



**Game and Fish Department
Department No. 720
2025 House Bill No. 1017**

**REVISED EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION
2025-27 BIENNIUM**

Budget Summary

| | FTE Positions | General Fund | Other Funds | Total |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Burgum budget recommendation | 170.00 | \$0 | \$113,957,679 | \$113,957,679 |
| Revisions - Increase (decrease) | 0.00 | 0 | 1,645,228 | 1,645,228 |
| Armstrong budget recommendation | 170.00 | \$0 | \$115,602,907 | \$115,602,907 |
| Base level | 170.00 | 0 | 104,727,514 | 104,727,514 |
| Increase (decrease) | 0.00 | \$0 | \$10,875,393 | \$10,875,393 |
| Percentage increase (decrease) | 0.0% | N/A | 10.4% | 10.4% |

NOTE:

More detailed information on the revised executive budget recommendation is attached as an appendix.

Selected Highlights

- Adds **\$1,588,535**, of which **\$601,106** is from the federal funds and **\$987,429** is from special funds, for salary increases of up to **3 percent** effective July 1, 2025, and 3 percent effective July 1, 2026
- Adds \$1,002,881, of which \$396,260 is from the federal funds and \$606,621 is from special funds, for a health insurance premium increase of \$250 per month (15.2 percent), from \$1,643 to \$1,893, per employee
- Adds \$3,420,755, of which \$1,489,600 is from federal funds and \$1,931,155 is from special funds, to replace the 2023-25 biennium new FTE pool (\$1,179,021) and 2023-25 biennium vacant FTE pool (\$2,241,734)
- Reduces ongoing funding of \$3,001,997, of which \$2,857,938 is from federal funds and \$150,059 is from the Game and Fish Department operating fund, for game and fish grants, including a reduction of \$1,650,000 for shooting ranges grants, resulting in \$1,650,000 remaining for shooting ranges grants
- Adds \$380,000 of one-time funding from the Game and Fish Department operating fund for information technology projects
- Adds \$150,000 of one-time funding from the Game and Fish Department operating fund to repair the Baukol-Noonan dam
- Adds \$160,200 of one-time funding, of which \$80,450 is from federal funds and \$79,750 is from the Game and Fish Department operating fund, for equipment
- Adds \$1,500,000 of one-time funding, of which \$1,125,000 is from federal funds and \$375,000 is from the Game and Fish Department operating fund, for pondliners at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery
- Adds \$300,000 of one-time funding, of which \$225,000 is from federal funds and \$75,000 is from the Game and Fish Department operating fund, for high-pressure pumps at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery
- Adds **\$5,000,000** of one-time funding, of which **\$4,100,000** is from federal funds and **\$900,000** is from the habitat and depredation fund, for land habitat and deer depredation programs, including the habitat improvement program (**\$1,000,000**), private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) payments (**\$2,300,000**), and the rangeland legacy program (**\$1,700,000**)

Deficiency Appropriations

There are no deficiency appropriations recommended in the executive budget for this agency.

Significant Audit Findings

The operational audit of the Game and Fish Department conducted by the State Auditor's office for the period ending June 30, 2022, did not identify any significant audit findings.

Agency Fees

As reported to the Legislative Management, pursuant to North Dakota Century Code Section 54-35-27, this agency has 227 fees. The agency did not recommend any changes to the fees but stated the agency is reviewing all license fees for recommended adjustments and removal of obsolete licenses.

Major Related Legislation

House Bill No. 1462 - This bill removes the requirement for a nonresident landowner to purchase a small game license, nonresident fishing license, and trapping license from the Game and Fish Department.

House Bill No. 1470 - This bill increases hunting and fishing fees.

Senate Bill No. 2216 - This bill requires a \$10 waterfowl habitat restoration stamp to be purchased in addition to the purchase of a resident small game license.

NOTE:

Please see the Fiscal Impact Report for additional information regarding bills under consideration which contain either a state revenue impact, an appropriation, or a state fiscal impact.



Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720
Agency Worksheet - House Bill No. 1017

| | Armstrong Budget | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | FTE Positions | General Fund | Other Funds | Total |
| 2025-27 Biennium Base Level | 170.00 | \$0 | \$104,727,514 | \$104,727,514 |
| 2025-27 Ongoing Funding Changes | | | | |
| Base payroll changes | | | (\$838,661) | (\$838,661) |
| Salary increase | | | 1,588,535 | 1,588,535 |
| Health insurance increase | | | 1,002,881 | 1,002,881 |
| Adds funding to replace the 2023-25 new FTE pool | | | 1,179,021 | 1,179,021 |
| Adds funding to replace the 2023-25 vacant FTE pool | | | 2,241,734 | 2,241,734 |
| Adds funding from special funds for accrued leave payouts for retirements | | | 109,291 | 109,291 |
| Adds funding for temporary salaries | | | 265,500 | 265,500 |
| Adds funding for increasing motorpool costs | | | 687,331 | 687,331 |
| Adds funding for information technology costs | | | 639,189 | 639,189 |
| Adjusts base level funding for operating expenses and capital assets | | | (550,203) | (550,203) |
| Reduces federal funding for shooting ranges grants | | | (1,650,000) | (1,650,000) |
| Reduces funding for other game and fish grants | | | (1,351,997) | (1,351,997) |
| Adds funding for land habitat and deer depredation | | | 26,000 | 26,000 |
| Adjusts funding for the aquatic nuisance species program | | | 36,572 | 36,572 |
| Total ongoing funding changes | 0.00 | \$0 | \$3,385,193 | \$3,385,193 |
| One-Time Funding Items | | | | |
| Adds funding from special funds information technology projects | | | \$380,000 | \$380,000 |
| Adds funding from special funds to repair the Baukol-Noonan dam | | | 150,000 | 150,000 |
| Adds funding for equipment | | | 160,200 | 160,200 |
| Adds funding for pondliners at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery | | | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Adds funding for high-pressure pumps at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery | | | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| Adds funding for wildlife habitat and access on private lands | | | 5,000,000 | 5,000,000 |
| Total one-time funding changes | 0.00 | \$0 | \$7,490,200 | \$7,490,200 |
| Total Changes to Base Level Funding | 0.00 | \$0 | \$10,875,393 | \$10,875,393 |
| 2025-27 Total Funding | 170.00 | \$0 | \$115,602,907 | \$115,602,907 |

Federal funds included in other funds

\$56,725,603

Total ongoing changes - Percentage of base level

0.0%

N/A

3.2%

3.2%

Total changes - Percentage of base level

0.0%

N/A

10.4%

10.4%