



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE  
353 WATER STREET  
41 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



**Testimony of Judith Camuso, Commissioner  
Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and  
the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries & Wildlife**

**"An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other  
Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law  
Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30,  
2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025"**

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Good morning Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. My name is Judy Camuso, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I am here today to testify in support of the biennial budget bill, LD 258.

This budget advances the Governor's guiding belief that to build a stronger, more prosperous state where opportunity is available to all, then we must invest in the infrastructure that supports the people of Maine, our greatest asset.

That is why this budget proposal strengthens the very things that Maine people rely on every day to succeed, building on the strong success of the currently enacted budget and the last legislative session to tackle Maine's greatest challenges.

We have governed cautiously and in a fiscally prudent way over the past four years, making sure that – even in the hardest of times during the pandemic – we lived within our means. This budget proposal continues that practice.

We look forward to the discussions over the next several months as we outline each initiative and impact of the proposed investments.

The Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife is the lead agency in Maine with the responsibility to preserve, protect and enhance the inland fisheries and wildlife resources of the State; to encourage the wise use of these resources; to ensure coordinated planning for the future use and preservation of these resources; and to provide for effective management of these resources.

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The following is a presentation of the Department's proposed budget.

### **Administrative Services-IF&W 0530**

I will begin on **page A-445** with the Administrative Services program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations and Other Special Revenue. This program supports the design, maintenance and repair of department owned facilities.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-445** increases the General Fund appropriation by \$19,009 in FY24 and by \$19,003 in FY25 to reorganize one Public Service Coordinator I position to a Public Service Manager II position.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-445** reduces allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$13,000 in each year of the biennium to eliminate an account that is no longer in use.

The third new initiative in this program found on **page A-445** increases the General Fund appropriation by \$615,000 in FY24 and by \$175,000 in FY25 to provide one-time funding for energy efficiency upgrades including electric vehicle chargers, LED lighting upgrades, heat pumps, and walk in freezers at regional offices.

The fourth new initiative in this program found on **page A-445** increases the General Fund appropriation by \$87,500 in each year of the biennium to provide one-time funding for the installation of backup generators at regional offices.

The fifth new initiative in this program found on **page A-445** increases the General Fund appropriation by \$1,000,000 in FY24 to provide one-time funding for the repair of three department-owned dams.

The sixth new initiative in this program found on **page A-446** increases the General Fund appropriation by \$240,000 in FY24 to provide one-time funding for the replacement of one dump truck critical to hauling heavy equipment and materials to various facilities.

### **ATV Enforcement Fund Z276**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-446** is the ATV Enforcement Fund. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Other Special Revenue. This program provides funding for the enforcement of ATV laws, ATV education, and the purchase of necessary equipment related to ATV safety and enforcement activities. There are no new initiatives for this program.

### **ATV Safety and Educational Program 0559**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-447** is the ATV Safety and Educational Program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations and Other Special Revenue. This program ensures that persons aged ten to sixteen are in compliance with the law requiring them to complete a training program approved by the Department in order to operate such vehicles in the State of Maine. Recreational vehicle education programs are conducted to raise public awareness and promote better understanding of outdoor recreation safety issues and to encourage better support for recreational vehicle safety and enforcement efforts.

The only new initiative in this program found on **page A-447** reduces allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$99,298 in FY24 and by \$98,131 in FY25 to align the allocations with revenues as recommended in the December 1, 2022 forecast of the Revenue Forecasting Committee.

### **Boating Access Sites 0631**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-448** is the Boating Access Sites program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Federal Expenditure Funds and Other Special Revenue. The Boating Access Sites program was established to increase public access to boat launch sites and to acquire and develop access sites to Maine public waters and is funded by a portion of the proceeds from sales of the Sportsman license plates.

The only new initiative in this program found on **page A-448** increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$575,000 in each year of the biennium and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$265,000 in each year of the biennium to purchase and improve land for boat launch facilities throughout the state.

### **Camp North Woods Z193**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-449** is the Camp North Woods program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Other Special Revenue. This program was established to provide opportunities to youth in the outdoors, where they can learn lifelong skills and the importance of sustaining Maine's natural resources. This program is funded through camp application fees and private donations. There are no new initiatives for this program.

## Endangered Nongame Operations 0536

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-450** is the Endangered Nongame Operations program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations, Federal Expenditure Funds, and Other Special Revenue. This program provides management of nongame wildlife and endangered species to maintain and enhance various species of fish and wildlife as well as the ecosystems upon which they depend. Nongame wildlife includes all terrestrial, and freshwater species that are not ordinarily collected, or taken for sport or profit.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-450** increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$28,690 in FY24 and by \$28,882 in FY25 and decreases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$12,900 in FY24 and by \$12,997 in FY25 for the reorganization and reallocation of one IF&W Resource Supervisor position to one Public Service Manager II position. This represents the Endangered Nongame Species portion of this reorganization. This initiative can also be found on **page A-468** of the Budget document.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-450** increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$13,255 in FY24 and by \$13,969 in FY25 to establish one Public Service Coordinator I position to oversee federal grant monitoring and compliance. This initiative can also be found on **page A-457** and **page A-469** of the Budget document.

The third new initiative in this program found on **page A-451** increases General Fund appropriation by \$4,961 in FY24 and by \$5,245 in FY25 and increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$10,221 in FY24 and by \$10,806 in FY25 to establish one IF&W Resource Biologist position to lead field efforts on bear, moose, and other priority research projects. This initiative can also be found **page A-469** of the Budget document.

The fourth new initiative in this program found on **page A-451** increases General Fund appropriation by \$5,220 in FY24 and by \$5,498 in FY25 and decreases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$22,591 in FY24 and by \$21,723 in FY25 to establish one IF&W Senior Resource Biologist position to provide technical assistance to private landowners on wildlife habitat management. This initiative can also be found **page A-470** of the Budget document.

The fifth new initiative in this program found on **page A-451** transfers headcount of 10 positions from the General Fund to the Federal Expenditures Fund to reassign the home account for each position. There is no financial impact from this initiative. This initiative can also be found on **page A-457**, **page A-465**, and **page A-471** of the Budget document.

The sixth new initiative in this program found on **page A-451** decreases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$24,875 in FY24 and by \$25,272 in FY25 to reallocate the cost of one IF&W Senior Resource Biologist position to realign work effort with appropriate funding. This initiative can also be found **page A-472** of the Budget document.

The seventh new initiative in this program found on **page A-452** decreases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$65,087 in FY24 and by \$65,801 in FY25 to transfer and reallocate the

cost of three IF&W Resource Biologist positions to realign work effort with appropriate funding. This initiative can also be found **page A-472** of the Budget document.

The eighth new initiative in this program found on **page A-452** decreases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$95,378 in FY24 and by \$100,573 in FY25 and decreases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$52,988 in FY24 and by \$55,870 in FY25 to transfer and reallocate the cost of one IF&W Resource Biologist position and one IF&W Resource Supervisor position to realign work effort with appropriate funding. This initiative can also be found **page A-472** of the Budget document.

The ninth new initiative in this program found on **page A-452** decreases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$13,705 in FY24 and by \$14,385 in FY25 to reallocate the cost of one IF&W Senior Resource Biologist position to realign work effort with appropriate funding. This initiative can also be found **page A-473** of the Budget document.

### **Enforcement Operations – IF&W 0537**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-454** is the Enforcement Operations program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations, Federal Expenditure Funds, and Other Special Revenue. The Maine Warden Service enforces Title 12, Chapters 901-939, enforces all rules promulgated by the Commissioner, and enforces the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Maine Warden Service also enforces the Maine boating and recreational vehicle laws (snowmobile and ATV). The Maine Warden Service is, by statute, responsible for searches for persons presumed lost or drowned in the fields, forests and inland waters of the State of Maine. Game Wardens of the Maine Warden Service are uniformed law enforcement officers with full police powers and statewide jurisdiction.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-454** increases General Fund appropriation by \$478,924 in FY24 and by \$593,841 in FY25 to provide additional funding for statewide Central Fleet Management services.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-454** increases General Fund appropriation by \$146,250 in FY25 to provide one-time funding for the replacement of 130 handguns.

The third new initiative in this program found on **page A-454** increases General Fund appropriation by \$163,446 in each year of the biennium to provide funding for contracted wildlife conflict management personnel to manage complaints and concerns regarding wildlife conflicts from residents.

The fourth new initiative in this program found on **page A-455** increases General Fund appropriation by \$57,600 in each year of the biennium to provide funding to hire more examiners and provide additional pay to conduct guide's licensing training.

The fifth new initiative in this program found on **page A-455** increases General Fund appropriation by \$77,974 in FY24 and by \$117,439 in FY25 to provide additional funding for dispatch services provided by the Department of Public Safety.

### **Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-456** is the Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations, Federal Expenditure Funds, Other Special Revenue, and ARP State Fiscal Recovery Federal Expenditures Funds. The Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations program works to ensure that all species of inland fish in the State of Maine are maintained and perpetuated for their intrinsic, ecological and economic value. In addition, this program works to ensure that inland fisheries are available for recreational, scientific and educational use.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-456** increases General Fund appropriation by \$44,798 in FY24 and by \$56,613 in FY25 to provide additional funding for statewide Central Fleet Management services.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-456** increases General Fund appropriation by \$242,382 in FY24 and by \$266,266 in FY25 to provide additional funding for the increased costs of fish food to maintain the same level of usage.

The third new initiative in this program found on **page A-457** was previously discussed on page four of my testimony and **page A-450** of the Budget document and increases General Fund appropriation by \$7,507 in FY24 and by \$7,912 in FY25 and increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$19,883 in FY24 and by \$20,957 in FY25 to establish one Public Service Coordinator I position to oversee federal grant monitoring and compliance. This initiative can also be found later in the Budget document on **page A-469**.

The fourth new initiative in this program found on **page A-457** was previously discussed on page four of my testimony and transfers the headcount of 10 positions from the General Fund to the Federal Expenditures Fund to reassign the home account for each position. There is no financial impact from this initiative. This initiative can also be found later in the Budget document on **page A-465** and **page A-471**.

The fifth new initiative in this program found on **page A-457** increases General Fund appropriation by \$150,000 in each year of the biennium to provide one-time funding to replace capital equipment items that have become unsafe or unreliable. These funds will be used to replace four fish stocking trucks, two fish stocking truck beds, and two sets of fish stocking tanks.

The sixth new initiative in this program found on **page A-457** increases General Fund appropriation by \$2,750 in FY24 and by \$12,750 in FY25 and increases allocation in the Federal

Expenditures Fund by \$8,250 in FY24 and by \$38,250 in FY25 to provide one-time funding for the replacement of one boat, one boat motor, one trailer, two snowmobiles, and one electrofishing backpack.

The seventh new initiative in this program found on **page A-457** increases General Fund appropriation by \$8,875 in FY24 and increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$26,625 in FY24 to provide one-time funding for the purchase of one snowmobile trailer, one ATV, and one rowable raft.

### **Landowner Relations Z140**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-459** is the Landowner Relations program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations and Other Special Revenue. The Landowner Relations program was established to foster good relationships between landowners and outdoor recreationists, and promote high standards of courtesy, respect and responsibility by outdoor recreationists in their relations with landowners. This program is funded through the sale of Outdoor Partners Program Membership and from a portion (20%) of the sale of the Sportsman License Plate.

The only new initiative in this program found on **page A-459** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$617 in FY24 and by \$671 in FY25 to reorganize two part-time Recreational Safety Coordinator positions to one full-time Recreational Safety Coordinator position. This initiative can also be found further in the Budget document on **page A-464** and **page A-468**.

### **Licensing Services – IF&W 0531**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-460** is the Licensing Services program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations, Federal Expenditure Funds, and Other Special Revenue. The Licensing Services – IF&W program is responsible for the administration and issuance of over 500,000 licenses, stamps and permits and the registration of 70,000 all-terrain vehicles, 80,000 snowmobiles and 120,000 boats. The Division accomplishes the sale of these licenses, permits and registrations through its work with over 750 sales agents located throughout Maine.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-460** decreases General Fund appropriation by \$13,309 in FY24 and by \$14,488 in FY25 and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$61,984 in FY24 and by \$65,276 in FY25 to reorganize and reallocate one Office Associate II position to a Public Service Manager II position to support the move of the Department to provide more online services.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-460** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$100,000 in FY24 to provide one-time funding for the removal of the St. Zacharie facility.

The third new initiative in this program found on **page A-460** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$180,000 in FY25 to provide one-time funding for the replacement of the roof at the Strong regional facility.

The fourth new initiative in this program found on **page A-461** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$180,000 in FY24 to provide one-time funding for the repair of the basement ceiling and bunkroom at the Jonesboro regional facility.

#### **Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund 0829**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-461** is the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Other Special Revenue. The Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund was established to provide funding for projects that would perpetuate Maine's outdoor heritage. The Outdoor Heritage Fund awards grants semi-annually to natural resource organizations for conservation and recreation projects that meet the guidelines stated in the Outdoor Heritage Fund's strategic plan. The fund is governed by a Board of seven members and is funded through the sale of special lottery tickets. There are no new initiatives for this program.

#### **Office of the Commissioner – IF&W 0529**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-462** is the Office of the Commissioner program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations and Other Special Revenue. The Commissioner's Office is responsible for the administration and management of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, develops and implements long range plans for the management and use of the state's fish and wildlife resources and the use of recreational vehicles, and supports services provided by central service agencies in areas common to all divisions such as the Office of Information Technology and the Natural Resources Service Center. The office is also responsible for the development, coordination, maintenance and evaluation of the Department's comprehensive fish and wildlife programs.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-462** increases General Fund appropriation by \$6,509 in FY24 and by \$7,652 in FY25 to provide additional funding for statewide Central Fleet Management services.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-462** increases General Fund appropriation by \$224,208 in FY24 and by \$237,108 in FY25 to provide additional funding for statewide property leases.



The third new initiative in this program found on **page A-462** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$4,786 in FY24 and by \$4,783 in FY25 to reorganize one Public Service Coordinator II position from range 29 to range 30.

The fourth new initiative in this program found on **page A-462** increases General Fund appropriation by \$258,361 in FY24 and by \$263,731 in FY25 to continue the same level of application and end user support provided by the Office of Information Technology.

The fifth new initiative in this program found on **page A-463** provides a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$537,035 in FY24 for the replacement of the administrative building at the Maine Wildlife Park. This initiative can also be found further in the Budget document on **page A-465**.

The sixth new initiative in this program found on **page A-463** provides General Fund appropriation of \$109,357 in FY24 and \$129,105 in FY25 to fund increased fees for the Natural Resources Service Center.

#### **Public Information and Education Division 0729**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-464** is the Public Information and Education Division. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations and Other Special Revenue. The Public Information and Education Division administers programs to increase the public's knowledge and understanding of inland fisheries and wildlife resources through public education, promotion, and dissemination of information.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-464** increases General Fund appropriation by \$5,061 in FY24 and by \$6,286 in FY25 to provide additional funding for statewide Central Fleet Management services.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-464** increases General Fund appropriation by \$13,026 in FY24 and by \$13,021 in FY25 to reorganize one Media and Graphics Supervisor position to a Supervisor Graphic and Digital Services position. This initiative can also be found later in the Budget document on **page A-468**.

The third new initiative in this program found on **page A-464** was previously discussed on page seven of my testimony and **page A-459** of the Budget document. This initiative reorganizes two part-time Recreational Safety Coordinator positions to one full-time Recreational Safety Coordinator position. This part of the initiative increases General Fund appropriation by \$7,870 in FY24 and by \$8,537 in FY25. This initiative can also be found later in the Budget document on **page A-468**.

The fourth new initiative in this program found on **page A-464** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$55,767 in FY24 and by \$60,518 in FY25 to establish two seasonal

Gamekeeper positions for 32 weeks at the Maine Wildlife Park and reduces related contracted service costs.

The fifth new initiative in this program found on **page A-465** was previously discussed on page four of my testimony and transfers the headcount of 10 positions from the General Fund to the Federal Expenditures Fund to reassign the home account for each position. There is no financial impact from this initiative. This initiative can also be found later in the Budget document on **page A-471**.

The sixth new initiative in this program found on **page A-465** was previously discussed on page nine of my testimony and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$1,100,000 in FY24 to provide one-time funding for the replacement of the administrative building at the Maine Wildlife Park.

The seventh new initiative in this program found on **page A-465** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$17,461 in FY24 and by \$17,824 in FY25 to reorganize two Gamekeeper positions to two Recreational Trails Coordinator positions at the Maine Wildlife Park.

The eighth new initiative in this program found on **page A-465** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$73,971 in FY24 and by \$78,081 in FY25 to continue and make permanent one limited-period Gamekeeper position at the Maine Wildlife Park.

The ninth new initiative in this program found on **page A-465** increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$203,523 in each year of the biennium to provide funds for the increased costs of general operations, repairs, and store inventory at the Maine Wildlife Park.

#### **Resource Management Services – IF&W 0534**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-467** is the Resource Management Services program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations, Federal Expenditure Funds, and Other Special Revenue. The Bureau of Resource Management is responsible for the management of the State's inland fisheries and wildlife resources and the development of rules governing the effective management of these resources. The Bureau maintains and enhances the State's fisheries and wildlife resources and habitats through acquisition and habitat improvement, manages wildlife sanctuaries and management areas, coordinates animal damage control functions and controls the importation and transportation of wildlife species and associated parasites and diseases within Maine.

The first new initiative in this program found on **page A-467** increases General Fund appropriation by \$22,730 in FY24 and by \$28,075 in FY25 to provide additional funding for statewide Central Fleet Management services.

The second new initiative in this program found on **page A-467** increases General Fund appropriation by \$3,403 in FY24 and by \$3,661 in FY25 and increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$8,177 in FY24 and by \$8,801 in FY25 to reorganize one IF&W Resource Supervisor position to a Public Service Manager II position.

The third new initiative in this program found on **page A-468** was previously discussed on page four of my testimony and **page A-450** of the Budget document and reorganizes and reallocates one IF&W Resource Supervisor position to one Public Service Manager II position. This part of the initiative increases the General fund appropriation by \$16,731 in FY24 and by \$16,822 in FY25 and decreases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$18,579 in FY24 and by \$18,773 in FY25.

The fourth new initiative in this program found on **page A-468** was previously discussed on page nine of my testimony and **page A-464** of the Budget document and reorganizes one Media and Graphics Supervisor position to a Supervisor Graphic and Digital Services position. This part of the initiative increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$3,355 in FY24 and by \$3,354 in FY25.

The fifth new initiative in this program found on **page A-468** was previously discussed on pages seven and nine of my testimony. This initiative reorganizes two part-time Recreational Safety Coordinator positions to one full-time Recreational Safety Coordinator position. This part of the initiative increases allocation in Federal Expenditures Fund by \$22,453 in FY24 and by \$24,349 in FY25.

The sixth new initiative in this program found on **page A-468** increases General Fund appropriation by \$23,988 in FY24 and by \$24,271 in FY25, increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$4,278 in FY24 and by \$4,275 in FY25, and decreases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$22,594 in FY24 and by \$22,882 in FY25 to reorganize and reallocate one IF&W Resource Biologist position to a IF&W Senior Resource Biologist position.

The seventh new initiative in this program found on **page A-469** was previously discussed on pages four and six of my testimony and **pages A-450 and A-457** of the Budget document. This initiative establishes one Public Service Coordinator I position. This part of the initiative increases General Fund appropriation by \$24,664 in FY24 and by \$25,994 in FY25 and increases allocation in Federal Expenditures Fund by \$44,185 in FY24 and by \$46,569 in FY25.

The eighth new initiative in this program found on **page A-469** increases General Fund appropriation by \$70,000 in each year of the biennium to provide funding for operating costs at Swan Island.

The ninth new initiative in this program found on **page A-469** increases General Fund appropriation by \$266,100 in each year of the biennium to provide additional funding for PFAS sampling and testing.

The tenth new initiative in this program found on **page A-469** was previously discussed on page four of my testimony and **page A-451** of the Budget document. This initiative establishes one

IF&W Resource Biologist position to lead field efforts on bear, moose, and other priority research projects. This part of the initiative decreases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$16,118 in FY24 and by \$12,607 in FY25 and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$25,552 in FY24 and by \$27,014 in FY25.

The eleventh new initiative in this program found on **page A-470** increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$65,098 in FY24 and by \$68,948 in FY25 and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$21,698 in FY24 and by \$22,979 in FY25 to establish one IF&W Resource Technician position to conduct wildlife inventory, monitoring, and habitat management on Bureau of Parks and Land properties.

The twelfth new initiative in this program found on **page A-470** was previously discussed on page four of my testimony and **page A-451** of the Budget document. This initiative establishes one IF&W Senior Resource Biologist position to provide technical assistance to private landowners on wildlife habitat management. This part of the initiative increases General Fund appropriation by \$20,877 in FY24 and by \$21,997 in FY25 and increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$25,797 in FY24 and by \$29,257 in FY25.

The thirteenth new initiative in this program found on **page A-470** increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$76,181 in FY24 and by \$80,343 in FY25 and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$25,391 in FY24 and by \$26,777 in FY25 to establish one Forester II position to oversee timber harvests on the Department's 110,000 acre Wildlife Management Area system.

The fourteenth new initiative in this program found on **page A-471** increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$70,999 in FY24 and by \$74,929 in FY25 and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$23,662 in FY24 and by \$24,973 in FY25 to establish one Forester I position to coordinate wildlife habitat management and public access infrastructure on the Department's Wildlife Management Area system.

The fifteenth new initiative in this program found on **page A-471** was previously discussed on page four of my testimony and transfers the headcount of 10 positions from the General Fund to the Federal Expenditures Fund to reassign the home account for each position. There is no financial impact from this initiative.

The sixteenth new initiative in this program found on **page A-471** increases General Fund appropriation by \$46,250 in FY24 and increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$138,750 in FY24 to provide one-time funding for the replacement of three department-owned bridges.

The seventeenth new initiative in this program found on **page A-471** increases General Fund appropriation by \$1,050 in FY24 and by \$50,000 in FY25 and increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$3,150 in FY24 and by \$150,000 in FY25 to provide one-time funding for the replacement of nine ATVs, seven snowmobiles, two snowmobile trailers, one boat trailer, and one tractor.

The eighteenth new initiative in this program found on **page A-472** increases General Fund appropriation by \$333,976 in FY24 and by \$329,661 in FY25 and increases allocation in the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$1,001,928 in FY24 and by \$988,982 in FY25 to provide funding to meet match requirements for federal grants.

The nineteenth new initiative in this program found on **page A-472** was previously discussed on page four of my testimony and **page A-451** of the Budget document increases General Fund appropriation by \$24,452 in FY24 and by \$24,843 in FY25 to reallocate the cost of one IF&W Senior Resource Biologist position to realign work effort with appropriate funding.

The twentieth new initiative in this program found on **page A-472** was previously discussed on page four of my testimony and **page A-452** of the Budget document increases General Fund appropriation by \$63,985 in FY24 and by \$64,680 in FY25 and decreases allocation to the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$4 in FY24 and increases allocation to the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$3 in FY25 to transfer and reallocate the cost of three IF&W Resource Biologist positions to realign work effort with appropriate funding.

The twenty-first new initiative in this program found on **page A-472** was previously discussed on page five of my testimony and **page A-452** of the Budget document increases General Fund appropriation by \$41,672 in FY24 and by \$43,938 in FY25 and increases allocation to the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$105,974 in FY24 and by \$111,746 in FY25 to transfer and reallocate the cost of one IF&W Resource Biologist position and one IF&W Resource Supervisor position to realign work effort with appropriate funding.

The twenty-second new initiative in this program found on **page A-473** previously discussed on page five of my testimony and **page A-452** of the Budget document increases General Fund appropriation by \$13,705 in FY24 and by \$14,385 in FY25 to reallocate the cost of one IF&W Senior Resource Biologist position to realign work effort with appropriate funding.

#### **Search and Rescue 0538**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-474** is the Search and Rescue program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of General Fund appropriations. The Search and Rescue program was established for the purpose of actively searching for any person who is lost, stranded or drowned in the woodlands or inland waters in the state. There are no new initiatives for this program.

#### **Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Management 0561**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-475** is the Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Management program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Federal Expenditure Funds and Other Special Revenue. The purpose of the Waterfowl Habitat Acquisition and Management Fund program is to acquire

waterfowl habitat that supports waterfowl management goals and objectives and, where feasible, improve habitat and species abundance to enhance, restore or create new opportunities.

The only new initiative in this program found on **page A-475** increases allocation in Federal Expenditures Fund by \$1,800,000 in each year of the biennium and increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds by \$80,000 in each year of the biennium to provide one-time funding to purchase land for wildlife habitat.

#### **Whitewater Rafting – IF&W 0539**

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-476** is the Whitewater Rafting IF&W program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Other Special Revenue. The Whitewater Rafting Fund mitigates environmental problems and any adverse effect on competing uses of rivers, promotes safety, education, and enforcement of whitewater rafting laws and department rules. This program dedicates sixty-five percent of the revenue from fees and surcharges paid by white water rafting outfitters and guides to stay with Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for administration of the whitewater rafting laws and rules. There are no new initiatives for this program.

#### **Whitewater Rafting Fund 0533**

The last Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-476** is the Whitewater Rafting Fund program. The baseline budget presented shows this Budget Program is comprised of Other Special Revenue. The Whitewater Rafting Fund program mitigates environmental problems and any adverse effect on competing uses of rivers, promotes safety, education, and enforcement of whitewater rafting laws and department rules. This program returns ten percent of the revenue collected from fees and surcharges paid by white water rafting outfitters and guides to be credited back to the county in which the river is located. There are no new initiatives for this program.

#### **Part HHH**

Part HHH found on **page 45** amends the fiscal stability program to begin in the 2026-2027 biennium.

#### **Part III**

Part III found on **page 45** authorizes the State Controller to transfer \$60,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$60,000 in fiscal year 2025 from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Balances - General Fund account to the Enforcement Operations – Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program General Fund account to purchase one replacement aircraft engine in each fiscal year.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to address any questions you may have.