

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

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2021-23 legislative appropriation	164.00	\$0	\$92,368,134 ¹	\$92,368,134
2019-21 legislative appropriation	<u>165.00</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>85,303,632</u>	<u>85,303,632</u>
2021-23 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2019-21 appropriation	(1.00)	0	\$7,064,502	\$7,064,502

¹This amount includes \$2,786,500 of one-time funding. Excluding this amount, the agency's ongoing other funds appropriation is \$89,581,634.

Item Description

FTE positions - The 2021 Legislative Assembly authorized 164 FTE positions, a decrease of 1 FTE position from the 2019-21 biennium authorized level of 165 FTE positions. The Legislative Assembly transferred 1 FTE position to the Information Technology Department for IT unification.

Aquatic nuisance species program - The Legislative Assembly, in Senate Bill No. 2293 (2019), established a surcharge on fishing and hunting licenses and increased the fee on motorboat licenses to provide funding for an aquatic nuisance species program fund. The 2021 Legislative Assembly appropriated \$1,509,009 from the aquatic nuisance species program fund to the Game and Fish Department, for the purpose of administering aquatic nuisance species education, inspection, and monitoring programs for the 2021-23 biennium.

Shooting sports grant program - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$250,000, of which \$245,000 is from Pittman-Robertson federal funds deposited in the game and fish fund and \$5,000 is from the game and fish fund, for the shooting sports grant program during the 2021-23 biennium.

Funding for Parks and Recreation Department - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$122,000 from the game and fish fund for a grant to the Parks and Recreation Department for state park boat ramp maintenance and improvements.

Private land open to sportsmen (PLOTS) program - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$19.98 million for land habitat and deer depredation funding for the 2021-23 biennium, of which \$13.2 million is estimated to be used for landowner payments.

Status/Result

The FTE position was transferred to the Information Technology Department on July 1, 2021.

Through April 2022, \$630,053 has been expended for use in aquatic nuisance species education, inspection, and monitoring programs under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 20.1-17. Through April 2022, the aquatic nuisance species fund has received deposits of \$340,279 collected from a surcharge on fishing and hunting licenses and increased fees on motorboat licenses.

Through April 2022, the Game and Fish Department has committed \$247,603, of which \$242,603 is for various shooting organizations, and \$5,000 is for various new clay target school startup programs.

These funds are granted to the Parks and Recreation Department on a reimbursement basis and as of April 30, 2022, no reimbursements have been requested.

The following table summarizes the total annual PLOTS program acreage available for public access:

Year	Acres
2003	374,245
2004	745,979
2005	853,954
2006	978,735
2007	1,027,088
2008	1,041,611
2009	1,010,384

2010	1,007,999
2011	969,834
2012	838,548
2013	759,383
2014	734,700
2015	716,535
2016	726,580
2017	737,640
2018	764,688
2019	790,901
2020	800,640
2021	799,324

Radio equipment replacement - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$801,500 of one-time funding from the game and fish fund for replacement of radio equipment.

The department has purchased all of the new radios and through April 2022, installation of the radios in vehicles and boats is approximately 50 percent complete. The funding provided was sufficient.