

**DEPARTMENT 720 - GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
2027-29 BASE-LEVEL BUDGET**

Base Budget - Summary

	<u>Base Level</u>
Salaries and wages	\$39,325,719
New and vacant FTE pool	1,862,510
Operating expenses	19,274,296
Capital assets	5,002,940
Grants - game and fish	7,087,979
Land habitat and deer depredation	27,173,081
Noxious weed control	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	323,781
Grants, gifts, and donations	695,080
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000
Lonetree Reservoir	2,108,597
Wildlife services	500,000
Shooting Sports Grant Program	250,000
Aquatic Nuisance Species Program	<u>2,885,507</u>
Total all funds	\$107,314,490
Less other funds	<u>107,314,490</u>
Total General Fund	\$0
FTE positions	170.00

Selected Base Budget Information

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Includes funding for salaries and wages in the salaries and wages line item, including \$2,221,582 of temporary salaries. Of the total, \$14,272,866 is from federal funds and \$25,052,853 is from the Game and Fish Department Fund.	\$0	\$39,325,719	\$39,325,719
2. Includes a portion of the funding removed from the salaries and wages line item and other line items with salaries and wages funding for estimated savings from vacant FTE positions. Funding may be transferred from this line if savings from vacant positions are less than estimated.	\$0	\$1,862,510	\$1,862,510
3. Includes funding for operating expenses, primarily related to travel (\$5,554,891), professional and operating fees (\$5,788,359), and information technology (IT) costs (\$3,888,000), printing and postage (\$1,128,000), supplies (\$763,500), and utilities (\$453,000). Of the total, \$8,156,507 is from federal funds and \$11,117,789 is from the Game and Fish Department Fund.	\$0	\$19,274,296	\$19,274,296
4. Includes funding for capital assets, of which \$2,310,805 is from federal funds and \$2,692,135 is from the Game and Fish Department Fund	\$0	\$5,002,940	\$5,002,940
5. Includes funding for game and fish grants, primarily related to fisheries production, management, and development and boating access grants (\$2,126,000), shooting range and shooting sports grants (\$1,890,000), North American Waterfowl Management Plan grants (\$577,500), pollinator grants (\$500,000), and grasslands research and conservation grants (\$325,000). Of the total, \$4,178,897 is from federal funds and \$2,909,082 is from the Game and Fish Department Fund.	\$0	\$7,087,979	\$7,087,979
6. Includes funding for land habitat and deer depredation, including permanent salaries (\$2,628,152), temporary salaries (\$108,000), building and land rent and lease expenses (\$20,067,458), other operating expenses (\$3,634,471), and aquatic nuisance species grants (\$735,000). Of the total, \$17,609,643 is from federal funds and \$9,563,438 is from the Game and Fish Department Fund and the Habitat and Depredation Fund.	\$0	\$27,173,081	\$27,173,081
7. Includes funding for noxious weed control, including professional services and operating fees (\$328,386), buildings, grounds, and vehicle supplies (\$160,643), travel (\$126,740), other operating expenses (\$29,231), and temporary salaries (\$80,000). Of the total, \$543,749 is from federal funds and \$181,251 is from the Game and Fish Department Fund.	\$0	\$725,000	\$725,000

8. Includes funding for Missouri River enforcement, including permanent salaries (\$109,032), overtime salaries (\$30,000), operating expenses (\$134,749), and grants (\$50,000). Of the total, \$161,890 is from federal funds and \$161,891 is from the Game and Fish Department Fund.	\$0	\$323,781	\$323,781
9. Includes funding from the Game and Fish Department Fund for grants, gifts, and donations, including permanent salaries (\$218,561), operating expenses (\$241,519), and grants (\$235,000)	\$0	\$695,080	\$695,080
10. Includes funding from the Nongame Wildlife Fund for nongame wildlife endangered species conservation grants	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
11. Includes federal funding for the Lonetree Reservoir near Harvey, North Dakota, including permanent salaries (\$1,088,489), temporary salaries (\$44,000), operating expenses (\$801,108), and capital assets (\$175,000)	\$0	\$2,108,597	\$2,108,597
12. Includes funding from the Game and Fish Department Fund for a grant provided to the Agriculture Commissioner for the Wildlife Services Program. The program assists individuals and businesses with damages or concerns caused by wildlife, such as damage to crops, trees, and waterways, which is conducted in collaboration with the Game and Fish Department, Department of Water Resources, and United States Department of Agriculture.	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000
13. Includes funding for the Shooting Sports Grant Program, of which \$245,077 is from federal funds and \$4,923 is from the Game and Fish Department Fund	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000
14. Includes funding for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, including permanent salaries (\$885,641), temporary salaries (\$550,000), operating expenses (\$1,159,866), capital assets (\$125,000), and grants (\$165,000). Of the total, \$575,459 is from federal funds and \$2,310,048 is from the Game and Fish Department Fund and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Fund. The program is for preventing, monitoring, and controlling the spread of nonindigenous aquatic species in the state that can be harmful to aquatic ecosystems.	\$0	\$2,885,507	\$2,885,507

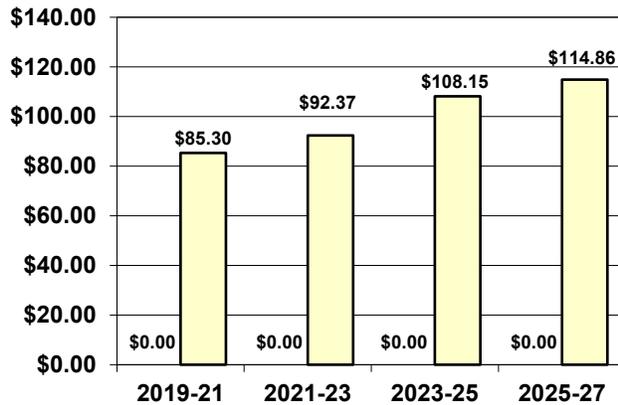
Continuing Appropriations

Fishing Conservation Fund - North Dakota Century Code Section 20.1-03-12.4 - Provides the Director of the Game and Fish Department shall establish a surcharge on nonresident fishing licenses for deposit in the Fishing Conservation Fund for fishery conservation, public access projects, and grant programs relating to fish and wildlife conservation. For the 2023-25 biennium, the fund had \$415,020 of revenue, \$269,705 of expenditures, and a fund balance of \$145,315 on June 30, 2025.

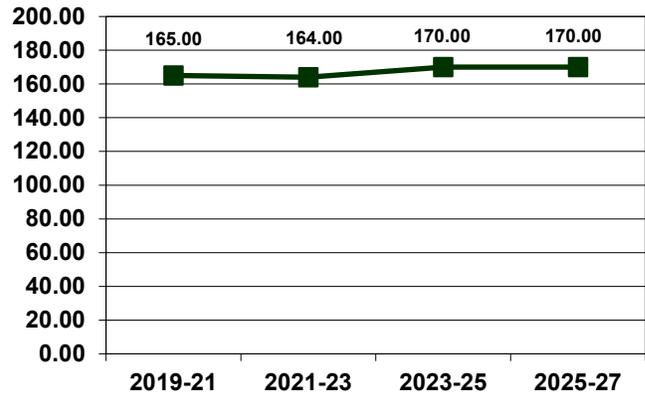
Historical Appropriations Information

Agency Appropriations and FTE Positions

Agency Funding (Millions)



FTE Positions



■ General Fund □ Other Funds

Other Funds

Major sources of special funds include:

- **Game and Fish Department Fund** - The department's operating fund in which revenue from hunting, fishing, and motorboat license fees, sale of publications, mineral royalties, fines, and donations are deposited to support programs and operations of the agency. The balance of the fund must maintain a minimum balance of \$15 million, unless otherwise authorized by the Legislative Assembly or the Budget Section when the Legislative Assembly is not in session.
- **Habitat and Depredation Fund** - Also known as the Game and Fish Department Private Land Habitat and Access Improvement Fund, this fund is for supporting a Private Land Habitat and Access Improvement Program with funding derived from the interest earned on the Game and Fish Fund and habitat restoration stamp fees.
- **Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Fund** - A fund to support the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program to manage and reduce the spread of aquatic nuisance species in the state and support aquatic nuisance species education and prevention efforts. An aquatic nuisance species fee must be paid for each motorboat operated on waters of the state to be deposited in the fund to support the program.
- **Nongame Wildlife Fund** - For the preservation, inventory, perpetuation, and conservation of nongame wildlife, natural areas, and nature preserves in the state. The department is required to allocate a portion of funding deposited in the fund to other state agencies for nongame wildlife activities.

Major sources of federal funds include:

- **Conservation Reserve Program** - Funding provided by the United States Department of Agriculture Private Land to incentivize landowners to remove environmentally sensitive land out of production and to plant cover crops to improve water quality, control erosion, and create wildlife habitats. The program supports the department's Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) Program, which allows public access to private land enrolled in the program for hunting.
- **State wildlife grants** - Funding provided by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services for conservation needs, including research, fish and wildlife surveys, species restoration, and habitat management.
- **Fishing and motorboat access programs** - Funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Services' Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Fund through the Sport Fish Restoration Act for fisheries development, management, and production and motorboat access programs.
- **Hunters education programs** - Funding provided from the United States Fish and Wildlife Services as a result of the Pittman-Robertson Act to support state-run hunter education, firearm and archery safety, and wildlife management, ethics, and conservation programs.

Other Funds Appropriations

	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
Other funds appropriations	\$84,443,322	\$85,303,632	\$92,368,134	\$108,151,604	\$114,864,690
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	\$860,310	\$7,064,502	\$15,783,470	\$6,713,086
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	1.0%	8.3%	17.1%	6.2%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2017-19 biennium	N/A	1.0%	9.4%	28.1%	36.0%

Major Increases (Decreases) in Other Funds Appropriations

2019-21 Biennium

Ongoing

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Underfunded salaries and wages and reduced funding for temporary salaries | (\$385,721) |
| 2. Reduced grant funding | (\$1,703,549) |
| 3. Increased funding for operating expenses, primarily for fees and services and reclassified funding from grants for boat access and development, Save Our Lakes Program, and Aquatic Nuisance Species Program (\$400,000) and for state wildlife grant projects (\$200,000) | \$1,074,294 |
| 4. Increased federal funds for shooting range grants to provide a total of \$1,762,500 | \$500,000 |
| 5. Reduced funding for motor vehicles (\$179,859), capital assets (\$213,930), and IT costs (\$207,000) | (\$600,789) |
| 6. Added funding for Microsoft Office 365 licensing expenses (\$122,634) and equipment | \$230,978 |
| 7. Added funding from the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Fund for use in aquatic nuisance species education, inspection, and monitoring programs under Chapter 20.1-17 and authorized 2 FTE positions for the program | \$1,500,000 |

One-time

None

2021-23 Biennium

Ongoing

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Added funding for capital assets by increasing extraordinary repairs (\$527,679), motor vehicles (\$568,180), and other capital payments (\$111,292), and reducing land, building and maintenance (\$50,000), and equipment over \$5,000 (\$243,505) | \$913,646 |
| 2. Increased funding for operating expenses by increasing land, buildings, and maintenance (\$172,440), IT costs (\$233,000), Microsoft Office 365 licenses (\$18,507), and other operating expenses (\$843,653) | \$1,267,600 |

One-time

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|---|-------------|
| 1. PLOTS payments (federal funds) | \$1,485,000 |
| 2. Red River Basin Wildlife and Water Quality Enhancement Program (Outdoor Heritage Fund grant) | \$500,000 |
| 3. Radio equipment replacement (Game and Fish Department Fund) | \$801,500 |

2023-25 Biennium

Ongoing

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Added 6 FTE positions, including 1 FTE enforcement warden position, 2 FTE biologist II positions, and 3 FTE biologist I positions and related operating expenses | \$2,303,266 |
| 2. Adjusted funding for base budget changes including an increase of \$1,383,088 in salaries and wages, an increase of \$185,442 in operating expenses, a decrease of \$1,374,109 in capital assets, an increase of \$1,166,633 in grants - game and fish, an increase of \$1,285,000 in land habitat and deer depredation, an increase of \$13,754 in Missouri River enforcement, and an increase of \$306,585 in Lonetree Reservoir | \$2,966,393 |
| 3. Increased funding for fleet services and motor pool increases to provide a total of \$4,867,560 | \$1,157,192 |
| 4. Added funding for midterm conservation agreements relating to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Program | \$2,777,778 |
| 5. Increased funding for the PLOTS Program to provide a total of \$20.3 million | \$5,000,000 |

One-time

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Equipment for new FTE positions (Game and Fish Department Fund, Habitat and Depredation Fund, and federal funds) | \$294,090 |
| 2. Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility (Game and Fish Department Fund) | \$850,000 |
| 3. In-car video system and body cameras (Game and Fish Department Fund) | \$550,000 |
| 4. Fisheries pond liners (Game and Fish Department Fund and federal funds) | \$1,000,000 |

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 5. Fisheries dam repairs at Camel Hump and Baukol Noonan (Game and Fish Department Fund) | \$380,000 |
| 6. Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements (Game and Fish Department Fund) | \$350,000 |
| 7. Contingent federal funding for implementation of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The appropriation included funding for 4 contingent FTE positions. Congress did not pass this Act and the contingency was not met. | \$27,150,000 |

2025-27 Biennium

Ongoing

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|--|---------------|
| 1. Added funding for temporary salaries, including \$77,756 from federal funds and \$187,744 from the Game and Fish Department Fund to provide a total of \$2,221,582 for temporary salaries in the salaries and wages line item | \$265,500 |
| 2. Added funding for increasing motorpool costs, including \$321,100 from federal funds and \$366,231 from the Game and Fish Department Fund | \$687,331 |
| 3. Added funding from special funds for increasing IT costs | \$639,189 |
| 4. Reduced federal funding for shooting ranges grants, resulting in \$1,650,000 of federal funding remaining for the program | (\$1,650,000) |
| 5. Adjusted base level funding, including adding \$109,291 for accrued leave payouts for retirements, adding \$26,000 for the land habitat and deer depredation program, adding \$36,572 for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, reducing (\$1,351,997) for game and fish grants, and reducing (\$550,203) for operating expenses and capital assets, primarily related to decreases in operating fees and services and buildings, grounds, and vehicle supplies | (\$1,730,337) |

One-time

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. IT projects, including a Game and Fish Department mobile application project (\$100,000), a customer relationship management solution project (\$250,000), and a video asset management system project (\$30,000) (Game and Fish Department Fund) | \$380,000 |
| 2. Bakukol-Noonan Dam repairs (Game and Fish Department Fund) | \$150,000 |
| 3. Equipment, including tractors, all-terrain vehicles, law enforcement aquatic radios, game warden firearms, and a fiberglass boat, motor, and trailer (Game and Fish Department Fund and federal funds) | \$220,200 |
| 4. Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pondliners (\$1,500,000) and high-pressure pumps (\$300,000) (Game and Fish Department Fund and federal funds) | \$1,800,000 |
| 5. Habitat Improvement Program (Habitat and Depredation Fund and federal funds) | \$1,000,000 |
| 6. PLOTS payments to provide a total of \$21.7 million (Habitat and Depredation Fund and federal funds) | \$2,300,000 |
| 7. Rangeland Legacy Program (Habitat and Depredation Fund and federal funds) | \$1,700,000 |