

**Game and Fish Department
Budget 720
2015 Senate Bill No. 2017**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2015-17 legislative appropriation (original)	163.00	\$0	\$77,231,739	\$77,231,739
2013-15 legislative appropriation	<u>158.00</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>67,553,639</u>	<u>67,553,639</u>
2015-17 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2013-15 appropriation	5.00	\$0	\$9,678,100	\$9,678,100
2015-17 general fund budget allotment (4.05 percent)	<u>0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Adjusted 2015-17 appropriation after budget allotment	163.00	\$0	\$77,231,739	\$77,231,739

NOTE: The 2015-17 biennium legislative appropriations do not reflect a transfer of other funds appropriation authority of \$25,000 from the state agency energy impact funding pool to the Game and Fish Department. See the **State agency energy impact funding pool** section below for additional information.

Item Description

General fund budget allotment - In February 2016 the Governor ordered a 4.05 percent general fund budget allotment for state agencies.

FTE changes - The 2015-17 biennium appropriation includes funding for 163 FTE positions, an increase of 5 FTE positions from the 2013-15 biennium authorized level of 158 FTE positions. The new FTE positions include the following--2 administrative assistant I FTE positions, 1 administrative officer II FTE position, 1 licensing specialist II FTE position, and 1 biologist I FTE position.

Funding for Wildlife Services - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$384,400 from the game and fish fund to be transferred to the Agriculture Commissioner for the Wildlife Services program.

Funding for Parks and Recreation Department - The 2015-17 biennium appropriation includes \$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.

Capital assets, payments, and projects - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$5,712,996 from other funds for the following capital assets, payments, and projects for the 2015-17 biennium:

Status/Result

The budget allotment did not reduce the appropriation authority for the Game and Fish Department because the department did not receive an appropriation from the general fund.

The Game and Fish Department filled the 2 administrative assistant I FTE positions and the biologist I FTE position in July 2015, the licensing specialist II FTE position in August 2015, and the administrative officer II FTE position in December 2015.

The Game and Fish Department has transferred \$384,400 to the Agriculture Commissioner for Wildlife Services program.

The Game and Fish Department has transferred approximately \$77,760 of game and fish operating funds for the period July 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015, to the Parks and Recreation Department. The Game and Fish Department anticipates providing the remainder of grant funding by the end of the 2015-17 biennium.

The Game and Fish Department anticipates spending the capital assets, payments, and projects funding by the end of the 2015-17 biennium.

Project	Other Funds
Extraordinary repairs	\$1,125,000
Wildlife management area improvements	100,000
Fishing area projects	985,000
Shooting range improvements	400,000
Lonetree wildlife management area improvements	50,000
Land acquisition	800,000
Payment in lieu of taxes	1,000,000
Enforcement division equipment	209,997
Fisheries equipment	277,002
Lonetree wildlife management area equipment	65,000
Wildlife Division equipment	300,997
Devils Lake storage building	200,000
State Fair shooting skills building	200,000
Total	\$5,712,996

Private land open to sportsman (PLOTS) program - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$16,922,681 from the game and fish fund for land habitat and deer depredation funding for the 2015-17 biennium.

Governor's proclamation - The Legislative Assembly authorized the Governor to make available a license to hunt elk using a raffle to benefit Annie's House at Bottineau Winter Park. The authorization has an expiration date of June 30, 2017.

State agency energy impact funding pool - The Legislative Assembly appropriated \$2,400,000 from the general fund and \$5,565,000 from other funds to the Office of Management and Budget for a state agency energy development impact funding pool. Section 5 of 2015 Senate Bill No. 2015 allows a state agency to submit an application to the Office of Management and Budget to receive a transfer of funds from the pool for employee housing rental assistance and for temporary salary increases for employees affected by energy development. The Office of Management and Budget is to review any submitted applications and provide a recommendation to the Emergency Commission for final approval or rejection.

The following table summarizes the total annual PLOTS 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

The Game and Fish Department anticipates making available one elk license for Annie's House at Bottineau Winter Park to use in a raffle for the calendar year 2016 hunting season.

Distributions from the pool have been made for the period beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016. A total of \$25,000 from the general fund has been transferred from the pool to the Game and Fish Department. Through April 2016 no additional distributions have been made from the funding pool.