



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2016-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

**Retirement Funding Increase
\$255,000 FY16/\$510,000 FY17
[Multiple Funds]**

It Is Needed Because

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Enforcement Division’s primary role is protecting natural resources and public safety. We accomplish this through education, outreach and law enforcement services.

An increase in employer obligation to fund retirement cost of \$255,000 in FY16 and \$510,000 in FY17 has the cumulative effect to reduce the number of Conservation Officers full-time equivalents (FTEs) by 2.5 FTEs in FY16 and 4 FTEs in FY17 and beyond. These costs are driven by two 1.5% increases to the employer-paid contribution to retirement effective July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2016. Without the requested increase, these additional vacant stations will negatively impact DNR’s capacity to provide game and fish protection, recreational safety training and enforcement, natural resource protection, and public safety, as well as to respond to increasing demands for enforcement of invasive species, water appropriation, and other natural resource protection laws. The proposed increase to base funding will help to correct the diminished capacity for the Division of Enforcement to provide resource protection and public safety due to vacant conservation officer stations (currently 24 vacant stations).

Major Program Elements

The proposal requests:

- \$255K in FY16
- \$510K in FY17 and beyond

in order to meet the employer obligation to pay for retirement costs approved in the 2013 legislative session.

Key Measures and Outcomes

This funding allows the DNR Division of Enforcement to provide essential Law Enforcement services listed above by supporting 2.5 FTE’s in FY16 and 4 FTE’s in FY2017 and beyond.

Fiscal Impacts

This request is for increase in base funding from the various accounts including General Fund (GF), Game and Fish Fund (GFF), Natural Resource Fund (NR) and Heritage Enhancement Fund (HE).

| | <u>FY16</u> | <u>FY17</u> | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------|
| • | 31K | 62K | (GF) |
| • | 153K | 306K | (GFF) |
| • | 58K | 116K | (NR) |
| • | 13K | 26K | (HEA) |

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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