

The Legislative Fiscal Division Presents an Agency Profile of:

The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

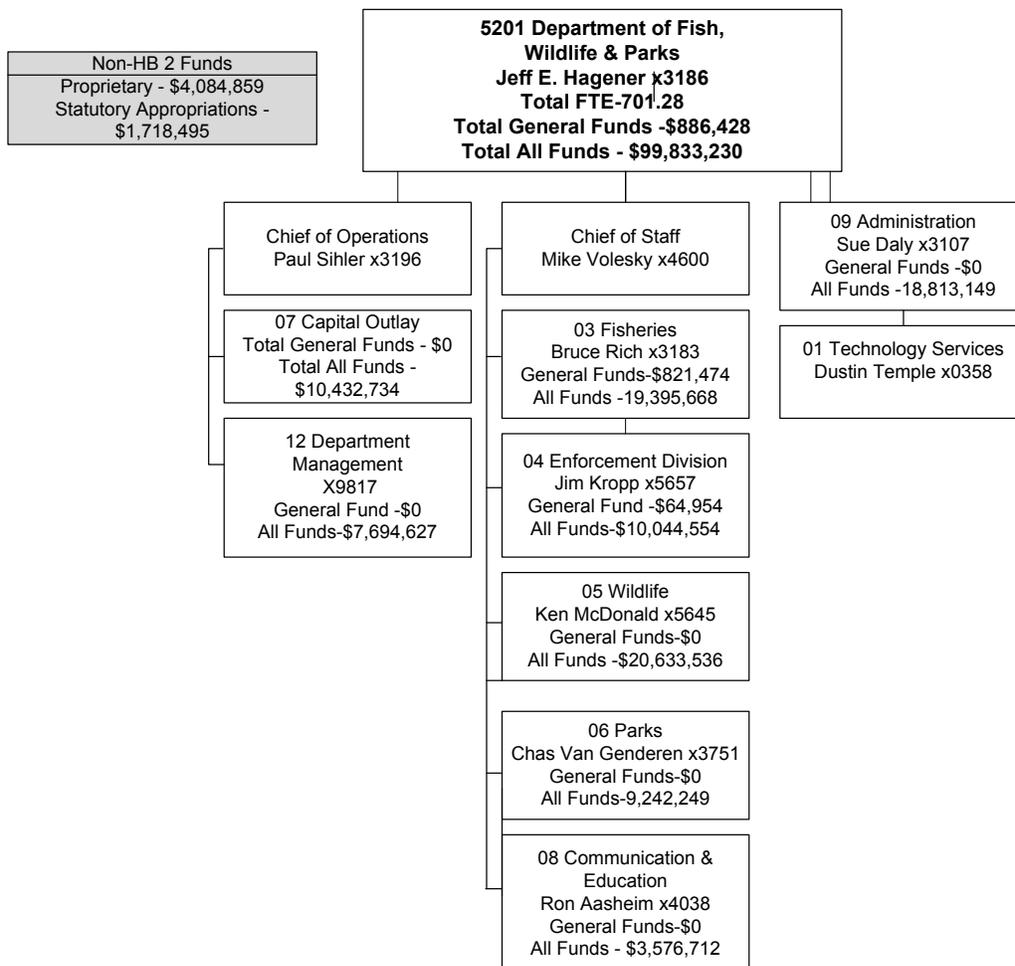
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Updated October 2014

Definition of Terms

Agency Description

Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is responsible for the management of Montana's fish, wildlife and recreational resources, development of recreational opportunities, and operation of the state park system. A five-member Governor-appointed commission provides direction on specific issues provided in statute. This guidance includes land usage, preservation and management of wildlife, establishment of license and permit fees, and the creation of hunting and fishing seasons.



How Services are Provided

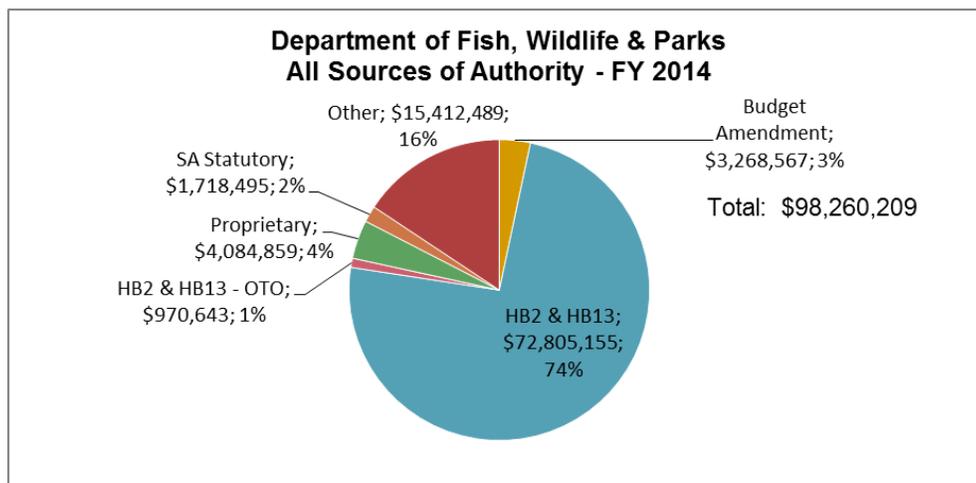
The department consists of four divisions with the following functions:

- The **Fisheries Division** is for preserving and perpetuating aquatic species and their ecosystems and for meeting public demand for fishing opportunities and aquatic wildlife stewardship.
- The **Department Management** provides oversight of the Enforcement, Wildlife, Fisheries, Communication and Education, and Parks Divisions, and the seven regional offices that are responsible for program implementation. The program also includes a strategic planning section to support division-wide planning needs, the Design and Construction Bureau which oversees the department's capital construction, and the Lands unit.
- The **Communication and Education Division** is the information and education branch of the department. The division coordinates the department's information and education programs as well as the department's planning efforts.

The **Administration Division** manages the administrative branch of the department. This branch is responsible for providing consistent, quality direction to the divisions and regions throughout the agency. Unlike the other divisions, they are a centralized function providing services for:

- Accounting
- Technology Services
- Fiscal management and budget preparation
- Purchasing and property management
- Federal aid and Internal Controls
- Sale of hunting, fishing, and other recreational licenses
- Biological Databases and GIS Applications

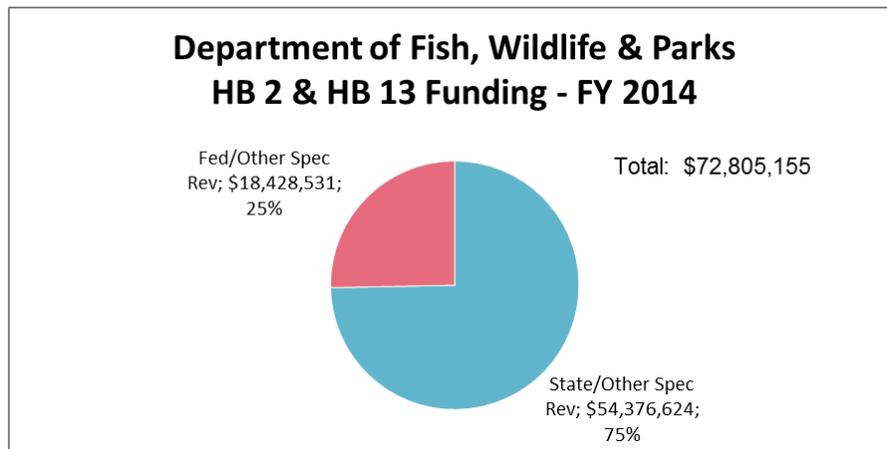
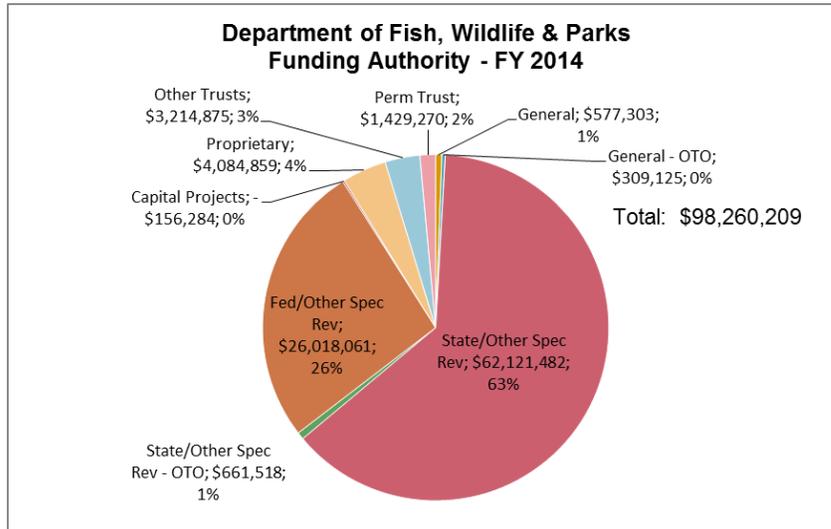
Sources of Spending Authority



The above chart shows the sources of authority for the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Other legislative appropriations (sometimes called cat and dog bills) are included in the above categories as appropriate. For a more detailed description of accounting terminology, please refer to the definition of terms.

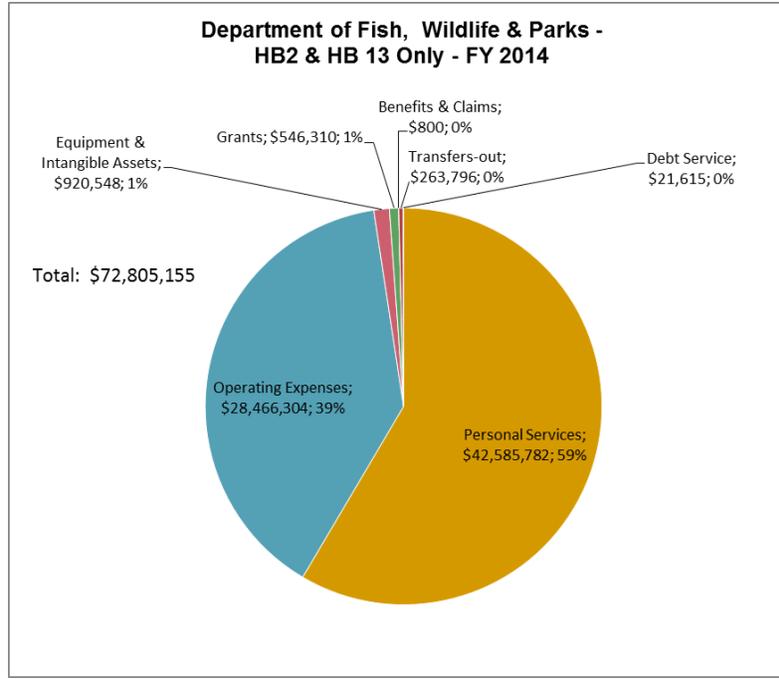
Funding

The following charts show the agency's HB 2 funding authority by fund type and all sources of its total funding authority.



Expenditures

This chart explains how the HB 2 authority is spent.



How the 2015 Legislature Can Effect Change

In order to change expenditure levels and/or agency activity, the legislature must address one or more of the following basic elements that drive costs.

Financial Management

Seventy percent of the department's funding comes from state special revenue. This revenue is derived from the sale of sportsman licenses, permits, and other fees, such as park entrance fees, campsite rental and the like. Department expenditures and activities can be affected through:

- Selecting the services and activities to be subject to fees
- Determining the amount to charge for licenses, permits, and fees
- Formation of the types and combination of licenses to be made available
- Designating fees, or portions of fees, for a particular use or project
- Establishing guidelines for charging fees or imposing fines

Species Management

The department is charged with protection, preservation, and management of all fish and game, fur-bearing animals, waterfowl, and nongame birds. The costs of this function can be affected by:

- Determining which species will require protection
- Guiding the degree of protection to be offered
- Evaluating the types of protection options
- The ability to access federal funding
- Urban sprawl or land development patterns

Access

The department may implement voluntary programs to expand hunting access on private lands. Currently, the department has achieved access to 6.4 million acres of enrolled land, and 336 fishing access sites. The cost of this program can be controlled by:

- Determining the number of acres and fishing access sites to be made available
- Establishing the number of landowners for participation
- Regulating the number of hunter days per site
- Defining the degree of department enforcement available on this acreage

Park Management

The diversity of Montana's 55 parks provide an abundance of recreational opportunities. The costs to operate the parks can be controlled through:

- Setting the number of parks under department management
- Establishing land size requirements for parks
- Determining the seasonal length of time the parks are open
- Authorizing the amount and scope of services available at the parks
- Guiding the scheduling and defining of maintenance activities

Enforcement

The enforcement of laws and rules pertaining to department activities is a main function of the department.

The ability to effect change in this area can be done by:

- Defining the scope of enforcement activities
- Mandating the number of wardens in the enforcement workforce
- Establishing enforcement priorities
- The authorization and subsequent disposition of penalties and fines

Land Management

The department, through multiple divisions, holds fee title to land and conservation easements for many purposes. Land transactions, for the most part, are approved by the Board of Land Commissioners. The amount and type of land procured can be influenced by:

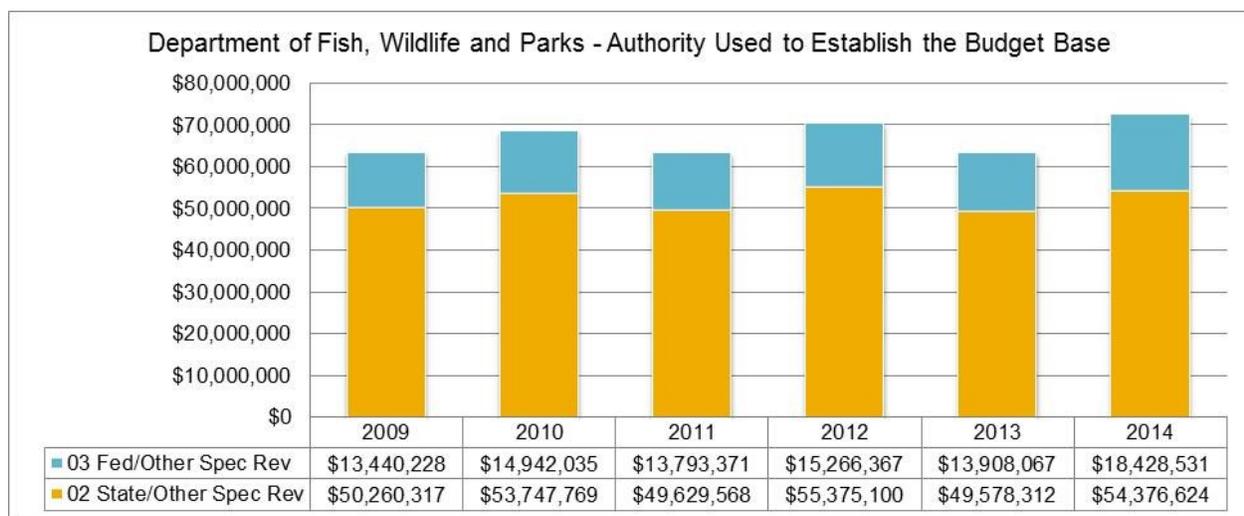
- Clarifying the use of conservation easements as a land management tool
- Establishing guidelines to ensure maximum public access to lands purchased or otherwise acquired with public funds
- Requiring development plans prior to land acquisitions

Major Cost Drivers

<i>Element</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>Significance of Data</i>
Number of license vendors in Montana	Average of 325/year	Average of 325/year	Revenue, workload
# of certified hunter education students	10,173	11,405	Safety
Amount of license commission paid to vendors	\$613,552	\$601,521	Fees paid to vendors
Number of licensed big game hunters	194,832	194,214	Revenue for programs
Tip Montana Calls	2,271	2,424	Workload, public participation

Funding/Expenditure History, Authority Used to Establish the Budget Base

The table shows the historical changes in the department's base budget authority.



Major Legislative Changes in the Last Ten Years

2013 Session HB 609 Provided for an interim study of hunting and fishing licensing to determine the long-term funding of the department and its complexity of its hunting and fishing license structure.

2013 Session HB 401 revised certain hunting license application fees and allows per species collection of the preference system application fee

2013 Session HB 586 appropriated \$640,000 general fund over the biennium for prevention of aquatic invasive species. HB2 provided \$600,000 over the biennium to the department for continuing aquatic invasive species detection and containment activities.

2013 Session SB 200 revised laws related to wolf management. It authorized multiple licenses to hunt and trap wolves and landowners to kill wolves on private property without a hunting license.

2011 Session HB 370 increased the optional motor vehicle registration fee from \$4 to \$6 for operations and maintenance at state parks and Virginia and Nevada Cities.

2011 Session HB 621 revised the Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Act in which FWP is a participating agency, provided an appropriation, and authorized the establishment of quarantine measures through rule-making, including mandatory inspections of interior portions of boats that contain water.

2007 Session SB 205 eliminated vacancy savings application to game wardens.

2007 Session SB 243 provided free sportsman licenses to certain military personnel.

2005 Session SB 461 directed the department to collar one wolf in packs that are near livestock or population centers for the purpose of tracking and directs that only federal dollars be expended. The legislature appropriated \$25,000 per year for this purpose.

For additional information, please contact the agency at:

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