



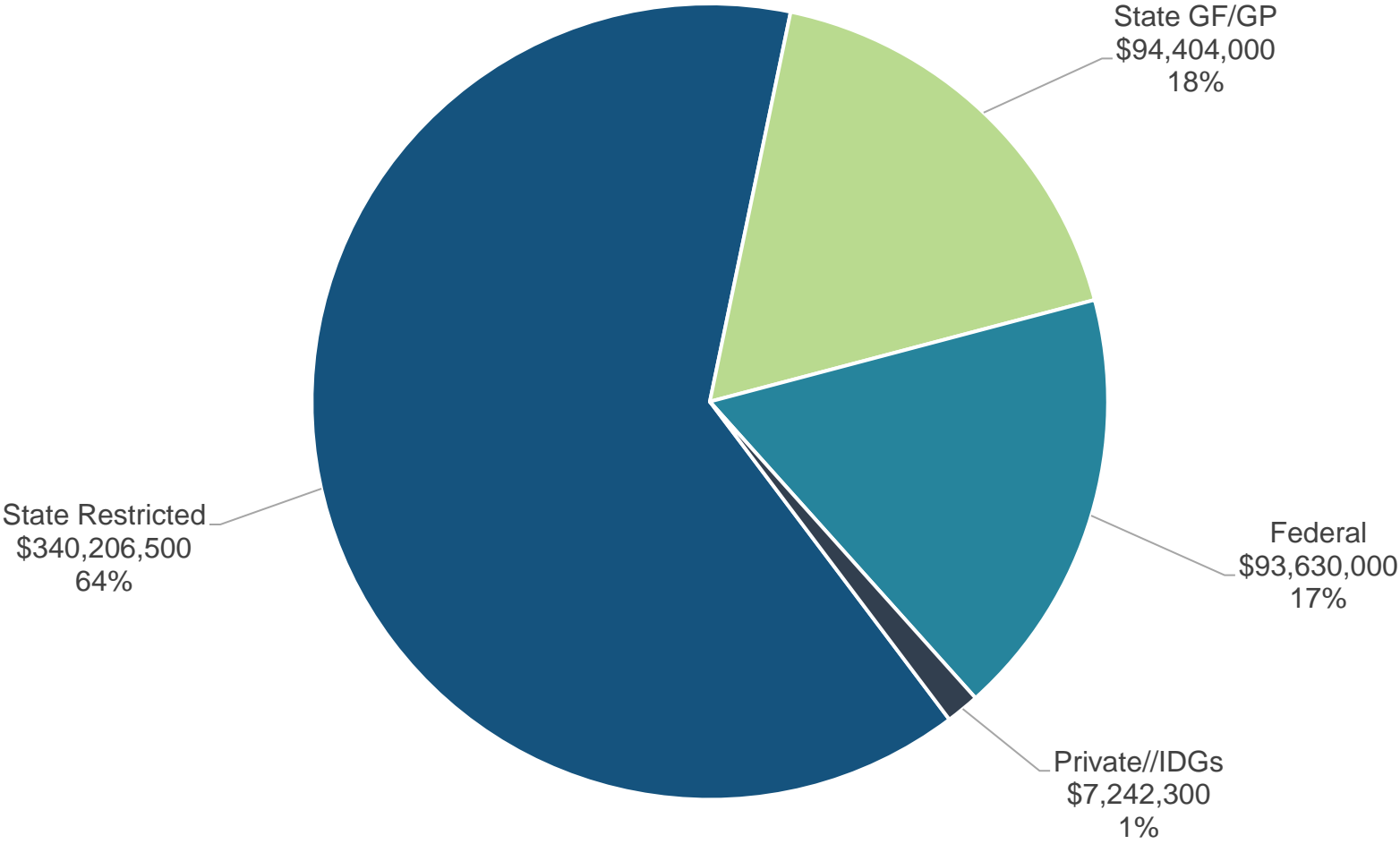
# Budget Briefing: Natural Resources

Austin Scott, Senior Fiscal Analyst

January 2023

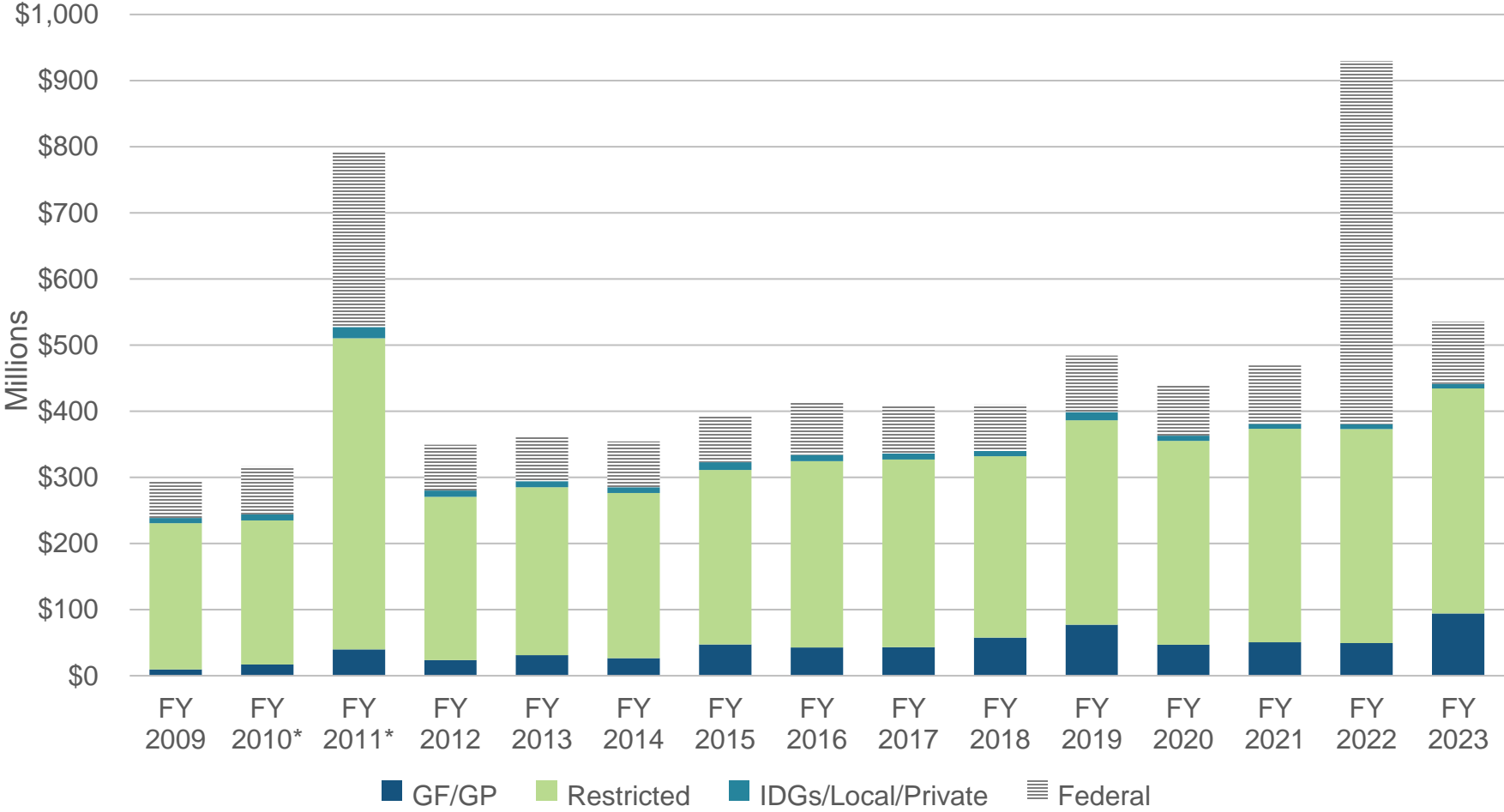
# FY 2022-23 Fund Sources

Almost two-thirds of the **\$535.5 million** DNR budget is funded by state restricted revenue. There are 40 funds that comprise this revenue, three of which make up over **60%** of the total: Park Improvement Fund (**\$85.1 million**), Game and Fish Protection Fund (**\$79.3 million**), and Forest Development Fund (**\$47.0 million**).



# DNR Funding History

DNR funding has been relatively consistent since FY 2011-12. Additional funding from the Forest Development Fund was included beginning in FY 2014-15 for forestry programs. One-time federal COVID funding totaling \$457.7 million was appropriated in FY 2021-22.

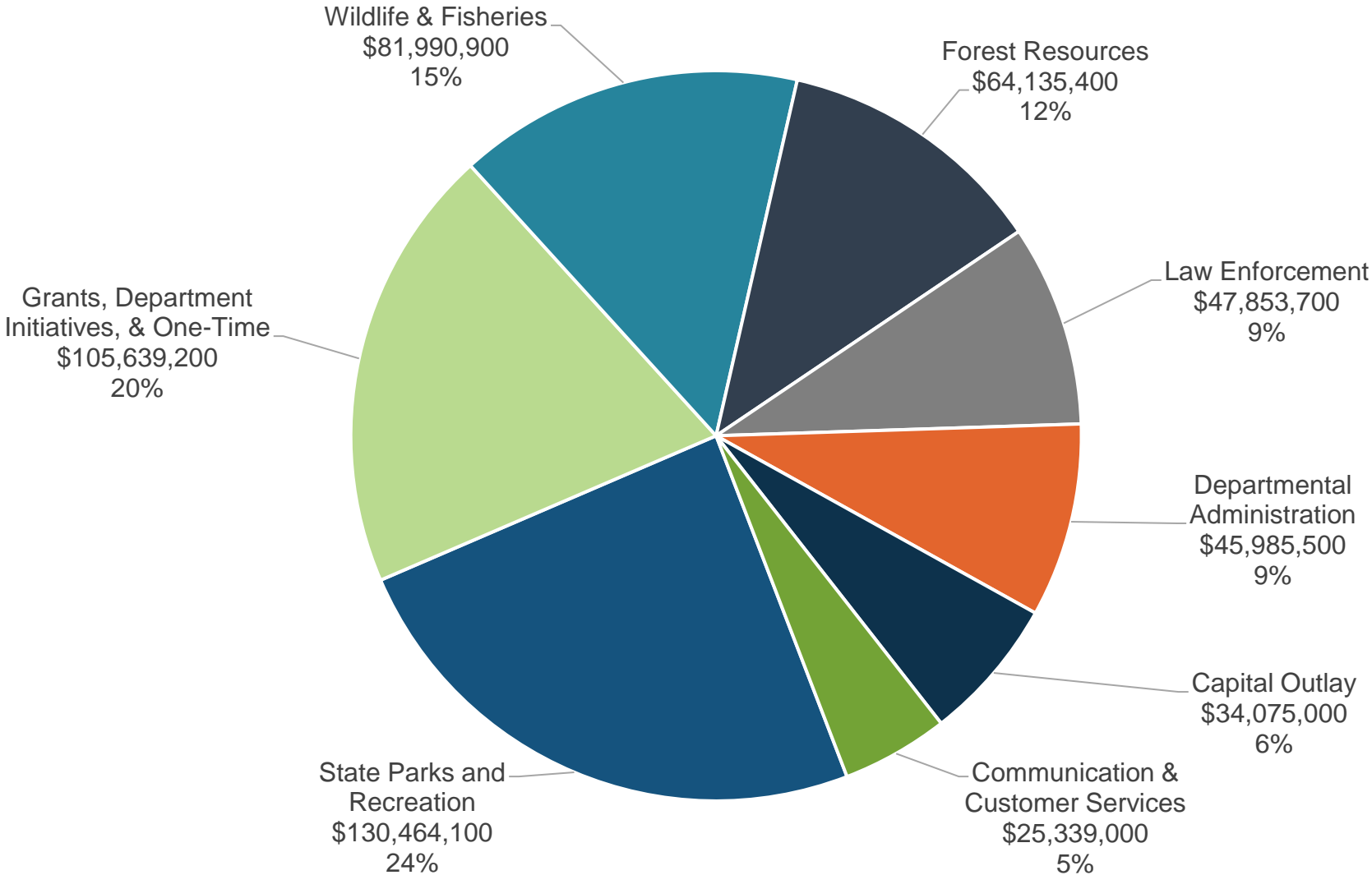


Note: The Department of Environmental Quality and DNR were combined into a single department for FY 2010-11 only. The Department of History, Arts, and Libraries was absorbed by DNR in FY 2009-10.

# Appropriation Areas

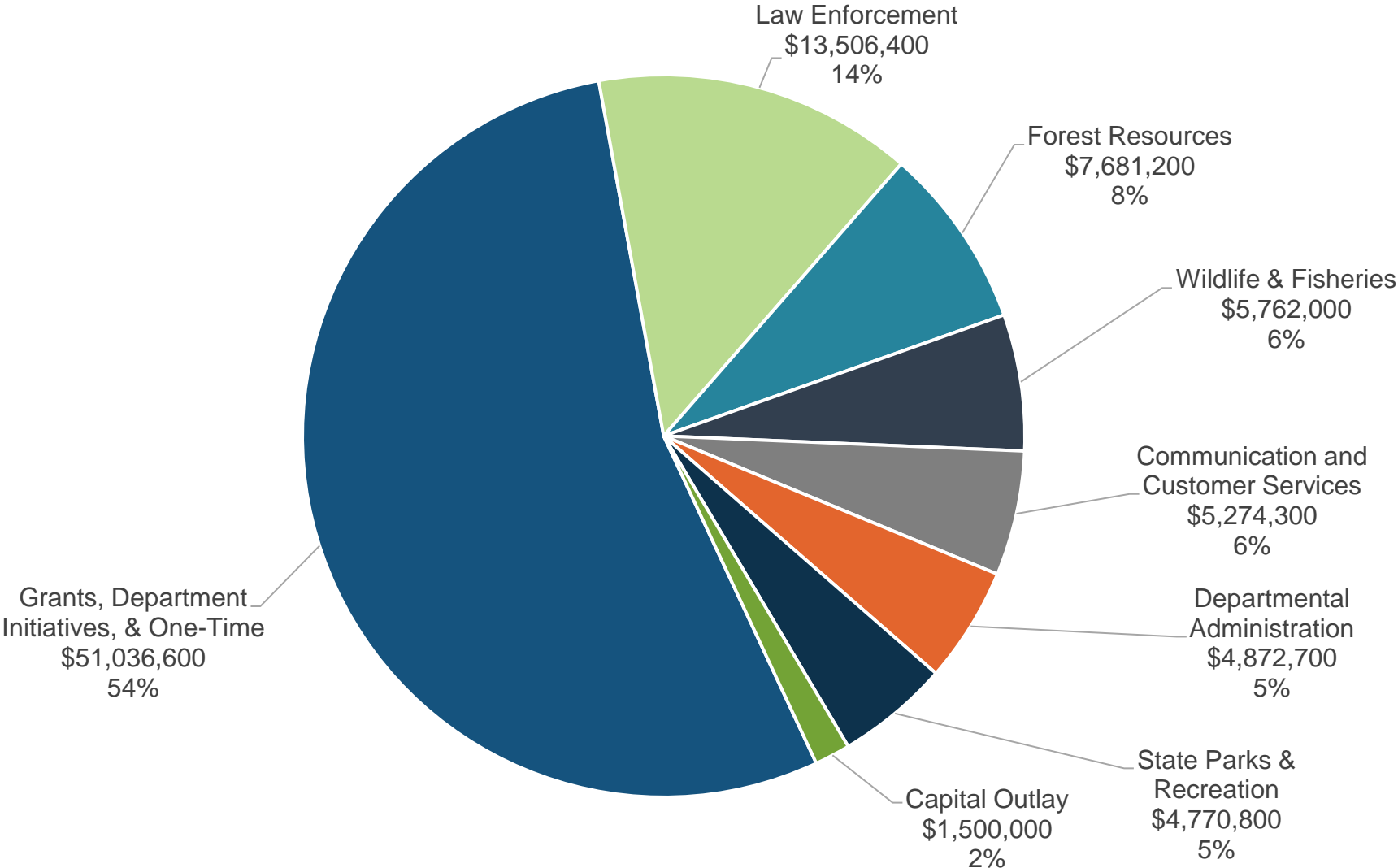
# FY 2022-23 Gross Appropriations

More than half of the **\$535.5 million** DNR budget supports core departmental programs in state parks, wildlife, fisheries, and forestry.



# FY 2022-23 GF/GP Appropriations

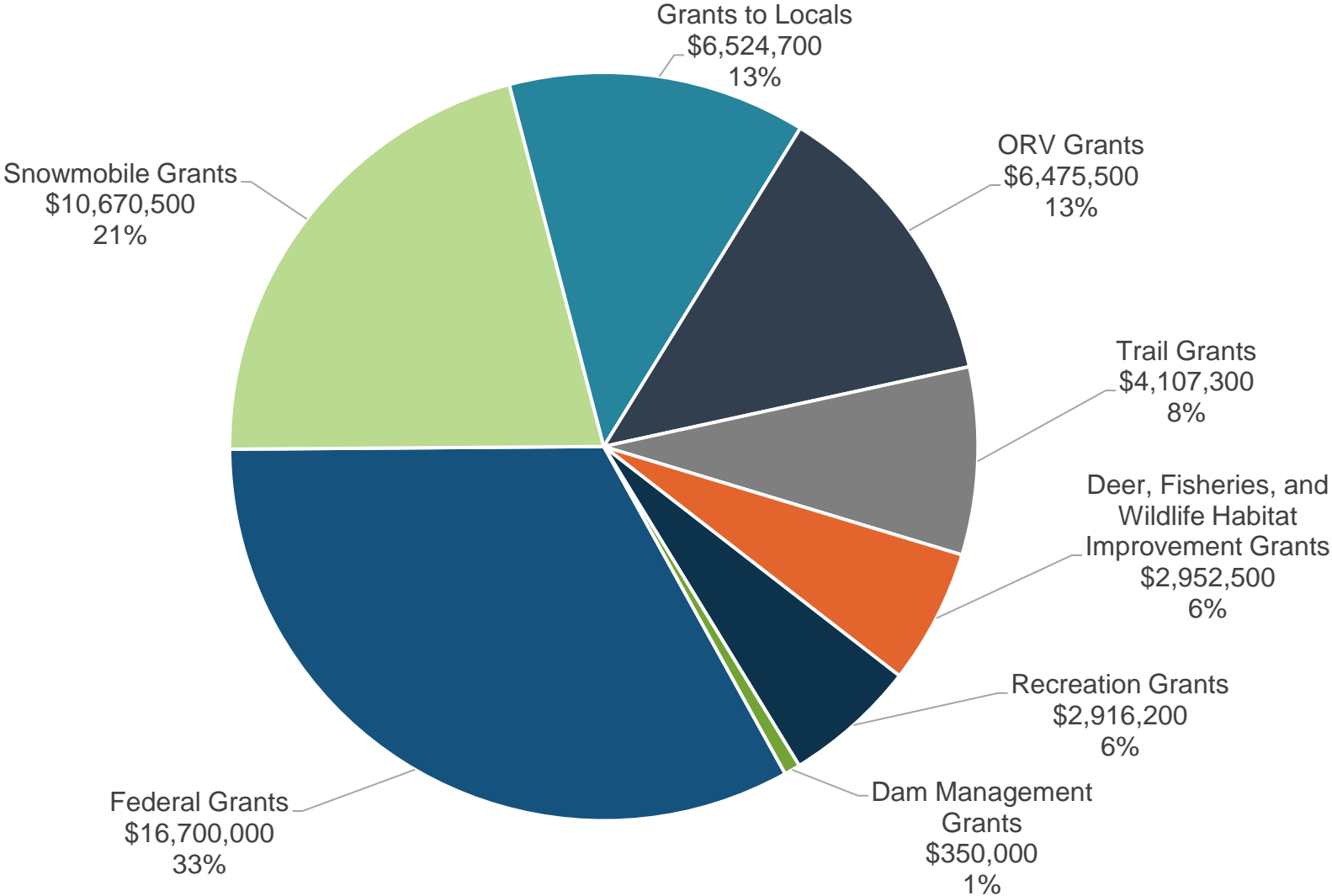
Funding for grants, department initiatives, and one-time projects are the largest GF/GP appropriations, making up more than half of DNR's **\$94.4 million** GF/GP funding.



# Major Budget Topics

# DNR Grants

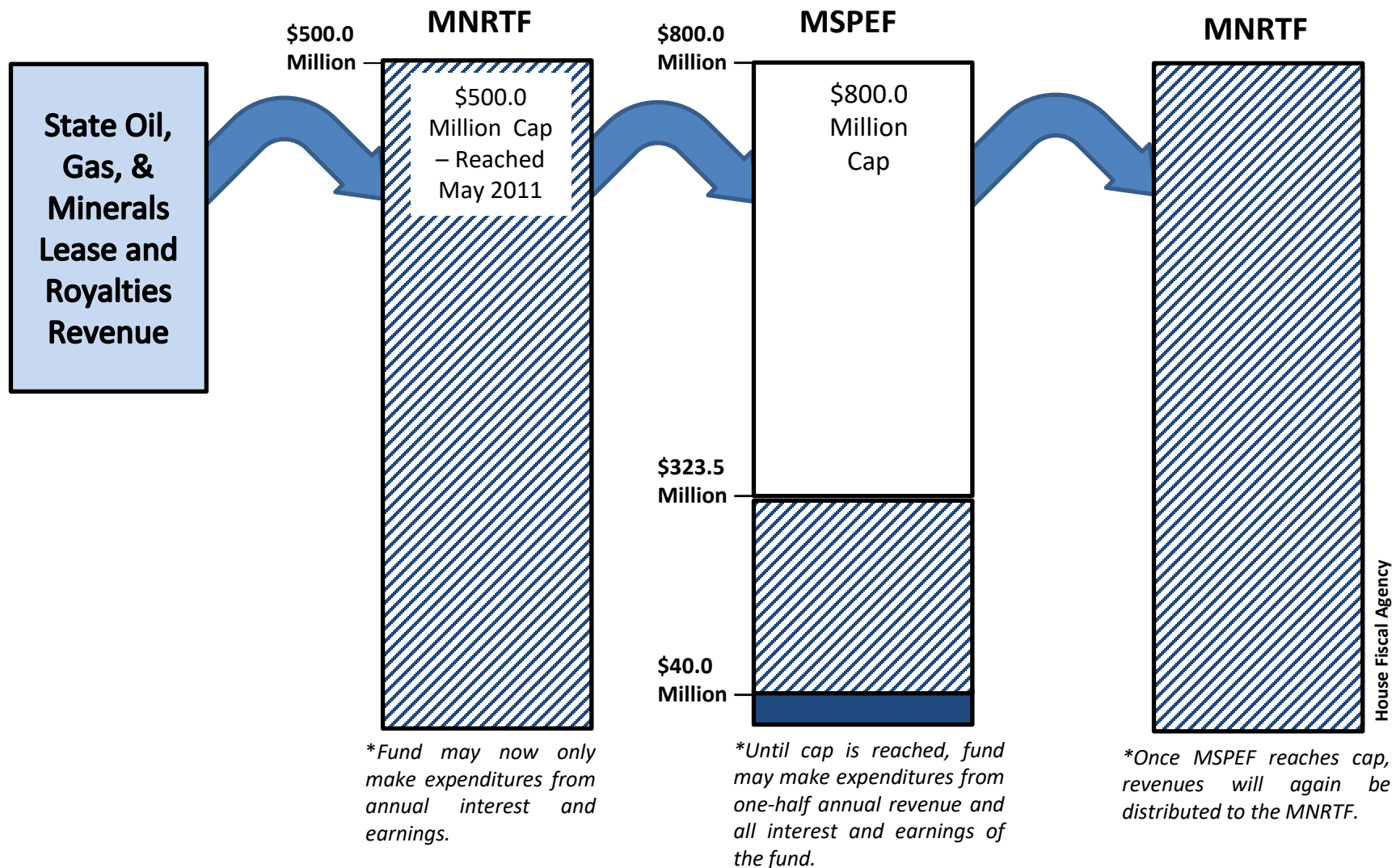
DNR administers 20 grant programs totaling **\$50.7 million** in FY 2022-23. These grants are available to public, private, and nonprofit organizations.





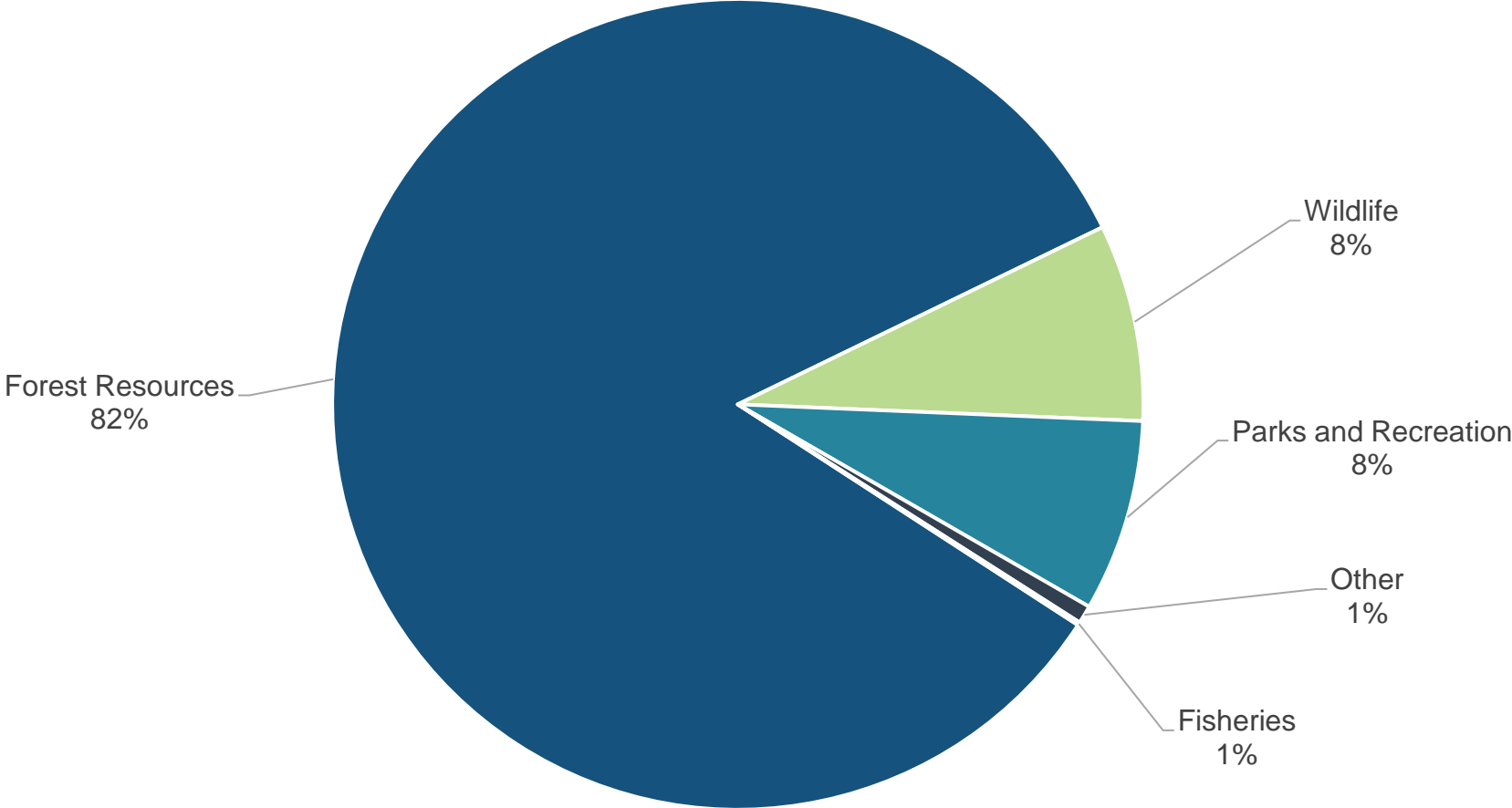
# Oil, Gas, and Minerals Revenue

## STATE OF MICHIGAN OIL, GAS, AND MINERALS LEASE AND ROYALTIES REVENUE DISTRIBUTION



# DNR-Managed Lands

DNR manages an estimated **4.6 million acres** of publicly owned land statewide. Land is managed by divisions based on its respective purpose. Most publicly owned land is managed by DNR's Forest Resources Division, which operates Michigan's public forestry and timber programs.



# State Parks: Overview

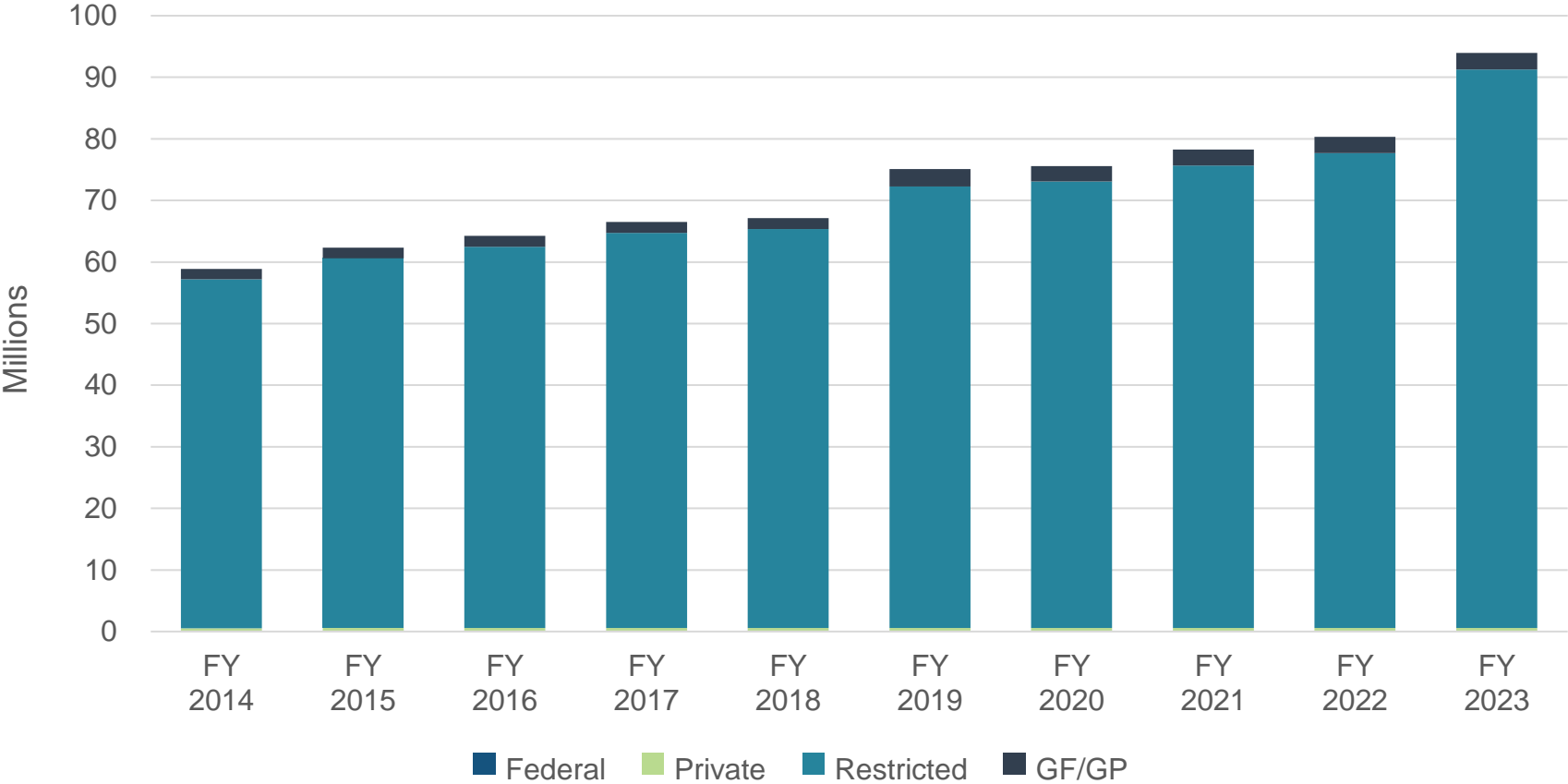
DNR manages a total of 103 facilities designated as state parks as defined by the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (451 PA 1994). These facilities are divided into four categories below: parks, recreation areas, historic parks, and trails.

On June 16, 2016, the 1,122-acre Watkins Lake area in Jackson and Washtenaw Counties was announced as Michigan’s newest state park. The FY 2022-23 DNR budget funds the operation of state parks collectively at **\$94.0 million**.

Type	Number	Area
Parks	73	195,529 acres
Recreation areas	22	104,422 acres
Historic parks	3	1,747 acres
Trails	5	196 miles

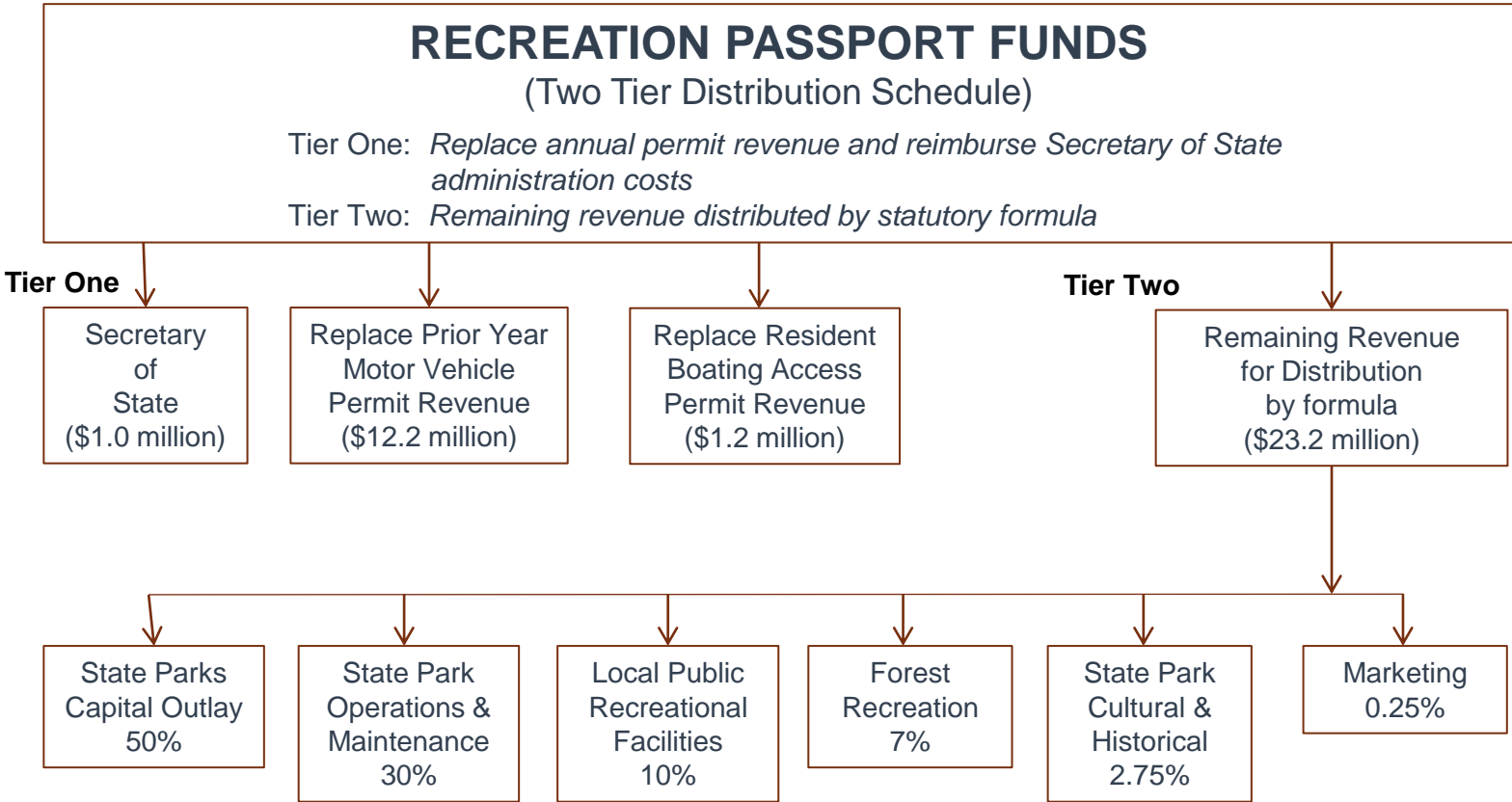
# State Parks: Appropriations

Funding for state park operations has steadily increased since the Recreation Passport program replaced daily and annual state park passes in 2010. Recreation Passport rates were increased from \$11 to \$12 in 2020 and participation rates have continued to climb.



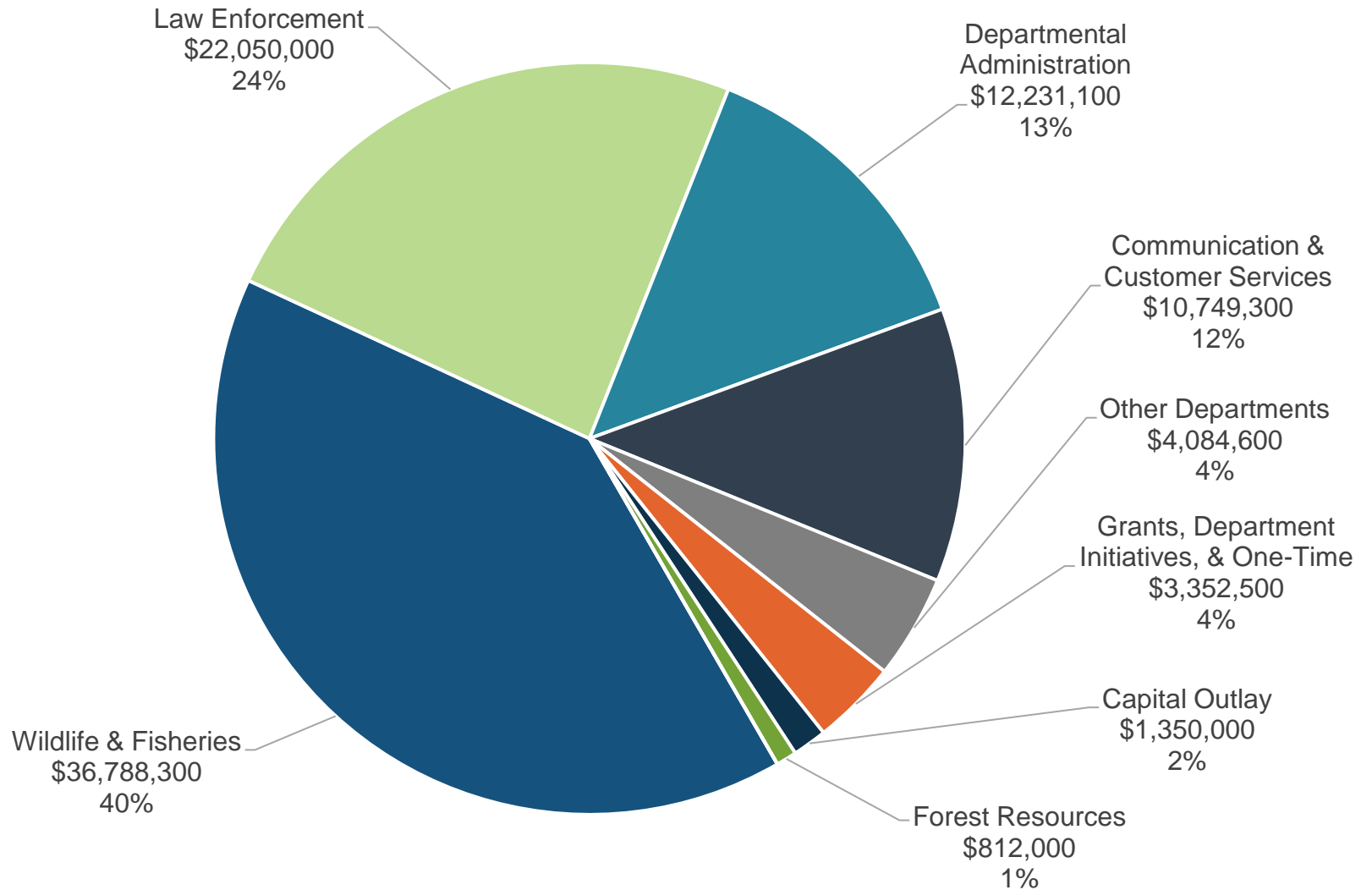
# State Parks: Recreation Passport Program

In 2010, the legislature replaced daily and annual state park and boating access permits with a Recreation Passport that residents can purchase for \$12 per year when renewing vehicle registrations. The chart below details the estimated revenue distribution. In FY 2021-22, the Recreation Passport Program generated an estimated **\$37.6 million**.



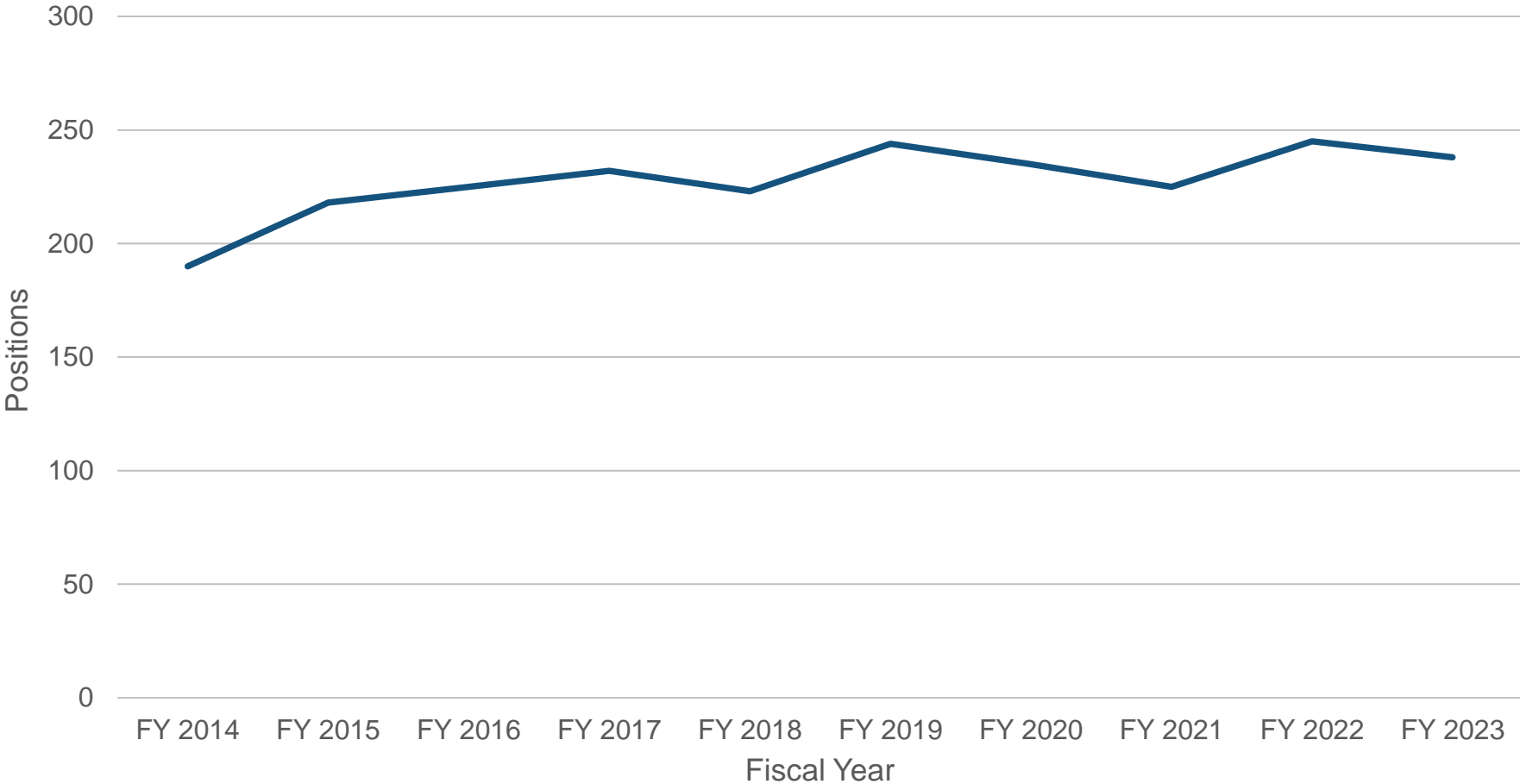
# Statewide Game and Fish Protection Fund Appropriations

FY 2022-23 appropriations from the Game and Fish Protection Fund total **\$91.4 million**.



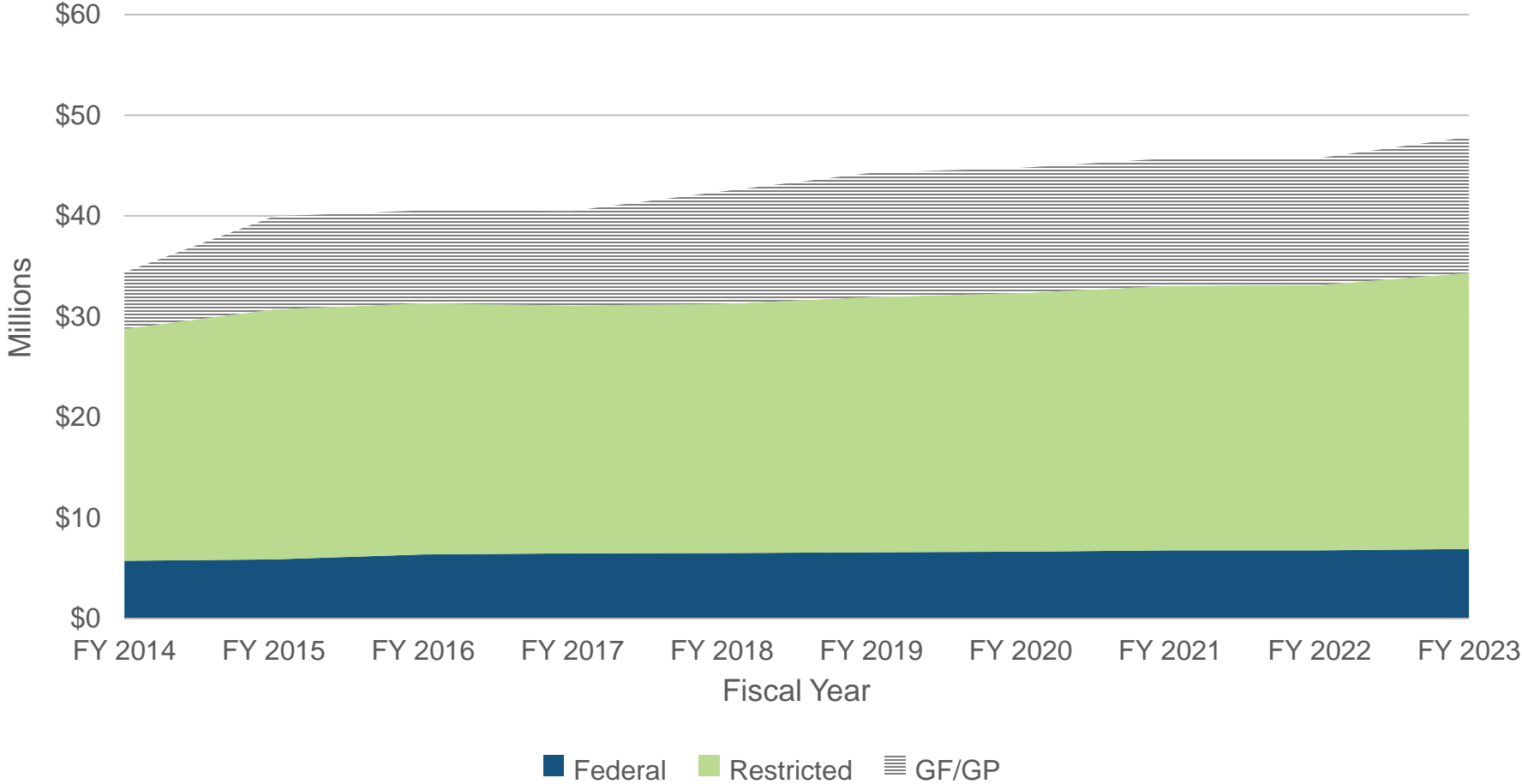
# Law Enforcement: Conservation Officers

The number of commissioned conservation officers (COs) was relatively stable through FY 2012-13. Periodic conservation officer academies raised the number of commissioned COs above 200.



# Law Enforcement: Appropriations

DNR law enforcement funding was relatively stable through FY 2012-13. Increased GF/GP for periodic conservation officer academies has raised the gross appropriation for law enforcement to the current level of **\$47.9 million**.





# For more information about the Natural Resources budget:

## HFA Resources

<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/Naturalresources.asp>

## Contact Information

Austin Scott

Senior Fiscal Analyst

[AScott@house.mi.gov](mailto:AScott@house.mi.gov)

(517) 373-8080