

Missouri Department of Conservation

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Who we are. What we do. Why this matters.

Who We Are

The Missouri Department of Conservation was conceived at the low point in U.S. conservation history when unregulated hunting, fishing and trapping, and the abuse of forests had depleted the state's natural resources. First envisioned by Missouri sportsmen and conservationists, the Department was created by a constitutional amendment in 1936 as the world's first apolitical, science-based conservation agency with exclusive authority over fish, forests, and wildlife.

The four-member Missouri Conservation Commission approves the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, as well as the Department's policies, long-term strategic planning, budget, and major expenditures. Commission members, who are appointed by the governor, serve staggered, unpaid, six-year terms.

What We Do

The Conservation Department protects and manages the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state and provides opportunities for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources. Conservation staff sustain and improve the fish, forest, and wildlife resources, manage nearly one million acres of public land with 1,000 conservation areas, work with private landowners and communities to deliver conservation locally, and provide outreach and education through nature centers, schools, and events. Staff also work with dedicated volunteers and partner agencies to ensure a greater conservation reach both in Missouri and across the

nation. Conservation-related concerns can be addressed by MDC staff dedicated to customer service in every county of the state by going to mdc.mo.gov/contact-engage to find your local contacts.

Why This Matters

The health of our natural habitats and the species that live here has an impact on our very quality of life. Whether feeding birds, watching wildlife, hiking, hunting, canoeing or boating, target shooting, fishing, or spending time at a nature center, Missourians are engaged with the outdoors. For more than 80 years, the Conservation Department has worked with Missourians to sustain healthy fish, forests, and wildlife for all to enjoy, and will continue to do so.

Conservation Pays Its Way

The amount of state sales tax revenue generated from fish, forest, and wildlife recreation spending is more than the amount of sales tax revenue received by the Conservation Department from the one-eighth of one percent Conservation Sales Tax. Conservation-related expenditures generate more than \$507 million annually in state and local tax revenue. The Conservation Department's budget represents less than 1 percent of the entire state budget. No state general revenue is received. In Missouri, the total economic impact of fish and wildlife recreation and the forest products industry is more than \$12 billion annually. Expenditures and retail sales from fish and wildlife recreation and forest products support over 99,000 jobs.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2018 EXPENDITURE	FY 2019 APPROPRIATION	FY 2020 REQUEST	FY 2020 GOVERNOR RECOMMENDS
Conservation Programs				
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 143,292,545	\$ 161,068,519	\$ 169,929,359	\$ 165,087,555
PERSONAL SERVICE	77,946,425	86,344,372	87,105,214	88,103,410
EXPENSE AND EQUIPMENT	56,042,835	60,594,429	67,655,227	61,815,227
PROGRAM SPECIFIC DISTRIBUTION	9,303,285	14,129,718	15,168,918	15,168,918
TOTAL				
Conservation Commission Fund	143,292,545	161,068,519	169,929,359	165,087,555
Total Full-time Equivalent Employees	1,646.00	1,812.81	1,792.81	1,792.81
Other Funds	1,646.00	1,812.81	1,792.81	1,792.81

Fiscal Year 2020 Governor's Recommendations

- \$1,000,000 Conservation Commission Fund to invest in natural infrastructure to connect neighborhoods and communities with public green spaces.
- \$760,000 Conservation Commission Fund to replace radio repeaters and the department's electronic retail management system.
- \$400,000 Conservation Commission Fund to upgrade and maintain the department's public website.
- \$100,000 Conservation Commission Fund for conservation agent training expenses.
- \$1,118,196 Conservation Commission Fund for pay plan.
- \$640,842 Conservation Commission Fund for the remaining pay periods of the Fiscal Year 2019 approved pay plan.
- (\$2) Conservation Commission Fund and (20) staff core reduction from the Fiscal Year 2019 appropriation level.