

ARKANSAS STATE GAME & FISH COMMISSION (0080)

FISCAL YEAR 2016

As Enacted by Act 732 of 2015

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

MISSION

Amendment 35 of 1945 to the State Constitution establishes the Game & Fish Commission's responsibility and authority "for the control, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of birds, fish, game and wildlife resources of the State..."

Amendment 75 of 1996 to the State Constitution established the one-eighth of one percent Conservation Sales Tax, of which the Commission receives 45% of the net collections.

TOTAL APPROPRIATION

The total appropriation is \$132,173,417.

FUNDING SOURCES

AGFC is funded primarily by special revenues consisting of 45% of the 1/8th of one percent Conservation Sales Tax; proceeds from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, tags and permits; Federal Aid funding in the form of reimbursements and grants; non-revenues such as timber sales; gas lease revenues and available fund balances.

II) CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS

State Operations - appropriation authority totaling \$110,358,732 provides for appropriation increases of \$29,961,570 to support the following:

- Regular Salary/Personal Services Matching line item increases totaling \$7,371,462 - (Regular Salaries of \$5,309,965 & Matching of \$2,061,497) to fund the Wildlife Officer salary administration grid;
- Extra help line item increase of \$237,500;
- Operating expense increase of \$3,500,000 for Federal Apportionment increases from the US Fish and Wildlife Service;
- Construction line item of \$8,300,000 provides \$6 million for a new Education Center in Northwest Arkansas and \$1.5 million for Federal Apportionment;
- Capital Outlay of \$10,502,608 for land and large equipment purchases, including the purchase or replacement of vehicles and equipment, Marine Fuel Tax Projects, major renovations, heavy equipment maintenance, roadwork and lake access projects; and
- Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry - *New line item for \$50,000

Gas Lease Revenues - appropriation authority totaling \$3,764,685 each year includes capital outlay of \$1 million for construction projects, purchase and replacement of equipment. The appropriation net decrease of \$9,596,000 reflects the retirement of revenue bond debt in FY2015.

Black River Settlement - new appropriation totaling \$18 million, to reflect the successful settlement of the Black River WMA Timber Lawsuit and anticipated funds dedicated to restoration of the damaged hardwoods on Dave Donaldson Black River Wildlife Management Area.

Act 817 (HB1446)

Provides a \$250,000 appropriation payable from the Game Protection Fund for personal services, operating expenses, and grants for the eradication efforts of feral hogs.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS (Total FY2015 Authorized Positions: 612)

Total Authorized Positions FY2016: 616

Total Budgeted Positions FY2015: 612

Increase / (Decrease) Over Base Level: 4

Additional Positions Include: Senior Technology Analyst C126, Education Program Specialist C118, (2) Telecommunications Specialist C114

Extra Help Positions FY2016: 185 (Total FY2015 Extra Help Positions: 185)

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

***NEW LANGUAGE*:** Payment of Accrued Leave - Allows for payment of accrued and unused annual, holiday, and sick leave to the estate of any wildlife officer who dies in the line of duty.

Transfer Provision - upon approval from CFO and review by ALC/JBC, authorizes transfer authority between commitment items within the Operations and Gas Lease Revenues appropriations.

Overtime Payments - ***Amended Language*** provides for the payments of overtime, amended to include provision that states: "Payment of overtime is the preferred method of implementing the provisions of this section."

Hunters Feeding the Hungry - special language encouraging the AGFC to explore opportunities available in efforts to help sustain the Hunters Feeding the Hungry program, including the establishment of a check-off or similar program or other appropriate method to raise revenues for support of the program.

Payment of Rewards - Authorizes reward payments from the Game & Protection Fund.

Extra Help Restriction - No employee may receive an amount to exceed 85% of the maximum annual salary for a comparable position during one fiscal year, nor they be employed more than 1,800 hours in a single fiscal year.

Revised, April 2015.