

Teleconference/Virtual

AGENDA

Board of Wildlife Resources
Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee
7870 Villa Park Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23228

January 15, 2021
10:00 am

Committee Members: Mr. Brian Vincent, Chair, Mr. Tom Sadler, Dr. Mamie Parker
Mr. Douglas Dear

DWR Staff Liaison: Mr. Darin Moore

1. Call to Order and Welcome
Mr. Brian Vincent

This meeting is proceeding under Item 4-0.01, subsection G of the Appropriation Act and section 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia. It is being held by electronic communication, as the COVID-19 virus has made a physical meeting of the Committee impracticable. This emergency imposed by COVID-19 is observed by Executive Orders 51, 53, and 55 issued by the Governor of Virginia. The Committee's actions today shall be solely limited to those matters included on the agenda; there is no public comment on non-agenda items. All of these proposed actions are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and discharge lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities of the Board.

(Call on Frances Boswell for a Roll Call Vote of Members Present)

2. Approval of the October 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Mr. Brian Vincent
(Call on Frances Boswell for a Roll Call Vote)

Final Action

3. Public Comments – Non Agenda Items
Mr. Brian Vincent
4. Implementation of budget process improvements and priority-based budgeting
Mr. Darin Moore and Mr. Delonte Waller
5. Leveraging of Federal Aid – What it is and how it's used
Mr. Darin Moore and Mr. Chris Burkett
6. Director's Report
Mr. Ryan Brown
7. Chairman's Report
Mr. Brian Vincent
8. Additional Business/Comments
Mr. Brian Vincent
9. Next Meeting Date: TBD
Mr. Brian Vincent
10. Adjournment
Mr. Brian Vincent

Teleconference and Virtual

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee
Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive, Board Room
Richmond, Virginia 23228

October 8, 2020
2:00 pm

Present: Mr. Brian Vincent, **Chair**, Mr. Douglas Dear, Mr. Tom Sadler; **Absent:** Dr. Mamie Parker; **Board Members in attendance:** Mr. John Daniel, Mr. G. K. Washington; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. Lee Walker, Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Darin Moore, Major Scott Naff, Dr. Mike Bednarski, and Ms. Paige Pearson

The Committee Chair welcomed everyone and call the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. The Chair noted for the record that a quorum was present for the meeting.

This meeting is proceeding under Item 4-0.01, subsection G of the Appropriation Act and sections 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia. It is being held by electronic communication, as the COVID-19 virus has made a physical meeting of the Committee impracticable. This emergency imposed by COVID-19 is observed by Executive Orders 51, 53, and 55 issued by the Governor of Virginia. The Board's actions today shall be solely limited to those matters included on the agenda; there is no public comment on non-agenda items. All of these proposed actions are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and discharge lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities of the Board.

The Chair called on the Board Secretary for a Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Daniel, Washington, Vincent, Dear, Sadler

Approval of the January 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes: The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting. Mr. Dear made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 Committee meeting. Mr. Sadler seconded the motion. The Board Secretary called the roll. Ayes: Vincent, Sadler, Dear

Sales Data and Customer Trends: Who, What, Where, How, and When: The Chair called on Mr. Darin Moore for a Presentation.

Mr. Darin Moore gave an update on Sales Data and Customer Trends through License Sales.

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Mr. Moore for his Presentation.

Information Technology Operations and Support: COVID-19 Response: The Chair called on Mr. Darin Moore for a presentation.

Mr. Darin Moore presented a presentation on Information Technology Operations and Support: COVID-19 Response.

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Mr. Moore for his presentation.

Director's Report: The Chair called on Mr. Ryan Brown for the Director's Report.

The Director reported:

The Director thanked the IT staff for all of their efforts during COVID-19 with all of the IT efforts that have gone into making a smooth transition for staff that are teleworking.

Chair's Report: The Chair thanked everyone for attending the Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee Meeting and thanked staff for their work on all the presentations.

The Chair asked if anyone had any additional comments or business, hearing none, he announced the next Finance, Audit, and Compliance meeting will be determined. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell
/s/

January 15, 2021

FY 2022 Budget Development Overview



CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Topics We Will Cover

Overview of Commonwealth of VA Budget Process

Overview of DWR Internal Budget Process

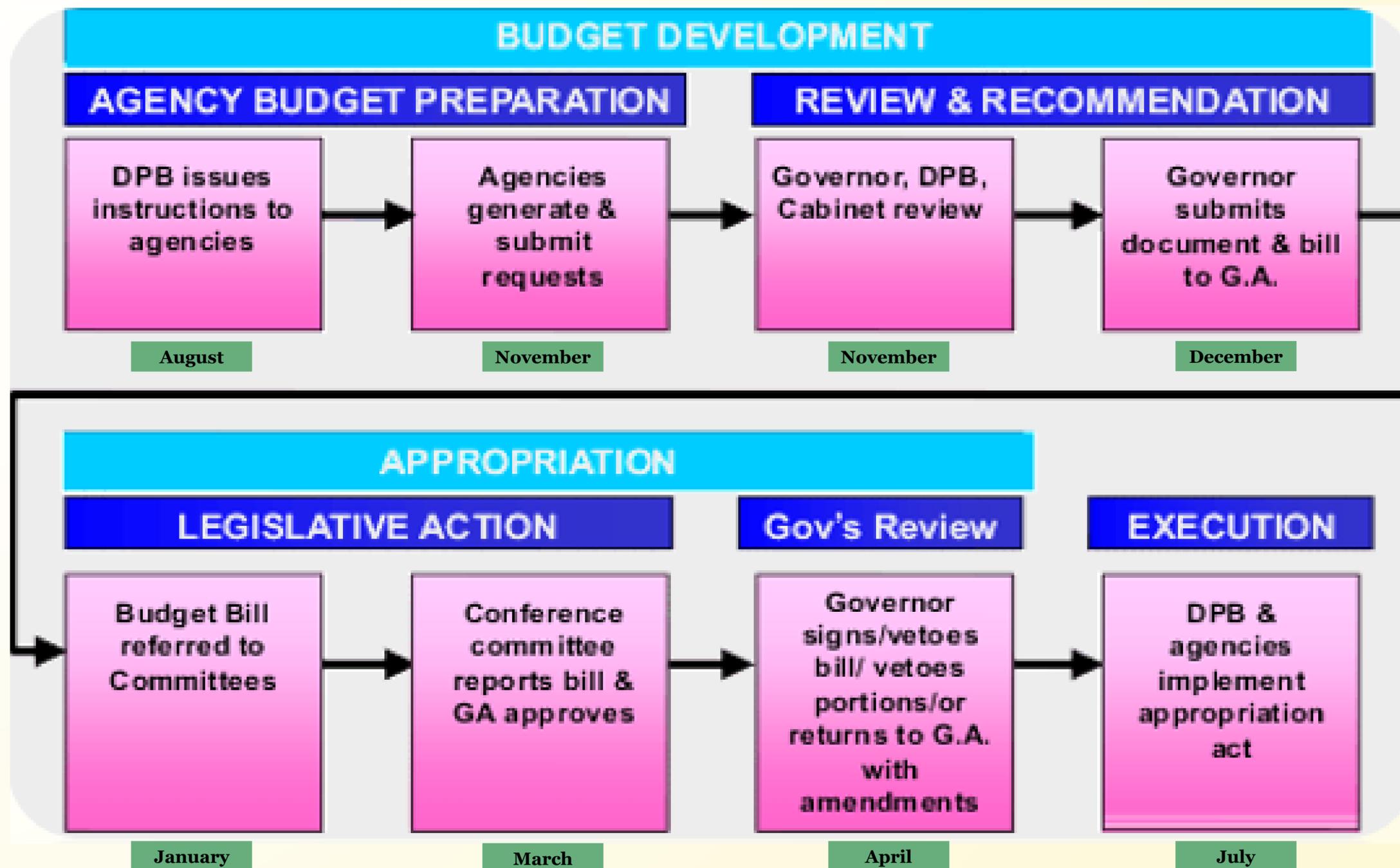
Priority Based Budgeting



Overview of Commonwealth of VA Budget Process



Commonwealth of Virginia Budget Process



Key Features of the Commonwealth of Virginia Budget Process

Budget Bill

- ❑ Virginia has a biennial (two-year) budget system. The biennial budget is enacted into law in even-numbered years, and amendments to it are enacted in odd-numbered years.

Appropriation and Allotments

- ❑ Appropriations are the legal spending authority for State agencies. Basic authority is established by the General Assembly through the Appropriation Act and related legislation.
- ❑ The Governor is empowered to adjust appropriation levels under certain conditions set forth in the Code of Virginia. Under the authority of the Governor, allotments are employed to manage against its appropriation to avoid overspending.
- ❑ Administrative responsibility for managing the process of appropriating and allotting funds resides with Department of Planning and Budget.



Overview of DWR Budget Process



Planning & Finance Budget Goals

- ❑ **Conserve:** Being good stewards of agency resources by ensuring appropriate fund balances are maintained, while also supporting the agency mission.
- ❑ **Connect:** Division Operational and Capital Budgets with license revenues, federal grants, and transfer monies.
- ❑ **Protect:** Ensuring agency resources are used in accordance with Commonwealth of Virginia and Federal Government code, rules, and regulations.

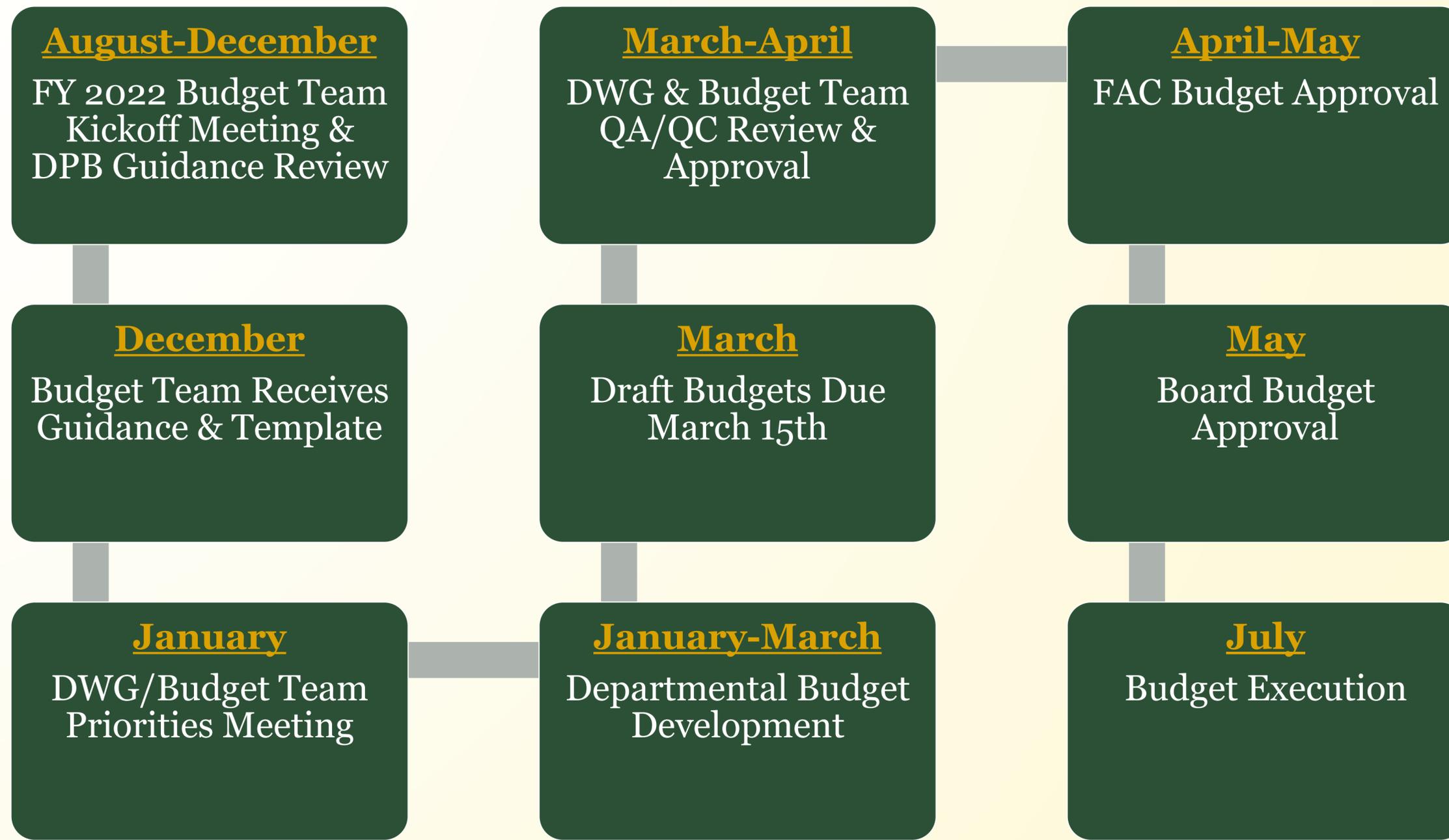


DWR Budget Team

- ❑ **Delonte Waller:** Budget Manager
- ❑ **Chris Burkett:** Grants Manager/Federal Aid Coordinator
- ❑ **Rob Lewis:** Accounting Manager
- ❑ **Becky Gwynn:** Division Representative for Terrestrial Wildlife
- ❑ **Jeff Trollinger:** Division Representative for Aquatic Wildlife
- ❑ **Brian Moyer:** Division Representative for Outreach
- ❑ **Tony Fisher:** Division Representative for Law Enforcement
- ❑ **Lester Brantley:** Division Representative for Human Resources



FY 2022 DWR Budget Process



DWR Appropriation Funding

- ❑ DWR is classified as a “special funded” or Non General Fund (NGF) agency because we do not receive funding from state general fund tax revenues.

- ❑ Our 5 primary sources of funding are:
 - License and permit sales
 - Federal grants and programs
 - Boat registration and titling fees
 - Transfer of HB38 and Watercraft Sales & Use Taxes
 - Other sources, generated internally

- ❑ DWR’s internal appropriation aligns with the Budget Bill except when:
 - Cash balances are insufficient to support to support appropriation level
 - Projected revenues are insufficient to support appropriation level

- Main takeaway is as a NGF agency we must have the cash and revenue to support our appropriation level.



2020-2022 Biennium: 2021 Governor's Proposed Operating Budget (DWR)

Biennium	Fiscal Year	Source	Nongeneral Fund	Total
2016-2018	2017	Chapter 1, 2018 Acts of Assembly	\$62,809,733	\$62,809,733
2016-2018	2018	Chapter 1, 2018 Acts of Assembly	\$62,833,365	\$62,833,365
2018-2020	2019	Chapter 1283, 2020 Acts of Assembly	\$63,831,765	\$63,831,765
2018-2020	2020	Chapter 1283, 2020 Acts of Assembly	\$64,761,765	\$64,761,765
2020-2022	2021	Governor's Proposed Budget	\$67,952,102	\$67,952,102
2020-2022	2021	<i>2020 Special Session Approp. Act</i>	\$67,952,102	\$67,952,102
2020-2022	2022	Governor's Proposed Budget	\$66,841,461	\$66,841,461
2020-2022	2022	<i>2020 Special Session Approp. Act</i>	\$66,841,461	\$66,841,461



DWR Budget Development Considerations

- ❑ **Baseline:** Departmental budget from prior year, along with a review of actual expenditures and revenue projections. Each line item is budgeted by fund code and project/grant code if applicable.
- ❑ **Mitigation:** These specially funded projects are budgeted based on anticipated progress for the fiscal year in question.
- ❑ **Personnel:** (salary, wages, and benefits) are estimated first as it represents approximately 65% of our annual budget. Our starting point is a snapshot of filled positions, with divisions providing justification to backfill vacancies.



DWR Budget Development Considerations

(Continued)

- Non Personnel:** Budget team members are given targets and work with department personnel to create sub-department budgets. Team members are asked to justify increases per budget line greater than \$5,000 or 10%. Further, justification is also requested for items such as, vehicles, major equipment, and contracts.
- Other Considerations:** Notification of Grant Funding Pursuit Questionnaire and Program Priority Questionnaire (See Handouts). Also, fiscal impact analysis of proposed legislation.
- Draft:** Budget team members submit draft budgets. Those budgets are then compiled for review by Planning & Finance and returned to the budget team members with questions. Draft is submitted to the Executive Office leadership for review.
- Final:** Agency approved budget is presented to the Board for approval.



Priority Based Budgeting



Priority Based Budgeting Defined

❑ What is Priority Based Budgeting?

- Philosophy of priority-driven budgeting is about how a government entity should invest resources to meet its stated objectives. It helps us to better articulate why the services we offer exist, what price we pay for them, and, consequently, what value they offer citizens.

❑ Priority Based Budgeting Principles

- Prioritize Services
- Do the Important Things Well
- Question Past Patterns of Spending
- Spend within Organization's Means
- Know True Cost of Doing Business
- Provide Transparency of Community Priorities
- Provide Transparency of Service Impact
- Demand Accountability for Results



Priority Based Budgeting City Objective Example

❑ Changing the Starting Point

- Traditional budgets are slow to change
- Begin with common goals and priorities with desired priority outcomes based on key indicators – not “what we did last year”
- Narrow down priorities

❑ Put Outcomes Ahead of the Organization Chart

- Traditional budgets are “poured into silos” (budget by departments/divisions) – seek common goals and priorities
- Create pools of funding for each agency outcome

❑ Shift the Budget Debate

- Traditional budget cuts are taken across the board for sake of “fairness” – opposed to measuring the outcomes prior year results
- Created “result teams” that were assigned to each priority team.
- Priority-Performance Matrix for outcomes
- Drilling Platform



Priority and Performance Based Budgeting for DWR

- ❑ **Director's Working Group buy in and input to garner greater transparency** – *Held our first joint meeting on 1/8/2021*
- ❑ **Program Narratives to included creating a high level grouping of Program and Services** – *Narrative creation began in FY 2021 Budget Development; expanded this year to identify/fund priorities.*
- ❑ **Develop a performance (evidence) based review for Operating Budget, Formal Plans, and Vision Document**
- ❑ **Identifying Mandatory versus Discretionary Spending**
- ❑ **Greater transparency of discretionary spending** (e.g. credit cards, travel, vehicles, and equipment)
- ❑ **Out Year Planning** – *Plan for foreseeable building repairs, equipment replacement, and other major expenditures*



Questions?



DWR Notification of Grant Funding Pursuit

Introduction

DWR's budgeting and financial management efforts are directed by internal, state, and federal controls and guidelines. In order to make the most of new financial resources, program managers and division administrators should work closely with administrators from the Planning and Finance Division. Knowing about, and understanding, a new funding opportunity early, will make it easier to incorporate those new funds into DWR's budget.

When program and divisional staff have decided to pursue funding from an outside source, please provide the following to: Darin Moore, Director of Planning and Finance

Application

1. **Name of Funding Opportunity:**
2. **Funding Type (Circle All That Apply): Private / State / Federal**
3. **Amount Requested:**
4. **Application Submission Date:**
5. **Anticipated Funding Award Date:**
6. **Funding Availability Period (i.e., what budget year(s) will be impacted):**
7. **Federal/Non-Federal Split or other Match Requirements:**
8. **If required, how will matching resources (funding, in-kind) be provided?**
9. **Who is responsible to developing and submitting the application?**

Implementation

10. **Please provide a brief description of the project or program this funding will support.**
11. **Can this project be "scaled down" if full funding is NOT rewarded (75%, 50%, or 25%)?**
12. **If scaling down is an option, what is the minimum funding needed to accomplish meaningful work?**
13. **How will this effort be incorporated into Annual Work Plan(s)? For example, what work will be left undone?**
14. **If not someone from DWR, who will implement the project? Will they serve as a Contractor or a Subrecipient?**
15. **When will project materials be provided to the Grants Manager so that compliance review can be initiated?**
16. **Which DWR program priorities will be addressed by this opportunity? Please be specific (include sections and/or page numbers from Deer Plan, Bear Plan, Trout Plan, Wildlife Action Plan, species recovery plan, WMA management plan, etc.)**

Reporting

- 17. What budget coding will be used to track the use of these new funds?**
- 18. Will a new Project code (aka Agency Use/Fed Code) be required to track use of these funds?**
- 19. How frequently must progress reports be provided? (Quarterly, Annually, Upon Completion, etc.)**
- 20. Who will be responsible for writing and submitting progress reports?**

Overview of Federal Aid Resources

CHRIS BURKETT

ACTING GRANTS AND CONTRACTS MANAGER

VA DEPT. OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

JAN. 15, 2021



DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE RESOURCES
CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Overview

- ▶ 30,000ft overview of our most important Federal Aid Resources
- ▶ Programs: Wildlife Restoration, Sportfish Restoration, State Wildlife Grants, and Federal Endangered Species Grants (Handouts)
 - ▶ Program's Purpose and Requirements
 - ▶ Source of funds
 - ▶ Annual amounts
 - ▶ DWR's Use of Funds
- ▶ Ineligible Activities
- ▶ Ongoing/Evolving Issues and Opportunities
- ▶ Questions

Who is Federal Aid?

- ▶ Primarily the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ▶ Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Section (WSFR or Federal Aid)
 - ▶ Manages 12 grant programs to States
 - ▶ Our Grant Officers and Administrators work from Hadley, MA
 - ▶ Biologists, Real Estate Professionals, Fiscal Specialists, Administrative Support, and Communications.

Wildlife Restoration Program (aka PR / Pittman - Robertson)

- ▶ Established in 1937 to provide funds to State fish and wildlife agencies to:
 - ▶ Restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitats
 - ▶ Provide Public Use and Access to Wildlife Resources
 - ▶ Provide Hunter Education and development of shooting ranges

Where Does Wildlife Restoration Money Come From?

- ▶ Funding derived from Federal Excise Tax on “Sporting Arms and Ammunition”
- ▶ During the last 5 years, VDWR has received approximately \$12.6M / year (range: \$10.7M to \$14.1M)
- ▶ Amount we receive influenced by 3 factors:
 - ▶ Tax Revenue Collected
 - ▶ # of Paid Hunting License Holders
 - ▶ State’s Land and Water Area

Matching Resources – Federal/State Split

- ▶ The Wildlife Restoration Program requires a 75/25 Federal / State Split.
- ▶ In other words, the USFWS can reimburse VDWR for up to 75% of an eligible project's total cost.
 - ▶ The State 25% must come from a nonfederal source:
 - ▶ License Fees;
 - ▶ HB38 funding;
 - ▶ Volunteer Hours;
 - ▶ Waived Indirect Costs;
 - ▶ Discounted Price;
 - ▶ Donations; or
 - ▶ Other

VDWR Wildlife Restoration Awards

- ▶ In order for VDWR to use these funds, we must submit a Grant Application to the USFWS' Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program (WSFR or Federal Aid)
- ▶ VDWR has 6 Active Wildlife Restoration Awards
 - ▶ WE99 – Wildlife Research & Management
 - ▶ W48D - Facilities Management and Development
 - ▶ W87E – Hunter Education
 - ▶ W95L – Land Acquisition
 - ▶ R3 – R3 Program Implementation
 - ▶ W31C – Grant Administration

Wildlife Restoration Summary

- ▶ Conserve wild birds and mammals and support hunting, shooting, Education, and land conservation
- ▶ Avg. \$12.6M per year
- ▶ Funding from Federal excise tax
- ▶ Nonfederal match: 25%
- ▶ 6 Active awards

Sportfish Restoration Program (aka DJ or Dingle – Johnson)

- ▶ Established in 1950 to provide funds to State fish and wildlife agencies to:
 - ▶ Restore and manage [sportfish species](#)
 - ▶ Provide facilities that provide the public with fishing and boating access
 - ▶ Provide aquatic education opportunities

Where Does Sportfish Restoration Money Come From?

- ▶ Funding Derived from Federal excise tax on fishing equipment and electric motors; import duties on tackle, yachts, and pleasure craft; portion of the Federal gasoline tax
- ▶ During the last five years, VDWR has received average \$5.3M/ year in sportfish restoration funds (range \$5.1M to \$5.4M)
- ▶ The amount VDWR receives influenced by:
 - ▶ Amount of taxes collected;
 - ▶ # of paid licensed anglers; and
 - ▶ The state's land and water area.

Federal / State Split

- ▶ The Sportfish Restoration Program requires a 75/25 Federal / State Split.

VDWR Sportfish Restoration Awards

- ▶ VDWR has 3 Active Sportfish Restoration Awards
 - ▶ F111R – Sportfish Investigations
 - ▶ F109D – Public Fishing Development
 - ▶ F107D – Boating Access

Sportfish Restoration Summary

- ▶ To manage sportfisheries and provide opportunities for anglers and boaters
- ▶ Avg. \$5.3M per year
- ▶ Funds provided by Excise Taxes
- ▶ Annual Appropriation
- ▶ Nonfederal Match: 25%
- ▶ 3 Active Awards

Federal Endangered Species Funding (aka Sec. 6)

- ▶ Established in 1973 as part of the Federal Endangered Species Act to provide funds to State fish and wildlife agencies to help conserve and restore threatened and endangered species
- ▶ Multiple Varieties of Sec. 6 grants:
 - ▶ Traditional Conservation Grants;
 - ▶ Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance;
 - ▶ Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition;
 - ▶ Recovery Land Acquisition; and
 - ▶ Issue-specific grants (ex. White Nose Syndrome).

Where Does Sec. 6 Money Come From?

- ▶ Funding is provided as part of the Interior Department's annual appropriation.
 - ▶ Total budgeted amount divided among the 8 USFWS regions based on the number of species covered by cooperative agreements.
 - ▶ USFWS Region determines how to distribute funds.
- ▶ VDWR must compete with other states in the Northeast Region. Amount of funding determined by:
 - ▶ The amount provided to NE USFWS region;
 - ▶ The quality of our proposal;
 - ▶ The number of proposals submitted;
 - ▶ Conservation priorities.
- ▶ During the last 5 years, VDWR has received \$120K / year. (range \$88K - \$158K)

Federal / State Split

Multiple match rates depending upon the project and USFWS priorities:

- ▶ Majority of these endangered species funds require a 75/25 Federal / State split.
- ▶ If multiple states collaborate on a project, a 90/10 Federal / State split is required.
- ▶ Some specific awards require no nonfederal match (ex. WNS).

VDWR Endangered Species Grants

- ▶ VDWR has 4 active Endangered Species Grants
 - ▶ E7R4 – Traditional Sec. 6
 - ▶ E11TW7 – White-Nose Syndrome Research (Little Brown Bats)
 - ▶ E11TW8 – White-Nose Syndrome Research (Bat Hibernacula)
 - ▶ E14RL – Recovery Land Acquisition

Endangered Species Grant Summary

- ▶ Focused on Federally Protected Species
- ▶ Average \$120K / year
- ▶ Funding inconsistent
- ▶ Competitive
- ▶ Nonfederal Match: ranges from 0% to 25%
- ▶ Four active awards

State Wildlife Grants (aka SWG or SWiG)

Established in 2000 to provide funds to State wildlife agencies to conserve and restore sensitive and imperiled species. (Keep species from becoming endangered.)

- ▶ In order to be eligible to participate, a State wildlife agency must have an approved Wildlife Action Plan that identifies the state's Species of Greatest Conservation Need and meets seven other congressionally mandated criteria.
- ▶ Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan last updated in 2015. Must be rewritten by October 2025.

Where Does State Wildlife Grant Money Come From?

- ▶ State Wildlife Grant funds are budgeted within the Interior Department Appropriation
- ▶ Funds are made available to states in two ways: appropriation and competitive awards
- ▶ Appropriated Funds: VDWR receives approximately \$1.1M / year
Amount of appropriated funds determined by:
 - ▶ Federal Budget;
 - ▶ State's Human Population;
 - ▶ State's Land Area.
- ▶ VDWR may also submit applications to receive Competitive SWG awards

Federal / State Split

- ▶ The State Wildlife Grant program has different Federal / State split depending upon the work being done.
 - ▶ Writing a Wildlife Action Plan – 75/25 Federal / State split
 - ▶ Implementing a Wildlife Action Plan – 65/35 Federal / State split

VDWR State Wildlife Grant Awards

VDWR has 3 active SWG Awards

- ▶ T7R – Wildlife Action Plan Implementation (Appropriated)
- ▶ T3R – Northeastern State Coordination (Appropriated)
- ▶ T9R – Regional Spotted Turtle Conservation (Competitive)

State Wildlife Grant Summary

- ▶ Meant to keep species from becoming endangered
- ▶ Guided by State's Wildlife Action Plan
- ▶ Avg. \$1.1M / year
- ▶ Funding not secure
- ▶ Nonfederal Match: from 25% to 35%
- ▶ 3 Active awards

Performance Reporting



- ▶ We submit Annual Work Plans – Revise our grants to include new management projects, research, equipment needs, capital projects, etc.
- ▶ We submit Annual Reports – to document our performance and financial information.

Ineligible Activities

We cannot use Federal Aid funds to support:

- ▶ Law Enforcement
- ▶ Public Relations to Promote the State Fish and Wildlife Agency
- ▶ Activities conducted for the primary purpose of producing income.
- ▶ Lobbying elected officials
- ▶ Activities that promote or encourage opposition to regulated fishing, hunting, or trapping of wildlife.

Recurring Issue – Why WSFR Cares About License Revenues.

Before a state wildlife agency can use WSFR programs, the state must enact legislation that restricts license revenue to the administration of the state fish and wildlife agency.

COV 29.1-103.2 Assent to wildlife restoration projects and sport fishing restoration and management projects

Emerging Issue #1 – Recent Changes to Wildlife Restoration Program (PR)

- ▶ March 2019 Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act
 - ▶ No additional funding
 - ▶ Makes it easier for State Wildlife Agencies to construct or expand public target ranges.
- ▶ Jan. 2020, Congress passed the Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act
 - ▶ No Additional Funding
 - ▶ Eases restrictions on using PR for some outreach
 - ▶ PR can be used to support R3 programs

Emerging Issue #2 – Recovering America's Wildlife Act

- ▶ State Wildlife Grants – Really Important but Not Nearly Enough
- ▶ State Wildlife Agencies working with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and other Partners to create a new funding mechanism to help keep species from becoming endangered.
- ▶ If passed, this would bring new money for species and habitat conservation.

Emerging Issue #3 - New Federal Aid Lands Chapter

Many state wildlife agencies use Federal Aid to buy land. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has recently completed regulations for land acquisitions. Some changes will impact VDWR.

- ▶ Appraisal requirements will make acquisitions more expensive and difficult.
- ▶ Post-purchase land monitoring every 5 years.
 - ▶ Coordination with partners to monitor.

Emerging Issue #4 – Wildlife TRACS

New Project Management and Reporting system developed by the USFWS.

Originally envisioned as a means of tracking changes to resources and success of conservation actions (over time, across projects, multiple states). Has recently come “online”.

- ▶ Potential to improve our Performance Metrics
- ▶ Will likely require changes to how we write our grant applications and annual reports
- ▶ Will require changes in how we put details together.

Emerging Issue #5 – Tribal Comments

Many of our projects require that we conduct a tribal review – safeguard cultural resources.

Last year, we received a comment from a tribe demanding that archaeological surveys be conducted before a project is initiated. There is a difference of opinion regarding what the law requires.

Are we obligated to act upon every tribal comment?

Working with WSFR to clarify our specific legal obligations.

Summary

- ▶ Federal Aid
 - ▶ Suite of dynamic programs managed by the USFWS
 - ▶ Provide \$20M to VDWR per year
 - ▶ These funds are applied creatively
 - ▶ Stretch our state funding
 - ▶ Comes with some legal and administrative obligations
 - ▶ Overall, wildlife and people benefit
 - ▶ Handouts



Thank You

Questions?

STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program



DISTRIBUTION METHOD

All Annually Distributed Competitive

Nationally competitive based on ranking criteria

Noncompetitive—Formula

Apportioned based on formula:

1/3 land area + 2/3 population

Governing Guidance

- Annual Interior Appropriations Acts (Enabling Legislation)
- 2 CFR 200
- Administrative Guidelines for State Wildlife Grants—2007
- Guidance on Wildlife Action Plan Review and Revision—2017 (<https://www.fws.gov/Display/WT/TK/Director%27s+Orders-Rules-Policy-Interim+Guidance>)

ELIGIBLE GRANTEES → ALL STATE AND TERRITORY FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
→ REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Purpose

Provide funds for development and implementation of programs that benefit sensitive and imperiled wildlife and their habitats, especially species not hunted or fished (referred to as “species of greatest conservation need”)

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Conservation actions such as research, surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring that are identified in an approved State Wildlife Action Plan; or updating, revising, or modifying a State’s Plan; or addressing approved “emerging issues”

SOURCE OF FUNDS

- ⇒ Before 2006, funding provided through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- ⇒ 2006 and later, funding provided through General Appropriations.

MATCHING REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

- Annual appropriation available for two years
- Formula planning grants and competitive grants require 25% matching, federal share not to exceed 75% of total costs
- Formula implementation grants require 35% matching, federal share not to exceed 65% of total costs
- Matching funds under \$200,000 shall be waived for American Samoa, Guam, Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OR REQUIREMENTS

- * State/Territory must develop or commit to develop a comprehensive wildlife conservation plan by October 1, 2005.
- * Approved plans must be reviewed and updated at maximum intervals of ten years.

ENDANGERED SPECIES GRANTS

Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

DISTRIBUTION METHOD

Traditional Conservation Grants

Funding allocated by formula to USFWS Regions based on number of species covered in cooperative agreements. Regions further allocate funding to States by formula or competitive basis

Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance

Awarded based on National competition

Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition

Awarded based on National competition

Recovery Land Acquisition Grants

Awarded based on Regional competition

Governing Guidance

- Endangered Species Act of 1973 —Section 6 (Enabling Legislation)
- 2 CFR 200
- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Section 6 ESA Program



ELIGIBLE GRANTEES: ALL STATE AND TERRITORY AGENCIES THAT HAVE ENTERED INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Purpose

Provide assistance to State fish and wildlife agencies to assist in development of programs for the conservation of endangered and threatened species on non-federal lands

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Animal, plant, and habitat surveys; research; planning; monitoring; habitat protection, restoration, management, and acquisition; and public education

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

MATCHING REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

- Provides up to 75% federal funding, 25% required from non-federal sources (up to 90% federal funding when two or more States cooperate to conserve an endangered or threatened species of common interest)
- Matching funds under \$200,000 shall be waived for American Samoa, Guam, Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OR REQUIREMENTS

- * All State and Territory agencies must currently have or enter into a cooperative agreement with USFWS
- * Submit proposals meeting eligibility requirements for specific grant program

SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

UPDATED 3/2019

Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program



DISTRIBUTION METHOD

Apportioned formula based on: 60% paid sportfishing license holders + 40% land/water area

Governing Guidance

- Sport Fish Restoration Act, also known as Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950 (Enabling Legislation)
- 50 CFR 80
- 2 CFR 200

ELIGIBLE GRANTEES: ALL STATE/TERRITORY FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES WITH ASSENT LEGISLATION

Purpose

- Restoration and management of fish species of material value for sport-fishing and recreation
- Provide facilities that create or add to public access for recreational boating
- Provide aquatic education to public to increase understanding of water resources and associated aquatic life

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Projects restoring, conserving, managing, and enhancing sport fish having material value for sport or recreation
- Projects enhancing the public's understanding of water resources and aquatic life, assisting them in developing attitudes toward the aquatic environment

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Fifty-eight percent of amount in Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund

Includes Revenues from:

- Excise taxes on sport fishing equipment and electric motors
- Import duties on fishing tackle, yachts and pleasure craft
- Portion of gasoline tax attributable to motorboats and small engines
- Interest earned on Trust Fund

MATCHING REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

- States may be paid up to 75% federal funding, 25% required from non-federal sources
- 100% federal funding for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands
- Annual apportionment available for obligation to grants for two years before they revert. Reverted funds are reapportioned to the Sport Fish Restoration program during subsequent year
- Amount allocated by States for freshwater programs each fiscal year cannot be less than amount allocated in fiscal year 1988
- Up to 15% of annual apportionment may be allocated for aquatic education (no limit for PR, DC, CNMI, Guam, VI, and American Samoa)
- At least 15% of annual apportionment must be allocated to the boating access subprogram (each USFWS region's boating access allocation must be at least 15% during each 5 year period. If not, those states below 15% revert funds).
- Coastal States must equitably allocate apportionment between freshwater and marine projects in proportion to number of resident marine/freshwater anglers

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OR REQUIREMENTS

- * State Fish and Wildlife Agencies must pass and maintain assent legislation
- * Submit annual license certifications
- * Ineligible projects include law enforcement, public relations, and revenue producing activities

WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM

UPDATED 3/2019



Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

DISTRIBUTION METHOD

Apportioned formula based on: 50% paid hunting license holders + 50% land/water area

Governing Guidance

- Wildlife Restoration Act, also known as Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 (Enabling Legislation)
- 50 CFR 80
- 2 CFR 200

ELIGIBLE GRANTEES: ALL STATE/TERRITORY FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES WITH ASSENT LEGISLATION

Purpose

- Restoration, conservation, management and enhancement of wild birds and mammals and their habitat
- Provide public use and access to wildlife resources
- Provide for education of hunters and development of shooting ranges

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Manage wildlife and their habitats, monitor populations, conduct research, collect and analyze data, maintain facilities, perform outreach, and other activities designed to promote wildlife restoration and wildlife-based recreation.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund

Includes Revenues from:

- **Excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunition (firearms, ammunition, pistols, handguns, revolvers, bows, archery, arrow components)**

MATCHING REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

- States may be paid up to 75% federal funding, 25% required from non-federal sources
- 100% federal funding for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands
- Annual apportionment available for two years before it reverts
- Reverted funds are returned to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for use in Migratory Bird Program
- Basic Hunter Education (separate formula and apportionment) - may be used for hunter education or other WR Act authorized projects
- Enhanced Hunter Education (eight million dollars set aside) - must be used for hunter education or shooting range enhancements (if all Basic Hunter Education funds are used for hunter education, Enhanced HE may be used for any WR Act authorized projects)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OR REQUIREMENTS

- * State Fish and Wildlife Agencies must pass and maintain assent legislation
- * Submit annual license certification
- * Ineligible projects include law enforcement, public relations, and revenue producing activities
- * Wildlife includes indigenous or naturalized species of birds or mammals that are either wildlife or free-ranging; held in a captive breeding program for reintroduction of depleted species; or under the jurisdiction of State fish and wildlife agency.