

- 3. Department of Fish & Wildlife (F&W) ..... \$5,084,500
  - A. General Infrastructure Projects ..... \$150,000

The investment of capital funds allows the Department to maintain and renovate employee residences at its Fish Culture Stations, Wildlife Refuges and Conservation Camps. These residences allow Department staff to provide security and emergency response outside of normal working hours in order to protect Department equipment and facilities and other assets, live and otherwise.

- B. Conservation Camps and Shooting Ranges ..... \$287,000

The Department seeks to educate the state's youth and adults on conservation principles, develop public shooting ranges to support hunter education and safe and responsible firearm use in Vermont, and to provide an easily accessible eco-education center for urban and underserved audiences to connect with the natural world. Besides conducting several educational opportunities, the Department currently offers summer conservation camps to over 1,000 youth at the two Green Mountain Conservation Corp Camps. Much of the camps' infrastructure dates back more than 50 years and needs cyclical repairs and upgrades. Additionally, the state has only two publicly owned and publicly accessible shooting ranges serving the state's 75,000 licensed hunters. Our goal is to ensure that all Vermonters are within reasonable distance of a safe, environmentally sound, public shooting range.

C. Roxbury Hatchery – Construction & Bid Documents..... \$2,720,000

Separate testimony- Rebecca

D. Hatchery Improvements ..... \$1,127,500

These funds will help to conserve and restore Vermont’s fish, wildlife and plant species to maintain the ecological integrity for the benefit of the public and will provide a diversity of fish and wildlife harvesting opportunities within ecological limits.

E. Wildlife Management Area Infrastructure ..... \$585,000

This project will enable continuous maintenance and improvement of infrastructure on the 90 WMAs owned and managed by F&W throughout Vermont, consisting of 135,000 acres of land, to allow for safe and enjoyable outdoor, wildlife-based use of these state lands by the public.

F. Fishing Access Areas..... \$165,000

The Department is continuing to work on upgrading its boat ramps and courtesy docks around the state. Many of the docks are deteriorating or do not meet current ADA guidelines. Capital investments are required as federal funding has declined 12% over the past five years, leaving less money for infrastructure improvements.

G. Walleye: To Upgrade & Repair Rearing, Restoration, and Stocking Infrastructure ..... \$50,000  
Separate testimony- Rebecca

Total Request for FY 2018	\$27,908,114
<u>Total Request for FY 2019</u>	<u>\$28,888,814</u>
Total Request for Section 10 FY 2018 and FY 2019	\$56,796,928