

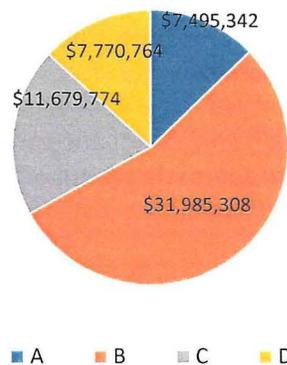
## Purpose of OHF

- The commission shall use the fund to provide grants, with higher priority given to enhance conservation practices in this state by:
  - Providing access for sportsmen,
  - Agricultural stewardship practices,
  - Developing and restoring wildlife and fish habitat; and
  - Conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

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## Program Results

- The Industrial Commission has awarded funding for 176 projects for a total of over \$58 million.



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## Exclusions

- Funds may not be used in any manner to finance:
  - Litigation;
  - Lobbying activities;
  - Any activity that would interfere, disrupt, or prevent activities associated with surface coal mining operations; sand, gravel, or scoria extraction activities; oil and gas operations; or other energy facility or infrastructure development;
  - The acquisition of land or to encumber any land for a term longer than twenty years; or
  - Projects outside this state or projects that are beyond the scope of defined activities that fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

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## Limited Consideration

- The commission or a grantee may not use grant funds, except after a finding of exceptional circumstances by the commission, to finance:
  - A completed project or project commenced before the grant application;
  - A feasibility or research study;
  - Maintenance costs;
  - A paving project for a road or parking lot;
  - A swimming pool or aquatic park;
  - Personal property that is not affixed to the land;
  - Playground equipment, except that grant funds may be provided for up to 25% of the cost of the equipment not exceeding \$10,000 per project and all playground equipment grants may not exceed 5% of the total grants per year;
  - A building, except for a building that is included as part of a comprehensive conservation plan for a new or expanded recreational project; or
  - A project in which the applicant is not directly involved in execution and completion of the project.

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## Clarification

- OHF does not award funds that have not been received.
  - Some projects span multiple bienniums and those obligations are carried forward.
- The current cash amount available to award is \$5,143,003.
  - The previous grant round resulted in \$11.6 of funding awarded.
  - The next application deadline is May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - There may not be any remaining funds at the end of the biennium.