

**LAND DEPARTMENT (0061)
2009-11 BIENNIUM**

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

Mission

Constitutional Amendment 37, established the Commissioner of State Lands as one of seven popularly-elected constitutional officers. The Office is responsible for returning to private ownership, lands which have been certified to the State of Arkansas for the nonpayment of ad valorem real estate taxes. Some of the Commissioner's responsibilities include the competitive bidding and the leasing of all mineral interests on state owned lands as well as sand and gravel permits on navigable waterways and housing all original patent records of the State which are the records showing the disposition of tracts of land from the United States and the means by which the land was granted.

Total Biennial Budget

The agency requests a total budget for the 2009-2011 biennium of \$25,216,164 the first year and \$26,335,399 the second year.

Funding Source

The Operations appropriation is funded with the State Central Services Fund. The other appropriations are funded by cash funds and fund balances which are received through the collection of delinquent taxes or through the sale of tax delinquent lands. Less than one percent of the funding for the office originates from proceeds of leasing mineral interests on state owned lands and sand and gravel permits on navigable waterways.

II) SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The Operations Appropriation is funded from State Central Services for base level of \$3,283,060 the first year and \$3,350,531 the second year.

The Operating Expense and Capital Outlay cash appropriation is continued at base level of \$267,800 for both years of the biennium.

The Natural Resources Leasing and Permit Program funded from proceeds of leasing mineral interests on state owned lands and sand and gravel permits on navigable waterways is discontinued and the \$15,000 each year reallocated to the Delinquent Tax Cash Appropriation.

Delinquent Tax Cash Appropriation is for \$21,665,304 first year and \$22,717,068 second year which is an increase of \$1,374,304 and \$2,426,068 over base level for increases in operating expenses, professional fees, refunds/reimbursements and delinquent tax remittal line item.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS

Total positions FY 2009-11 Biennium: 45

Total positions FY 2007-09 Biennium: 45

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

Agency requests language to amend AR code. Delete ACA 19-6-301 and 19-6-428 amend ACA 22-5-808 to allow for discontinue natural resources appropriation.