

# SFY 2026

## Governor's Recommended Budget

Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Andrea Shortsleeve, Interim Commissioner



# Outline

- Department Overview
- SFY26 F&W Budget Overview
- SFY26 F&W Budget - Key Changes
- Position Changes
- Significant Initiatives & Challenges
- Financial Restructuring
- Programmatic and Performance Measures



# Department Mission:

The conservation of fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

# What we conserve



Natural communities



Fish



Habitat



Invertebrates



Wildlife



Plants

# Who we serve



Wildlife watchers



Future generations



Anglers



Hunters and trappers

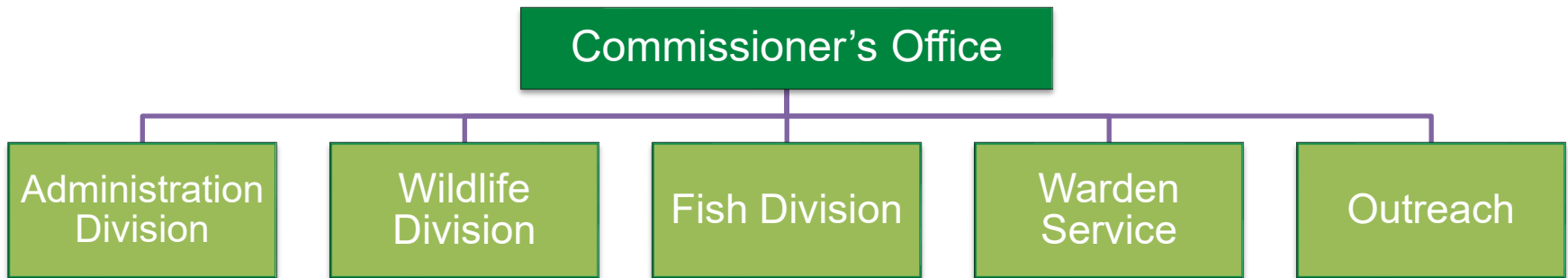


Communities

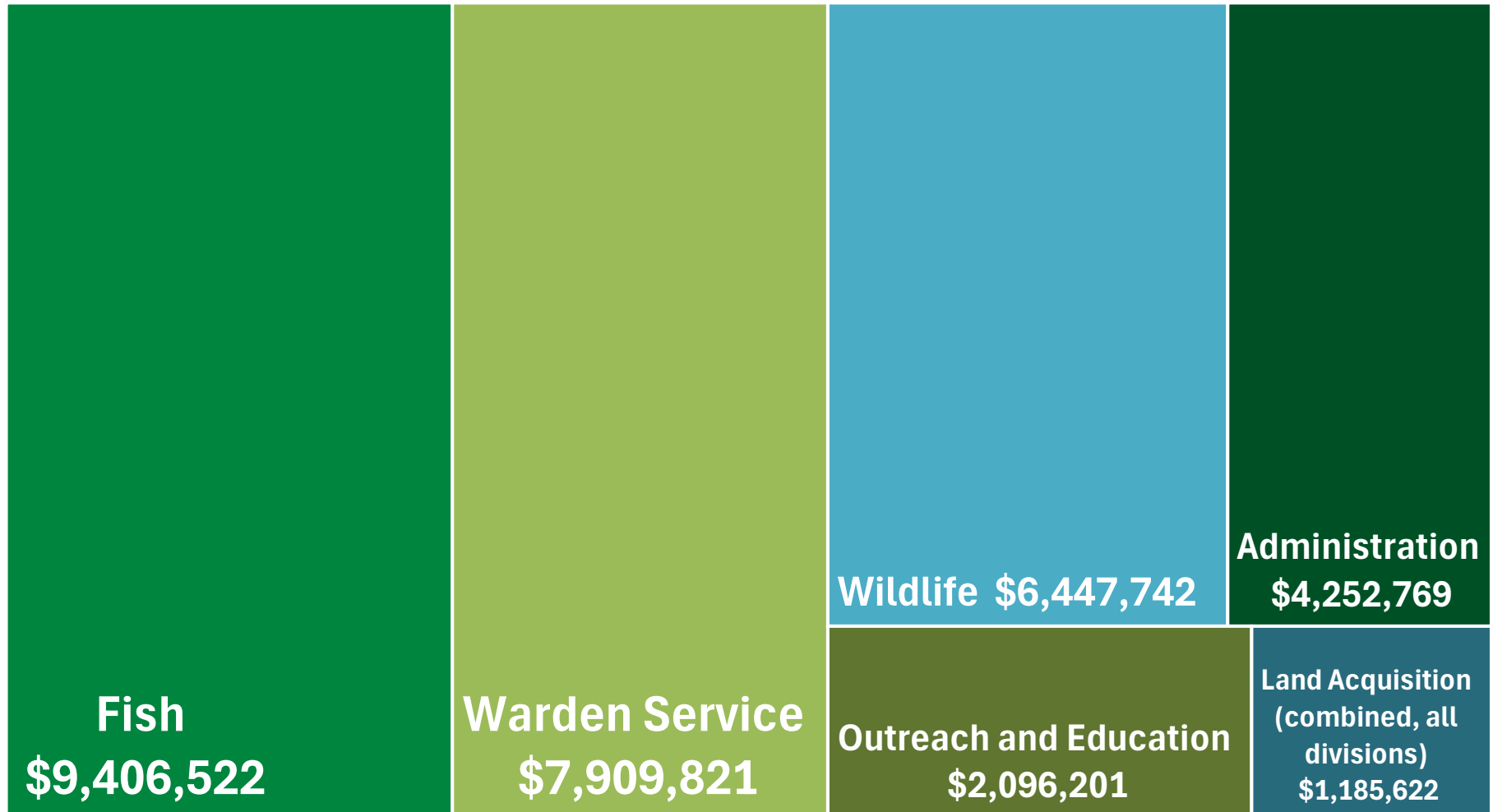


Landowners

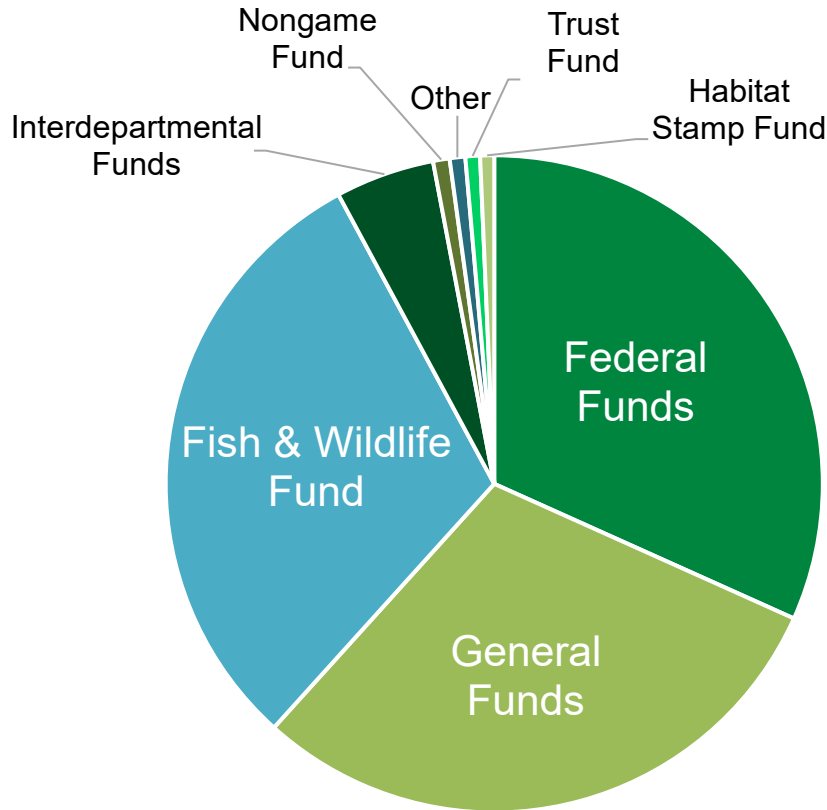
# Fish and Wildlife Organizational Structure



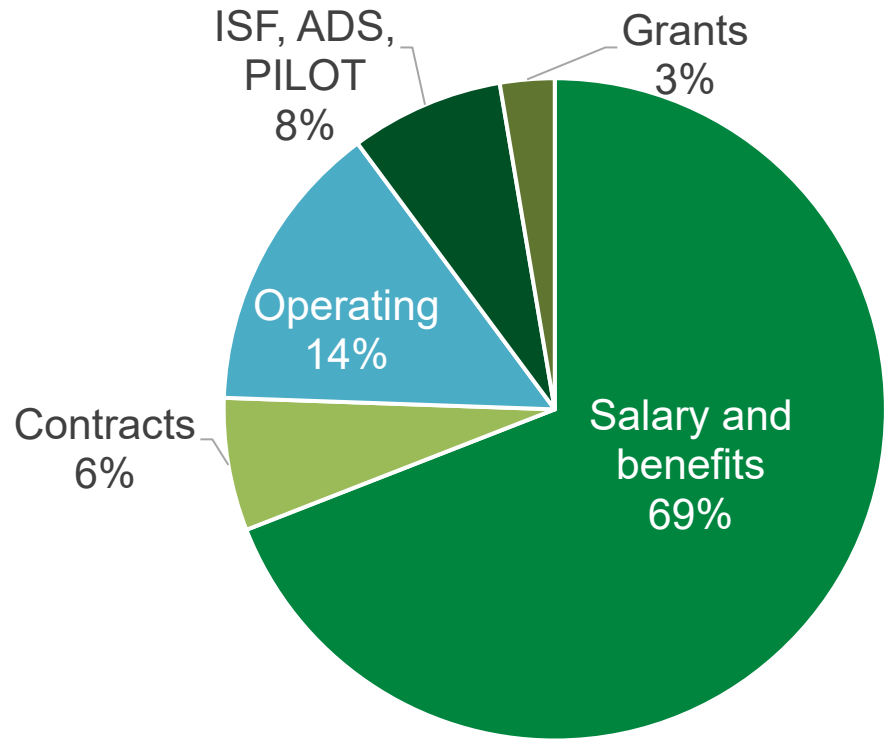
# SFY26 F&W Budget Overview – by Program



# SFY26 F&W Budget Overview – by Fund



**BY REVENUE SOURCE**



**BY EXPENSE**



# SFY26 F&W Budget

## Key Expenditure Changes

- Increase of \$1.39M in salaries and benefit cost across all funding
- \$84k increase in Internal Service Fund cost and ADS service level agreement
- Elimination of \$175k in dispatching fees to Department of Public Safety – corresponding change in DPS budget
- Net neutral transfer of general fund from ANR Secretary's Office for East Barre storage lease
- Additional vacancy savings expected in Fish Division

# SFY26 F&W Budget Key Revenue Changes

- Stagnant to decreasing license revenue, motor fuel revenue, timber sale revenue
- Utilization of trust fund revenue
- General fund transfer from ANR Secretary's Office to reduce overall budget need
- One-time general fund allocation of \$185K to help bridge the budget gap

# SFY26 F&W Budget Position Changes

- Transition of Fish Culture Supervisor position to Land Acquisition Assistant position to utilize available dedicated funds
- Warden class RFR
  - 41 positions



# Significant Initiatives & Challenges

- Act 59 – 30x30, 50x50
- Act 181 – Act 250  
Modernization
- Disaster Recovery &  
Response
- State Lands Infrastructure  
& Facility Management



# Financial Restructuring

- To address:
  - On-going and future budget pressures
    - Increased expenditure pressure, particularly in salaries and benefits
    - Stagnant to decreasing traditional revenue streams
  - Staff capacity challenges
    - Growing state lands infrastructure and facilities management responsibilities
    - Legislative mandates without adequate resources



# Programmatic and Performance Measures

- Acres of Habitat conserved or otherwise positively influenced through Department efforts in Act 250 and Section 248 proceedings
- Number of new ADA docks and parking areas
- Number of people participating in an in-person Department sponsored education program or event

