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## Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

**Austin Booth**  
Director

October 13, 2022

BA: 0080  
Func Area: CNST  
FC: 259  
Fund: SDG0000

Larry W. Walther, Secretary  
Department of Finance and Administration  
1509 W. 7th St. Suite 401  
Little Rock, AR, 72205

Dear Secretary Walther,

Pursuant to 19-5-1263, I am requesting the consideration of a transfer from the Restricted Reserve Fund of \$20,000,000 to the Game Protection Fund for the projects outlined below:

### **Bayou Meto WMA GTR Renovation**

\$15,000,000 for the renovation of approximately 13,000 acres of Greentree reservoirs (GRT) in the Bayou Meto Wildlife Management Area (WMA) that have been negatively impacted by prolonged flooding. This appropriation will be utilized for infrastructure renovations that will enhance water flow. These critical infrastructure renovations are essential to allow AGFC to manage water better and enhance drainage within the GTRs, particularly during the summer growing season, thus improving deteriorated forest health conditions to ensure the long-term sustainability of the world-renowned Greentree public land waterfowl hunting opportunities within the state. The long-term health and sustainability of these remnant bottomland hardwood forests are essential to sustaining public land waterfowl hunting opportunities for over 40,000 individuals annually, with an estimated financial benefit of \$70 million annually to local communities across Arkansas. In addition, these unique habitats support a host of other terrestrial and aquatic species, which provide significant wildlife viewing and other hunting opportunities beyond just waterfowl hunting opportunities.

### **Lonoke Fish Hatchery External Water Reuse Project and Spawning Building Water Reuse Project**

\$5,000,000 to modernize how water is used, captured, and then reused at the Lonoke Fish Hatchery and would also increase the efficiency and capacity for fish production. By developing water-recirculating capabilities in the spawning building, the estimated impact on the Sparta aquifer will be a reduction of 141.9 million gallons of water annually based on the ability to reuse water with 90% efficiency. This is equivalent to the water use of 3,698 "average" Arkansas water users. Upgrades to the outdoor hatchery ponds, including water reuse infrastructure and water storage capability, will further reduce our water use footprint by an estimated 430.1 million gallons annually pumped from the Sparta aquifer based on a reuse rate of 80% efficiency. This is equivalent to the average consumption of 11,117 Arkansans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Austin Booth  
Director  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission