

**Game and Fish Department
Budget 720
House Bill No. 1019**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2001-03 legislative appropriation	136.00		\$35,396,976	\$35,396,976
1999-2001 legislative appropriation	131.00		30,578,752	30,578,752
2001-03 appropriation increase (decrease) to 1999-2001 appropriation	5.00	\$0	\$4,818,224	\$4,818,224

NOTE: The 2001-03 appropriation amounts include \$77,335 from other funds for the agency's share of the \$5,000,000 funding pool appropriated to the Office of Management and Budget for special market equity adjustments for classified employees.

Item Description

Coverlocks program - The 2001 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$1,204,072 from other funds and authorized one FTE position for the coverlocks program, a department initiative to provide landowner incentives to establish 20-acre blocks of winter habitat and provide a 30-year public easement on the quarter section containing the coverlocks habitat.

Aquatic habitat improvement program - The 2001 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$951,229 from other funds and authorized one FTE position for the aquatic habitat improvement program, a department initiative to maintain and improve the quality of the state's fisheries.

Capital projects - In addition to capital projects included in the department's aquatic habitat improvement program, the 2001 Legislative Assembly authorized construction of a storage building and yard in the Bismarck area. The appropriation amount is \$275,000 from other funds.

Status/Result

The program has been implemented as planned. A program coordinator has been hired. Four pilot coverlocks plots are completely finished, and habitat was established during spring 2001. Forty additional coverlocks contracts have been entered into by the agency, and habitat plantings are anticipated to be completed during spring 2002. The department anticipates that 100 coverlocks contracts will be entered into during the 2001-03 biennium, although some of the habitat plantings may not take place until the 2003-05 biennium.

The program has been implemented as planned. A program coordinator has been hired. The coordinator and other department staff have conducted a review to identify priority areas for aquatic habitat improvement projects. Improvement projects are anticipated to begin during spring 2002.

Burleigh County property east of Bismarck has been preliminarily selected as a site for construction of a storage building and yard. Acquisition of the land and construction of the facility may begin by fall 2002.