2025 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
HB 1017

\$725,000

\$725,000

\$0

DEPARTMENT 720 - GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT 2025-27 BASE-LEVEL BUDGET

Base Budget - Summary

Base Budget - Summary	/		
		<u>Ba</u>	se Level
Salaries and wages			\$37,008,098
Operating expenses			17,788,258
Capital assets			5,400,661
Grants - game and fish			10,089,976
Land habitat and deer depredation			27,183,516
Noxious weed control			725,000
Missouri River enforcement			313,869
Grants, gifts, and donations			677,970
Nongame wildlife conservation			100,000
Lonetree reservoir			2,156,714
Wildlife services			500,000
Shooting sports grant program			250,000
Aquatic nuisance species program			<u>2,533,452</u>
Total all funds			\$104,727,514
Less other funds			104,727,514
Total general fund			\$0
Full-time equivalent (FTE) positions			170.00
	4.		
Selected Base Budget Inform			
	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
1. Includes funding for salaries and wages, including \$1,956,082 of		\$37,008,098	\$37,008,098
temporary salaries. Of the total, \$13,327,669 is from federal funds and \$23,680,429 is from the game and fish operating fund.		φ37,000,090	\$37,000,0 9 8
2. Includes funding for operating expenses, primarily related to travel (\$4,867,560), professional and operating fees (\$5,311,803), and information technology (IT) costs (\$2,700,750), printing and postage (\$1,128,000), supplies (\$963,500), and utilities (\$453,000). Of the total, \$7,422,995 is from federal funds and \$10,365,263 is from the game and fish operating fund.	 	\$17,788,258	\$17,788,258
Includes funding for capital assets, of which \$2,136,358 is from federal funds and \$3,264,303 is from the game and fish operating fund.	\$0	\$5,400,661	\$5,400,661
 Includes funding for game and fish grants, of which \$7,030,835 is from federal funds and \$3,059,141 is from the game and fish operating fund. 	\$0	\$10,089,976	\$10,089,976
Grant programs from federal funds include grants for shooting ranges (\$3,300,000), fisheries production (\$637,500), fisheries management (\$320,478), motor boat access development (\$517,500), beef and birds (\$457,041), wildlife surveys (\$318,490), and wild turkey translocation (\$267,144).	t I		
Grant programs from the game and fish operating fund include grants for giant Canadian geese (\$1,002,513), communications and conservation administration and coordination (\$830,720), fisheries production (\$212,500), fisheries management (\$106,826), and motor boat access development (\$172,500).	 		
5. Includes funding for land habitat and deer depredation, of which \$2,664,597 is for permanent salaries, \$108,000 is for temporary salaries, \$20,067,458 is for building and land rent and lease expenses, \$3,608,461 is for other operating expenses and capital assets, and \$735,000 is for federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act grants. Of the total, \$17,621,966 is from federal funds, \$1,717,212 is from the game and fish operating fund.	- -	\$27,183,516	\$27,183,516

6. Includes funding for noxious weed control, primarily related to professional services and operating fees (\$328,386), buildings, grounds, and vehicle supplies (\$160,643), travel (\$126,740), and temporary salaries (\$80,000). Of the total, \$543,749 is from federal funds and \$181,251 is from the game and fish operating fund.

and 7,844,338 is from the habitat and depredation fund.

is from federal funds, \$1,717,212 is from the game and fish operating fund,

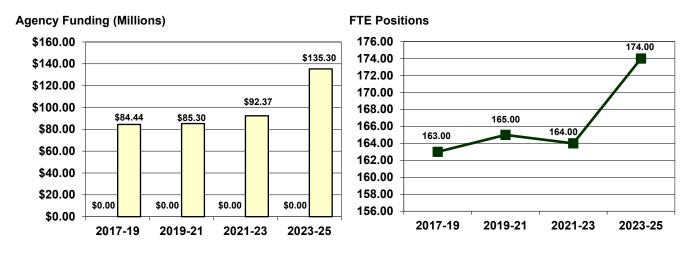
7.	Includes funding for Missouri River enforcement, of which \$99,120 is for permanent salaries, \$30,000 is for overtime salaries, \$134,749 is for operating expenses, and \$50,000 is for grants. Of the total, \$156,670 is from federal funds and \$157,199 is from the game and fish operating fund.	\$0	\$313,869	\$313,869
8.	Includes funding from the game and fish operating fund for grants, gifts, and donations, of which \$201,451 is for permanent salaries, \$241,519 is for operating expenses, and \$235,000 is for grants.	\$0	\$677,970	\$677,970
9.	Includes funding from the nongame wildlife fund for nongame wildlife endangered species conservation grants.	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
10.	Includes federal funding for the Lonetree Reservoir near Harvey, North Dakota, of which \$824,606 is for permanent salaries, \$44,000 is for temporary salaries, and \$801,108 is for operating expenses, and \$487,000 is for capital assets.	\$0	\$2,156,714	\$2,156,714
11.	Includes funding from the game and fish operating 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
12.	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 operating fund.	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000
13.	Includes funding for the aquatic nuisance species program, of which \$570,148 is for permanent salaries, \$525,000 is for temporary salaries, \$1,112,804 is for operating expenses, \$107,500 is for capital assets, and \$218,000 is for grants. Of the total, \$510,792 is from federal funds and \$510,793 is from the game and fish operating fund, and \$1,511,867 is from 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	\$2,533,452	\$2,533,452

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.

Historical Appropriations Information

Agency Appropriations and FTE Positions



■General Fund □Other Funds

Ongoing Other Funds Appropriations

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25
Ongoing other funds appropriations	\$77,231,739	\$83,227,498	\$85,303,632	\$89,581,634	\$104,727,514
Increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	\$5,995,759	\$2,076,134	\$4,278,002	\$15,145,880
Percentage increase (decrease) from previous biennium	N/A	7.8%	2.5%	5.0%	16.9%
Cumulative percentage increase (decrease) from 2015-17 biennium	N/A	7.8%	10.5%	16.0%	35.6%

Major Increases (Decreases) in Ongoing Other Funds Appropriations

2017-19 Riennium

2017-	19 Biennium	
1.	Increased funding for credit card fee changes on the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses	\$180,000
2.	Reduced funding for rent allowance for oil-impacted areas	(\$100,000)
3.	Added funding for replacement of pond liners	\$572,000
4.	Added funding for replacement of lighting in the salmon building	\$130,000
5.	Increased funding for capital assets	\$200,000
6.	Added funding for equipment replacement	\$747,000
7.	Increased funding for grants from Pittman-Robertson federal funds	\$1,590,000
8.	Increased funding for operating expenses	\$839,186
9.	Reduced funding for capital assets	(\$1,063,040)
10.	Provided funding for the Parks and Recreation Department for operating of boating access at state parks	\$122,000
11.	Increased funding for grants	\$1,353,772
12.	Increased funding for land and deer depredation	\$1,153,880
13.	Increased funding for noxious weed control operating expenses	\$120,135
14.	Added increased funding for a grant to the Agriculture Commissioner for wildlife services	\$115,600
2019-	21 Biennium	
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, primary for fees and services and reclassified funding from grants for boat access and development, Save Our Lakes program, and aquatic nuisance species (\$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)
6.	Reduced funding for capital assets	(\$213,930)
7.	Reduced other IT funding	(\$207,000)
8.	Added funding for Microsoft Office 365 licensing expenses	\$122,634
9.	Increased funding for equipment over \$5,000	\$108,344
10.	Added funding from the aquatic nuisance species program fund for use in aquatic nuisance species education, inspection, and monitoring programs under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 20.1-17 and authorized 2 FTE positions for the program (Senate Bill No. 2293)	\$1,500,000
2021-	23 Biennium	
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 (\$233,000), Microsoft Office 365 licenses (\$18,507), and other operating expenses (\$843,653)	\$1,267,600
2023-	25 Biennium	
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 private land open to sportsmen program to provide a total of \$20.3 million	\$5,000,000
	One-Time Other Funds Appropriations	

	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25
One-time other funds appropriations	\$0	\$748,724	\$0	\$2,786,500	\$30,574,090

Major One-Time Other Funds Appropriations		
2017-19 Biennium		
Airplane replacement	\$250,000	
2. Dakota Access Pipeline protest	\$423,724	
Electronic payment processing system	\$75,000	
2019-21 Biennium		
None	\$0	
2021-23 Biennium		
Private land open to sportsmen payments	\$1,485,000	
2. Red River basin wildlife and water quality enhancement program		
3. Radio equipment replacement \$		
2023-25 Biennium		
Equipment for new FTE positions	\$294,090	
2. Aquatic nuisance species laboratory and storage facility \$850		
3. In-car video system and body cameras \$550,		
4. Fisheries pond liners \$1,000,		
5. Fisheries dam repairs at Camel Hump and Baukol Noonan \$380,000		
6. Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements \$350,00		

 Contingent 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



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

EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 2025-27 BIENNIUM

Budget Summary

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Executive budget recommendation	170.00	\$0	\$113,957,679	\$113,957,679
Base level	170.00	0	104,727,514	104,727,514
Increase (decrease)	0.00	\$0	\$9,230,165	\$9,230,165
Percentage increase (decrease)	0.0%	N/A	8.8%	8.8%

NOTE:

More detailed information on the executive budget recommendation is attached as Appendix A.

A copy of the draft appropriations bill reflecting the executive budget recommendation is attached as Appendix B.

Selected Highlights

- Adds \$1,943,307, of which \$735,347 is from the federal funds and \$1,207,960 is from special funds, for salary increases of up to 4 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 \$2,951,038 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 \$3,000,000 of one-time funding, of which \$2,460,000 is from federal funds and \$540,000 is from the
 habitat and depredation fund, for land habitat and deer depredation programs, including the habitat
 improvement program (\$600,000), private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) payments (\$1,200,000), and
 the rangeland legacy program (\$1,200,000)

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

As of the date of this report, there is no major related legislation for this agency.

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

		Execut	ive 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			1,943,307	1,943,307
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			109,291	109,291
payouts for retirements				
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			(550,203)	(550,203)
and capital assets			(, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
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	\$3,739,965	\$3,739,965
One-Time Funding Items			Ф000 000	#
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			3,000,000	3,000,000
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$5,490,200	\$5,490,200
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	0.00	\$0	\$9,230,165	\$9,230,165
2025-27 Total Funding	170.00	\$0	\$113,957,679	\$113,957,679

Federal funds included in other funds

Total ongoing changes - Percentage of base level 0.0% N/A 3.6% 3.6% Total changes - Percentage of base level 0.0% N/A 8.8% 8.8%

\$55,219,844

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

Section Description	Executive Budget
Grants, gifts, and donations	Section 3 would identify \$100,000 appropriated in the grants, gifts,
	and donations line item in Section 1 is for surface damage,
	easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-
	managed properties from oil or mining activities.

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

Section Description	Executive Budget
Line item transfer authority	Section 4 would require the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2025-27 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.
FTE position adjustments	Section 5 would allow the Game and Fish Department to increase or decrease authorized FTE positions as needed, subject to the availability of funds.

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1017 (Governor's Recommendation)

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

(At the request of the Governor)

A bill for an act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department and to provide for a transfer and to provide an exemption.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated out of any moneys in the game and fish fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and from special funds derived from federal funds and other income, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

		Adjustments or	
	Base Level	Enhancements	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and Wages	\$37,008,098	\$4,977,841	\$41,985,939
Operating Expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296
Capital Assets	5,400,661	1,562,479	6,963,140
Grants – Game and Fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979
Shooting Sports Grant Program	250,000	0	250,000
Land Habitat and Deer Depredation	27,183,516	3,179,001	30,362,517
Noxious Weed Control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River Enforcement	313,869	17,850	331,719
Grants-Gift-Donation	677,970	32,862	710,832
Nongame Wildlife Conservation	100,000	0	100,000
Aquatic Nuisance Species	2,533,52	415,752	2,949,204
Lonetree Reservoir	2,156,714	30,339	2,187,053
Wildlife Services	500,000	0	500,000
Total Special Funds	\$104,727,514	\$9,230,165	\$113,957,679
Full-time Equivalent Positions	170.00	0.00	170.00

SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items approved by the sixty-eighth legislative assembly for the 2023-25 biennium and the 2025-27 biennium one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of the Act:

One-Time Funding Description	<u>2023-25</u>	<u>2025-27</u>
Aquatic Nuisance lab and storage facility	850,000	0
Devils Lake bunkhouse improvements	350,000	0
In-car video system and body cameras	550,000	0
Fisheries dam repairs	380,000	150,000
Fisheries pondliners and pumps	1,000,000	1,800,000
Wash stations and other equipment	205,000	0
Uniforms and supplies for new FTE	89,090	0
Information technology equipment	0	380,000
Other equipment	0	160,200
Additional PLOTS payments	<u>0</u>	3,000,000
Total special funds	\$3,424,090	\$5,490,200

The 2025-27 biennium one-time funding amounts are not a part of the entity's base budget for the 2027-29 biennium. The game and fish department shall report to the appropriations committees of the seventieth legislative assembly on the use of this one-time funding for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2027.

SECTION 3. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS LINE. The grants, gifts, and donations line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$100,000 received by the game and fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department owned or managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.

SECTION 4. LINE ITEM TRANSFER AUTHORITY. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants -game and fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2027. The game and fish department shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.

SECTION 5. EXEMPTION - FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITION ADJUSTMENTS. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the game and fish department may increase or decrease authorized full-time equivalent positions as needed, subject to availability of funds, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The game and fish department shall report to the office of management and budget and legislative council any adjustments made pursuant to this section.



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

REVISED EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 2025-27 BIENNIUM

Budget Summary

	FTE	General	Other	
	Positions	Fund	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			109,291	109,291
payouts for retirements				
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			(550,203)	(550,203)
and capital assets				
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			36,572	36,572
program				
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	<u> </u>	· 1	\$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%
J				

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division

Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1017 1/17/2025

To provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption.

8:32 am. Chairman Monson called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Monson, Vice Chairman Brandenburg, Representatives: Bosch, Fischer, Kempenich, Meier, Pyle.

Discussion Topics:

- ND Game and Fish statutory responsibilities
- ND Game and Fish history
- ND Game and Fish management
- Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act
- Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act
- ND Game and Fish revenue projections
- ND Game and Fish budget overview

8:33 a.m. Jeb Williams, Director, ND Game and Fish, testified in favor.

8:45 a.m. Brian Hosek, Administrative Services Division Chief, ND Game and Fish Department, testified and provided testimony in favor #29630.

Additional written testimony:

Mary Massad, President, ND Water Users Association, submitted testimony in favor #29605.

Richard A. Brueckner, President, North Dakota Sportfishing Congress, submitted testimony in favor #29673.

10:02 a.m. Representative Kempenich adjourned the meeting.

Madaline Cooper, Committee Clerk



 $\textbf{\textit{Dedicated to Protecting, Developing, and Managing North Dakota's Water Resources}$

PO Box 2254, Bismarck, ND 58502-2254

701-223-4615 • 701-223-4645 (Fax)

House Appropriations Education and Environment Division Hearing for HB 2017 January 17, 2025 Testimony of Mary Massad, President, North Dakota Water Users Association

Chairman Nathe and members of the House Appropriations Education and Environment Division, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1017. The Water Users Association is the state-wide member organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota's water resources. We have more than 150 members including local, statewide and regional organizations in North Dakota who have an active interest in water.

As the Division works on the budget for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the Water Users asks that you support the efforts of the Game and Fish Department in preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS). The North Dakota Water Users has a policy resolution addressing the vital need to combat the spread of ANS. Our policy reads:

We urge aggressive prevention of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) for North Dakota waters as outlined in the North Dakota aquatic species management plan prepared by the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee. We urge all federal and state agencies to adequately fund and provide the necessary authorities to implement aquatic nuisance species prevention programs in all North Dakota waters, and we support adequate funding for ANS education and enforcement. We support the actions and initiatives of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in their efforts to educate, inform public and protect our states' waters from ANS. As these efforts are limited in scope due to their funding through licensing fees, we strongly encourage and support direct State funding to better protect our waters from the high risks associated with the invasion and adverse impacts associated with ANS.

As the threat of ANS, particularly zebra mussels grows, additional work will need to be done to curb the spread through inspection and education. Zebra mussels are especially damaging to any type of infrastructure within an infected body of water, including water supply and irrigation intakes. Introduction of zebra mussels around the Garrison Dam could have devasting impacts on power production at the dam as well. Zebra mussels grow and spread quickly and have razor sharp shells that can quickly make breaches treacherous. This can be a huge deterrent to recreation on zebra mussel infested water bodies.

Once introduced zebra mussels can NOT be eradicated. These thumbnail-sized mollusks spread rapidly, a single female mussel can produce about a half a billion offspring in her 3 to 5-year life span. It only takes one infected boat to introduce zebra mussels and infect an entire body of water. This is why a robust inspection strategy is vital to prevention. We ask the Division to support a strong ANS prevention line item within the Department's budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



January 17, 2025

HB 1017 2025-27 Appropriation Request North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Chairman Monson and members of the Government Operations Division of House Appropriations, my name is Brian Hosek, Administrative Services Division Chief of the ND Game and Fish Department. I will be testifying on HB1017, our appropriation bill.

The ND Game and Fish Department is largely directed under NDCC Title 20.1 and many of those responsibilities reside under 20.1-02-05 which lists the power of the Director. The major statutory responsibilities can be summarized as: to manage and regulate the state's wildlife resources, game and non-game, for the use, enjoyment, possession, disposition, and conservation for the public of North Dakota.

The 2025-27 executive budget recommendation is \$115,602,907. This is an increase of \$10,875,393 from the 2023-2025 legislative base level appropriation of \$104,727,514.

My testimony will cover the following for the Department:

- Federal and Special Revenue
- Fund Balance
- Legislative Base changes
- 25-27 Budget Changes
- Other Sections included in the executive bill draft for HB1017
- Budget by Divisions

The Game and Fish Department is a special fund agency receiving revenue from game and fish license sales (hunting, fishing, boating registrations, etc.) and federal funding.

We receive no general fund dollars.

Audit Findings Report: No areas of concern were identified.

Table of Contents

<u>Slide</u>

2-3	North Dakota Game and Fish Department Mission and History
4-5	Service and Economic Study
6	Organizational Chart
7	District Offices
8	Revenue Projections Chart
9-10	Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts
11	Revenue Projections (continued)
12	Federal Revenue Levels
13-18	Licensing and Special Revenue Graphs
19	Fund Balance
20	Base and Total Recommended Budget by Line
21	2023-25 Legislative Appropriation
22-24	2025-27 Legislative Base Budget
25-33	Decision Package Summary and Detail
34	Other Sections in the Executive Bill Draft
35-48	Department Budget by Division
49-51	New FTE Summary/ Vacant FTE Pool
52-59	68 th Legislative Assembly Highlights

Committee Division Outline

- 1. Explain the purpose of the agency and its various divisions/programs Cite North Dakota Century Code provisions (page 1) and attach an organizational chart (slide 6).
- 2. Report any audit findings included in the most recent audit and action taken to address each finding (page 1).
- 3. Discuss current biennium accomplishments and challenges and next biennium goals and plans. (slides 52-59)
- 4. Compare the agency's request/recommendation totals, including full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, for the next biennium compared to the current biennium. (slides 20-25)
- 5. Discuss any new positions approved for your agency for the 2023-25 biennium by the 2023 Legislative Assembly, the timing of filling the positions, amounts transferred from the OMB pool for the filled positions, and funding appropriated and the amount estimated to be spent for each position for the 2023-25 biennium. (slide 49)
- 6. Discuss employee turnover and the number of vacant positions during the 2023-25 biennium to date, the amount of savings relating to the vacant positions and employee turnover to date compared to the vacant position savings removed from your agency's budget by the 2023 Legislative Assembly, the amount of vacant position saving spent for other purposes, and any amounts transferred or anticipated to be transferred from the OMB pool. (slides 50-51)
- 7. Explain the funding included in each program/line item either in total or by division depending on the size of the agency as follows: (slides 35-48)
 - a. Amounts included in the base level and their purpose and use; and
 - b. Amounts included in the request/recommendation and justification for the change from the base level. Discuss changes relating to each line item (salaries and wages, operating expenses, etc.) funding source (general fund, special funds, federal funds), and FTE positions.
- 8. Discuss the purpose and use of any one-time funding items for the current biennium. (slide 21)
- 9. Identify and justify the need for any one-time funding being requested. (slides 28-29, 31-33)
- 10. Discuss any fees the agency charges, the appropriateness of the fee amount, fee collections that are deposited in the general fund or a special fund, and any anticipated changes from 2023 legislative session estimates during the 2023-25 biennium and estimated changes for the 2025-27 biennium. (slide 19)
- 11. Identify any federal state fiscal relief funds remaining to be spent by your agency by December 2026. Provide the amount, the purpose, and a timeline of anticipated expenditures. \$27,000 Devils Lake Fire Alarm System Upgrade. Expected completion by 6/30/2025.
- 12. Discuss the need for any other sections to be added to the appropriation bill. (slide 34)
- 13. Discuss any other bills being considered by the Legislative Assembly and their potential budgetary impact on your agency.
- 14. Provide a one-page itemized listing any changes your agency is requesting the committee to make to the executive budget recommendation.
- 15. Provide additional information as necessary.

House Appropriations Committee HB 1017

January 17, 2025

Brian Hosek Administrative Services Division Chief



OUR MISSION

The mission of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use.



Game and Fish

HISTORY

Hunting and fishing are deeply ingrained in the North Dakota way of life and are constitutionally protected rights in North Dakota.

CONSTITUTION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Article I, Section 1 - Declaration of Rights

All individuals are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation; pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness; and to keep and bear arms for the defense of their person, family, property, and the state, and for lawful hunting, recreational, and other lawful purposes, which shall not be infringed.

Article XI, Section 27

Hunting, trapping, and fishing and the taking of game and fish are a valued part of our heritage and will be forever preserved for the people and managed by law and regulation for the public good.

WHO WE SERVE



Individuals who harvest animals by firearms and archery.

Hunters



Anglers

Individuals who participate in fishing, spearing and/or snagging.



Boaters

Individuals who use boats for fishing or pleasure.



Trappers

Individuals who harvest animals with trapping equipment.



Landowners

Individuals who own land and/or make a living off the land.



Recreational Shooters

Individuals who shoot firearms or other weapons for sport or leisure.





HUNTING & FISHING

BY THE NUMBERS



\$ 1.3 BILLION

Economic value of hunting and fishing to North Dakota's economy.

\$383MILLION

in direct expenditures in rural areas by hunters and anglers.





Per capita North Dakota ranks in the <u>TOP 5</u> of outdoor participants.

SALES TAX REVENUE



\$47 MILLION



FULL-TIME JOBS

6,500

Resident and Nonresident Hunter and Angler Expenditures, Characteristics, and Economic Effects, North Dakota, 2022-23. NDSU Ag. Econ. 2024.



MEET OUR TEAM

MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION CHART



JEB WILLIAMS Director

NORTH

Be Legendary."



SCOTT PETERSON Deputy Director



Game and Fish







BRIAN HOSEK Division Chief Administrative Services



26 FTE's



GREG POWER Division Chief Fisheries



27 FTE's

170 Total Full Time **Employees**



SCOTT WINKELMAN Division Chief Enforcement



~70

Temporary/ Seasonal



BRUCE KREFT Division Chief Conservation and Communications



23 FTE's

- Part-time (6)
- 40hrs/week (8)
- On-call (2)



CASEY ANDERSON Division Chief Wildlife



DISTRICT OFFICES





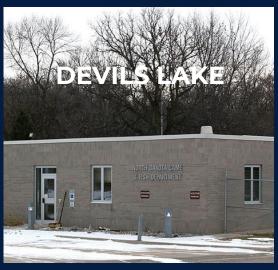












2025-27 REVENUE PROJECTION

Federal

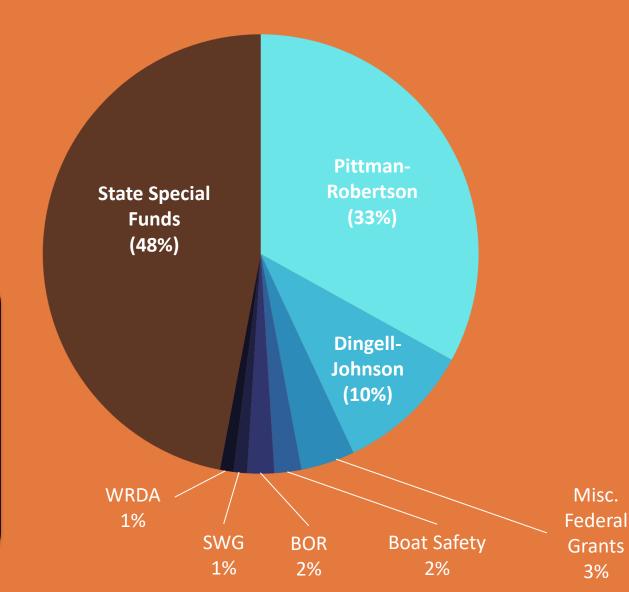
\$55,728,238

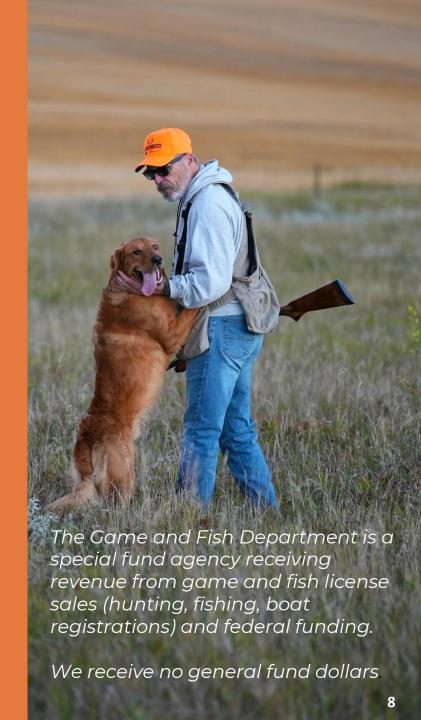
\$52,264,945

Total

Game and Fish

\$107,993,183





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts

Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Conservation Investment manages over a billion dollars in grants to recipients across the U.S. annually for species and habitat conservation, recreation, and outdoor education. The Wildlife Restoration grant program and Sport Fish Restoration grant program are the foundation of conservation funding in the U.S.

84% of our federal funds come from these two grants:

Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (PR), passed in 1937

• funds are derived from excise tax on the sale of guns, ammunition, and archery equipment

Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ), passed in 1950

• funds are derived from excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, electric motors, and motorboat fuel tax





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts

Mandatory Funding (Not dependent on congress)

States may be paid up to 75% Federal funding; requires 25% non-Federal cost-share.

Formula Based...



Distribution Method

Apportioned formula based on:

50% paid hunting license holders +

50% land/water area



Distribution Method

Apportioned formula based on:

60% paid sport fishing license

holders + 40% land/water area



Special Conditions or Requirements

- Submit annual license certifications
- States must pass and maintain assent legislation

NDCC 20.1-02-17

Hunting and fishing license fees and application fees may only be used for departmental programs and administration. Noncompliance will result in a diversion of all USFWS federal funds.

Any misuse of our special funds will result in what is called a "diversion". A diversion of federal funds means we become ineligible for future USFWS federal funds until the diversion is resolved. This equates to approximately \$50M.







Revenue Projections

25-27 Revenue Projections:	
Federal revenue is projected to be as follows:	
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (PR funds)*	\$32,714,702
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ funds)**	\$10,973,564
Recreational Boating Safety Program	\$ 1,718,859
State Wildlife Grants	\$ 1,354,366
Misc. Federal Grants	\$ 6,291,926
Bureau of Reclamation (Lonetree)	\$ 2,107,818
Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)	\$ 567,003
Total Federal Revenue	\$55,728,238
Game & Fish (G&F) Revenue by Fund:	
Game and Fish Fund (Licenses + Misc.)	\$41,860,500
Private Land Habitat Fund	\$ 7,600,000

 Total Federal Revenue
 \$55,728,238
 52%

 Total Game and Fish
 \$52,264,945
 48%

Total Revenue

\$107,993,183

7,600,000 68,000 2,136,445 600,000 **Revenue**

Total Game & Fish Revenue \$52,264,945

Total All Revenue \$107,993,183



Nongame Wildlife Fund (Donations)

Fishing Conservation Fund (Continuing Appropriation)

Aquatic Nuisance Species Fund





Federal Revenue Levels

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Sport Fish Restoration Act Funds (DJ)

In 2024, the amount was \$4.4M. We project the funds to remain slightly above the \$4M level annually for 2025-27. The funds require a 25% match and have a 2-year window to be obligated.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Wildlife Restoration Act Funds (PR)

In 2024, the amount was \$14.2M. We project the funds to remain around the \$12M-\$13M level annually for 2025-27. The funds require a 25% match and have a 2-year window to be obligated.

U.S. Coast Guard - Recreational Boating Safety Funds

These are mandatory funds, not dependent on congressional approval. We project the funds to remain approximately the same for 2025-27. The funds require a 50% match and have a 3-year window to be obligated.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Funds

These are discretionary funds, dependent on congressional approval. The funds have remained the same for many years. We project the funds to remain approximately the same for 2025-27. The match for these funds vary.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

These funds have remained the same the last few years and are 100% federal.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) Funds

These are discretionary funds, dependent on congressional approval. We project these funds to remain the same for 2025-27. These funds require a 50% match.

* Unobligated funds will revert to the USFWS to be allocated to other states.







Licensing and Special Revenue

We project our licensing revenue to remain the same for 2025-27. Revenues are largely driven by fishing, waterfowl, small game, and deer license sales. Hunting and fishing participation is derived from the General Game/Habitat and Fishing License sales.



^{*} Deer licenses include deer-gun, deer-bow, and youth deer





GENERAL GAME LICENSE SALES





2024 General Game Licenses

Resident:

100,832

Non-Resident:

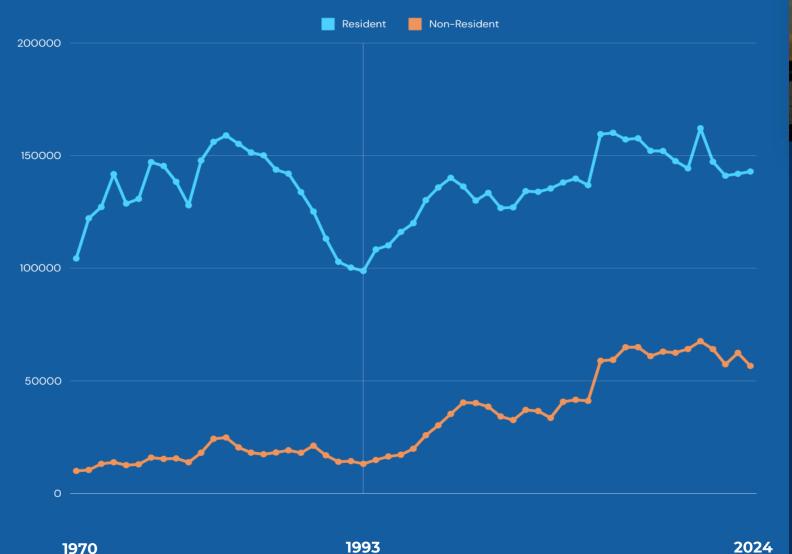
49,567

2024 statistics do not reflect the complete license season.

Annual renewal date: 4/1/2025

The General Game License is a fundamental requirement for most hunting activities in the state.

FISHING LICENSE SALES





2024 Fishing Licenses

Resident:

142,931

Non-Resident:

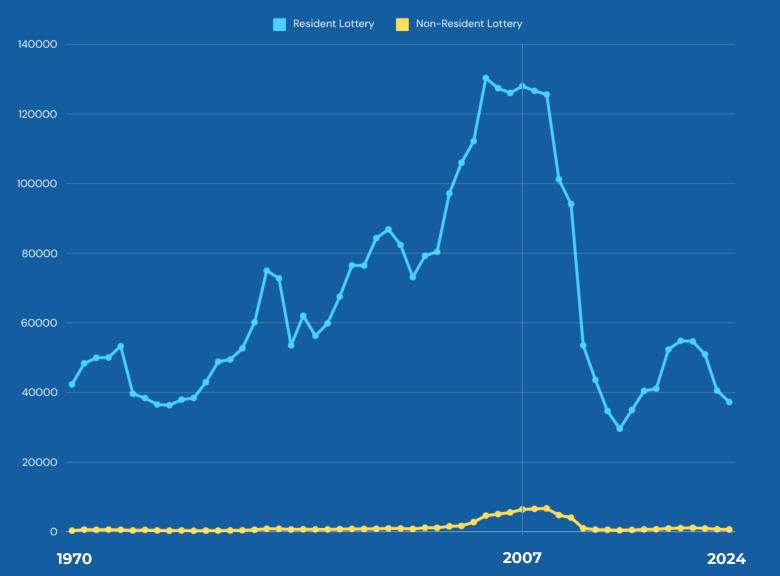
56,631

2024 statistics do not reflect the complete license season.

Annual renewal date: 4/1/2025



DEER GUN LOTTERY





2024
Deer Gun Allocation

50,100



DEER BOW





2024 Deer Bow

Resident:

Non-Resident:

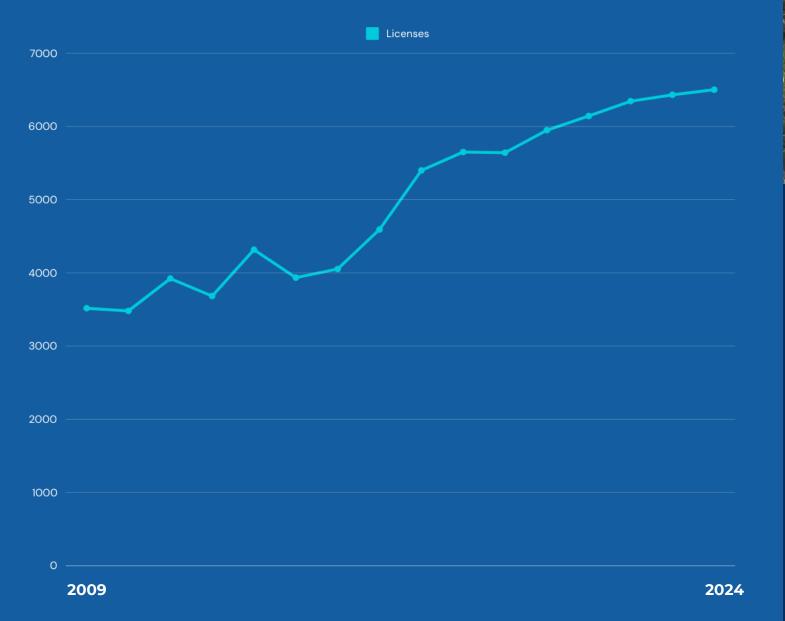
23,993

3,113

All licenses - resident and non-residentare for <u>white-tailed deer only</u>.

Only one statewide bow tag is allowed.

YOUTH DEER GUN





2024 Youth Deer Gun

Licenses Issued:

6,503



ALL-TIME HIGH

Additional youth archery licenses issued in 2024:

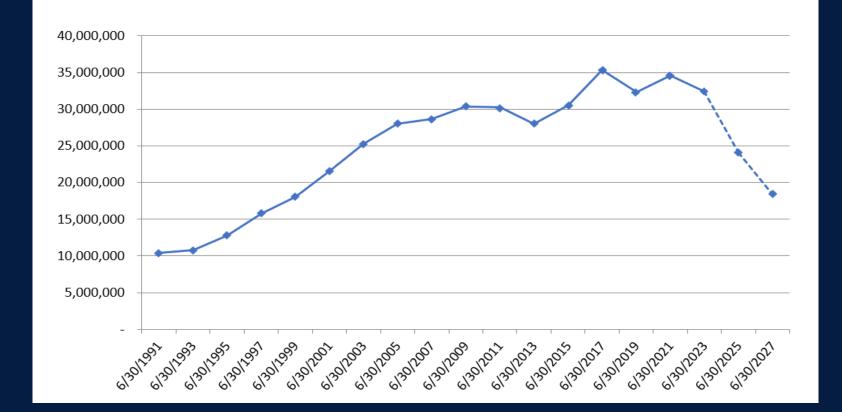
1,593





Department Fund Balance / Projections

	Actual <u>6/30/2021</u>	Actual 6/30/2023	Projected 6/30/2025	Projected 6/30/2027	Projected 6/30/2027 with Optional Requests
Game and Fish Fund	\$31,634,292	\$25,627,447	\$17,871,353	\$15,266,525	\$12,919,212
Private Land Habitat Fund	\$2,430,357	\$5,801,360	\$5,281,811	\$5,061,317	\$4,161,317
Non-Game Wildlife Fund	\$131,907	\$145,821	\$113,821	\$81,821	\$81,821
Aquatic Nuisance Species Fund	\$348,328	\$826,733	\$786,766	\$1,273,217	\$1,273,217
Total	\$34,544,884	\$32,401,361	\$24,053,751	\$21,682,880	\$18,435,567



2027 Projection \$12,919,212

Budget Section Approval:

<\$15,000,000

* Projections represent spend all

Per NDCC 20.1-02-16.1, the fund balance shall not be reduced below \$15M unless authorized by the budget section.





Base and Total Recommended Budget By Line

	Code	2025-27 Legislative Base Budget	2025-27 Total Budget Recommended	25-27 Increase (Decrease)
Salaries & Wages	72010	37,008,098	41,671,773	4,663,675
Operating Expenses	72030	17,788,258	19,804,296	2,016,038
Capital Assets	72050	5,400,661	6,963,140	1,562,479
Grants	72060	10,089,976	7,087,979	(3,001,997)
Shooting Sports Grant	72062	250,000	250,000	0
Program	72070	27 192 516	20 240 925	E 157 200
Habitat & Deer Depredation Noxious Weed Control	72070	27,183,516	32,340,825	5,157,309
		725,000	725,000	16.070
Missouri River Enforcement	72073	313,869	330,741	16,872
Grant-Gift-Donation	72074	677,970	709,031	31,061
Nongame Wildlife	72075	100,000	100,000	0
Aquatic Nuisance Species	72076	2,533,452	2,942,047	408,595
Lonetree Reservoir	72077	2,156,714	2,178,075	21,361
Wildlife Services	72078	500,000	500,000	0
Total		104,727,514	115,602,907	10,875,393
FTEs		170	170	0

2025-27 Total Recommended **Budget**

\$115,602,907

* No additional FTE's



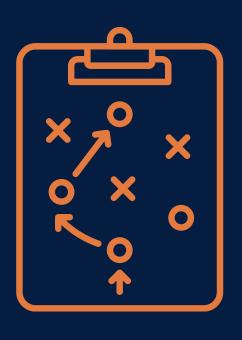






2023-25 Legislative Appropriation

2023-25 Legislative Appropriation	\$134,761,466
Employer retirement contribution	\$381,164
Target market equity pool	\$158,974
Remove RAWA	(\$27,150,000)
Remove New Emp Expenses	(\$294,090)
Remove ANS Lab	(\$850,000)
Remove Devils Lake Bunkhouse	(\$350,000)
Remove Enforcement Body Cameras	(\$550,000)
Remove Fisheries Dam Repairs	(\$380,000)
Remove Pondliners	(\$1,000,000)









2025-27 Legislative Base Budget

2023-25 Legislative Appropriation	\$134,761,466
2025-27 Legislative Base Budget	\$104,727,514
Restore New/Vacant FTE Pool	\$3,420,755
IT Rate Adjustment	\$199,189
3% Budget Reduction	(\$1,671,211)



\$106,676,247





1025-27 Budget Reduction

2025-27 Base Budget after Reduction	\$106,676,247
Budget Changes	
Admin Operating	(\$300,000)
Admin Cap. Assets	\$267,241
Admin Grants	(\$50,000)
Fisheries Operating	(\$101,422)
Fisheries Cap. Assets	(\$149,000)
Fisheries Grants	\$43,304
ANS	\$11,571
Enforcement Operating	\$25,406
Enforcement Grants	(\$10,000)
C&C Operating	(\$50,000)
C&C Cap Assets	\$15,000
C&C Grants	(\$1,450,000)
Wildlife Operating	\$3,000
Wildlife Grants	(\$1,448,693)
PLI	(\$524)

\$106,676,247 2025-27 Base Budget after Reduction (\$3,587,304) * to meet fed/special limits **2025-27 DEPARTMENT** \$103,088,943 **BASE BUDGET REQUEST**

2025-27 Department Base **Budget Request**

\$103,088,943



2025-27 Total Recommended Budget

2025-27 Department Base Budget Request	\$103,088,943
Compensation Package	\$2,591,540
Optional Budget Changes	\$9,922,424
2025-27 Total Recommended Budget	\$115,602,907







Decision Package Summary

	Total Request	Federal	Special
1) Adjustment to Base - Operating/Capital Improvement	\$1,479,393	\$745,805	\$733,588
2) Adjustment to Base - Motorpool	\$687,331	\$321,000	\$366,231
3) Additional emphasis - Wildlife Habitat and Access on private lands (line 70)	\$5,000,000	\$4,100,000	\$900,000
4) Fisheries - Pondliners & Pump	\$1,800,000	\$1,350,000	\$450,000
5) Adjustment to Base - Temporary Salaries	\$265,500	\$77,756	\$187,744
6) IT Increases	\$380,000	\$0	\$380,000
7) Baukol-Noonan Dam Repair	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
8) Equipment Requests (above base)	\$160,200	\$80,450	\$79,750
TOTAL	\$9,922,424	\$6,675,111	\$3,247,313
G&F Special Fund 222			\$2,347,313
G&F Special Fund 488			\$900,000
Federal PR		\$4,987,467	
Federal DJ		\$1,631,267	
Federal Coast Guard		\$56,377	

TOTAL \$9,922,424

> Federal: \$6,675,111

Special: \$3,247,313





1. Adjustments to Base-Operating/Capital Improvements: \$1,479,393 (~50% federal)

\$34,000 for State fire and tornado insurance:

15% annual premium increase; building values are underinsured and need to be adjusted.

- \$114,420, 7.5% increase in lieu of taxes (75% federal funding).
- \$139,782 Fisheries operating base: 6% increase:

Increased field costs (boat ramps, parking lots, gravel projects) and expenses for new and maintained fishing waters due to inflation.

• \$25,691 Enforcement operating base 2% increase:

Increased fieldwork and operational costs due to inflation.

\$585,500 Wildlife Operating:

\$150k for WMA operating costs; \$75k for CWD testing; \$125k for division-wide costs; \$125k for WMA road, fence, and infrastructure; \$110,500 for northern pintail study.

• \$125,000 Wildlife Capital Improvements:

Wildlife Management Areas roads, fence, and infrastructure.

\$15,000 Conservation and Communication:

Additional funds for camera video equipment replacement per the division's cycle.

• \$640,000 increase in Data Processing and Telecommunications costs:

\$200,000 OMB IT rate adjustment leaves a \$440,000 gap for essential systems like online services, licensing, mapping, phone services, and data storage.



2. Adjustment to Base-Motorpool: \$687,331 (47% federal)

- Motor pool costs based on Department of Transportation Fleet Services Budget Guideline rates.
- Motor pool costs are integral to the Department's efficient daily operations, enabling us to provide essential services to our customers and manage fish and wildlife resources. These resources support activities such as enforcement, wildlife management, land management, private lands programs, fish production, fisheries development, disease surveillance, nongame/ species of conservation priority research.

	TOTAL	Fed	Spec
Administrative Services	\$44,995	\$0	\$44,995
Fisheries	\$207,012	\$140,768	\$66,244
Enforcement	\$143,048	\$14,305	\$128,743
Conservation & Communications	\$89,109	\$25,842	\$63,267
Wildlife	\$203,167	\$140,185	\$62,982
	\$687,331	\$321,100	\$366,231





3. Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat & Access on Private Lands (Line 70): \$5,000,000 (\$4,100,000 fed PR funds & \$900,000 special funds) [one-time funding]

This request builds on last biennium's focus on habitat restoration on private lands, which was a crucial first step in modernizing the Private Lands Initiative. However, habitat conditions in North Dakota continue to decline. Additional appropriation authority will enable the Department to pursue more grants and funding to expand habitat quickly and efficiently, with many grants covering 75% federal funds or requiring minimal state match. Having authority in advance allows the Department to plan and act swiftly on new opportunities.

Over the past decade, North Dakota has lost over 2.5 million acres of grasslands. Habitat loss has significantly impacted wildlife, with some areas seeing up to an 85% decrease in deer harvest. With over 90% of land in private ownership, the Department must focus on developing critical wildlife habitat on private lands.

- \$2,000,000 additional appropriation authority to increase PLOTS acres and habitat development, aiming to enroll 120,000-160,000 acres and improve 6,000 acres annually (75% Federal: \$1,500,000).
- \$2,000,000 for expanding the Rangeland Legacy Program (30-year agreements, 90% Federal).
- \$1,000,000 for expanding the Habitat Development Program (80% Federal).









4. Fisheries – Pond liners: \$1,800,000 (75% federal) [one-time funding]

- There is a continued need to invest money at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery by continuing the pond lining program which eliminates water loss issues with the current ponds as well as increases fish production capacity. Depending on the liner cost, the request should line approximately four 1.5-acre ponds (the cost includes engineering fees).
- There are 40 ponds in the Department owned east rearing unit with 15 of the 40 lined to date.
- There are 75 HP pumps that are used to fill the east unit ponds at Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. Getting all 40 ponds filled in a timely manner is crucial as we only have fry so long. Since these original pumps are from 1988, they are nearing their life expectancy (and then some) and thus need to be replaced.







5. Adjustments to Base-Temporary Salaries: \$265,500 (29% federal)

Fisheries and Wildlife Divisions:

• Due to workforce challenges, market value, and a dramatic rise in the inflation rate, an increase is needed for our seasonal staff.

Enforcement Division:

• The addition to the baseline is for hiring four seasonal employees, for 3 months each (mid-May to mid-August) for a total of 24 months. These temporary positions would spend approximately half of their time working boating safety which would qualify for U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety funds (50% reimbursement). The positions would provide opportunities for students to learn about employment as a District Game Warden and serve as a recruitment tool for the enforcement division to fill open positions.





6. IT Increases: \$380,000 (100% special funds) [one-time funding]

\$30,000 Video Asset Management System:

• This includes a disaster recovery solution for the Department's Video Asset Management System. These systems house the Department's video assets for webcasts, footage for news, and digital media resources.

\$250,000 Customer Relationship Mgmt. System (CRM):

• We are seeking a CRM solution to manage, track, and support the delivery of conservation, restoration, and habitat programs for landowners. This system will facilitate coordination and communication among state, federal, and private organizations involved in these programs.

\$100,000 NDGF Mobile App:

 The Department expects continued growth with mobile device usage over personal computers for Department services. With the deployment of the Department's mobile app in 2023, the Department is looking to further the functionality and provide enhancements to the function of the NDGF mobile app.







7. Baukol-Noonan Dam Repair: \$150,000 (100% special funds) [one-time funding]

- This work is to repair the failed riser pipe that has rusted through and reinforce the principal spillway to correct its rusting steel pipe.
- The method is to use cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining. This is one of several methods used to repair existing pipelines that don't require that you dig up the pipes. CIPP is a jointless, seamless, pipe-within-a-pipe with the capability to repair pipes ranging in diameter from 4–110 inches.





8. Equipment Requests above Base: \$160,200 (50% federal funds) [one-time funding]

Wildlife Division:

- \$70,000 request is for the continued replacement of tractors used on Wildlife Management Areas. These tractors are essential for planting food plots, mowing, seeding, cultivating, operating pumps, and other wildlife management tasks. The Department follows a replacement schedule to maximize trade-in value and minimize maintenance costs.
- \$12,000 request is for an ATV to support Bighorn Sheep surveys in the remote badlands of western North Dakota.

Enforcement Division:

- \$13,200 request is for two Statewide Interoperability Radio Network (SIRN) compatible radios to be installed in law enforcement boats that currently lack them. These radios will ensure effective communication with State Radio and emergency agencies during patrols, search and rescue, and emergency responses.
- \$65,000 request is for a 20-foot fiberglass boat, motor, and trailer to replace a 2014 18-foot boat in the Riverdale/Garrison district. The new boat will be safer and more suitable for rough water conditions, supporting law enforcement and emergency responses. Boats are replaced every ten years to maintain safety and reliability.
- Both requests qualify for 50% US Coast Guard reimbursement, reducing the Department's cost to \$39,100.





Other Sections Included in the Executive Bill Draft for HB1017

SECTION 4. LINE ITEM TRANSFER AUTHORITY. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants – game and fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The game and fish department shall notify the legislative council of any transfer made pursuant to this section.

The Department currently has this language in its 23-25 appropriation bill, that has a sunset of 6/30/2025.

- Continuing this limited transfer authority allows the department to respond flexibly to changing needs, improving efficiency. With diverse expenditures (construction, maintenance, boat ramps, research, etc.), it's challenging to project budgets three years in advance.
- Maintenance costs depend on the repair type, which may be covered by either the Operating or Capital Asset line.
 - Boat ramp projects on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), costs come from the Capital Asset line. Other ramps are funded through the Grants line.
 - O&M costs may also be split between the Operating line (e.g., service contracts for fish cleaning stations) and the Grants line (e.g., for O&M on non-WMA land).
- Unplanned events, like ramp damage or access road washouts, can further complicate budgeting, especially when only certain funds are available.





DEPARTMENT BUDGET BY DIVISION

The Department included in its 25-27 budget request the following funds appropriated for grant expenditures to other state agencies:

- \$122,000 to ND Parks & Recreation Department. This is the same amount included as revenue in the Parks and Recreation Department. It is for operation and maintenance of the public boating and fishing facilities located in state parks. The amount is the same as 2023-25. (100% federal funds; Parks & Rec provides the match)
- \$167,720 to Board of Animal Health, Ag Dept. (100% G&F funds)
- \$500,000 to Wildlife Services, Ag Dept. This is the same amount as 2023-25. (100% G&F funds)

DIVISIONAL BUDGETS

The 23-25 Department FTE count is 170. No additional FTE's have been requested.

Following are brief details on the budgets for the Department's five divisions:

- Administrative Services
- Fisheries
- Enforcement
- Conservation and Communications
- Wildlife





1. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION (26 FTE's)

Operating Line Base: \$6,921,500

Includes utility, IT, telecommunications, janitorial, office supplies, insurance, printing, postage, aircraft costs, credit card transaction fees, legal services, Game and Fish Advisory Board, buildings, grounds, vehicle maintenance, etc.

Budget Change:

- \$34,000 increase for State Fire & Tornado Insurance (see slide 26)
- \$440,000 IT Monthly rate increase (see slide 26)
- \$44,995 Adjustments to Base-Motorpool (see slide 27)
- \$100,000 IT Increases (see slide 31)

Total Operating (2025-27): \$7,540,495

Capital Assets Line Base: \$2,275,600

Includes \$750,000 for extraordinary repairs to Department-owned facilities statewide (100% G&F funds). \$1,525,600 for In Lieu of Tax payments for all Department lands WMA's (75% federal funds)

Budget Change:

• \$114,420 In Lieu of Tax payments increase (see slide 26)

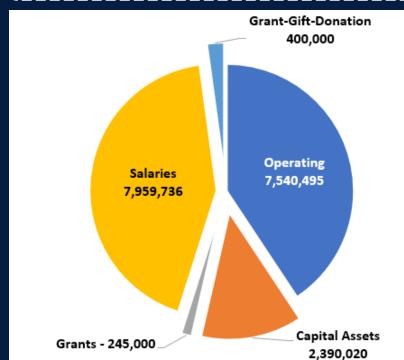


Total Capital Assets (2025-27): \$2,390,020



ABOUT:

This division budget includes business operations, fiscal, grant management, data science/information technology, licensing, facilities management, and administrative services for the Department. Most of this division is funded with Game and Fish funds.





1. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION (26 FTE's)

Grants Line Base: \$245,000

Total Grants (2025-27): \$245,000

Includes funds for cooperative grants to local groups and organizations for game and fish-related projects, funding for Tribal access agreements, ND Natural Resources Trust, Director's grants, and sponsorship grants (e.g., ND Landowners Sportsman Council, ND Stockmen's Assoc., etc.). (100% G&F funds)

Grant-Gift-Donation (Special Line) Base: \$694,963

Includes (Admin \$400,000; Wildlife \$294,963) and is used as follows: (100% G&F funds)

- Grants and gifts received for special projects are used as desired by the donor.
- Revenue from surface damage, easements, and reclamation due to mineral exploration on Department owned and managed lands.
- The Department manages federal and state-owned lands along Lake Sakakawea, the Missouri River, and Killdeer Mountain WMA, with significant oil activity. Funds are required to be used for road repairs, fencing, habitat development, and other necessary work in these areas.
- Royalty payments from the Department's 160-acre mineral lease in Killdeer Mountain WMA support a full-time biologist to support these responsibilities.

*** Executive Recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$14.068 for the Wildlife Division.



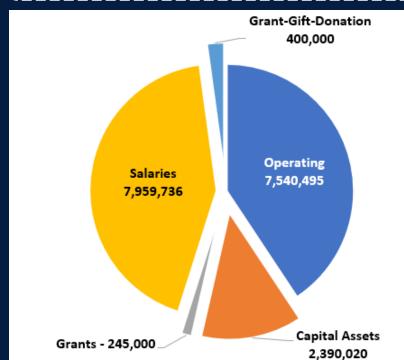


Total Grant-Gift-Donation (Special Line) (2025-27): \$709,031



ABOUT:

This division budget includes business operations, fiscal, grant management, data science/information technology, licensing, facilities management, and administrative services for the Department. Most of this division is funded with Game and Fish funds.





2. FISHERIES DIVISION (27 FTE's)

Operating Line Base: \$2,798,000

Budget Change:

- \$139,782 6% increase in Operating due to inflation (see slide 26)
- \$150,000 Baukol-Noonan Dam Repair (see slide 32)
- \$207,012 Adjustments to Base-Motorpool (see slide 27)

Total Operating (2025-27): \$3,294,794

Capital Assets Line Base: \$685,000

Includes \$499,000 in capital repairs which includes dam repairs, fishing and boating facility development work, and repairs such as toilets, fish cleaning stations, boat ramps, etc., on lands owned by the Department (WMAs) or areas we cooperatively manage. High and low water conditions at Devils Lake, Lake Sakakawea, and the Missouri River can provide challenges for the boating access program. (75% is federal funds)

\$186,000 for equipment – boat motor replacements, work boat/motor/trailer, and a development trailer. (75% is federal funds)

Budget Change:

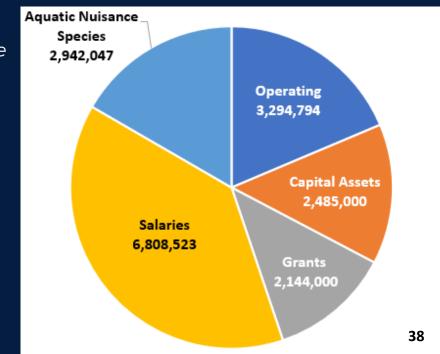
\$1,800,000 for GDNFH pond liners (see slide 29)

Total Capital Assets (2025-27): \$2,485,000



ABOUT:

This division budget includes fish production and distribution, fish management (research and surveys), fishery development (ramps, docks, piers, facilities, and maintenance), and the Aquatic Nuisance Species program.





2. FISHERIES DIVISION (27 FTE's)

Grants Line Base: \$2,144,000

\$500,000 for boating access and development. These grants are used for cost-sharing with local governments on fishing and boating facilities. The Department receives 75% federal funding for this work. In some cases, the 25% match comes from local partners such as park boards.

\$580,000 in grants is to pay the Department's share of costs for the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. (75% federal funds)

\$50,000 base amount in grants used for Aquatic Nuisance Species. (100% G&F funds)

\$89,000 base for fish management

\$122,000 to ND Parks and Recreation Department for boating access-related costs on state parks. (100% federal funds)

\$298,000 for fisheries development non-boating access.

\$140,000 for Valley City State University River/Stream Survey work

\$140,000 for Rock Lake Carp barrier

\$225,000 for ND Fisheries evaluation and allocation

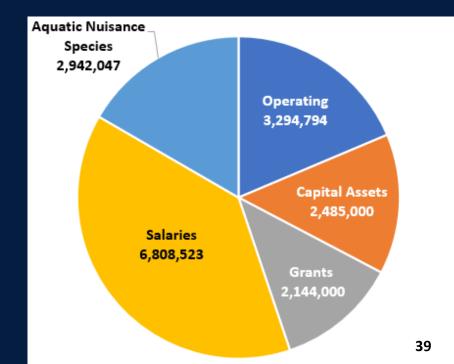
No Budget Change:

Total Grants (2025-27): \$2,144,000



ABOUT:

This division budget includes fish production and distribution, fish management (research and surveys), fishery development (ramps, docks, piers, facilities, and maintenance), and the Aquatic Nuisance Species program.





2. FISHERIES DIVISION (27 FTE's)

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) – (Special Line) Base

The Department has 3 ANS fisheries biologists, seasonal staff, and funding for operating expenses, grants, and capital projects. These resources support ANS watercraft inspections, enforcement, monitoring, and education programs, funded through fishing and waterfowl license surcharges and motorboat fees.

Salaries and expenses for wardens conducting inspections at boat ramps, cleaning stations, and check stations are also covered. Wardens allocate time for ANS work, with hours totaling 1 FTE.

WRDA funding, added for 2023-25, provides a 50% federal reimbursement for watercraft inspection and decontamination efforts in the Missouri River Basin. The Department is eligible for \$1,134,006 in 2025-27, subject to congressional approval.

WRDA funds will expand the seasonal inspection crew, extend employment into fall, enhance the ANS education campaign, and support the installation of prevention devices like wash stations and I-LIDS to limit ANS spread.

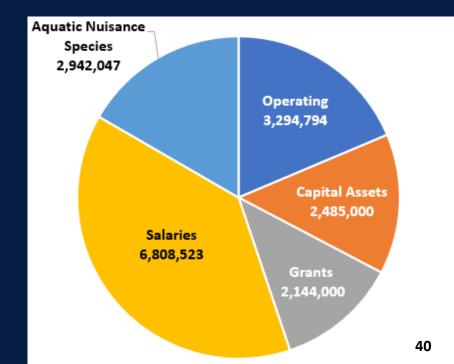
The Legislative base appropriation is \$2,884,000. (WRDA \$1,134,006 50/50)

Executive recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$58,047.

Total ANS (Special Line) (2025-27): \$2,942,047

ABOUT:

This division budget includes fish production and distribution, fish management (research and surveys), fishery development (ramps, docks, piers, facilities, and maintenance), and the Aquatic Nuisance Species program.





3. ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (40 FTE's)

Operating Line Base: \$2,683,984

Budget Change:

- \$143,048 Adjustments to Base-Motorpool (see slide 27)
- \$25,691 2% increase to Operating due to inflation (see slide 26)

Total Operating (2025-27): \$2,852,723

Capital Assets Line Base: \$190,000

Includes replacement of equipment. UTV (2), 500cc ATV (6), enclosed trailer (3). Fiberglass boat/motor/trailer (1)

Budget Change:

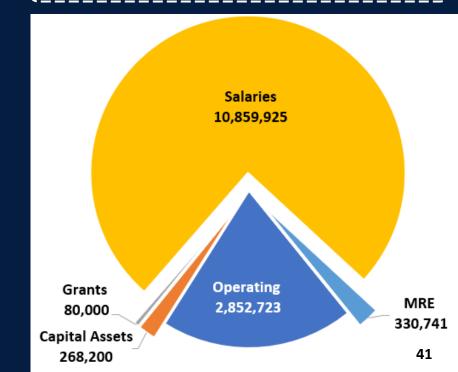
• \$78,200 – 20' fiberglass boat/motor/trailer and Motorola boat radios. (see slide 33)

Total Capital Assets (2025-27): \$268,200



ABOUT:

This division budget includes patrol, compliance, investigations, public safety, and Missouri River Enforcement. This division is largely operational expenditures with state fleet and travel costs. Game wardens typically average 2-million state fleet miles per biennium.









3. ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (40 FTE's)

Grants Line Base: \$80,000

Includes Boating Safety Grants to county law enforcement to assist in the promotion and enforcement of boat and water safety on their local recreational waters. (50% federal funds)

Total Grants (2025-27): \$80,000

Missouri River Enforcement (Special Line) Base: \$324,425

Includes salaries, operating, and equipment related to enforcement activities on and along the Missouri River in the Burleigh and Morton County area. Grants are also given to local law enforcement agencies to help with the Missouri River enforcement. This line is funded 50% from federal boat safety funds.

Budget Change:

• Executive recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$6,316.

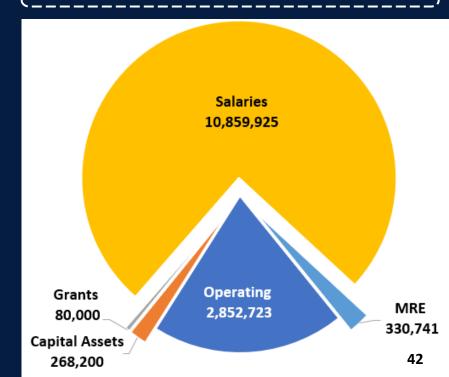
Total MRE (Special Line) (2025-27): \$330,741





ABOUT:

This division budget includes patrol, compliance, investigations, public safety, and Missouri River Enforcement. This division is largely operational expenditures with state fleet and travel costs. Game wardens typically average 2-million state fleet miles per biennium.





4. CONSERVATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION (23 FTE's)

Operating Line Base: \$1,941,350

Budget Change:

- \$89,109 Adjustment to base-Motorpool (see slide 27)
- \$30,000 Video Asset Management System (see slide 31)
- \$250,000 CRM (see slide 31)

Total Operating (2025-27): \$2,310,459

Capital Assets Line Base: \$15,000

Includes \$15,000 in extraordinary repairs for the Department's Conservation and Outdoor Skills Park area located on the State Fairgrounds. (100% G&F funds)

Budget Change:

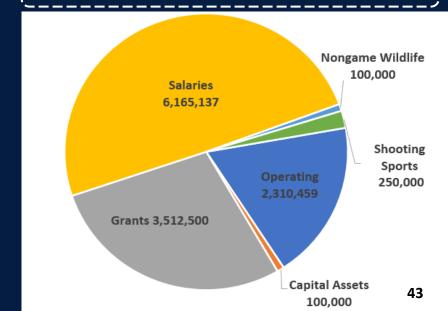
• \$15,000 Camera/Video Equipment updates (see slide 26)

Total Capital Assets (2025-27): \$30,000



ABOUT:

This division budget includes conservation, (nongame, species of concern, NEPA); communications (ND Outdoors, publications, digital/social media, marketing, podcast); education and outreach (hunter/aquatic/fur harvester/ boating education, National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). This largest use of this divisions budget is related to grants.







4. CONSERVATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION (23 FTE's)

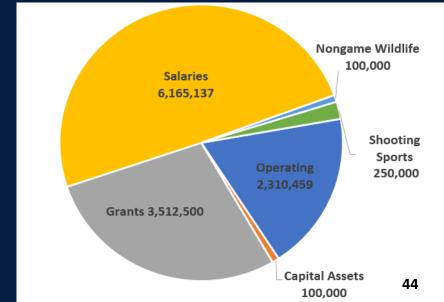
Grants Line Base: \$3,512,500

- \$1.89M for shooting range grants statewide: \$1.24M for statewide shooting range grants, and \$650k for Richland County range. New ranges require 10% match, and existing ranges 25% match.
- \$284K for youth programs: National Archery in the Schools Program, Hooked on Fishing, Encouraging Tomorrow's Hunter, Trout in the Schools, Trapper Education, etc. (32K Federal Hooked on Fishing)
- \$836,332 for State Wildlife Grants Program: Federally funded, supports nongame species. Matching funds are primarily from the grant recipients.
- \$122,168 for administration/coordination grants.
- \$80K for Innovative R3: Supports strategies to increase participation in hunting, fishing, and related activities, including outreach, events, and partnerships (75% federal funds).
- \$300K for Pollinator Plots Program: Establishes native wildflower and pollinator habitats in urban/public areas. (100% Game & Fish funds).



ABOUT:

This division budget includes conservation, (nongame, species of concern, NEPA); communications (ND Outdoors, publications, digital/social media, marketing, podcast); education and outreach (hunter/aquatic/fur harvester/ boating education, National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). This largest use of this divisions budget is related to grants.





Total Grants (2025-27): \$3,512,500



4. CONSERVATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION (23 FTE's)

Shooting Sports (Special Line) Base: \$250,000

Includes grants made available to schools, clubs, and organized groups in the state which are used to promote and facilitate increased shooting sports participation in the state. The clubs pay the 25% match for most of these grants. (75% federal funds)

Total Shooting Sports (Special Line) Base (2025-27): \$250,000

Nongame Wildlife (Special Line) Base: \$100,000

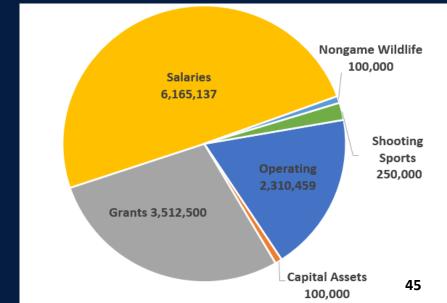
Includes \$100,000 is budgeted for this special line which is supported by the income tax check-off. (100% G&F funds)

Total Nongame Wildlife (Special Line) Base (2025-27): \$100,000



ABOUT:

This division budget includes conservation, (nongame, species of concern, NEPA); communications (ND Outdoors, publications, digital/social media, marketing, podcast); education and outreach (hunter/aquatic/fur harvester/ boating education, National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). This largest use of this divisions budget is related to grants.









5. WILDLIFE DIVISION (54 FTE's)

Operating Line Base: \$3,017,158

Budget Change:

- \$203,167 Adjustment to base-Motorpool (see slide 27)
- \$585,500 Adjustment to base-Operating costs (see slide 26)

Total Operating (2025-27): \$3,805,825

Capital Assets Line Base: \$1,582,920

Includes \$420,920 for extraordinary repairs (e.g. fences, roads, water control structures) and similar work on department wildlife management areas (WMA) statewide. (75% federal funds)

\$362,000 for equipment replacement – tractor (1), skid steer (1), equipment trailers (3), UTV/ATV's (6), grass drill (1). (75% federal funds)

\$800,000 is included for land acquisitions of small tracts near wildlife management areas, possibly in-holding or round-outs that may come up during the biennium. This amount is the same as the 2023-25 biennium. (100% G&F funds)

Budget Change:

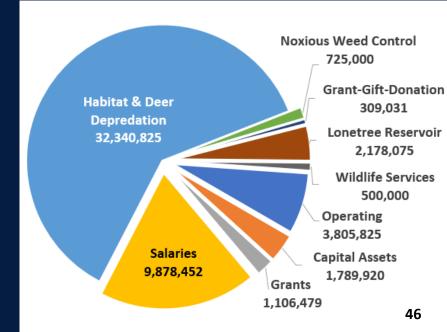
- \$125,000 increase for operating costs on roads, fence, grazing infrastructure development on new and existing WMAs (see slide 26)
- \$82,000 for additional equipment above base (see slide 33)

Total Capital Assets (2025-27): \$1,789,920



ABOUT:

This division budget includes game management (wildlife surveys/research), resource management (owned and managed lands), Private Lands Initiative, deer depredation, noxious weed control. The largest use of this divisions budget is related the Habitat & Deer Depredation Special Line.





5. WILDLIFE DIVISION (54 FTE's)

Grants Line Base: \$1,106,479

\$938,759 for grants and cooperative projects with wildlife groups, universities, and organizations, including work on chronic wasting disease (CWD), wetland conservation, Central Flyway studies, and research on species like elk, pronghorn, sage grouse, deer, moose, and mountain lions (48% federal PR funds).

\$167,720 to reimburse the State Veterinarian for oversight of farmed wildlife and wildlife propagation permit administration, reflecting a potential increase from the previous biennium's \$148,228 (100% G&F funds). Executive recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$19,495.

***Need confirmation with NDDA.

Noxious Weed Control (Special Line) Base: \$725,000

Includes work on department lands. This line is the same amount as 23-25. (75% federal funds)

Lonetree Reservoir (Special Line) Base: \$2,107,818

Lonetree WMA spans over 32,000 acres managed for wildlife by the Department under the Dakota Waters Resources Act. The budget covers 5 staff, operations, equipment, maintenance, and development, funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (100% by federal funds). Executive recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$70,257

Wildlife Services (Special Line) Base: \$500,000

Supports ND Dept. of Agriculture -Wildlife Service's Program for animal damage control work. (100% G&F funds) This is the same amount as the 2023-25 biennium

Total Grant Line (2025-27): \$1,106,479

Total Noxious Weed Control (Special Line) (2025-27): \$725,000

Total Lonetree Reservoir (Special Line) (2025-27): \$2,178,075

Total Wildlife Services (Special Line) (2025-27): \$500,000



5. WILDLIFE DIVISION (54 FTE's)

Private Land Habitat and Deer Depredation (Special Line): \$27,171,645

The PLOTS Program has a base budget of approximately \$23.4 million, with \$19.4 million for landowner payments and \$4 million for administrative costs. The goal is to reach 1 million acres of public hunting access on private land by 2028. An additional \$2 million is requested for increased payments and habitat development. In 2024, PLOTS included approximately 836,000 acres.

The Rangeland Legacy Program received \$2.7 million in 2023, with plans to secure additional funding, requiring \$2 million in extra appropriation authority. Habitat enhancement projects use \$1.7 million, and an additional \$1 million is requested for expanded cost sharing.

A \$1.1 million budget for depredation management, mandated by SB2227 in 2010, supports wildlife feeding and winter management on lands impacted by big game depredation. Unspent funds (up to \$2 million) may be carried forward for future use.

Budget Change:

- Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat & Access on Private Lands (PLI Line 70) \$5,000,000 (see slide 28)
- Executive recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$169,180

Total Private Land Habitat & Deer Depredation Line (2025-27): \$32,340,825

ABOUT:

This line is funded with interest earned on game and fish funds, habitat stamp sales, cash from the regular game and fish fund, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Pittman Robertson (PR) federal funds.

Overview: This line is commonly called the Private Land Initiative (PLI) line. This line is not just for our Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program in which private landowners enter into agreements for walk-in hunting access, but also includes funds for wildlife habitat management practices, food plots, grass plantings, tree and shrub plantings and other habitat enhancement grants and projects. This line also includes big game depredation and administrative costs.

2023-25 New FTE Summary

6 New FTE Positions - 5 filled within 1.5 months of start; * 1 filled by Mid-October (delayed funding from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Private Lands Habitat Manager

Budget Request - \$227,312 Actual cost for Biennium -\$260,761

Filled 7/1/2023

Private Lands Biologist

Budget request - \$197,646 Actual cost for Biennium -\$174,588

Filled 8/1/2023

Aquatic Nuisance Species Biologist

Budget request - \$197,648 Actual cost for Biennium -\$157,232

Filled 10/14/2023*



(i) ABOUT:

Total Budget request for new FTE's: \$ 1,179,021

Total actual cost and request from New FTE Pool:

\$1,178,269

Total (90%) in the **New FTE Pool:** \$1,061,118

Filled 7/1/2023

Game Warden Investigator

Budget Request - \$228,634 Actual cost for Biennium -\$277,579

Filled 8/14/2023

Fisheries District Supervisor

Budget Request - \$228,958 Actual cost for Biennium -\$216,131

Filled 7/1/2024

Private Lands Bio.

Budget request - \$98,823 Actual cost for Biennium -\$91,978

only funded for ½ Biennium

2023-25 Vacant FTE Pool Summary

3 vacant positions as of 7/1/2023 – all filled by 10/1/2023

2 of the 3 vacant positions were vacant because of employees promoted to new positions

Vacant positions this biennium-to-date (includes the 3 above)

- Retirements as of 1/1/2025 7 (more than average)
- Vacated positions 8 (more than average)
- Promotions/Position changes 6

Estimated Vacancy Savings to date - \$523,174

- Accrued Leave Payouts \$123,852
- Extra Salary increases \$43,038
- Reclassifications \$19,387
- Extra temporary funding \$13,042
- Extra overtime funding \$22,080

Overall Vacancy savings to date - \$301,774



- Removed from Budget in 23-25 \$2,241,734
- Total (70%) to the Vacant FTE Pool: \$1,569,213



2023-25 FTE Pool Summary

Total requests from pool to date – \$ 1,759,378

No vacancies in special lines - will request March 2025 to make special lines whole - \$ 135,294

Request the remaining amount left in the pool to add to salaries and wages line 10 – \$ 735,661

Total left in pool	\$	0.00
	Ψ	755,000.70
end of biennium*	\$	735,660.70
Estimated Final request to make payroll		
	\$	735,660.70
Request March 2025 - special lines whole	\$	135,294.00
	\$	870,954.70
Draw for vacant FTE's	\$	581,109.00
	\$	1,452,063.70
Draw for new FTE's	\$	1,178,269.00
Pool amount	\$	2,630,332.70

ABOUT:

- Removed from Budget in 23-25 \$2,241,734
- Total (70%) to the Vacant FTE Pool: \$1,569,213



68TH LEGISLATIVE **ASSEMBLY**

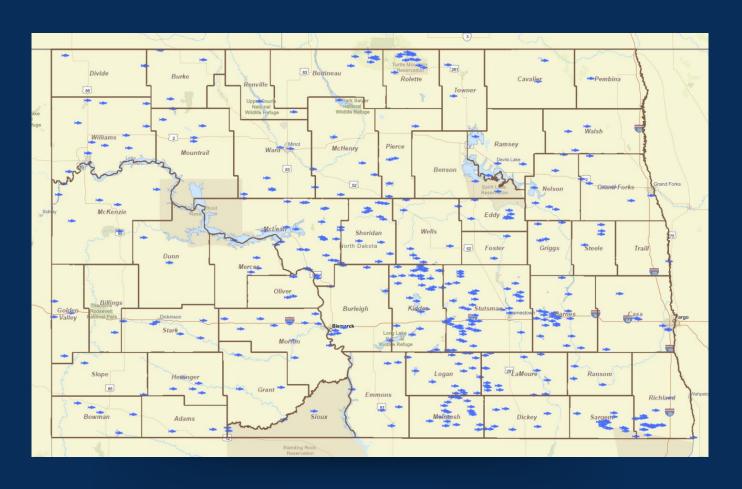
HIGHLIGHTS







FISHING WATER BODIES



439 WATERS 851,462 ACRES

North Dakota 70,704 sq . miles

> Land - 68,900 sq. miles Water - 1,804 sq. miles

1,330 SQ. MILES

2024



4 + MILLION FISH STOCKED





37

COMMUNITY FISHING PONDS



FISHING TOURNAMENTS

2024 Open Water Fishing Tourney Summary

84

Total Permitted
Contests

7,719

Participants
(total not unique)

\$25k
Conservation
Fees

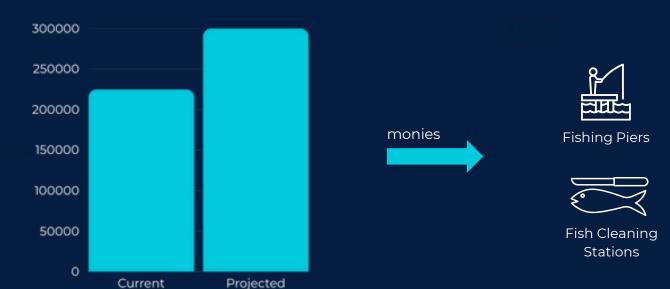
\$2.2M
Entry Fees



41 Non-Profit Tournaments

no conservation fee required

Nonresident Conservation Fees



JAMESTOWN

- Bunkhouse
- ANS Office space
- Laboratory space
- Storage





DEVILS LAKE

- Bunkhouse
- Building Repairs
- Water Drainage



ELK DEPREDATION LICENSES Cow Elk Tag

59

Licenses Purchased 39

Additional Eligible

\$30 License

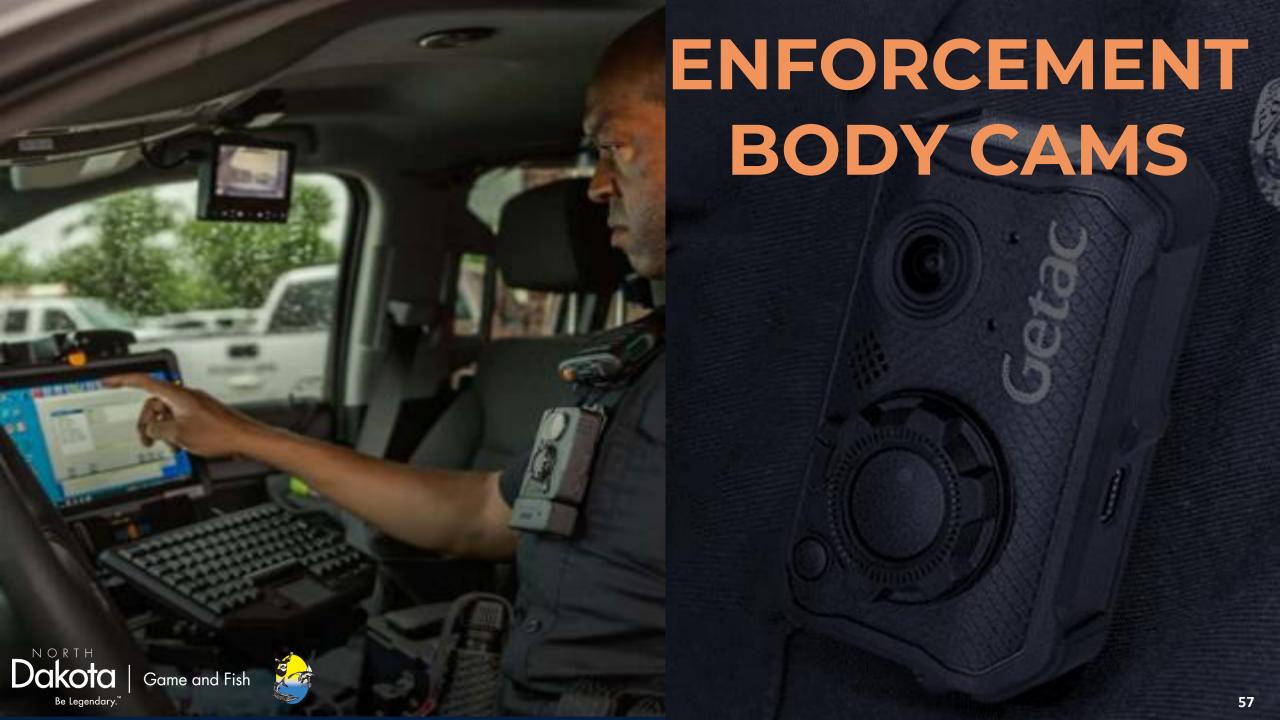
Did not purchase

Landowners provided access to 5 different hunters.



Access for once-in-a-lifetime elk license holders.

Total: 181 elk hunters



ACCESS ACRES PROVIDED by:





Other programs include: Coverlocks, CREP II, Private Forest, Beginning Farmer and Food Plots



WORKING LANDS

506,568



204,815



61,729







NDGF OFFICIAL APP



IT'S IN THE APP

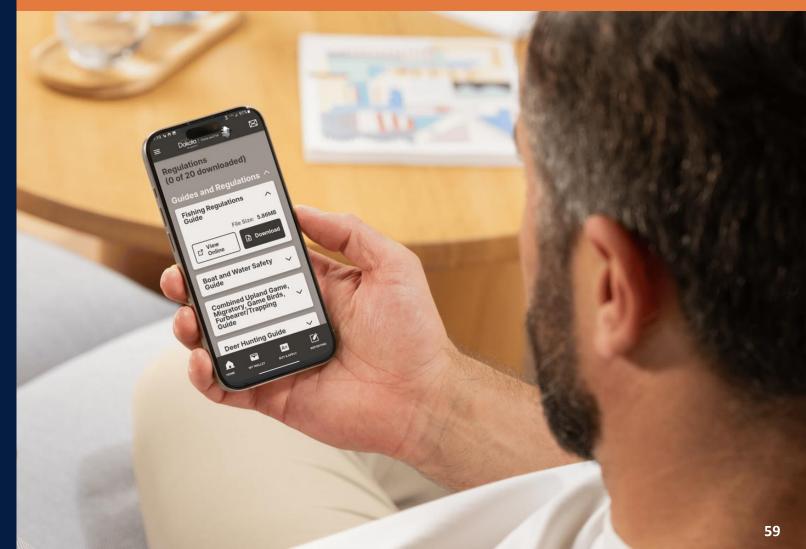
- view licenses
- buy and apply
- notifications
- sunrise / sunset times
- current weather
- regulations
- maps
- harvest reporting
- and more!



Install

58,549
DOWNLOADS





QUESTIONS?









North Dakota Sportfishing Congress Box 2472 Bismarck, ND 58502-2472

January 16, 2025

Subject: HB 1017

Submitted by: Richard Brueckner, President of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC)

Dear Chairman David Monson, Vice Chairman Mike Brandenburg, members of the House Appropriations-Government Operations Division.

We are asking for your unanimous support for HB 1017, appropriates to the Game and Fish Department for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2027.

One of the greatest threats facing North Dakotas waters today is the introduction of and spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) (zebra mussels, Asian Carp, Eurasian watermilfoil to name a few). The additional funding scheduled in the Governor's budget is vital in this fight against ANS. As it stands today the ND Game and Fish Department has been given the task to take on this battle making the full funding of the budget vital to the fight.

If it were possible I would ask you to double the funding out lined in the Governor's budget. As the threat of ANS is real and affects all North Dakotans. The threat to North Dakota is great and as close as 30 miles across the ND / MN border. The state of MN is battling many more ANS invaders and we must ensure that our precious natural resources are protected from these invaders.

In closing, I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in support for HB 1017.

Respectfully
Richard Brueckner
President
North Dakota Sportfishing Congress

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division

Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1017 1/22/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption.

2:46 p.m. Chairman Monson called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Monson, Vice Chairman Brandenburg, Representatives: Bosch, Fischer, Kempenich, Meier, Pyle.

Discussion Topics:

- Game and Fish Retirement
- Temporary positions in Game and Fish
- Motor pool costs and funding for Game and Fish
- Game and Fish Capital asset breakdown
- Noxious weeds management
- · Shooting range grants
- Zebra Mussel infestation in ND
- One time funding requests for Game and Fish
- Pond liner funding and lifespan
- Wildlife Habitat and Access funds

2:48 p.m. Brian Hosek, Administrative Services Division Chief, ND Game and Fish Department, testified and provided testimony in favor #31046 and continued with previous testimony #29630.

3:25 p.m. Jeb Williams, Director, ND Game and Fish, testified in favor.

Additional written testimony:

Levi Kinnischzke, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, submitted neutral testimony #30798.

3:57 p.m. Chairman Monson adjourned the meeting.

Madaline Cooper, Committee Clerk

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

		Burgu	m Budget			Armstrong Budget			Armstrong Budget Compared to Burgum Budget			
					Name of the second	121 1					(Decrease)	
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2025-27 Biennium Base Level	170.00	\$0	\$104,727,514	\$104,727,514	170.00	\$0	\$104,727,514	\$104,727,514	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$
2025-27 Ongoing Funding Changes												
Base payroll changes			(\$838,661)	(\$838,661)			(\$838,661)	(\$838,661)				\$
Salary increase		5-	1,943,307	1,943,307	Lance Control		1,588,535	1,588,535			(\$354,772)	(354,77
Health insurance increase			1,002,881	1,002,881			1,002,881	1,002,881				
Adds funding to replace the 2023-25 new FTE pool			1,179,021	1,179,021			1,179,021	1,179,021				
Adds funding to replace the 2023-25 vacant FTE pool			2,241,734	2,241,734			2,241,734	2,241,734			nf.	ertective length
Adds funding from special funds for accrued leave payouts for retirements			109,291	109,291			109,291	109,291				
Adds funding for temporary salaries			265,500	265,500			265,500	265,500			2	
Adds funding for increasing motorpool costs			687,331	687,331			687,331	687,331				
Adds funding for information technology costs			639,189	639,189			639,189	639,189				
Adjusts base level funding for operating expenses and capital assets		Constitution of the Consti	(550,203)	(550,203)			(550,203)	(550,203)				
Reduces federal funding for shooting ranges grants		10.000	(1,650,000)	(1,650,000)			(1,650,000)	(1,650,000)				
Reduces funding for other game and fish grants			(1,351,997)	(1,351,997)			(1,351,997)	(1,351,997)				
Adds funding for land habitat and deer depredation			26,000	26,000			26,000	26,000				
Adjusts funding for the aquatic nuisance species program			36,572	36,572			36,572	36,572				
Total ongoing funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,739,965	\$3,739,965	0.00	\$0	\$3,385,193	\$3,385,193	0.00	\$0	(\$354,772)	(\$354,77
One-Time Funding Items											4	
Adds funding from special funds information technology projects			\$380,000	\$380,000			\$380,000	\$380,000				\$
Adds funding from special funds to repair the Baukol- Noonan dam			150,000	150,000			150,000	150,000				
Adds funding for equipment			160,200	160,200			160,200	160,200				
Adds funding for pondliners at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery			1,500,000	1,500,000			1,500,000	1,500,000				
Adds funding for high pressure pumps at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery			300,000	300,000			300,000	300,000				
Adds funding for wildlife habitat and access on private lands			3,000,000	3,000,000			5,000,000	5,000,000			\$2,000,000	2,000,00
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$5,490,200	\$5,490,200	0.00	\$0	\$7,490,200	\$7,490,200	0.00	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	0.00	\$0	\$9,230,165	\$9,230,165	0.00	\$0	\$10,875,393	\$10,875,393	0.00	\$0	\$1,645,228	\$1,645,22
2025-27 Total Funding	170.00	\$0	\$113,957,679	\$113,957,679	170.00	\$0	\$115,602,907	\$115,602,907	0.00	\$0	\$1,645,228	\$1,645,22
Federal funds included in other funds			\$55,219,844				\$56,725,603				\$1,505,759	
Total ongoing changes - Percentage of base level	0.0%	N/A	3.6%	3.6%		N/A	3.2%	3.2% 10.4%	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A
Total changes - Percentage of base level	0.0%	N/A	8.8%	8.8%	0.0%	N/A	10.4%	10.4%	IVA	IWA	IWA	IW

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE FLEET SERVICE 2025 - 2027 BIENNIUM

May 1, 2024

ASSIGNED VEHICLE BUDGET GUIDELINES

	GROUP	OPER	REPLCMNT	MILE/HOUR	DEPREC/
DESCRIPTION	No.	RATE	RATE	RATE	MONTH
Mini Pass. Van	1	0.51	0.14	0.65	129.00
Sedan/Wagon	2	0.45	0.12	0.57	81.00
Light Pickup/Cargo Van/Full-Size Utility	3	0.93	0.20	1.13	178.00
Heavy Pickup/Van/Full-Size Utility	4	1.10	0.15	1.25	193.00
Highway Patrol	7	1.07	0.06	1.13	448.00
Game & Fish Enforcement	8	0.45	0.08	0.53	356.00
Regulatory Vehicles	9	0.55	0.14	0.69	250.00
Facility Service Vehicle	12	1.09	0.20	1.29	112.00
Compact Utility/All	13	0.75	0.09	0.84	216.00
Miscellaneous Truck/Mid-Size Bus	18	36.00	5.00	41.00	173.00
Distributor Truck	19	54.00	5.00	59.00	370.00
Sign Truck/Garbage Truck	20	49.00	14.00	63.00	549.00
Tandem Axle Truck/All	22	91.00	15.00	106.00	673.00
Truck Tractor	23	62.00	10.00	72.00	236.00
Water Commission Truck	27	72.00		72.00	1,062.00
Drill Truck	32	175.00	10.00	185.00	366.00

FLEET MOTOR POOL VEHICLE BUDGET GUIDELINES

	GROUP	OPER & DEPR	REPLCMNT	MILE/HOUR
DESCRIPTION	No.	RATE	RATE	RATE
Mini Pass. Van	1	0.76	0.14	0.90
Sedan/Wagon	2	0.58	0.12	0.70
Light Pickup/Cargo Van/Full-Size Utility	3	1.20	0.20	1.40
Heavy Pickup/Van/Full-Size Utility	4	1.39	0.15	1.54
Highway Patrol	7	1.43	0.06	1.49
Game & Fish Enforcement	8	0.60	0.08	0.68
Regulatory Vehicles	9	0.72	0.14	0.86
Facility Service Vehicle	12	1.83	0.20	2.03
Compact Utility/All	13	1.02	0.09	1.11
Miscellaneous Truck/Mid-Size Bus	18	48.00	3.00	51.00
Rotary Snowplow	24	1706.00		1706.00
Medical Simulator Trucks	25	50.00		50.00
Bridge Aerial Lift	28	23.00		23.00
Lineworker Truck	29	41.00	_	41.00
Fuel Truck	31	9.00	20.00	29.00

Note: The budget guidelines for state fleet customers were prepared using estimated fuel prices for the coming biennium. Our primary fuel supplier cannot provide more definitive direction for the coming biennium due to volatile nature of oil pricing. Given the high level of uncertainty in which we are operating, it is possible that fuel prices may vary considerably from our current projections. Prior to the completion of the upcoming legislative session, if we become aware of significantly changed circumstances that would materially affect these guidelines, we will provide additional guidance via OMB.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division

Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1017 1/29/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption.

2:19 p.m. Chairman Monson called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Monson, Representatives: Bosch, Fischer, Meier, Pyle.

Members Absent: Vice Chairman Brandenburg and Representative Kempenich

Discussion Topics:

- Season Staff for Game and Fish
- Federal Funding for Shooting Range Grants
- Motor pool costs
- Game and Fish Mobile App
- Breakdown of Federal funds and special funds
- Mid-term conservation agreements
- Deer Depredation funds
- 2:19 p.m. Brian Hosek, Administrative Services Division Chief, ND Game and Fish Department, testified in favor, continued with previous testimony #29630, and submitted testimony #32637, and #32643.
- 2:23p.m. Jeb Williams, Director, Game and Fish Department, testified in favor.
- 2:36 p.m. Melissa Long, Administrative Officer, Game and Fish Department, testified in favor.

Additional written testimony:

Levi Kinnischtzke, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, submitted neutral testimony #32646.

2:59 p.m. Chairman Monson adjourned the meeting.

Madaline Cooper, Committee Clerk



January 29,2025

HB 1017 2025-27 Appropriation Request North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Adds funding from special funds for accrued leave payouts for retirements

109,291

Note: This is not an additional request. These are funds that we shifted within our existing 2025-27 Base Budget Request.

2. Adds funding for temporary salaries

265,500

O.A. #5 - Adjustments to Base-Temporary Salaries

(29% Federal)

Fisheries and Wildlife Divisions:

 Due to workforce challenges, market value, and a dramatic rise in the inflation rate, an increase is needed for our seasonal staff.

Enforcement Division:

The addition to the baseline is for hiring four seasonal employees, for 3 months each (mid-May to mid-August) for a total of 24 months. These temporary positions would spend approximately half of their time working boating safety which would qualify for U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety funds (50% reimbursement). The positions would provide opportunities for students to learn about employment as a District Game Warden and serve as a recruitment tool for the enforcement division to fill open positions.

3. Reduces federal funding for shooting range grants (1,650,000)

Note: These shooting ranges can require significant attention and proper planning to align the federal funding and appropriation. For a club to be eligible they must be a nonprofit in good standing, own or have a long-term lease on the property, and be open to the public. All the necessary steps must be completed prior to the grant being awarded. This includes EA on new sites, and these can take 6-12 months for this process alone. As referenced on slide 44-45 of the testimony there is still approximately \$1.89M of shooting range grants in the base. The reduction of \$1.65M was a result of the completion of a project and to decision to forgo the construction of another.

4. Adds funding for increasing motorpool costs

Vehicle costs and splits by division

25-27 MOTORPOOL BASE BUDGET

	Budget Mileage	25-27 Base Motorpool	Federal	Special
Administrative Services	13,000	\$151,738	0	100%
Fisheries	750,000	\$956,728	79%	21%
Enforcement	2,200,000	\$1,395,000	13%	87%
Conservation & Communications	225,000	\$183,042	35%	65%
Wildlife	1,100,000	\$1,396,052	70%	30%
	4,288,000	\$4,082,560	48%	52%

5. Request for information: Average age of staff in each division

Department (44)

Administrative Services (48)

Conservation and Communications (49)

Enforcement (39)

Fisheries (42)

Wildlife (44)

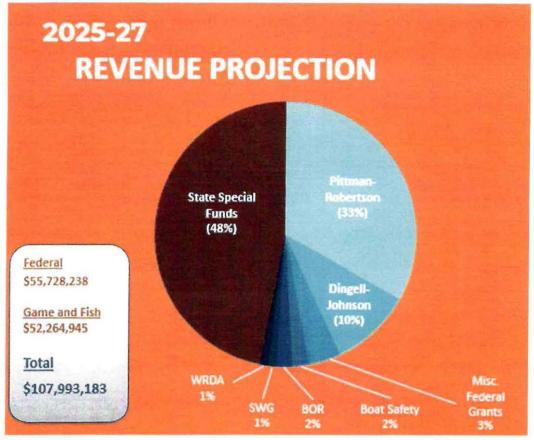
6. Request for information: Audit costs

Note: The Department has regular federal audits with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a 6-year schedule. There is not cost associated with these audits. These audits result in many field tours looking at equipment, facilities, owned lands, PLOTS, etc. purchased with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service federal funds. All federal equipment is tagged and inventoried.

Both the State Auditor's Office and the Federal Auditors share audit reports.

The Statewide Single Audit – Federal Single Audit every 2-years (~50K)
The Department has the Operational Audit (Financial) every 2-years (~15-25K)
The Department has IT Security Reviews

7. Request for information: Revenue Projections



25-27 Revenue Projections:

Federal revenue is projected to Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoral Recreational Boating Safety Prog State Wildlife Grants Misc. Federal Grants Bureau of Reclamation (Lonetree Water Resources Development A	n Act (PR funds)* ation Act (DJ funds)** gram	\$32,714,702 \$10,973,564 \$ 1,718,859 \$ 1,354,366 \$ 6,291,926 \$ 2,107,818 \$ 567,003
	Total Federal Revenue	\$55,728,238
Game & Fish (G&F) Revenue b	y Fund:	
Game and Fish Fund (Licenses +	Misc.)	\$41,860,500
Private Land Habitat Fund		\$ 7,600,000
Nongame Wildlife Fund (Donation	ns)	\$ 68,000
Aquatic Nuisance Species Fund	8	\$ 2,136,445
Fishing Conservation Fund (Contin	nuing Appropriation)	\$ 600,000
т	otal Game & Fish Revenue	\$52,264,945

Total All Revenue

\$107,993,183

8. Request for information: Funding

Note: The Game and Fish Department is a special fund agency receiving revenue from game and fish license sales (hunting, fishing, boat registrations) and federal funding. The Game and Fish receives no general fund dollars.

84% of our federal funds come from these two grants:

Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (PR), passed in 1937

 funds are derived from excise tax on the sale of guns, ammunition, and archery equipment

Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ), passed in 1950

 funds are derived from excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, electric motors, and motorboat fuel tax

Mandatory Funding (Not dependent on congress)

States may be paid up to 75% Federal funding; requires 25% non-Federal cost-share.

Formula Based...



Distribution Method

Apportioned formula based on: 50% paid hunting license holders + 50% land/water area



Distribution Method

Apportioned formula based on: 60% paid sport fishing license holders + 40% land/water area

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE FLEET SERVICE 2025 - 2027 BIENNIUM

May 1, 2024

ASSIGNED VEHICLE BUDGET GUIDELINES

	GROUP	OPER	REPLCMNT	MILE/HOUR	DEPREC/
DESCRIPTION	No.	RATE	RATE	RATE	MONTH
Mini Pass. Van	n (4. 1	0.51	0.14	0.65	129.00
Sedan/Wagon	2	0.45	0.12	0.57	81.00
Light Pickup/Cargo Van/Full-Size Utility	3	0.93	0.20	1.13	178.00
Heavy Pickup/Van/Full-Size Utility	4	1,10	0.15	1.25	193.00
Highway Patrol	7.	1.07	0.06	1.13	448.00
Game & Fish Enforcement	8	0.45	0.08	0.53	356.00
Regulatory Vehicles	9	0.55	0.14	0.69	250.00
Facility Service Vehicle	12	1.09	0.20	1.29	112.00
Compact Utility/All	13	0.75	0.09	0.84	216.00
Miscellaneous Truck/Mid-Size Bus	18	36.00	5.00	41.00	173.00
Distributor Truck	19	54.00	5.00	59.00	370.00
Sign Truck/Garbage Truck	20	49.00	14.00	63.00	549.00
Tandem Axle Truck/All	22	91.00	15.00	106.00	673.00
Truck Tractor	23	62.00	10.00	72.00	236.00
Water Commission Truck	27	72.00		72.00	1,062.00
Drill Truck	32	175.00	10.00	185.00	366.00

FLEET MOTOR POOL VEHICLE BUDGET GUIDELINES

	GROUP	OPER & DEPR	REPLCMNT	MILE/HOUR
DESCRIPTION	No.	RATE	RATE	RATE
Mini Pass. Van	- 1 de	0.76	0.14	0.90
Sedan/Wagon	2	0.58	0.12	0.70
Light Pickup/Cargo Van/Full-Size Utility	3	1.20	0.20	1.40
Heavy Pickup/Van/Full-Size Utility	4	1.39	0.15	1.54
Highway Patrol	7	1,43	0.06	1,49
Game & Fish Enforcement	8	0.60	0.08	0.68
Regulatory Vehicles	9	0.72	0.14	0.86
Facility Service Vehicle	12	1.83	0.20	2.03
Compact Utility/All	13	1.02	0.09	1.11
Miscellaneous Truck/Mid-Size Bus	18	48.00	3.00	51.00
Rotary Snowplow	24	1706.00		1706.00
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Bridge Aerial Lift	28	23.00		23.00
Lineworker Truck	29	41.00		41.00
Fuel Truck	31	9.00	20.00	29.00

Note: The budget guidelines for state fleet customers were prepared using estimated fuel prices for the coming biennium. Our primary fuel supplier cannot provide more definitive direction for the coming biennium due to volatile nature of oil pricing. Given the high level of uncertainty in which we are operating, it is possible that fuel prices may vary considerably from our current projections. Prior to the completion of the upcoming legislative session, if we become aware of significantly changed circumstances that would materially affect these guidelines, we will provide additional guidance via OMB.



UPDATED LIST 1/24/2025

Remove McLean_Butte Add Eddy County

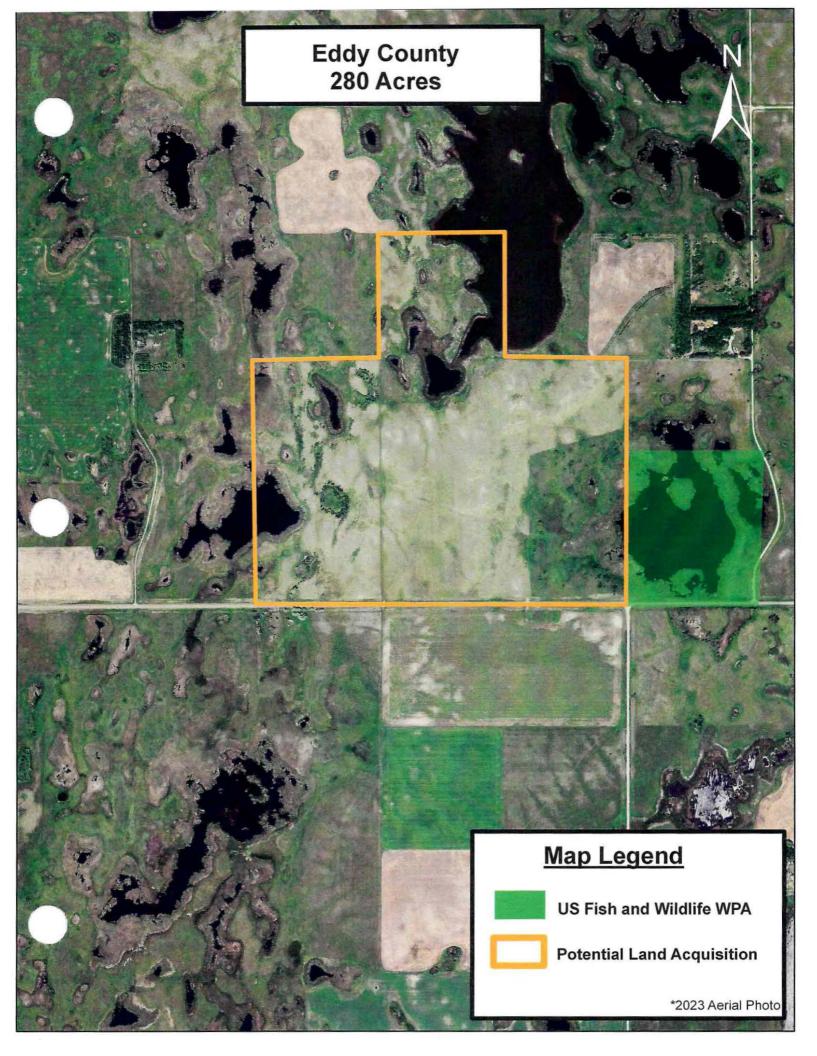
2025-27 Appropriation Request North Dakota Game and Fish Department Potential Land Acquisitions

As of January 6, 2025

The Department has been contacted by individuals with the following tracts. They are interested in selling these tracts to the Department to be maintained as Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Some opportunities may arise throughout the biennium that could get higher priority. The following list is in no particular order.

- 1) Adams County 480 acres Land is currently in CRP.
- 2) Burleigh County 640 acres Property is wetlands with a small area grass.
- 3) Dunn County 960 acres Native prairie and woodlands near Killdeer WMA.
- 4) Eddy County 280 acres Grassland and wetlands.
- 5) Hettinger County 80 acres Land is currently in CRP.
- 6) Lamoure County 476 acres Land is enrolled in WRE, so no agricultural practices allowed. Wetlands and grasslands.
- 7) McLean County 30 acres Addition to the Coal Lake WMA for improved access.
- Pembina County 593 acres Dunklee WMA addition. Enrolled in NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection, so no agricultural practices are allowed.
- 9) Sheridan County- 3,106 acres Mix of native prairie, grasslands, wetlands, and crop land.
- 10)Steele County 160 acres Trees and wetlands adjacent to Waterfowl Production Area.
- 11)Walsh County 542 acres Land is enrolled in WRE, so no agricultural practices allowed. Wetlands and grasslands.

A map for each potential acquisition is included.



Legislative Council

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

egislatīve Council \(\) Agency \(\) Vorksheet = 110 d se		Armetro	Armstrong Budget			House	House Version			House Compared to Armstrong Budget			
		Allistic	ing Dauget					Increase (Decrease)					
	FTE	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	
9 5	Positions 170.00	\$0	\$104,727,514	\$104,727,514	170.00	\$0	\$104,727,514	\$104,727,514	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	
)25-27 Biennium Base Level	170.00	30	\$104,727,514	4101,727,011									
25-27 Ongoing Funding Changes			(0000 004)	(\$838,661)			(\$838,661)	(\$838,661)				\$0	
Base payroll changes			(\$838,661)	1,588,535			1.588.535	1,588,535					
Salary increase			1,588,535	1,002,881			1,002,881	1,002,881					
Health insurance increase			1,002,881				1,179,021	1,179,021					
Adds funding to replace the 2023-25 new FTE pool			1,179,021	1,179,021	-		2,241,734	2,241,734					
Adds funding to replace the 2023-25 vacant FTE pool			2,241,734	2,241,734			(798,217)	(798,217)			(\$798,217)	(798,21	
Adjusts funding for the 2025-27 vacant FTE pool				0			(730,217)	(100,211)			(109,291)	(109,29	
Adds funding from special funds for accrued leave			109,291	109,291		1		•					
payouts for retirements						40		0			(265,500)	(265,50)	
Adds funding for temporary salaries			265,500	265,500			687,331	687,331					
Adds funding for increasing motorpool costs			687,331	687,331			639,189	639,189			10		
Adds funding for information technology costs		1.3.7	639,189	639,189				(550,203)			i la		
Adjusts base level funding for operating expenses			(550,203)	(550,203)			(550,203)	(550,205)	1				
and capital assets							(4.050.000)	(4.050.000)			15		
Reduces federal funding for shooting ranges grants			(1,650,000)	(1,650,000)			(1,650,000)	(1,650,000)	-		100	1000	
Reduces funding for other game and fish grants			(1,351,997)	(1,351,997)			(1,351,997)	(1,351,997)					
Adds funding for land habitat and deer depredation			26,000	26,000			26,000	26,000					
Adjusts funding for the aquatic nuisance species			36,572	36,572			36,572	36,572	1 1	1	10		
program		**	40 205 402	\$3,385,193	0.00	\$0	\$2,212,185	\$2,212,185	0.00	\$0	(\$1,173,008)	(\$1,173,00	
Total ongoing funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,385,193	\$3,300,133	0.00	Ψ.	V =,=,			1			
One-Time Funding Items	1							****				\$	
Adds funding from special funds information			\$380,000	\$380,000			\$380,000	\$380,000					
technology projects											- 6		
Adds funding from special funds to repair the Baukol-	-		150,000	150,000			150,000	150,000					
	1												
Noonan dam			160,200	160,200			160,200	160,200					
Adds funding for equipment			1,500,000	1,500,000			1,500,000	1,500,000					
Adds funding for pondliners at the Garrison Dam			1,000,000										
National Fish Hatchery			300,000	300,000			300,000	300,000					
Adds funding for high-pressure pumps at the			000,000		1								
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery			5,000,000	5,000,000			5,000,000	5,000,000			1		
Adds funding for wildlife habitat and access on	1		3,000,000	0,000,000			3. 3						
private lands							4= 100 000	AT 400 000	0.00	\$0	\$0		
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$7,490,200	\$7,490,200	0.00	\$0	\$7,490,200	\$7,490,200	0.00	3.50			
	0.00	\$0	\$10,875,393	\$10,875,393	0.00	\$0	\$9,702,385	\$9,702,385	0.00	\$0	(\$1,173,008)	(\$1,173,00	
Total Changes to Base Level Funding		\$0		\$115,602,907	The second secon	\$0	\$114,429,899	\$114,429,899	0.00	\$0	(\$1,173,008)	(\$1,173,00	
2025-27 Total Funding	170.00	\$0		\$115,002,307	170.00		\$56,343,460				(\$382,143)		
Federal funds included in other funds			\$56,725,603				**************************************						
		2132	0.00/	3.2%	0.0%	N/A	2.1%	2.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N.	
Total ongoing changes - Percentage of base level	0.0%	N/A	3.2%			N/A		9.3%		N/A	N/A	N/	
Total changes - Percentage of base level	0.0%	N/A	10.4%	10.4%	0.0%	IVA	0.070	3.070					

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

Section Description	Armstrong Budget	House Version	
New and vacant FTE pool line item		Section 3 provides the Game and Fish Department cannot spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE funding pool line item but may request the Office of Management and Budget to transfer funds to the salaries and wages line item.	
Grants, gifts, and donations		Section 4 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.	
Mid-term conservation agreements		Section 5 identifies that the \$2,777,778 included in the land habitat and deer depredation line item can be used for mid-term conservation agreements entered with private landowners for a maximum of 30 years with buyout options at 15, 20, and 25 years.	
Exemption - Line item transfer authority		Section 6 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2025-27 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.	

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division

Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1017 2/5/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption.

10:01 a.m. Chairman Monson called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Monson, Vice Chairman Brandenburg,

Representatives: Fisher, Kempenich, Meier, Pyle.

Members Absent: Representative Bosch

Discussion Topics:

- Replacement of Guns
- Rollback funds
- Proposed Amendments
- Technology Advancements in handguns

10:04 a.m. Jeb Williams, Director, North Dakota Game and Fish, testified in favor.

10:17 a.m. Jacob Vandervorste, Student, Strasburg, testified in neutral.

10:27 a.m. Representative Fisher motioned Amendment 25.0161.01002, #35304.

10:27 a.m. Representative Meier seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative David Monson	Υ
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Υ
Representative Glenn Bosch	AB
Representative Jay Fisher	Υ
Representative Keith Kempenich	AB
Representative Lisa Meier	Υ
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Υ

Motion passed 5-0-2.

10:28 a.m. Representative Fisher motioned a Do Pass as Amended

10:28 a.m. Representative Meier seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative David Monson	Υ
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Υ

House Appropriations - Government Operations Division HB 1017 02/05/2025 Page 2

Representative Glenn Bosch	AB
Representative Jay Fisher	Υ
Representative Keith Kempenich	AB
Representative Lisa Meier	Υ
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Υ

Motion Passed 5-0-2 as Amended.

Representative Fisher will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Levi Kinnischtzke, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Council, submitted neutral testimony #35303 and #35304.

10:31 a.m. Chairman Monson adjourned the meeting.

Madaline Cooper, Committee Clerk

25.0161.01001 Title. Fiscal No. 1 Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for House Appropriations -Government Operations Division Committee January 31, 2025

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1017

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish
- 2 department; and to provide an exemption.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated from other funds derived from special funds and federal funds, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

9			Adjustments or	
10		Base Level	Enhancements	<u>Appropriation</u>
11	Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$0	\$37,008,098
12	Operating expenses	17,788,258	0	17,788,258
13	Capital assets	5,400,661	0	5,400,661
14	Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	0	10,089,976
15	Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	0	27,183,516
16	Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
17	Missouri River enforcement	313,869	0	313,869
18	Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	0	677,970
19	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly

1	Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	0	2,156,714
2	Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
3	Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
4	Aquatic nuisance species program	2,533,452	<u> </u>	2,533,452
5	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$0	\$104,727,514
6	Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00
7	Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2,052,121	\$39,060,219
8	New and vacant FTE pool	0	1,862,510	1,862,510
9	Operating expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296
10	Capital assets	5,400,661	1,562,479	6,963,140
11	Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979
12	Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	4,989,565	32,173,081
13	Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
14	Missouri River enforcement	313,869	9,912	323,781
15	Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	17,110	695,080
16	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
17	Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	(48,117)	2,108,597
18	Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
19	Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
20	Aquatic nuisance species program	2,533,452	352,055	2,885,507
21	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$9,811,676	\$114,539,190
22	Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00
23	SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING	G - EFFECT ON BAS	E BUDGET - REPO	RT TO
24	SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEM	BLY. The following an	nounts reflect the on	e-time funding
25	items included in the appropriation in s	section 1 of this Act wh	nich are not included	I in the entity's
26	base budget for the 2027-29 biennium	and which the entity	shall report to the ap	propriations
27	committees of the seventieth legislativ	e assembly regarding	the use of this fundi	ing:
28	One-Time Funding Description	<u>n</u>		Other Funds
29	Information technology projects			\$380,000
30	Baukol-Noonan Dam repairs			150,000
31	Equipment			160,200

27

1	Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pondliners 1,500	,000
2	Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pumps 300	,000
3	Wildlife habitat and access on private lands 5,000	,000
4	Total other funds \$7,490	,200
5	SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - LIMITATION - TRANSFER REQUEST.	The
6	game and fish department may not spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE po	ool
7	line item in section 1 of this Act, but may request the office of management and budget to	
8	transfer funds from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the salaries and wages line ite	m in
9	accordance with the guidelines and reporting provisions included in House Bill No. 1015, as	
10	approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.	
11	SECTION 4. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS LINE ITEM. The grants, gifts, and	
12	donations line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$100,000 received by the game an	d
13	fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or	
14	managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.	
15	SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish departm	ent
16	may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line	item
17	in section 1 of this Act for national fish and wildlife foundation midterm conservation agreem	ents
18	with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maxim	num
19	of thirty years. The department shall provide buyback provisions after the fifteenth, twentieth	١,
20	and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a pol	rtion
21	of acreage from the lease.	
22	SECTION 6. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS. Notwithstanding section 54-16-0	14,
23	the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of	
24	appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game a	and
25	fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during	the
26	biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The game and fish department	t
4000		

shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

House Bill No. 1017 - Game and Fish Department - House Action

	Base Budget	House Changes	House Version
Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2,052,121	\$39,060,219
New and vacant FTE pool		1,862,510	1,862,510
Operating expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296
Capital assets	5,400,661	1,562,479	6,963,140
Grants - Game and fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979
Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	4,989,565	32,173,081
Noxious weed control	725,000		725,000
Missouri River enforcement	313,869	9,912	323,781
Grants - Gifts - Donations	677,970	17,110	695,080
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000		100,000
Lonetree Reservoir	2,156,714	(48,117)	2,108,597
Wildlife Services	500,000		500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species education	2,533,452	352,055	2,885,507
Total all funds	\$104,727,514	\$9,811,676	\$114,539,190
Less estimated income	104,727,514	9,811,676	114,539,190
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	170.00	0.00	170.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of House Changes

Salaries and wages	Adjusts Funding for Base Payroll Changes ¹ (\$461,549)	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ² \$2,273,567	Adds Funding to Replace 2023-25 New and Vacant FTE Pool ³ \$2,476,866	Transfers Funding for 2025-27 New and Vacant FTE Pool ⁴ (\$2,346,054)	Adjusts Base Level Funding ⁵ \$109,291	Adds Funding for IT and Motorpool Costs [®]
New and vacant FTE pool Operating expenses Capital assets				1,862,510	159,518 (397,721)	\$1,326,520
Grants - Game and fish					(3,001,997)	
Land habitat and deer depredation	(689,220)	169,176	651,363	(167,754)	26,000	
Noxious weed control						
Missouri River enforcement	4,628	6,316	5,928	(6,960)		
Grants - Gifts - Donations	5,935	14,067	11,059	(13,951)		
Nongame wildlife conservation						
Lonetree Reservoir Wildlife Services	217,334	70,257	45,770	(69,478)	(312,000)	
Shooting sports grant program						
Aquatic nuisance species education	84,211	58,033	229,769	(56,530)	36,572	
Total all funds	(\$838,661)	\$2,591,416	\$3,420,755	(\$798,217)	(\$3,380,337)	\$1,326,520
Less estimated income	(838,661)	2,591,416	3,420,755	(798,217)	(3,380,337)	1,326,520
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds One- Time Funding ^I	Total House Changes
Salaries and wages		\$2,052,121
New and vacant FTE pool		1,862,510
Operating expenses	\$530,000	2,016,038
Capital assets	1,960,200	1,562,479
Grants - Game and fish		(3,001,997)
Land habitat and deer depredation	5,000,000	4,989,565
Noxious weed control		
Missouri River enforcement		9,912
Grants - Gifts - Donations		17,110
Nongame wildlife conservation		
Lonetree Reservoir		(48,117)
Wildlife Services		
Shooting sports grant program		
Aquatic nuisance species education		352,055
Total all funds	\$7,490,200	\$9,811,676
Less estimated income	7,490,200	9,811,676
General fund	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00

¹ Funding is adjusted for base payroll changes.

² The following funding is added for 2025-27 biennium salary adjustments of 3 percent on July 1, 2025, and 3 percent on July 1, 2026, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,643 to \$1,893 per month:

	Federal	Special	
	<u>Funds</u>	Funds	Total
Salary increase	\$601,106	\$987,429	\$1,588,535
Health insurance increase	396,260	606,621	1.002,881
Total	\$997,366	\$1,594,050	\$2,591,416

³ Funding is added to replace 2023-25 biennium new and vacant FTE pool funding as follows:

	Federal	Special	
	<u>Funds</u>	Funds	<u>Total</u>
Vacant FTE positions	\$646,088	\$532,933	\$1,179,021
New FTE positions	843,512	1,398,222	2,241,734
Total	\$1,489,600	\$1,931,155	\$3,420,755

⁴ Funding of \$2,660,727 for estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed and funding of \$1,862,510 is added for a 2025-27 new and vacant FTE pool line item as follows:

	Federal	Special	
	<u>Funds</u>	Funds	Total
New FTE positions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Vacant FTE positions	(1,014,625)	(1,646,102)	(2,660,727)
Total	(\$1,014,625)	(\$1,646,102)	(\$2,660,727)
Funding pool line item	\$710,238	\$1,152,272	\$1,862,510
Net savings	(\$304,387)	(\$493,830)	(\$798,217)

⁵ Base level funding is adjusted as follows:

	Federal Funds	Special Funds	<u>Total</u>
Adds funding for accrued leave payouts for retirements	\$0	\$109,291	\$109,291
Adjusts funding for operating expenses and capital assets, primarily related to decreases in operating fees and services and buildings, grounds, and vehicle supplies	340,401	(890,604)	(550,203)
Reduces funding for shooting ranges grants resulting in \$1,650,000 of federal funds remaining for the program	(1,650,000)	0	(1,650,000)
Reduces funding for other game and fish grants	(1,201,938)	(150,059)	(1,351,997)
Adds funding for land habitat and deer depredation	19,500	6,500	26,000
Adjusts funding for the aquatic nuisance species program Total	28,201 (\$2,463,836)	8,371 (\$916,501)	36,572 (\$3,380,337)

⁶ Funding is added from special funds for increasing information technology costs (\$639,189) and for increasing motorpool costs (\$687,331), of which \$321,100 is from federal funds and \$366,231 is from special funds.

⁷ One-time funding is added as follows:

	Federal Funds	Special Funds	Total
Information technology projects, including \$100,000 for the Game and Fish Department mobile application, \$250,000 for a customer relationship management solution, and \$30,000 for a video asset management system	\$0	\$380,000	\$380,000
Repairs to the Baukol-Noonan Dam	0	150,000	150,000
Equipment, including \$70,000 for tractors, \$12,000 for all-terrain vehicles, \$13,200 for law enforcement aquatic radios, and \$65,000 for a fiberglass boat, motor, and trailer	80,450	79,750	160,200
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pondliners	1,125,000	375,000	1,500,000
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery high-pressure pumps	225,000	75,000	300,000
Wildlife habitat and access on private lands, including \$1,000,000 for the habitat improvement program, \$2,300,000 for private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) payments, and \$1,700,000 for the rangeland legacy program	4.100,000	900,000	5,000,000
Total	\$5,530,450	\$1,959,750	\$7,490,200

House Bill No. 1017 - Other Changes - House Action

A section is added to the bill regarding the use of funding in the new and vacant FTE pool line item.

25.0161.01002 Title. Fiscal No. 2 Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for House Appropriations - Government Operations Division Committee

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota February 4, 2025

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1017

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish
- 2 department; and to provide an exemption.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated from other funds derived from special funds and federal funds, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

9			Adjustments or	
10		Base Level	Enhancements	<u>Appropriation</u>
11	Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$0	\$37,008,098
12	Operating expenses	17,788,258	0	17,788,258
13	Capital assets	5,400,661	0	5,400,661
14	Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	0	10,089,976
15	Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	0	27,183,516
16	Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
17	Missouri River enforcement	313,869	0	313,869
18	Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	0	677,970
19	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly

11				
1	Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	0	2,156,714
2	Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
3	Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
4	Aquatic nuisance species program	2,533,452	<u>0</u>	2,533,452
5	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$0	\$104,727,514
6	Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00
7	Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2, <mark>052,121</mark>	\$39,060,219
8	New and vacant FTE pool	0	1,862,510	1,862,510
9	Operating expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296
10	Capital assets	5,400,661	1,622,479	7,023,140
11	Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979
12	Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	4,989,565	32,173,081
13	Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
14	Missouri River enforcement	313,869	9,912	323,781
15	Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	17,110	695,080
16	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
17	Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	(48,117)	2,108,597
18	Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
19	Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
20	Aquatic nuisance species program	2,533,452	352,055	2,885,507
21	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$9,871,676	\$114,599,190
22	Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00
23	SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDIN	G - EFFECT ON BASI	E BUDGET - REPO	RT TO
24	SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEM	IBLY. The following am	nounts reflect the on	e-time funding
25	items included in the appropriation in	section 1 of this Act wh	nich are not included	d in the entity's
26	base budget for the 2027-29 biennium	and which the entity	shall report to the ap	opropriations
27	committees of the seventieth legislative	ve assembly regarding	the use of this fund	ing:
28	One-Time Funding Description	<u>on</u>		Other Funds
29	Information technology projects			\$380,000
30	Baukol-Noonan Dam repairs			150,000
31	Equipment			220,200

26

27

Legislative Assembly
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pondliners 1,500,000
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pumps 300,000
Wildlife habitat and access on private lands 5,000,000
Total other funds \$7,550,200
SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - LIMITATION - TRANSFER REQUEST. The
game and fish department may not spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE pool
line item in section 1 of this Act, but may request the office of management and budget to
transfer funds from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the salaries and wages line item in
accordance with the guidelines and reporting provisions included in House Bill No. 1015, as
approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.
SECTION 4. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS LINE ITEM. The grants, gifts, and
donations line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$100,000 received by the game and
fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or
managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.
SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish department
may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item
in section 1 of this Act for national fish and wildlife foundation midterm conservation agreements
with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum
of thirty years. The department shall provide buyback provisions after the fifteenth, twentieth,
and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a portion
of acreage from the lease.
SECTION 6. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04,
the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of
appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and
fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the

biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The game and fish department

shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

House Bill No. 1017 - Game and Fish Department - House Action

	Base Budget	House Changes	House Version
Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2,052,121	\$39,060,219
New and vacant FTE pool		1,862,510	1,862,510
Operating expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296
Capital assets	5,400,661	1,622,479	7,023,140
Grants - Game and fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979
Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	4,989,565	32,173,081
Noxious weed control	725,000		725,000
Missouri River enforcement	313,869	9,912	323,781
Grants - Gifts - Donations	677,970	17,110	695,080
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	(%	100,000
Lonetree Reservoir	2,156,714	(48,117)	2,108,597
Wildlife Services	500,000	N. Complete College (College College C	500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species education	2,533,452	352,055	2,885,507
Total all funds	\$104,727,514	\$9,871,676	\$114,599,190
Less estimated income	104,727,514	9,871,676	114,599,190
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	170.00	0.00	170.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of House Changes

	Adjusts Funding for Base Payroll Changes ¹	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ²	Adds Funding to Replace 2023-25 New and Vacant FTE Pool ³	Transfers Funding for 2025-27 New and Vacant FTE Pool ⁴	Adjusts Base Level Funding ^s	Adds Funding for IT and Motorpool Costs ⁶
Salaries and wages New and vacant FTE pool	(\$461,549)	\$2,273,567	\$2,476,866	(\$2,346,054) 1,862,510	\$109,291	
Operating expenses Capital assets Grants - Game and fish				1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	159,518 (397,721) (3,001,997)	\$1,326,520
Land habitat and deer depredation Noxious weed control	(689,220)	169,176	651,363	(167,754)	26,000	
Missouri River enforcement	4,628	6,316	5,928	(6,960)		
Grants - Gifts - Donations Nongame wildlife conservation	5,935	14,067	11,059	(13,951)		
Lonetree Reservoir Wildlife Services Shooting sports grant program	217,334	70,257	45,770	(69,478)	(312,000)	
Aquatic nuisance species education	84,211	58,033	229,769	(56,530)	36,572	
Total all funds	(\$838,661)	\$2,591,416	\$3,420,755	(\$798,217)	(\$3,380,337)	\$1,326,520
Less estimated income	(838,661)	2,591,416	3,420,755	(798,217)	(3,380,337)	1,326,520
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds One- Time Funding ^I	Total House Changes
Salaries and wages	3.50	\$2,052,121
New and vacant FTE pool		1,862,510
Operating expenses	\$530,000	2,016,038
Capital assets	2,020,200	1,622,479
Grants - Game and fish	Value of the Control	(3,001,997)
Land habitat and deer depredation	5,000,000	4,989,565
Noxious weed control		
Missouri River enforcement		9,912
Grants - Gifts - Donations		17,110
Nongame wildlife conservation		
Lonetree Reservoir		(48,117)
Wildlife Services		
Shooting sports grant program		
Aquatic nuisance species education	•	352,055
Total all funds	\$7,550,200	\$9,871,676
Less estimated income	7,550,200	9,871,676
General fund	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00

¹ Funding is adjusted for base payroll changes.

² The following funding is added for 2025-27 biennium salary adjustments of 3 percent on July 1, 2025, and 3 percent on July 1, 2026, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,643 to \$1,893 per month:

	Federal	Special	
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salary increase	\$601,106	\$987,429	\$1,588,535
Health insurance increase	<u>396,260</u>	606,621	1,002,881
Total	\$997,366	\$1,594,050	\$2,591,416

³ Funding is added to replace 2023-25 biennium new and vacant FTE pool funding as follows:

	Federal	Special	
	<u>Funds</u>	Funds	<u>Total</u>
Vacant FTE positions	\$646,088	\$532,933	\$1,179,021
New FTE positions	843,512	1,398,222	2,241,734
Total	\$1,489,600	\$1,931,155	\$3,420,755

⁴ Funding of \$2,660,727 for estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed and funding of \$1,862,510 is added for a 2025-27 new and vacant FTE pool line item as follows:

	Federal	Special	
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
New FTE positions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Vacant FTE positions	(1,014,625)	(1,646,102)	(2,660,727)
Total	(\$1,014,625)	(\$1,646,102)	(\$2,660,727)
Funding pool line item	710,238	1,152,272	<u>1,862,510</u>
Net savings	(\$304,387)	(\$493,830)	(\$798,217)

⁵ Base level funding is adjusted as follows:

Adds funding for accrued leave payouts for retirements Adjusts funding for operating expenses and capital assets, primarily related to decreases in operating fees and services and buildings, grounds, and	Federal Funds \$0 340,401	Special Funds \$109,291 (890,604)	<u>Total</u> \$109,291 (550,203)
vehicle supplies Reduces funding for shooting ranges grants resulting in \$1,650,000 of federal funding remaining for the program	(1,650,000)	0	(1,650,000)
Reduces funding for other game and fish grants Adds funding for land habitat and deer depredation Adjusts funding for the aquatic nuisance species program Total	(1,201,938) 19,500 <u>28,201</u> (\$2,463,836)	6,500 8,371	(1,351,997) 26,000 <u>36,572</u> (\$3,380,337)

⁶ Funding is added from special funds for increasing information technology costs (\$639,189) and for increasing motorpool costs (\$687,331), of which \$321,100 is from federal funds and \$366,231 is from special funds.

⁷ One-time funding is added as follows:

	Federal Funds	Special Funds	Total
Information technology projects, including \$100,000 for the Game and Fish Department mobile application, \$250,000 for a customer relationship management solution, and \$30,000 for a video asset management system	\$0	\$380,000	\$380,000
Repairs to the Baukol-Noonan dam	0	150,000	150,000
Equipment, including \$70,000 for tractors, \$12,000 for all-terrain vehicles, \$13,200 for law enforcement aquatic radios, \$65,000 for a fiberglass boat, motor, and trailer, and \$60,000 for the replacement of game warden firearms	91,850	128,350	220,200
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pondliners	1,125,000	375,000	1,500,000
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery high-pressure pumps	225,000	75,000	300,000
Wildlife habitat and access on private lands, including \$1,000,000 for the habitat improvement program, \$2,300,000 for private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) payments, and \$1,700,000 for the rangeland legacy program	4,100,000	900,000	5,000,000
Total	\$5,541,850	\$2,008,350	\$7,550,200

House Bill No. 1017 - Other Changes - House Action

A section is added to the bill regarding the use of funding in the new and vacant FTE pool line item.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division

Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

HB 1017 2/11/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption.

8:39 a.m. Chairman Monson called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Monson, Vice Chairman Brandenburg, Representatives: Bosch, Fisher, Kempenich, Meier, Pyle.

Discussion Topics:

- Game and Fish purchasing land
- Property tax on Game and Fish land
- Wildlife Reclamation land
- Conservation Reserve program
- Wetland Reserve Easement
- Land Acquisition budget

8:42 a.m. Jeb Williams, Director, North Dakota Game and Fish, testified in favor.

9:18 a.m. Chairman Monson closed the meeting.

Madaline Cooper, Committee Clerk

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee

Roughrider Room, State Capitol

HB 1017 2/12/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption.

4:23 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Chairman Vigesaa, Vice Chairman Kempenich, Representatives Anderson, Berg, Bosch, Brandenburg, Fisher, Hanson, Louser, Martinson, Meier, Mitskog, Monson, Murphy, Nathe, Nelson, O'Brien, Pyle, Richter, Sanford, Stemen, Swiontek, Wagner

Discussion Topics:

- Fish Hatcheries
- Budgets for Games and Fish
- 4:23 p.m. Representative Fisher introduced Amendment LC #25.0161.01002(#37484).
- 4:33 p.m. Representative Bosch motioned to remove Berg from voting on this Bill.
- 4:33 p.m. Representative Stemen seconded the motion.
- 4:33 p.m. Voice Vote motion passed.
- 4:34 p.m. Representative Fisher motioned to Adopt Amendment LC #25.0161.01002.
- 4:34 p.m. Representative Bosch seconded.
- 4:34 p.m. Roll Call Vote

Roll Call Vote Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Υ
Representative Keith Kempenich	Υ
Representative Bert Anderson	Υ
Representative Mike Berg	Α
Representative Glen Bosch	Υ
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Υ
Representative Jay Fisher	Υ
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Υ
Representative Scott Louser	Υ
Representative Bob Martinson	Υ
Representative Lisa Meier	Υ
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Α
Representative David Monson	Υ

Representative Eric J. Murphy	Υ
Representative Mike Nathe	Υ
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Α
Representative Emily O'Brien	Υ
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Υ
Representative David Richter	Υ
Representative Mark Sanford	Υ
Representative Gregory Stemen	Υ
Representative Steve Swiontek	Α
Representative Scott Wagner	Υ

- 4:35 p.m. Motion passed 19-0-4.
- 4:36 p.m. Representative Fisher motioned a Do Pass as Amended.
- 4:36 p.m. Representative Bosch seconded.
- 4:37 p.m. Representative Bosch motioned to remove Berg from voting on the Do Pass as Amended Motion.
- 4:37 p.m. Representative Monson seconded the motion.
- 4:37 p.m. Voice Vote Passed.
- 4:37 p.m. Roll Call Vote.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Υ
Representative Keith Kempenich	Υ
Representative Bert Anderson	Υ
Representative Mike Berg	Α
Representative Glen Bosch	Υ
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Υ
Representative Jay Fisher	Υ
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Υ
Representative Scott Louser	Υ
Representative Bob Martinson	Υ
Representative Lisa Meier	Υ
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Α
Representative David Monson	Υ
Representative Eric J. Murphy	Υ
Representative Mike Nathe	Υ
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Α
Representative Emily O'Brien	Υ
Representative Brandy L. Pyle	Υ
Representative David Richter	Υ
Representative Mark Sanford	Υ
Representative Gregory Stemen	Υ

House Appropriations Committee HB 1017 2/12/2025 Page 3

Representative Steve Swiontek	Α
Representative Scott Wagner	Υ

4:38 p.m. Motion Passed 19-0-4.

Representative Fisher will carry the bill.

4:41 p.m. Chairman Vigesaa closed the meeting.

Sierra Schartz, Committee Clerk

25.0161.01002 Title.02000 Fiscal No. 2 Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for House Appropriations -Government Operations Division Committee

February 4, 2025

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

2-12-25

HOUSE BILL NO. 1017

Introduced by

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8

Appropriations Committee

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish
- 2 department; and to provide an exemption.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated from other funds derived from special funds and federal funds, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

9			Adjustments or	
10		Base Level	Enhancements	<u>Appropriation</u>
11	Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$0	\$37,008,098
12	Operating expenses	17,788,258	0	17,788,258
13	Capital assets	5,400,661	0	5,400,661
14	Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	0	10,089,976
15	Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	0	27,183,516
16	Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
17	Missouri River enforcement	313,869	0	313,869
18	Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	0	677,970
19	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000



Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	0	2,156,714	
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000	
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000	
Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>2,533,452</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,533,452</u>	
Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$0	\$104,727,514	
Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00	
Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2,052,121	\$39,060,219	
New and vacant FTE pool	0	1,862,510	1,862,510	
Operating expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296	
Capital assets	5,400,661	1,622,479	7,023,140	
Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979	
Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	4,989,565	32,173,081	
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000	
Missouri River enforcement	313,869	9,912	323,781	
Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	17,110	695,080	
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000	
Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	(48,117)	2,108,597	
Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000	
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000	
Aquatic nuisance species program	2,533,452	352,055	2,885,507	
Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$9,871,676	\$114,599,190	
Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00	
SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING	G - EFFECT ON BAS	E BUDGET - REPO	RT TO	
SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEM	IBLY. The following an	mounts reflect the or	ne-time funding	
items included in the appropriation in	section 1 of this Act w	hich are not included	d in the entity's	
base budget for the 2027-29 biennium and which the entity shall report to the appropriations				
committees of the seventieth legislative	e assembly regarding	the use of this fund	ling:	
One-Time Funding Description Other Funds				
Information technology projects			\$380,000	
Baukol-Noonan Dam repairs			150,000	
Equipment			220,200	
	Wildlife services Sheeting sperts grant program Aquatic nuisance species program Total other funds Full-time equivalent positions Salaries and wages New and vacant FTE pool Operating expenses Capital assets Grants - game and fish Land habitat and deer depredation Noxious weed control Missouri River enforcement Grants, gifts, and donations Nongame wildlife conservation Lonetree reservoir Wildlife services Shooting sports grant program Aquatic nuisance species program Total other funds Full-time equivalent positions SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDIN SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEM items included in the appropriation in shase budget for the 2027-29 biennium committees of the seventieth legislative One-Time Funding Description Information technology projects Baukol-Noonan Dam repairs	Wildlife services Shooting sports grant program Aquatic nuisance species program 2.533,452 Total other funds Full time equivalent positions Salaries and wages New and vacant FTE pool Operating expenses Capital assets Capital assets Capital assets Capital and deer depredation Dissouri River enforcement Sity of Carants, gifts, and donations Grants, gifts, and donations Grants, gifts, and donations Grants grant program Lonetree reservoir Wildlife services Shooting sports grant program Section 2.533,452 Total other funds Section 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BAS SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following ar items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act we base budget for the 2027-29 biennium and which the entity committees of the seventieth legislative assembly regarding One-Time Funding Description Information technology projects Baukol-Noonan Dam repairs	Sheeting sperts grant pregram 250,000 0 Aquatic nuisance species program 2.533.452 0 Total other funds \$104,727,514 \$0 Full time equivalent positions 170.00 0.00 Salaries and wages \$37.008.098 \$2.052,121 New and vacant FTE pool 0 1.862,510 Operating expenses 17,788,258 2.016,038 Capital assets 5,400,661 1.622,479 Grants - game and fish 10,089,976 (3,001,997) Land habitat and deer depredation 27,183,516 4,989,565 Noxious weed control 725,000 0 Missouri River enforcement 313,869 9,912 Grants, gifts, and donations 677,970 17,110 Nongame wildlife conservation 100,000 0 Lonetree reservoir 2,156,714 (48.117) Wildlife services 500,000 0 Shooting sports grant program 250,000 0 Aquatic nuisance species program 2,533,452 352,055 Total other funds \$104,727,514 \$9,871,676 Full-time equivalent positions 170.00 0.00 SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPC SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the or items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act which are not included base budget for the 2027-29 biennium and which the entity shall report to the accommittees of the seventieth legislative assembly regarding the use of this function. One-Time Funding Description Information technology projects Baukol-Noonan Dam repairs	

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly

27



1 1,500,000 Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pondliners 2 300,000 Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pumps 3 Wildlife habitat and access on private lands 5,000,000 4 Total other funds \$7,550,200 5 SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - LIMITATION - TRANSFER REQUEST. The 6 game and fish department may not spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE pool 7 line item in section 1 of this Act, but may request the office of management and budget to 8 transfer funds from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the salaries and wages line item in 9 accordance with the guidelines and reporting provisions included in House Bill No. 1015, as 10 approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly. 11 SECTION 4. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS LINE ITEM. The grants, gifts, and 12 donations line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$100,000 received by the game and 13 fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or 14 managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities. 15 SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish department 16 may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item 17 in section 1 of this Act for national fish and wildlife foundation midterm conservation agreements 18 with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum 19 of thirty years. The department shall provide buyback provisions after the fifteenth, twentieth, 20 and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a portion 21 of acreage from the lease. 22 **SECTION 6. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS.** Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, 23 the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of 24 appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and 25 fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the 26 biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The game and fish department

shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.

Module ID: h_stcomrep_25_027 Carrier: Fisher Insert LC: 25.0161.01002 Title: 02000

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE HB 1017

Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** (25.0161.01002) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (19 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 4 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1017 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

25.0161.01002 Title. Fiscal No. 2 Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for House Appropriations -Government Operations Division Committee February 4, 2025

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1017

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish
- 2 department; and to provide an exemption.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated from other funds derived from special funds and federal funds, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

9			Adjustments or	
10		Base Level	Enhancements	<u>Appropriation</u>
11	Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$0	\$37,008,098
12	Operating expenses	17,788,258	0	17,788,258
13	Capital assets	5,400,661	0	5,400,661
14	Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	0	10,089,976
15	Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	0	27,183,516
16	Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
17	Missouri River enforcement	313,869	0	313,869
18	Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	0	677,970
19	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly

11				
1	Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	0	2,156,714
2	Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
3	Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
4	Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>2,533,452</u>	<u>0</u>	2,533,452
5	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$0	\$104,727,514
6	Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00
7	Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2, <mark>052,121</mark>	\$39,060,219
8	New and vacant FTE pool	0	1,862,510	1,862,510
9	Operating expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296
10	Capital assets	5,400,661	1,622,479	7,023,140
11	Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979
12	Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	4,989,565	32,173,081
13	Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
14	Missouri River enforcement	3 <mark>13,869</mark>	9,912	323,781
15	Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	17,110	695,080
16	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
17	Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	(48,117)	2,108,597
18	Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
19	Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
20	Aquatic nuisance species program	2,533,452	352,055	2,885,507
21	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$9,871,676	\$114,599,190
22	Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00
23	SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDIN	G - EFFECT ON BASI	E BUDGET - REPO	RT TO
24	SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEM	IBLY. The following am	nounts reflect the on	e-time funding
25	items included in the appropriation in	section 1 of this Act wh	nich are not included	d in the entity's
26	base budget for the 2027-29 biennium	n and which the entity	shall report to the ap	opropriations
27	committees of the seventieth legislative	ve assembly regarding	the use of this fund	ing:
28	One-Time Funding Description	<u>on</u>		Other Funds
29	Information technology projects			\$380,000
30	Baukol-Noonan Dam repairs			150,000
31	Equipment			220,200

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	20gloldar, 9 r 10 s a marija	
1	Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pondliners	1,500,000
2	Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pumps	300,000
3	Wildlife habitat and access on private lands	5,000,000
4	Total other funds	\$7,550,200
5	SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - LIMITATION - TRANSFER REC	UEST. The
6	game and fish department may not spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant	FTE pool
7	line item in section 1 of this Act, but may request the office of management and budget	get to
8	transfer funds from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the salaries and wages	s line item in
9	accordance with the guidelines and reporting provisions included in House Bill No. 1	1015, as
10	approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.	
11	SECTION 4. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS LINE ITEM. The grants, gifts	s, and
12	donations line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$100,000 received by the g	game and
13	fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-own	ned or
14	managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.	
15	SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish	department
16	may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredat	tion line item
17	in section 1 of this Act for national fish and wildlife foundation midterm conservation	agreements
18	with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to	a maximum
19	of thirty years. The department shall provide buyback provisions after the fifteenth,	twentieth,
20	and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw al	l or a portion
21	of acreage from the lease.	
22	SECTION 6. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS. Notwithstanding section	n 54-16-04,
23	the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000	of
24	appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants	- game and

fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the

biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The game and fish department

shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

House Bill No. 1017 - Game and Fish Department - House Action

	Base Budget	House Changes	House Version
Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2,052,121	\$39,060,219
New and vacant FTE pool		1,862,510	1,862,510
Operating expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296
Capital assets	5,400,661	1,622,479	7,023,140
Grants - Game and fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979
Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	4,989,565	32,173,081
Noxious weed control	725,000		725,000
Missouri River enforcement	313,869	9,912	323,781
Grants - Gifts - Donations	677,970	17,110	695,080
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	***	100,000
Lonetree Reservoir	2,156,714	(48,117)	2,108,597
Wildlife Services	500,000		500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species education	2,533,452	352,055	2,885,507
Total all funds	\$104,727,514	\$9,871,676	\$114,599,190
Less estimated income	104,727,514	9,871,676	114,599,190
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	170.00	0.00	170.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of House Changes

Salaries and wages	Adjusts Funding for Base Payroll Changes ¹ (\$461,549)	Adds Funding for Salary and Benefit Increases ² \$2,273,567	Adds Funding to Replace 2023-25 New and Vacant FTE Pool ³	Transfers Funding for 2025-27 New and Vacant FTE Pool ⁴	Adjusts Base Level Funding ⁵	Adds Funding for IT and Motorpool Costs [§]
New and vacant FTE pool	(\$401,549)	φ2,213,301	\$2,476,866	(\$2,346,054) 1,862,510	\$109,291	
Operating expenses Capital assets Grants - Game and fish				1,002,010	159,518 (397,721) (3,001,997)	\$1,326,520
Land habitat and deer depredation Noxious weed control	(689,220)	169,176	651,363	(167,754)	26,000	
Missouri River enforcement	4,628	6,316	5,928	(6,960)		
Grants - Gifts - Donations Nongame wildlife conservation	5,935	14,067	11,059	(13,951)		
Lonetree Reservoir Wildlife Services Shooting sports grant program	217,334	70,257	45,770	(69,478)	(312,000)	
Aquatic nuisance species education	84,211	58,033	229,769	(56,530)	36,572	
Total all funds	(\$838,661)	\$2,591,416	\$3,420,755	(\$798,217)	(\$3,380,337)	\$1,326,520
Less estimated income	(838,661)	2,591,416	3,420,755	(798,217)	(3,380,337)	1,326,520
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	Adds One- Time Funding ¹	Total House Changes
Salaries and wages		\$2,052,121
New and vacant FTE pool		1,862,510
Operating expenses	\$530,000	2,016,038
Capital assets	2,020,200	1,622,479
Grants - Game and fish		(3,001,997)
Land habitat and deer depredation	5,000,000	4,989,565
Noxious weed control		
Missouri River enforcement		9,912
Grants - Gifts - Donations		17,110
Nongame wildlife conservation		WART DEFENS
Lonetree Reservoir		(48,117)
Wildlife Services		
Shooting sports grant program		000000000000000000000000000000000000000
Aquatic nuisance species education	3	352,055
Total all funds	\$7,550,200	\$9,871,676
Less estimated income	7,550,200	9,871,676
General fund	\$0	\$0
FTE	0.00	0.00

¹ Funding is adjusted for base payroll changes.

² The following funding is added for 2025-27 biennium salary adjustments of 3 percent on July 1, 2025, and 3 percent on July 1, 2026, and increases in health insurance premiums from \$1,643 to \$1,893 per month:

	Federal	Special	
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salary increase	\$601,106	\$987,429	\$1,588,535
Health insurance increase	<u>396,260</u>	606,621	1,002,881
Total	\$997,366	\$1,594,050	\$2,591,416

³ Funding is added to replace 2023-25 biennium new and vacant FTE pool funding as follows:

	Federal	Special		
	<u>Funds</u>	Funds	<u>Total</u>	
Vacant FTE positions	\$646,088	\$532,933	\$1,179,021	
New FTE positions	843,512	1,398,222	2,241,734	
Total	\$1,489,600	\$1,931,155	\$3,420,755	

⁴ Funding of \$2,660,727 for estimated savings from vacant FTE positions is removed and funding of \$1,862,510 is added for a 2025-27 new and vacant FTE pool line item as follows:

	Federal	Special	
	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
New FTE positions	\$0	\$0	\$0
Vacant FTE positions	(1,014,625)	(1,646,102)	(2,660,727)
Total	(\$1,014,625)	(\$1,646,102)	(\$2,660,727)
Funding pool line item	710,238	1,152,272	<u>1,862,510</u>
Net savings	(\$304,387)	(\$493,830)	(\$798,217)

⁵ Base level funding is adjusted as follows:

	Federal Funds	Special Funds	Total
Adds funding for accrued leave payouts for retirements	\$0	\$109,291	\$109,291
Adjusts funding for operating expenses and capital assets, primarily related to decreases in operating fees and services and buildings, grounds, and vehicle supplies	340,401	(890,604)	(550,203)
Reduces funding for shooting ranges grants resulting in \$1,650,000 of federal funding remaining for the program	(1,650,000)	0	(1,650,000)
Reduces funding for other game and fish grants	(1,201,938)	(150,059)	(1,351,997)
Adds funding for land habitat and deer depredation	19,500	6,500	26,000
Adjusts funding for the aquatic nuisance species program Total	28,201 (\$2,463,836)	<u>8,371</u> (\$916,501)	36,572 (\$3,380,337)

⁶ Funding is added from special funds for increasing information technology costs (\$639,189) and for increasing motorpool costs (\$687,331), of which \$321,100 is from federal funds and \$366,231 is from special funds.

⁷ One-time funding is added as follows:

	Federal Funds	Special Funds	Total
Information technology projects, including \$100,000 for the Game and Fish Department mobile application, \$250,000 for a customer relationship management solution, and \$30,000 for a video asset management system	\$0	\$380,000	\$380,000
Repairs to the Baukol-Noonan dam	0	150,000	150,000
Equipment, including \$70,000 for tractors, \$12,000 for all-terrain vehicles, \$13,200 for law enforcement aquatic radios, \$65,000 for a fiberglass boat, motor, and trailer, and \$60,000 for the replacement of game warden firearms	91,850	128,350	220,200
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pondliners	1,125,000	375,000	1,500,000
Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery high-pressure pumps	225,000	75,000	300,000
Wildlife habitat and access on private lands, including \$1,000,000 for the habitat improvement program, \$2,300,000 for private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) payments, and \$1,700,000 for the rangeland legacy program	4,100,000	900,000	5,000,000
Total	\$5,541,850	\$2,008,350	\$7,550,200

House Bill No. 1017 - Other Changes - House Action

A section is added to the bill regarding the use of funding in the new and vacant FTE pool line item.

2025 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS
HB 1017

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division

Red River Room, State Capitol

HB 1017 3/6/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption

9:05 a.m. Chairman Wanzek opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Wanzek, Vice-Chair Dwyer, Senator Burckhard, Senator Erbele, and Senator Sickler.

Discussion Topics:

- Funding through sportsmen's fees
- Economic value
- Management organization
- State and Federal revenue projections
- License sales
- Hunter safety
- Department fund minimum balance
- Budget line items
- Habitat and access
- Fisheries pond liners
- Salaries
- Information Technology (IT) costs
- Equipment replacement capital improvements
- Division budgets
- Aquatic nuisance species
- Boating and water safety
- Conservation and communications
- Grants
- Pollinators program
- Wildlife division
- Land acquisition
- Lonetree Reservoir
- New and vacant full-time employee (FTE) pool
- Fishing opportunities
- Enforcement body cams
- Related bills
- Vehicle costs

9:05 a.m. Levi Kinnischtzke, LC Senior Fiscal Analyst, distributed budget information, testimony #39188 and #39233.

Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division HB 1017 3/6/2025 Page 2

9:05 a.m. Jeb Williams, Director of ND Game and Fish, testified in favor.

9:11 a.m. Brian Hosek, Administrative Services Division Chief, ND Game and Fish, testified in favor and submitted testimony #39124, #39125, and #39126.

9:56 a.m. Jeb Williams responded to a question about predator control and depredation control.

10:01 a.m. Brian Hosek resumed testimony in favor.

10:09 a.m. Jeb Williams highlighted cooperation of private landowners.

10:10 a.m. Brian Hosek resumed testimony in favor.

Additional written testimony:

John Bradley, Executive Director, ND Wildlife Federation, submitted testimony #38957 in favor.

Mary Massad, President, ND Water Users Association, submitted testimony #38996 in favor.

Richard Brueckner, President, ND Sportfishing Congress, submitted testimony #39107 in favor.

10:20 a.m. Chairman Wanzek closed the meeting.

Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION HOUSE BILL 1017 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARCH 6, 2025

Chairman Bekkedahl and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). I'm here today representing our members and affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

The Game and Fish Department is a special fund agency receiving revenue from game and fish license sales (hunting, trapping, fishing, boating registrations, etc.) and federal funding. They receive no general fund dollars. Sportsmen and women have a proud history of funding the Department and conservation in our state. We are happy to do it and we ask for your strong support of the Game & Fish Department's budget.

As the Committee works through the budget for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, NDWF asks that you support a strong Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) prevention line item within the budget. The efforts of the Game and Fish Department in preventing the spread of ANS will be critical to the future of our infrastructure - dams, water supply, irrigation intakes - as well as our fishing heritage and other recreational pursuits.

Additionally, we'd ask for the Committee's support for the \$4,989,565 enhancement listed under the Land Habitat and Depredation line item. This line item holds the PLOTS Program as well as the Big Game Depredation Program at G&F (a mandate from SB2227 in 2010). In 2024, PLOTS included approximately 836,000 acres. NDWF's members support the goal of reaching over 1 million acres of public hunting access on private land by 2028 which was laid out at the Habitat and Access Summit in December 2024. This line item also includes funds for wildlife habitat management practices, food plots, grass plantings, tree and shrub plantings and other habitat enhancement grants and projects, all which are popular with sportsmen and women.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the North Dakota Game & Fish Department's budget.



DEDICATED TO PROTECTING, DEVELOPING, AND MANAGING NORTH DAKOTA'S WATER RESOURCES

PO Box 2254, Bismarck, ND 58502-2254

701-223-4615 • 701-223-4645 (Fax)

Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division Hearing for HB 1017 March 6, 2025 Testimony of Mary Massad, President, North Dakota Water Users Association

Chairman Wanzek and members of the Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1017. The Water Users Association is the state-wide member organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota's water resources. We have more than 150 members including local, statewide and regional organizations in North Dakota who have an active interest in water.

As the Division works on the budget for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the Water Users asks that you support the efforts of the Game and Fish Department in preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species (ANS). The North Dakota Water Users has a policy resolution addressing the vital need to combat the spread of ANS. Our policy reads:

We urge aggressive prevention of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) for North Dakota waters as outlined in the North Dakota aquatic species management plan prepared by the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee. We urge all federal and state agencies to adequately fund and provide the necessary authorities to implement aquatic nuisance species prevention programs in all North Dakota waters, and we support adequate funding for ANS education and enforcement. We support the actions and initiatives of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in their efforts to educate, inform public and protect our states' waters from ANS. As these efforts are limited in scope due to their funding through licensing fees, we strongly encourage and support direct State funding to better protect our waters from the high risks associated with the invasion and adverse impacts associated with ANS.

As the threat of ANS, particularly zebra mussels grows, additional work will need to be done to curb the spread through inspection and education. Zebra mussels are especially damaging to any type of infrastructure within an infected body of water, including water supply and irrigation intakes. Introduction of zebra mussels around the Garrison Dam could have devasting impacts on power production at the dam as well. Zebra mussels grow and spread quickly and have razor sharp shells that can quickly make breaches treacherous. This can be a huge deterrent to recreation on zebra mussel infested water bodies.

Once introduced, zebra mussels can NOT be eradicated. These thumbnail-sized mollusks spread rapidly, a single female mussel can produce about a half a billion offspring in her 3 to 5-year life span. It only takes one infected boat to introduce zebra mussels and infect an entire body of water. This is why a robust inspection strategy is vital to prevention. We ask the Division to support a strong ANS prevention line item within the Department's budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



North Dakota Sportfishing Congress Box 2472 Bismarck, ND 58502-2472 ndsfc.wildapricot.org

March 5, 2025

Subject: Support for HB 1017

Submitted by: Richard Brueckner, President of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC)

Dear Chairman Brad Bekkedahl, Vice Chairman Robert Erbele, and Members of the Senate Appropriations-Government Operations Division,

I am writing to urgently request your unanimous support for **HB 1017**, which seeks to allocate funding to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

The introduction and spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) pose one of the most significant and immediate threats to North Dakota's waters. Species such as zebra mussels, Asian carp, and Eurasian watermilfoil are rapidly advancing into our state, endangering water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and the fishing industry that supports local economies. The additional funding in the Governor's budget is critical to creating an effective response to this growing crisis.

Currently, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is tasked with managing the spread of these invasive species, which requires substantial resources. The full funding of this budget is crucial to ensuring that the department can continue its vital work to prevent the further encroachment of these harmful species.

However, given the severity of the threat, I strongly urge you to consider increasing the funding outlined in the Governor's budget. The spread of ANS is not a distant concern—it is a present danger. Invasive species are already encroaching just 30 miles from the North Dakota-Minnesota border, where Minnesota is grappling with an even greater number of ANS invaders. Left unchecked, these species will have a devastating impact on North Dakota's natural resources, recreational opportunities, and the state's economy.

The time to act is now. With your support for HB 1017, we can strengthen efforts to protect our waters from this dire threat and ensure that North Dakota's aquatic ecosystems remain vibrant for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard Brueckner
President, North Dakota Sportfishing Congress



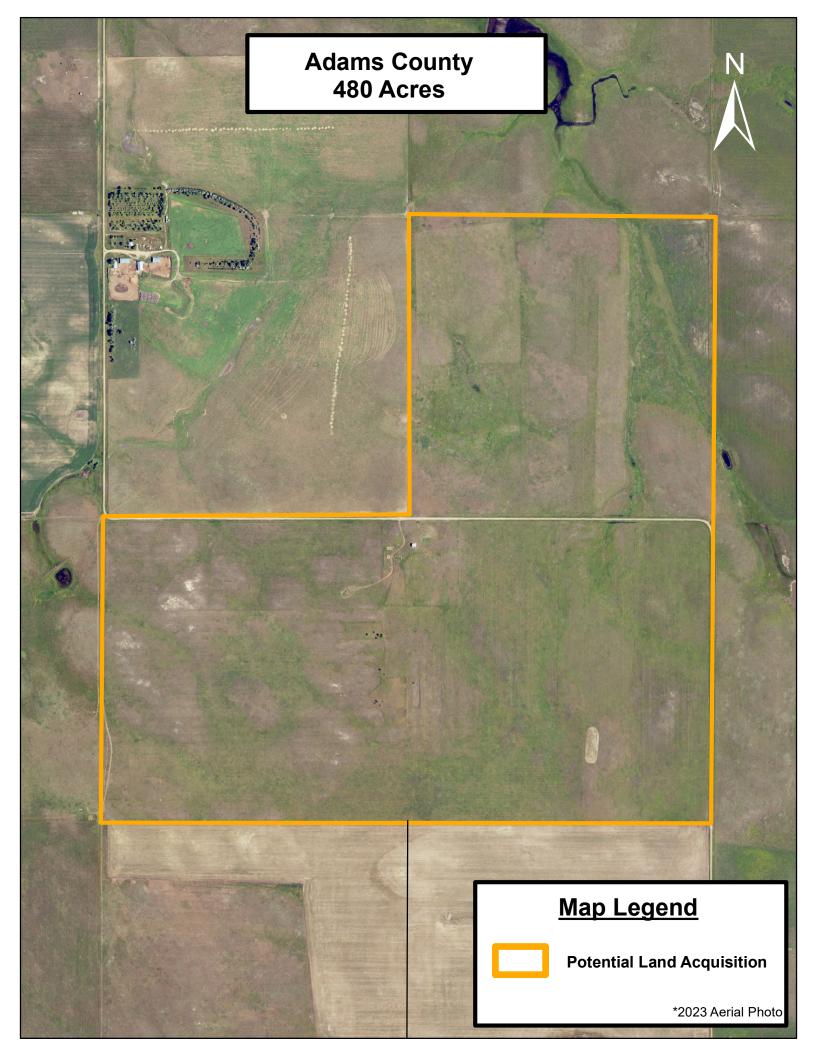
2025-27 Appropriation Request North Dakota Game and Fish Department Potential Land Acquisitions

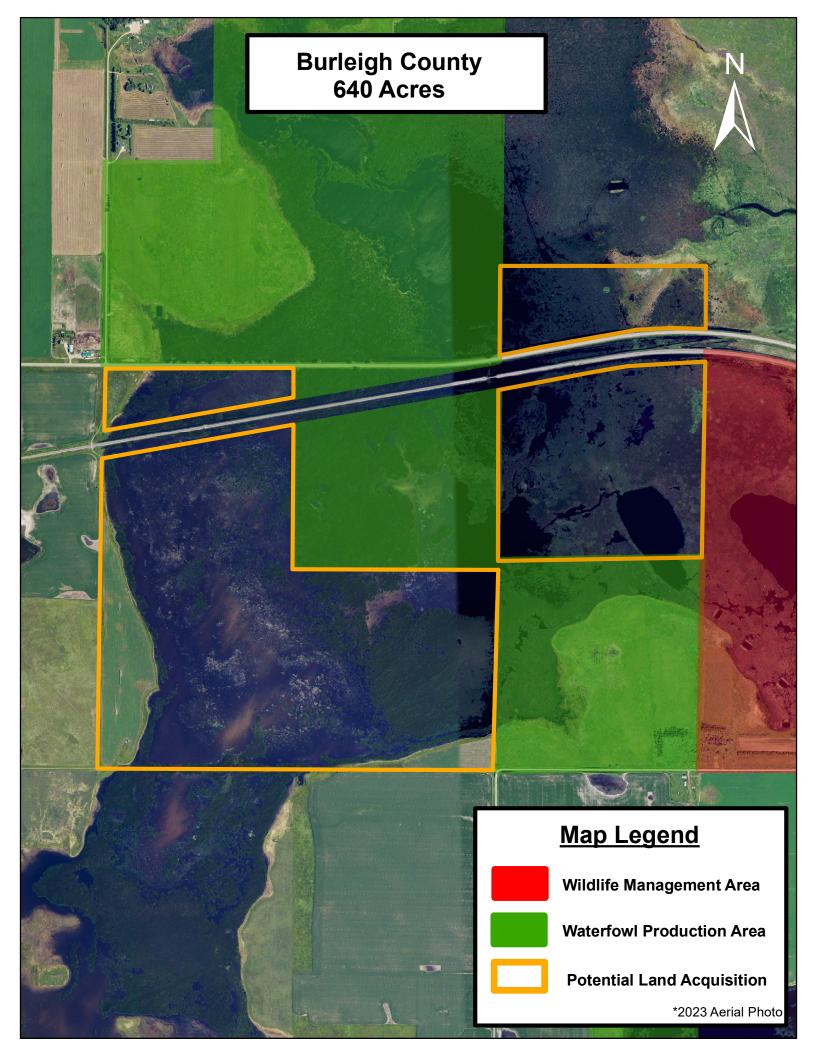
As of January 6, 2025

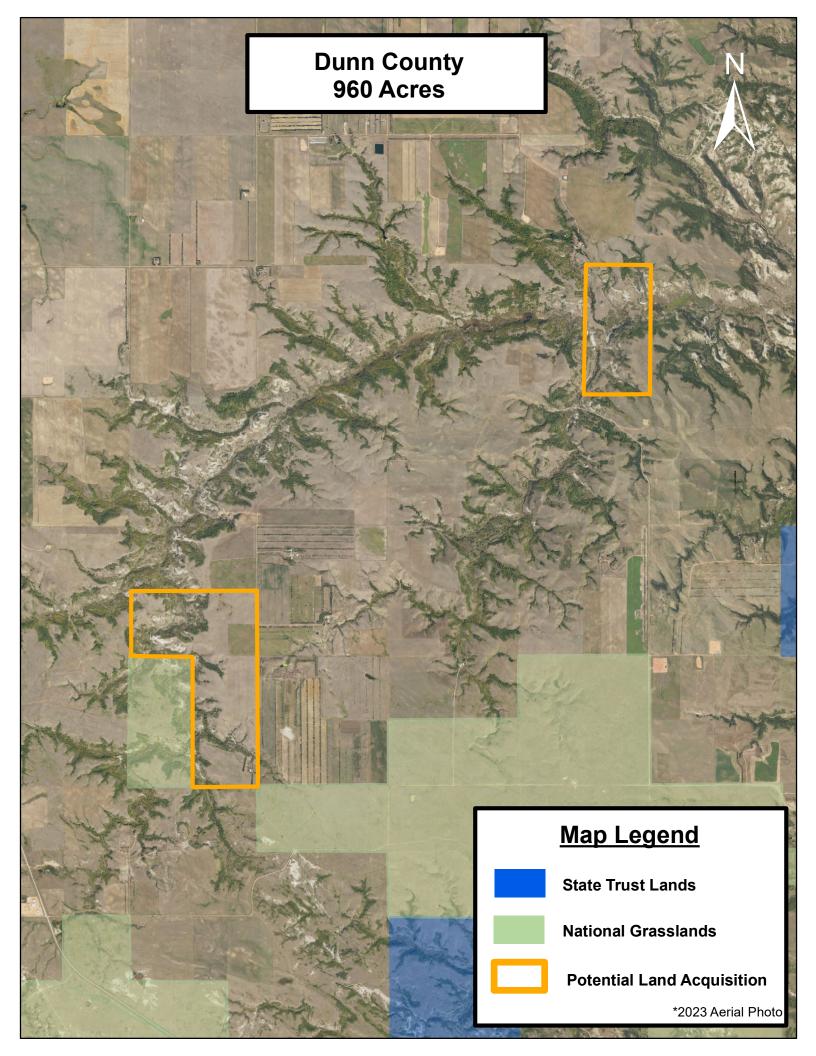
The Department has been contacted by individuals with the following tracts. They are interested in selling these tracts to the Department to be maintained as Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). Some opportunities may arise throughout the biennium that could get higher priority. The following list is in no particular order.

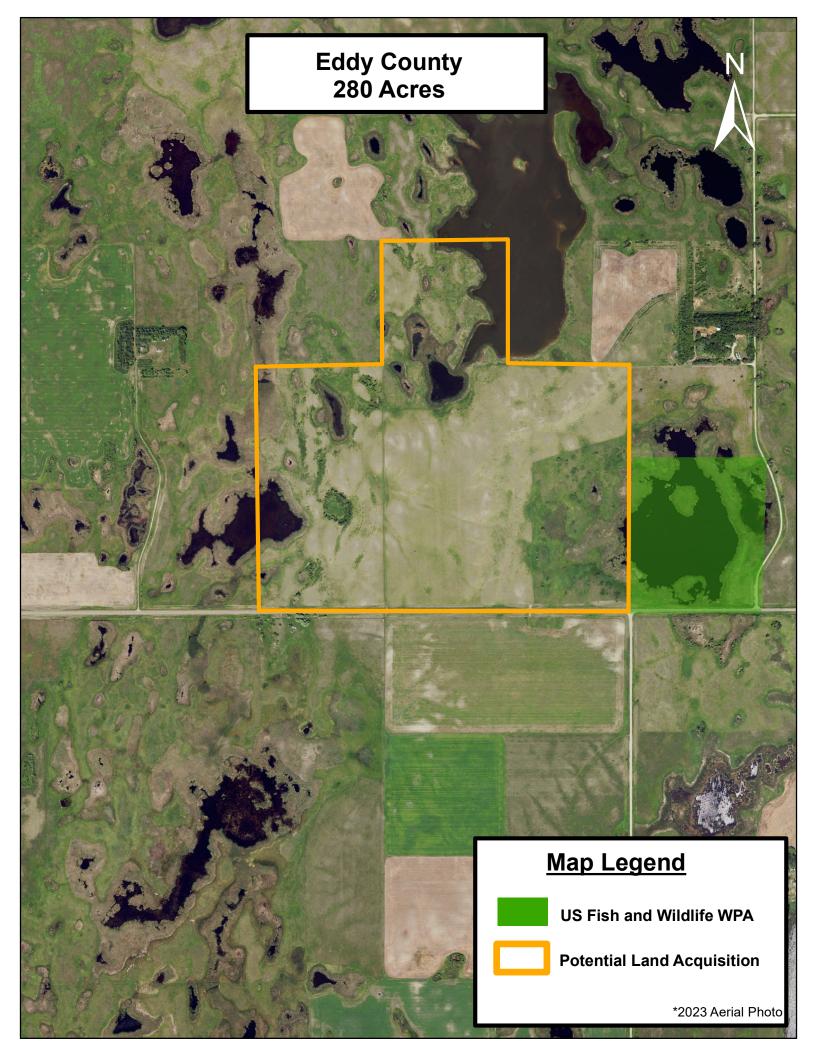
- 1) Adams County 480 acres Land is currently in CRP.
- 2) Burleigh County 640 acres Property is wetlands with a small area grass.
- 3) Dunn County 960 acres Native prairie and woodlands near Killdeer WMA.
- Eddy County 280 acres Grassland and wetlands.
- 5) Hettinger County 80 acres Land is currently in CRP.
- 6) Lamoure County 476 acres Land is enrolled in WRE, so no agricultural practices allowed. Wetlands and grasslands.
- 7) McLean County 30 acres Addition to the Coal Lake WMA for improved access.
- 8) Pembina County 593 acres Dunklee WMA addition. Enrolled in NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection, so no agricultural practices are allowed.
- 9) Sheridan County- 3,106 acres Mix of native prairie, grasslands, wetlands, and crop land.
- 10)Steele County 160 acres Trees and wetlands adjacent to Waterfowl Production Area.
- 11)Walsh County 542 acres Land is enrolled in WRE, so no agricultural practices allowed. Wetlands and grasslands.

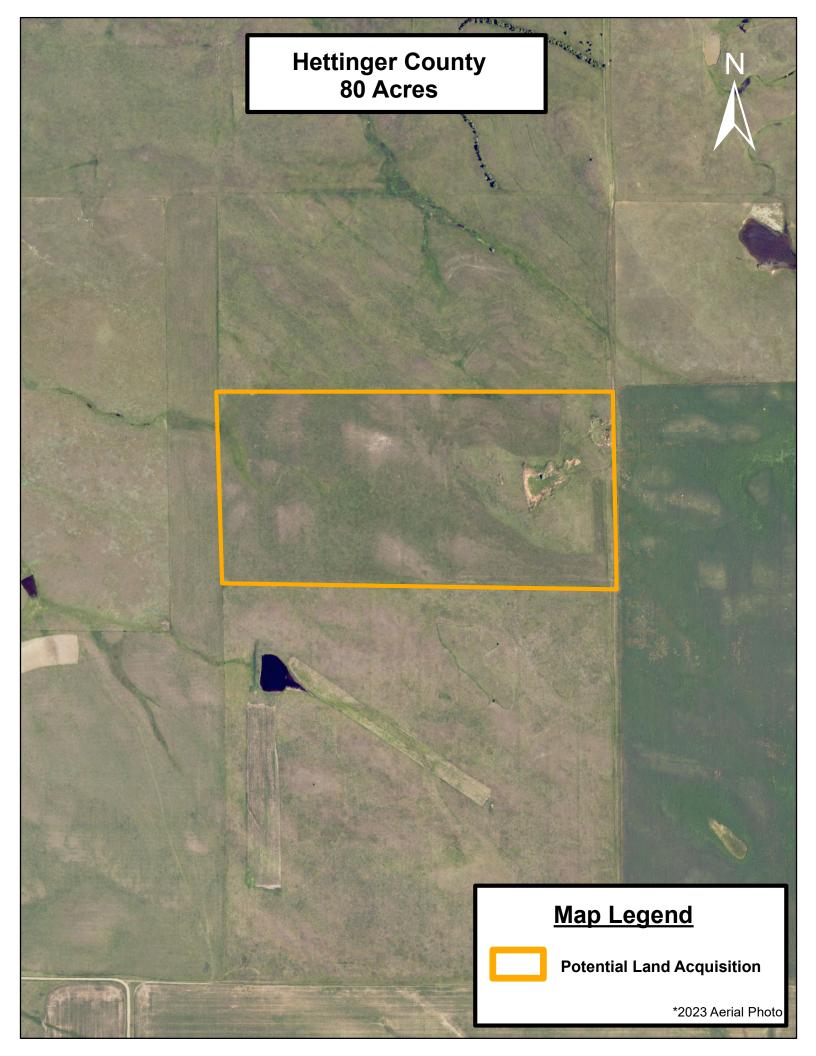
A map for each potential acquisition is included.

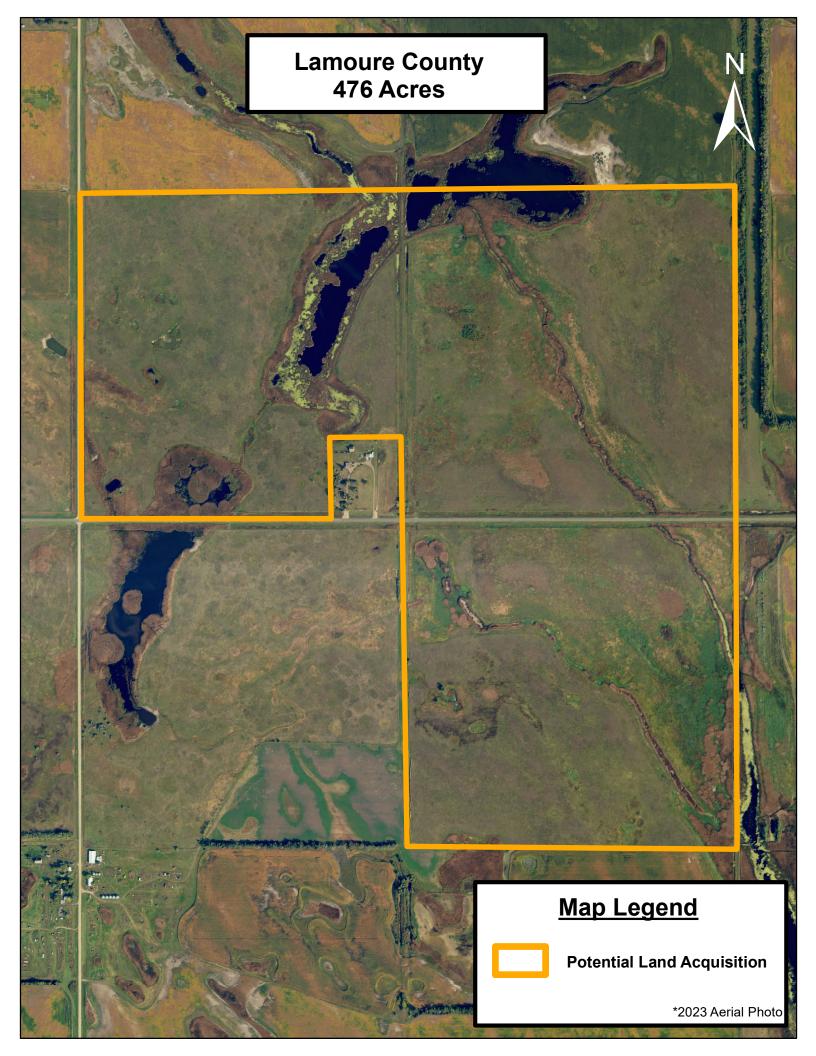


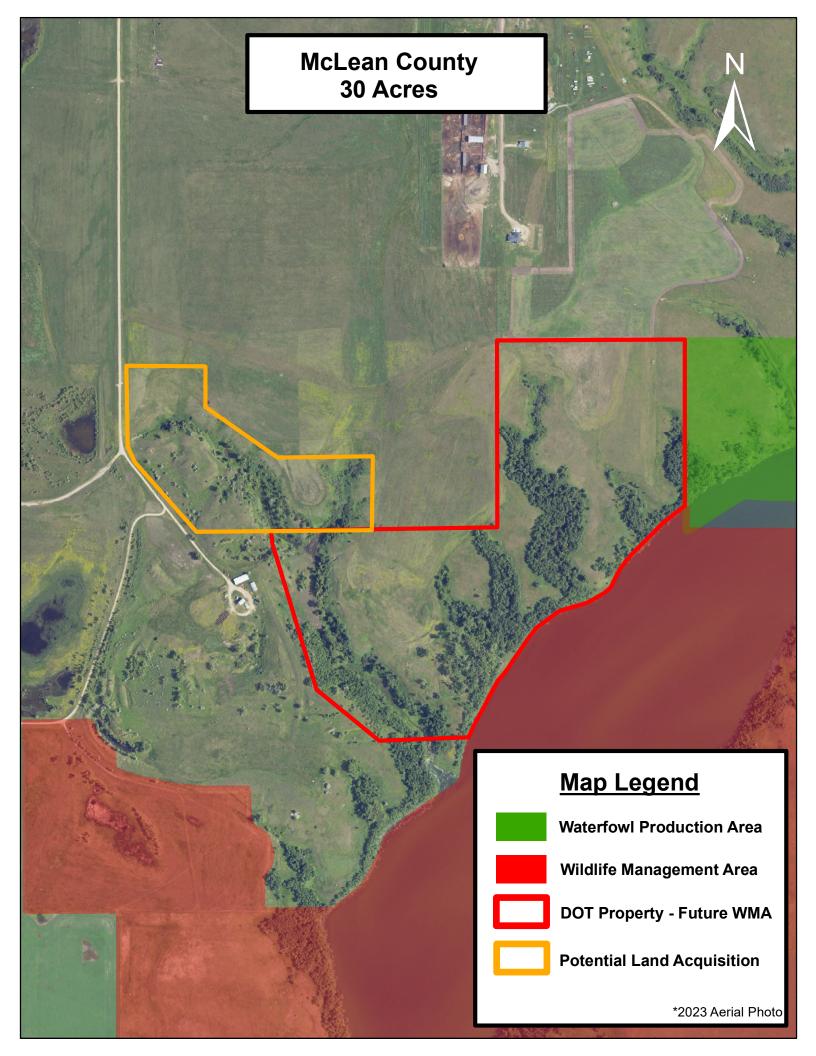


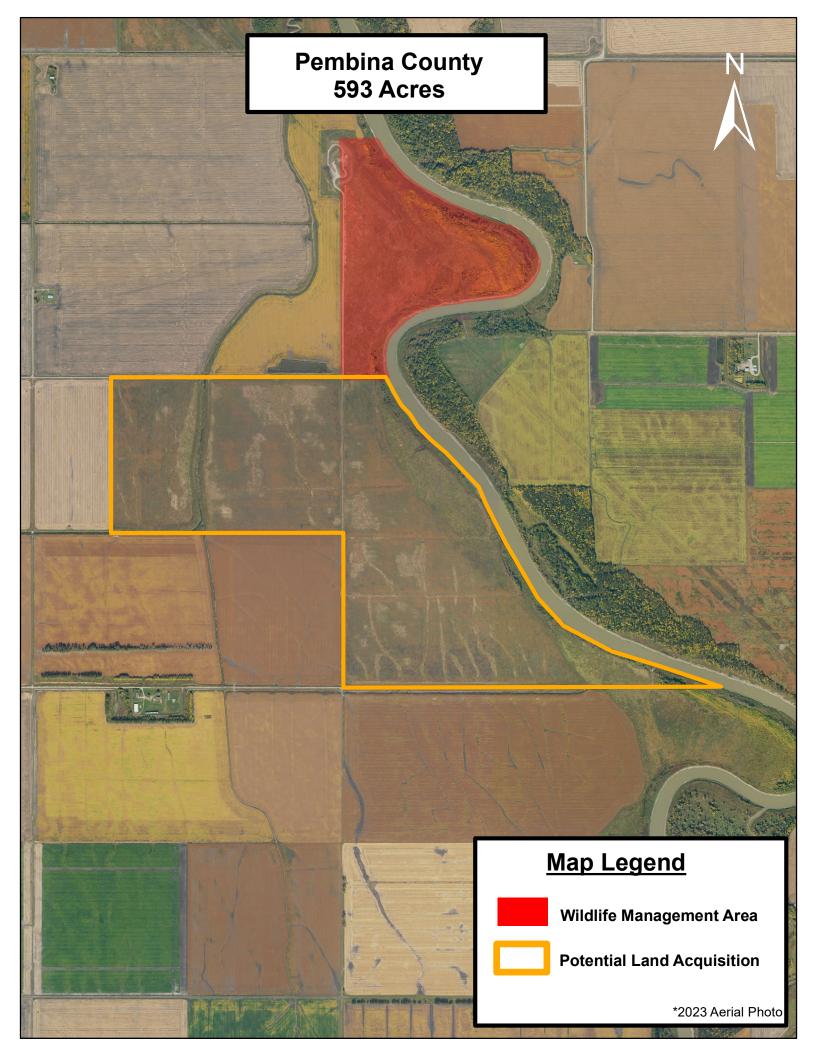


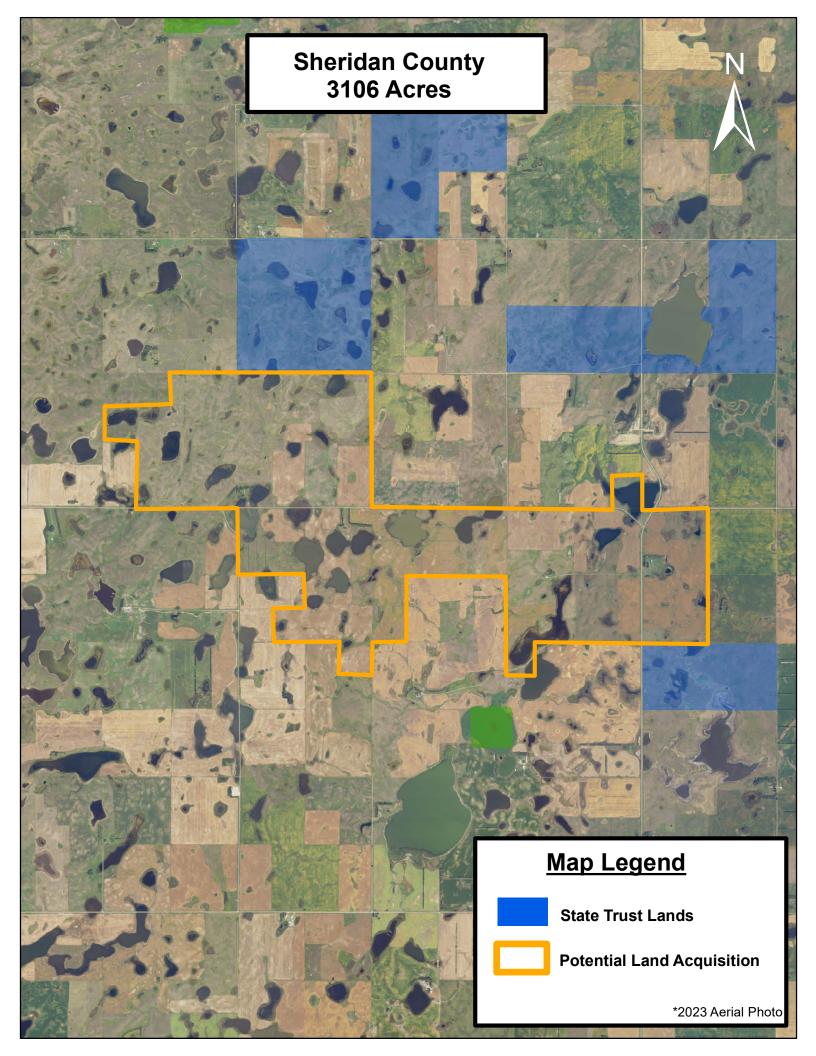


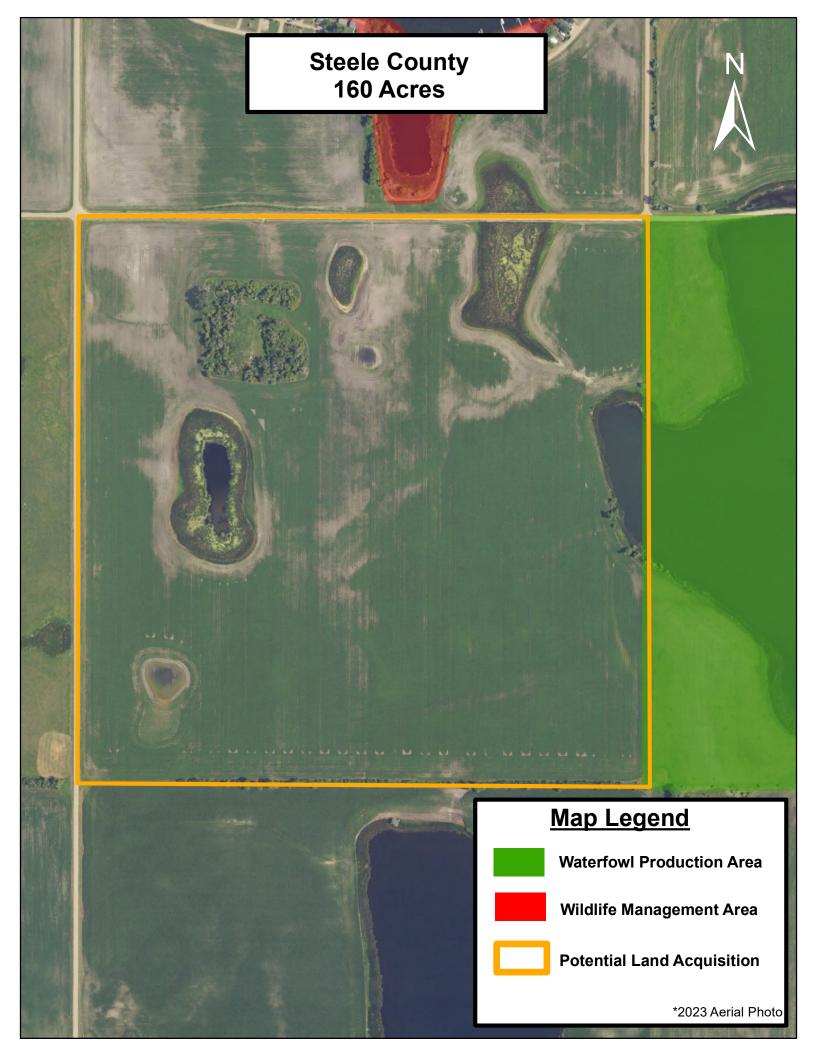


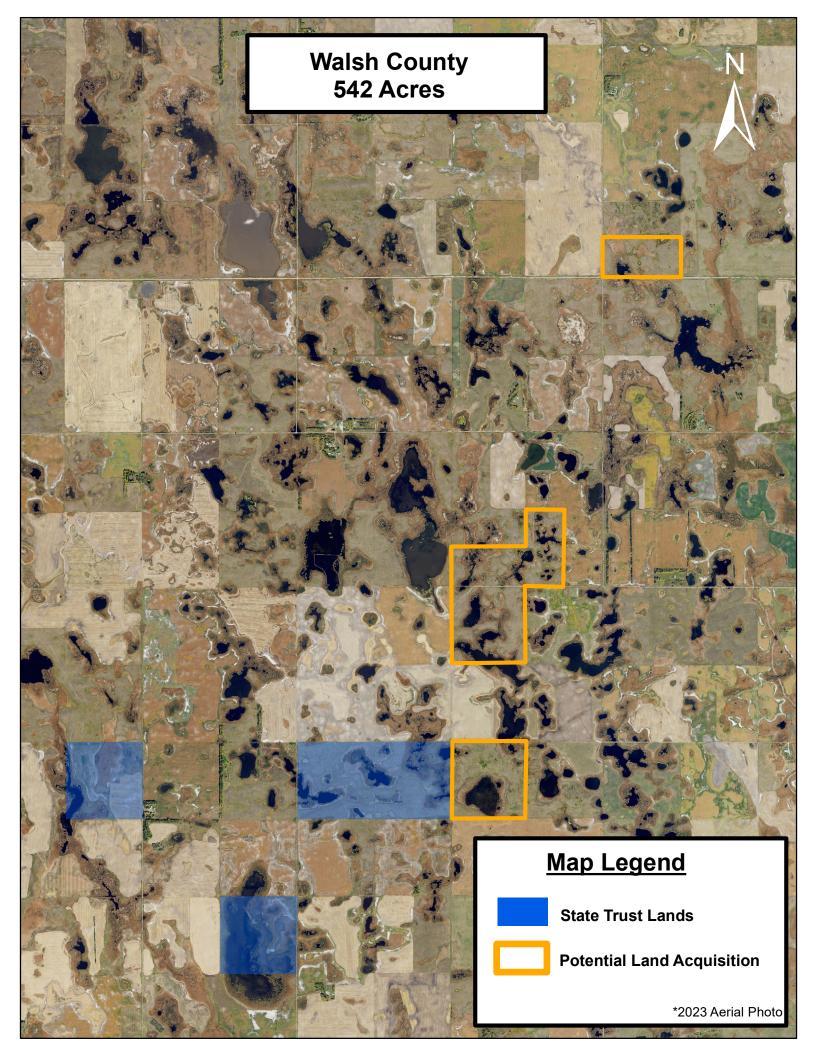












Senate Appropriations Committee HB 1017

March 6, 2025

Brian Hosek Administrative Services Division Chief



OUR MISSION

The mission of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is to protect, conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitat for sustained public consumptive and nonconsumptive use.





Game and Fish

HISTORY

Hunting and fishing are deeply ingrained in the North Dakota way of life and are constitutionally protected rights in North Dakota.

CONSTITUTION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Article I, Section 1 - Declaration of Rights

All individuals are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation; pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness; and to keep and bear arms for the defense of their person, family, property, and the state, and for lawful hunting, recreational, and other lawful purposes, which shall not be infringed.

Article XI, Section 27

Hunting, trapping, and fishing and the taking of game and fish are a valued part of our heritage and will be forever preserved for the people and managed by law and regulation for the public good.

WHO WE SERVE



Hunters

Individuals who harvest animals by firearms and archery.



Anglers

Individuals who participate in fishing, spearing and/or snagging.



Boaters

Individuals who use boats for fishing or pleasure.



Trappers

Individuals who harvest animals with trapping equipment.



Landowners

Individuals who own land and/or make a living off the land.



Recreational Shooters

Individuals who shoot firearms or other weapons for sport or leisure.





HUNTING & FISHING

BY THE NUMBERS



\$ 1.3 BILLION

Economic value of hunting and fishing to North Dakota's economy.

\$383MILLION

in direct expenditures in rural areas by hunters and anglers.





Per capita North Dakota ranks in the <u>TOP 5</u> of outdoor participants.

SALES TAX REVENUE



\$47 MILLION



FULL-TIME JOBS

6,500

Resident and Nonresident Hunter and Angler Expenditures, Characteristics, and Economic Effects, North Dakota, 2022-23. NDSU Ag. Econ. 2024.



MEET OUR TEAM

MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION CHART



JEB WILLIAMS
Director



SCOTT PETERSON

Deputy Director











BRIAN HOSEK

Division Chief

Administrative Services



26 FTE's



GREG POWERDivision Chief Fisheries



27 FTE's

170
Total
Full Time
Employees



SCOTT WINKELMANDivision Chief Enforcement



40 FTE's

~70

Temporary/ Seasonal





23 FTE's

- Part-time (6)
- 40hrs/week (8)
- On-call (2)



CASEY ANDERSONDivision Chief Wildlife



54 FTE's

DISTRICT OFFICES









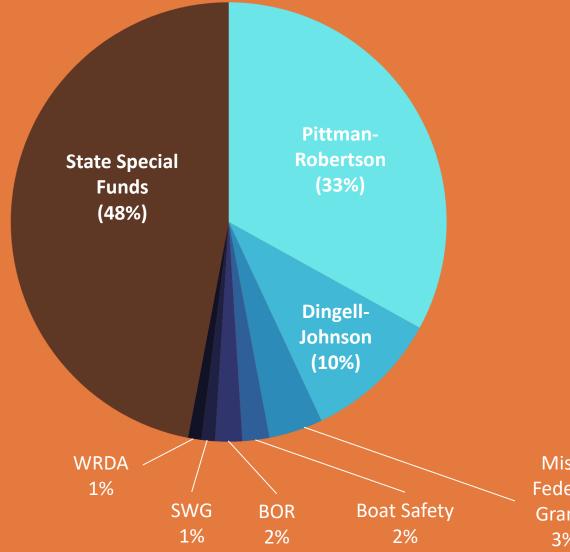








2025-27 **REVENUE PROJECTION**



The Game and Fish Department is a special fund agency receiving revenue from game and fish license sales (hunting, fishing, boat Misc. registrations) and federal funding. **Federal** We receive no general fund dollars. Grants 3%

Federal

\$55,728,238

Game and Fish \$52,264,945

Total

\$107,993,183

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts

Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Conservation Investment manages over a billion dollars in grants to recipients across the U.S. annually for species and habitat conservation, recreation, and outdoor education. The Wildlife Restoration grant program and Sport Fish Restoration grant program are the foundation of conservation funding in the U.S.

84% of our federal funds come from these two grants:

Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (PR), passed in 1937

• funds are derived from excise tax on the sale of guns, ammunition, and archery equipment

Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ), passed in 1950

• funds are derived from excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, electric motors, and motorboat fuel tax





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts

Mandatory Funding (Not dependent on congress)

States may be paid up to 75% Federal funding; requires 25% non-Federal cost-share.

Formula Based...



Distribution Method

Apportioned formula based on:

50% paid hunting license holders +

50% land/water area



Distribution Method

Apportioned formula based on:

60% paid sport fishing license

holders + 40% land/water area



Special Conditions or Requirements

- Submit annual license certifications
- States must pass and maintain assent legislation

NDCC 20.1-02-17

Hunting and fishing license fees and application fees may only be used for departmental programs and administration. Noncompliance will result in a diversion of all USFWS federal funds.

Any misuse of our special funds will result in what is called a "diversion". A diversion of federal funds means we become ineligible for future USFWS federal funds until the diversion is resolved. This equates to approximately \$50M.







Revenue Projections

25-27 Revenue Projections:	
Federal revenue is projected to be as follows:	
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (PR funds)*	\$32,714,702
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ funds)**	\$10,973,564
Recreational Boating Safety Program	\$ 1,718,859
State Wildlife Grants	\$ 1,354,366
Misc. Federal Grants	\$ 6,291,926
Bureau of Reclamation (Lonetree)	\$ 2,107,818
Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)	\$ 567,003
Total Federal Revenue	\$55,728,238
Total Federal Revenue Game & Fish (G&F) Revenue by Fund:	\$55,728,238
	\$55,728,238 \$41,860,500
Game & Fish (G&F) Revenue by Fund:	
Game & Fish (G&F) Revenue by Fund: Game and Fish Fund (Licenses + Misc.)	\$41,860,500
Game & Fish (G&F) Revenue by Fund: Game and Fish Fund (Licenses + Misc.) Private Land Habitat Fund Nongame Wildlife Fund (Donations) Aquatic Nuisance Species Fund	\$41,860,500 \$ 7,600,000
Game & Fish (G&F) Revenue by Fund: Game and Fish Fund (Licenses + Misc.) Private Land Habitat Fund Nongame Wildlife Fund (Donations)	\$41,860,500 \$ 7,600,000 \$ 68,000

Total All Revenue

\$107,993,183

Total Revenue \$107,993,183

Total Federal Revenue	\$55,728,238	52 %
Total Game and Fish Revenue	\$52,264,945	48%







Federal Revenue Levels

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Sport Fish Restoration Act Funds (DJ)

In 2024, the amount was \$4.4M. We project the funds to remain slightly above the \$4M level annually for 2025-27. The funds require a 25% match and have a 2-year window to be obligated.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Wildlife Restoration Act Funds (PR)

In 2024, the amount was \$14.2M. We project the funds to remain around the \$12M-\$13M level annually for 2025-27. The funds require a 25% match and have a 2-year window to be obligated.

U.S. Coast Guard - Recreational Boating Safety Funds

These are mandatory funds, not dependent on congressional approval. We project the funds to remain approximately the same for 2025-27. The funds require a 50% match and have a 3-year window to be obligated.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Funds

These are discretionary funds, dependent on congressional approval. The funds have remained the same for many years. We project the funds to remain approximately the same for 2025-27. The match for these funds vary.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

These funds have remained the same the last few years and are 100% federal funds.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) Funds

These are discretionary funds, dependent on congressional approval. We project these funds to remain the same for 2025-27. These funds require a 50% match.

* Unobligated funds will revert to the USFWS to be allocated to other states.

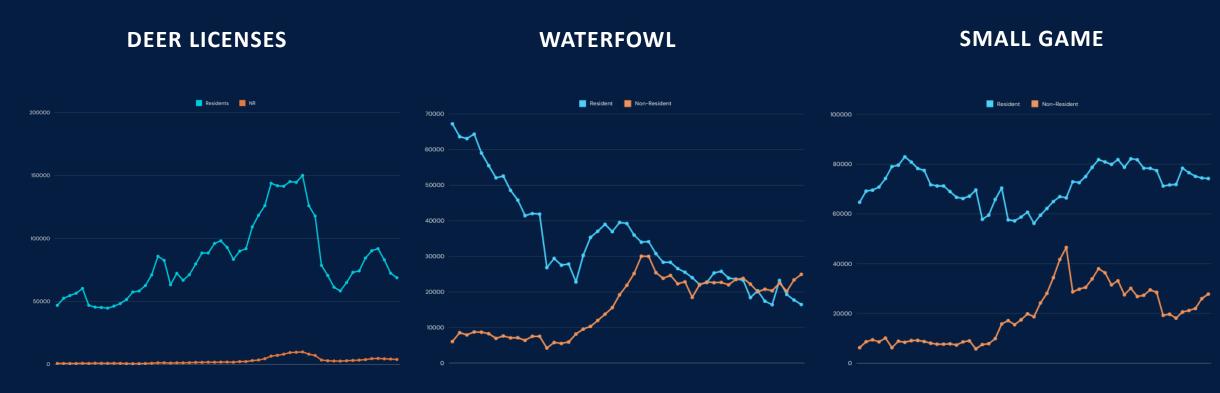






Licensing and Special Revenue

We project our licensing revenue to remain the same for 2025-27. Revenues are largely driven by fishing, waterfowl, small game, and deer license sales. Hunting and fishing participation is derived from the General Game/Habitat and Fishing License sales.

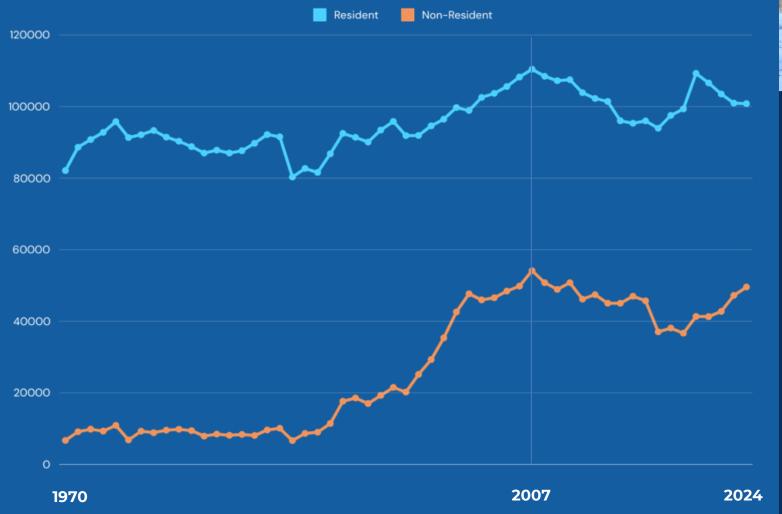


^{*} Deer licenses include deer-gun, deer-bow, and youth deer





GENERAL GAME LICENSE SALES





2024 General Game Licenses

Resident:

100,832

Non-Resident:

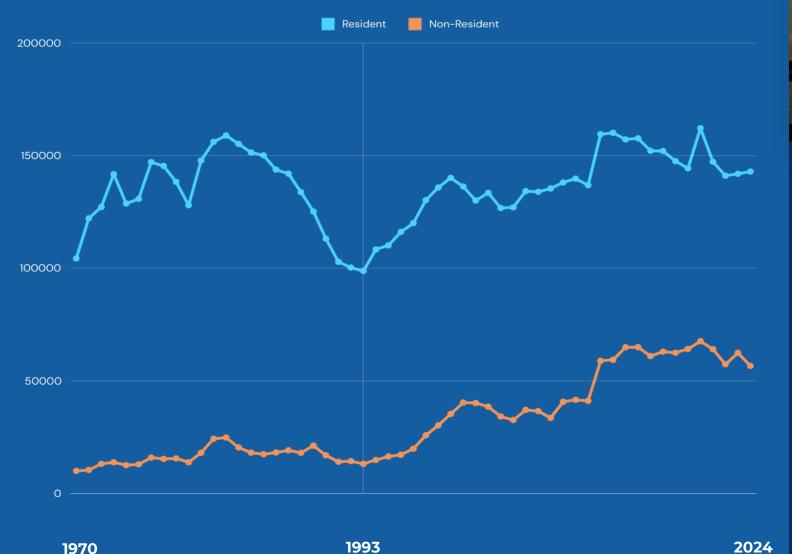
49,567

2024 statistics do not reflect the complete license season.

Annual renewal date: 4/1/2025

The General Game License is a fundamental requirement for most hunting activities in the state.

FISHING LICENSE SALES





2024 Fishing Licenses

Resident:

resident.

142,931

Non-Resident:

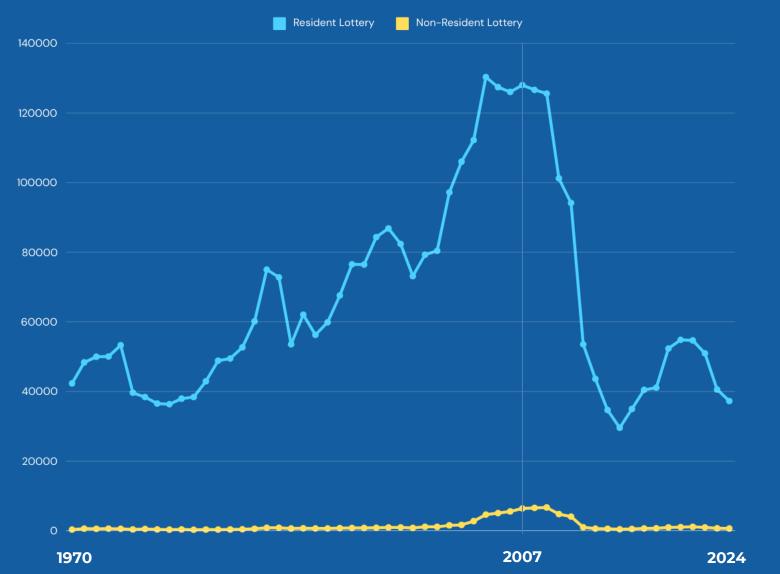
56,631

2024 statistics do not reflect the complete license season.

Annual renewal date: 4/1/2025



DEER GUN LOTTERY





2024
Deer Gun Allocation

50,100



DEER BOW





2024 Deer Bow

Resident:

Non-Resident:

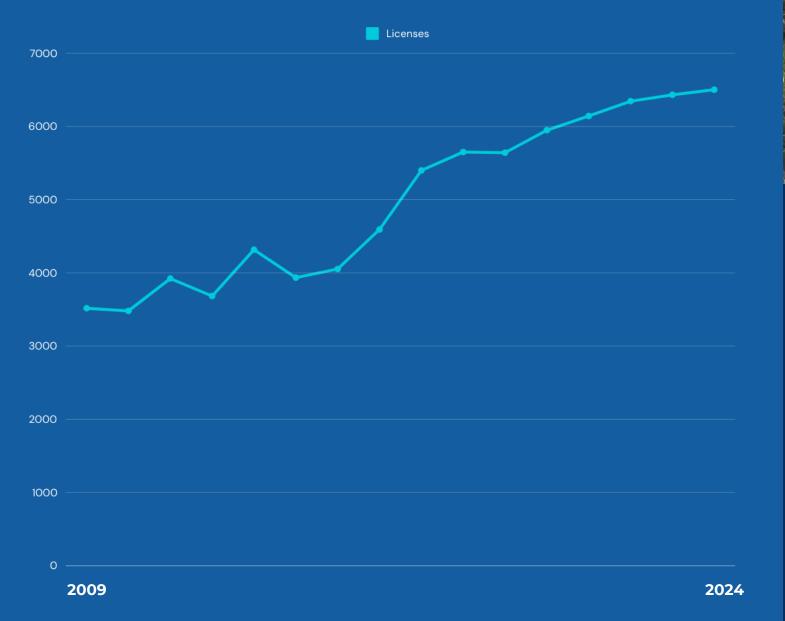
23,993

3,113

License statistics for non-residents include any-deer bow lottery and white-tailed deer only licenses.

Only one statewide bow tag is allowed.

YOUTH DEER GUN





2024 Youth Deer Gun

Licenses Issued:

6,503



ALL-TIME HIGH

Additional youth archery licenses issued in 2024:

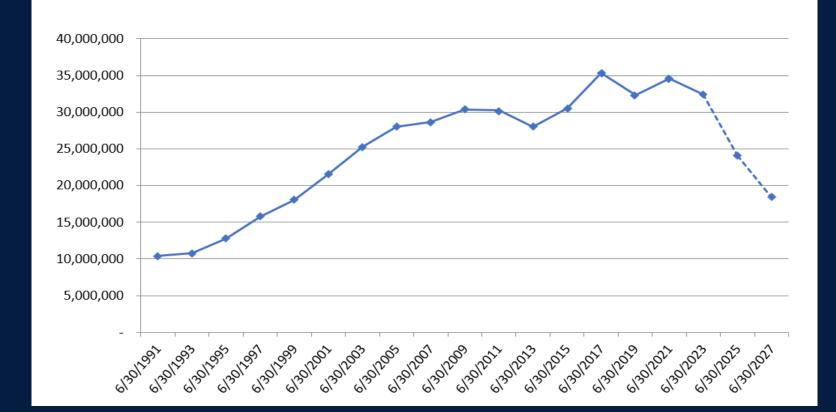
1,593





Department Fund Balance / Projections

	Actual <u>6/30/2021</u>	Actual 6/30/2023	Projected 6/30/2025	Projected 6/30/2027	Projected 6/30/2027 with Optional Requests
Game and Fish Fund	\$31,634,292	\$25,627,447	\$17,871,353	\$15,266,525	\$12,919,212
Private Land Habitat Fund	\$2,430,357	\$5,801,360	\$5,281,811	\$5,061,317	\$4,161,317
Non-Game Wildlife Fund	\$131,907	\$145,821	\$113,821	\$81,821	\$81,821
Aquatic Nuisance Species Fund	\$348,328	\$826,733	\$786,766	\$1,273,217	\$1,273,217
Total	\$34,544,884	\$32,401,361	\$24,053,751	\$21,682,880	\$18,435,567



\$12,919,212

Budget Section Approval:

<\$15,000,000

* Projections represent spend all

Per NDCC 20.1-02-16.1, the fund balance shall not be reduced below \$15M unless authorized by the budget section.







Base and Total Recommended Budget By Line

	Line	2025-27 Legislative	2025-27 Total Budget	2025-27 Total Budget	2025-27 Increase (Decrease)
		Base	Recommended	Recommended	from Base Level to
		Budget	(GOVERNOR)	HOUSE VERSION	First Chamber Action
Salaries & Wages	72010	37,008,098	41,671,773	40,922,729	3,914,631
Operating Expenses	72030	17,788,258	19,804,296	19,804,296	2,016,038
Capital Assets	72050	5,400,661	6,963,140	7,023,140	1,622,479
Grants	72060	10,089,976	7,087,979	7,087,979	(3,001,997)
Shooting Sports Grant Program	72062	250,000	250,000	250,000	0
Habitat & Deer Depredation	72070	27,183,516	32,340,825	32,173,081	4,989,565
Noxious Weed Control	72071	725,000	725,000	725,000	0
Missouri River	72073	313,869	330,741	323,781	9,912
Enforcement					
Grant-Gift-Donation	72074	677,970	709,031	695,080	17,110
Nongame Wildlife	72075	100,000	100,000	100,000	0
Aquatic Nuisance	72076	2,533,452	2,942,047	2,885,507	352,055
Species					
Lonetree Reservoir	72077	2,156,714	2,178,075	2,108,597	(48,117)
Wildlife Services	72078	500,000	500,000	500,000	0
Total		104,727,514	115,602,907	114,599,190	9,871,676
FTEs		170	170	170	0

2025-27 Total Recommended Budget (House Version)

\$114,599,190

* No additional FTE's



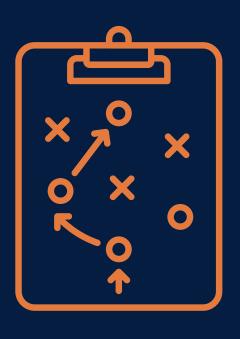






2023-25 Legislative Appropriation

2023-25 Legislative Appropriation	\$134,761,466
Employer retirement contribution	\$381,164
Target market equity pool	\$158,974
Remove RAWA	(\$27,150,000)
Remove New Emp Expenses	(\$294,090)
Remove ANS Lab	(\$850,000)
Remove Devils Lake Bunkhouse	(\$350,000)
Remove Enforcement Body Cameras	(\$550,000)
Remove Fisheries Dam Repairs	(\$380,000)
Remove Pondliners	(\$1,000,000)









2025-27 Legislative Base Budget

2023-25 Legislative Appropriation	\$134,761,466
2025-27 Legislative Base Budget	\$104,727,514
Restore New/Vacant FTE Pool	\$3,420,755
IT Rate Adjustment	\$199,189
3% Budget Reduction	(\$1,671,211)



\$106,676,247





1025-27 Budget Reduction

2025-27 Base Budget after Reduction	\$106,676,247
Budget Changes	
Admin Operating	(\$300,000)
Admin Cap. Assets	\$267,241
Admin Grants	(\$50,000)
Fisheries Operating	(\$101,422)
Fisheries Cap. Assets	(\$149,000)
Fisheries Grants	\$43,304
ANS	\$11,571
Enforcement Operating	\$25,406
Enforcement Grants	(\$10,000)
C&C Operating	(\$50,000)
C&C Cap Assets	\$15,000
C&C Grants	(\$1,450,000)
Wildlife Operating	\$3,000
Wildlife Grants	(\$1,448,693)
PLI	(\$524)

\$106,676,247 2025-27 Base Budget after Reduction (\$3,587,304) * to meet fed/special limits **2025-27 DEPARTMENT** \$103,088,943 **BASE BUDGET REQUEST**

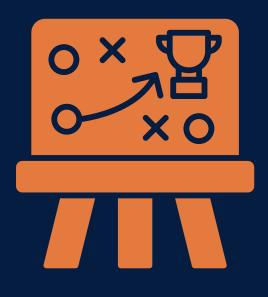
2025-27 Department Base **Budget Request**

\$103,088,943



2025-27 Total Recommended Budget (House Version)

2025-27 Department Base Budget Request	\$103,088,943
Compensation Package	\$2,591,540
Optional Budget Changes	\$9,716,924
Funding 2025-27 New & Vacant FTE Pool	(\$798,217)
2025-27 Total Recommended Budget (House Version)	\$114,599,190







Decision Package Summary

	Total Request	Federal	Special
1) Adjustment to Base - Operating/Capital Improvement	\$1,479,393	\$745,805	\$733,588
2) Adjustment to Base - Motorpool	\$687,331	\$321,000	\$366,231
3) Additional emphasis - Wildlife Habitat and Access on private lands (line 70)	\$5,000,000	\$4,100,000	\$900,000
4) Fisheries - Pondliners & Pump	\$1,800,000	\$1,350,000	\$450,000
5) Adjustment to Base - Temporary Salaries	\$265,500	\$77,756	\$187,744
6) IT Increases	\$380,000	\$0	\$380,000
7) Baukol-Noonan Dam Repair	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
8) Equipment Requests (above base)	\$220,200	\$91,850	\$128,350
TOTAL	\$9,716,924	\$6,608,755	\$3,108,169
G&F Special Fund 222			\$2,208,169
G&F Special Fund 488			\$900,000
Federal PR		\$4,946,217	
Federal DJ		\$1,594,761	
Federal Coast Guard		\$67,777	

TOTAL \$9,716,924

Federal: \$6,608,755

Special: \$3,108,169





1. Adjustments to Base-Operating/Capital Improvements: \$1,479,393 (~50% federal)

\$34,000 for State fire and tornado insurance:

15% annual premium increase; building values are underinsured and need to be adjusted.

- \$114,420, 7.5% increase in lieu of taxes (75% federal funding).
- \$139,782 Fisheries operating base: 6% increase:

Increased field costs (boat ramps, parking lots, gravel projects) and expenses for new and maintained fishing waters due to inflation.

• \$25,691 Enforcement operating base 2% increase:

Increased fieldwork and operational costs due to inflation.

\$585,500 Wildlife Operating:

\$150k for WMA operating costs; \$75k for CWD testing; \$125k for division-wide costs; \$125k for WMA road, fence, and infrastructure; \$110,500 for northern pintail study.

\$125,000 Wildlife Capital Improvements:

Wildlife Management Areas roads, fence, and infrastructure.

\$15,000 Conservation and Communication:

Additional funds for camera video equipment replacement per the division's cycle.

• \$440,000 increase in Data Processing and Telecommunications costs:

\$199,189 OMB IT rate adjustment leaves a \$440,000 gap for essential systems like online services, licensing, mapping, phone services, and data storage (\$639,189).



2. Adjustment to Base-Motorpool: \$687,331 (47% federal)

- Motor pool costs based on Department of Transportation Fleet Services Budget Guideline rates.
- Motor pool costs are integral to the Department's efficient daily operations, enabling us to provide essential services to our customers and manage fish and wildlife resources. These resources support activities such as enforcement, wildlife management, land management, private lands programs, fish production, fisheries development, disease surveillance, nongame/ species of conservation priority research.

	TOTAL	Fed	Spec
Administrative Services	\$44,995	\$0	\$44,995
Fisheries	\$207,012	\$140,768	\$66,244
Enforcement	\$143,048	\$14,305	\$128,743
Conservation & Communications	\$89,109	\$25,842	\$63,267
Wildlife	\$203,167	\$140,185	\$62,982
	\$687,331	\$321,100	\$366,231





3. Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat & Access on Private Lands (Line 70): \$5,000,000 (\$4,100,000 fed PR funds & \$900,000 special funds) [one-time funding]

This request builds on last biennium's focus on habitat restoration on private lands, which was a crucial first step in modernizing the Private Lands Initiative. However, habitat conditions in North Dakota continue to decline. Additional appropriation authority will enable the Department to pursue more grants and funding to expand habitat quickly and efficiently, with many grants covering 75% federal funds or requiring minimal state match. Having authority in advance allows the Department to plan and act swiftly on new opportunities.

Over the past decade, North Dakota has lost over 2.5 million acres of grasslands. Habitat loss has significantly impacted wildlife, with some areas seeing up to an 85% decrease in deer harvest. With over 90% of land in private ownership, the Department must focus on developing critical wildlife habitat on private lands.

- \$2,000,000 additional appropriation authority to increase PLOTS acres and habitat development, aiming to enroll 120,000-160,000 acres and improve 6,000 acres annually (75% federal funds: \$1,500,000).
- \$2,000,000 for expanding the Rangeland Legacy Program (30-year agreements, 90% federal).
- \$1,000,000 for expanding the Habitat Development Program (80% federal).



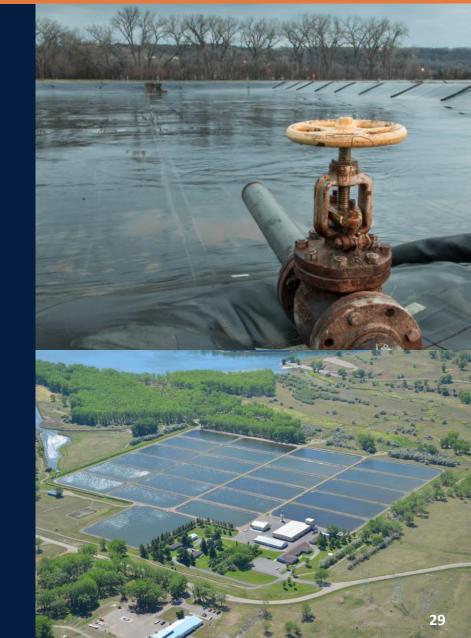






4. Fisheries – Pond liners: \$1,800,000 (75% federal) [one-time funding]

- There is a continued need to invest money at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery by continuing the pond lining program which eliminates water loss issues with the current ponds as well as increases fish production capacity. Depending on the liner cost, the request should line approximately four 1.5-acre ponds (the cost includes engineering fees).
- There are 40 ponds in the Department owned east rearing unit with 15 of the 40 lined to date.
- There are 75 HP pumps that are used to fill the east unit ponds at Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. Getting all 40 ponds filled in a timely manner is crucial as we only have fry so long. Since these original pumps are from 1988, they are nearing their life expectancy (and then some) and thus need to be replaced.







5. Adjustments to Base-Temporary Salaries: \$265,500 (45% federal)

Committee Division Outline requested changes to the first chamber's actions.

Fisheries and Wildlife Divisions:

• Due to workforce challenges, market value, and a dramatic rise in the inflation rate, an increase is needed for our seasonal staff.

Enforcement Division:

• The addition to the baseline is for hiring four seasonal employees, for 3 months each (mid-May to mid-August) for a total of 24 months. These temporary positions would spend approximately half of their time working boating safety which would qualify for U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety funds (50% reimbursement). The positions would provide opportunities for students to learn about employment as a District Game Warden and serve as a recruitment tool for the enforcement division to fill open positions.





6. IT Increases: \$380,000 (100% special funds) [one-time funding]

\$30,000 Video Asset Management System:

• This includes a disaster recovery solution for the Department's Video Asset Management System. These systems house the Department's video assets for webcasts, footage for news, and digital media resources.

\$250,000 Customer Relationship Mgmt. System (CRM):

 We are seeking a CRM solution to manage, track, and support the delivery of conservation, restoration, and habitat programs for landowners. This system will facilitate coordination and communication among state, federal, and private organizations involved in these programs.

\$100,000 NDGF Mobile App:

 The Department expects continued growth with mobile device usage over personal computers for Department services. With the deployment of the Department's mobile app in 2023, the Department is looking to further the functionality and provide enhancements to the function of the NDGF mobile app.









7. Baukol-Noonan Dam Repair: \$150,000 (100% special funds) [one-time funding]

- This work is to repair the failed riser pipe that has rusted through and reinforce the principal spillway to correct its rusting steel pipe.
- The method is to use cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining. This is one of several methods used to repair existing pipelines that don't require that you dig up the pipes. CIPP is a jointless, seamless, pipe-within-a-pipe with the capability to repair pipes ranging in diameter from 4–110 inches.





8. Equipment Requests above Base: \$220,200 (50% federal funds) [one-time funding]

Wildlife Division:

- \$70,000 request is for the continued replacement of tractors used on Wildlife Management Areas. These tractors are essential for planting food plots, mowing, seeding, cultivating, operating pumps, and other wildlife management tasks. The Department follows a replacement schedule to maximize trade-in value and minimize maintenance costs.
- \$12,000 request is for an ATV to support Bighorn Sheep surveys in the remote badlands of western North Dakota.

Enforcement Division:

- \$13,200 request is for two Statewide Interoperability Radio Network (SIRN) compatible radios to be installed in law enforcement boats that currently lack them. These radios will ensure effective communication with State Radio and emergency agencies during patrols, search and rescue, and emergency responses.
- \$65,000 request is for a 20-foot fiberglass boat, motor, and trailer to replace a 2014 18-foot boat in the Riverdale/Garrison district. The new boat will be safer and more suitable for rough water conditions, supporting law enforcement and emergency responses. Boats are replaced every ten years to maintain safety and reliability.
- Both requests qualify for 50% US Coast Guard reimbursement, reducing the Department's cost to \$39,100.
- \$60,000 request for the replacement of firearms (19% federal funds; 81% special funds)





Other Sections Included in the Executive Bill Draft for HB1017

SECTION 4. LINE ITEM TRANSFER AUTHORITY. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants – game and fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025. The game and fish department shall notify the legislative council of any transfer made pursuant to this section.

The Department currently has this language in its 23-25 appropriation bill, that has a sunset of 6/30/2025.

- Continuing this limited transfer authority allows the department to respond flexibly to changing needs, improving efficiency. With diverse expenditures (construction, maintenance, boat ramps, research, etc.), it's challenging to project budgets three years in advance.
- Maintenance costs depend on the repair type, which may be covered by either the Operating or Capital Asset line.
 - Boat ramp projects on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), costs come from the Capital Asset line. Other ramps are funded through the Grants line.
 - O&M costs may also be split between the Operating line (e.g., service contracts for fish cleaning stations) and the Grants line (e.g., for O&M on non-WMA land).
- Unplanned events, like ramp damage or access road washouts, can further complicate budgeting, especially when only certain funds are available.





DEPARTMENT BUDGET BY DIVISION

The Department included in its 25-27 budget request the following funds appropriated for grant expenditures to other state agencies:

- \$122,000 to ND Parks & Recreation Department. This is the same amount included as revenue in the Parks and Recreation Department. It is for operation and maintenance of the public boating and fishing facilities located in state parks. The amount is the same as 2023-25. (100% federal funds; Parks & Rec provides the match)
- \$167,720 to Board of Animal Health, Ag Dept. (100% G&F funds)
- \$500,000 to Wildlife Services, Ag Dept. This is the same amount as 2023-25. (100% G&F funds)

DIVISIONAL BUDGETS

The 23-25 Department FTE count is 170. No additional FTE's have been requested.

Following are brief details on the budgets for the Department's five divisions:

- Administrative Services
- Fisheries
- Enforcement
- Conservation and Communications
- Wildlife





1. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION (26 FTE's)

Operating Line Base: \$6,921,500

Includes utility, IT, telecommunications, janitorial, office supplies, insurance, printing, postage, aircraft costs, credit card transaction fees, legal services, Game and Fish Advisory Board, buildings, grounds, vehicle maintenance, etc.

Budget Change:

- \$34,000 increase for State Fire & Tornado Insurance (see slide 26)
- \$440,000 IT Monthly rate increase (see slide 26)
- \$44,995 Adjustments to Base-Motorpool (see slide 27)
- \$100,000 IT Increases (see slide 31)

Total Operating (2025-27): \$7,540,495

Capital Assets Line Base: \$2,275,600

Includes \$750,000 for extraordinary repairs to Department-owned facilities statewide (100% G&F funds). \$1,525,600 for In Lieu of Tax payments for all Department lands WMA's (75% federal funds)

Budget Change:

• \$114,420 In Lieu of Tax payments increase (see slide 26)

Total Capita

North

Game and Fish

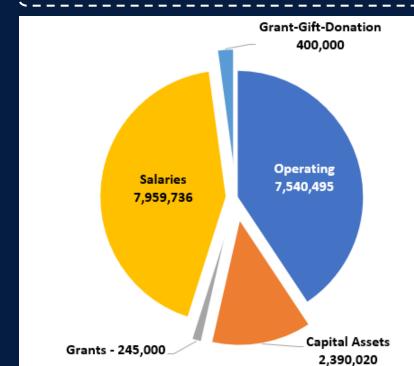
Be Legendary."

Total Capital Assets (2025-27): \$2,390,020



ABOUT:

This division budget includes business operations, fiscal, grant management, data science/information technology, licensing, procurement, facilities management, and administrative services for the Department. Most of this division is funded with Game and Fish funds.





1. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION (26 FTE's)

Grants Line Base: \$245,000

Total Grants (2025-27): \$245,000

Includes funds for cooperative grants to local groups and organizations for game and fish-related projects, funding for Tribal access agreements, ND Natural Resources Trust, Director's grants, and sponsorship grants (e.g., ND Landowners Sportsman Council, ND Stockmen's Assoc., etc.). (100% G&F funds)

Grant-Gift-Donation (Special Line) Base: \$694,963

Includes (Admin \$400,000; Wildlife \$294,963) and is used as follows: (100% G&F funds)

- Grants and gifts received for special projects are used as desired by the donor.
- Revenue from surface damage, easements, and reclamation due to mineral exploration on Department owned and managed lands.
- The Department manages federal and state-owned lands along Lake Sakakawea, the Missouri River, and Killdeer Mountain WMA, with significant oil activity. Funds are required to be used for road repairs, fencing, habitat development, and other necessary work in these areas.
- Royalty payments from the Department's 160-acre mineral lease in Killdeer Mountain WMA support a full-time biologist to support these responsibilities.

*** Executive Recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$14.068 for the Wildlife Division.



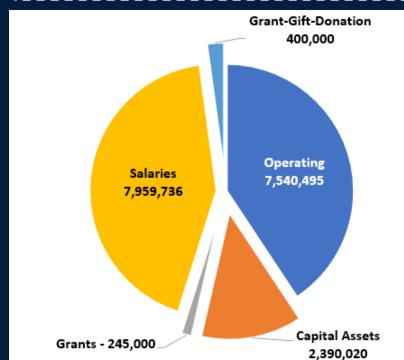


Total Grant-Gift-Donation (Special Line) (2025-27): \$709,031



ABOUT:

This division budget includes business operations, fiscal, grant management, data science/information technology, licensing, facilities management, and administrative services for the Department. Most of this division is funded with Game and Fish funds.





2. FISHERIES DIVISION (27 FTE's)

Operating Line Base: \$2,798,000

Budget Change:

- \$139,782 6% increase in Operating due to inflation (see slide 26)
- \$150,000 Baukol-Noonan Dam Repair (see slide 32)
- \$207,012 Adjustments to Base-Motorpool (see slide 27)

Total Operating (2025-27): \$3,294,794

Capital Assets Line Base: \$685,000

Includes \$499,000 in capital repairs which includes dam repairs, fishing and boating facility development work, and repairs such as toilets, fish cleaning stations, boat ramps, etc., on lands owned by the Department (WMAs) or areas we cooperatively manage. High and low water conditions at Devils Lake, Lake Sakakawea, and the Missouri River can provide challenges for the boating access program. (75% is federal funds)

\$186,000 for equipment – boat motor replacements, work boat/motor/trailer, and a development trailer. (75% is federal funds)

Budget Change:

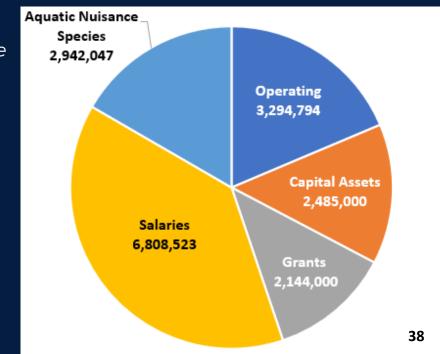
• \$1,800,000 for GDNFH pond liners (see slide 29)

Total Capital Assets (2025-27): \$2,485,000



ABOUT:

This division budget includes fish production and distribution, fish management (research and surveys), fishery development (ramps, docks, piers, facilities, and maintenance), and the Aquatic Nuisance Species program.





2. FISHERIES DIVISION (27 FTE's)

Grants Line Base: \$2,144,000

\$500,000 for boating access and development. These grants are used for cost-sharing with local governments on fishing and boating facilities. The Department receives 75% federal funding for this work. In some cases, the 25% match comes from local partners such as park boards.

\$580,000 in grants is to pay the Department's share of costs for the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. (75% federal funds)

\$50,000 base amount in grants used for Aquatic Nuisance Species. (100% G&F funds)

\$89,000 base for fish management

\$122,000 to ND Parks and Recreation Department for boating access-related costs on state parks. (100% federal funds)

\$298,000 for fisheries development non-boating access.

\$140,000 for Valley City State University River/Stream Survey work

\$140,000 for Rock Lake Carp barrier

\$225,000 for ND Fisheries evaluation and allocation

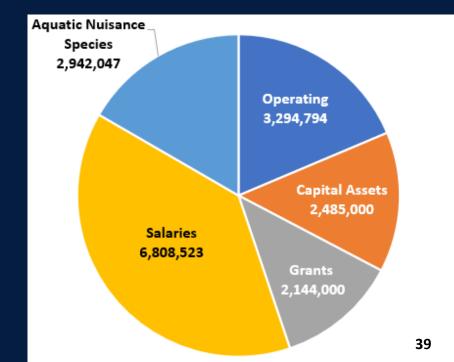
No Budget Change:

Total Grants (2025-27): \$2,144,000



ABOUT:

This division budget includes fish production and distribution, fish management (research and surveys), fishery development (ramps, docks, piers, facilities, and maintenance), and the Aquatic Nuisance Species program.





2. FISHERIES DIVISION (27 FTE's)

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) – (Special Line) Base

The Department has 3 ANS fisheries biologists, seasonal staff, and funding for operating expenses, grants, and capital projects. These resources support ANS watercraft inspections, enforcement, monitoring, and education programs, funded through fishing and waterfowl license surcharges and motorboat fees.

Salaries and expenses for wardens conducting inspections at boat ramps, cleaning stations, and check stations are also covered. Wardens allocate time for ANS work, with hours totaling 1 FTE.

WRDA funding, added for 2023-25, provides a 50% federal reimbursement for watercraft inspection and decontamination efforts in the Missouri River Basin. The Department is eligible for \$1,134,006 in 2025-27, subject to congressional approval.

WRDA funds will expand the seasonal inspection crew, extend employment into fall, enhance the ANS education campaign, and support the installation of prevention devices like wash stations and I-LIDS to limit ANS spread.

The Legislative base appropriation is \$2,884,000. (WRDA \$1,134,006 50/50)

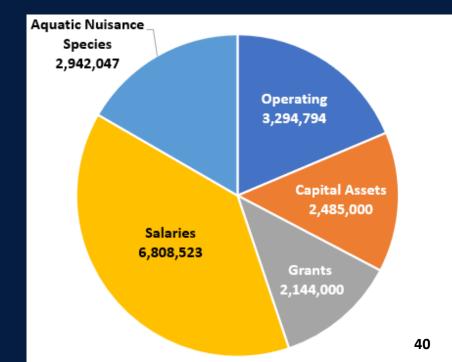
Executive recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$58,047.

Total ANS (Special Line) (2025-27): \$2,942,047



ABOUT:

This division budget includes fish production and distribution, fish management (research and surveys), fishery development (ramps, docks, piers, facilities, and maintenance), and the Aquatic Nuisance Species program.





3. ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (40 FTE's)

Operating Line Base: \$2,683,984

Budget Change:

- \$143,048 Adjustments to Base-Motorpool (see slide 27)
- \$25,691 2% increase to Operating due to inflation (see slide 26)

Total Operating (2025-27): \$2,852,723

Capital Assets Line Base: \$190,000

Includes replacement of equipment. UTV (2), 500cc ATV (6), enclosed trailer (3). Fiberglass boat/motor/trailer (1)

Budget Change:

- \$78,200 20' fiberglass boat/motor/trailer and Motorola boat radios. (see slide 33)
- \$60,000 request for the replacement of firearms. (see slide 33)

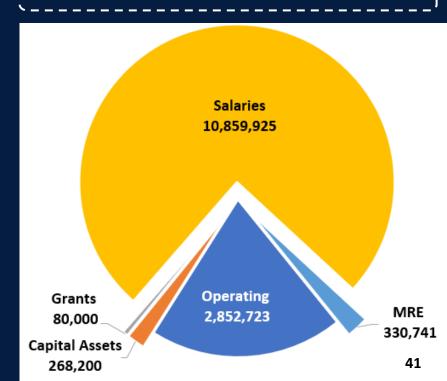
Total Capital Assets (2025-27): \$328,200





(i) ABOUT:

This division budget includes patrol, compliance, investigations, public safety, and Missouri River Enforcement. This division is largely operational expenditures with state fleet and travel costs. Game wardens typically average 2-million state fleet miles per biennium.





3. ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (40 FTE's)

Grants Line Base: \$80,000

Includes Boating Safety Grants to county law enforcement to assist in the promotion and enforcement of boat and water safety on their local recreational waters. (50% federal funds)

Total Grants (2025-27): \$80,000

Missouri River Enforcement (Special Line) Base: \$324,425

Includes salaries, operating, and equipment related to enforcement activities on and along the Missouri River in the Burleigh and Morton County area. Grants are also given to local law enforcement agencies to help with the Missouri River enforcement. This line is funded 50% from federal boat safety funds.

Budget Change:

• Executive recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$6,316.

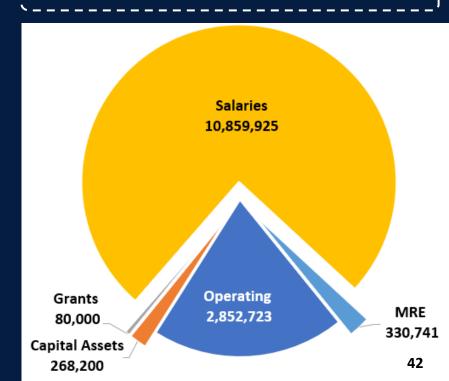
> **Total MRE (Special Line)** (2025-27): \$330,741





ABOUT:

This division budget includes patrol, compliance, investigations, public safety, and Missouri River Enforcement. This division is largely operational expenditures with state fleet and travel costs. Game wardens typically average 2-million state fleet miles per biennium.





4. CONSERVATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION (23 FTE's)

Operating Line Base: \$1,941,350

Budget Change:

- \$89,109 Adjustment to base-Motorpool (see slide 27)
- \$30,000 Video Asset Management System (see slide 31)
- \$250,000 CRM (see slide 31)

Total Operating (2025-27): \$2,310,459

Capital Assets Line Base: \$15,000

Includes \$15,000 in extraordinary repairs for the Department's Conservation and Outdoor Skills Park area located on the State Fairgrounds. (100% G&F funds)

Budget Change:

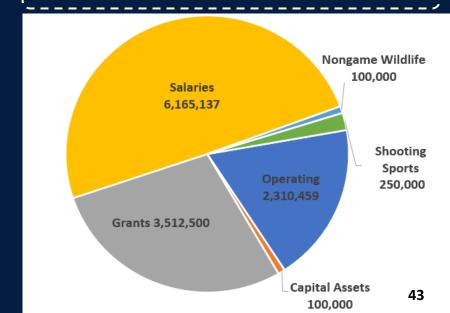
• \$15,000 Camera/Video Equipment updates (see slide 26)

Total Capital Assets (2025-27): \$30,000



ABOUT:

This division budget includes conservation, (nongame, species of concern, NEPA); communications (ND Outdoors, publications, digital/social media, marketing, podcast); education and outreach (hunter/aquatic/fur harvester/ boating education, National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). This largest use of this divisions budget is related to grants.







4. CONSERVATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION (23 FTE's)

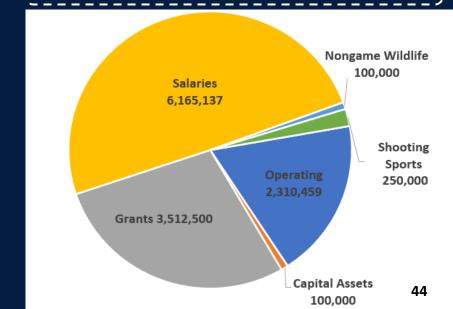
Grants Line Base: \$3,512,500

- \$1.89M for shooting range grants statewide: \$1.24M for statewide shooting range grants, and \$650k for Richland County range. New ranges require 10% match, and existing ranges 25% match.
- \$284K for youth programs: National Archery in the Schools Program, Hooked on Fishing, Encouraging Tomorrow's Hunter, Trout in the Schools, Trapper Education, etc. (32K federal Hooked on Fishing)
- \$836,332 for State Wildlife Grants Program: Federally funded, supports nongame species. Matching funds are primarily from the grant recipients.
- \$122,168 for administration/coordination grants.
- \$80K for Innovative R3: Supports strategies to increase participation in hunting, fishing, and related activities, including outreach, events, and partnerships (75% federal funds).
- \$300K for Pollinator Plots Program: Establishes native wildflower and pollinator habitats in urban/public areas. (100% Game & Fish funds).



ABOUT:

This division budget includes conservation, (nongame, species of concern, NEPA); communications (ND Outdoors, publications, digital/social media, marketing, podcast); education and outreach (hunter/aquatic/fur harvester/ boating education, National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). This largest use of this divisions budget is related to grants.





Total Grants (2025-27): \$3,512,500



4. CONSERVATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION (23 FTE's)

Shooting Sports (Special Line) Base: \$250,000

Includes grants made available to schools, clubs, and organized groups in the state which are used to promote and facilitate increased shooting sports participation in the state. The clubs pay the 25% match for most of these grants. (75% federal funds)

Total Shooting Sports (Special Line) Base (2025-27): \$250,000

Nongame Wildlife (Special Line) Base: \$100,000

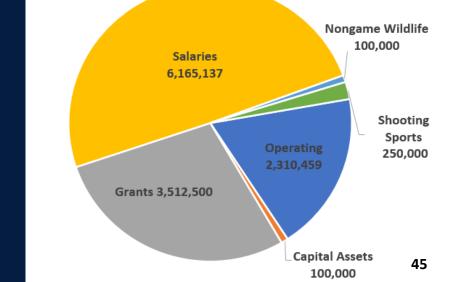
Includes \$100,000 is budgeted for this special line which is supported by the income tax check-off. (100% G&F funds)

Total Nongame Wildlife (Special Line) Base (2025-27): \$100,000



ABOUT:

This division budget includes conservation, (nongame, species of concern, NEPA); communications (ND Outdoors, publications, digital/social media, marketing, podcast); education and outreach (hunter/aquatic/fur harvester/ boating education, National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). This largest use of this divisions budget is related to grants.









5. WILDLIFE DIVISION (54 FTE's)

Operating Line Base: \$3,017,158

Budget Change:

- \$203,167 Adjustment to base-Motorpool (see slide 27)
- \$585,500 Adjustment to base-Operating costs (see slide 26)

Total Operating (2025-27): \$3,805,825

Capital Assets Line Base: \$1,582,920

Includes \$420,920 for extraordinary repairs (e.g. fences, roads, water control structures) and similar work on department wildlife management areas (WMA) statewide. (75% federal funds)

\$362,000 for equipment replacement – tractor (1), skid steer (1), equipment trailers (3), UTV/ATV's (6), grass drill (1). (75% federal funds)

\$800,000 is included for land acquisitions of small tracts near wildlife management areas, possibly in-holding or round-outs that may come up during the biennium. This amount is the same as the 2023-25 biennium. (100% G&F funds)

Budget Change:

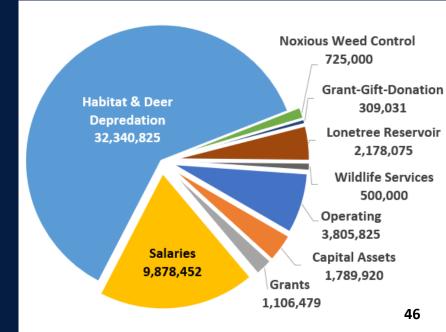
- \$125,000 increase for operating costs on roads, fence, grazing infrastructure development on new and existing WMAs (see slide 26)
- \$82,000 for additional equipment above base (see slide 33)

Total Capital Assets (2025-27): \$1,789,920



ABOUT:

This division budget includes game management (wildlife surveys/research), resource management (owned and managed lands), Private Lands Initiative, deer depredation, noxious weed control. The largest use of this divisions budget is related the Habitat & Deer Depredation Special Line.





5. WILDLIFE DIVISION (54 FTE's)

Grants Line Base: \$1,106,479

\$938,759 for grants and cooperative projects with wildlife groups, universities, and organizations, including work on chronic wasting disease (CWD), wetland conservation, Central Flyway studies, and research on species like elk, pronghorn, sage grouse, deer, moose, and mountain lions (48% federal PR funds).

\$167,720 to reimburse the State Veterinarian for oversight of farmed wildlife and wildlife propagation permit administration, reflecting a potential increase from the previous biennium's \$148,228 (100% G&F funds). Executive recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$19,495.

***Need confirmation with NDDA.

Noxious Weed Control (Special Line) Base: \$725,000

Includes work on department lands. This line is the same amount as 2023-25. (75% federal funds)

Lonetree Reservoir (Special Line) Base: \$2,107,818

Lonetree WMA spans over 32,000 acres managed for wildlife by the Department under the Dakota Waters Resources Act. The budget covers 5 staff, operations, equipment, maintenance, and development, funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (100% by federal funds). Executive recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$70,257

Wildlife Services (Special Line) Base: \$500,000

Supports ND Dept. of Agriculture -Wildlife Service's Program for animal damage control work. (100% G&F funds) This is the same amount as the 2023-25 biennium

Total Grant Line (2025-27): \$1,106,479

Total Noxious Weed Control (Special Line) (2025-27): \$725,000

Total Lonetree Reservoir (Special Line) (2025-27): \$2,178,075

Total Wildlife Services (Special Line) (2025-27): \$500,000



5. WILDLIFE DIVISION (54 FTE's)

Private Land Habitat and Deer Depredation (Special Line): \$27,171,645

The PLOTS Program has a base budget of approximately \$23.4 million, with \$19.4 million for landowner payments and \$4 million for administrative costs. The goal is to reach 1 million acres of public hunting access on private land by 2028. An additional \$2 million is requested for increased payments and habitat development. In 2024, PLOTS included approximately 836,000 acres.

The Rangeland Legacy Program received \$2.7 million in 2023, with plans to secure additional funding, requiring \$2 million in extra appropriation authority. Habitat enhancement projects use \$1.7 million, and an additional \$1 million is requested for expanded cost sharing.

A \$1.1 million budget for depredation management, mandated by SB2227 in 2010, supports wildlife feeding and winter management on lands impacted by big game depredation. Unspent funds (up to \$2 million) may be carried forward for future use.

Budget Change:

- Additional emphasis on Wildlife Habitat & Access on Private Lands (PLI Line 70) \$5,000,000 (see slide 28)
- Executive recommended budget for this line includes compensation package amount of \$169,180

Total Private Land Habitat & Deer Depredation Line (2025-27): \$32,340,825



ABOUT:

This line is funded with interest earned on game and fish funds, habitat stamp sales, cash from the regular game and fish fund, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Pittman Robertson (PR) federal funds.

Overview: This line is commonly called the Private Land Initiative (PLI) line. This line is not just for our Private Land Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) program in which private landowners enter into agreements for walk-in hunting access, but also includes funds for wildlife habitat management practices, food plots, grass plantings, tree and shrub plantings and other habitat enhancement grants and projects. This line also includes big game depredation and administrative costs.

2023-25 New FTE Summary

6 New FTE Positions - 5 filled within 1.5 months of start; * 1 filled by Mid-October (delayed funding from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Private Lands Habitat Manager

Budget Request - \$227,312 Actual cost for Biennium -\$260,761

Filled 7/1/2023

Private Lands Biologist

Budget request - \$197,646 Actual cost for Biennium -\$174,588

Filled 8/1/2023

Aquatic Nuisance Species Biologist

Budget request - \$197,648 Actual cost for Biennium -\$157,232

Filled 10/14/2023*



$(i)_{\mathsf{ABOUT}}$

Total Budget request for new FTE's: \$ 1,179,021

Total actual cost and request from New FTE Pool:

\$1,178,269

Total (90%) in the **New FTE Pool:** \$1,061,118

Filled 7/1/2023

Game Warden Investigator

Budget Request - \$228,634 Actual cost for Biennium -\$277,579

Filled 8/14/2023

Fisheries District Supervisor

Budget Request - \$228,958 Actual cost for Biennium -\$216,131

Filled 7/1/2024

Private Lands Bio.

Budget request - \$98,823 Actual cost for Biennium -\$91,978

only funded for ½ Biennium

2023-25 Vacant FTE Pool Summary

3 vacant positions as of 7/1/2023 – all filled by 10/1/2023

2 of the 3 vacant positions were vacant because of employees promoted to new positions

Vacant positions this biennium-to-date (includes the 3 above)

- Retirements as of 1/1/2025 7 (more than average)
- Vacated positions 8 (more than average)
- Promotions/Position changes 6

Estimated Vacancy Savings to date - \$523,174

- Accrued Leave Payouts \$123,852
- Extra Salary increases \$43,038
- Reclassifications \$19,387
- Extra temporary funding \$13,042
- Extra overtime funding \$22,080

Overall Vacancy savings to date - \$301,774



- Removed from Budget in 23-25 \$2,241,734
- Total (70%) to the Vacant FTE Pool: \$1,569,213



2023-25 FTE Pool Summary

Total requests from pool to date – \$ 1,759,378

No vacancies in special lines - will request March 2025 to make special lines whole - \$ 135,294

Request the remaining amount left in the pool to add to salaries and wages line 10 – \$ 735,661

Total left in pool	\$	0.00
	T.	735,660.70
Estimated Final request to make payroll end of biennium*	\$	775 660 70
	\$	735,660.70
Request March 2025 - special lines whole	\$	135,294.00
	\$	870,954.70
Draw for vacant FTE's	\$	581,109.00
	\$	1,452,063.70
Draw for new FTE's	\$	1,178,269.00
Pool amount	\$	2,630,332.70

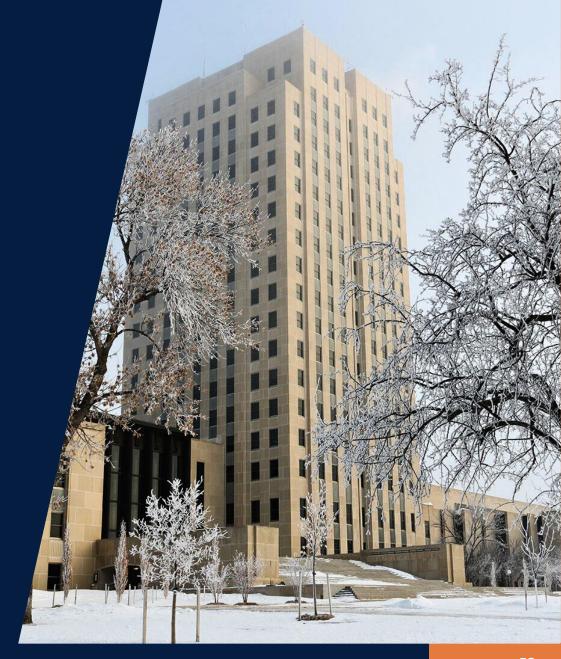
(i)ABOUT:

- Removed from Budget in 23-25
 \$2,241,734
- Total (70%) to the Vacant FTE Pool: \$1,569,213



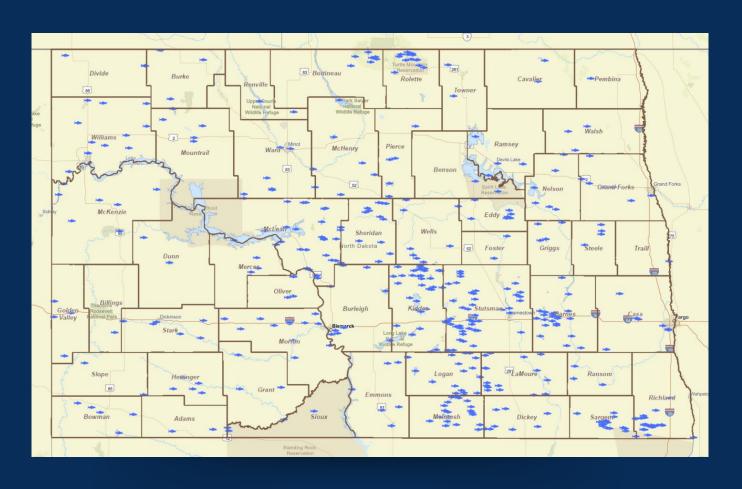
68TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

HIGHLIGHTS





FISHING WATER BODIES



439 WATERS 851,462 ACRES

North Dakota 70,704 sq . miles

Land - 68,900 sq. miles Water - 1,804 sq. miles

1,330 SQ. MILES

2024



4 + MILLION FISH STOCKED





37

COMMUNITY FISHING PONDS



FISHING TOURNAMENTS

2024 Open Water Fishing Tourney Summary

84
Total Permitted
Contests

7,719

Participants
(total not unique)

\$25k
Conservation
Fees

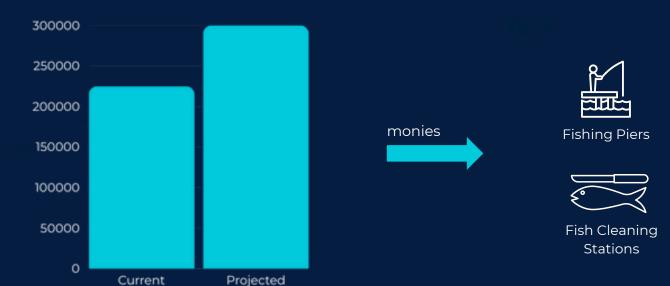
\$2.2M
Entry Fees



41 Non-Profit Tournaments

no conservation fee required

Nonresident Conservation Fees



JAMESTOWN

- Bunkhouse
- ANS Office space
- Laboratory space
- Storage





DEVILS LAKE

- Bunkhouse
- Building Repairs
- Water Drainage



ELK DEPREDATION LICENSES Cow Elk Tag

59

Licenses Purchased 39

Additional Eligible

\$30 License

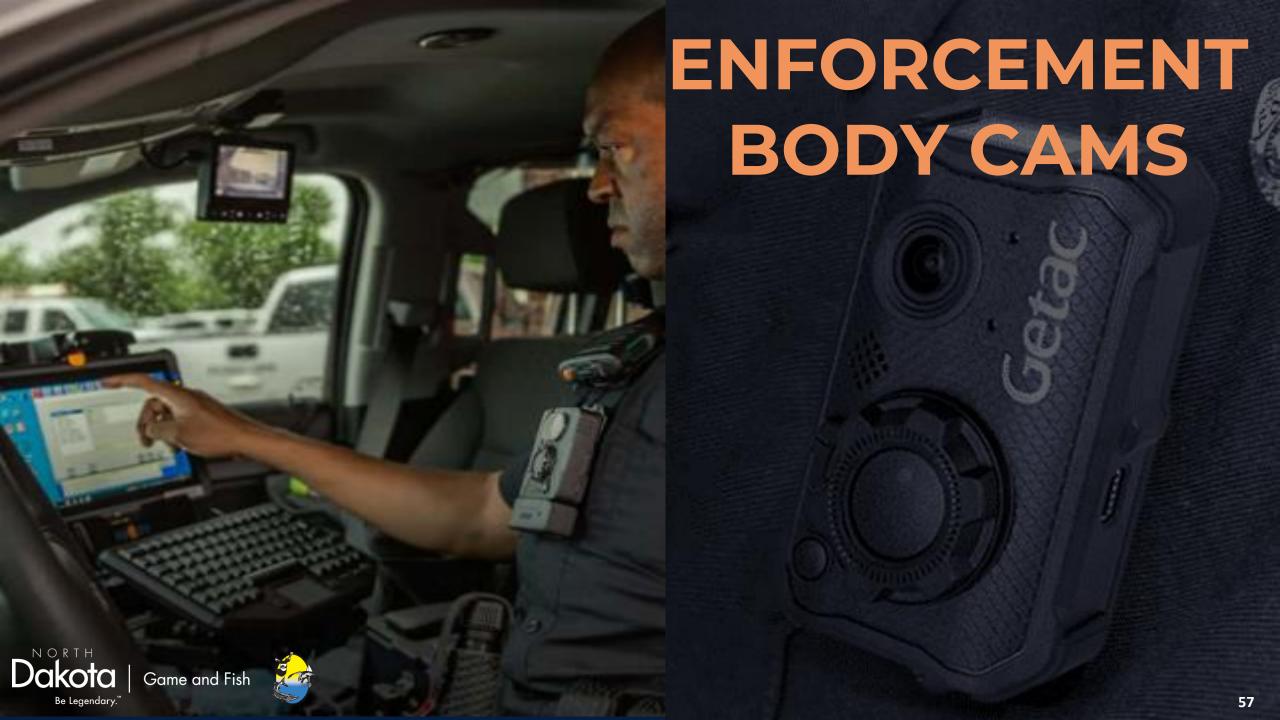
Did not purchase

Landowners provided access to 5 different hunters.



Access for once-in-a-lifetime elk license holders.

Total: 181 elk hunters



ACCESS ACRES PROVIDED by:

Current acres enrolled:



Other programs include: Coverlocks, CREP II, Private Forest, Beginning Farmer and Food Plots



WORKING LANDS

506,568



204,815



61,729









NDGF OFFICIAL APP



IT'S IN THE APP

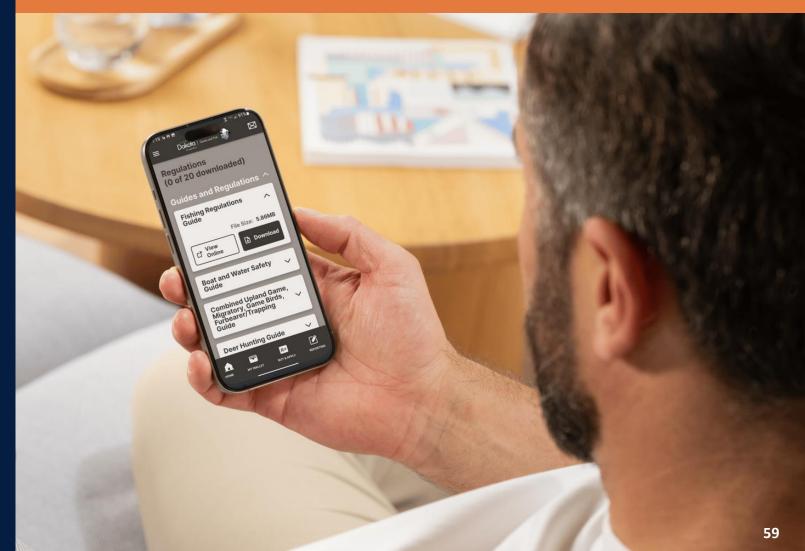
- view licenses
- buy and apply
- notifications
- sunrise / sunset times
- current weather
- regulations
- maps
- harvest reporting
- and more!



Install

58,549
DOWNLOADS





69TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

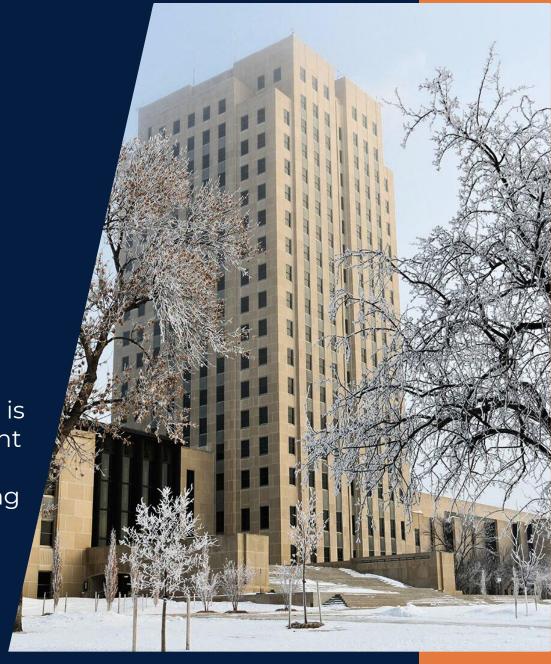
CURRENT BILLS CONSIDERED

HB1470 – Hunting and Fishing License Fees

SB2216 – A waterfowl habitat restoration electronic stamp is required for every resident and nonresident to hunt waterfowl at a fee of \$5. In addition, creates a waterfowl habitat improvement fund for improving and restoring waterfowl habitat and supporting youth hunting programs.







QUESTIONS?









HB 1017 2025-27 Appropriation Request North Dakota Game and Fish Department March 6, 2025

Chairman Wanzek and members of the Government Operations Division of Senate Appropriations, my name is Brian Hosek, and I serve as the Administrative Services Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. I will be testifying on HB1017, our appropriation bill.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is largely directed under NDCC Title 20.1 and many of those responsibilities reside under 20.1-02-05 which lists the power of the Director. The major statutory responsibilities can be summarized as: to manage and regulate the state's wildlife resources, game and non-game, for the use, enjoyment, possession, disposition, and conservation for the public of North Dakota.

The 2025-27 executive budget recommendation is \$115,602,907. This is an increase of \$10,875,393 from the 2023-2025 legislative base level appropriation of \$104,727,514.

The 2025-27 House version is \$114,599,190. This is an increase of \$9,871,676 from the 2023-25 base level appropriation of \$104,727,514.

My testimony will cover the following for the Department:

- Federal and Special Revenue
- Fund Balance
- Legislative Base changes
- 25-27 Budget Changes
- Other Sections included in the executive bill draft for HB1017
- Budget by Divisions
- Potential Land Acquisitions

The Game and Fish Department is a special fund agency receiving revenue from game and fish license sales (hunting, fishing, boating registrations, etc.) and federal funding.

We do not receive any general fund dollars.

Audit Findings Report: No areas of concern were identified.

Table of Contents

<u>Slide</u>

2-3	North Dakota Game and Fish Department Mission and History
4-5	Service and Economic Study
6	Organizational Chart
7	District Offices
8	Revenue Projections Chart
9-10	Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Acts
11	Revenue Projections (continued)
12	Federal Revenue Levels
13-18	Licensing and Special Revenue Graphs
19	Fund Balance
20	Base and Total Recommended Budget by Line
21	2023-25 Legislative Appropriation
22-24	2025-27 Legislative Base Budget
25-33	Decision Package Summary and Detail
34	Other Sections in the Executive Bill Draft
35-48	Department Budget by Division
49-51	New FTE Summary/ Vacant FTE Pool
52-59	68th Legislative Assembly Highlights
60	69th Legislative Assembly Proposed Bills

Committee Division Outline

- 1. Explain the purpose of the agency and its various divisions/programs Cite North Dakota Century Code provisions (page 1) and attach an organizational chart (slide 6).
- 2. Report any audit findings included in the most recent audit and action taken to address each finding (page 1).
- 3. Discuss current biennium accomplishments and challenges and next biennium goals and plans. (slides 52-59)
- 4. Compare the agency's request/recommendation totals, including full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, for the next biennium compared to the current biennium. (slides 20-25)
- 5. Discuss any new positions approved for your agency for the 2023-25 biennium by the 2023 Legislative Assembly, the timing of filling the positions, amounts transferred from the OMB pool for the filled positions, and funding appropriated and the amount estimated to be spent for each position for the 2023-25 biennium. (slide 49)
- 6. Discuss employee turnover and the number of vacant positions during the 2023-25 biennium to date, the amount of savings relating to the vacant positions and employee turnover to date compared to the vacant position savings removed from your agency's budget by the 2023 Legislative Assembly, the amount of vacant position saving spent for other purposes, and any amounts transferred or anticipated to be transferred from the OMB pool. (slides 50-51)
- 7. Explain the funding included in each program/line item either in total or by division depending on the size of the agency as follows: (slides 35-48)
 - a. Amounts included in the base level and their purpose and use; and
 - b. Amounts included in the request/recommendation/first chamber action and justification for the change from the base level. Discuss changes relating to each line item (salaries and wages, operating expenses, etc.) funding source (general fund, special funds, federal funds), and FTE positions.
- 8. Discuss the purpose and use of any one-time funding items for the current biennium. (slide 21)
- 9. Identify and justify the need for any one-time funding being requested. (slides 28-29, 31-33)
- 10. Discuss any fees the agency charges, the appropriateness of the fee amount, fee collections that are deposited in the general fund or a special fund, and any anticipated changes from 2023 legislative session estimates during the 2023-25 biennium and estimated changes for the 2025-27 biennium. (slide 19)
- 11. Identify any federal state fiscal relief funds remaining to be spent by your agency by December 2026. Provide the amount, the purpose, and a timeline of anticipated expenditures. \$27,000 Devils Lake Fire Alarm System Upgrade. Expected completion by 6/30/2025.
- 12. Discuss the need for any other sections to be added to the appropriation bill. (slide 34)
- 13. Discuss any other bills being considered by the Legislative Assembly and their potential budgetary impact on your agency. (slide 60)
- 14. Provide a one-page itemized listing any changes your agency is requesting the committee to make to the first chamber's action on your budget. (slide 30)
- 15. Provide additional information as necessary.

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

		Armstr	ong Budget		House Version			House Compared to Armstrong Budget				
	C-1000							Increase (Decrease)				
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2025-27 Biennium Base Level	170.00	\$0	\$104,727,514	\$104,727,514	170.00	\$0	\$104,727,514	\$104,727,514	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
2025-27 Ongoing Funding Changes	i i										9	
Base payroll changes			(\$838,661)	(\$838,661)			(\$838,661)	(\$838,661)				\$0
Salary increase			1,588,535	1,588,535			1,588,535	1,588,535				0
Health insurance increase			1,002,881	1,002,881			1,002,881	1,002,881				0
Adds funding to replace the 2023-25 new FTE pool			1,179,021	1,179,021			1,179,021	1,179,021				0
Adds funding to replace the 2023-25 vacant FTE pool			2,241,734	2,241,734		1	2,241,734	2,241,734				0
Adjusts funding for the 2025-27 vacant FTE pool				0			(798,217)	(798,217)			(\$798,217)	(798,217
Adds funding from special funds for accrued leave			109,291	109,291			109,291	109,291			(\$190,211)	(190,217
payouts for retirements			100,201	100,201			103,231	105,251		1	8	·
Adds funding for temporary salaries			265,500	265,500				0			(265,500)	(005 500
Adds funding for increasing motorpool costs			687,331	687,331	1000	1000	687,331	687,331			(200,000)	(265,500
Adds funding for information technology costs			639,189	639,189			639,189	639,189		- Take the little in the littl		0
Adjusts base level funding for operating expenses			(550,203)	(550,203)								0
and capital assets			(330,203)	(550,205)			(550,203)	(550,203)				0
Reduces federal funding for shooting ranges grants			(1,650,000)	(1,650,000)			(1,650,000)	(1,650,000)	-			0
Reduces funding for other game and fish grants			(1,351,997)	(1,351,997)	-		(1,351,997)	(1,351,997)				0
Adds funding for land habitat and deer depredation			26,000	26,000			26,000	26,000				
Adjusts funding for the aquatic nuisance species			36,572	36,572			36,572	36,572				0
program	1 1		30,372	30,372			30,572	30,372				0
Total ongoing funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$3,385,193	\$3,385,193	0.00	\$0	\$0.004.470					
	0.00	Ψ 0	\$3,305,183	\$3,305,193	0.00	\$0	\$2,321,476	\$2,321,476	0.00	\$0	(\$1,063,717)	(\$1,063,717
One-Time Funding Items											0	
Adds funding from special funds information technology projects			\$380,000	\$380,000			\$380,000	\$380,000				\$0
		The state of the s										
Adds funding from special funds to repair the Baukol-Noonan dam			150,000	150,000			150,000	150,000				0
Adds funding for equipment			160,200	160,200			220,200	220,200			\$60,000	60,000
Adds funding for pondliners at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery			1,500,000	1,500,000			1,500,000	1,500,000			700,000	0
Adds funding for high-pressure pumps at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery			300,000	300,000			300,000	300,000				0
Adds funding for wildlife habitat and access on			E 000 000	F 000 000								
private lands			5,000,000	5,000,000			5,000,000	5,000,000				0
Total one-time funding changes	0.00	\$0	\$7,490,200	\$7,490,200	0.00	\$0	\$7,550,200	\$7,550,200	0.00	\$0	\$60,000	\$60,000
Total Changes to Base Level Funding	0.00	\$0	\$10,875,393	\$10,875,393	0.00	\$0	\$9,871,676	\$9,871,676	0.00	\$0	(\$1,003,717)	(\$1,003,717)
2025-27 Total Funding	170.00	\$0	\$115,602,907	\$115,602,907	170.00	\$0	\$114,599,190	\$114,599,190	0.00	\$0	(\$1,003,717)	(\$1,003,717)
Federal funds included in other funds			\$56,725,603	Territoria de la compania del la compania de la compania del la compania de la compania del la compania de		701	\$56,354,860	, , , ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	0.00	 	(\$370,743)	(ψ1,000,717
Total ongoing changes - Percentage of base level	0.0%	N/A	3.2%	3.2%	0.0%	N/A	2.2%	2.2%	N/A	N/A	ALIA	A//4
Total changes - Percentage of base level	0.0%	N/A	10.4%	10.4%	0.0%	N/A	9.4%	9.4%	N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	N/A N/A

Other Sections in Game and Fish Department - Budget No. 720

Section Description	Armstrong Budget	House Version	
New and vacant FTE pool line item		Section 3 provides the Game and Fish Department cannot spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE funding pool line item but may request the Office of Management and Budget to transfer funds to the salaries and wages line item.	
Grants, gifts, and donations		Section 4 includes in the grants, gifts, and donations line item \$100,000 received by the Game and Fish Department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation of department-owned or department-managed properties from oil or mining activities.	
Mid-term conservation agreements		Section 5 identifies that the \$2,777,778 included in the land habitat and deer depredation line item can be used for mid-term conservation agreements entered with private landowners for a maximum of 30 years with buyout options at 15, 20, and 25 years.	
Exemption - Line item transfer authority		Section 6 authorizes the Office of Management and Budget to transfer up to \$2 million of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and fish line items during the 2025-27 biennium. The department must report any transfers to the Legislative Council.	



North Dakota Legislative Council

Prepared for the Senate Appropriations Committee March 6, 2025

MAJOR RELATED LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT AS OF CROSSOVER

This memorandum provides information on major related legislation affecting the Game and Fish Department as of Crossover:

House Bill No. 1470 - This bill increases hunting, fishing, and gun dog activity fees.

Senate Bill No. 2216 - This bill requires a \$5 waterfowl habitat restoration stamp to be purchased in addition to the purchase of a resident small game license.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Government Operations Division

Red River Room, State Capitol

HB 1017 3/20/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption

9:52 a.m. Chairman Wanzek opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Wanzek, Vice-Chair Dwyer, Senator Burckhard, Senator Erbele, and Senator Sickler.

Discussion Topics:

- Temporary, seasonal staff positions recruitment tool
- Spending authority for Federal funds/grants
- Shooting range projects
- Land habitat and deer depredation fund
- Aquatic nuisance fund
- Replacement of firearms rotation
- One-time funds technology
- Garrison Fish Hatchery repairs and maintenance
- Wildlife habitat and private land access
- Appropriation authority
- PLOTS program
- Funding sources for this agency
- Online posting and registration apps and utilization
- Land acquisition

9:52 a.m. Levi Kinnischtzke, LC Senior Fiscal Analyst, supplied budget information and referenced previous testimony #39188, submitted on 3/6/2025 at 9:05 a.m..

9:56 a.m. Brian Hosik, Administrative Services, ND Game and Fish, testified in favor, responded to committee questions, and referenced previous testimony #39124 and #39125, submitted on 3/6/2025 at 9:11 a.m.

10:02 a.m. Levi continued the line-by-line budget review.

10:17 a.m. Jeb Williams, Director, ND Game and Fish Department, responded to a question.

10:19 a.m. Brian Hosik responded to a question.

10:26 a.m. Senator Dwyer moved to amend HB 1017 to add back in the 265,000 for temporary salaries removed by the House.

10:26 a.m. Senator Burckhard seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Υ
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Υ
Senator Michael Dwyer	Υ
Senator Robert Erbele	Υ
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Υ

Motion passed 5-0-0.

10:30 a.m. Jeb Williams responded to a question about land acquisition.

10:37 a.m. Senator moved a Do Pass as Amended for HB 1017.

10:37 a.m. Senator Burckhard seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Υ
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Υ
Senator Michael Dwyer	Υ
Senator Robert Erbele	Υ
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Υ

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Senator Wanzek will carry the bill.

10:39 a.m. Chairman Wanzek closed the hearing.

Carol Thompson, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee

Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1017 3/28/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption.

8:42 a.m. Vice-Chairman Erbele opened the hearing.

Members Present: Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

Members Absent: Chairman Bekkedahl.

Discussion Topics:

- Temporary Employees Fund
- Lone Tree Reservoir
- Special Fund Balance
- Unspent Appropriation Authority

8:43 a.m. Senator Wanzek introduced the bill and submitted testimony #44362.

8:46 a.m. Senator Wanzek moved amendment 25.0161.02001.

8:46 a.m. Senator Dwyer seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Α
Senator Robert Erbele	Υ
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Υ
Senator Sean Cleary	Υ
Senator Cole Conley	Υ
Senator Kyle Davison	Υ
Senator Dick Dever	Υ
Senator Michael Dwyer	Υ
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Υ
Senator Tim Mathern	Υ
Senator Scott Meyer	Υ
Senator Donald Schaible	Υ
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Υ
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Υ
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Υ
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Υ

Motion Passed 15-0-1.

Senate Appropriations Committee HB 1017 03/28/2025 Page 2

8:53 a.m. Senator Wanzek moved a Do Pass as Amended.

8:53 a.m. Senator Burckhard seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Α
Senator Robert Erbele	Υ
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Υ
Senator Sean Cleary	Υ
Senator Cole Conley	Υ
Senator Kyle Davison	Υ
Senator Dick Dever	Υ
Senator Michael Dwyer	Υ
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Υ
Senator Tim Mathern	Υ
Senator Scott Meyer	Υ
Senator Donald Schaible	Υ
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Υ
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Υ
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Υ
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Υ

Motion Passed 15-0-1.

Senator Wanzek will carry the bill.

8:53 a.m. Vice-Chairman Erbele closed the hearing.

Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk

HB 1017 reconsidered on 03/28/25 at 9 am.

25.0161.02001 Title. Fiscal No. 1 Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for Senate Appropriations - Government Operations Division Committee

March 20, 2025

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1017

Introduced by

Appropriations Committee

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish
- 2 department; and to provide an exemption.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated from other funds derived from special funds and federal funds, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

		Adjustments or	
	Base Level	Enhancements	<u>Appropriation</u>
Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2,052,121	\$39,060,219
Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2,317,621	\$39,325,719
New and vacant FTE pool	0	1,862,510	1,862,510
Operating expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296
Capital assets	5,400,661	1,622,479	7,023,140
Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979
Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	4,989,565	32,173,081
Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
Missouri River enforcement	313,869	9,912	323,781
	Salaries and wages New and vacant FTE pool Operating expenses Capital assets Grants - game and fish Land habitat and deer depredation Noxious weed control	Salaries and wages Salaries and	Base Level Enhancements Salaries and wages \$37,008,098 \$2,052,121 Salaries and wages \$37,008,098 \$2,317,621 New and vacant FTE pool 0 1,862,510 Operating expenses 17,788,258 2,016,038 Capital assets 5,400,661 1,622,479 Grants - game and fish 10,089,976 (3,001,997) Land habitat and deer depredation 27,183,516 4,989,565 Noxious weed control 725,000 0

Sixty-ninth	
Legislative Assemb	ly

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1	Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	17,110	695,080
2	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
3	Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	(48,117)	2,108,597
4	Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
5	Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
6	Aquatic nuisance species program	2,533,452	<u>352,055</u>	2,885,507
7	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$9,871,676	\$114,599,190
8	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$10,137,176	\$114,864,690
9	Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00

SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDING - EFFECT ON BASE BUDGET - REPORT TO

SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. The following amounts reflect the one-time funding items included in the appropriation in section 1 of this Act which are not included in the entity's base budget for the 2027-29 biennium and which the entity shall report to the appropriations committees of the seventieth legislative assembly regarding the use of this funding:

15	One-Time Funding Description	Other Funds
16	Information technology projects	\$380,000
17	Baukol-Noonan Dam repairs	150,000
18	Equipment	220,200
19	Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pondliners	1,500,000
20	Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery pumps	300,000
21	Wildlife habitat and access on private lands	5,000,000
22	Total other funds	\$7,550,200

SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT FTE POOL - LIMITATION - TRANSFER REQUEST. The

24 game and fish department may not spend funds appropriated in the new and vacant FTE pool

line item in section 1 of this Act, but may request the office of management and budget to

transfer funds from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the salaries and wages line item in

accordance with the guidelines and reporting provisions included in House Bill No. 1015, as

28 approved by the sixty-ninth legislative assembly.

SECTION 4. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS LINE ITEM. The grants, gifts, and donations line item in section 1 of this Act includes up to \$100,000 received by the game and

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly

- fish department for surface damage, easements, or reclamation on department-owned or
 managed properties as a result of mineral exploration and extraction activities.
- SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish department may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item in section 1 of this Act for national fish and wildlife foundation midterm conservation agreements with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum of thirty years. The department shall provide buyback provisions after the fifteenth, twentieth, and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a portion of acreage from the lease.
- SECTION 6. EXEMPTION LINE ITEM TRANSFERS. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04, the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants game and fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The game and fish department shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

House Bill No. 1017 - Game and Fish Department - Senate Action

	Base Budget	House Version	Senate Changes	Senate Version
Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$39,060,219	\$265,500	\$39,325,719
New and vacant FTE pool		1,862,510		1,862,510
Operating expenses	17,788,258	19,804,296		19,804,296
Capital assets	5,400,661	7,023,140		7,023,140
Grants - Game and fish	10,089,976	7,087,979		7,087,979
Land habitat and deer	27,183,516	32,173,081		32,173,081
depredation Noxious weed control	725.000	725.000		725,000
Missouri River enforcement	313.869	323.781		323,781
Grants - Gifts - Donations	677,970	695.080		695,080
Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	100,000	1	100,000
Lonetree Reservoir	2,156,714	2,108,597		2,108,597
Wildlife Services	500,000	500,000		500,000
Shooting sports grant program	250,000	250,000		250,000
Aquatic nuisance species	2,533,452	2,885,507		2,885,507
education				
Total all funds	\$104,727,514	\$114,599,190	\$265,500	\$114,864,690
Less estimated income	104,727,514	114,599,190	265,500	114,864,690
General fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FTE	170.00	170.00	0.00	170.00

Department 720 - Game and Fish Department - Detail of Senate Changes

Salaries and wages New and vacant FTE pool Operating expenses Capital assets Grants - Game and fish Land habitat and deer depredation Noxious weed control Missouri River enforcement Grants - Gifts - Donations Nongame wildlife conservation Lonetree Reservoir Wildlife Services Shooting sports grant program Aquatic nuisance species education	Adds Funding for Temporary Salaries ¹ \$265,500	Total Senate Changes \$265,500
Total all funds Less estimated income General fund	\$265,500 265,500 \$0	\$265,500 265,500 \$0
FTE	0.00	0.00

¹ Funding is added for temporary salaries, of which \$77,756 is from federal funds and \$187,744 is from the game and fish operating fund, to provide a total of \$2,221,582 for temporary salaries in the salaries and wages line item.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee

Harvest Room, State Capitol

HB 1017 3/28/2025

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish department; and to provide an exemption.

9:00 a.m. Vice-Chairman Erbele opened the hearing.

Members Present: Vice-Chairman Erbele, and Senators Burckhard, Cleary, Conley, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Magrum, Mathern, Meyer, Schaible, Sickler, Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek.

Members Absent: Chairman Bekkedahl.

Discussion Topics:

Committee Action

9:00 a.m. Senator Wanzek moved to reconsider their actions.

9:01 a.m Senator Dwyer seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Α
Senator Robert Erbele	Υ
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Υ
Senator Sean Cleary	Υ
Senator Cole Conley	Υ
Senator Kyle Davison	Υ
Senator Dick Dever	Υ
Senator Michael Dwyer	Υ
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Υ
Senator Tim Mathern	Υ
Senator Scott Meyer	Υ
Senator Donald Schaible	Υ
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Υ
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Υ
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Υ
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Υ

Motion Passed 15-0-1.

9:02 a.m. Senator Wanzek moved to amend by adding "and other line items with salaries and wages" in Section 3.

9:03 a.m. Senator Dwyer seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Α
Senator Robert Erbele	Υ
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Υ
Senator Sean Cleary	Υ
Senator Cole Conley	Υ
Senator Kyle Davison	Υ
Senator Dick Dever	Υ
Senator Michael Dwyer	Υ
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Υ
Senator Tim Mathern	Υ
Senator Scott Meyer	Υ
Senator Donald Schaible	Υ
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Υ
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Υ
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Υ
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Υ

Motion Passed 15-0-1.

9:04 a.m. Senator Wanzek moved a Do Pass as Amended.

9:04 a.m. Senator Dwyer seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Α
Senator Robert Erbele	Υ
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Υ
Senator Sean Cleary	Υ
Senator Cole Conley	Υ
Senator Kyle Davison	Υ
Senator Dick Dever	Υ
Senator Michael Dwyer	Υ
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Υ
Senator Tim Mathern	Υ
Senator Scott Meyer	Υ
Senator Donald Schaible	Υ
Senator Jonathan Sickler	Υ
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Υ
Senator Paul J. Thomas	Υ
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Υ

Motion Passed 15-0-1.

Senator Wanzek will carry the bill.

9:06 a.m. Vice-Chairman Erbele closed the hearing.

Senate Appropriations Committee HB 1017 03/28/2025 Page 3

Elizabeth Reiten, Committee Clerk

25.0161.02002 Title.03000 Fiscal No. 2 Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for Senator Wanzek

March 26, 2025

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST ENGROSSMENT

VG 1 of 3 3 27 25

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1017

Introduced by

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Appropriations Committee

- 1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the game and fish
- 2 department; and to provide an exemption.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION. The funds provided in this section, or so much of the funds as may be necessary, are appropriated from other funds derived from special funds and federal funds, to the game and fish department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the game and fish department, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, as follows:

9			Adjustments or	
10		Base Level	Enhancements	<u>Appropriation</u>
11	Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2,052,121	\$39,060,219
12	Salaries and wages	\$37,008,098	\$2,317,621	\$39,325,719
13	New and vacant FTE pool	0	1,862,510	1,862,510
14	Operating expenses	17,788,258	2,016,038	19,804,296
15	Capital assets	5,400,661	1,622,479	7,023,140
16	Grants - game and fish	10,089,976	(3,001,997)	7,087,979
17	Land habitat and deer depredation	27,183,516	4,989,565	32,173,081
18	Noxious weed control	725,000	0	725,000
19	Missouri River enforcement	313,869	9,912	323,781
20	Grants, gifts, and donations	677,970	17,110	695,080

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	Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly			2 of 3
1	Nongame wildlife conservation	100,000	0	100,000
2	Lonetree reservoir	2,156,714	(48,117)	2,108,597
3	Wildlife services	500,000	0	500,000
4	Shooting sports grant program	250,000	0	250,000
5	Aquatic nuisance species program	<u>2,533,452</u>	<u>352,055</u>	2,885,507
6	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$9,871,676	\$114,599,190
7	Total other funds	\$104,727,514	\$10,137,176	\$114,864,690
8	Full-time equivalent positions	170.00	0.00	170.00
9	SECTION 2. ONE-TIME FUNDIN	G - EFFECT ON B	ASE BUDGET - REP	ORT TO
10	SEVENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEM	IBLY. The following	amounts reflect the c	one-time funding
11	items included in the appropriation in	section 1 of this Ac	t which are not include	ed in the entity's
12	base budget for the 2027-29 biennium	n and which the ent	tity shall report to the a	appropriations
13	committees of the seventieth legislative	ve assembly regard	ling the use of this fun	ding:
14	One-Time Funding Description	<u>on</u>		Other Funds
15	Information technology projects			\$380,000
16	Baukol-Noonan dam repairs			150,000
17	Equipment			220,200
18	Garrison dam national fish hatchery p	ondliners		1,500,000
19	Garrison dam national fish hatchery p	umps		300,000
20	Wildlife habitat and access on private	lands		5,000,000
21	Total other funds			\$7,550,200
22	SECTION 3. NEW AND VACANT	FTE POOL - LIMI	TATION - TRANSFER	R REQUEST. The
23	game and fish department may not sp	end funds appropr	iated in the new and v	acant FTE pool
24	line item in section 1 of this Act, but m	ay request the offic	ce of management and	d budget to
25	transfer funds from the new and vacar	nt FTE pool line ite	m to the salaries and	wages line item
26	and other line items with salaries and	wages in accordan	ce with the guidelines	and reporting
27	provisions included in House Bill No. 1	1015, as approved	by the sixty-ninth legis	slative assembly.
28	SECTION 4. GRANTS, GIFTS, A	ND DONATIONS L	.INE ITEM. The grants	s, gifts, and
29	donations line item in section 1 of this	Act includes up to	\$100,000 received by	the game and
30	fish department for surface damage, e	easements, or recla	ımation on departmen	t-owned or
31	managed properties as a result of min	eral exploration an	d extraction activities.	

SECTION 5. MIDTERM CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS. The game and fish department
may spend up to \$2,777,778 from other funds in the land habitat and deer depredation line item
in section 1 of this Act for national fish and wildlife foundation midterm conservation agreements
with private landowners. The department shall limit the term of these agreements to a maximum
of thirty years. The department shall provide buyback provisions after the fifteenth, twentieth,
and twenty-fifth years of the agreement if the property owner desires to withdraw all or a portion
of acreage from the lease.
SECTION 6. EXEMPTION - LINE ITEM TRANSFERS. Notwithstanding section 54-16-04,
the director of the office of management and budget shall transfer up to \$2,000,000 of
appropriation authority between the operating expenses, capital assets, and grants - game and
fish line items in section 1 of this Act as requested by the game and fish department during the
biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The game and fish department
shall notify the legislative council of any transfers made pursuant to this section.

Module ID: s_stcomrep_50_009 Carrier: Wanzek Insert LC: 25.0161.02002 Title: 03000

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ENGROSSED HB 1017

Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.0161.02002)** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (15 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1017 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.