

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

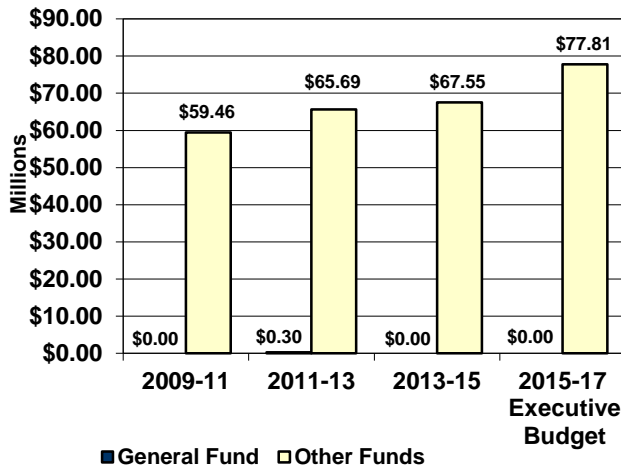
Executive Budget Comparison to Prior Biennium Appropriations

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2015-17 Executive Budget	162.00	\$0	\$77,808,277	\$77,808,277
2013-15 Legislative Appropriations ¹	158.00	0	67,553,639	67,553,639
Increase (Decrease)	4.00	\$0	\$10,254,638	\$10,254,638

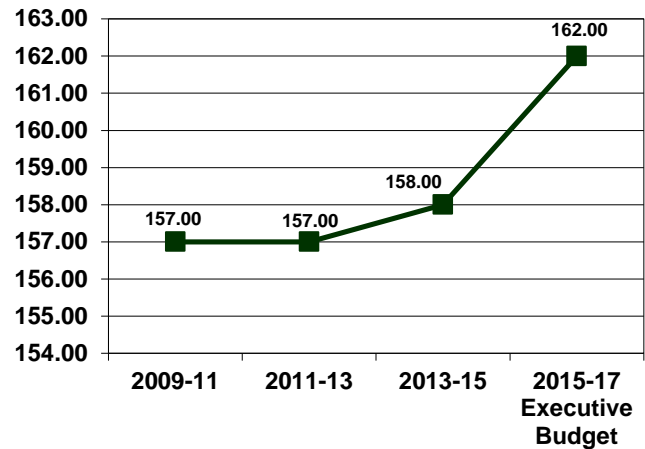
¹The 2013-15 appropriation amounts do not include the following:

- Other funds (\$86,214) allocation to the agency from the state agency energy impact funding pool for rental assistance payments for agency employees located in areas of the state affected by energy development.

Agency Funding



FTE Positions



Executive Budget Comparison to Base Level

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2015-17 Executive Budget	\$0	\$77,808,277	\$77,808,277
2015-17 Base Level	0	67,553,639	67,553,639
Increase (Decrease)	\$0	\$10,254,638	\$10,254,638

Attached as an appendix is a detailed comparison of the executive budget to the agency's base level appropriations.

Executive Budget Highlights

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Provides funding for state employee salary and benefit increases, of which \$1,453,994 relates to performance increases, \$198,407 is for market equity adjustments, \$686,537 is for health insurance increases, and \$149,695 is for retirement contribution increases	\$0	\$2,488,633	\$2,488,633
2. Adds 1.00 FTE administrative officer II position	\$0	\$139,475	\$139,475
3. Changes 3.00 part-time employees to full FTE positions:			
• 1.00 FTE administrative assistant I position - Williston	\$0	\$92,966	\$92,966
• 1.00 FTE administrative assistant I position - Bismarck	0	92,966	92,966
• 1.00 FTE biologist I position	0	136,683	136,683
Total part-time to FTE positions	\$0	\$322,615	\$322,615
4. Increases capital assets	\$0	\$847,935	\$847,935
5. Increases grants	\$0	\$211,912	\$211,912
6. Increases operating expenses	\$0	\$549,114	\$549,114
7. Increases land habitat and deer depredation funding	\$0	\$2,758,157	\$2,758,157
8. Wildlife division general adjustments	\$0	\$200,161	\$200,161

Other Sections in Bill

Grants, gifts, and donations line - Section 2 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$400,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Continuing Appropriations

No continuing appropriations for this agency.

Significant Audit Findings

The performance audit of the Game and Fish Department conducted by the State Auditor's office as of April 9, 2014, included significant audit findings related to the following:

- The private land open to sportsmen program's goal of one million acres was not reasonable based on significant changes affecting the program.
- The department was in noncompliance with procurement requirements.
- The department had not established appropriate agreements for services being received.
- The department provided funds as sponsorship payments to various private organizations.
- The department's employees received payments they were not entitled to.
- The department has areas that need improvement with the use of public funds.
- The department treated a temporary position as an FTE position even though no legislative authorization existed for the position.
- The department was in noncompliance with general legislative salary increase requirements.
- The department needs improvements to adequately safeguard sensitive information obtained and maintained by the department.
- The department had not properly inventoried and was unaware of the location of over 100 guns used in its volunteer hunter education program.

Major Related Legislation

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

House Bill No. 1053 - Excludes the Game and Fish Department from required use of centralized desktop support services.

House Bill No. 1088 - Changes the eligibility requirement to participate in the bighorn sheep, elk, and moose lottery to residents who have been a resident of this state for the preceding three years.

House Bill No. 1175 - Requires a permit for dredging on any body of water designated by the Director of the Game and Fish Department.

House Bill No. 1196 - Reduces hunting and fishing license fees for residents who are current and retired National Guard members.

House Bill No. 1197 - Prohibits the purchase of conservation easements with public funds.

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

	Executive Budget Recommendation			Total
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	
2015-17 Biennium Base Level	158.00	\$0	\$67,553,639	\$67,553,639
2015-17 Ongoing Funding Changes				
Base payroll changes			\$336,636	\$336,636
Salary increase - Performance			1,453,994	1,453,994
Salary increase - Market equity			198,407	198,407
Retirement contribution increase			149,695	149,695
Health insurance increase			686,537	686,537
New FTE - Administrative officer II	1.00		139,475	139,475
Parttime to FTE - Administrative assistant I - Williston	1.00		92,966	92,966
Parttime to FTE - Administrative assistant I - Bismarck	1.00		92,966	92,966
Parttime to FTE - Biologist I	1.00		136,683	136,683
Capital assets increase			847,935	847,935
Grants increase			211,912	211,912
Operating expense increase			549,114	549,114
Land habitat and deer depredation increase			2,758,157	2,758,157
Wildlife division general adjustments			200,161	200,161
Total ongoing funding changes	4.00	\$0	\$7,854,638	\$7,854,638
One-time funding items				
Devils Lake storage building			\$200,000	\$200,000
State Fair shooting skills building			200,000	200,000
Wildlife Private Land Initiative adjustments			2,000,000	2,000,000
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$2,400,000	\$2,400,000
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	4.00	\$0	\$10,254,638	\$10,254,638
2015-17 Total Funding	162.00	\$0	\$77,808,277	\$77,808,277

Other Sections in Senate Bill No. 2017

Grants, gifts, and donations line

Executive Budget Recommendation

Section 2 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$400,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.