

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Natural Resources

HB Section(s): 6.225, 6.250

DEQ - Soil and Water Conservation Program

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Soil and Water Conservation Program

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

The Soil and Water Conservation Program helps Missouri citizens thrive by managing natural resources to promote a healthy environment and economy by:

- Promoting environmental responsibility and resource stewardship.
- Enhancing services, information, and communication to improve customer experience.
- Modernizing infrastructure, strengthening workforce, and supporting economic development.
- Improving internal processes to better serve our customers.

1b. What does this program do?

Provides education, conservation, technical support, and financial incentives for the purposes of conserving soil and water resources through the Parks, Soils, and Water Sales Tax.

- **Cost-Share Program:** provides partial reimbursement to landowners for the installation of soil and water conservation practices that prevent or control excessive erosion and improve water quality.
- **Grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts:** soil and water conservation districts in each of Missouri's 114 counties are supported by district grants funds to allow local district boards to provide technical assistance to landowners and deliver information and educational programs.
- **Nonpoint Source Implementation Program:** coordinates the state's nonpoint source pollution reduction efforts through technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and monitoring pursuant to Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Nonpoint source pollution in a watershed cannot be traced back to a single source, and can come from multiple sources within a watershed such as stormwater runoff, agricultural practices, land disturbance and development activities, or ineffective on-site wastewater systems.
- **Research and Monitoring:** provides funding for research and monitoring necessary to understand the effectiveness of conservation practices and to inform future practice implementation.

The following table shows financial data for the budget units included in this form.

	FY 2018 Actual	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Current	FY 2022 Gov Rec
Soil and Water Conservation Operations (78850C)	1,182,764	1,281,836	1,331,278	1,779,783	1,699,783
Soil and Water Conservation PSDs (79435C)	54,924,083	50,944,796	50,193,034	56,480,570	56,480,570
Total	56,106,847	52,226,632	51,524,312	58,260,353	58,180,353

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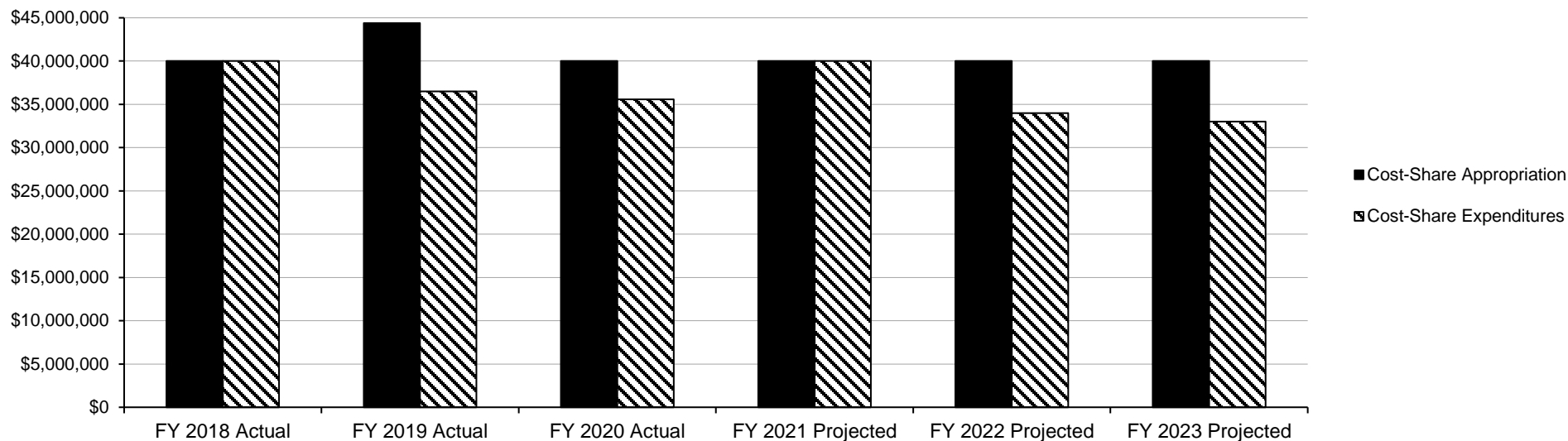
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2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.

Cost-Share Appropriations Spent Annually



With optimal weather conditions in FY 2018, a large number of projects were completed. Due to adverse weather conditions in FY 2019, the expended amount of cost share dollars decreased. Due to COVID-19 disruptions and decreased crop and livestock pricing, FY 2020 resulted in reduced cost share payments. We are projecting to spend full appropriation in FY 2021 and adjust spending in FY 2022 and FY 2023 based on projected available funds.

The goal is to maximize funding available to landowners.

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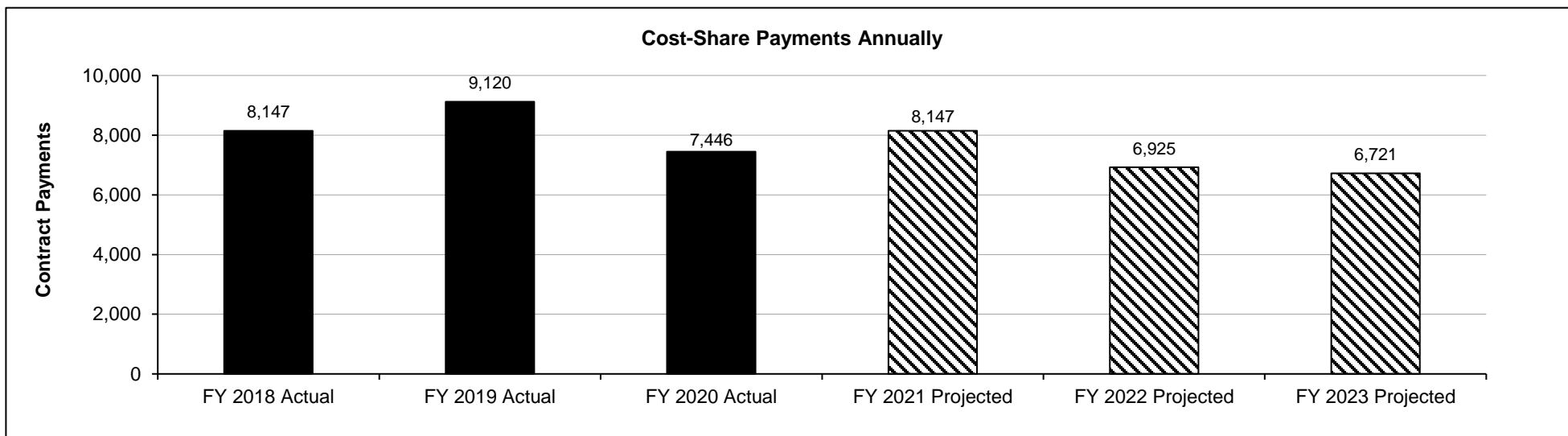
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DEQ - Soil and Water Conservation Program

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



With optimal weather conditions in FY 2018, a large number of projects were completed. The increase in FY 2019 payments is due to Executive Order 18-05, related to drought conditions, that allowed more cover crop contracts to be issued. Due to COVID-19 disruptions and decreased commodity pricing, FY 2020 resulted in a reduced number of contract payments. We are projecting reduced payments in FY 2022 and FY 2023 based on projected available funds.

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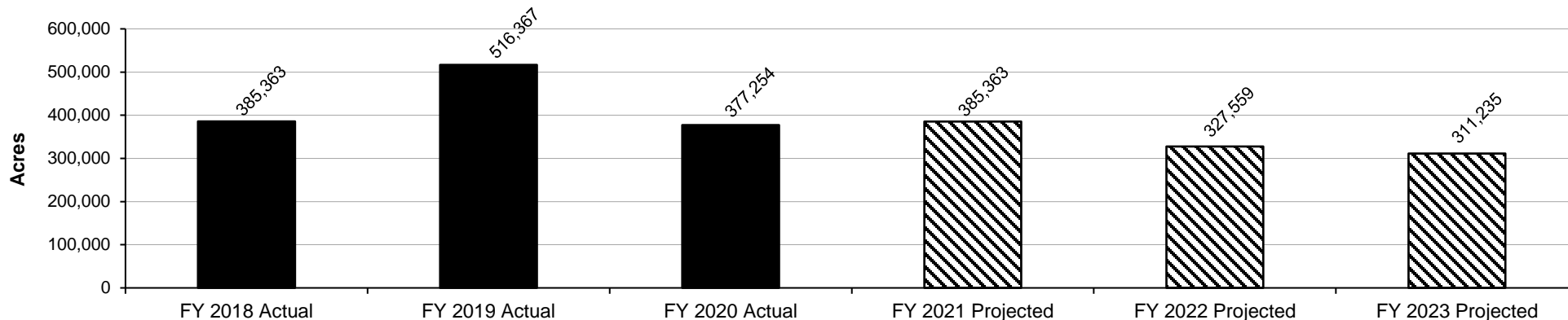
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2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

Farmland Benefited Annually Through Financial Assistance Opportunities



With optimal weather conditions in FY 2018, a large number of projects were completed. The increase in FY 2019 acreage is due to Executive Order 18-05, related to drought conditions, that allowed more cover crop contracts to be issued. Due to COVID-19 disruptions and decreased commodity pricing, FY 2020 resulted in fewer impacted acres benefited by implemented practices. We are projecting reduced acreage in FY 2022 and FY 2023 based on projected available funds.

The goal is to maximize acres benefited through financial assistance opportunities.

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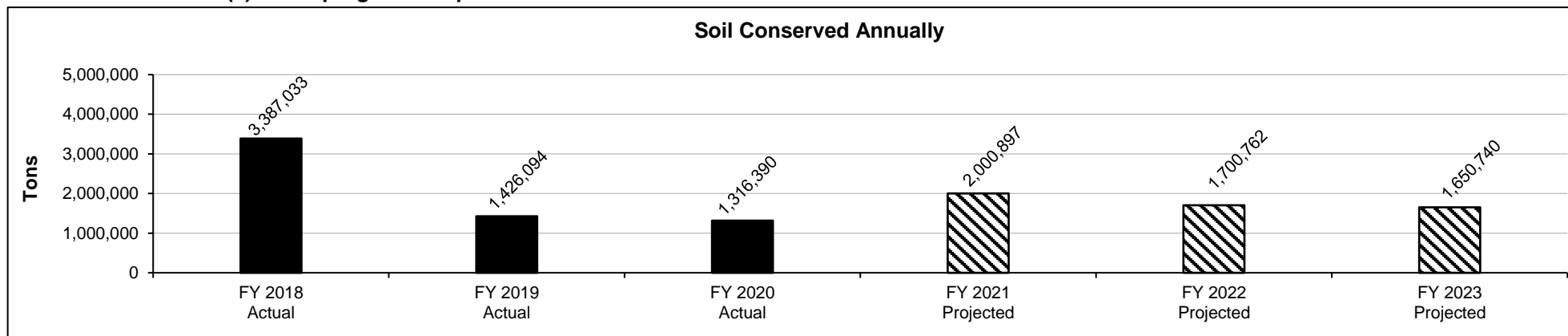
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2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.



Soil conserved is based and projected on the evaluation criteria of a conservation practice with a maintenance life of five-to-ten years. Some practices save soil at a rate determined by an erosion calculation based on Federal guidelines. Practices implemented reduce erosion, resulting in less sediment entering streams and lakes, thus improving water quality.

Although a decrease in soil conserved is seen in FY 2019, this is mainly due to the high implementation of cover crops in response to Governor Parson's Executive Order 18-05 for drought mitigation; \$9.7 million was provided for 4,298 cover crop contracts covering 286,685 acres to improve soil health and water quality with the added benefit of increasing grazing and hay supplies for livestock in the state. The number of cover crop practices implemented in FY 2019 more than doubled from FY 2018. Although sediment is not currently calculated for cover crops as they have a one-year maintenance life, there are significant soil health and water quality benefits, and sediment reduction (up to 88 percent) by using this practice in no-till systems.

The decrease in soil saved in FY 2020 is from the continuation of implementing cover crops and increase in practices that improves soil health and water quality. The amount of cover crop practices is unknown in future years, therefore the projected amount in FY 2021 is based off a 3 year average of the amount of soil conserved and the number of acres implementing practices that conserve soil.

The goal is to maximize soil conserved annually.

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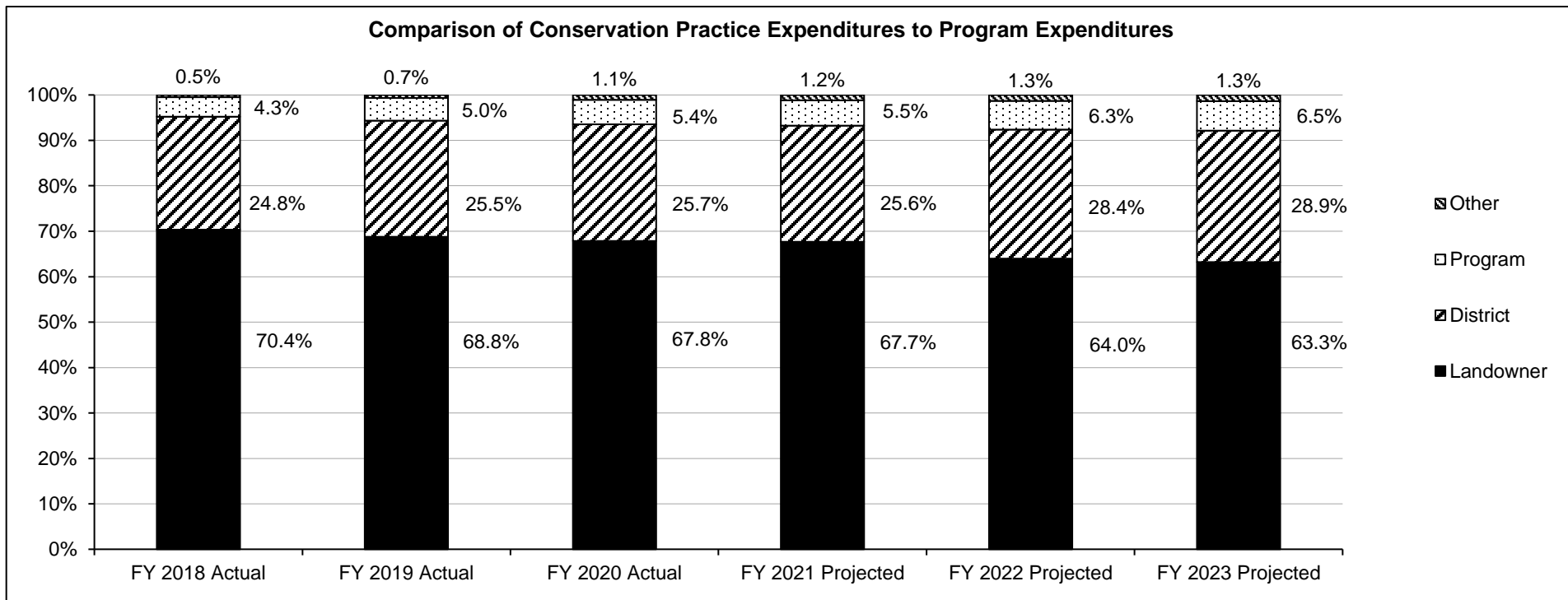
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2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.



This chart represents full costs of the Soil and Water Sales Tax Fund (pass-through payments, personal services, fringe benefits, operating expenses, and other costs). While cost share payments peaked in FY 2018 at \$40 million and are expected to decline in future years due to decreasing fund balance, costs in the other areas have remained relatively static. This has resulted in a gradual percentage decline of landowner payments with corresponding increases in other areas. The program has voluntarily reduced their operating appropriations in FY 2019, FY 2020, FY 2021, and FY 2022 and continues to review processes to gain efficiencies and utilize current staff effectively.

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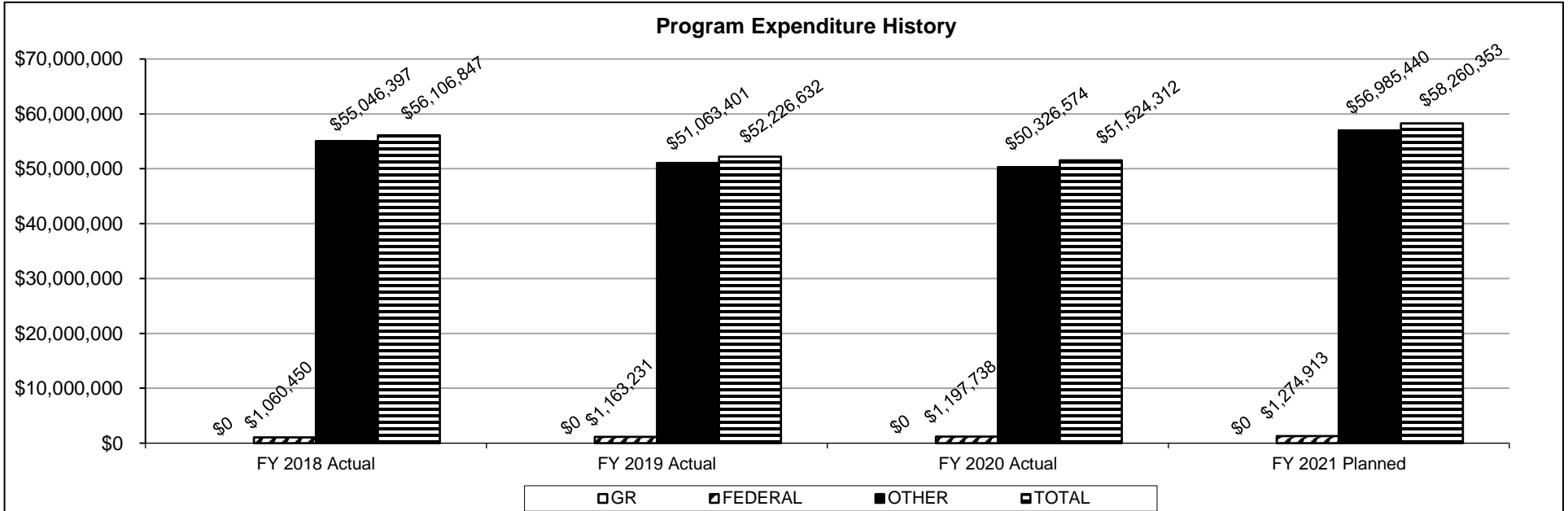
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



This budget does not contain General Revenue.

Financial data includes operating and pass-through appropriations. Pass-through appropriations are set at a level to encumber and pay our commitments which often span multiple fiscal years. FY 2021 Planned is shown at full appropriation.

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

Soil and Water Sales Tax Fund (0614)

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

Missouri Constitution, Article IV, Section 47a
RSMo 278.080
Section 319(h)

Sales and Use Tax Levied for Soil and Water Conservation
State's Soil and Water Districts Commission
Federal Clean Water Act

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

Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source Management Grant

40% State/Local (EPA)

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

The Environmental Protection Agency has delegated authority to the Department under the federal Clean Water Act. Water quality projects and studies promote improvement in water quality when performed in accordance with CWA 319.