

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

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2001-03 executive budget (Governor Schafer) (bill as introduced)	136.00	\$0	\$34,719,641	\$34,719,641
2001-03 legislative appropriations	136.00		35,319,641	35,319,641
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	0.00	\$0	\$600,000	\$600,000
Legislative increase (decrease) to 1999-2001 appropriations	5.00	\$0	\$4,740,889	\$4,740,889
2001-03 Governor Hoeven's recommendation	136.00	\$0	\$34,919,641	\$34,919,641
Legislative increase (decrease) to Governor Hoeven's recommendation	0.00	\$0	\$400,000	\$400,000

GOVERNOR HOEVEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Hoeven recommendation for the Game and Fish Department increased the Schafer recommendation by \$200,000 for the wildlife services line item, increasing the line item from \$200,000 to \$400,000.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET (SCHAFER) AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS

Salaries and Wages

The legislative action affecting the recommended appropriation for the Game and Fish Department is in accordance with legislative salary and fringe benefits guidelines as contained in House Bill No. 1015. In addition to the above appropriations, agencies may receive additional funding from the \$5 million appropriated in Section 1 of House Bill No. 1015 for special market equity adjustments for classified state employees whose salaries are the furthest from their respective salary range midpoints.

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide an other funds appropriation of \$7,374 to the Game and Fish Department for salary adjustments, in addition to the compensation package, to increase salaries to new pay range minimums established by Central Personnel.

	Major Items FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Added funding from the game and fish fund to increase the wildlife services line item from \$200,000 to \$400,000 as recommended by Governor Hoeven. The 2001-03 biennium appropriation is an increase of \$300,000 from the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation of \$100,000.			\$200,000	\$200,000
Added funding from the game and fish fund to increase the land habitat and deer depredation line item from \$4,738,476 to \$5,138,476 to reflect additional hunting license revenue anticipated to be received as a result of 2001 House Bill No. 1468, which			400,000	400,000

subsequently failed to pass. (The 2001-03 biennium appropriation for the land habitat and deer depredation line item is an increase of \$2,435,252 from the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation of \$2,703,224.)

Total	<u>0.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$600,000</u>	<u>\$600,000</u>
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FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to add 5 FTE positions, as follows:

- 1 FTE biologist II (coverlocks initiative)
- 1 FTE computer and network specialist II (geographic information systems)
- 1 FTE biologist III (aquatic habitat improvement initiative)
- 2 FTE game warden II

Coverlocks Program

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide \$1,204,072 from the game and fish fund for the department's coverlocks program. The coverlocks program is a new initiative for the 2001-03 biennium which will 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. The appropriation is included in the land habitat and deer depredation line item and is allocated as follows:

	Other Funds
Salaries and wages - 1 FTE biologist II	\$81,877
Operating expenses	1,118,195
Equipment	<u>4,000</u>
Total	\$1,204,072

Aquatic Habitat Improvement Program

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide \$951,229 from the game and fish fund for the department's aquatic habitat improvement program. The aquatic habitat improvement program is a new initiative for the 2001-03 biennium to maintain and improve the quality of the state's fisheries. The appropriation is allocated as follows:

	Other Funds
Salaries and wages - 1 FTE biologist III	\$89,529
Operating expenses	35,700
Equipment	5,000
Capital improvements	340,000
Grants	81,000
Land habitat and deer depredation line item	<u>400,000</u>
Total	\$951,229

Private Land Habitat and Access Improvement Program

The Legislative Assembly increased the executive recommendation for the private land habitat and access improvement program by \$400,000 from the game and fish fund to reflect additional hunting license revenue anticipated to be received as a result of House Bill No. 1468. However, House Bill No. 1468 failed to pass after the

appropriation was included in House Bill No. 1019. The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to appropriate an additional \$650,000 (over the department's base budget request) for the private land habitat and access improvement program, funded from the private land habitat and depredation fund which consists of interest earned on the game and fish fund and revenue from the sale of habitat stamps. Funds are used to cost share with landowners on trees, food, and wildlife habitat development; lease wildlife habitat plots; fund big game and fur-bearer depredation programs; and fund water quality improvement programs. The 2001-03 biennium appropriation (contained in the land habitat and deer depredation line item) is \$3,534,404, which is \$831,180 more than the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation of \$2,703,224.

Funding for Department of Agriculture

Waterbank program

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide a special funds appropriation of \$200,000 from the game and fish fund for the waterbank program. The funding will be made available to the Agriculture Commissioner to enter into waterbank contracts for the purposes of increasing water storage and enhancing wildlife habitat in North Dakota. The 2001-03 biennium appropriation for the waterbank program is unchanged from the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation of \$200,000.

Wildlife services

The Legislative Assembly increased the Schafer executive recommendation for the wildlife services line item by \$200,000 from the game and fish fund. The funding will be made available to the Agriculture Commissioner to contract with the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services Agency to alleviate wildlife depredation and damage in North Dakota. The 2001-03 biennium appropriation for wildlife services is \$400,000, \$300,000 more than the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation of \$100,000.

Board of Animal Health

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide \$68,000 from the game and fish fund for a grant to the Department of Agriculture for expenses of the Board of Animal Health. The 2001-03 biennium appropriation is an increase of \$23,000 from the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation of \$45,000.

Funding for Parks and Recreation Department

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide \$80,000 from the game and fish fund for a grant to the Parks and Recreation Department for costs incurred in cleaning and maintaining fish-cleaning stations, boat ramps, and vault toilets. The 2001-03 biennium appropriation for this purpose is unchanged from the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation. The 1999-2001 biennium appropriation also included \$168,750 for a new grant to the Parks and Recreation Department for boat ramp repairs at Lake Sakakawea and Lewis and Clark State Parks. The 2001 Legislative Assembly did not appropriate any moneys from the game and fish fund for this purpose.

Capital Projects

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide funding from the game and fish fund for the following capital projects:

Project	Other Funds
Extraordinary repairs	\$684,486
Construction of a storage building and secure storage yard in the Bismarck area	275,000
Aquatic habitat improvement projects	340,000
Total	\$1,299,486

Other Sections in Bill

Habitat and depredation fund - Section 2 provides that \$2,930,036 of the land habitat and deer depredation line item is from the habitat and depredation fund and is to be used for the purpose of leasing privately owned lands for wildlife habitat to reestablish wildlife population, to improve wildlife habitat on private lands, and to alleviate big game and fur-bearer depredation.

Nongame wildlife fund - Section 3 provides that \$75,000 of the nongame wildlife conservation line item is from the nongame wildlife fund and is to be used for the purpose of preservation, inventory, perpetuation, and conservation of nongame wildlife.

Waterbank program - Section 4 provides that the waterbank program line item (\$200,000) is from the game and fish fund and is to be used for the purpose of increasing water storage and enhancing wildlife habitat in North Dakota. Contracts and agreements may be entered into by the department in cooperation with the Agriculture Commissioner.

Wildlife services line item - Section 5 provides that the wildlife services line item (\$400,000) is from the game and fish fund and is to be used for the purpose of alleviating wildlife depredation and damage in North Dakota. Contracts and agreements may be entered into by the department in cooperation with the Agriculture Commissioner.

Additional hunting license revenue for private land habitat and access improvement - Section 6 was added by the Legislative Assembly and provides that \$400,000 of the amount included in the land habitat and deer depredation line item is additional hunting license fee revenue anticipated to be received as a result of House Bill No. 1468, which subsequently failed to pass, and is to be used for the private land habitat and access improvement program.

Related Legislation

Deerproof hay yard program - Senate Bill No. 2025 directs the Game and Fish Department to establish a deerproof hay yard program at no cost to landowners. The department anticipates additional other funds expenditures of \$10,000 per biennium as a result of this bill.

Interstate Wildlife Compact - Senate Bill No. 2178 enacts the Interstate Wildlife Compact. The department anticipates additional other funds expenditures of \$5,000 per biennium as a result of this bill.