

The Legislative Fiscal Division Presents an Agency Profile of: The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

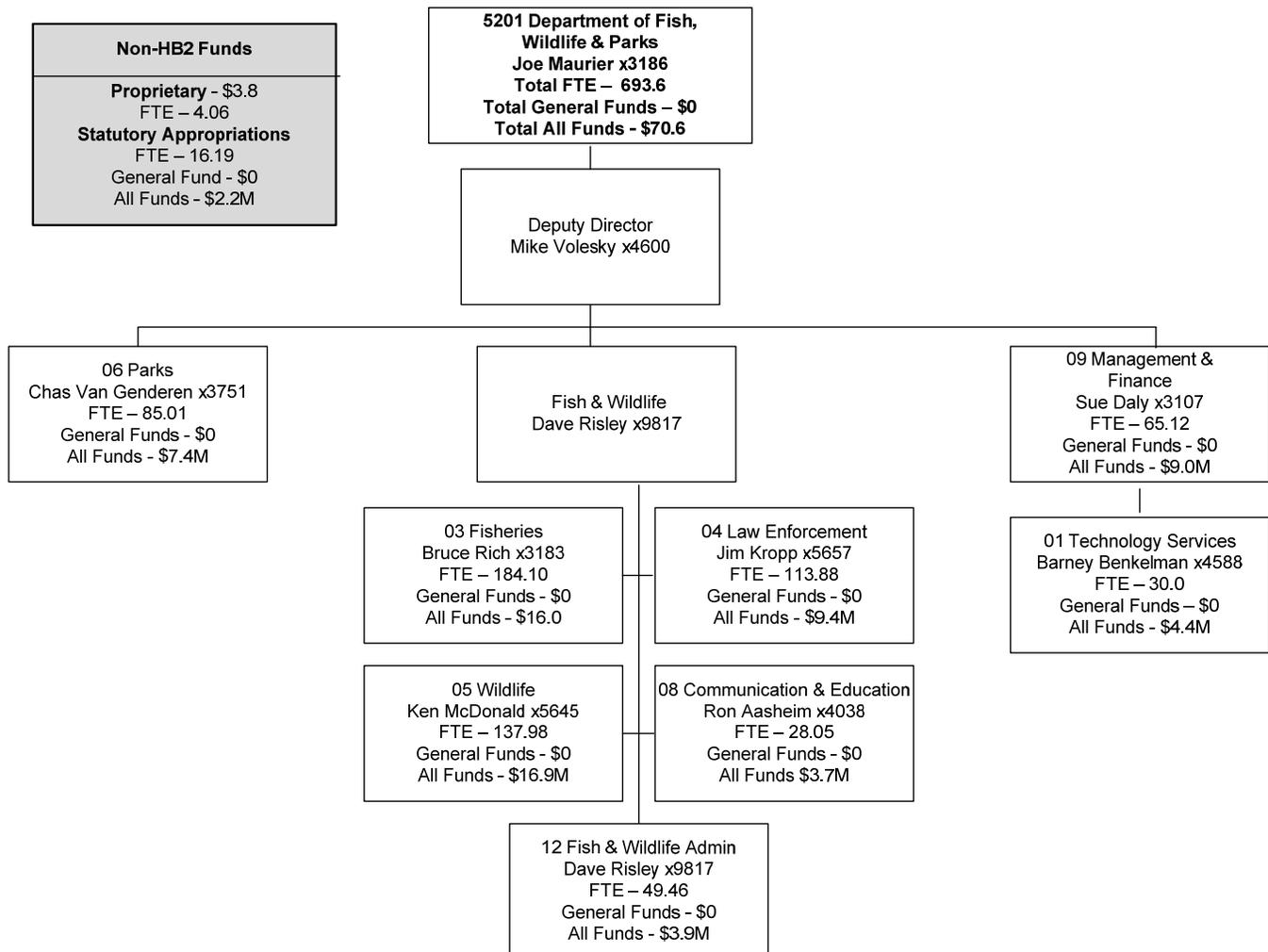
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Agency Description

Definition of Terms

Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is responsible for the management of Montana's fish, wildlife and recreational resources, development of recreational opportunities, and operation of the state park system. A five-member Governor-appointed commission provides direction on specific issues provided in statute. This guidance includes land usage, preservation and management of wildlife, establishment of license and permit fees, and the creation of hunting and fishing seasons.

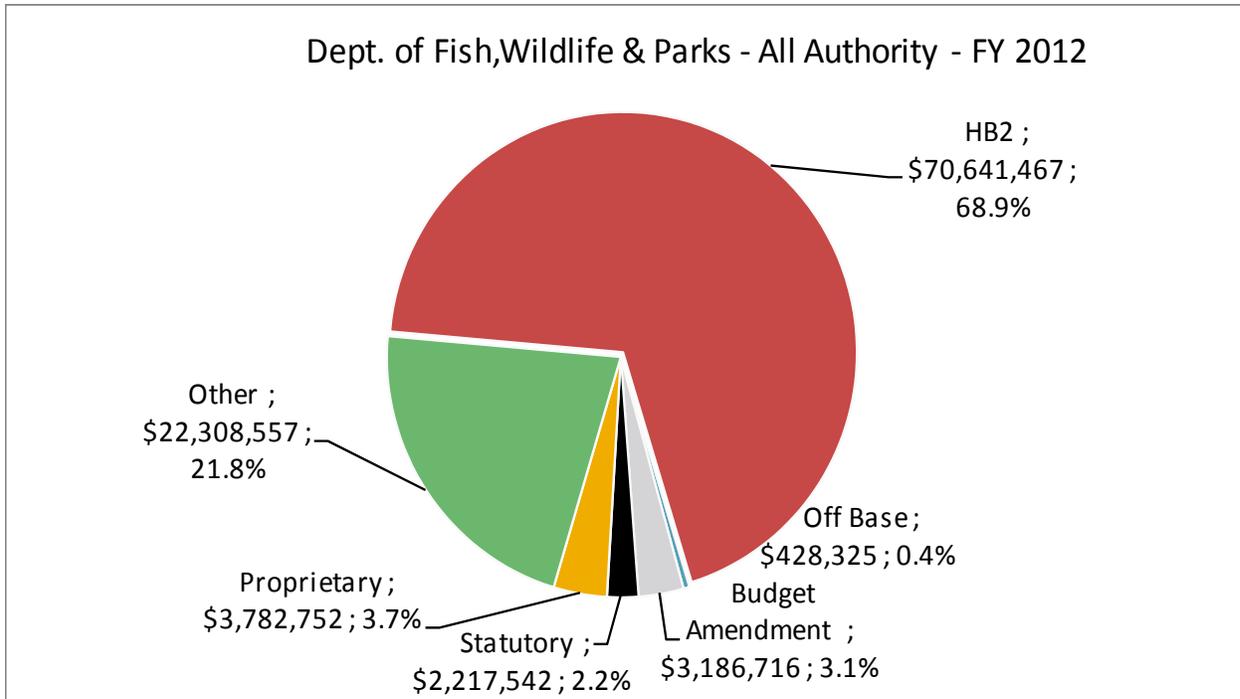


How Services are Provided

The department consists of eight divisions with the following functions:

- The **Information Services Division** provides information technology and information management services to the department, including network creation and administration, hardware and off-the-shelf software procurement and configuration, support of automated license sales and drawings, intranet and internet communications, software development, deployment and support, and all database management.
- The **Fisheries Division** is for preserving and perpetuating aquatic species and their ecosystems and for meeting public demand for fishing opportunities and aquatic wildlife stewardship.
- The **Enforcement Division** is responsible for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations pertaining to the protection and preservation of big game animals, fur-bearing animals, fish, game birds, and other protected wildlife species.
- The **Wildlife Division** is responsible for the department's statewide Wildlife Management Program, which enhances the use of Montana's renewable wildlife resources for public benefit. The program manages animals legislatively categorized as big game, nongame wildlife, game birds, furbearers, and threatened and endangered species. The bureau is divided into four program areas: habitat conservation, hunting access, wildlife conflict, and wildlife management.
- The **Parks Division** is responsible for conserving the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific, and recreational resources of the state, and for providing for their use and enjoyment.
- The **Communication and Education Division** is the information and education branch of the department. The division coordinates the department's information and education programs as well as the department's planning efforts.
- The **Management & Finance Division** is made of up two sections. The management section is responsible for overall department direction regarding policy, planning, program development, guidelines, budgets, decision-making for key resource activities, and supervision of the seven divisions. Legal services and human resources management for the department are also in this division. The finance section provides for department-wide support for accounting; fiscal management; purchasing; property management; federal aid administration; and the sale of hunting, fishing, and other recreational licenses.
- The **Fish and Wildlife Administration Division** provides oversight of the Enforcement, Wildlife, Fisheries, and Communication and Education bureaus and the seven regional offices that are responsible for program implementation.

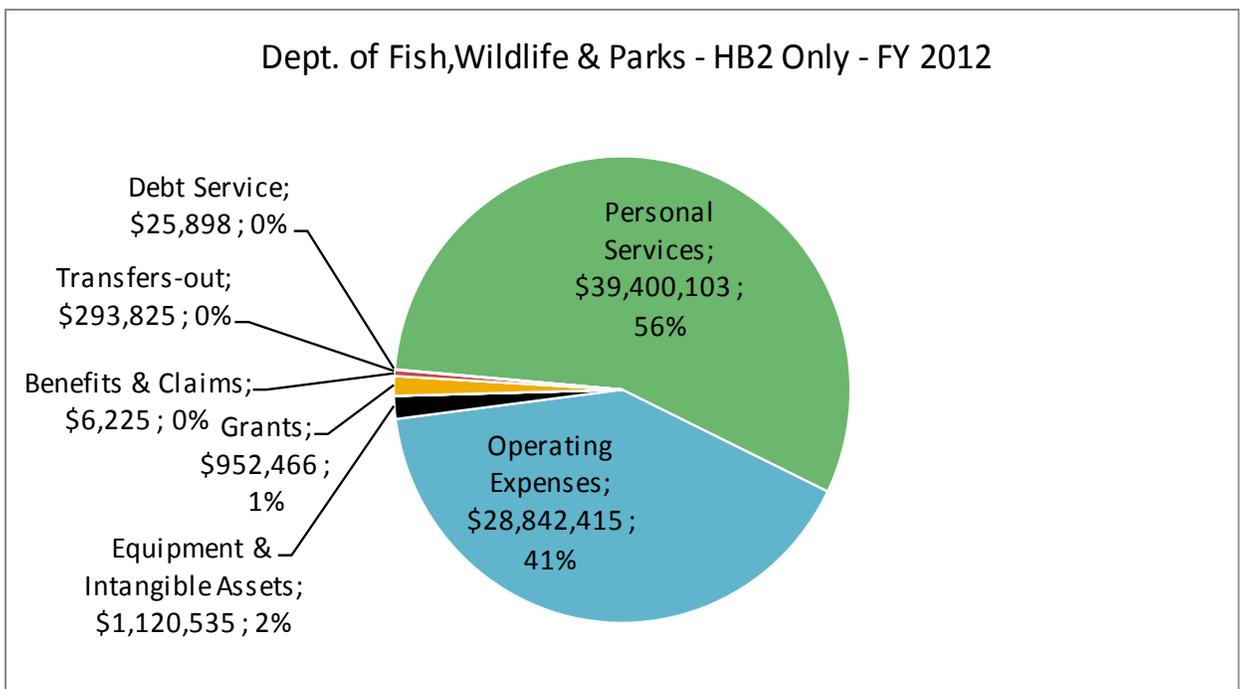
Sources of Spending Authority



The above chart shows the sources of authority for the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Other legislative appropriations (sometimes called cat and dog bills) are included in the above categories as appropriate. For a more detailed description of accounting terminology, please refer to the definition of terms.

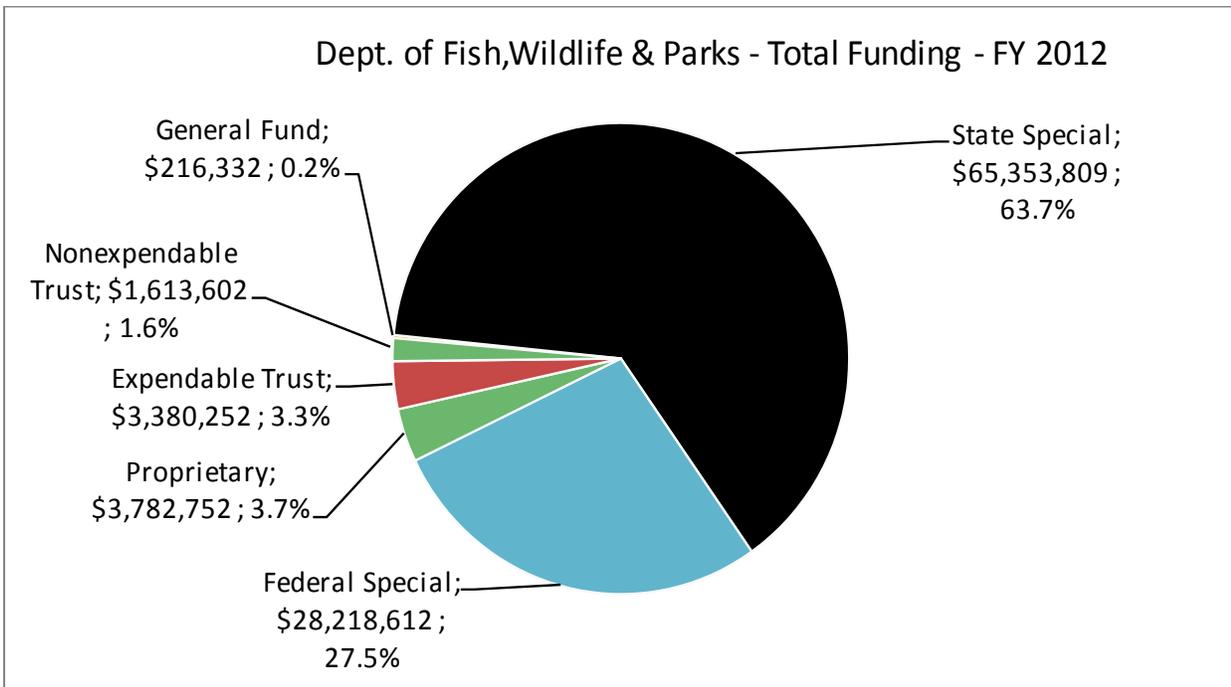
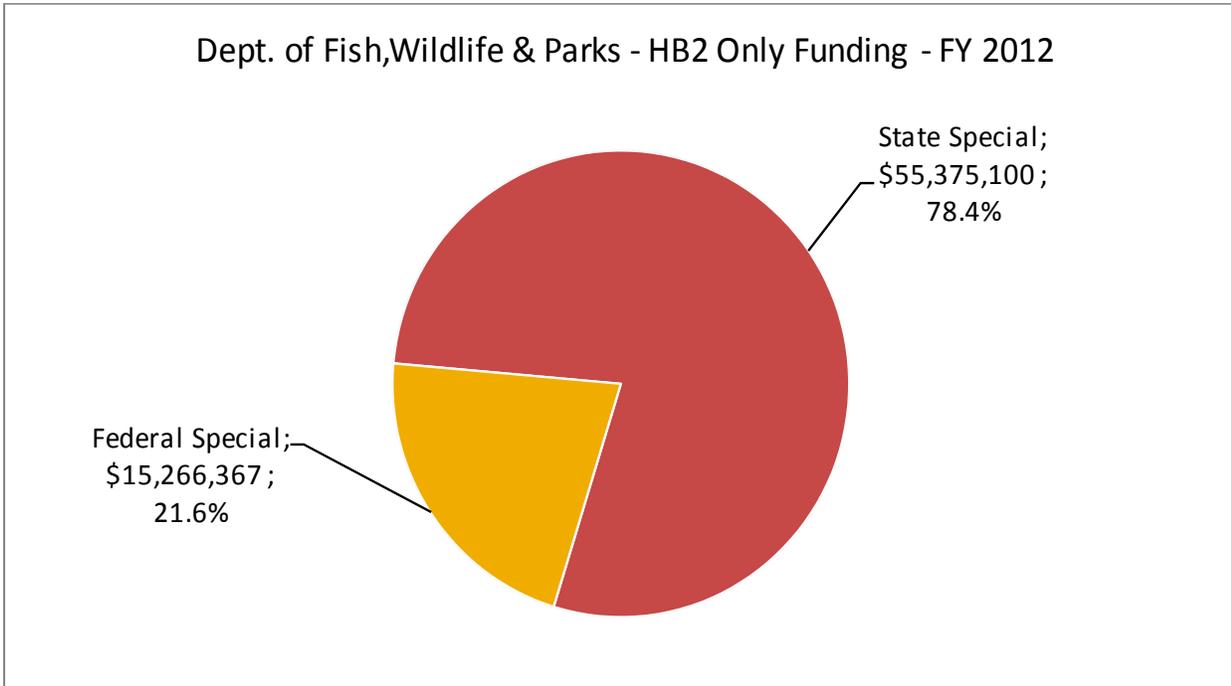
Expenditures

This chart explains how the HB 2 authority is spent.



Funding

The following charts show the agency's HB 2 funding authority by fund type and all sources of its total funding authority.



How the 2013 Legislature Can Effect Change

In order to change expenditure levels and/or agency activity, the legislature must address one or more of the following basic elements that drive costs.

Financial Management

Seventy percent of the department's funding comes from state special revenue. This revenue is derived from the sale of sportsman licenses, permits, and other fees, such as park entrance fees, campsite rental and the like. Department expenditures and activities can be affected through:

- Selecting the services and activities to be subject to fees
- Determining the amount to charge for licenses, permits, and fees
- Formation of the types and combination of licenses to be made available
- Designating fees, or portions of fees, for a particular use or project
- Establishing guidelines for charging fees or imposing fines

Species Management

The department is charged with protection, preservation, and management of all fish and game, fur-bearing animals, waterfowl, and nongame birds.

The costs of this function can be affected by:

- Determining which species will require protection
- Guiding the degree of protection to be offered
- Evaluating the types of protection options
- The ability to access federal funding
- Urban sprawl or land development patterns

Access

The department may implement voluntary programs to expand hunting access on private lands. Currently, the department has achieved access to 6.4 million acres of enrolled land, and 336 fishing access sites. The cost of this program can be controlled by:

- Determining the number of acres and fishing access sites to be made available
- Establishing the number of landowners for participation
- Regulating the number of hunter days per site
- Defining the degree of department enforcement available on this acreage

How the 2013 Legislature Can Effect Change, cont.

Park Management

The diversity of Montana's 54 parks provide an abundance of recreational opportunities. The costs to operate the parks can be controlled through:

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

Enforcement

The enforcement of laws and rules pertaining to department activities is a main function of the department. The ability to effect change in this area can be done by:

- Defining the scope of enforcement activities
- Mandating the number of wardens in the enforcement workforce
- Establishing enforcement priorities
- The authorization and subsequent disposition of penalties and fines

Land Management

The department, through multiple divisions, holds fee title to land and conservation easements for many purposes. Land transactions, for the most part, are approved by the Board of Land Commissioners. The amount and type of land procured can be influenced by:

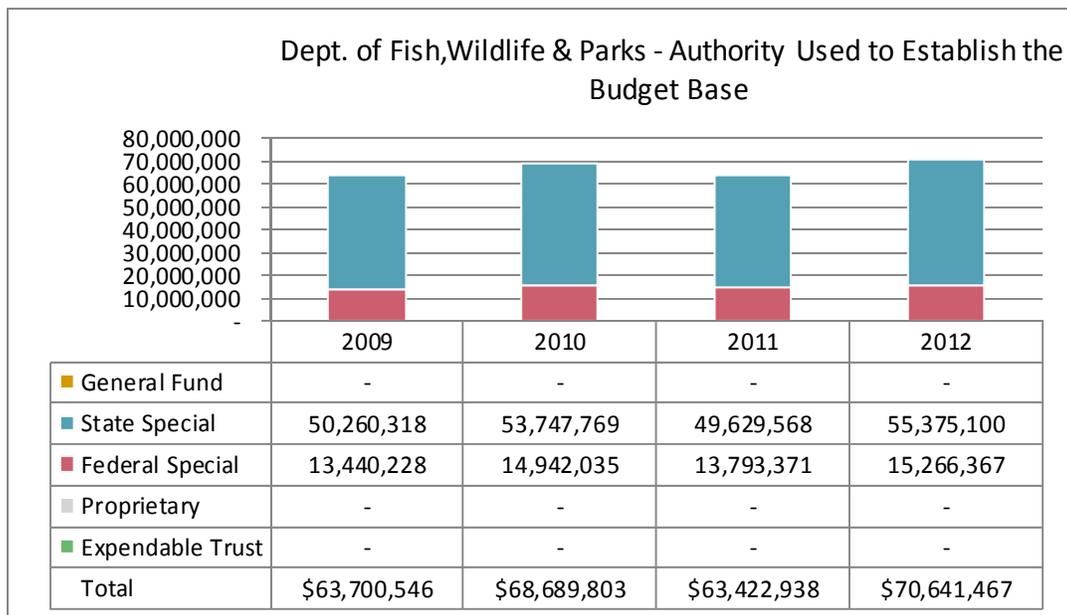
- Mandating that all land transactions go through the Board of Land Commissioners
- Clarifying the use of conservation easements as a land management tool
- Establishing guidelines to ensure maximum public access to lands purchased or otherwise acquired with public funds
- Requiring development plans prior to land acquisitions

Major Cost Drivers

<i>Element</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>Significance of Data</i>
Number of resident sportsman w/o bear licenses sold	19,635	19,782	Revenue, workload
Cost of resident sportsman w/o bear license	\$70	\$70	Fee per license
Amount of license commission paid to vendors	\$614,868	\$564,902	Fees paid to vendors
Acres of private land enrolled in block management program	7.2 million	6.4 million	Access to hunting land, program change
Tip Montana Calls	2190	2390	Workload, public participation

Funding/Expenditure History

The table shows the historical changes in the department's base budget authority.



Major Legislative Changes in the Last Ten Years

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.

2011 Session 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.

2007 Session SB 205 eliminated vacancy savings application to game wardens.

2007 Session SB 243 provided free sportsman licenses to certain military personnel.

2005 Session SB 461 directed the department to collar one wolf in packs that are near livestock or population centers for the purpose of tracking and directs that only federal dollars be expended. The legislature appropriated \$25,000 per year for this purpose.

For additional information, please contact the agency at:

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