

**Game and Fish Department**  
**Senate Bill No. 2019, House Bill No. 1358**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2003-05 executive budget (bills as introduced)	139.00	\$0	\$39,759,673	\$39,759,673
<b>2003-05 legislative appropriations</b>	<b>147.00</b>		<b>43,365,763</b>	<b>43,365,763</b>
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	8.00	\$0	\$3,606,090	\$3,606,090
Legislative increase (decrease) to 2001-03 appropriations	11.00	\$0	\$7,968,787	\$7,968,787

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET 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 Senate Bill No. 2423, which allows agencies to provide salary increases of up to 1 percent on January 1, 2004, and up to 2 percent on January 1, 2005, to be funded in part from pooled savings accumulated from agency FTE position reductions.

	Major Items FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Removed funding recommended in the executive budget for state employee salary increases			(\$164,680)	(\$164,680)
Reduced funding recommended in the executive budget for state employee health insurance premiums from \$493 to \$488.70 per month per policy			(14,345)	(14,345)
Added three new game warden positions, one of which is for the licensing and regulating of guides and outfitters	3.00		335,115	335,115
Added funding and five new FTE positions for the private land open to sportsmen program in House Bill No. 1358 (See <b>Related Legislation</b> section below)	5.00		3,300,000	3,300,000
Increased the wildlife services line item by \$150,000, from \$400,000 to \$550,000, which is provided to the Agriculture Commissioner to pay for services provided by the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services Agency to alleviate wildlife depredation and damage in North Dakota			150,000	150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,606,090</b>	<b>\$3,606,090</b>

### FTE Changes

The 2003-05 biennium appropriation includes funding for 147 FTE positions, 11 more than the 2001-03 authorized level of 136 FTE positions. The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation, which added 3 FTE biologist I positions for habitat and access programs. The Legislative Assembly added 3 FTE game warden positions, one of which is for the licensing and regulating of guides and outfitters, and 5 FTE positions to carry out the private land open to sportsmen program.

### Funding for Department of Agriculture

#### Waterbank Program

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to discontinue funding the waterbank program due to the significant increase in habitat programs administered by the agency.

#### Wildlife Services

The Legislative Assembly increased the executive recommendation for the wildlife services line item by \$150,000 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 2003-05 biennium appropriation for wildlife services is \$550,000, \$150,000 more than the 2001-03 biennium appropriation of \$400,000.

#### Board of Animal Health

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide \$150,000 from the game and fish fund for a grant to the Department of Agriculture for expenses of the Board of Animal Health. The 2003-05 biennium appropriation is an increase of \$82,000 from the 2001-03 biennium appropriation of \$68,000.

### 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 recurring state park boat ramp maintenance and operation costs. The 2003-05 biennium appropriation for this purpose is unchanged from the 2001-03 biennium appropriation. The 2003-05 biennium appropriation also includes \$42,000 for a new grant to the Parks and Recreation Department for one-time extraordinary repairs to boat ramps. The 2001 Legislative Assembly did not appropriate any money 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	\$919,944
Construction of a shop in Bismarck	600,000
Land acquisitions	500,000
Equipment over \$5,000	230,000
Information technology equipment over \$5,000	10,000
Total	\$2,259,944

### Other Sections in Bill

**Private land habitat and access improvement** - Section 2 provides that \$3,873,386 included in the land habitat and deer depredation line item is from the private land habitat and access improvement fund and shall be used by the department for the private land habitat and access improvement program, as provided in North Dakota Century Code Section 20.1-02-05.

**Nongame wildlife fund** - Section 3 provides that \$41,874 of the nongame wildlife conservation line item is from the nongame wildlife fund and is to be used by the department for the purposes of preservation, inventory, perpetuation, and conservation of nongame wildlife, natural areas, and nature preserves in this state.

**Wildlife services line item** - Section 4 provides that the wildlife services line item (\$550,000) is from the game and fish fund and is to be used for the purpose of alleviating wildlife depredation and damage in North Dakota. Projects, contracts, and agreements may be entered into by the department in cooperation with the Agriculture Commissioner.

#### **Related Legislation**

**Guide and outfitter licenses** - House Bill No. 1050 establishes guide and outfitter licensing requirements and the license fees for hunting guides and outfitters.

**Mule deer license raffle** - House Bill No. 1122 establishes a mule deer license raffle and auction of one license per year by the Mule Deer Foundation.

**Pheasant season opening date** - House Bill No. 1223 establishes the opening date for pheasant season, and prohibits a nonresident from hunting for the first seven days of the pheasant season on land owned by or private land enrolled by the department for the purposes of hunting or on land for which the department pays in lieu of tax payments.

**Unlawful taking of big game animals** - House Bill No. 1343 provides penalties for the unlawful taking of big game animals.

**Private lands open to sportsmen program** - House Bill No. 1358 increases the fees for nonresident hunting and fishing licenses, and provides an appropriation of \$3,300,000 to the Game and Fish Department from the game and fish fund to increase funding and authorize 5 FTE positions to carry out the private land open to sportsmen program.

**Nonresident big game hunting license fees** - House Bill No. 1391 increases the fees for nonresident big game hunting licenses from \$155 to \$200, and provides that \$45 of each nonresident big game hunting license fee must be used for the private land initiative.

**Information technology position transfer** - House Bill No. 1505 provides for 1 FTE position relating to information technology services, including electronic mail, file and print server administration, data base administration, storage, application server, and hosting services to be reduced from the Game and Fish Department and transferred to the Information Technology Department.

**Nonresident waterfowl hunting license** - Senate Bill No. 2242 provides that the 14-day, 7-day, and two 7-day hunting period restrictions do not apply to nonresidents hunting in Richland and Sargent Counties during the early September Canada goose season.

**Hunting and fishing licenses for nonresident college students** - Senate Bill No. 2322 allows certain full-time nonresident college students living in North Dakota to purchase resident hunting and fishing licenses.

**Nonresident deer hunting licenses** - Senate Bill No. 2363 provides that the fee for a nonresident who participates on the same basis as a resident in a lottery for deer licenses remaining after the second lottery is \$50 rather than \$155.