	500,000		500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	1,509,009	2,959,664	(220,820)	2,738,844
Contingent Funding		27,150,000		27,150,000
Total all funds	\$89,581,634	\$136,682,444	(\$3,787,645)	\$132,894,799
Less estimated income	89,581,634	136,682,444	(3,787,645)	132,894,799
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	164.00	177.00	(7.00)	170.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of House Changes

	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ¹	Removes Funding for Multiple FTE Positions ²	Remove Salary Funding for Funding Pool ¹	Removes Funding for One-Time Items ⁴	Total House Changes
Salaries and wages	\$520,644	(\$228,634)	(\$2,248,232)		(\$1,956,222)
Operating expenses		(78,144)		(\$28,990)	(107,134)
Capital assets				(18,000)	(18,000)
Grants - Game and fish					
Land habitat and deer depredation	9,364	(420,872)	(996,374)	(32,400)	(1,440,282)
Noxious weed control					
Missouri River enforcement	1,682		(5,928)		(4,246)
Grants - Gifts - Donations	3,088		(11,059)		(7,971)
Nongame wildlife conservation					
Lonetree reservoir	12,800		(45,770)		(32,970)
Wildlife services					
Shooting sports grant program					
Aquatic nuisance species program	8,949		(229,769)		(220,820)
Contingent Funding					
Total all funds	\$556,527	(\$727,650)	(\$3,537,132)	(\$79,390)	(\$3,787,645)
Less estimated income	556,527	(727,650)	(3,537,132)	(79,390)	(3,787,645)
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	(7.00)	0.00	0.00	(7.00)

¹ Salaries and wages funding is adjusted to provide for the 2023-25 biennium salary increases of 6 percent on July 1, 2023, and 4 percent on July 1, 2024, and for adjustments to health insurance premium rates as follows:

	Other Funds
Salary increase	\$577,222
Health insurance adjustment	(20,695)
Total	\$556,527

The Senate provided salary adjustments of 4 percent on July 1, 2023, and July 1, 2024.

² Funding of \$727,650 from other funds is removed for the following 7 FTE positions:

- 1 FTE warden investigator - Total funding of \$306,778, of which \$228,634 is for salaries and wages and \$78,144 is for related operating expenses;
- 2 FTE biologist I - Total funding of \$420,872, of which \$395,292 is for salaries and wages and \$25,580 is for related operating expenses; and
- 4 FTE contingent positions related to federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

³ Funding for new FTE positions and estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed as shown below. These amounts are available to the agency if needed by submitting a request to the Office of Management and Budget for a transfer from the new and vacant FTE funding pool.

	<u>Other Funds</u>
New FTE positions	(\$1,295,398)
Vacant FTE positions	<u>(2,241,734)</u>
Total	(\$3,537,132)

⁴ One-time funding of \$79,390 from other funds is removed for the following:

	<u>Other Funds</u>
Uniforms and equipment for warden investigator position	\$46,990
Equipment for biologist I positions	<u>32,400</u>
Total	\$79,390

This amendment also:

- Changes provisions of the contingent appropriation section for the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act funding to provide that the department coordinate with and consider input from the Federal Environmental Law Impact Review Committee for any expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section.
- Adds a section relating to funding for midterm conservation agreements and limiting the agreements with private landowners to a term of up to 15 years.

Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Senate Version				House Version				House Changes to Senate Version Increase (Decrease) - Senate Version			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes												
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116			\$295,116	\$295,116				\$0
Salary increase			1,937,848	1,937,848			2,515,070	2,515,070			577,222	577,222
Health insurance increase			909,396	909,396			888,701	888,701			(20,695)	(20,695)
Retirement contribution increase				0				0				0
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748	1.00		238,748	238,748				0
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position				0				0				0
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	1.00		306,778	306,778	0.00		0	0	(1.00)		(306,778)	(306,778)
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974	1.00		237,102	237,102	(2.00)		(4,420,872)	(4,420,872)
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589				0
Removes salary funding for funding pool				0			(3,537,132)	(3,537,132)			(3,537,132)	(3,537,132)
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393			2,966,393	2,966,393				0
Information Technology Department shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908			80,908	80,908				0
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192			1,157,192	1,157,192				0
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778			2,777,778	2,777,778				0
Adds funding for private land open to sportsmen program				0			4,000,000	4,000,000			4,000,000	4,000,000
Total ongoing funding changes	6.00	\$0	\$16,526,720	\$16,526,720	3.00	\$0	\$12,818,465	\$12,818,465	(3.00)	\$0	(\$3,708,255)	(\$3,708,255)
One-Time Funding Items												
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250			\$3,250	\$3,250				\$0
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position				0				0				0
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			46,990	46,990			0	0			(46,990)	(46,990)
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000			850,000	850,000				0
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000			550,000	550,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000			1,000,000	1,000,000				0
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000			350,000	350,000				0
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000			380,000	380,000				0
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600			3,200	3,200			(32,400)	(32,400)
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250			208,250	208,250				0
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,424,090	\$3,424,090	0.00	\$0	\$3,344,700	\$3,344,700	0.00	\$0	(\$79,390)	(\$79,390)
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	6.00	\$0	\$19,950,810	\$19,950,810	3.00	\$0	\$16,163,165	\$16,163,165	(3.00)	\$0	(\$3,787,645)	(\$3,787,645)
2023-25 Total Funding	170.00	\$0	\$109,532,444	\$109,532,444	167.00	\$0	\$105,744,799	\$105,744,799	(3.00)	\$0	(\$3,787,645)	(\$3,787,645)

Brandenburg, Michael D.

From: Williams, Jeb R. <jwilliam@nd.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 11:33 PM
To: Meyer, Scott; Brandenburg, Michael D.
Subject: Grassland agreement language

For your consideration...Please see the below proposed language which would allow for mid-term agreements up to 30 years but with a buy out provision at 15 years. The House had some concerns of 30 year agreements but if a buy out clause was included at 15 years as an option that may help with that concern. We can discuss more tomorrow morning. Thank you. Jeb

- 11. **SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS.** The game and fish department
- 12. may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item
- 13. in section 1 of this Act for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation midterm conservation
- 14. agreements with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a
- 15. maximum of thirty years. The department shall provide a buy back provision after the fifteenth year
- 16. of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a portion of acreage from the
- 17. lease.

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4.1-01-18. Federal environmental law impact review committee.

1. The federal environmental law impact review committee consists of:
 - a. The commissioner, who shall serve as the chairman;
 - b. The governor or the governor's designee;
 - c. The majority leader of the house of representatives, or the leader's designee;
 - d. The majority leader of the senate, or the leader's designee;
 - e. One member of the legislative assembly from the minority party, selected by the chairman of the legislative management;
 - f. One individual appointed by the North Dakota corn growers association;
 - g. One individual appointed by the North Dakota grain growers association;
 - h. One individual appointed by the North Dakota soybean growers association;
 - i. One individual appointed by the North Dakota stockmen's association;
 - j. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farm bureau;
 - k. One individual appointed by the North Dakota farmers union;
 - l. The chairman of the public service commission or the chairman's designee;
 - m. The director of the department of water resources or the director's designee;
 - n. The director of the game and fish department, or the director's designee;
 - o. The director of the department of transportation, or the director's designee;
 - p. The director of the department of environmental quality, or the director's designee;
 - q. One representative of an investor-owned utility company;
 - r. One representative from the North Dakota association of rural electric cooperatives; and
 - s. Two individuals from the energy community appointed by the commissioner.
2. The committee shall review federal environmental legislation and regulations detrimentally impacting or potentially detrimentally impacting the state's agricultural, energy, or oil production sectors. The committee shall confer with the attorney general with respect to participation in administrative or judicial processes pertaining to the legislation or regulations.
3.
 - a. Any member of the legislative assembly serving on the committee is entitled to compensation at the rate provided for attendance at interim committee meetings and reimbursement for expenses, as provided by law for state officers, if the member is attending meetings of the committee or performing duties directed by the committee.
 - b. The compensation and reimbursement of expenses, as provided for in this subsection, are payable by the legislative council.

4.1-01-19. Environmental impact - Cost of participation.

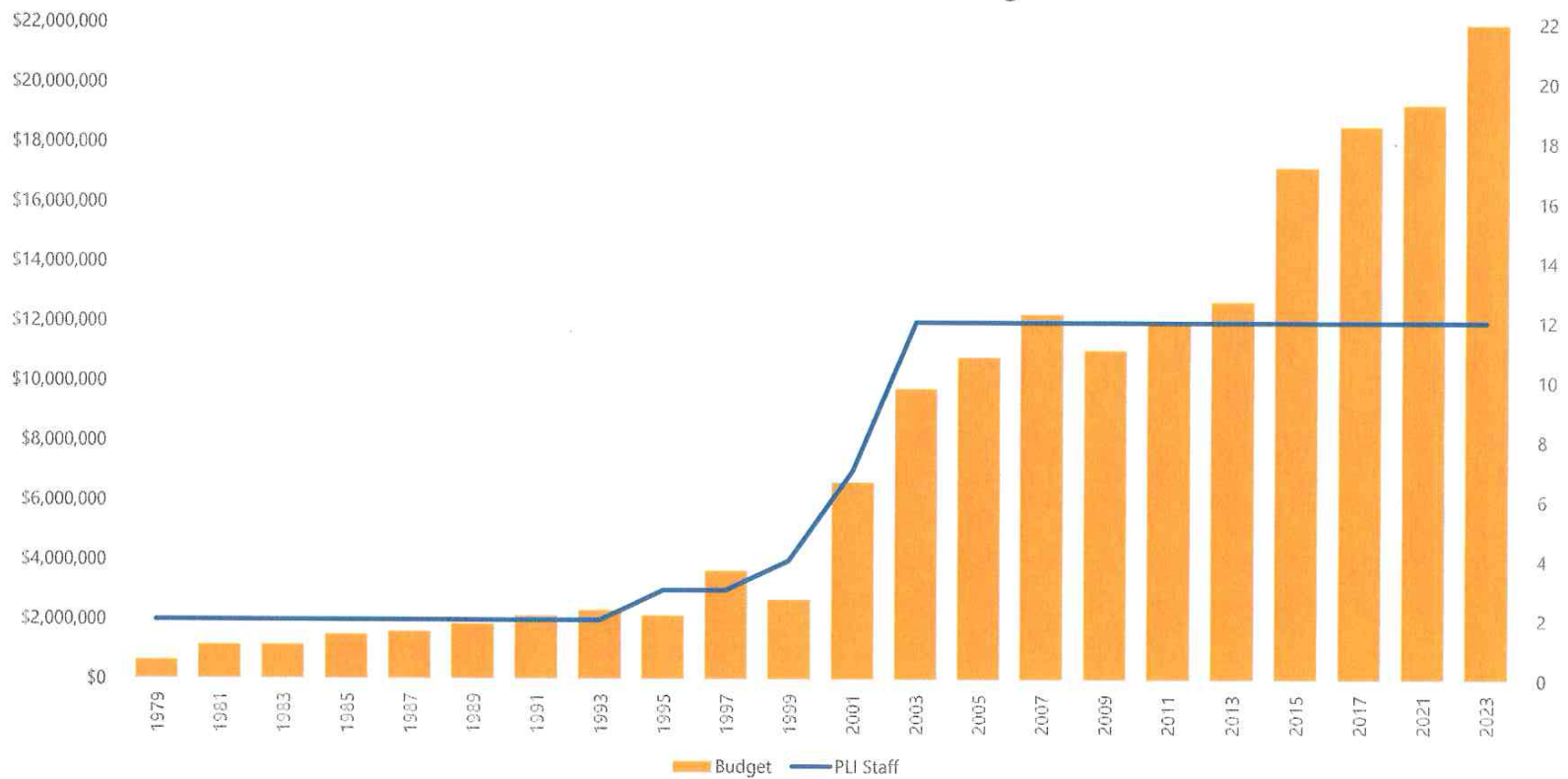
1. Any expenses incurred by the commissioner or by the federal environmental law impact review committee in meeting the requirements of section 4.1-01-18 must be paid by the commissioner from the federal environmental law impact review fund.
2. If the attorney general elects to participate in an administrative or judicial process pertaining to federal environmental legislation or regulations, which detrimentally impact or potentially detrimentally impact the state's agricultural, energy, or oil production sectors, any expenses incurred by the attorney general in the participation must be paid by the commissioner from the federal environmental law impact review fund.
3. For purposes of this section, "expenses" include administrative costs, consulting fees, research costs, expert witness fees, attorney fees, and travel costs.

4.1-01-20. Gifts - Grants - Donations.

The commissioner may accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes set forth in section 4.1-01-19, provided the commissioner posts the amount and source of any gifts, grants, and donations on the department's website. Any moneys received in accordance with this section must be deposited in the federal environmental law impact review fund.

HOW CAN WE DELIVER THE PROGRAMS?

North Dakota Game and Fish Private Lands Program



HOW CAN WE DELIVER THE PROGRAMS?



Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Senate Bill No. 2017
Base Level Funding Changes

	Senate Version				House Version				Conference Committee Version			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2023-25 Biennium Base Level	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634	164.00	\$0	\$89,581,634	\$89,581,634
2023-25 Ongoing Funding Changes												
Cost to continue salaries			\$295,116	\$295,116			\$295,116	\$295,116			\$295,116	\$295,116
Salary increase			1,937,848	1,937,848			2,515,070	2,515,070			2,556,898	2,556,898
Health insurance increase			909,396	909,396			888,701	888,701			888,946	888,946
Retirement contribution increase			0	0			0	0			0	0
Adds 1 FTE fisheries biologist II position	1.00		238,748	238,748	1.00		238,748	238,748	1.00		238,748	238,748
Adds 1 FTE account budget specialist III position			0	0			0	0			0	0
Adds 2 FTE enforcement warden investigator positions	1.00		306,778	306,778	0.00		0	0	1.00		306,778	306,778
Adds 3 FTE positions for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands	3.00		4,657,974	4,657,974	1.00		237,102	237,102	3.00		559,151	559,151
Adds 1 FTE position for aquatic nuisance species increase	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589	1.00		1,198,589	1,198,589
Removes salary funding for funding pool			0	0			(3,537,132)	(3,537,132)			(4,468,317)	(4,468,317)
Adds funding in various line items			2,966,393	2,966,393			2,966,393	2,966,393			2,966,393	2,966,393
Information Technology Department shared software and service rate changes			80,908	80,908			80,908	80,908			80,908	80,908
Adds funding for motor pool cost increase			1,157,192	1,157,192			1,157,192	1,157,192			1,157,192	1,157,192
Adds funding for midterm conservation agreements			2,777,778	2,777,778			2,777,778	2,777,778			2,777,778	2,777,778
Adds funding for private land open to sportsmen program			0	0			4,000,000	4,000,000			5,000,000	5,000,000
Total ongoing funding changes	6.00	\$0	\$16,526,720	\$16,526,720	3.00	\$0	\$12,818,465	\$12,818,465	6.00	\$0	\$13,558,180	\$13,558,180
One-Time Funding Items												
Adds one-time funding for food, clothing, and information technology equipment for fisheries biologist II position			\$3,250	\$3,250			\$3,250	\$3,250			\$3,250	\$3,250
Adds one-time funding for equipment for account budget specialist III position			0	0			0	0			0	0
Adds one-time funding for uniform and equipment for warden investigator positions			46,990	46,990			0	0			46,990	46,990
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility			850,000	850,000			850,000	850,000			850,000	850,000
Adds one-time funding for in-car video system and body cameras			550,000	550,000			550,000	550,000			550,000	550,000
Adds one-time funding for fisheries pond liners			1,000,000	1,000,000			1,000,000	1,000,000			1,000,000	1,000,000
Adds one-time funding for Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements			350,000	350,000			350,000	350,000			350,000	350,000
Adds one-time funding for fisheries dam repairs			380,000	380,000			380,000	380,000			380,000	380,000
Adds one-time funding for additional emphasis on wildlife habitat and access on private lands			35,600	35,600			3,200	3,200			35,600	35,600
Adds one-time funding for aquatic nuisance species increase			208,250	208,250			208,250	208,250			208,250	208,250
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,424,090	\$3,424,090	0.00	\$0	\$3,344,700	\$3,344,700	0.00	\$0	\$3,424,090	\$3,424,090
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	6.00	\$0	\$19,950,810	\$19,950,810	3.00	\$0	\$16,163,165	\$16,163,165	6.00	\$0	\$16,982,270	\$16,982,270
2023-25 Total Funding	170.00	\$0	\$109,532,444	\$109,532,444	167.00	\$0	\$105,744,799	\$105,744,799	170.00	\$0	\$106,563,904	\$106,563,904

Federal funds included in other funds

\$52,124,743

\$50,565,479

\$50,760,732

Total ongoing changes as a percentage of base level

3.7%

18.4%

18.4%

1.8%

14.3%

14.3%

3.7%

15.1%

15.1%

Total changes as a percentage of base level

3.7%

22.3%

22.3%

1.8%

18.0%

18.0%

3.7%

19.0%

19.0%

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

Senate Version

House Version

Conference Committee Version

Grants, gifts, and donations

Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Section 3 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Contingent authority and full-time equivalent positions - Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Section 4 appropriates \$27,150,000 and authorizes 7 FTE positions to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Section 4 appropriates \$27,150,000 and authorizes 3 FTE positions to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon enactment of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and after corresponding federal funds have been appropriated to the state. Any expenditures of funds under this section for conservation or research shall be coordinated with and input considered from the federal environmental law impact review committee.

Section 4 appropriates \$27,150,000 and authorizes 5 FTE positions to implement the federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act during the 2023-25 biennium, contingent upon enactment of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and after corresponding federal funds have been appropriated to the state. Any expenditures of funds under this section for conservation or research shall be coordinated with and input considered from the federal environmental law impact review committee.

Mid-term conservation agreements

Section 5 identifies that the \$2,777,778 included in the land habitat and deer depredation line item can be used for mid-term conservation agreements entered with private landowners for terms up to 15 years.

Section 5 identifies that the \$2,777,778 included in the land habitat and deer depredation line item can be used for mid-term conservation agreements entered with private landowners for a maximum of 30 years with buyout options at 15, 20, and 25 years.

Line item transfer authority

Section 5 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Section 6 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

Section 6 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2023-25 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.

23.0271.02004
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Meyer
April 20, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2017

That the House recede from its amendments as printed on pages 1569-1571 on the Senate Journal and pages 1773-1775 of the House Journal and that Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2017 be amended as follows:

Page 1, remove lines 13 through 24

Page 2, replace lines 1 through 3 with:

"Salaries and wages	\$33,741,592	\$2,746,155	\$36,487,747
Operating expenses	16,276,782	1,543,716	17,820,498
Capital assets	6,774,770	1,773,891	8,548,661
Grants - game and fish	8,923,343	1,166,633	10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation	17,995,597	8,164,610	26,160,207
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	296,999	16,342	313,341
Grants, gifts, and donations	670,133	6,853	676,986
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Lonetree reservoir	1,818,409	334,235	2,152,644
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>1,509,009</u>	<u>1,229,835</u>	<u>2,738,844</u>
Total special funds	\$89,581,634	\$16,982,270	\$106,563,904
Full-time equivalent positions	164.00	6.00	170.00"

Page 2, line 18, remove "Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions"

Page 2, line 18, remove "0"

Page 2, line 18, remove "89,090"

Page 2, replace line 19 with:

"Uniforms and supplies for new FTE positions	<u>0</u>	<u>89,090</u>
Total special funds	\$2,786,500	\$3,424,090"

Page 3, line 2, replace "seven" with "five"

Page 3, line 4, replace "passage" with "enactment"

Page 3, line 4, after the first "Act" insert "and after corresponding federal funds have been made available to the state. The department shall regularly coordinate with and consider input from the federal environmental law impact review committee in the expenditure of funds for conservation or research under this section. If the contingent funding in this section becomes effective, the department may request the office of management and budget to transfer up to \$1,047,562 from the new and vacant FTE funding pool for salaries and wages of the full-time equivalent positions identified in this section"

SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish department may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 1 of this Act for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation midterm conservation agreements with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum of thirty years. The department shall provide buy back provisions after the fifteenth, twentieth, and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a portion of acreage from the lease.

Renumber accordingly