

**Game and Fish Department  
Budget No. 720  
Senate Bill Nos. 2017 and 2293**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2019-21 legislative appropriation	165.00	\$0	\$85,303,632	\$85,303,632
2017-19 legislative appropriation	<u>163.00</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>84,443,322<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>84,443,322</u>
2019-21 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2017-19 appropriation	2.00	\$0	\$860,310	\$860,310

<sup>1</sup>This amount includes \$748,724 of one-time funding provided by the 2017 Legislative Assembly and a supplemental appropriation of \$467,100 provided by the 2019 Legislative Assembly. Excluding this amount, the agency's ongoing other funds appropriation is \$83,227,498.

**Item Description**

**FTE positions** - The 2019 Legislative Assembly authorized 165 FTE positions, an increase of 2 FTE positions from the 2017-19 biennium authorized level of 163 FTE positions. The Legislative Assembly added 2 FTE positions to support the aquatic nuisance species program.

**Aquatic nuisance species program** - The Legislative Assembly, in Senate Bill No. 2293, established a surcharge on fishing and hunting licenses and increased the fee on motorboat licenses to provide funding for an aquatic nuisance species program fund. The bill also provided a \$467,100 appropriation from the game and fish fund to the Game and Fish Department, for the purpose of administering aquatic nuisance species education, inspection, and monitoring programs for the 2019-21 biennium. The bill required that funds deposited in the aquatic nuisance species program fund be transferred to the game and fish fund to repay any game and fish fund money expended for the program. The bill also appropriated \$1.5 million from the aquatic nuisance species fund to the Game and Fish Department, for use in aquatic nuisance species education, inspection, and monitoring programs under Chapter 20.1-17 during the 2019-21 biennium and authorized 2 FTE positions to support the program.

**Shooting sports grant program** - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$250,000, of which \$245,000 is from Pittman-Robertson federal funds deposited in the game and fish fund and \$5,000 is from the game and fish fund, to the Game and Fish Department for the shooting sports grant program during the 2019-21 biennium.

**Funding for Wildlife Services programs** - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$614,430 from the game and fish fund to be transferred to the Agriculture Commissioner for the Wildlife Services program.

**Status/Result**

Of the 165 FTE positions, 1 game warden position was vacant and testing for the position is anticipated to be conducted on May 29, 2020. The 2 aquatic nuisance species positions were filled as follows: 1 game warden position was filled in June 2019 and 1 aquatic nuisance species biologist position was filled in November 2019.

Through March 2020, \$284,271 has been expended for use in aquatic nuisance species education, inspection, and monitoring programs under Chapter 20.1-17 and the 2 authorized FTE positions to support the program. Through March 2020, the aquatic nuisance species fund has received deposits of \$441,469 collected from a surcharge on fishing and hunting licenses and increased fees on motorboat licenses.

As of March 31, 2020, the Game and Fish Department has committed \$108,250. The remaining funds will be allocated by the end of the 2019-21 biennium. The grants require 25 percent local matching funds.

The Game and Fish Department will transfer funds at the end of each fiscal year.

**Funding for Parks and Recreation Department** - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$122,000 from the game and fish fund for a grant to the Parks and Recreation Department for state park boat ramp maintenance and improvements.

**Private land open to sportsmen program** - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$17.7 million for land habitat and deer depredation funding for the 2019-21 biennium, of which \$11.9 million is estimated to be used for landowner payments.

These funds are granted to the Parks and Recreation Department on a reimbursement basis and as of March 31, 2020, no reimbursements have been requested.

The following table summarizes the total annual private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) program acreage available for public access:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Acres</b>
2003	374,245
2004	745,979
2005	853,954
2006	978,735
2007	1,027,088
2008	1,041,611
2009	1,010,384
2010	1,007,999
2011	969,834
2012	838,548
2013	759,383
2014	734,700
2015	716,535
2016	726,580
2017	737,640
2018	764,688
2019	790,901