

**Game and Fish Department
Budget 720
Senate Bill No. 2017; House Bill No. 1014**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2007-09 legislative appropriation	155.00		\$58,033,045	\$58,033,045
2005-07 legislative appropriation	<u>152.00</u>		<u>51,331,059¹</u>	<u>51,331,059</u>
2007-09 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2005-07 appropriation	3.00	\$0	\$6,701,986	\$6,701,986

¹This 2005-07 biennium appropriation reflects an appropriation of \$130,000 for a grant to the Agriculture Commissioner relating to Wildlife Services approved by the 2007 Legislative Assembly in Section 4 of Senate Bill No. 2017.

NOTE: The 2007-09 legislative appropriation amounts include \$192,006 of other funds for the agency's share of the \$10 million funding pool appropriated to the Office of Management and Budget for special market equity adjustments for classified employees.

Item Description

Capital projects - The Legislative Assembly authorized \$2,287,741 in funding from the game and fish fund and \$996,500 of federal funds for the following capital projects:

Project	Other Funds
Extraordinary repairs	\$441,241
Dickinson office addition	225,000
Wildlife management area improvements (\$150,000 federal funds)	225,000
Fishing area projects (\$500,000 federal funds)	738,000
Land acquisition	100,000
Equipment over \$5,000 (\$346,500 federal funds)	605,000
Information technology equipment over \$5,000	50,000
Payment in lieu of taxes	900,000
Total	\$3,284,241

Funding for Department of Agriculture - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$680,000 from the game and fish fund for Wildlife Services and \$209,684 from the game and fish fund for grants to the Board of Animal Health. The Legislative Assembly also provided an emergency appropriation of \$130,000 to the Department of Agriculture for Wildlife Services.

Funding for Parks and Recreation - The Game and Fish Department's 2007-09 biennium appropriation includes \$381,750 from the game and fish fund for a grant to the Parks and Recreation Department for state park boat ramp maintenance and repairs. Of the \$381,750, \$109,750 is for boat ramp improvement at Fort Stevenson State Park and may only be spent if the Corps of Engineers does not begin construction of the marina at Fort Stevenson by March 31, 2008.

Status/Result

The Game and Fish Department received Budget Section approval to spend \$12,500 for the purchase of 2.18 acres of land adjacent to the department's shop and office facility in Williston. The department also received Budget Section approval to spend \$481,600 to purchase 208 acres of land in Oliver County. The Budget Section approved the Oliver County land purchase subject to a land use restriction being removed or changed to the satisfaction of the department.

The Dickinson office addition project is expected to begin in the summer of 2008.

The Game and Fish Department anticipates all funding will be transferred to the Department of Agriculture by the end of the 2007-09 biennium.

The Game and Fish Department anticipates providing grant funding of \$272,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department by the end of the biennium for state park boat ramp maintenance and repairs. The department will not provide a grant for boat ramp improvements at Fort Stevenson State Park as the Corps of Engineers has started construction of a new marina.

Shooting ranges and youth hunting - Section 6 of Senate Bill No. 2017 provides legislative intent that \$100,000 included in the grants line is to be used to provide grants to local communities for shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth.

Recruitment and retention study - Section 7 of Senate Bill No. 2017 requires the Game and Fish Department to study the recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota and to report its findings to the Budget Section by December 31, 2008.

Private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) program - The Legislative Assembly provided an increase of \$2.5 million for PLOTS funding for the 2007-09 biennium.

Sweetbriar Dam project - The Legislative Assembly provided \$1 million from the game and fish fund to the State Water Commission for the Sweetbriar Dam project. The funding is contingent upon other funding being made available for the project by the State Water Commission.

The department has implemented the program as planned and anticipates spending all funds appropriated for the program during the biennium.

The department is in the process of completing the study. The estimated completion date is August 2008.

The department has established various PLOTS programs, including working lands, CRP cost-sharing, coverlocks, wetlands reserve, tree planting cost-sharing, food plot, and private forest conservation.

The following table summarizes the total annual PLOTS acreage available for public access:

Year	Acres
2001	154,147
2002	227,734
2003	374,245
2004	745,979
2005	853,954
2006	978,735
2007	1,129,199

The State Water Commission is conducting an engineering study for the Sweetbriar Dam project. It is unknown if the \$1 million in funding will be spent in the current biennium.