

Agency Budget Comparison

The following table summarizes the total proposed budget by year, type of expenditure, and source of funding.

Agency Budget Comparison								
Budget Item	Base Fiscal 2014	Approp. Fiscal 2015	Budget Fiscal 2016	Budget Fiscal 2017	Biennium Fiscal 14-15	Biennium Fiscal 16-17	Biennium Change	Biennium % Change
FTE	701.28	701.28	694.62	694.08	701.28	694.08	(7.20)	(1.03)%
Personal Services	42,585,794	46,814,483	48,906,797	48,878,756	89,400,277	97,785,553	8,385,276	9.38 %
Operating Expenses	28,466,697	29,726,375	35,071,507	35,055,773	58,193,072	70,127,280	11,934,208	20.51 %
Equipment & Intangible Assets	920,550	946,038	794,210	788,710	1,866,588	1,582,920	(283,668)	(15.20)%
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00 %
Grants	546,310	952,466	593,910	593,910	1,498,776	1,187,820	(310,956)	(20.75)%
Benefits & Claims	800	6,225	800	800	7,025	1,600	(5,425)	(77.22)%
Transfers	263,797	338,408	363,464	363,464	602,205	726,928	124,723	20.71 %
Debt Service	21,615	21,427	16,088	12,427	43,042	28,515	(14,527)	(33.75)%
Total Costs	\$72,805,563	\$78,805,422	\$85,746,776	\$85,693,840	\$151,610,985	\$171,440,616	\$19,829,631	13.08 %
General Fund	0	309,125	1,628,431	1,532,716	309,125	3,161,147	2,852,022	922.61 %
State/Other Special Rev. Funds	54,376,925	58,434,134	61,089,624	61,128,258	112,811,059	122,217,882	9,406,823	8.34 %
Federal Spec. Rev. Funds	18,428,638	20,062,163	23,028,721	23,032,866	38,490,801	46,061,587	7,570,786	19.67 %
Total Funds	\$72,805,563	\$78,805,422	\$85,746,776	\$85,693,840	\$151,610,985	\$171,440,616	\$19,829,631	13.08 %

Mission Statement

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks, and recreational resources of Montana while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations.

Agency Highlights

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Major Budget Highlights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The executive requests a biennial budget increase of 13.1% or \$19.8 million primarily related to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 20% increase, \$11.9 million for operations ◦ 9.38% increase; \$8.5 million for personal services ◦ \$3.2 million in general fund for aquatic invasive species and sage grouse management
Legislative Action Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 140 seeks to raise fees of certain hunting and fishing licenses. The success of this legislation may impact the department's budget

Agency Discussion

General License Funds

The general license account (GLA) is the major funding source for the department for this account, the depository for hunting, fishing, and conservation fees charged to residents and non residents. These fees are mostly mandated in state

law. Traditionally, FWP seeks a fee increase when the projected fund balance approaches \$6.0 million. This is the minimal amount needed to buffer cash flow. The increases have been approved by the legislature about once every ten years. In early years, revenues will exceed expenditures while in the later years the reverse is true, leading to a critical balance point.

As a result of the 2013 legislative session, the Environmental Quality Council was charged with reviewing the fee structure during the 2015 interim. A collaborative group of stakeholders worked together to create a recommendation. This recommendation is contained in HB 140. The status of this bill will need to be considered at each step of the budget process. If the bill does not pass, reductions to spending may need to occur.

At this point, the executive is requesting to spend general license dollars in the following manner.

General License Fund #02409 (\$ Millions)							
General License Acct Summary	Actual FY 2011	Actual FY 2012	Actual FY 2013	Actual FY 2014	Estimated FY 2015	Requested FY 2016	Requested FY 2017
Beginning Fund Balances:	\$34.9	\$33.2	\$29.5	\$30.4	\$27.4	\$21.0	\$15.9
Revenue	38.5	39.6	40.7	39.0	39.7	40.2	40.6
Expenditures:							
HB2 Operations	(36.9)	(40.4)	(37.6)	(40.7)	(43.3)	(46.2)	(47.1)
HB5 Capital	(1.9)	(2.0)	(1.2)	(1.1)	(4.5)	(0.8)	(0.8)
Misc Items*	(1.3)	(1.0)	(0.9)	(0.1)	1.6	1.6	1.6
Total Expenditures	(40.2)	(43.4)	(39.8)	(41.9)	(46.2)	(45.3)	(46.2)
Ending Fund Balances	\$33.2	\$29.5	\$30.4	\$27.4	\$21.0	\$15.9	\$10.3

Total expenditures for the 2017 biennia exceed the revenues by \$10.7 million, requiring the use of the fund balance. To remain structurally balanced without a fee increase, the legislature would need to reduce the biennial budget by \$10.7 million.

General Fund

The 2015 Legislature provided a one-time appropriation of general fund for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) work. This budget request includes \$3.1 million in general fund to support AIS activities (\$1.9 million) and sage grouse management (\$1.2 million). Both proposals are on-going and would add general fund to the agency's base budget. This agency has not had general fund in the base budget for at least eight years.

LFD COMMENT	The legislature may wish to consider restricting the above mentioned requests as well as coordinate the requests with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (AIS and sage grouse) and the Department of Agriculture (AIS). Each project should have documented goals and objectives as well as memos of understanding with the other parties. This insures all parties know their roles and increases the chance of project success.
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Agency Personal Services

The following is a summary of personal services issues provided by the department.

- Pay Philosophy - FWP attempts to keep employees at 90% of the 2012 market analysis and does not negotiate for new hires

- Recruitment and Retention - According to the department, turnover is related more to job location than occupation. The exception is the difficulty to hire biologists within current pay scales. While pay plan rules allow for flexibility to address location and/or position challenges, the department has not used them.
- Retirements - Approximately 30% of department staff are retirement eligible. FWP uses staff mentoring, cross-training, and leadership develop to a pool of eligible employees.

Comparison of FY 2015 Legislative Base to FY 2015 Appropriation

The following table highlights the differences between the FY 2015 appropriations as shown in the main table and the FY 2015 legislative appropriations used for purposes of the budget base, by program.

The FY 2015 legislative budget is slightly higher than the 2015 appropriation due to a reversion of \$69,432 in coordination with the agency reorganization. However, the authority granted by the legislature was redistributed across the agency as part of a reorganization that consolidated management and other administrative activities. The Information Technology Division was eliminated and moved into the Administration Program and the managerial staff of each division was moved into the Management Division. The executive implementation column reflects the reorganization of the department at the end of the 2013 Legislative Session, the 2015 Legislative appropriation does not.

Comparison of FY 2014 Actuals to FY 2015 Appropriations

The department expended 93.5% of available authority in FY 2014. A portion of the FY 2014 remaining authority was continued into FY 2015 for the purpose of biennial appropriations. FY 2014 expenditures represents 92.4% of actual FY 2015 appropriations.

FY 2015 Appropriation Transactions - Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks								
Program	Legislative Approps	Leg App OTO	Bien Approp	House Adj	Op Plan	Program Transfers	Reorgs	Total Exec Implement
01 INFO	\$4,508,333					\$60,170	(\$4,568,503)	-
Pers Svcs	2,443,745						(2,443,745)	-
Op Exp	2,011,477					60,170	(2,071,647)	-
Equip/As	53,111						(53,111)	-
03 FISH	18,108,948	\$319,125		-	-	(250)	(661,186)	17,766,637
Pers Svcs	11,611,886	124,949		-	248,420		(593,457)	11,391,798
Op Exp	5,981,363	194,176		12,771	(244,253)	(250)	(9,000)	5,934,807
Equip/As	436,532			-				436,532
Tranfers	72,896			(6,500)	(4,167)		(58,729)	3,500
Dbt Svc	6,271			(6,271)				-
04 ENFRC	10,337,121			-			197,916	10,535,037
Pers Svcs	8,212,765			-			163,076	8,375,841
Op Exp	1,963,791			(6,500)			34,840	1,992,131
Equip/As	116,256			-				116,256
Grants	15,200			-				15,200
Tranfers	29,109			6,500				35,609
05 WLDLF	19,485,909	11,500		-	-	132,384	(77,379)	19,552,414
Pers Svcs	8,751,478			-	396,629	132,384	(71,442)	9,209,049
Op Exp	10,517,460	11,500		-	(396,629)		(5,937)	10,126,394
Equip/As	47,867			-				47,867
Grants	162,879			-				162,879
Benefits	6,225			-				6,225
06 PARKS	8,254,219	300,000	(\$210,000)	-	-	(750)	(444,824)	7,898,645
Pers Svcs	5,223,781			-	69,183		(329,984)	4,962,980
Op Exp	2,330,585	100,000		-	(69,183)	(750)	(114,840)	2,245,812
Equip/As	262,248	200,000	(210,000)	-				252,248
Grants	437,605			-				437,605
08 C & ED	3,824,320					(2,000)	(59,214)	3,763,106
Pers Svcs	2,078,658					-	(55,714)	2,022,944
Op Exp	1,408,880					(2,000)	(3,500)	1,403,380
Grants	336,782							336,782
09 ADMIN	9,641,091					(14,840)	2,553,493	12,179,744
Pers Svcs	4,487,989					-	34,830	5,561,210
Op Exp	4,975,683				(4,949)	(49,670)	1,532,069	6,453,133
Equip/As	12,640						53,111	65,751
Tranfers	164,779				4,949		(70,078)	99,650
12 MGMT	4,224,856					(174,714)	2,990,355	7,040,497
Pers Svcs	3,165,000			2,870		(167,214)	2,292,875	5,293,531
Op Exp	940,203			(13,190)		(7,500)	638,015	1,557,528
Equip/As	27,384			-				27,384
Tranfers	70,842			10,320			59,465	140,627
Dbt Svc	21,427							21,427
Agency Total	\$78,384,797	630,625	(210,000)	-	-	-	(\$69,342)	78,736,080

Funding

The following table shows proposed agency funding by source of authority as proposed. Funding for each program is discussed in detail in the individual program narratives that follow.

Total Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Funding by Source of Authority 2017 Biennium Budget - Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks						
Funds	HB2	Non-Budgeted Proprietary	Statutory Appropriation	Total All Sources	% Total All Funds	
General Fund	3,161,147	0	0	3,161,147	1.72 %	
State Special Total	122,217,882	0	3,312,297	125,530,179	68.50 %	
Federal Special Total	46,061,587	0	346,738	46,408,325	25.32 %	
Proprietary Total	0	8,162,944	0	8,162,944	4.45 %	
Other Total	0	0	0	0	0.00 %	
Total All Funds	\$171,440,616	\$8,162,944	\$3,659,035	\$183,262,595		
Percent - Total All Sources	93.55 %	4.45 %	2.00 %			

FWP is predominately funded by state special revenue sources derived from fees for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities, the largest is the general license account. Federal sources are predominately derived from federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment, grants for endangered species state wildlife grants.

Budget Summary by Category

The following summarizes the total budget utilizing the FY 2015 Legislative base, present law adjustments, and new proposals.

Budget Item	-----General Fund-----				-----Total Funds-----			
	Leg. Budget Fiscal 2016	Leg. Budget Fiscal 2017	Leg. Biennium Fiscal 16-17	Percent of Budget	Leg. Budget Fiscal 2016	Leg. Budget Fiscal 2017	Leg. Biennium Fiscal 16-17	Percent of Budget
2015 Budget	0	0	0	0.00 %	73,876,464	73,876,464	147,752,928	86.18 %
PL Adjustments	974,000	974,000	1,948,000	61.62 %	7,759,839	7,807,631	15,567,470	9.08 %
New Proposals	654,431	558,716	1,213,147	38.38 %	4,110,473	4,009,745	8,120,218	4.74 %
Total Budget	\$1,628,431	\$1,532,716	\$3,161,147		\$85,746,776	\$85,693,840	\$171,440,616	