

Respect. Protect. Enjoy. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is charged with oversight and management of Vermont's natural environment on behalf of the people of Vermont. We endeavor to draw Vermont's ethic that encompasses a sense of place, community, and quality of life. An understanding that we are an integral part of the environment, and that we must all be responsible stewards for this and future generations.

The Agency of Natural Resources is led by **Secretary Moore**. She was appointed in January 2017 by Vermont Governor Phil Scott.

ANR is comprised of three departments and a secretary's office, with more than 600 staff and 400 seasonal employees. The secretary's office is home to policy and planning, the general counsel's office, the climate office, and an environmental justice unit. The Agency is also comprised of the **Department of Fish & Wildlife**; **Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation**; and **Department of Environmental Conservation**.

It is the **mission** of the Agency of Natural Resources to protect, sustain, and enhance Vermont's natural resources for the benefit of this and future generations.



Secretary's Office Key Contacts

Maggie Gendron, Deputy Secretary

Billy Coster, Director Policy and Planning

Karla Raimundi, Director of Environmental Justice and Civil Rights

Jane Lazorchak, Director of Climate Action

Stephanie Brackin, Director of Communications



Agency of Natural Resources Funding

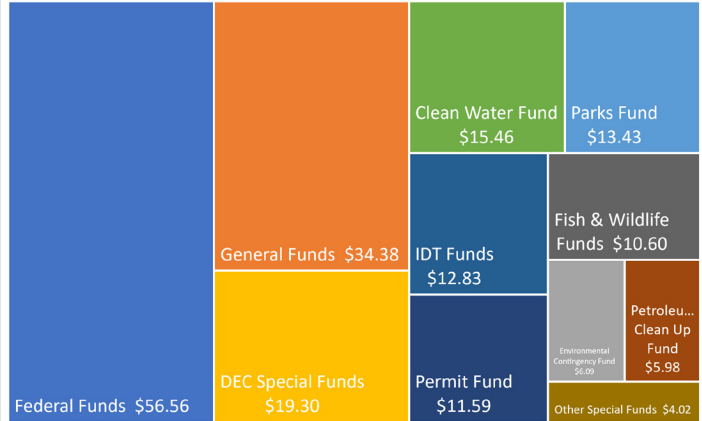
FY 24 Budget

The FY 2024 Governor's recommended budget provides an appropriation of \$210 million to support our mission. The Agency budget is comprised of a combination of federal funds, general funds, and a several of special funds.

Federal Funding

The American Recovery Protection Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has infused more than \$500 Million of federal funds through ANR and into Vermont's communities through 2026. With these funds, communities will improve sewer systems, reduce sewer overflows, replace individual failed septic and drinking wells, improve water and sewer in manufactured housing communities, treating stormwater runoff in larger sites, and install pretreatment processes to address toxic wastewater.

FY2023 Governor's Recommended Budget By Fund (\$ Millions)

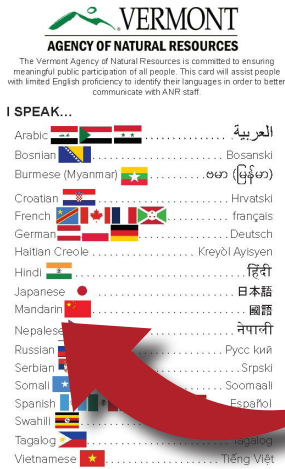


Climate Action and Environmental Justice

The Agency of Natural Resources is working to better include and engage Vermonters in our work around climate action and environmental justice.

Act 154 of 2022 was adopted as the Statewide Environmental Justice Policy. The Agency will support the Interagency Council and the Advisory Council; issue agency guidance on community engagement; build a statewide mapping tool, and implement a Language Access Plan. Part of the plan includes the development of an **I Speak card**. A tool to assist people with limited English proficiency to identify their languages in order to better communicate with ANR staff that are working within communities on a daily basis.

The Agency has also established the Climate Action Office, to provide a long-term intergovernmental structure to coordinate and manage the policies, programs and tools needed to implement climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience strategies statewide.



Respect. Protect. Enjoy. The mission of the Vermont **Department of Environmental Conservation** (DEC) is to preserve, enhance, restore, and conserve Vermont's natural resources, and protect human health for the benefit of this and future generations. The vision is to support a Vermont where people live in harmony with diverse and healthy natural systems; appreciate and enjoy our natural resources; work together responsibly to reduce waste and risks to human health and the environment; and prosper without significant degradation of natural systems; envision a Vermont where people breathe clean air; drink clean water; eat safe food; and live in a sustained and healthy environment.

The Department of Environmental Conservation is led by **Commissioner John Beling**. He was appointed in August 2022 by Vermont Governor Phil Scott.



DEC is comprised of the Commissioner's Office, Administration and Innovation Division, Air Quality and Climate Division, Environmental Compliance Division, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division, Waste Management and Prevention, Water Investment Division, Watershed Management Division.

DEC Key Contacts

John Beling, Commissioner

John Schmeltzer, Deputy Commissioner

Federal Funding to Support Water Infrastructure

The Federal Government signed into law several legislative feats, that include supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

In 2021 Congress allocated \$1.9 trillion through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to address economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The General Assembly appropriated a total of \$192,790,000 of ARPA funds to ANR for investments in drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

In November 2021, Congress then passed the Investment Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA), also called the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). IIJA/ BIL will support historic investments in water infrastructure and environmental remediation, totaling nearly \$400 million additional funding over five years.



Department Priorities

Protecting the Vulnerable



PCBs and PFAS

The identification and remediation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in schools is an important and urgent initiative currently active in the state of Vermont.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released four drinking water health advisories for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in their latest action to deliver clean water. These actions build on EPA's progress to safeguard communities from PFAS pollution and scientifically inform upcoming efforts, including EPA's forthcoming proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFOA and PFOS, which EPA will release in the beginning of 2023.



Healthy Homes

With the Federal ARPA funds, ANR created a program called the Healthy Homes On-Site Program. Many low-income Vermonters are not able to afford repairs to or replacement of failed drinking water wells and septic systems. This program is providing technical and financial assistance to low and moderate-income residential property owners, including owner-occupied multi-family properties with up to four units, to support up to the full cost of replacement for failing or inadequate on-site water and/or wastewater systems.

ANR first advertised the availability of this program late in 2021, and to date, over 2,000 households reached out seeking assistance; the 250 most urgent, eligible requests have been selected for funding. A call for additional applications, and awards, will be solicited in the Spring of 2023 and Fall of 2023.

Respect. Protect. Enjoy. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreations (FPR) is responsible for the conservation and management of Vermont's forest resources, the operation and maintenance of the State Park system, and the promotion and support of outdoor recreation for Vermonters and our visitors. In addition, FPR is responsible for the acquisition, planning coordination and administration of Agency of Natural Resources lands. Department employees are stationed throughout Vermont, including offices in Montpelier and at five regional locations.

Danielle Fitzko is serving as the interim-Commissioner of Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation since January 2023.

FPR is comprised of the Forest Division; the State Lands Administration and Outdoor Recreation Division; and the State Parks Division. FPR's mission is to practice and encourage high quality stewardship of Vermont's environment by monitoring and maintaining the health, integrity and diversity of important species, natural communities, and ecological processes; managing forests for sustainable use, including providing and promoting opportunities for compatible outdoor recreation; and providing related information, education and service.



FPR Legislative Contacts

Danielle Fitzko, FPR Interim Commissioner

Caroline Zeilenga, Executive Assistant

FPR Highlights



Forest-based industry products (pulp and paper, building materials, furniture, wood energy, and more) contribute over \$2 billion to the state economy annually and provide jobs for about 13,000 people.



Vermont's State Parks have set record setting visitation numbers in 2021 and 2022 with more than 1.1 million visitors enjoying our public camping, day sites, and recreation opportunities each year.

Department Divisions

Forests Division



Our forestland, natural resources, and outdoor recreation are a significant part of our identity. Forests comprise 74% of our landscape, providing habitat for many species of flora and fauna and innumerable ecological benefits including clean air and clean water. Our forests, in fact, are a valuable, renewable, and thus sustainable resource, supporting an array of products, jobs, and recreational activities. In the face of climate change, forests play an important role in reducing the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the air. Forests are also impacted by the changing climate, which exacerbates the threats that invasive plants, insects, and diseases already pose to the health of Vermont's forests

State Parks Division



The State Parks Division provides opportunities for outdoor recreation, connection to the natural world, and space for solace or time with family and friends. The Division manages 55 developed state parks, each offering high-quality opportunities for outdoor recreation compatible with the conservation of Vermont's natural resources and aesthetics. Vermont State Parks provides environmental education and information and supports the economies and values of local communities. Additionally, state parks promote, operate, and maintain a large and complex system of conserved lands, as well as both historic and modern facilities that are enjoyed by over a million visitors every year.

Lands Administration and Recreation Division



The Lands Administration and Recreation Division (DLAR) protects and enhances Vermont's world-class outdoor recreation opportunities and administers critical state lands functions. The division provides and promotes outdoor recreation funding opportunities, builds partnerships and provides leadership to address Vermont's recreation resource needs, manages outdoor recreation on state lands, updates Vermont's comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, and supports the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC). In addition, DLAR conducts land acquisitions for the Agency, coordinates long-range management planning for ANR lands, and provides many important ANR land services.

Respect. Protect. Enjoy. Conservation is at the core of what we do. The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW) mission is the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont. We strive to include all Vermonters in enjoying the outdoors by providing quality fish and wildlife-based recreation and reaching Vermonters with the best possible information about these resources and sustaining these resources in the face of challenges like habitat loss and climate change for future generations.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is led by Commissioner Christopher Herrick. He was appointed in October 2021 by Vermont Governor Phil Scott.

The Department's \$30.5 million budget is funded by three major sources: user-based fees such as licenses, excise taxes on gasoline and on hunting and fishing equipment, and state general funds.

The Department is comprised of four divisions: Fish, Wildlife, Outreach, and the Warden Service.



DFW Legislative Contact

Christopher Herrick, DFW Commissioner

Rediscovered Plant Life in Vermont

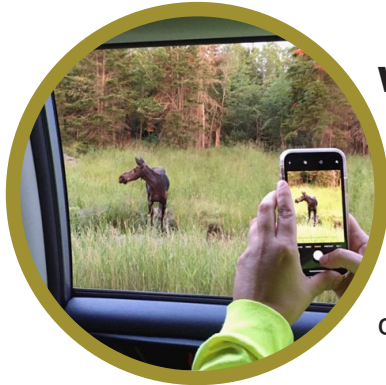


The purple crowberry is an alpine shrub rediscovered on Mt. Mansfield. Department botanists will work with partners including the Winooski Valley Park District and Green Mountain Club to protect these species.



A globally rare orchid listed as threatened on the Federal Endangered Species Act - the small whorled pogonia - was found on conservation land in Chittenden County.

Department Divisions



Wildlife Division

The department has ownership and management of WMAs throughout Vermont to 100, totaling approximately 130,000 acres. Birders, hunters, photographers and anglers may seek wildlife during the same times and places. Do what you can to avoid overlapping with other users. While it's safe to be in the woods during hunting seasons, be sure to wear bright colors.

Fish Division

With over 800 lakes and ponds and 7,000 miles of rivers and streams in between - Vermont is home to incredible aquatic biodiversity - and is full of world-class fishing opportunities. The department employs several fisheries biologists, who study and manage the state's fisheries resources. Our hatcheries produce more than 1.5 million fish annually for distribution, or stocking, to Vermont's lakes and streams.



Warden Service Division

The Department's Division of Warden Service provides a critical and necessary response to citizen requests for help involving fish and wildlife problems, questions, and enforcement. Wardens enforce fish and wildlife, boat, snowmobile, ATV, and general criminal laws. State Game Wardens have extensive knowledge of Vermont's remote areas and utilize this knowledge and special training for search and rescue operations.

Outreach Division

Connecting all Vermonters to the natural world is the goal of the Outreach Division. This Division employs expert educators and communicators to produce the Hunting and Fishing Law Digests and the annual Fish & Wildlife calendar, create hundreds of press releases and thousands of social media posts, and provide conservation education programs for Vermonters of all ages and abilities.

