

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Conservation

HB Section(s): 6.605

Program Name: Fish & Wildlife Management

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Fish & Wildlife Management

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Take care of nature

1b. What does this program do?

Fish and Wildlife Species Management - The Missouri Department of Conservation ("MDC" or "Department") manages for healthy and sustainable populations of fish and wildlife for the use and enjoyment by Missouri citizens.

MDC conducts fish and wildlife research, survey and monitoring, oversees regulations and management of sport fish and wildlife, monitors the health of fish and wildlife populations, and manages for diverse species of fish and wildlife, including the recovery of species of conservation concern.

Missouri currently provides opportunities for more than 1 million hunters and anglers, and nearly 2 million wildlife watchers. Hunting and fishing recreation annually contributes \$3.5 billion of economic impact to the Missouri economy, supports over 39,000 jobs, and generates over \$200 million in state and local sales taxes. In 2021, wildlife watching in Missouri had an estimated impact of more than \$2.0 billion and supports over 25,000 jobs.

Sportfish Population Management - Research, management, and monitoring of sportfish populations in stream and lakes, and provide technical assistance to private landowners and local, state, and federal governmental agencies. Provide education and information to citizens about sportfish populations through technical and popular written materials, electronic media, presentations to groups, workshops, interviews, and personal contacts. Through this management and education, MDC partners with citizens to protect and provide quality fishing opportunities.

Wildlife Population Management - Monitors population status and develops population management goals and regulations for the harvesting of many of the high-profile wildlife species, such as deer, elk, turkey, and bear, and gamebirds and furbearers, and develops management recommendations for habitat strategies. Directs monitoring and management efforts regarding elk, black bear, and small game. Develops recommendations for management of waterfowl hunting seasons, bag limits and zones, and provides expertise on watershed-floodplain-riparian issues, and wetland management. Integrates biological and social sciences related to wildlife population trends and citizen expectations for wildlife management.

Diversity Species Management - Provides coordination and leadership to maintain sustainable populations of all fish and wildlife. Maintains and encourages wildlife diversity through natural community management and restoration on Department and private lands.

Species of Conservation Concern Management - Tracks the status and location of species of conservation concern and ensures that they are carefully documented so that the information can be used by managers, other agencies, and citizens for conservation planning. Leads species recovery planning activities and coordinates research, monitoring and management evaluations for the restoration and recovery of species of conservation concern including endangered species.

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

Aquatic Species Production - Operation of four warm water and five cold water hatcheries for the rearing of fish needed to stock public waters, waters used for special fishing events, aquatic resource education, and trout parks. Hatchery staff also culture selected species of conservation concern (e.g., Topeka shiners, pallid sturgeon, and freshwater mussels).

Statewide Programs - Lead strategic planning, design and implementation of a comprehensive wildlife health program within the state; provide information on disease eradication, control and management information; and serve as a liaison on disease issues with other state and federal agencies. Coordinate the sample collection, processing, data analyses and management for the Department's chronic wasting disease monitoring and control effort; and on other wildlife disease outbreaks such as avian influenza.

Wildlife Code Enforcement - The Missouri Department of Conservation provides all citizens with the opportunity to safely enjoy nature while maintaining healthy populations of fish and wildlife through enforcement of the Wildlife Code.

The Missouri Department of Conservation employs a community policing approach, including strategic investments of time and resources in underserved communities, that utilizes law enforcement and community engagement strategies to protect nature and people, to create partnerships with citizens to solve problems, and to increase public support for Department priorities.

By working cooperatively with partners to educate citizens and enforce regulations designed to protect fish, forest, and wildlife resources, current and future generations will continue to enjoy healthy fish, forest, and wildlife resources. This community policing approach also ensures all citizens have safe and inviting conservation areas to enjoy, and promotes public safety in areas where people commonly participate in outdoor recreation.

General Wildlife Code Enforcement - The primary focus of field staff is to employ community policing strategies to increase public support for Department priorities and to gain compliance with the Wildlife Code of Missouri. This includes conducting resource law enforcement activities; patrolling locations associated with outdoor recreation to provide safe and inviting places for citizens to enjoy nature; enforcing regulations focused on the protection of species of greatest conservation need and patrolling locations identified as containing priority or sensitive habitat for these species; enforcement of regulations specifically designed to limit the spread of invasive species and wildlife diseases; creating partnerships with citizens to solve problems; conducting education and community engagement efforts; responding to natural disasters and law enforcement/public safety emergencies as necessary; assisting landowners with accomplishing habitat management goals; and participating in the monitoring of various populations of fish, wildlife and habitats.

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

Special Investigations Unit - The special investigations unit focuses on addressing illegal commercialization and gross abuse of fish, forest, and wildlife resources, including the commercialization of species of greatest conservation need. Unit personnel provide technical assistance to field staff on investigations that require specialized skills/equipment, monitor pressure on specific wildlife populations to formulate enforcement strategies to address their exploitation, gather intelligence, and work closely with various local, state, and federal agencies to accomplish Department priorities.

Commercial Wildlife Unit - The commercial wildlife unit supports and provides assistance to enforcement efforts related to confined cervids and other confined wildlife, including regulations specifically designed to limit the spread of invasive species and wildlife diseases. Unit personnel interact with persons holding wildlife in confinement and provide a consistent mechanism for conducting inspections, gathering information, and conducting investigations related to confined wildlife.

Conservation Agent Training - Operate a Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) licensed basic training academy to provide law enforcement and specialized training for conservation agents. This includes more than 1,000 hours of basic training academy education to training new conservation agents and continuing education courses for conservation agents that satisfy POST regulations and Department policies.

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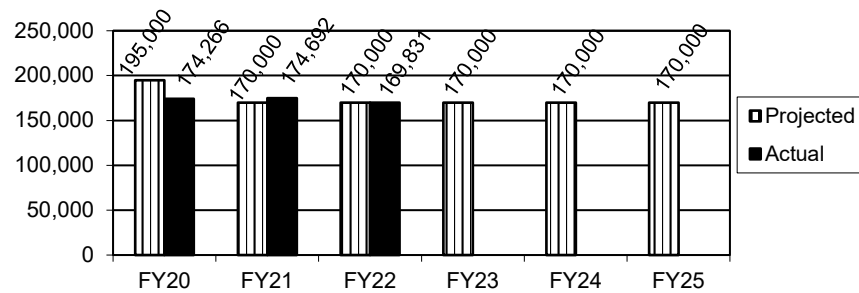
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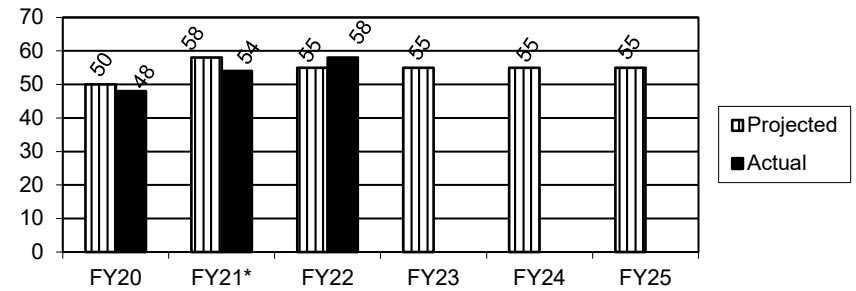
Program is found in the following core budget(s): Fish & Wildlife Management

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

**Number of MO Hunting, Fishing,
Outdoors, and Magazine App Downloads**

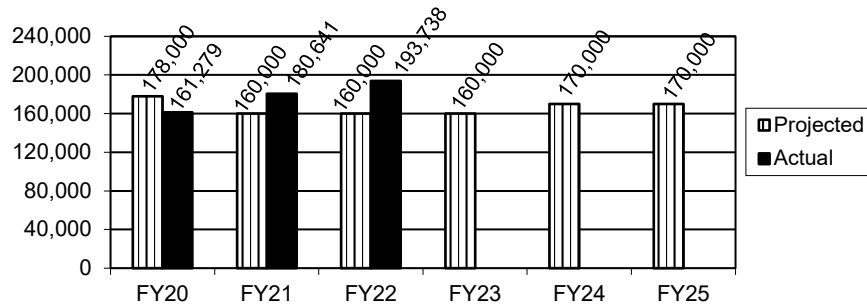


**Number of Cooperative Agreements to
Conduct Research and Monitoring Projects**



*Some agreements consolidated in FY21.

Number of Resource Law Enforcement Contacts



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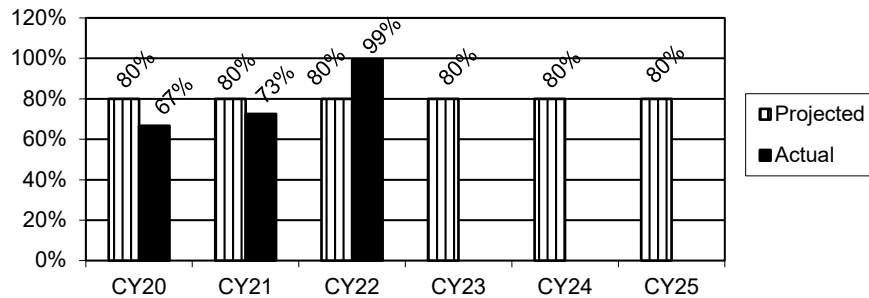
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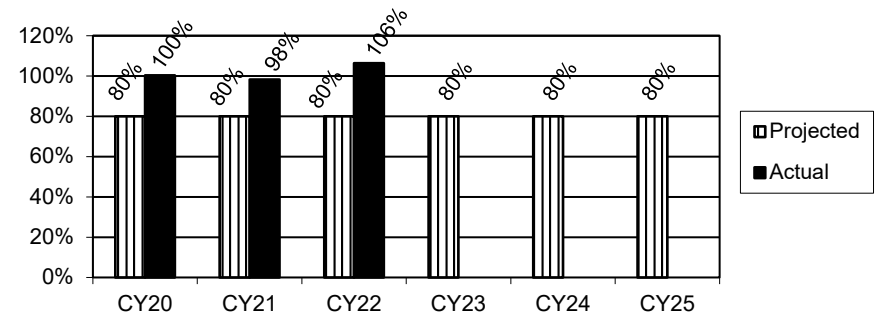
Program is found in the following core budget(s): Fish & Wildlife Management

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

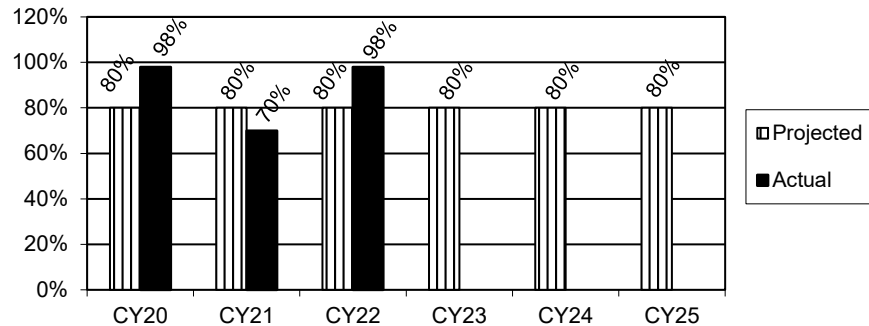
Sport Fish: Percent of Requested Fish Stocked- Rainbow Trout



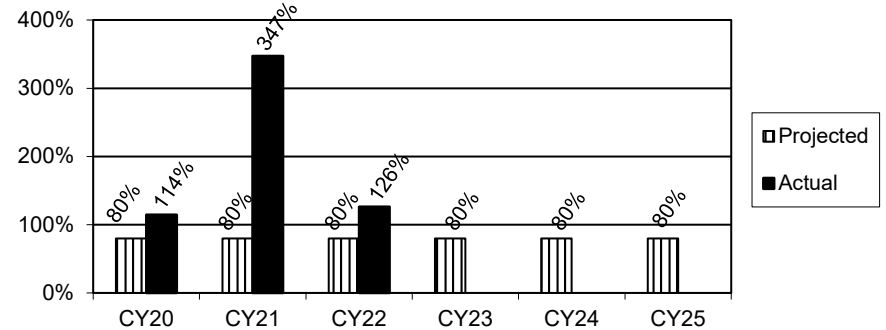
Sport Fish: Percent of Requested Fish Stocked - Channel Catfish



Sport Fish: Percent of Requested Fish Stocked - Walleye



Sport Fish: Percent of Requested Fish Stocked - Paddlefish



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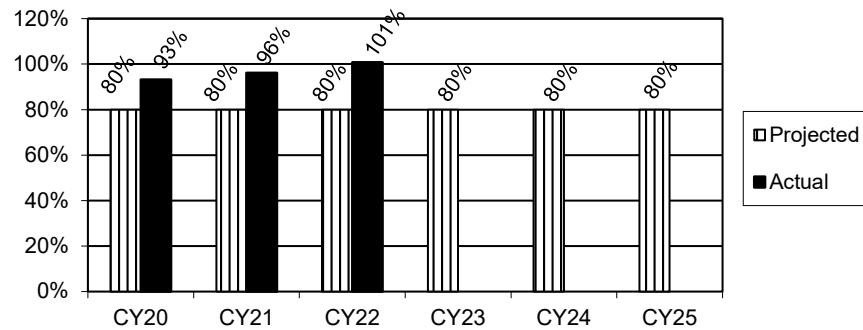
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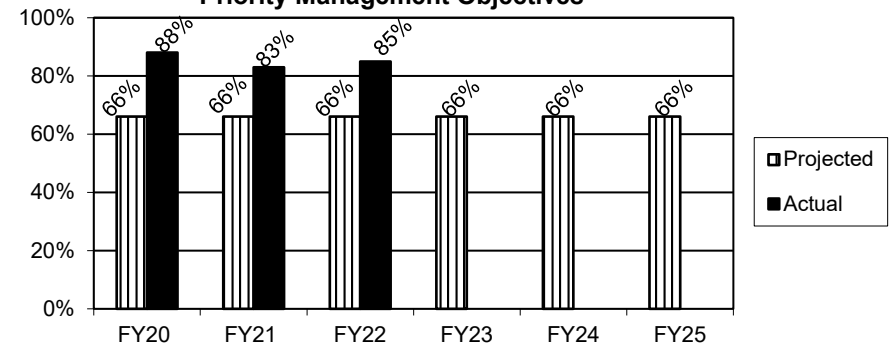
Program is found in the following core budget(s): Fish & Wildlife Management

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

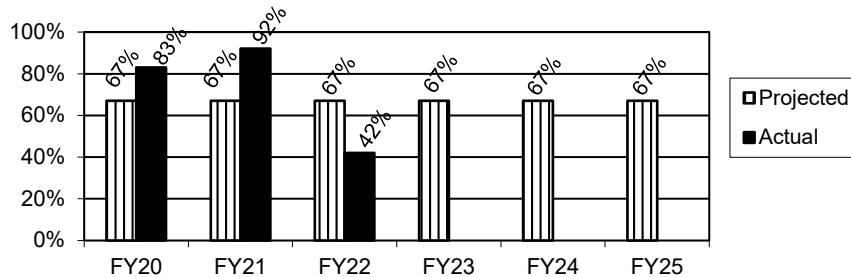
Sport Fish: Percent of Requested Fish Stocked - Brown Trout



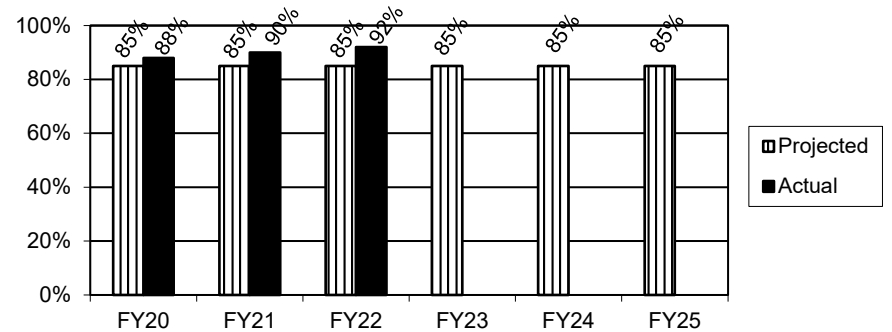
White-tailed Deer Populations are Meeting Priority Management Objectives



Turkey Populations are Meeting Priority Management Objectives - Hunter Satisfaction Goals



Wildlife Code Enforcement Contact Compliance Rate



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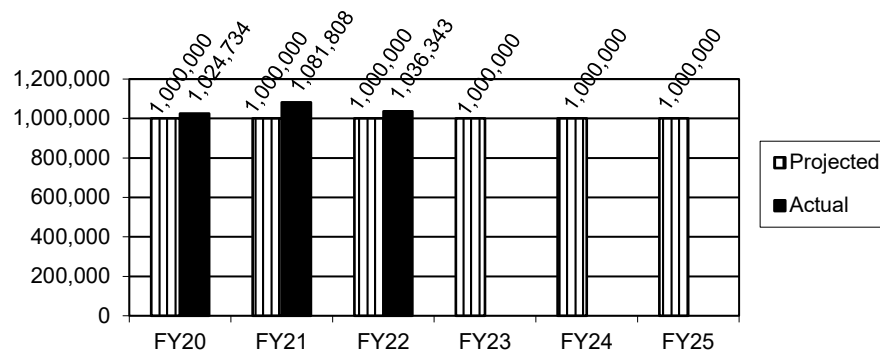
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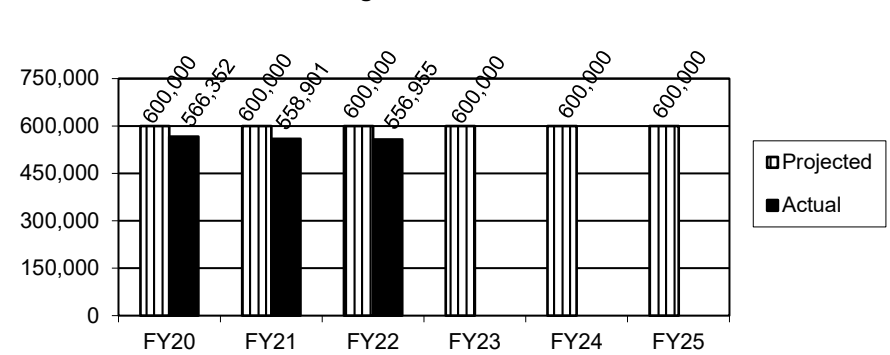
Program is found in the following core budget(s): Fish & Wildlife Management

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

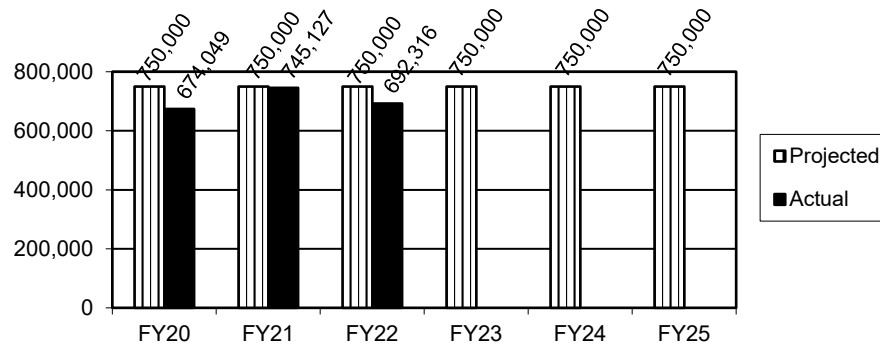
Number of Permitted Hunters and Anglers



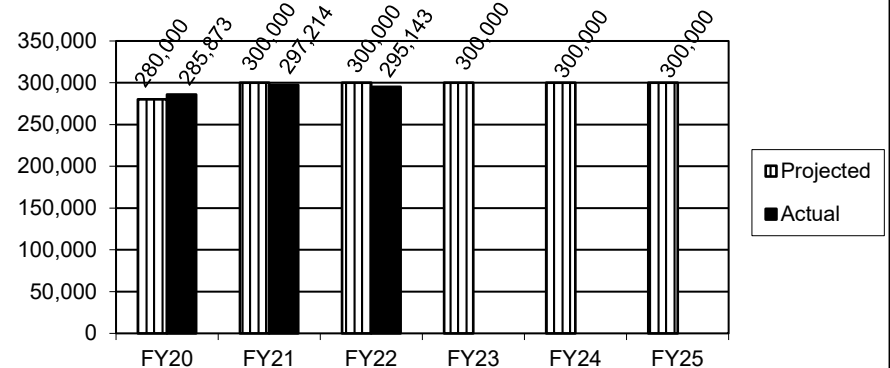
Hunting License Holders



Sport Fish License Holders



Deer Harvested



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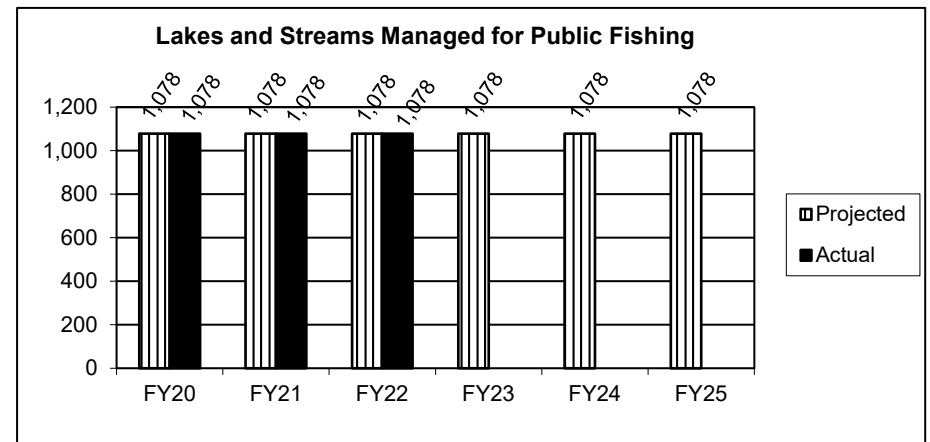
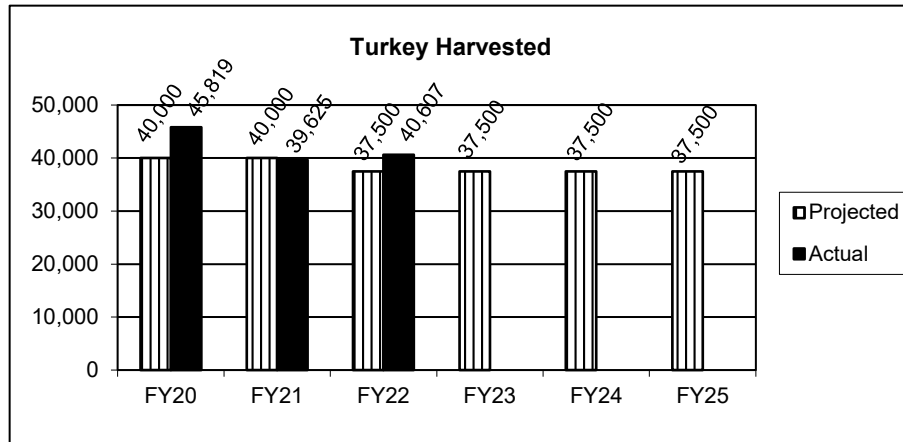
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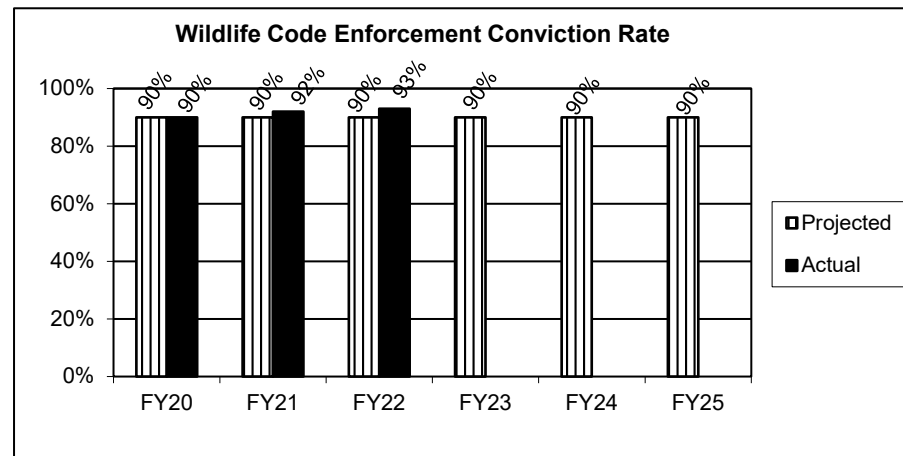
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2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact. (continued)



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



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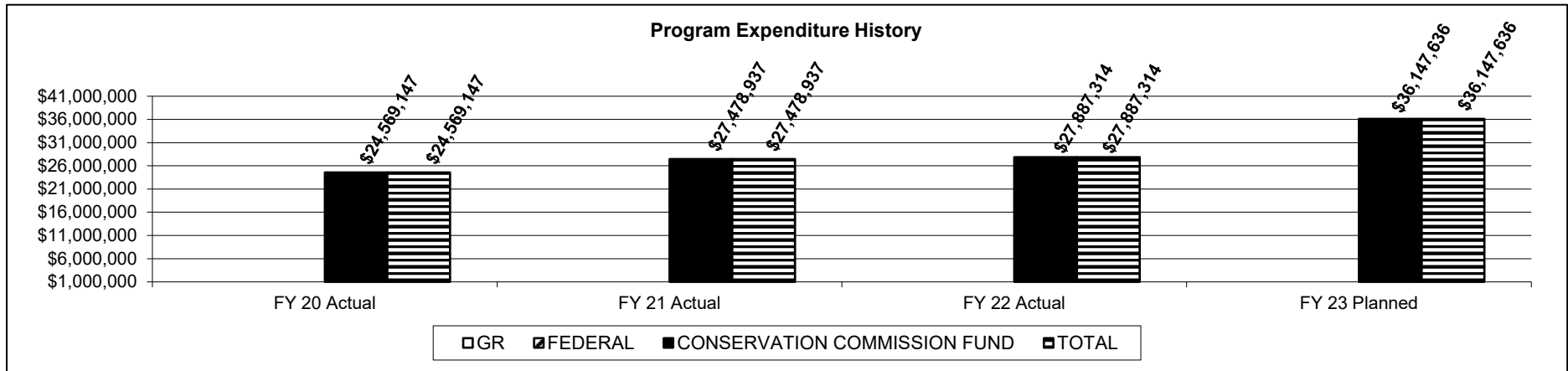
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



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 (e.g., Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, 75:25 match).

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

No.