



Senate Fiscal Agency
517-373-2768

Budget Overview: Natural Resources

https://sfa.senate.michigan.gov/Departments/DPdnr_web.html

Department of Natural Resources

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Natural Resources General Overview

- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was re-established in 2011 following the issuance of Executive Order (E.O.) 2011-1 which separated the DNR from the former Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE). E.O. 2011-1 effectively undid E.O. 2009-45, which had created the DNRE by combining the DNR with the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), formerly the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The current DNR and EGLE have existed separately and been combined throughout their respective histories; from 1995 through 2009, and 2011 to the present they have been separate, the remainder of the time they have been combined.
- Currently the DNR has 2,539.3 appropriated (full-time equated) FTE positions, many of whom are in Lansing, with the balance spread throughout the regional and district offices across the State.

Natural Resources General Overview

- **Major Functions/Programs:**

- **Parks and Recreation Division.** This division designs, develops, and manages Michigan's State parks, recreation areas, and boating facilities. Management of Michigan's State parks is the largest program in the Division and is funded primarily from user fees received from visitors to State parks and gas and oil lease and royalty revenue through the State Parks Endowment Fund. Recreational Boating is the next-largest program area in the Division, and it receives its funding through boat registrations and part of a 2% carve-out on taxes on motor fuels.
- **Fisheries Division.** This division protects and enhances populations and habitat of fishes and other forms of aquatic life. One of the major tasks for the Fisheries Division is to conduct research on fish populations and operate six fish hatcheries. The choice of which species to raise at the hatcheries is based on the Division's research with the goal of promoting healthy fish populations and benefitting the Great Lakes. Nearly all of the funding for the Fisheries Division comes from hunting and fishing license sales and Federal grants.

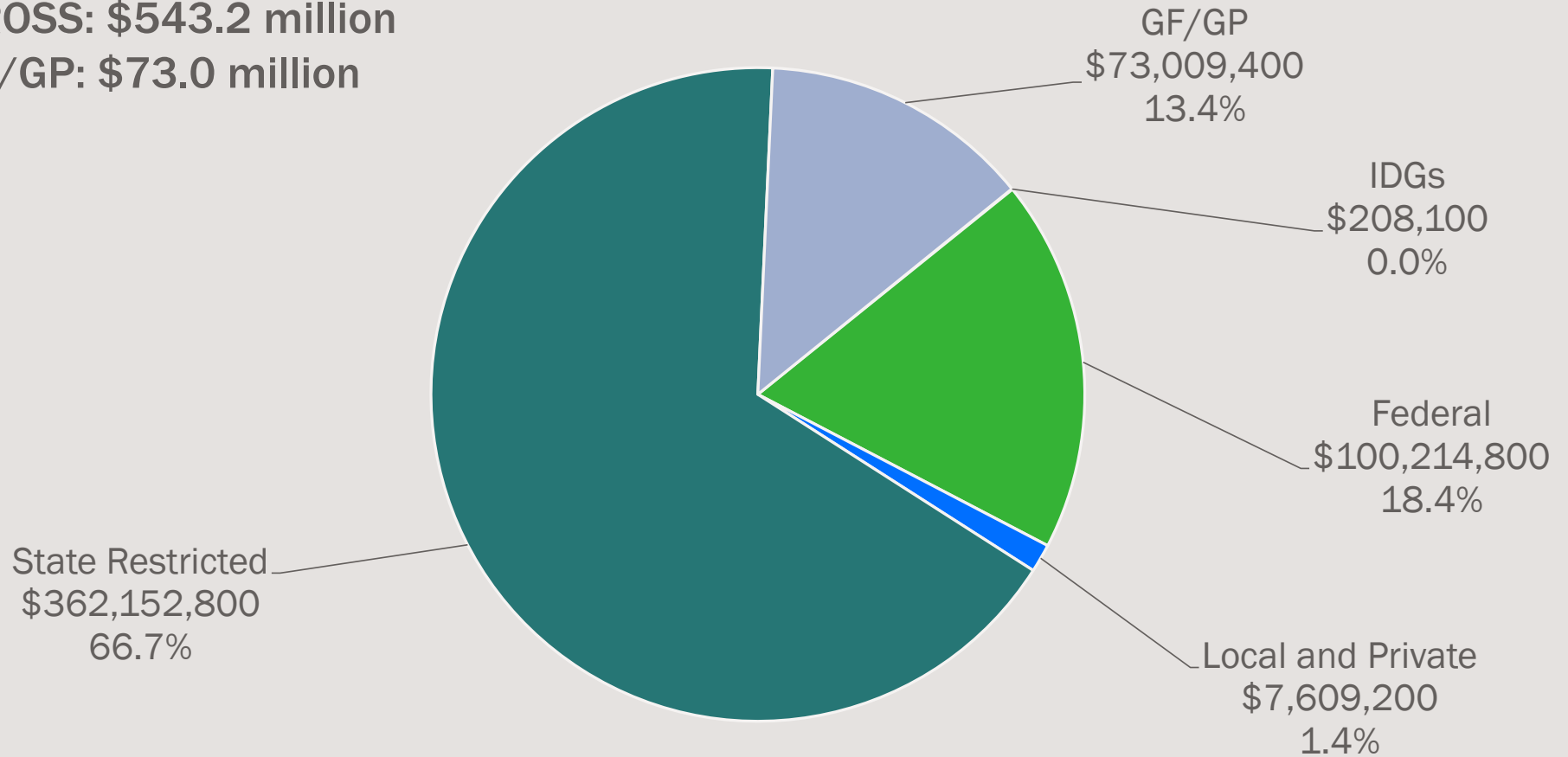
Natural Resources General Overview

- **Major Functions/Programs - continued:**
 - **Forest Resources Division.** This division protects and manages the use of a healthy forest resource base for social, recreational, environmental, and economic benefits and promotes the responsible leasing of State-owned mineral resources. Some of the major tasks undertaken by the Forest Resources Division are the management of State forests and marking for timber auctions, conducting gas and oil lease auctions, and wildfire protection. The largest fund source for the Division is the Forest Development Fund, which receives revenue from timber sales. The State General Fund and various Federal grants make up most of the rest of the funding the Division receives.
 - **Wildlife Division.** This division enhances, restores, and conserves the State's wildlife resources, natural communities, and ecosystems. The Wildlife Division engages in habitat improvement, wildlife research, and other activities. Most of the funding for the Wildlife Division comes from Federal grants as well as hunting and fishing license revenue.

Natural Resources

GROSS: \$543.2 million

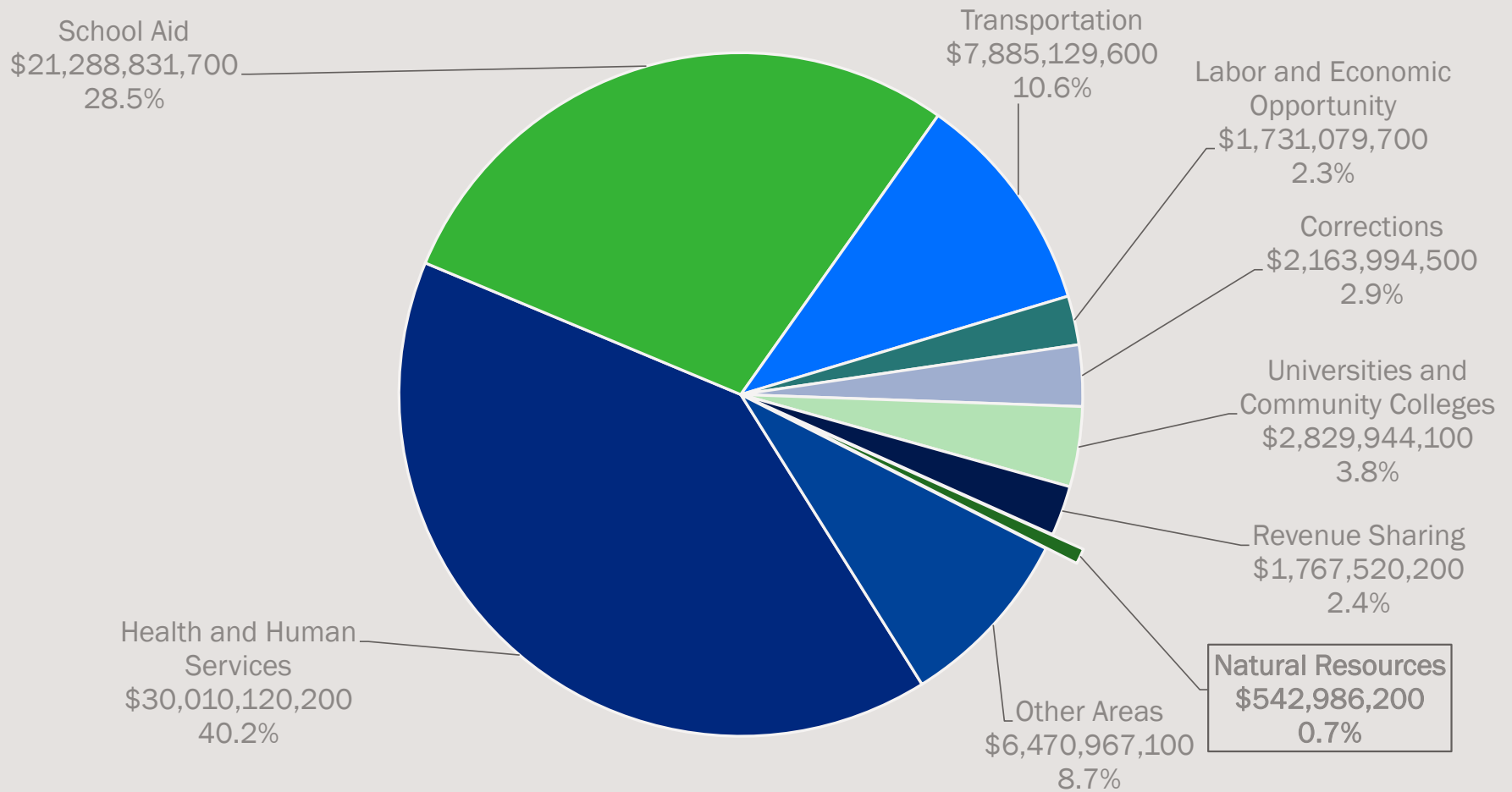
GF/GP: \$73.0 million



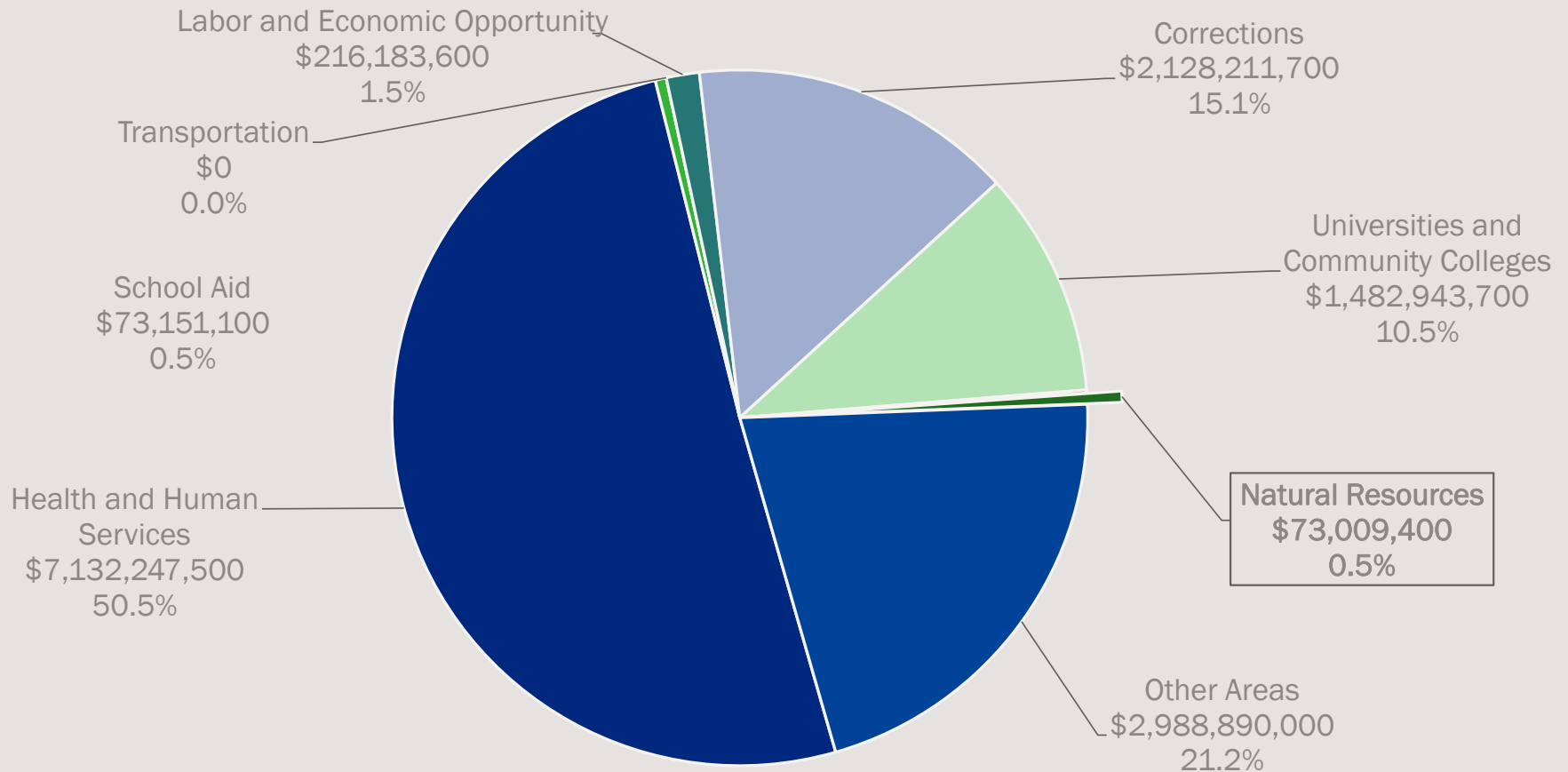
Appropriations by Source of Funds: FY 2025-26 Year-to-Date Appropriations as of 11/1/2025



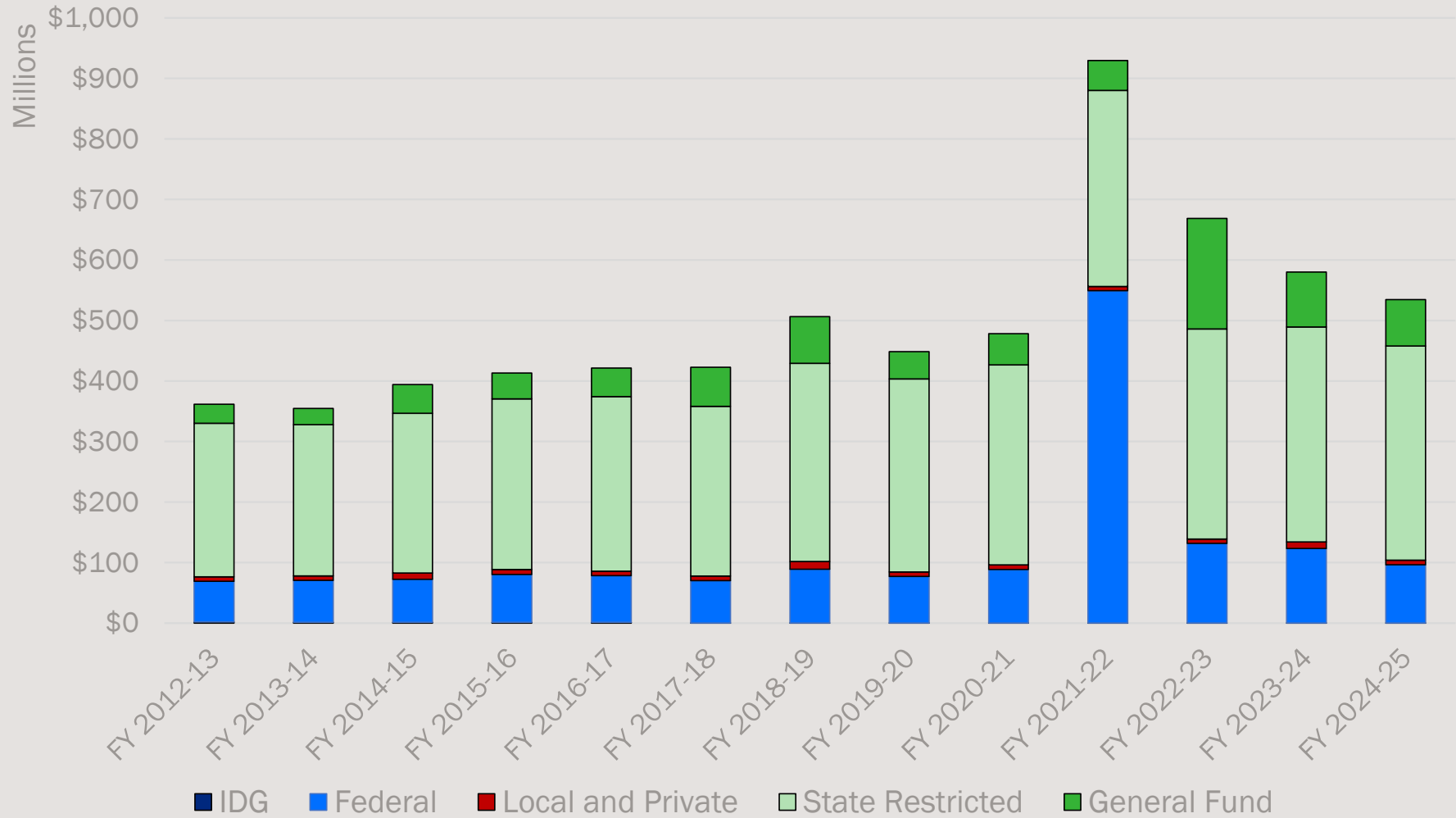
DNR's Slice of Michigan Adjusted Gross Budget: Accounts for 0.7% of the \$74.7 Billion State Budget



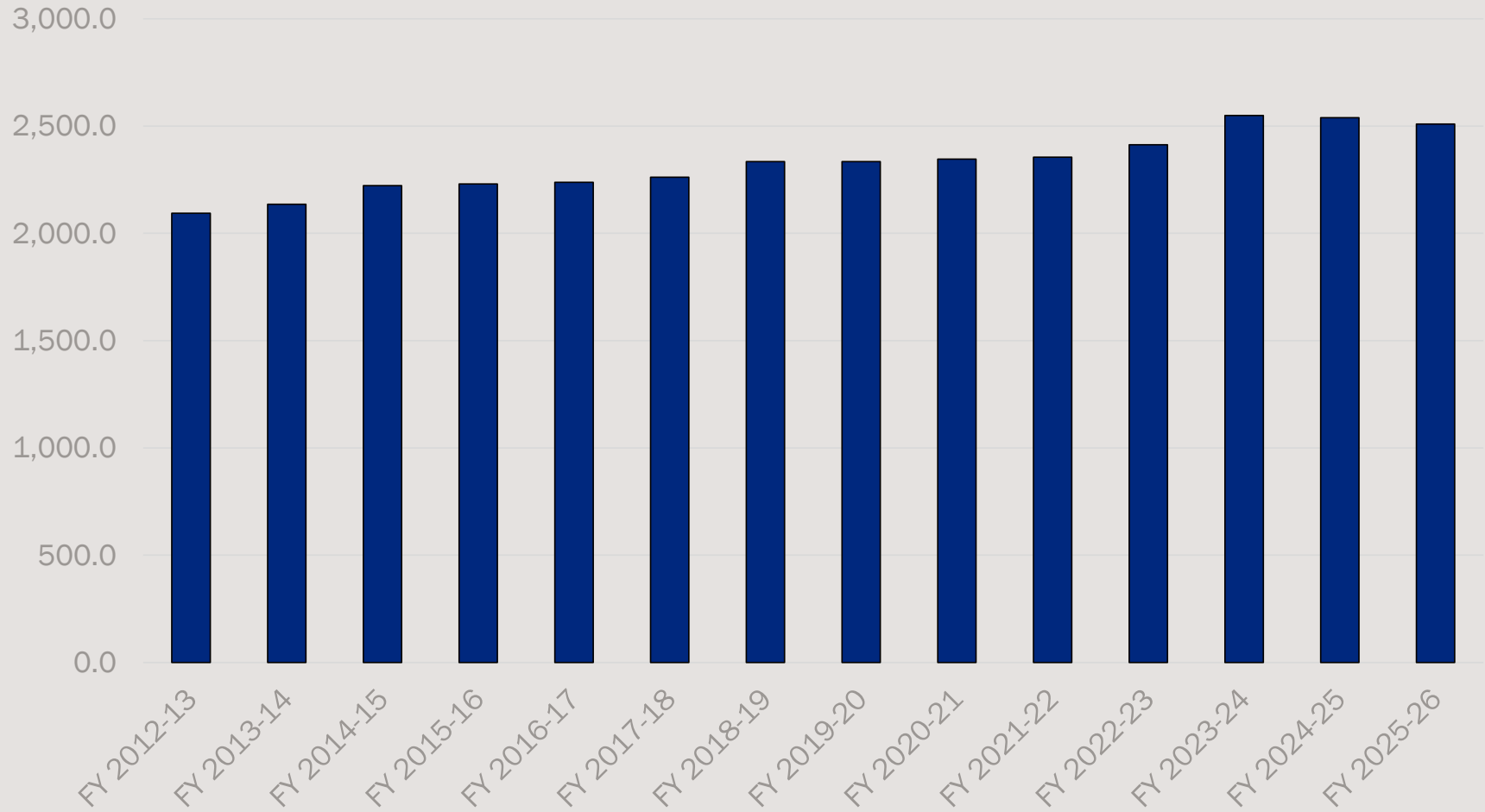
DNR's Slice of Michigan GF/GP Budget: Accounts for 0.5% of the \$14.1 Billion State Budget



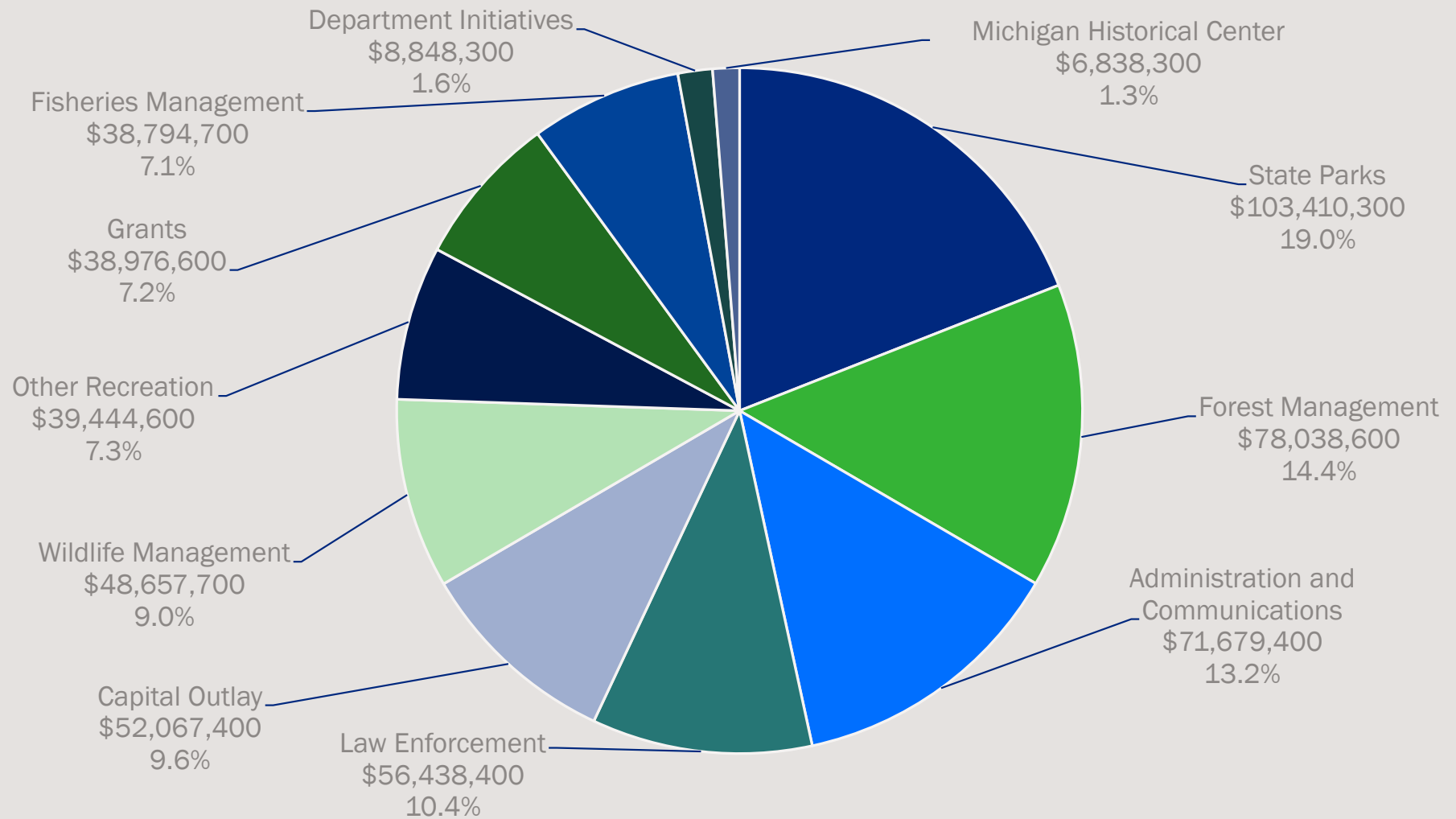
DNR Funding History



DNR FTE Appropriations History



Major Appropriations in the Department



Major Areas of GF/GP Spending

- Law Enforcement - \$19.0 million
- Forest Resources (Wildfire protection) - \$12.5 million
- One-Time appropriations (Fish production, nature awaits, dam safety, extreme weather restoration activities, wildfire protection, and a waterfront community conservation project) - \$12.2 million
- Invasive Species Prevention and Control - \$5.9 million
- Parks and Recreation (State parks, forest recreation and trails, and Michigan Conservation Corps) - \$3.9 million
- Michigan Historical Center - \$3.4 million

Special Issues

- **State Park Employee Recruitment and Retention**
 - The FY 2022-23 budget included \$9.8 million in funding and 40.8 additional FTEs: \$9.2 million in State restricted funding for long-term employees and \$678,800 for short-term workers in other divisions. The FY 2023-24 budget included \$7.8 million State restricted funding for 54.7 new FTEs. The FY 2024-25 budget did not include any additional FTEs for these purposes. The FY 2025-26 budget included restricted funding and 3.0 FTEs for additional supervisory positions at state parks as part of an ongoing increase that was approved by the Civil Service Commission.
 - The funding provides for additional rangers and increased hours for seasonal staff, improving recruitment and retention of short-term workers through increased pay, and provide essential resources to State parks to improve the experiences for the public.

Special Issues

- Recent ARP Investments for State and Local Parks
 - P.A. 53 of 2022 (SB 565) included \$450.0 million in Federal funds for state and local parks. Specifically, \$250.0 million was allocated for State parks and trail infrastructure and \$200.0 million was allocated for local parks and trail infrastructure.
 - The FY 2025-26 budget of PA 22 of 2025 included \$12.8 million GF/GP funding one-time funding.