

**Game and Fish Department
Budget 720
Senate Bill No. 2019**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1999-2001 legislative appropriation	131.00		\$30,578,752	\$30,578,752
1997-99 legislative appropriation	<u>128.00</u>		<u>27,676,001</u>	<u>27,676,001</u>
1999-2001 appropriation increase (decrease) to 1997-99 appropriation	3.00	\$0	\$2,902,751	\$2,902,751

NOTE: The 1999-2001 appropriation includes \$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.

Item Description

Regional office construction - The 1999 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$590,000 from the game and fish fund for regional office construction and improvements, including the completion of the Jamestown regional office authorized by the 1997 Legislative Assembly and remodeling and construction of an addition to the Riverdale facility.

Forest land acquisitions - The 1999 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$200,000 from the game and fish fund for forest land acquisitions in the Turtle Mountains and Cavalier and Pembina Counties.

Waterbank program - The 1999 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$200,000 from the game and fish fund to continue the waterbank program (originally funded with a \$500,000 appropriation for the 1997-99 biennium) and authorized the department to enter into waterbank agreements to increase water storage and enhance wildlife habitat in North Dakota. The waterbank contracts are administered in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture.

Wildlife Services grants - The 1999 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$100,000 from the game and fish fund for grants to the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services for projects to alleviate wildlife depredation and damage in North Dakota.

Status/Result

The Jamestown regional office was completed in October 1999 using approximately \$100,000 of the 1999-2001 biennium appropriation.

Contracts for the Riverdale project have been signed and construction is anticipated to be completed by September 2000. The estimated cost of the Riverdale facility is \$700,000, \$210,000 more than the unspent appropriation authority for the project after completion of the Jamestown facility. The agency anticipates reallocating \$210,000 from other capital projects to complete the Riverdale facility. The 1999-2001 biennium appropriation for capital projects includes \$852,122 for extraordinary repairs and \$200,000 for forest land acquisitions.

Through March 31, 2000, the department has not purchased any forest land parcels. However, the department is considering three parcels in the northeast area of the state.

Through March 31, 2000, the department has spent approximately \$1,000 of the \$200,000 appropriation. However, the department anticipates the entire \$200,000 will be spent by the end of the biennium.

Through March 31, 2000, the department has spent approximately \$20,000 of the \$100,000 appropriation. However, the department anticipates the entire \$100,000 will be spent by the end of the biennium.

Public access brochure - House Bill No. 1411 (1999) eliminates from the statutory duties of the department the sale of a booklet describing all lands open to public access and directs the department to publish a brochure, funded from the private land habitat and access improvement fund, describing areas open to public access.

The department printed 14,000 private land habitat and access improvement brochures and distributed approximately 12,000 during the 1999 hunting season. The department incurred one-time costs of approximately \$14,600 for mapping relating to the development of the brochure. Annual printing costs are anticipated to be approximately \$8,000.