

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

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2007-09 executive budget (bills as introduced)	155.00	\$0	\$54,891,111	\$54,891,111
2007-09 legislative appropriations	155.00		57,841,039	57,841,039
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	0.00	\$0	\$2,949,928	\$2,949,928
Legislative increase (decrease) to 2005-07 appropriations	3.00	\$0	\$6,509,980 ¹	\$6,509,980 ¹

¹The 2005-07 biennium appropriation reflects an emergency 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.

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. 2189.

	Major Items			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Reduced funding recommended in the executive budget relating to retiree health credit contributions			(\$20,072)	(\$20,072)
Added funding for boat ramp improvements and marina development			1,040,000	1,040,000
Provided additional funding for private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) programs			500,000	500,000
Provided funding for a study on recruitment and retention of hunters in North Dakota			30,000	30,000
Provided funding for a grant program to local communities to fund shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth			100,000	100,000
Provided funding for the Sweetbriar Dam project			1,300,000	1,300,000
Total	0.00	\$0	\$2,949,928	\$2,949,928

FTE Changes

The 2007-09 biennium appropriation includes funding for 155 FTE positions, an increase of 3 FTE positions from the 2005-07 biennium authorized level of 152 FTE positions. The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to add 1 FTE game warden investigator position, 1 FTE bighorn sheep biologist position, and 1 FTE technician position for the Fisheries Division.

Funding for Department of Agriculture

Wildlife Services

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide \$680,000 from the game and fish fund for Wildlife Services, the same as the 2005-07 biennium appropriation prior to the \$130,000 emergency appropriation included in Section 4 of Senate Bill No. 2017. 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 Legislative Assembly also provided an emergency appropriation of \$130,000 to the Department of Agriculture in addition to the \$680,000 appropriation included in the executive recommendation for Wildlife Services.

Board of Animal Health

The 2007-09 biennium appropriation includes \$209,684 from the game and fish fund for grants to the Department of Agriculture for the Board of Animal Health, an increase of \$59,684 from the 2005-07 biennium appropriation of \$150,000.

Funding for Parks and Recreation Department

The 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, an increase of \$259,750 from the 2005-07 biennium appropriation of \$122,000. Of the \$381,750, \$109,750 is for boat ramp improvements 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.

Capital Projects

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide funding of \$2,287,741 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
IT equipment over \$5,000	50,000
Payment in lieu of taxes	900,000
Total	\$3,284,241

The Legislative Assembly also provided \$1,040,000 in the ramp improvements and marina development line item for various boat ramp improvements and marina development and added an emergency section to the bill for the funds included in this line item.

Other Sections in Senate Bill No. 2017

Legislative intent - Section 6 provides legislative intent that \$100,000 included in the grants line item be to provide grants to local communities for shooting ranges and other related activities to encourage hunting by youth.

Recruitment and retention study - Section 7 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.

Related Legislation

House Bill No. 1184 provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual may have a handgun, as defined in North Dakota Century Code Section 62.1-01-01, in that individual's possession while hunting during any lawful archery hunting season.

House Bill No. 1402 authorizes the Game and Fish Department director to establish once-in-a-lifetime hunting opportunities for terminally ill children and to issue hunting licenses to a nonprofit organization that sponsors hunting trips for terminally ill children.

Senate Bill No. 2058 authorizes the Game and Fish Department to transfer land to adjacent landowners around Golden Lake.

Senate Bill No. 2059 removes the \$5 fee for a permit to propagate, domesticate, or possess protected wildlife.

Senate Bill No. 2201 establishes a North Dakota Hunter Educators Association antelope license raffle.