

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

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2001-03 Schafer Executive Budget	136.00		\$34,719,641	\$34,719,641
1999-2001 Legislative Appropriations	<u>131.00</u>		<u>30,578,752</u>	<u>30,578,752</u> ¹
Increase (Decrease)	<u>5.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$4,140,889</u>	<u>\$4,140,889</u>

2001-03 Hoeven Executive Budget	<u>136.00</u>		<u>\$34,919,641</u>	<u>\$34,919,641</u>
Hoeven Increase (Decrease) to Schafer	<u>0.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>	<u>\$200,000</u>

¹ The 1999-2001 appropriation amounts include \$70,426 of other funds for the agency's share of the \$5.4 million funding pool appropriated to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for special market equity adjustments for classified employees and \$2,290 of other funds for the agency's share of the \$1.4 million funding pool appropriated to OMB for assisting agencies in providing \$35 per month minimum salary increases in July 1999 and July 2000. The 1999-2001 appropriation amounts do not include additional other funds spending authority of \$177,364 carried over from the 1997-99 biennium for capital projects.

Major Schafer Recommendations Affecting Game and Fish Department 2001-03 Budget

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Provides funding for salary adjustments, in addition to the executive budget compensation package, to increase salaries to new pay range minimums established by Central Personnel.		\$7,374	\$7,374
2. Increases the operating expenses line item from \$7,779,014 to \$8,320,714 to reflect the following changes:			
Increases funding for utilities from \$213,000 to \$253,000		\$40,000	\$40,000
Increases funding for information technology--data processing from \$222,447 to \$313,000		90,553	90,553
Increases funding for information technology--software and supplies from \$67,000 to \$137,000		70,000	70,000
Decreases funding for operating fees and services from \$709,049 to \$557,449		(151,600)	(151,600)
Decreases funding for repairs from \$252,900 to \$212,900		(40,000)	(40,000)
Increases funding for inflationary increases in various costs, including State Fleet services		350,000	350,000
Increases from \$100,000 to \$200,000 the amount of indirect cost reimbursement paid by the department		100,000	100,000
Other		<u>82,747</u>	<u>82,747</u>
Total recommended changes		<u>\$541,700</u>	<u>\$541,700</u>
3. Adds 1 FTE biologist II and provides the following amounts for the department's proposed coverlocks initiative. (The proposed coverlocks program 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 coverlock habitat.)			
Salaries and wages (land habitat and deer depredation line item)		\$81,876	\$81,876
Operating expenses (land habitat and deer depredation line item)		1,118,195	1,118,195
Equipment (land habitat and deer depredation line item)		<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>
Total recommended appropriation		<u>\$1,204,071</u>	<u>\$1,204,071</u>

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
4. Adds 1 FTE computer and network specialist II and provides the following amounts to coordinate the department's use of geographic information systems data and technology:			
Salaries and wages		\$80,295	\$80,295
Operating expenses		6,000	6,000
Equipment		5,000	5,000
Total recommended appropriation		<u>\$91,295</u>	<u>\$91,295</u>
5. Increases the grants, gifts, and donations line item from \$100,000 to \$150,000 to allow the department to accept and spend 50 percent more for special projects financed with funds from those sources.		\$50,000	\$50,000
6. Adds 1 FTE biologist III and provides the following amounts for the department's proposed aquatic habitat improvement initiative:			
Salaries and wages		\$89,529	\$89,529
Operating expenses		35,700	35,700
Equipment		5,000	5,000
Capital improvements		340,000	340,000
Grants		81,000	81,000
Land habitat and deer depredation line item		400,000	400,000
Total recommended appropriation		<u>\$951,229</u>	<u>\$951,229</u>
7. Decreases from \$248,750 to \$80,000 the amount provided to the Parks and Recreation Department; \$80,000 for costs incurred in cleaning and maintaining fish cleaning stations, boat ramps, and vault toilets (no change from the amount appropriated for the 1999-2001 biennium for this purpose); and \$0 for boat ramp repairs at state parks. The 1999-2001 appropriation included \$168,750 for the Parks and Recreation Department for boat ramp repairs at Lake Sakakawea and Lewis and Clark State Parks.		(\$168,750)	(\$168,750)
8. Adds 2 FTE game warden II positions and provides the following amounts for the enforcement division:			
Salaries and wages		\$162,452	\$162,452
Operating expenses		50,000	50,000
Equipment		12,000	12,000
Total recommended appropriation		<u>\$224,452</u>	<u>\$224,452</u>
9. Increases funding for noxious weed control by 25 percent, from \$200,000 to \$250,000 to reflect increased costs for chemical and biological control methods.		\$50,000	\$50,000
10. Increases funding for the land habitat and deer depredation line item to enhance the department's private land habitat programs.		\$650,000	\$650,000
11. Increases from \$45,000 to \$68,000 the amount provided to the Department of Agriculture for veterinary services utilized by the Game and Fish Department.		\$23,000	\$23,000
12. Increases the wildlife services line item from \$100,000 to \$200,000 and provides that the \$200,000 is for a grant to the Department of Agriculture to replace \$200,000 of general fund appropriation authority previously provided for the Department of Agriculture's wildlife services line item. (The Game and Fish Department's wildlife services line item was previously used to directly reimburse the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services Agency for animal control services and was not provided as a grant to the Department of Agriculture.)		\$100,000	\$100,000
13. Provides \$200,000 for the waterbank program (no change from the amount appropriated for the 1999-2001 biennium).		\$0	\$0

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
14. Provides \$1,299,486 for capital improvements, a decrease of \$342,636 compared to the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation of \$1,642,122:			
Extraordinary repairs		\$684,486	\$684,486
Construction of a storage building and secure storage yard in the Bismarck area		275,000	275,000
Aquatic habitat improvement projects		<u>340,000</u>	<u>340,000</u>
Total recommended appropriation		<u>\$1,299,486</u>	<u>\$1,299,486</u>

**Major Hoeven Recommendations Affecting Game and Fish Department 2001-03 Budget
Compared to the Bill as Introduced (Schafer Budget)**

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Increases the wildlife services line item by an additional \$200,000 (\$100,000 increase included in the Schafer recommendation), from \$100,000 in 1999-2001 to \$400,000 in 2001-03, for a grant to the Department of Agriculture. (The Game and Fish Department's wildlife services line item was previously used to directly reimburse the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services Agency for animal control services and was not provided as a grant to the Department of Agriculture.) (The House did not increase the wildlife services line item, as recommended in the Hoeven budget.)		\$200,000	\$200,000

Major Legislation Affecting the Game and Fish Department

House Bill No. 1269 - This bill establishes nonresident waterfowl hunting zones in North Dakota and limits the number of licenses to be issued in each zone. The fiscal note indicates a \$760,000 reduction in other funds revenue for the Game and Fish Department for the 2001-03 biennium.

House Bill No. 1272 - This bill allows a gratis deer hunting license to be used in the entire hunting unit in which the landowner's property is located. The fiscal note indicates a \$280,000 reduction in other funds revenue for the Game and Fish Department for the 2001-03 biennium.

House Bill No. 1468 - This bill increases fees and changes the licensing structure for nonresident hunting and fishing licenses. The fiscal note indicates one-time other funds expenditures of \$5,000 for reprinting 2001 small game stamps and additional other funds revenue of \$760,000 for the 2001-03 biennium.

Senate Bill No. 2025 - This bill directs the Game and Fish Department to establish a deerproof hay yard program at no cost to landowners. The fiscal note indicates additional other funds expenditures of \$10,000 per biennium. This bill has passed the Senate.

Senate Bill No. 2178 - This bill enacts the Interstate Wildlife Compact. The fiscal note indicates additional other funds expenditures of \$5,000 per biennium. This bill has passed the Senate.

Senate Bill No. 2394 - The bill establishes annual license fees for outfitters and guides and requires that landowners charging a fee for hunting access on their land possess an outfitter's license and a sales tax permit. The fiscal note indicates that the fiscal impact cannot be determined.

Summary of Legislative Changes to Bill as Introduced

See attached Statement of Purpose of Amendment.