

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT

The Conservation and Environment category consists of appropriations for the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Management, and several other entities. The category comprises approximately 1.5 percent of all recommended appropriations and 1.4 percent of all recommended General Fund appropriations. Both the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Management rely on dedicated funds; the category comprises approximately 2.6 percent of all recommended dedicated fund appropriations. While the Department of Environmental Management receives federal funds, only a small percentage of the recommended total federal fund appropriations are in this category.

Within the Conservation and Environment category, the Department of Natural Resources comprises approximately 42.3 percent of the total recommended appropriation. The Department of Environmental Management comprises approximately 56.8 percent of the total recommended appropriation.

Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to preserve, protect, enhance, and promote the wise use of Indiana's natural and historical heritage through effective and efficient management of recreational facilities, mineral and land resources, fish and wildlife programs, flood control procedures, water resources, and historical artifacts and landmarks.

The Department currently owns, leases, or manages more than 475,000 acres of Indiana land and water. The state's thirty-two state parks and reservoirs welcome close to 20 million visitors per year, and the seven inns accommodate more than 292,000 overnight guests per year. Indiana has sixteen state forests, recreation areas and nurseries totaling 149,445 acres and twenty-seven fish and wildlife properties (including eight fish hatcheries) totaling more than 119,000 acres. The Department's Water Division and Oil and Gas Division administer regulatory programs covering the state's water and petroleum resources. The Department's Bureau of Mine Reclamation administers federal and state laws dealing with surface coal mining and reclamation of mined lands.

The Department of Natural Resources recommendations include:

- Dedicated funding for the opening of the Prophetstown State Park which was authorized in the 1995-97 biennium;
- Dedicated funding for the implementation of a Centralized Reservation System to make reservations for campsites, cabins, shelters or recreation buildings via a call center or the Internet;
- Increased funding for the Department's Law Enforcement Division to support a recruit school to fill 17 vacant Conservation Officer positions;
- Dedicated fund support increased by approximately \$1.1 million than the appropriation for the 2001-2003 biennium;
- Appropriations for the State Parks Division and the Forestry Division will potentially exhaust all the resources in the dedicated State Parks Fund and the Forestry Fund to maintain essential services;
- Total General Fund recommendations are approximately \$12.7 million less than the appropriation for the 2001-03 biennium.

There is support for a heritage and cultural agency that would combine three divisions of the Department of Natural Resources (the State Historic Sites, and Historic Preservation and Archeology), the War Memorials Commission, the State Library, the Historic Bureau, Public Records, and the Indiana Arts Commission. The combining of these state agencies will not have an immediate savings. However, approximately \$190,000 was saved in the 2003-05 biennium by unfunding vacant positions.

Department of Environmental Management

The Department of Environmental Management is dedicated to conserving, protecting, enhancing, restoring and managing Indiana's environment. The Department strives to fairly, but vigorously, to enforce environmental laws and standards; promulgate rules consistent with the law and public policy; and promote conservation, pollution prevention, and a healthy, sustainable ecosystem.

The Department is organized into four major program areas (Air, Water, Land, and Pollution Prevention). The Office of Air Quality serves the state by preserving and restoring the quality of Indiana's air by meeting the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, developing state air quality standards and air quality control plans, evaluating and issuing permits for facilities, monitoring compliance and air quality, and establishing programs to reduce hazardous air pollutants. The Office of Water Quality is charged with protecting and restoring the quality of Indiana's water by enforcing the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act, which includes developing and reviewing drinking water quality standards and requirements for Indiana's public water supply systems, issuing permits for water treatment facilities, monitoring compliance and water quality, and establishing watershed based cleanup programs. The Office of Land Quality strives to maintain and improve the quality of Indiana's land by implementing permit, compliance and cor-

rective action programs to ensure proper handling of solid and hazardous waste under state laws and the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance works to reduce pollution at its source by developing plans with industries to prevent pollution, by managing grant programs, encouraging statewide recycling efforts, and educating citizens and industry via workshops and seminars.

For the Department of Environmental Management, the recommendations include:

- Additional base adjustment funding for the Department's Waste Tire Program and the Underground Petroleum Storage Tank Excess Liability program, both of which are supported by dedicated fees. These adjustments will draw from available balances to realistic expenditure levels to meet statutory demands in the 2003-05 biennium;
- Approximately \$4.9 million per year in General Funds will only partially be replaced by dedicated and federal funds.
- The recommended appropriations for the Water Management Permitting, Solid Waste Management Permitting, and Hazardous Waste Management Permitting accounts will potentially exhaust all of the resources of the Environmental Management Permit Operations Fund in order to maintain current essential services;
- Total General Fund recommendations are approximately \$9.8 million less than the appropriation for the 2001-03 biennium;
- The Department requested no new program funding for the 2003-05 biennium.