

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**Department of Conservation**

**HB Section(s):** 6.600

**Program Name: Habitat Management**

**Program is found in the following core budget(s): Habitat Management**

**1a. What strategic priority does this program address?**

Take care of nature

**1b. What does this program do?**

**Terrestrial Habitat Management** - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC or Department) manages terrestrial habitat on public land for Missouri citizens by restoring and maintaining healthy land, water, and forests.

MDC is implementing a tiered approach to public land management to prioritize resources efficiently. This tiered approach will guide staff to prioritize where public land management work should occur within a region and encourage citizens and other conservation partners to apply their effort and resources in these priority areas.

Focusing resources in areas with the greatest conservation value will, over time, produce the best yield in conservation benefit for citizens. MDC will continue to promote the benefit of conservation utilizing public land resources through the prioritized and tiered delivery of technical and financial assistance.

Following sound science and the use of established best management practices, the Department works to improve terrestrial habitat on grasslands, prairies, forests, glade, savanna, woodlands and natural areas. This work is accomplished by following the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Standards and the Missouri Comprehensive Conservation Strategy in the management and restoration of habitats, use of prescribed fire, conservation grazing, habitat surveys, and invasive species control and management.

**Aquatic Habitat Management** – The Department manages aquatic habitat on public land and waters for Missouri citizens by restoring and maintaining healthy land, water, and forests.

MDC is implementing a tiered approach to aquatic management to prioritize resources efficiently. This tiered approach will guide staff to prioritize where aquatic management work should occur within a region and encourage citizens and other conservation partners to apply their effort and resources in these priority areas.

Focusing resources in areas with the greatest conservation value will, over time, produce the best yield in conservation benefit for citizens. MDC will continue to promote the benefit of conservation utilizing aquatic resources through the prioritized and tiered delivery of technical and financial assistance.

Aquatic habitat work includes Resource Assessment and Monitoring, habitat surveys, improvement of Aquatic Organism Passage barriers, and aquatic plant and nuisance species control and management. Following sound science and the use of established best management practices, the Department works to enhance streams, lakes, and ponds and their watersheds through erosion control, plantings, and addition of cover and structure to best support aquatic species.

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**1b. What does this program do? (continued)**

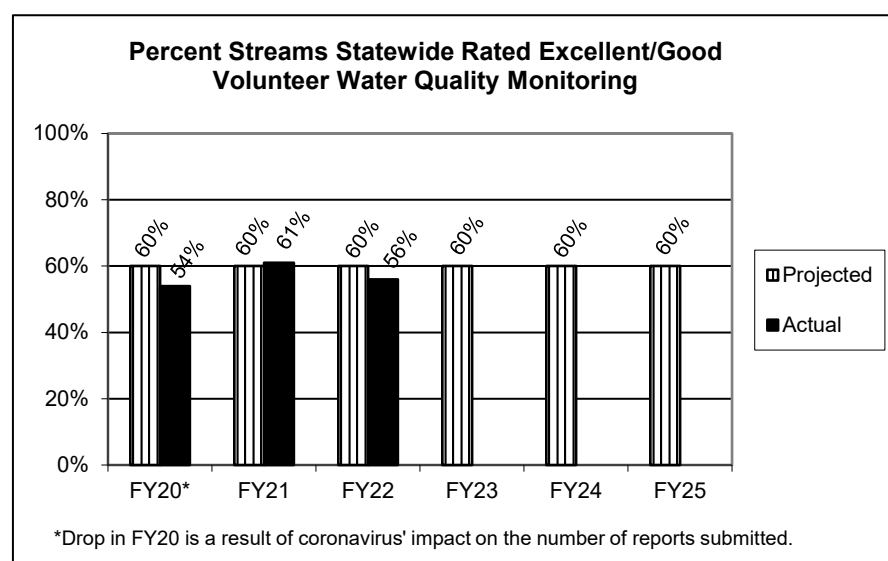
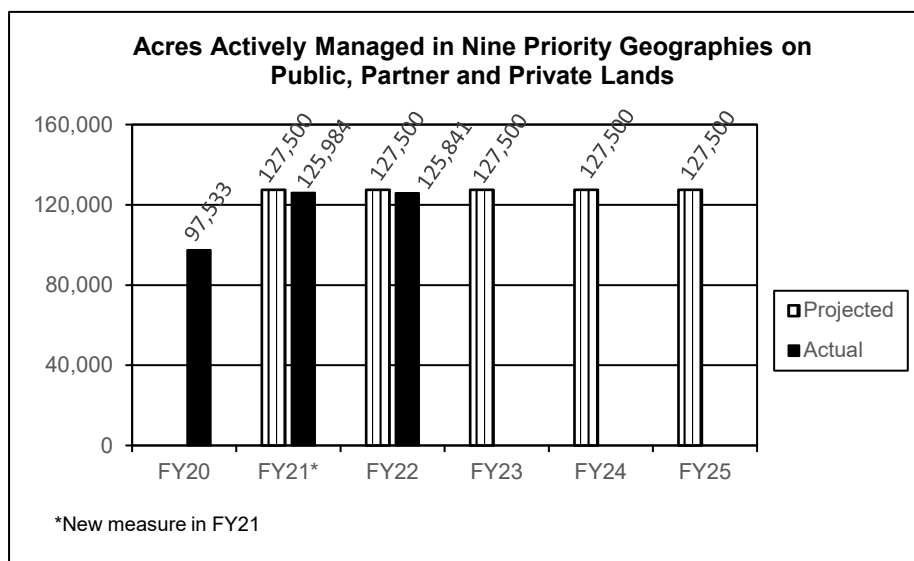
**Private Land Conservation** - The Department assists private landowners manage terrestrial and aquatic habitat on their lands by restoring and maintaining healthy land, water, and forests.

MDC is implementing a tiered approach to private land management to prioritize resources efficiently. This tiered approach will guide staff to prioritize where private land management work should occur within a region and encourage citizens and other conservation partners to apply their effort and resources in these priority areas.

Department staff, citizens and other conservation partners will understand the value of focusing resources in areas with the greatest conservation value and, over time, acknowledge the benefit of promoting conservation of private land resources through prioritized and tiered delivery of technical and financial assistance.

Following sound science and the use of established best management practices, the Department will provide technical assistance to private landowners statewide and develop partnerships to address our highest identified priority focus areas. The Department will continue to seek new partnerships to make funding go further while achieving greater results for fish, forest, and wildlife habitat on private lands. In doing so, we will promote the importance of wildlife friendly practices with production agriculture to strengthen a conservation land ethic.

**2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.**



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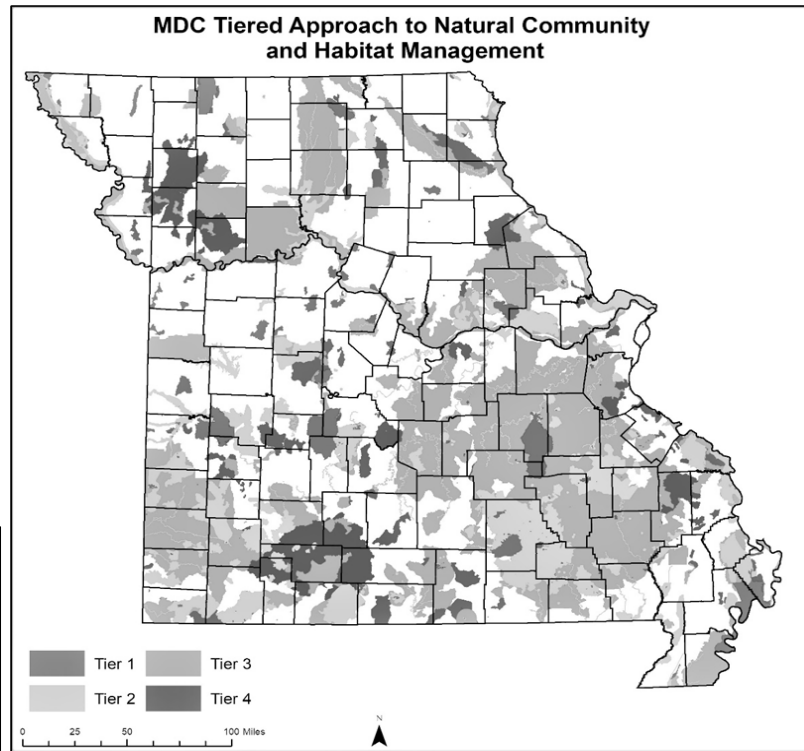
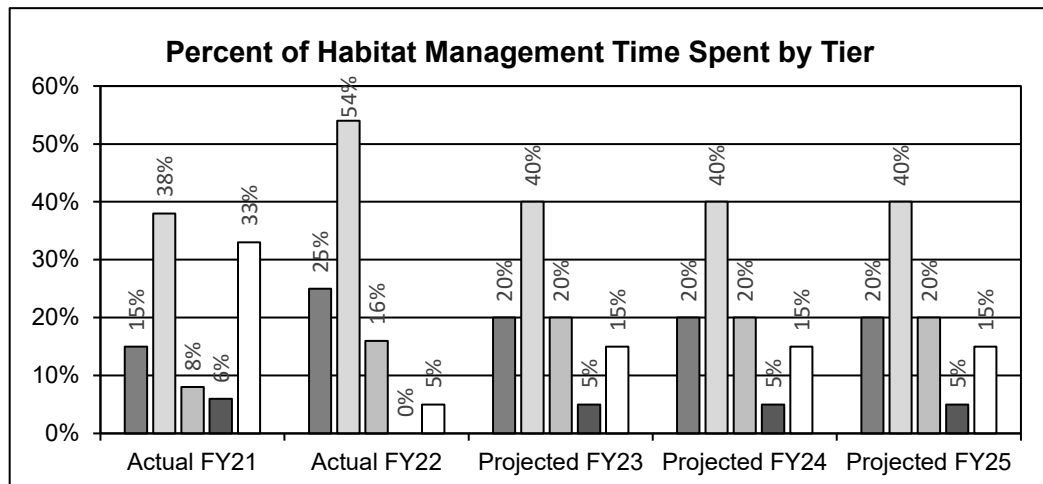
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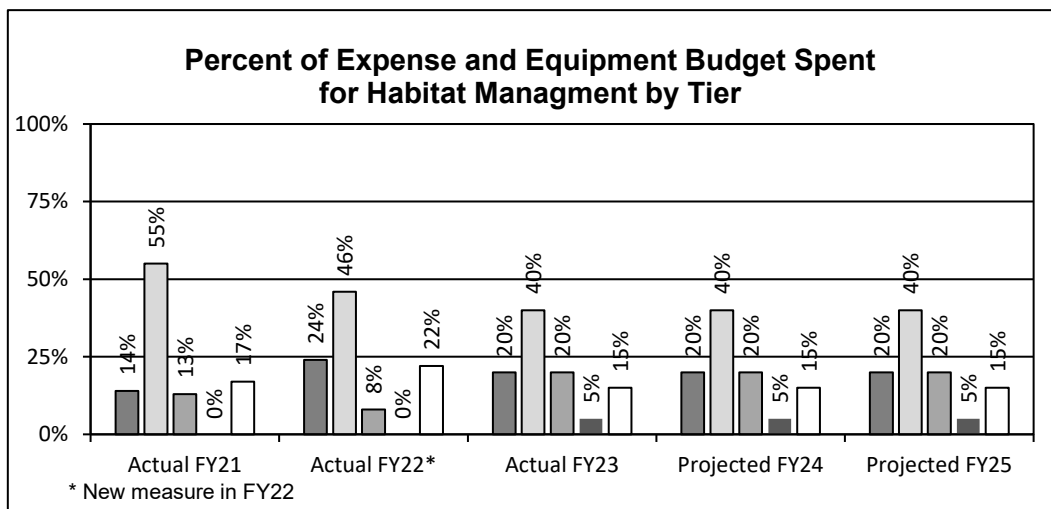
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**2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program. (continued)**



- Tier 1** - Priority Geographies & Natural Areas (1.0M acres)
- Tier 2** - Conservation Opportunity Areas (4.9M acres)
- Tier 3** - Priority Forest Landscapes, Quail Restoration Landscapes, Priority Watersheds, & Comprehensive Conservation Strategy/Aquatic GAP Landscapes (13.0M acres)
- Tier 4** - Other Priority Watersheds & Conservation Wildlife Strategy/Aquatic GAP Landscapes (3.4M acres)
- Other Lands** - High quality natural community maintenance & restoration (25.6M acres)



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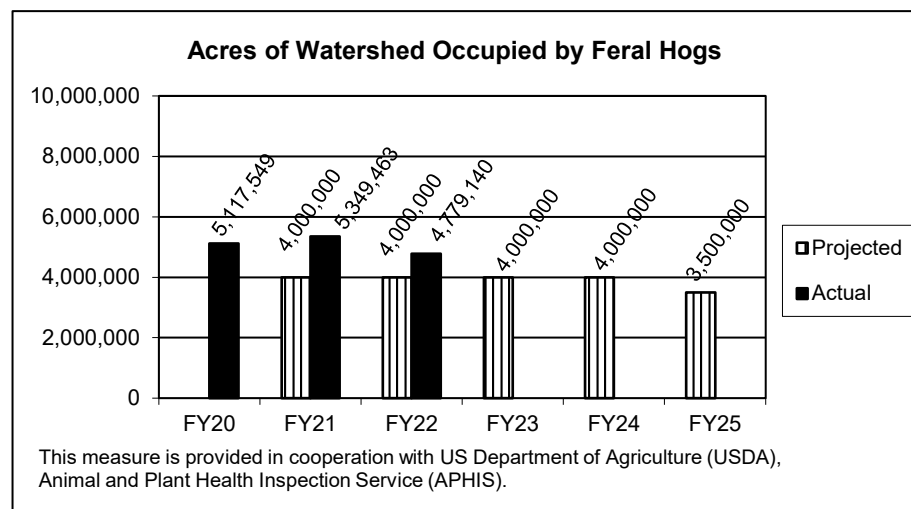
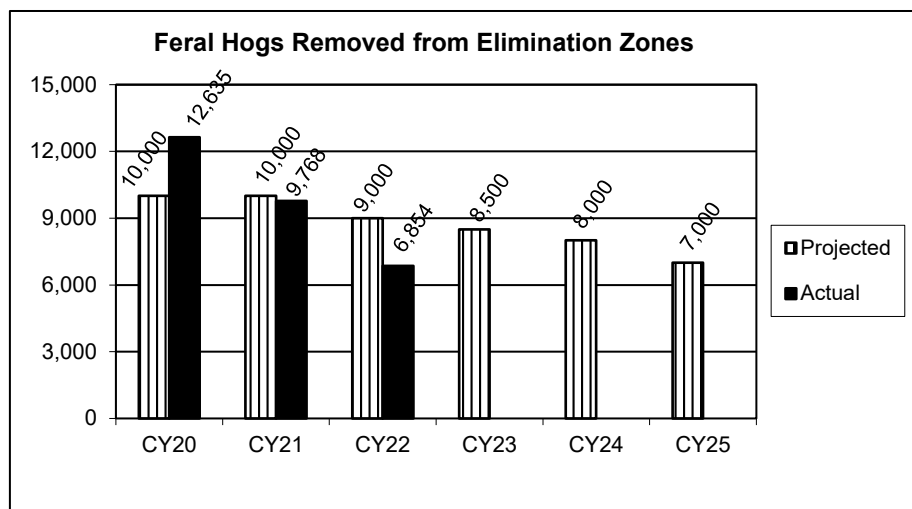
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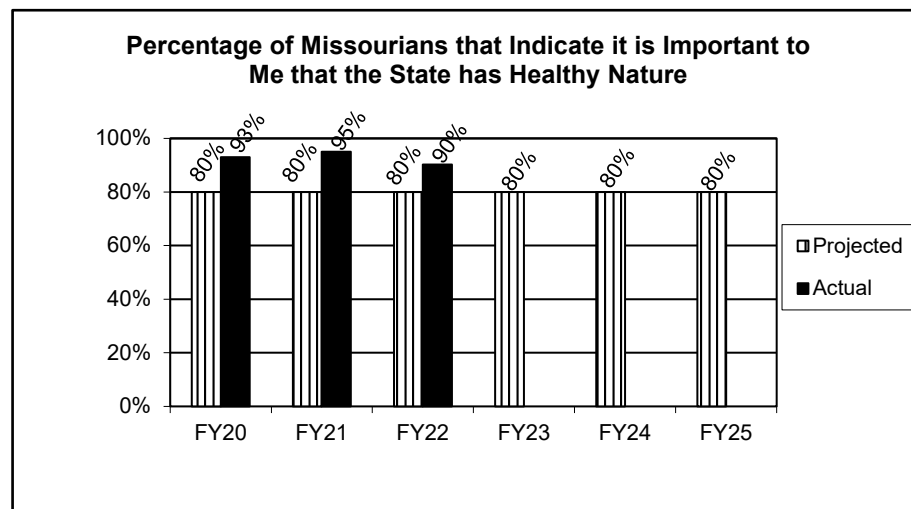
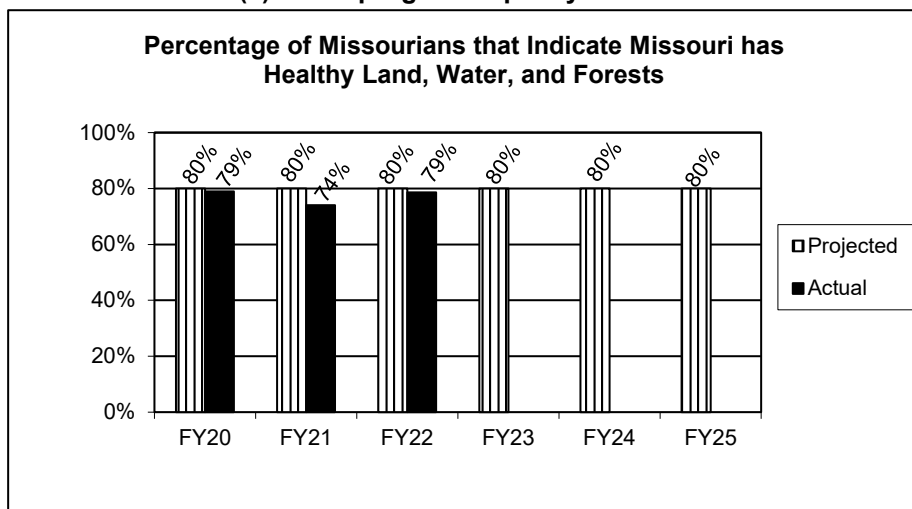
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2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program. (continued)



2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.



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**2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.**

Following sound science and the use of established best management practices, the Department works to improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat on public and private lands across Missouri. This work is accomplished by following the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the Comprehensive Conservation Strategy, conducting old field conversions, management and restoration of habitats, the use of prescribed fire, conservation grazing, habitat surveys, and invasive species control and management. Aquatic habitat work includes Resource Assessment and Monitoring, habitat surveys, improvement of Aquatic Organism Passage barriers, and aquatic plant and nuisance species control and management. Following sound science and the use of established best management practices, the Department works to enhance streams, lakes, and ponds and their watersheds through erosion control, plantings, and addition of cover and structure to best support aquatic species.

**2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.**

MDC will monitor the cost and effort per acre in addition to the number of acres under active management on public and private land within identified priority geographies and outside of those priorities.

**Number of Acres Under Management Control in Tiers 1-4 (All Priority Areas)**

|                         | FY20**  | FY21    | FY22    | FY23    | FY24    | FY25    |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Public Lands Projected  |         | 514,000 | 514,000 | 514,000 | 514,000 | 514,000 |
| Public Lands Actual     | 513,213 | 513,000 | 513,000 |         |         |         |
| Partner Lands Projected |         | 761,520 | 761,520 | 761,520 | 761,520 | 761,520 |
| Partner Lands Actual    | 761,520 | 761,520 | 761,520 |         |         |         |
| Private Lands Projected |         | 75,000  | 76,000  | 120,000 | 120,000 | 120,000 |
| Private Lands Actual    | 72,475  | 72,475  | 151,944 |         |         |         |

\*\* Agency updated strategic planning documents defining priority areas resulting in additional acres.

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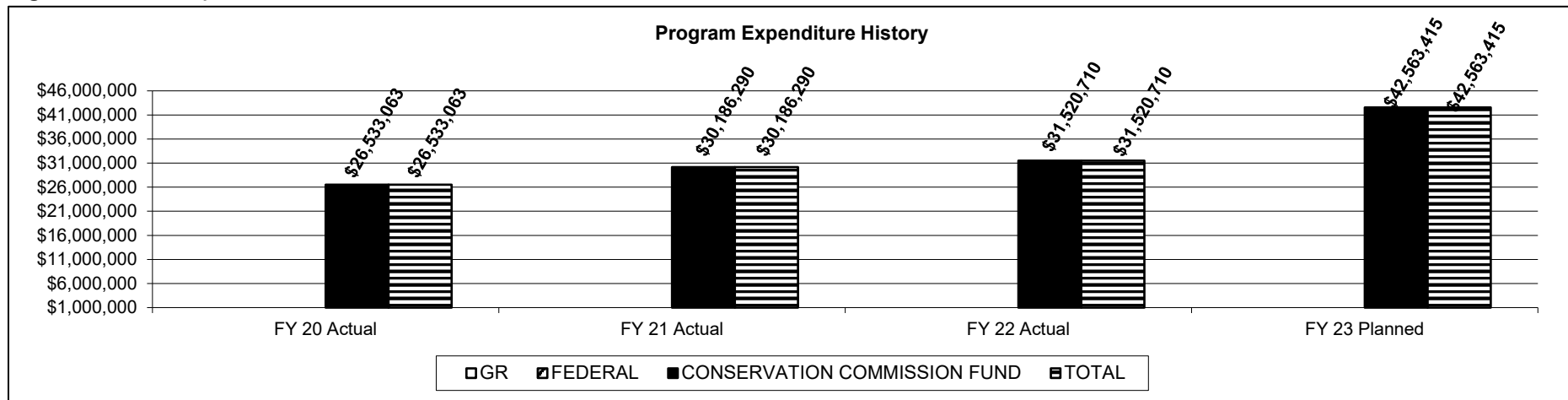
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**3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)**



**4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?**

Conservation Commission Fund (0609)

**5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)**

Authorization for this program is by state constitutional mandate adopted November 3, 1936.

**6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.**

No; however, this program participates in various federal programs, each with unique matching requirements.

**7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.**

No.