

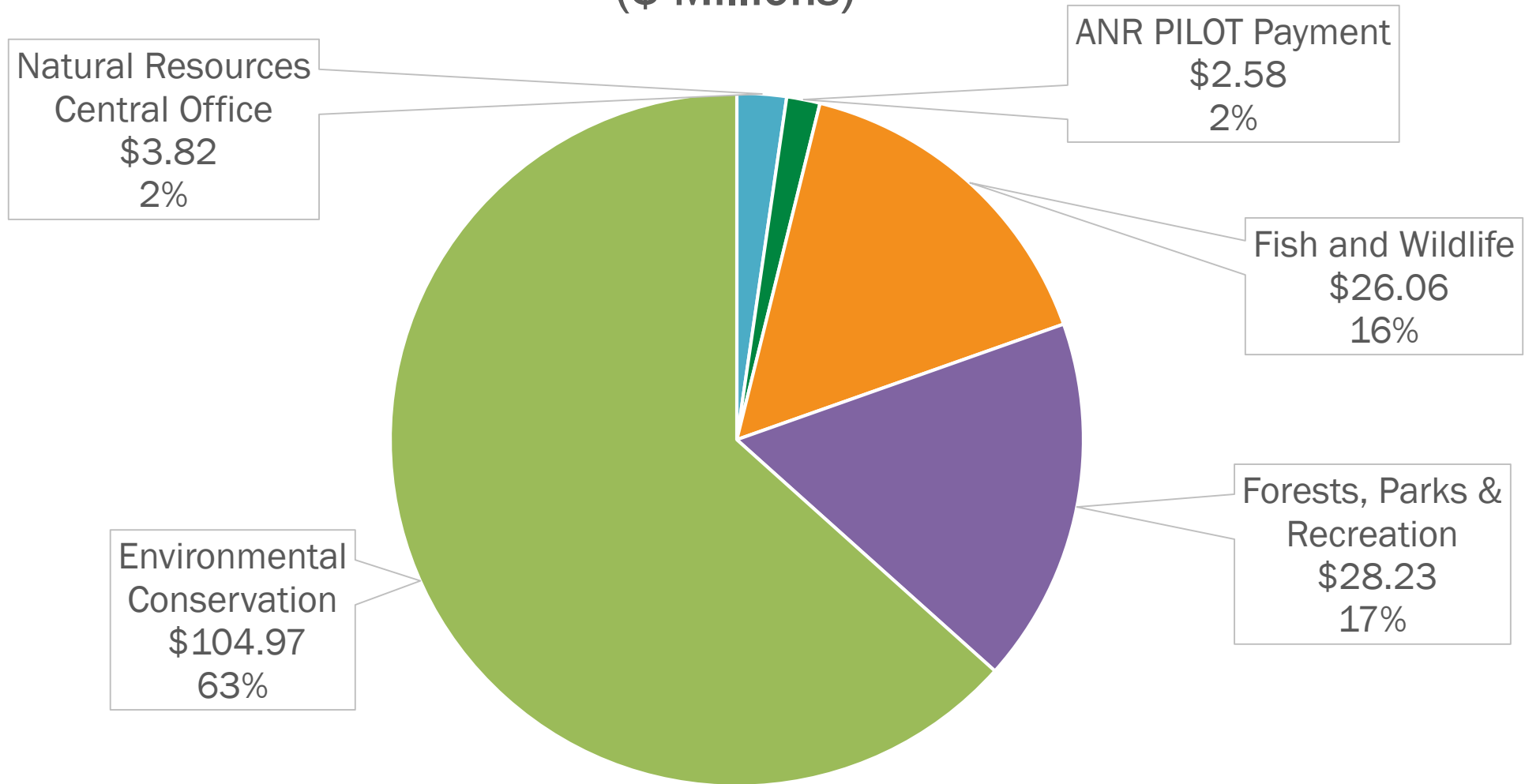
# Fish & Wildlife

The [Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department](#) exists to conserve the fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

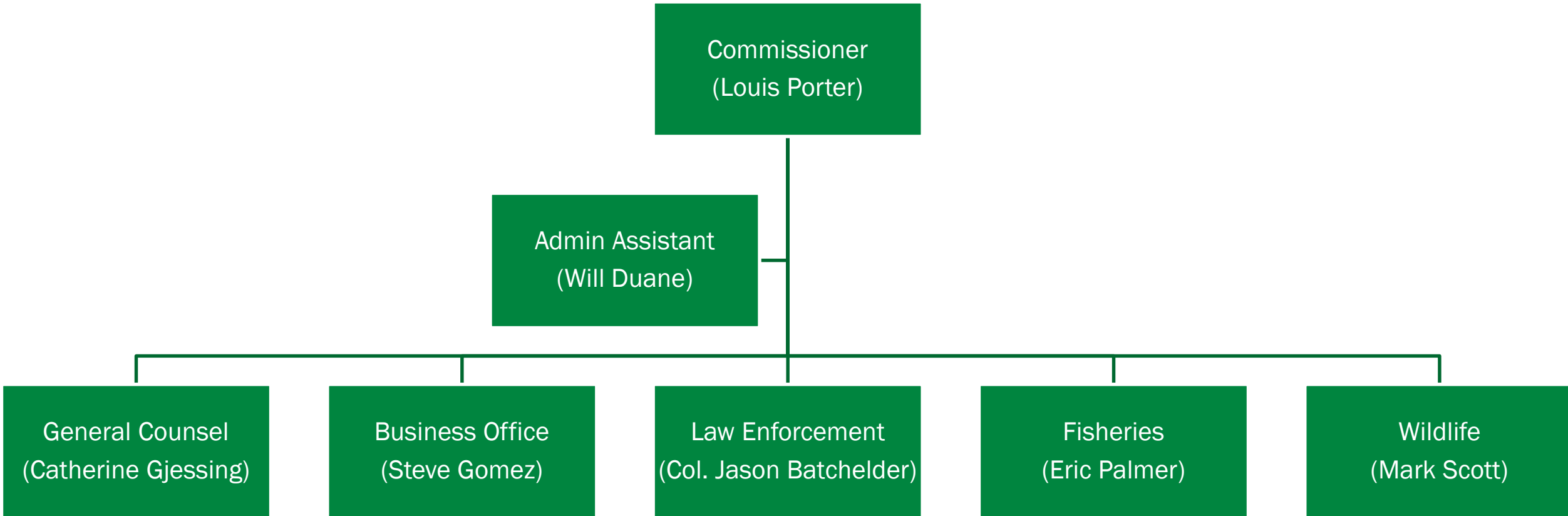
It meets these goals by providing a broad range of services to the public, including wildlife management, fisheries management, law enforcement, search and rescue, threatened and endangered species monitoring and restoration, habitat conservation, and educational programs for hunters, anglers, young people and teachers.



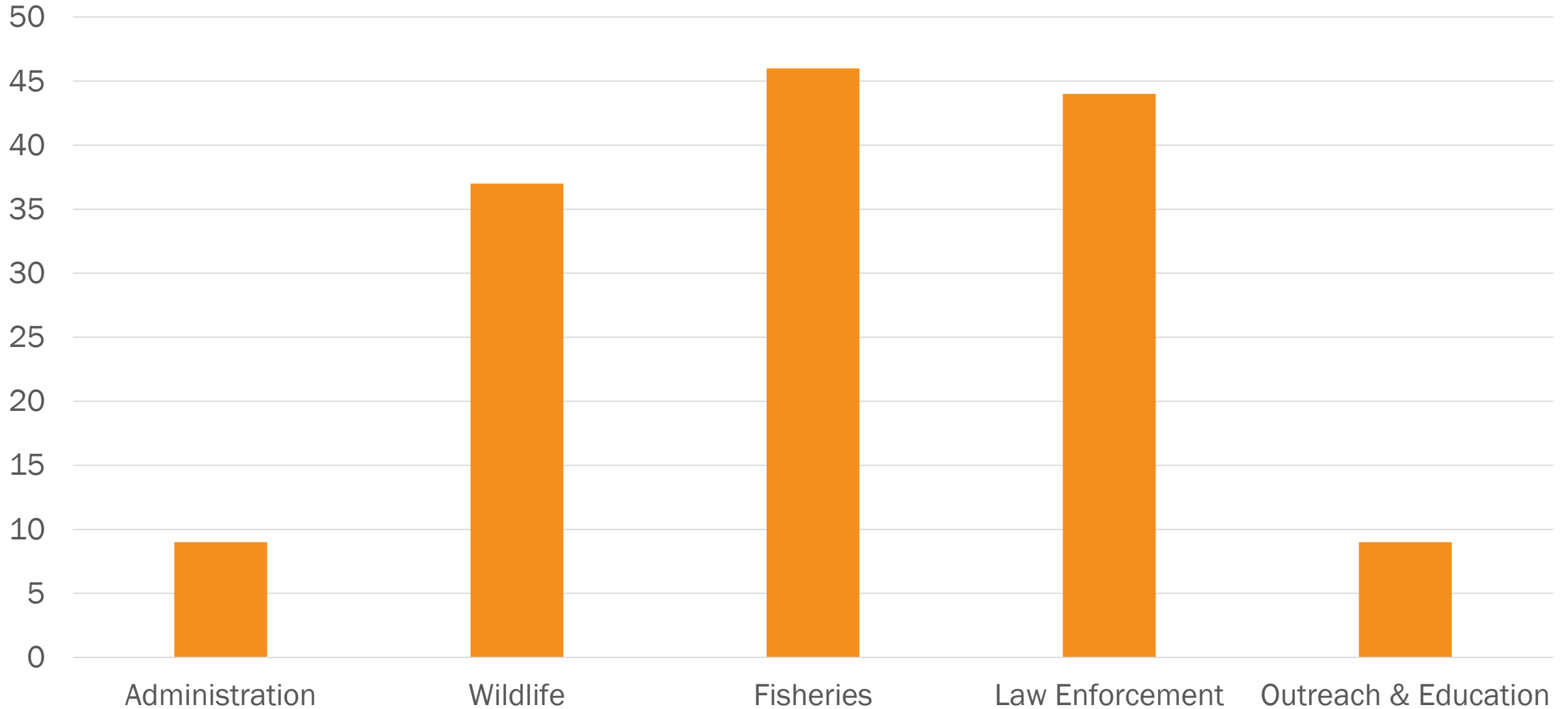
# FY2021 Restatement Governor's Recommended Budget By Department - \$165.7M (\$ Millions)



# Fish & Wildlife

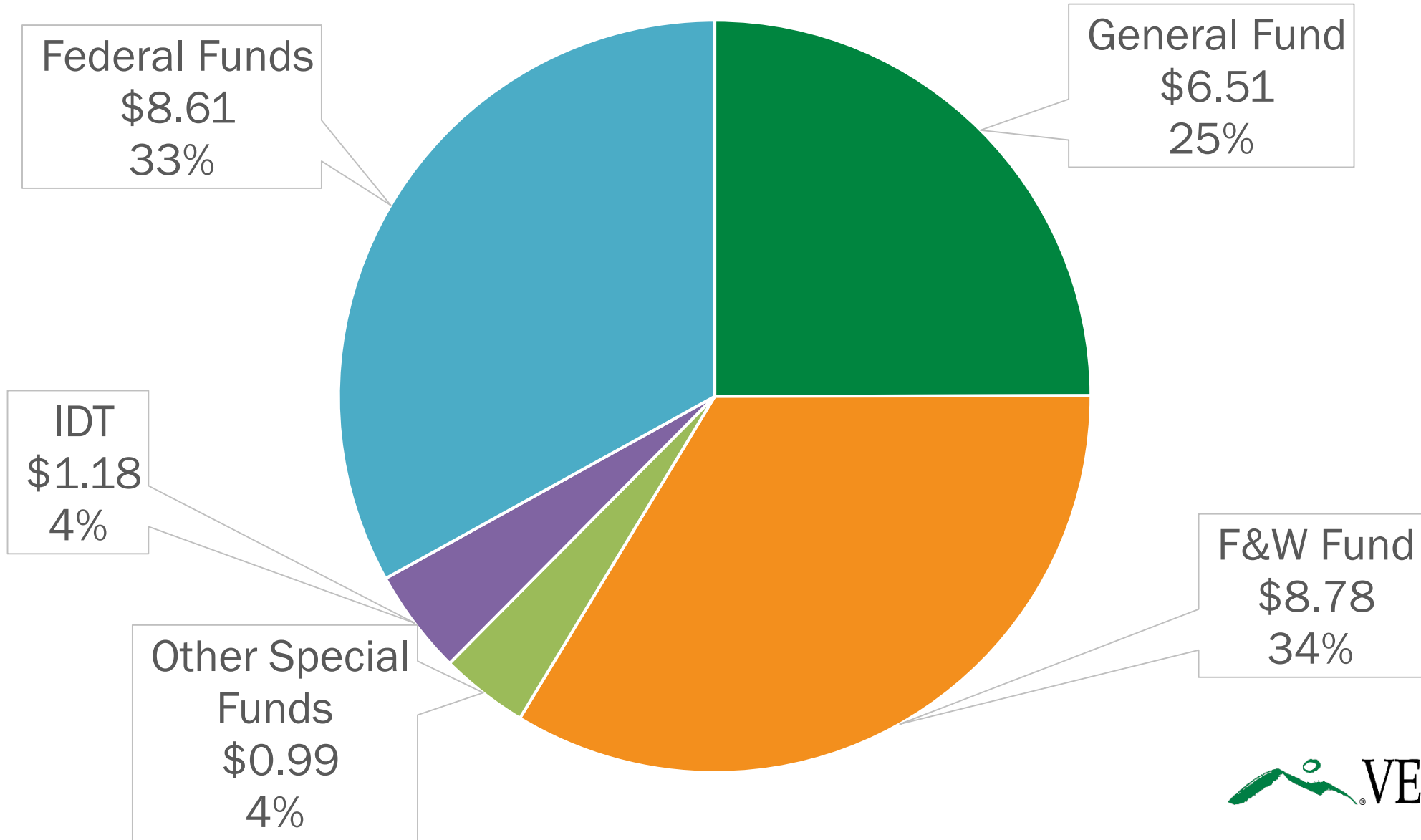


## F&W - 145 Authorized Positions (FY 2021)



# F&W FY 2021 Restatement Budget By Fund (in Millions)

## \$26.06 M



## Department of Fish and Wildlife

## 2019 MAJOR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

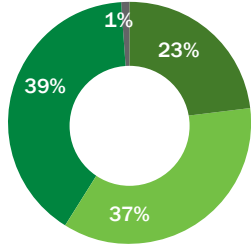
## FY 2021 BUDGET

### COMMISSIONER

Louis Porter

### FY 2019 ACTUALS

Total Budget: \$24,283,102



- \$5,622,501 General Funds
- \$8,960,990 Federal Funds
- \$9,447,215 Fish & Wildlife Funds
- \$166,673 Special Funds
- \$85,724 Inter-departmental Funds

### HABITAT CONSERVATION

Conserve, restore, and enhance habitats, natural plant and animal communities, and ecosystem integrity to maintain wildlife and ecological values.



**128,000**

Acres managed through wildlife management areas



**159**

Acres conserved through acquisition



**854**

Acres improved on private lands

### SPECIES CONSERVATION

Conserve and restore Vermont's fish, wildlife, and plant species to maintain ecosystem integrity for the benefit of the public.



**1,143,205**

Fish stocked



**969**

Spiny softshell turtle nesting successes



**47**

Eagle nesting successes

### EDUCATION

Increase public understanding and support for natural resources conservation issues, and promote a land stewardship ethic that includes habitat conservation and the safe, ethical utilization of wildlife.



**3,625**

People completed hunter education



**8,466**

People completed "Let's Go Fishing"



**953**

Completed Department-sponsored conservation course

### RECREATION

Provide a diversity of fish and wildlife-based activities, opportunities, and access that allow hunting, fishing, trapping, viewing, consistent with the public trust.



**196**

Boating access areas managed



**165,851**

Anglers and hunters served



**1,299**

Toured Dead Creek Visitor Center

### SAFETY

Maintain safe and lawful fish and wildlife-based activities to protect species and their habitats and to limit harmful human encounters.



**9,587**

Enforcement responses



**1**

Hunting-related accidents

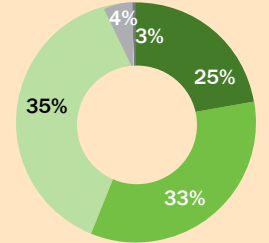


**103**

Rabies complaints managed

### FY 2021

Budget: \$26,109,652



- \$6,496,512 General Funds
- \$8,668,133 Federal Funds
- \$9,100,152 Fish & Wildlife Funds
- \$669,737 Special Funds
- \$1,175,152 Inter-departmental Funds

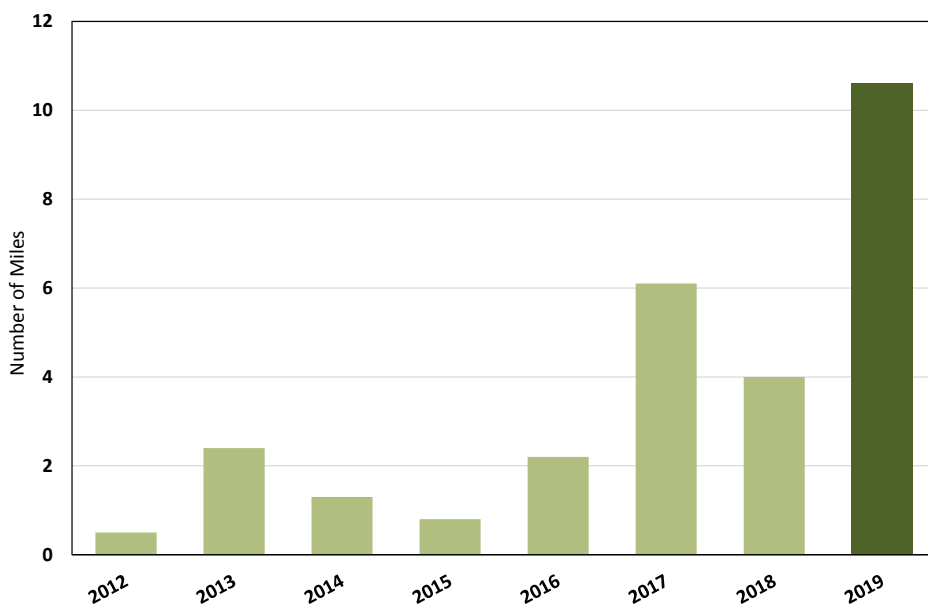


# TROUT HABITAT MANAGEMENT



*Performance measure: The number of stream-miles restored.*

## Miles of Wild Trout Stream Restored in the Northeast Kingdom



Fisheries biologists, in cooperation with Trout Unlimited, have been strategically adding woody material to streams in the Northeast Kingdom. Brook trout population monitoring reveals that brook trout abundance has more than doubled in treated areas.

**Department biologists recently completed a decade-long survey of wild brook trout and found that present day populations are comparable to those from more than 50 years ago.**

This is a remarkable conclusion for Vermont's favorite fish given that populations of wild brook trout have declined significantly across much of the species' historic range in the eastern United States.

While most measures were similar, significantly higher densities of young brook trout were found. This may reflect the improved environmental protections put in place since the 1950s, particularly legislation and programs focusing on water quality and aquatic habitat protection.

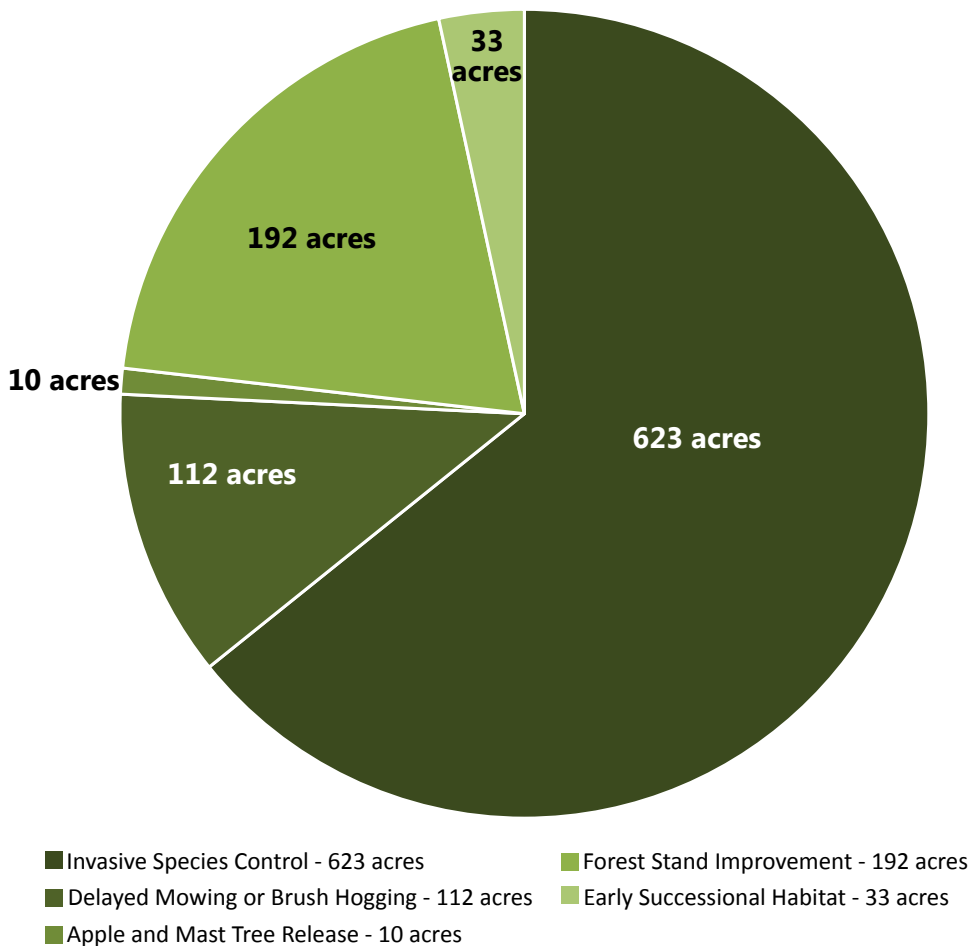
The survey included sampling of 138 streams within 17 watersheds between 2005 and 2016, each of which were originally sampled between 1952 and 1960 by former biologist James MacMartin.

# HABITAT ASSISTANCE FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS



*Performance measure: Increase the cumulative number of acres of high-value habitats improved through private lands technical assistance.*

## Wildlife Habitat Improved on Private Lands through Fish & Wildlife Staff Technical Assistance



**More than 80 percent of Vermont land is privately owned so working with landowners is essential to improving wildlife habitat.**

In 2019, department staff helped 90 landowners manage their land for wildlife through the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) EQIP program. This assistance directly benefited thousands of acres of wildlife habitat. Staff also gave workshops to various organizations such as Vermont Woodlands Association and Vermont Coverts groups, worked with colleagues in the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to incorporate wildlife habitat considerations into the UVA plans, and assisted residents with bats in their homes, beavers flooding their roads and driveways and many other human-wildlife conflicts.

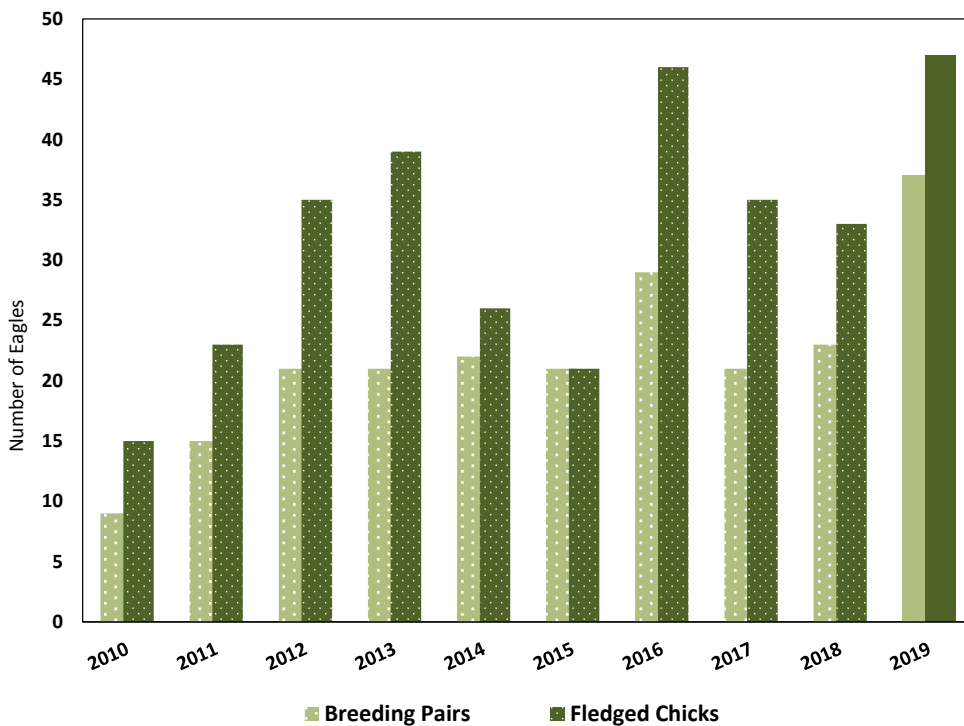


# THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES



*Performance measure: Maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations at healthy and sustainable levels.*

## Vermont Bald Eagle Recovery Area Monitoring Results for Breeding Pairs and Fledged Eagles



In 2019, thirty-seven pairs of bald eagles successfully fledged 47 chicks. This is a remarkable achievement for the species, since the first successful nest in more than 60 years occurred in Vermont only a eleven years ago in 2008.

Two other once endangered bird species had successful nesting seasons:

- 50 nesting pairs of peregrine falcons fledged 69 chicks
- 101 common loon pairs successfully fledged 87 chicks

**The department works strategically to keep common species common and prevent struggling species from becoming threatened and endangered.**

The Wildlife Action Plan is a 10-year framework designed to assess the health of Vermont's wildlife, identify the problems they face, and outline the actions needed for long-term conservation. Some species such as moose, lynx, and marten may be at risk due to climate change. Others, like Jefferson Salamander and Northern Goshawk, are at risk by habitat loss and fragmentation.

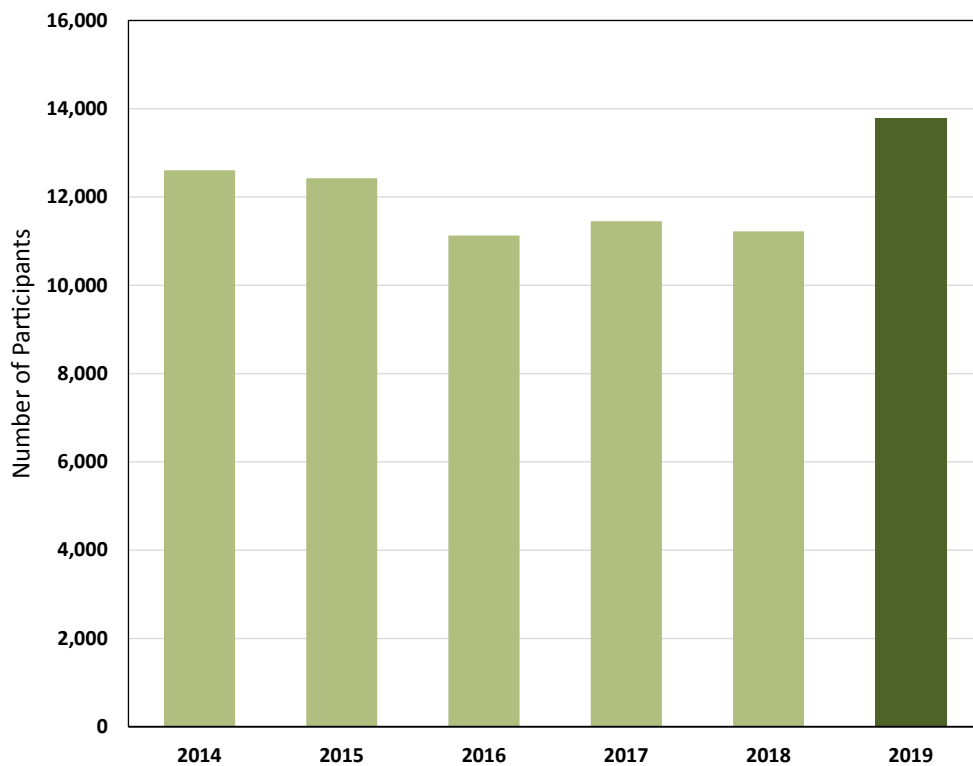


# CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS



*Performance measure: Maintain or increase the public's support for, and knowledge of, fish and wildlife conservation and land stewardship.*

## Participation in Fish & Wildlife Education and Outreach Programs



### 2019 Participation by Program

Green Mountain Conservation Camps	735
Let's Go Fishing	8,466
Family Fishing Festival	750
Project WILD	208
Educator's Course	10
Hunter Education	3,625
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,794</b>

**The department works to maintain Vermonters' strong connection to the land.**

Our education programs strengthen an understanding of ecology, build support for conservation, and teach the outdoor skills needed to responsibly enjoy our woods and waters.

**These programs are affordable too.** Other than the Green Mountain Conservation Camps and educator's course, all programs are free. Camp tuition is a fraction of the cost of almost any other week-long, residential camp. Plus, there are an ample number of scholarships available for those in need. All applicants that demonstrate need receive financial support.

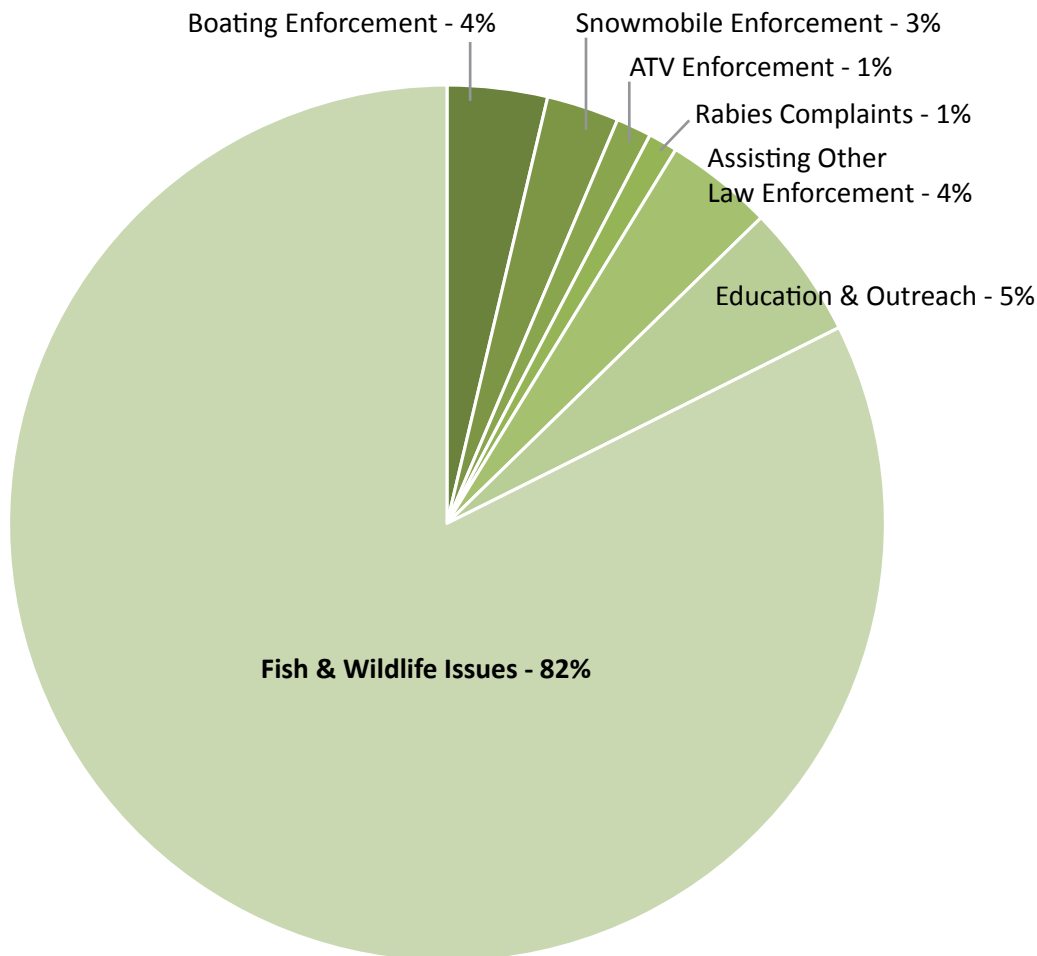


# WARDENS SERVE THE PUBLIC



*Performance measure: Decrease human-wildlife conflicts while increasing safety for outdoor recreationists.*

## Warden Activities Benefiting the Public



**Wardens apply their broad range of skills and expertise to provide a wide variety of services that Vermonters increasingly rely on.**

This includes responding to rabid animal calls and human-wildlife conflicts; enforcing boating, ATV and snowmobiling laws; and participating in search and rescue operations. In addition, the number of mutual assists to other agencies has almost doubled in the last decade due to strained law enforcement budgets around the state.