



2027-29 Biennium Requests for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Prepared for the General Assembly

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Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Budget Manual
2027-2029 Biennium

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Employment Summary

	Male	Female	Total	%
White Employees	418	139	557	93%
Black Employees	18	12	30	5%
Other Racial Minorities	6	6	12	2%
Total Minorities			42	7%
Total Employees			599	100%

Publications

Required by A.C.A. 25-1-201 et seq

Name	Statutory Authorization	Required for		# of Copies	Reason(s) for Continued Publication and Distribution	Unbound Black & White Copies Produced During the Last Two Years	Cost of Unbound Copies Produced During the Last Two Years
		Governor	General Assembly				
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Department Appropriation Summary

Appropriation	Historical Data						Agency Request							
	FY26		FY27		FY27		FY28				FY29			
	Actual Expenditures	Pos	Budgeted Expenditures	Pos	Authorized Appropriation	Pos	Agency	Pos	Executive	Pos	Agency	Pos	Executive	Pos
259 Operations	112,611,025	634	137,988,746	645	162,223,693	645	156,615,989	647	0	0	154,376,231	647	0	0
33Y Gas Lease Revenue	570,765	0	4,250,000	0	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	0	0	0	5,000,000	0	0	0
BA9 Marine Fuel Tax Program	3,747,215	0	6,000,000	0	6,000,000	0	6,000,000	0	0	0	6,000,000	0	0	0
F06 Conservation Partners Program Grants	131,053	0	150,000	0	150,000	0	200,000	0	0	0	200,000	0	0	0
M99 Black River Settlement	647,482	0	1,698,891	0	13,250,000	0	13,250,000	0	0	0	13,250,000	0	0	0
DH7 GTR & Wetland Renovations	2,765,367	0	5,042,725	0	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0	0	0	20,000,000	0	0	0
CG3 Farm Bill Biologist	187,017	3	160,077	2	659,581	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	120,659,924	637	155,290,439	647	207,283,274	647	201,065,989	647	0	0	198,826,231	647	0	0

Funding Sources		%		%			%		%		%		%
Fund Balance 4000005	72,175,986	37%	72,964,272	37%		41,991,173	25%	0	0%	102,396	0%	0	0%
Federal Revenue 4000020	29,312,418	15%	33,010,477	17%		36,887,275	22%	0	0%	36,000,000	28%	0	0%
Special Revenue 4000030	33,767,467	17%	32,736,168	17%		32,050,000	19%	0	0%	32,050,000	25%	0	0%
Interest 4000300	2,633,033	1%	1,700,000	1%		1,118,378	1%	0	0%	760,000	1%	0	0%
Other 4000370	6,740,400	3%	11,449,705	6%		10,700,000	6%	0	0%	10,260,000	8%	0	0%
Conservation Tax 4000453	48,994,892	25%	45,420,990	23%		46,783,620	28%	0	0%	48,187,128	38%	0	0%
Total Funds	193,624,196	100%	197,281,612	100%		169,530,446	100%	0	0.0	127,359,524	100%	0	0%
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)	(72,964,272)		(41,991,173)			31,535,543		0		71,466,707		0	
Grand Total	120,659,924		155,290,439			201,065,989		0		198,826,231		0	

No Executive Recommendation made on these appropriations.

Variance in fund balance due to unfunded appropriation.

Agency Commentary - Operations

Appropriation: 259 - Operations

Funding Source: SDG - Game Protection Fund

The Operations Appropriation Section houses the operating expenses for all AGFC Divisions. This appropriation section is funded primarily from conservation sales tax, license sales, and federal revenues.

The Commission is requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$156,615,989 in FY28 and \$154,376,231 in FY29.

The Commission's request is for a net decrease of \$(5,607,704) in FY28 and \$(7,847,762) in FY29, and includes the following changes:

Regular Salaries transfer of \$479,508, with associated personnel services matching, in each year of the biennium, from the Farm Bill Biologist Appropriation (CG3) to the operating appropriation. The Commission requests discontinuation of the Farm Bill Biologist Appropriation section, but continues the program under the Commission's Operating appropriation for operational efficiencies.

Operating Expenditure decrease of \$(8,618,650) in each year of the biennium to better align with prior-year expenditures and projected revenues.

The Conference and Travel decrease of \$(31,632) in FY28 and \$(228,042) in FY29 to better align with prior-year expenditures and projected revenues.

Capital Outlay appropriation restoration of \$8,764,000 in each year of the biennium for land improvement projects on public access, and the replacement of equipment and fleet. This appropriation is also utilized to purchase additional lands for public access.

Grants and Aid increase of \$2,398,927 in FY28 and \$355,579 in FY29 to provide appropriation for the Conservation Incentive Program funded by a prior State Set Aside release and anticipated federal funding.

Construction appropriation restoration of \$17,738,903 for each year of the biennium. This represents a continuation of previously authorized appropriation levels.

Appropriation: 259 - Operations
Funding Sources: SDG - Game Protection Fund

Historical Data					Agency Request			
Commitment Item		FY26	FY27	FY27	FY28		FY29	
		Actual Expenditures	Budgeted Expenditures	Authorized Appropriation	Agency	Executive	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries	5010000	41,929,744	43,732,480	46,698,077	47,177,585	0	47,177,585	0
#Positions		634	645	645	647	0	647	0
Extra Help	5010001	1,583,959	1,891,500	1,891,500	1,891,500	0	1,891,500	0
#Extra Help		140	183	185	185	0	185	0
Personal Services Matching	5010003	14,982,357	16,025,642	16,826,509	16,990,652	0	16,990,652	0
Overtime	5010006	0	250,000	250,000	250,000	0	250,000	0
Uniform Allowance	5010016	851,712	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	0
Operating Expenses	5020002	37,108,725	43,178,571	54,907,780	46,289,130	0	46,289,130	0
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	203,662	339,135	517,727	486,095	0	289,685	0
Professional Fees	5060010	1,692,886	1,611,467	4,070,553	4,070,553	0	4,070,553	0
Construction	5090005	7,774,887	15,893,351	17,738,903	17,738,903	0	17,738,903	0
Data Processing	5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants and Aid	5100004	4,388,296	7,601,489	9,558,644	11,957,571	0	9,914,223	0
Capital Outlay	5120011	2,094,797	6,465,111	8,764,000	8,764,000	0	8,764,000	0
Total		112,611,025	137,988,746	162,223,693	156,615,989	0	154,376,231	0

Funding Sources							
Fund Balance	4000005	52,878,231	53,695,255		28,385,926	0	0
Conservation Tax	4000453	48,994,892	45,420,990		46,783,620	0	48,187,128
Federal Revenue	4000020	29,092,453	27,807,675		29,130,000	0	28,000,000
Federal Revenue - RCPP	4000020	0	0		1,800,000	0	5,000,000
Special Revenue	4000030	33,711,219	32,700,000		32,000,000	0	32,000,000
Interest	4000300	1,915,948	1,400,000		851,578	0	500,000
Other	4000370	2,713,537	5,350,752		6,000,000	0	6,000,000
Intra-Agency Fund Transfer	4000317	(3,000,000)	0		237,197	0	0
Total Funding		166,306,280	166,374,672		145,188,320	0	111,839,666
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(53,695,255)	(28,385,926)		11,427,669	0	42,536,565
Grand Total		112,611,025	137,988,746		156,615,989	0	154,376,231

No Executive Recommendation made on this appropriation.

Variance in number of positions in Authorized and Agency Request is due to single salary section in appropriation act.

AGFC is requesting to transfer salary and matching appropriation from CG3 Farm Bill Biologist to 259 Operations.

Agency Commentary - Gas Lease Revenue

Appropriation: 33Y - Gas Lease Revenue

Funding Source: SDG - Game Protection Fund

This appropriation section is funded by gas lease revenues and is used as needed for natural disaster responses, gas lease grants, and other one-time Commission needs. The Commission requires appropriation for natural disaster response because AGFC game wardens have historically been requested to respond to calls throughout Arkansas and the Southeastern United States.

The Commission requests continuing appropriation of \$5,000,000 for both years of the biennium.

Appropriation: 33Y - Gas Lease Revenue
Funding Sources: SDG - Game Protection Fund

Historical Data				Agency Request				
Commitment Item		FY26	FY27	FY27	FY28		FY29	
		Actual Expenditures	Budgeted Expenditures	Authorized Appropriation	Agency	Executive	Agency	Executive
Operating Expenses	5020002	60,000	350,000	850,000	850,000	0	850,000	0
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Professional Fees	5060010	0	350,000	350,000	350,000	0	350,000	0
Data Processing	5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants and Aid	5100004	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	0	50,000	0
Capital Outlay	5120011	79,639	500,000	750,000	750,000	0	750,000	0
Disaster Response	5900046	431,126	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	0
Total		570,765	4,250,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	0	5,000,000	0

Funding Sources								
Fund Balance	4000005	4,654,206	4,775,758		561,926	0	0	0
Special Revenue	4000030	56,248	36,168		50,000	0	50,000	0
Interest	4000300	155,100	0		16,800	0	10,000	0
Other	4000370	480,969	0		500,000	0	60,000	0
Total Funding		5,346,523	4,811,926		1,128,726	0	120,000	0
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(4,775,758)	(561,926)		3,871,274	0	4,880,000	0
Grand Total		570,765	4,250,000		5,000,000	0	5,000,000	0

No Executive Recommendation made on this appropriation.

Agency Commentary - Conservation Partners Program Grants

Appropriation: F06 - Conservation Partners Program Grants

Funding Source: SDG - Game Protection Fund

The Commission uses this appropriation section to pass donation dollars collected on behalf of Arkansas Hunters Feeding The Hungry to the organization. AGFC provides an opportunity to donate with license purchases and has helped collect more than \$900,000 since FY2013.

The Commission is requesting an appropriation of \$200,000 each year of the biennium.

This is an increase of \$50,000 each year of the biennium to accommodate increased donations received on behalf of Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry.

Appropriation: F06 - Conservation Partners Program Grants
Funding Sources: SDG - Game Protection Fund

Commitment Item		Historical Data			Agency Request			
		FY26	FY27	FY27	FY28		FY29	
		Actual Expenditures	Budgeted Expenditures	Authorized Appropriation	Agency	Executive	Agency	Executive
Grants and Aid	5100004	131,053	150,000	150,000	200,000	0	200,000	0
Total		131,053	150,000	150,000	200,000	0	200,000	0
Funding Sources								
Fund Balance	4000005	4,772	1,899		0	0	0	0
Other	4000370	127,841	148,101		200,000	0	200,000	0
Interest	4000300	338	0		0	0	0	0
Total Funding		132,951	150,000		200,000	0	200,000	0
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(1,899)	0		0	0	0	0
Grand Total		131,053	150,000		200,000	0	200,000	0

No Executive Recommendation made on this appropriation.

Agency Commentary - Black River Settlement

Appropriation: M99 - Black River Settlement

Funding Source: SDG - Game Protection Fund

This appropriation is funded by Black River judgment dollars and can be used exclusively to mitigate hardwood timber destruction in Dave Donaldson Black River WMA.

The Commission requests the continuation of current appropriation levels.

Appropriation: M99 - Black River Settlement
Funding Sources: SDG - Game Protection Fund

Historical Data				Agency Request			
Commitment Item	FY26	FY27	FY27	FY28		FY29	
	Actual Expenditures	Budgeted Expenditures	Authorized Appropriation	Agency	Executive	Agency	Executive
Restoration of Black River WMA	5900046	647,482	1,698,891	13,250,000	0	13,250,000	0
Total		647,482	1,698,891	13,250,000	0	13,250,000	0

Funding Sources								
Fund Balance	4000005	12,198,482	11,950,167		10,551,276	0	0	0
Interest	4000300	399,167	300,000		150,000	0	150,000	0
Total Funding		12,597,649	12,250,167		10,701,276	0	150,000	0
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(11,950,167)	(10,551,276)		2,548,724	0	13,100,000	0
Grand Total		647,482	1,698,891		13,250,000	0	13,250,000	0

No Executive Recommendation made on this appropriation.

Agency Commentary - Marine Fuel Tax Program

Appropriation: BA9 - Marine Fuel Tax Program

Funding Source: SDG - Game Protection Fund

The Marine Fuel Tax Program is funded by an interagency transfer of gasoline tax revenue from the Arkansas Department of Transportation. The Commission administers the program via an MOU with ArDOT, and it is used to improve and increase access to waterways across the state.

The Commission requests continuation of the current appropriation levels.

Appropriation: BA9 - Marine Fuel Tax Program
Funding Sources: SDG - Game Protection Fund

Historical Data				Agency Request				
Commitment Item		FY26	FY27	FY27	FY28		FY29	
		Actual Expenditures	Budgeted Expenditures	Authorized Appropriation	Agency	Executive	Agency	Executive
Marine Fuel Tax Program	5900046	3,747,215	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	0	6,000,000	0
Total		3,747,215	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	0	6,000,000	0

Funding Sources								
Fund Balance	4000005	2,242,119	2,051,544		2,002,396	0	102,396	0
Interest	4000300	138,588	0		100,000	0	100,000	0
Other	4000370	3,418,053	5,950,852		4,000,000	0	4,000,000	0
Total Funding		5,798,760	8,002,396		6,102,396	0	4,202,396	0
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(2,051,544)	(2,002,396)		(102,396)	0	1,797,604	0
Grand Total		3,747,215	6,000,000		6,000,000	0	6,000,000	0

No Executive Recommendation made on this appropriation

Agency Commentary - Greentree Reservoir and Wetland Habitat Restoration

Appropriation: DH7- Greentree Reservoir and Wetland Habitat Restoration

Funding Source: SDG - Game Protection Fund

The Greentree Reservoir and Wetland Habitat Restoration Appropriation is funded from the Game Protection Fund by federal revenues, conservation sales tax collections, and license sales revenue. Wetland habitat is critical for wintering waterfowl that are vitally important to Arkansas.

The Commission is requesting an appropriation of \$20,000,000 for each year of the biennium.

Expenditure of the appropriation is contingent on available funding. The agency's budget request includes appropriations above current funding levels. This will allow the Commission the flexibility to cover major construction projects that are carried over from one fiscal year to the next and to adapt to challenges posed by weather conditions and short construction windows.

Appropriation: DH7 - GTR & Wetland Habitat Renovation
Funding Sources: SDG - Game Protection Fund

Historical Data				Agency Request			
Commitment Item	FY26 Actual Expenditures	FY27 Budgeted Expenditures	FY27 Authorized Appropriation	FY28		FY29	
				Agency	Executive	Agency	Executive
GTR & Wetland Habitat Renovation 5900046	2,765,367	5,042,725	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0
Total	2,765,367	5,042,725	20,000,000	20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0

Funding Sources							
Fund Balance 4000005	0	252,452		252,452	0	0	0
Federal Revenue 4000020	0	5,042,725		5,957,275	0	3,000,000	0
Interest 4000300	17,819	0		0	0	0	0
Intra-Agency Transfer 4000317	3,000,000	0		0	0	2,000,000	0
Total Funding	3,017,819	5,295,177		6,209,727	0	5,000,000	0
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)	(252,452)	(252,452)		13,790,273	0	15,000,000	0
Grand Total	2,765,367	5,042,725		20,000,000	0	20,000,000	0

No Executive Recommendation made on this appropriation.

Agency Commentary -Farm Bill Biologists

Appropriation: CG3 - Farm Bill Biologists

Funding Source: SDG - Game Protection Fund

This appropriation originated as a Miscellaneous Federal Grant Request in November of 2024. This program provides for staff associated with helping private landowners access federal funding in the farm bill to implement wildlife habitat management on their lands.

The Commission is requesting the discontinuation of this separate appropriation section in the upcoming biennium and the transfer of all authorized salary and matching appropriations to the Operating Appropriation (259) for each year of the biennium. This transfer will allow AGFC to utilize operational efficiencies in the continued execution of this program.

Appropriation: CG3 - Farm Bill Biologists
Funding Sources: SDG - Game Protection Fund

Historical Data				Agency Request			
Commitment Item	FY26	FY27	FY27	FY28		FY29	
	Actual Expenditures	Budgeted Expenditures	Authorized Appropriation	Agency	Executive	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries 5010000	133,177	103,116	479,508	0	0	0	0
#Positions	3	2	2	0	0	0	0
Personal Services Matching 5010003	53,840	41,031	164,143	0	0	0	0
Operating Expenses 5020002	0	1,350	1,350	0	0	0	0
Conference & Travel Expenses 5050009	0	14580	14580	0	0	0	0
Data Processing 5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants and Aid 5100004	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay 5120011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	187,017	160,077	659,581	0	0	0	0

Funding Sources							
Fund Balance 4000005	198,176	237,197		237,197	0	0	0
Federal Revenue 4000020	219,965	160,077		0	0	0	0
Interest 4000300	6,072			0	0	0	0
Intra-Agency Transfer 4000317				(237,197)	0	0	0
Total Funding	424,213	397,274		0	0	0	0
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)	(237,197)	(237,197)		0	0	0	0
Grand Total	187,017	160,077		0	0	0	0

No Executive Recommendation made on this appropriation

Appropriation and Positions transferred to Fund Center 259 Operating Appropriation.

Variance in number of positions in Authorized and Agency Request is due to single salary section in appropriation act.