

# THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS

An Agency Profile Prepared by the  
Legislative Fiscal Division

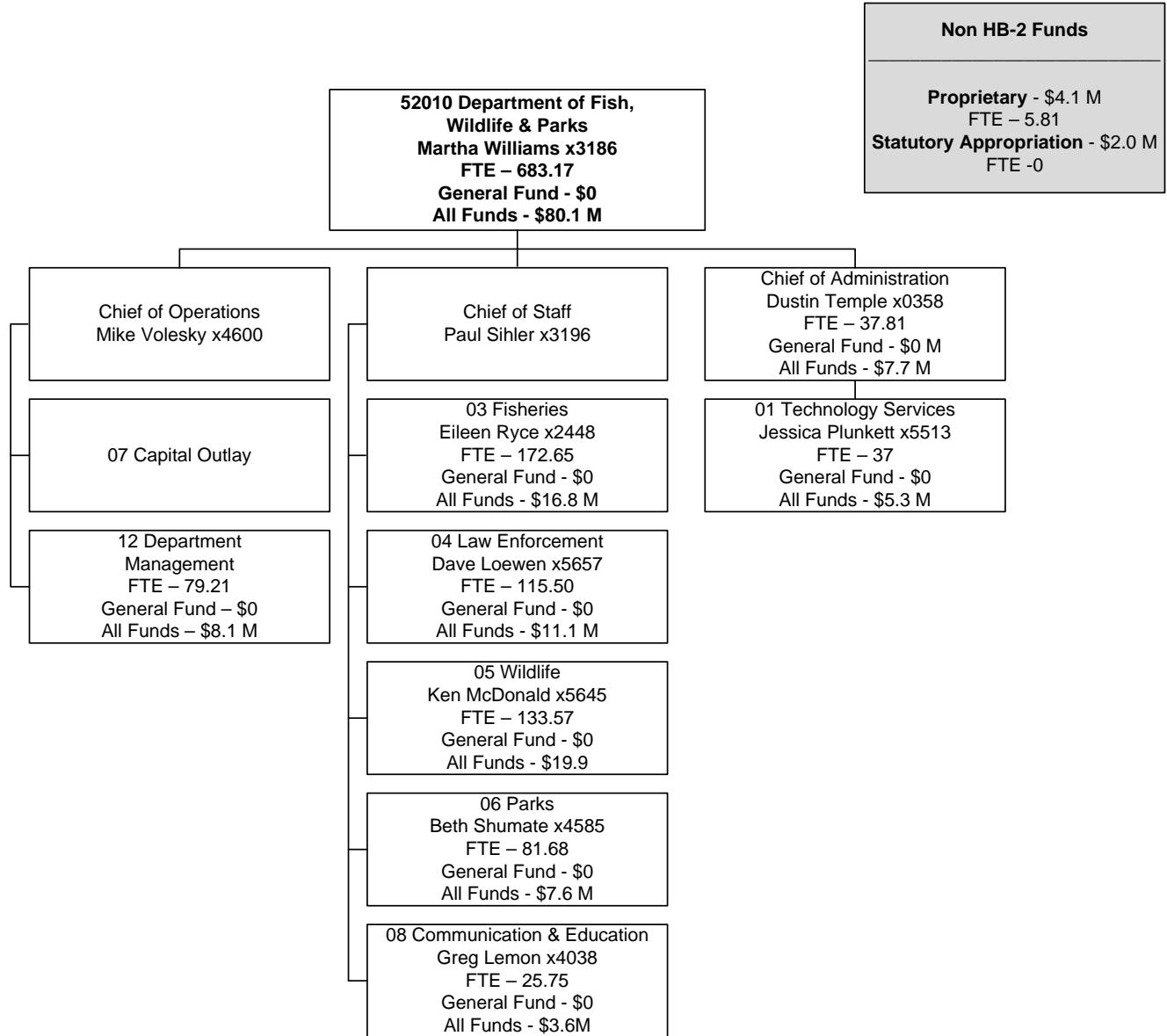
November 2018



# INTRODUCTION

The Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) manages Montana’s fish, wildlife, and recreational resources. Two, five-member, Governor-appointed commissions provide direction on issues related to land usage, preservation and management of resources, and establishment of licenses and fees.

Below is an organizational chart of the branch, including full-time equivalent (FTE) numbers and the HB 2 base general fund appropriations and the total of all funds. Unless otherwise noted, all phone extensions are preceded by (406) 444.

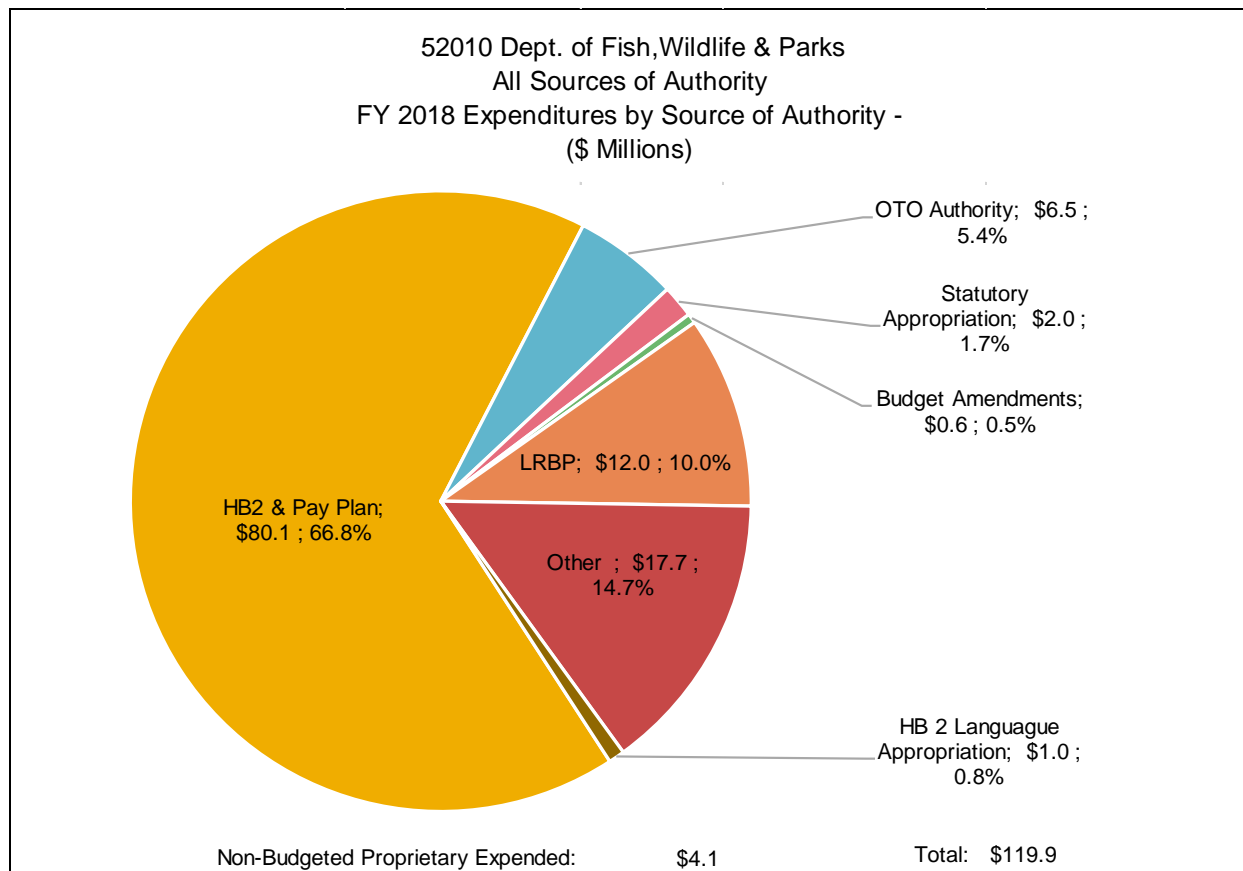


## HOW SERVICES ARE PROVIDED

Seven divisions form FWP and perform the following functions:

- The Fisheries Division preserves aquatic species to meet fishing and stewardship needs
- The Enforcement Division deploys 100 wardens to educate and obtain the cooperation of Montanans and out of state visitors in assuring compliance with Montana state laws, department regulations, and federal, tribal, and international laws
- The Wildlife Division preserves wildlife species to meet hunting and stewardship needs
- The Parks Division preserves the state's natural heritage and promotes recreational opportunities and manages 54 state parks.
- The Communication and Education Division coordinates the department's information and outreach programs
- The Administration Division provides administrative support services to the entire department
- The Department Management Division provides managerial and policy support to the entire department

## SOURCES OF SPENDING AUTHORITY



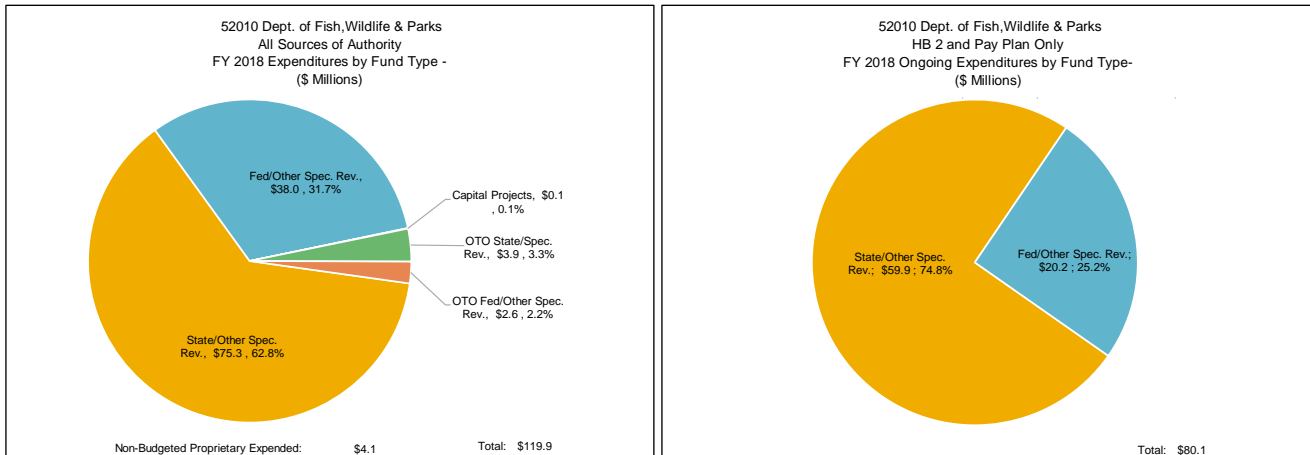
The above chart shows the expenditures by sources of authority for FWP in FY 2018.

Most of the agency expenditure is appropriated by the legislature through HB 2. In addition to HB 2, the agency expends state and federal revenue as detailed below. The agency does not receive any general fund appropriation.

- **One-Time-Only (OTO)** authority is appropriated through HB 2 from state special revenue or federal sources. Appropriations designated OTO are not considered ongoing expenses, and are not included in the agency base budget. Of the \$6.5 million in OTO appropriations, \$5.9 were for preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into the state watershed. The remaining OTO appropriations are for drought and wildlife management
- **Statutory appropriations** do not require reauthorization by the legislature. Revenue statutorily appropriated to the agency include Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and a portion of the accommodation tax
- **Long Range Building Plan (LRBP)** expenditures are used for infrastructure. FWP is responsible for many parks, land, and facilities for which the agency has long range plans for those assets
- **The budget amendment** process allows the agency to increase federal appropriation to take advantage of federal programs that fund activities related to the mission of FWP not anticipated during the regular legislative session

- **HB 2 Language** included \$1.0 million in from the state parks miscellaneous state special revenue account for maintenance and repair work on Virginia and Nevada Cities
- **Other** expenditures are from continuing appropriations for the long-range building plan

## FUNDING

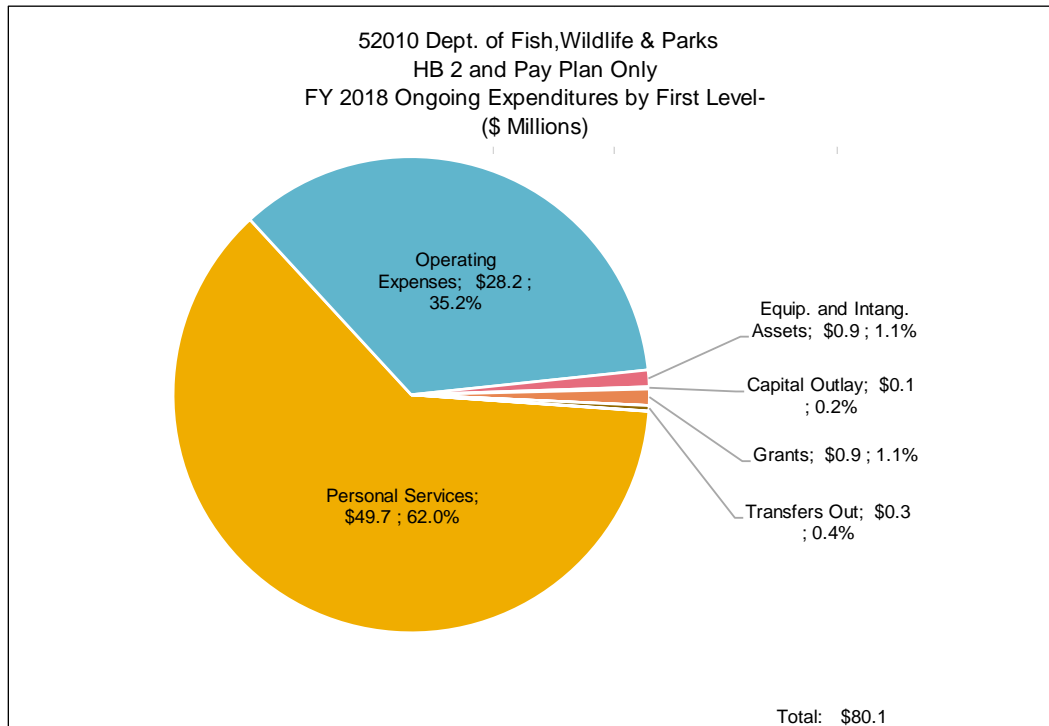


The chart on the left shows the agency's actual expenditures by fund type for all sources of authority. The chart on the right shows the agency's HB 2 and pay plan expenditures by fund type.

- The agency receives no general fund appropriation
- \$75.3 million or 62.8% of the total agency expenditures are made from 53 state special revenue funds. Four funds account for 85.6% of total state special revenue expenditures
  - \$44.6 million – The general license account is funded primarily through the sale of fishing and hunting licenses. The funds are used to the benefit of hunters and anglers
  - \$7.0 million – The hunting access fund is funded through a portion of revenue generated from hunting licenses and tags. The revenue is used to support hunting access programs
  - \$6.6 million – Habitat Montana program which is funded through a portion of revenue generated from hunting licenses and tags. The funds are used for the acquisition, lease, or easement of wildlife habitat
  - \$6.2 million – State Parks Miscellaneous fund which is funded through park entry fees, camping fees, cabin site rentals and other miscellaneous fees. The funds are used to support the general operations of the state park system
- Federal funds generated from a federal tax on firearms, ammunition, and fishing equipment, (Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson) account for 48.6% of the agency federal expenditures. Other federal expenditures are supported through revenue from the Parks Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other miscellaneous federal sources

## EXPENDITURES

The chart below shows how the HB 2 authority was spent.



Personal services and operating expenses account for 97.2% of all expenditures. These expenditures support 683 full time positions and the associated operating cost.

## HOW THE 2017 LEGISLATURE CAN EFFECT CHANGE

To change FWP expenditure levels and/or activity, the legislature must address one or more of the following basic elements that drive most department costs.

### Licenses, Permits, and Fees

Sixty three percent of FWP's funding comes from the sale of licenses, permits, and other fees. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change:

- the services and activities subject to fees
- the amount to charge for licenses, permits, and fees
- the types and combination of licenses made available
- which fees, or portions of fees, can be used for a project or specific purpose
- the guidelines for charging fees or imposing fines

### Species Management

FWP is charged with protection, preservation, and management of all fish and game, fur-bearing animals, waterfowl, and non-game birds. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change:

- which species will require protection
- the degree and type of protection to be offered
- how land development may impact wildlife habitat

## **Access**

FWP may implement voluntary programs to expand hunting access on private lands. Currently, FWP has manages Block Management Areas totaling 7.2 million acres and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) totaling 0.5 million acres. The agency maintains 332 fishing access sites. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change the appropriation available to the agency for:

- the number of acres and fishing access sites to be made available
- the number of landowners participating
- the number of hunter days per site
- the degree of department enforcement available on this acreage

## **Park Management**

FWP oversees Montana's state parks. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change:

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

## **Enforcement**

The enforcement of laws and rules pertaining to department activities is a main function of FWP. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change:

- the scope of enforcement activities
- the number of wardens in the enforcement workforce
- the enforcement priorities
- the nature and disposition of penalties and fines

## **Land Management**

FWP, through multiple divisions, holds fee title to land and conservation easements for many purposes. To influence agency activities in this area, the legislature could change:

- the use of conservation easements as a land management tool
- the laws regarding public access to lands purchased or otherwise acquired with public funds
- the requirements on development plans prior to land acquisitions

## **Staffing Levels**

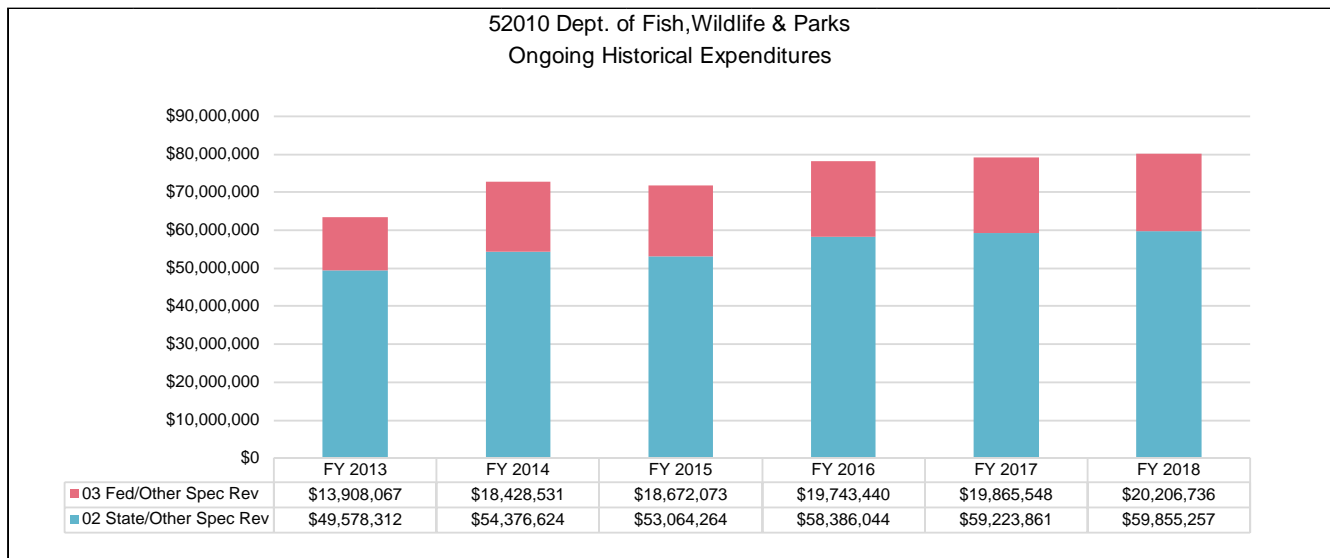
Common to all agencies, any decisions that change FTE will have a direct and immediate impact on the ability to deliver services/functions by FWP.

## Major Cost Drivers

Element	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Significance of Data
Resident Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps	867,849	867,849	928,619	918,255	890,881	Impacts state special revenue earmarked for hunting and fishing programs
Non - Resident Hunting Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps	137,281	137,281	144,975	147,003	149,101	
Resident Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps	427,883	399,510	425,103	443,221	454,215	Increases cost for administration, education, and
Non - Resident Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps	340,384	311,910	353,532	372,318	387,380	
Visitation to State Parks	2.2 million	2.2 million	2.5 million	2.7 million	2.5 million	Impacts cost of facilities maintenance and repair
Block Management Areas, acres under management					7.2 Million	Increased administrative cost and compensation to land owners
Wildlife Management Areas, acres under management					0.5 Million	

## FUNDING/EXPENDITURE HISTORY, AUTHORITY USED TO ESTABLISH THE BASE BUDGET

The following chart shows the historical change in FWP's funding and expenditures.



## MAJOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

### 2017 Session

- Shifted the source of funding for the Law Enforcement Division from state special revenue to federal funds
- HB 2 included the following language that
  - Requires the agency to present the 2021 biennium budget for Parks and Communication and Education Divisions from a zero base to full budget. The agency will submit separate request for each functional and geographic unit of the Parks Division, including each state park
  - Appropriated \$1.0 million in each year of the 2019 biennium from the state parks miscellaneous fund for maintenance and repair work on Virginia and Nevada City
- HB 97 increases the maximum payment to a landowner to participate in the hunter management program or hunting access enhancement program from \$12,000 to \$15,000
- HB 434 establishes Wildlife Habitat Improvement Act and a Wildlife Habitat Improvement Advisory Council, to be funded through federal funds designated for the control of noxious weeds and wildlife habitat restoration



- SB 73 extends the sunset of the statutory appropriation of funds for the livestock loss mitigation restricted account to 2023
- SB 172 will prohibit the sale of hunting, fishing, or trapping licenses to any applicant that has failed to pay child support
- SB 218 enables hunters 18 and older to participate in the apprentice hunter program. Prior statute limited the apprentice program to hunters 10 years and older and under the age of 18. The bill also eliminates the ability of apprentice hunters to purchase black bear, mountain lion, and wolf licenses
- SB 363 creates a new electrical energy fee on hydroelectric facilities in the state and an invasive species fee for utilities. SB 363 also requires the purchase of aquatic invasive species prevention pass as a prerequisite to purchase a fishing license. Revenues are deposited in the invasive species special revenue account

## 2015 Session

- HB 140 changed the hunting and fishing fee license structure. As a part of this, the legislature eliminated some free licenses, raised license fees, and created an apprentice hunter certificate. These changes increased the total general license funds available for FWP to use.
- HB 167 increased the fees for non-resident off-highway vehicles, providing additional funds for FWP.
- HB 300 created a snowmobile pass for use on FWP maintained or funded trails. This provides additional funds for FWP.

## 2013 Session

- HB 609 provided for an interim study of hunting and fishing licensing to determine the long-term funding of FWP and its complexity of its hunting and fishing license structure.
- HB 401 revised certain hunting license application fees and allows per species collection of the preference system application fee.
- HB 586 appropriated \$640,000 general fund over the biennium for prevention of aquatic invasive species.
- 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.
- 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 rulemaking, including mandatory inspections of interior portions of boats that contain water.

## 2009 Session

- SB 343 established the Montana Aquatic Invasive Species Act, requiring FWP to establish a mechanism for Montana to take concerted action to detect, control, and manage invasive species to prevent further introduction, importation, and infestation.

For more information on the agency, please visit their website, here: <http://fwp.mt.gov/>