Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

Fiscal Year FY 2027-2028

Agency Budget Plan

FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
OPERATING REQUESTS *(FORM B1)*	X	Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
	X	Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
NON-RECURRING REQUESTS *(FORM B2)*	X	Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
		Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
CAPITAL REQUESTS *(FORM C)*	X	Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
		Not requesting any changes.

	For FY 2027-2028, my agency is (mark "X"):	
PROVISOS *(FORM D)*	X	Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
		Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
		Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	Name	*Phone*	*Email*
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Caleb Cohoon	(803) 734-3625	CohoonC@DNR.SC.GOV
SECONDARY CONTACT:	Scott Speares	(803) 734-3624	SpearesS@DNR.SC.GOV

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2027-2028 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	Agency Director	*Board or Commission Chair*
SIGN/DATE:		
TYPE/PRINT NAME:	Thomas S. Mullikin, PhD, JD	Dwayne Swygert, Vice Chair

This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources
Agency Code:	P240
Section:	47

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Recruitment & Retention	2,901,133	438,173	298,937	785,853	4,424,096	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Existing Staff Funding Changes	1,282,859	-89,953	-336,504	-856,402	0	10.50	-0.90	-2.50	-7.10	0.00
3	C - Capital	Walhalla Fish Hatchery Renovations Supplemental Funding	30,000,000	0	0	0	30,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B2 - Non-Recurring	Consolidated Utilities & Insurance	22,165,974	0	0	0	22,165,974	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B1 - Recurring	Improved Program Delivery	3,341,081	0	0	105,822	3,446,903	15.50	0.00	0.00	0.50	16.00
6	B1 - Recurring	Agency Operations	5,601,088	0	0	0	5,601,088	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	B2 - Non-Recurring	Agency Equipment & Vehicles	10,733,848	0	0	0	10,733,848	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	C - Capital	Bear Island WMA - Matthews Canal Renovation	500,000	0	0	0	500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	B2 - Non-Recurring	Facility Upgrades & Feasibility Study	350,000	0	0	0	350,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	C - Capital	Field & Regional Buildings - Capital	31,272,490	0	0	0	31,272,490	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	B1 - Recurring	Information Technology Operations	2,495,164	0	0	0	2,495,164	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	C - Capital	Coastal and Marine Resources Center	100,000,000	0	0	0	100,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	B2 - Non-Recurring	Law Enforcment Protective Equipment	1,502,130	0	0	0	1,502,130	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	B2 - Non-Recurring	Conservation Education Textbook	1,000,000	0	0	0	1,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	B1 - Recurring	Other & Federal Authority	0	408,655	212,594	665,504	1,286,753	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	B2 - Non-Recurring	Consesrvation Districts Technical Assistance Program	2,000,000	0	0	0	2,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	B2 - Non-Recurring	Waterfowl Area Enhancements	1,500,000	0	0	0	1,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	B2 - Non-Recurring	New Property Start-Up Costs	2,000,000	0	0	0	2,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	B2 - Non-Recurring	Coastal & Offshore Mapping & Monitoring	500,000	0	0	0	500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	B2 - Non-Recurring	Information Technology Equipment	4,578,200	0	0	0	4,578,200	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	B1 - Recurring	FTE Management	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	-6.56	0.00	0.00	-6.56
TOTALS			223,723,967	756,875	175,027	700,777	225,356,646	26.00	-7.46	-2.50	-6.60	9.44

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

1

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Recruitment & Retention

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $2,901,133

Federal: $438,173

Other: $1,084,790

Total: $4,424,096

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Requested funding addresses the following in the accountability report:

2.12.3 Conserve and protect the state's natural resources for social, economic, recreational, and commercial benefit while providing maximum human utilization through: (1) the development of public support through outreach, education, and safety programs; (2) the preservation of the peace and protection of human lives and property;, and (3) the enforcement of the state's criminal laws through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of persons who violate those laws.

3.0 Sustain the State's living marine resources for cultural, recreational, commercial and economic benefit of the state's citizens and visitors.

1.0: Develop and Implement programs that study, manage and conserve the State's land resources through planning, research, technical assistance, public education and the development of a comprehensive natural resources database.

1.1: Provide reliable, sciencebased information to decision makers and the public on earth science, climate, and flood mitigation research and activities; land, soil and river conservation. Measures 1.1.1, 1.1.4

1.2: Provide reliable information and technical assistance to enhance and improve conservation efforts in the state. Measures 1.2.11.2.3

1.3: Monitor and protect cultural and other resources throughout the state on Heritage Trust properties and provide culturally related recreational/educational opportunities. Measures 1.3.11.3.3 (c)

4.1 Conserve and protect freshwater fish and wildlife species in South Carolina.

4.3 Provide quality hunting and freshwater fishing opportunities throughout South Carolina.

5.0 Continuously evaluate and improve administrative and business processes, efficiency, effectiveness, and internal/external service delivery with a focus on transparency, communications, accountability, and the integration of new technologies.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

Personal Services: Personnel currently in FTEs and candidates qualified and hired to fill vacant FTEs.

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF

This request addresses specific needs within the agency to retain qualified and dedicated staff in the department and attract qualified candidates for vacant positions that have a desire to contribute to the stewardship of the State's natural resources.

(a) Law Enforcement Recruitment & Retention: There are 324 Class I officers currently within the Law Enforcement Division. Of these officers 126 are eligible to receive their next step increase totaling These officers are in primarily in state funded FTEs and there is no other fund available to support this recurring request. All other available funds have been committed for their intended purposes. The SC DNR Law Enforcement rank structure provides for increases which are determined by years of service at certain ranks. Those increases are either 5% or 10% of the officer's base salary. There are also 19 non-sworn full-time employees that are eligible to receive a 3% Additional Knowledge and Skills adjustment after meeting the required performance, training, and length of service plan standard. 6 FTEs are also expected to earn additional certification that would make them eligible for a pay increase ranging from 3% to 5% depending on the certification. This request also includes the reclassification of 9 positions and funding to apply the Fiscal Year 2027 2% General Increase to 26 positions that were reclassed in FY27. 1 staff member is recommended for a salary action as a result of accepting additional duties.

Class I Officer Overtime: funds were previously appropriated to SCDNR for this purpose. However, as average personnel costs have increased, additional funding is needed to continue emergency operations and deployment payouts.

Additional Training and Certifications: Numerous officers and staff are expected to complete additional training and certification programs, these typically come with an increase to the employee's salary which will require additional funding.

The immediate impact would be to maintain enforcement of game and fish laws and the department's ability to have staff available to patrol and enforce state laws and incidental presence on the waterways to assist boaters in distress and enforce boating laws. Retaining qualified and knowledgeable staff results in more efficient operations and protection of the State's natural resources. If not approved, we will be unable to fully enforce and protect the Natural Resources of the State of South Carolina.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 1,181,242	$ 13,772	$ 28,046	$ 32,811
Employer Contributions	$ 342,351	$ 3,936	$ 8,073	$ 9,407
	$ 1,523,593	**$ 17,708**	**$ 36,119**	**$ 42,218**

Personal Services >	$ 1,255,871
Employer Contributions >	$ 363,766
Total Request >	**$ 1,619,637**

(b) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Recruitment & Retention: 42 staff in the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division are eligible for a 6% Additional Knowledge and Skills adjustment after meeting the required performance, training, and length of service plan standards. 22 staff members are recommended for Pay for Performance increases having consistently performed at high levels. 20 positions have been recommended for reclassification. 2 staff members are recommended for a salary action as a result of accepting additional duties.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 28,703	$ 204,030	$ 46,957	$ 141,587
Employer Contributions	$ 8,037	$ 57,128	$ 13,148	$ 39,644
	$ 36,740	**$ 261,158**	**$ 60,105**	**$ 181,231**

Personal Services >	$ 421,277
Employer Contributions >	$ 117,958
Total Request >	**$ 539,235**

(c) Marine Resources Recruitment & Retention: 57 staff in the Marine Resources division are eligible for a 3% Additional Knowledge and Skills adjustment after meeting the required performance, training, and length of service plan standards. 5 staff members are recommended for salary actions as a result of accepting additional duties. 2 staff members have been recommended for reclassification. 36 staff members are recommended for Pay for Performance increases having consistently performed at high levels.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 39,512	$ 84,813	$ 23,880	$ 86,601
Employer Contributions	$ 11,458	$ 24,596	$ 6,925	$ 25,114
	$ 50,970	**$ 109,409**	**$ 30,805**	**$ 111,715**

Personal Services >	$ 234,806
Employer Contributions >	$ 68,094
Total Request >	**$ 302,900**

(d) Land, Water & Conservation Recruitment & Retention: 29 staff in the Land, Water & Conservation division are eligible for a 3% Additional Knowledge and Skills adjustment after meeting the required performance, training, and length of service

REQUEST

plan standards. 19 staff members are recommended for Pay for Performance increases having consistently performed at high levels. 16 staff members have been recommended for reclassification.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 155,464	$ 33,089	$ -	$ 90,145
Employer Contributions	$ 43,530	$ 9,265	$ -	$ 25,241
	$ 198,994	**$ 42,354**	**$ -**	**$ 115,386**

Personal Services >	$	278,698
Employer Contributions >	$	78,035
Total Request >	**$**	**356,733**

(e) Executive Office Recruitment & Retention: 78 staff in the Executive Office are eligible for a 3% Additional Knowledge and Skills adjustment after meeting the required performance, training, and length of service plan standards. 5 staff members are recommended for salary actions as a result of accepting additional duties. 55 staff members have been recommended for Pay for Performance increase and 11 for Reclassification. Funding for potential agency head requested retention actions is also included in this request. There are 8 requests related to hourly staff for IT, Customer Service, and Web Design. Also included is 1 salary action for a staff member receiving their Certified Public Manager designation, 1 salary action for a staff member who is anticipated to complete a relevant degree program, and 4 salary actions to adjust employee's salaries due to an increase to the entry level salary for the position. There are 16 salary actions related to a career advancement plan for difficult to fill/retain IT positions. This request also includes a salary action for the SCDNR Director which was previously approved by the Agency Head Salary Commission (AHSC). There is 1 operating request item included in this request to pay for 2 employees per year to attend a National Conservation Leadership Institute.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 827,837	$ 5,894	$ 134,303	$ 261,955
Employer Contributions	$ 231,794	$ 1,650	$ 37,605	$ 73,347
Other Operating	$ 20,000	$ -	$ -	$ -
	$ 1,079,631	**$ 7,544**	**$ 171,908**	**$ 335,302**

Personal Services >	$	1,229,989
Employer Contributions >	$	344,397
Operating>	$	20,000
Total Request >	**$**	**1,594,386**

(f) Hourly Staff General Increase: This request is for funding to apply the 2% General increase that was approved in the FY26-27 Appropriations Act to 12 hourly staff that are on state funding.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 8,754	$ -	$ -	$ -
Employer Contributions	$ 2,451	$ -	$ -	$ -
	$ 11,205	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**

Personal Services >	$	8,754
Employer Contributions >	$	2,451
Total Request >	**$**	**11,205**

Total Request:

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 2,241,512	$ 341,598	$ 233,186	$ 613,099
Employer Contributions	$ 639,621	$ 96,575	$ 65,751	$ 172,754
Other Operating	$ 20,000	$ -	$ -	$ -
	$2,901,133	**$ 438,173**	**$ 298,937**	**$ 785,853**

Personal Services >	$	3,429,395
Employer Contributions >	$	974,701
Operating>	$	20,000
Total Request >	**$**	**4,424,096**

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

2

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Existing Staff Funding Changes

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $1,282,859

Federal: ($89,953)

Other: ($1,192,906)

Total: $0

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Requested funding addresses the following in the accountability report:

2.12.3 Conserve and protect the state's natural resources for social, economic, recreational, and commercial benefit while providing maximum human utilization through: (1) the development of public support through outreach, education, and safety programs; (2) the preservation of the peace and protection of human lives and property;, and (3) the enforcement of the state's criminal laws through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of persons who violate those laws.

3.0 Sustain the State's living marine resources for cultural, recreational, commercial and economic benefit of the state's citizens and visitors.
1.0: Develop and Implement programs that study, manage and conserve the State's land resources through planning, research, technical assistance, public education and the development of a comprehensive natural resources database.
1.1: Provide reliable, science based information to decision makers and the public on earth science, climate, and flood mitigation research and activities; land, soil and river conservation. Measures 1.1.1, 1.1.4
1.2: Provide reliable information and technical assistance to enhance and improve conservation efforts in the state. Measures 1.2.11.2.3
1.3: Monitor and protect cultural and other resources throughout the state on Heritage Trust properties and provide culturally related recreational/educational opportunities. Measures 1.3.11.3.3 (c)
4.1 Conserve and protect freshwater fish and wildlife species in South Carolina.
4.3 Provide quality hunting and freshwater fishing opportunities throughout South Carolina.
5.0 Continuously evaluate and improve administrative and business processes, efficiency, effectiveness, and internal/external service delivery with a focus on transparency, communications, accountability, and the integration of new technologies.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Personal Services: Personnel currently in FTEs and candidates qualified and hired to fill vacant FTEs.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

This request addresses specific needs within the agency to retain qualified and dedicated staff in the department and attract qualified candidates for vacant positions that have a desire to contribute to the stewardship of the State's natural resources. SCDNR faces continued changes and uncertainty in available funding sources for current staff and vacant positions. In order to maintain the high quality of programs and services to the constituents of South Carolina there is a continued need to shift these staff to more stable funding sources. This request does not increase the total

FTE's or employees of the department and simply changes the funding source of existing positions.

(a) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries FTE Funding Changes:

This request includes the conversion of 4.00 FTEs to State funding from Federal, Earmarked, & Restricted funding because of increasing pressure on license funding to maintain staffing levels for our diadromous fisheries and non-game wildlife programs.

These FTEs support the critical functions of these programs and have relied on hunting and fishing license funding that has not been meaningfully increased in several decades and some earmarked revenue, and federal grants. These staff provide technical assistance to the public, assist in regulatory issues with these species, and conduct critical research, survey, and conservation measures for these species.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 287,776	$ (19,407)	$ (34,130)	$ (234,239)
Employer Contributions	$ 137,413	$ (9,267)	$ (16,297)	$ (111,849)
	$ 425,189	**$ (28,674)**	**$ (50,427)**	**$ (346,088)**
FTE's	4.00	-0.29	-0.51	-3.20
	Personal Services >		$ -	
	Employer Contributions >		$ -	
	FTE's >		0.00	
	Total Request >			$ -

(b) Marine Resources Program FTE Funding Changes:
This request is to change the funding source from Restricted funding to State funding for 2.03 FTE's. This is Phase 1 of replacing the funding source for approximately 10.00 FTE's that are currently supported by revenue from the lease of SCDNR-owned Morgan Island to a federal contractor, Alpha Genesis, Inc. The stability of this revenue source is uncertain, and the FTEs supported by it would no longer be able to be supported if/when the lease is terminated.

The FTE's supported by this revenue provide critical services to the state of South Carolina including; monitoring and research on important marine habitats and species that provide commercial and recreational fishing opportunities; monitoring of nesting sea turtles as well as response to injured or dead sea turtles; saltwater fishing outreach and education; and support services (i.e. business operations) that are required for the agency to achieve it's mission.

Additionally, this revenue source solely provides the state match for approximately $1,000,000 in federal funds annually for the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve Program. This state-federal program is part of the national network of Reserves and focuses on: monitoring and research on salt marshes and water quality to ensure the continued ability for our coasts to support healthy coastal communities and quality of life; management of public lands in the ACE Basin including public access for hunting, camping, and recreation as well as habitat enhancement; and public outreach and education of a variety of audiences including K-12 students, local, state, and federal governments and other decision-makers, and the general public.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 188,896	$ -	$ -	$ (188,896)
Employer Contributions	$ 90,198	$ -	$ -	$ (90,198)
	$ 279,094	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ (279,094)**
FTE's	2.03	0.00	0.00	-2.03
	Personal Services >		$ -	
	Employer Contributions >		$ -	
	FTE's >		0.00	
	Total Request >			$ -

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

(c) Land, Water & Conservation FTE Funding Changes:
Several programs within the Land, Water, and Conservation Division are heavily reliant on Heritage Trust funding (Botany, Archaeology, and Scenic Rivers), which is restricted to use on Heritage Trust properties. With many positions solely funded through this program it restricts the ability of these staff to assist with projects throughout the state that are located on properties that are outside of the Heritage Trust program. This request is to convert the entirety of 1.00 FTE and a portion of funding for 7.00 FTE's from Heritage Trust funding to State funding to allow staff in these positions the flexibility to contribute to projects throughout the state. This request also includes converting a portion of 3.00 FTEs from Federal grant funding to State funding.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 197,969	$ (41,475)	$ -	$ (156,494)
Employer Contributions	$ 94,530	$ (19,804)	$ -	$ (74,726)
	$ 292,499	**$ (61,279)**	**$ -**	**$ (231,219)**
FTE's	2.50	-0.60	0.00	-1.90
	Personal Services >		$ -	
	Employer Contributions >		$ -	
	FTE's >		0.00	
	Total Request >			$ -

(d) Executive Office FTE Funding Changes:
The Executive office engineering section staff is currently funded entirely through Water Recreation funds for boating access. In recent years the scope of projects that these staff work on has expanded from almost exclusively boating access construction to include additional agency construction projects. To reflect this shift this request includes converting the entirety of 1.00 FTE and a portion of 6.00 FTE's from Earmarked funding to State funding to more accurately reflect the scope of the projects they work on.

Classification

Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 193,622	$ -	$ (193,622)	$ -
Employer Contributions	$ 92,455	$ -	$ (92,455)	$ -
	$ 286,077	**$ -**	**$ (286,077)**	**$ -**
FTE's	2.00	0.00	-2.00	0.00
	Personal Services >		$ -	
	Employer Contributions >		$ -	
	FTE's >		0.00	
	Total Request >			**$ -**

Total Request:

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 868,263	$ (60,882)	$ (227,752)	$ (579,629)
Employer Contributions	$ 414,596	$ (29,071)	$ (108,752)	$ (276,773)
	$ 1,282,859	**$ (89,953)**	**$ (336,504)**	**$ (856,402)**
FTE's	10.53	-0.89	-2.51	-7.13
	Personal Services >		$ -	
	Employer Contributions >		$ -	
	FTE's >		0.00	
	Total Request >			**$ -**

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

5

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Improved Program Delivery

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $3,341,081

Federal: $0

Other: $105,822

Total: $3,446,903

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

16.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Requested funding addresses the following in the accountability report:

2.12.3 Conserve and protect the state's natural resources for social, economic, recreational, and commercial benefit while providing maximum human utilization through: (1) the development of public support through outreach, education, and safety programs; (2) the preservation of the peace and protection of human lives and property;, and (3) the enforcement of the state's criminal laws through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of persons who violate those laws.

3.0 Sustain the State's living marine resources for cultural, recreational, commercial and economic benefit of the state's citizens and visitors.
1.0: Develop and Implement programs that study, manage and conserve the State's land resources through planning, research, technical assistance, public education and the development of a comprehensive natural resources database.
1.1: Provide reliable, science based information to decision makers and the public on earth science, climate, and flood mitigation research and activities; land, soil and river conservation. Measures 1.1.1, 1.1.4
1.2: Provide reliable information and technical assistance to enhance and improve conservation efforts in the state. Measures 1.2.11.2.3
1.3: Monitor and protect cultural and other resources throughout the state on Heritage Trust properties and provide culturally related recreational/educational opportunities. Measures 1.3.11.3.3 (c) 3.0 Sustain the State's living marine resources for cultural, recreational, commercial and economic benefit of the state's citizens and visitors.
4.1 Conserve and protect freshwater fish and wildlife species in South Carolina.
4.3 Provide quality hunting and freshwater fishing opportunities throughout South Carolina.
5.0 Continuously evaluate and improve administrative and business processes, efficiency, effectiveness, and internal/external service delivery with a focus on transparency, communications, accountability, and the integration of new technologies.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Personal Services: Personnel currently in FTEs and candidates qualified and hired to fill vacant FTEs.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

This request addresses specific staffing needs within the agency to continue providing quality programs and services to the residents of South Carolina. As the state's population and number of acres under the management of the agency continue to grow, so do the staffing needs for the agency.

(a) Law Enforcement Staffing Improvements:

This funding request supports the addition of three 3.00 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions and their associated recurring operating expenses to enhance operational effectiveness, leadership capacity, public communications, and training within the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Law Enforcement Division, STYX Communications program, and agency training.

The request includes three 3.00 specialized Law Enforcement positions consisting of two 2.00 JC55 Major positions and 1.00 JC50 Captain position to expand the training section of the Department.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 371,688	$ -	$ -	$ -
Employer Contributions	$ 184,915	$ -	$ -	$ -
Operating	$ 150,000	$ -	$ -	$ -
	$ 706,603	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
FTE's	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Personal Services >	$ 371,688
Employer Contributions >	$ 184,915
Operating >	$ 150,000
FTE's >	3.00
Total Request >	**$ 706,603**

(b) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Staffing Improvements:
This request includes 2.00 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions (1.00 LE90 Natural Resource Technician II & 1.00 Natural Resource Technician IV), and the associated operating expenses, to staff the newly acquired 650 acres of waterfowl impoundments and uplands on Two Ponds wildlife management area. Management includes planting, fertilizing, and maintaining crops in the waterfowl impoundments as well as upland maintenance. Dike maintenance and upkeep of the pivot system is also included. This will allow for a significant increase in the number of lottery waterfowl hunters that can successfully be chosen in the waterfowl lottery system. This will likely reduce wait times for those in the waterfowl lottery system.
This request also includes 1.00 FTE position (AH10 Assistant Business Manager), and the associated operating expenses, to assist with business functions due to increased workload. In the last 10 years WFF has acquired more than 40,000 additional acres to manage and the staff has increased by ~20% with no additional positions in the Business Office. The Business Office handles all purchases, provides support for onboarding, HR and all business procedures and functions for the Division.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 165,750	$ -	$ -	$ -
Employer Contributions	$ 79,146	$ -	$ -	$ -
Operating	$ 72,000	$ -	$ -	$ -
	$ 316,896	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
FTE's	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Personal Services >	$ 165,750
Employer Contributions >	$ 79,146
Operating >	$ 72,000
FTE's >	3.00
Total Request >	**$ 316,896**

(c) Marine Resources Staffing Improvements:
This request includes 1.00 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) position (1 AM43 Database Administrator II), funding for hourly staff, and associated program operating expenses, to establish Phase 1 of a state-based saltwater fisheries data collection program that generates recreational fishery information to aid in management of offshore reef fish species. Recreational anglers and industry groups have long-requested enhanced data to support better decisions for snapper-grouper fisheries, particularly Red Snapper. This funding would support these objectives: (1) To improve the precision of catch and effort data for a suite of offshore species through a combination of dockside data collection and phone, email, and mail surveys. (2) To implement a program that meets the standards for MRIP certification. (3) To engage recreational reef fish anglers so that the program meets their needs and garners a high level of participation. Recurring funds would be used to support the required FTE and associated fringe, ongoing supply needs, any necessary software licenses associated with the program's data collection and storage, contractual costs associated with ongoing evaluation of the program's sampling framework, vehicle mileage and maintenance, transportation costs associated with conducting surveys, and travel costs associated with professional development. It will also serve as match for anticipated future federal funds.
This request also includes 1.00 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) position (1 LE70 Wildlife Biologist III), funding for hourly staff, and associated program operating expenses to expand Phase 1 of the statewide long-term fisheries monitoring program. The South Caroline Department of Natural Resources operates multiple long-running fisheries monitoring surveys. These surveys cover waters ranging from tidal creeks all the way out to the open ocean and help track the abundance of at a combined 350 species, about half of which are commercially and/or recreationally important. This request would expand existing survey coverage for the trammel survey covering many finfish and crustacean species, the coastal shark survey, and for blue crab and horseshoe crab – two of the state's most important commercial fisheries. On July 1, 2024 a new comprehensive law passed related to the blue crab fishery based on data showing a declining population coast-wide. Additionally, the horseshoe crab fishery, which is critically important to the biomedical industry, has become a more heavily managed fishery in recent years due to questions about the status of the population and the related population of red knots, a protected species of shorebird. To effectively manage both species to allow for maximum access by the commercial industries while achieving sustainable population levels, enhanced monitoring data is critically needed.

The expanded coverage will provide more robust information for the agency and the general assembly's fishery management decision-making to ensure an adequate balance between access to fishery resources and species sustainability.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 382,464	$ -	$ -	$ -
Employer Contributions	$ 142,667	$ -	$ -	$ -

Operating	$ 647,053	$ -	$ -	$ -
	$ 1,172,184	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
FTE's	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Personal Services >	$ 382,464
Employer Contributions >	$ 142,667
Operating >	$ 647,053
FTE's >	2.00
Total Request >	**$ 1,172,184**

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

(d) Land, Water & Conservation Staffing Improvements:
This request includes 2.00 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions. The first requested FTE position (1 AH55 Program Manager III), and associated operating expenses, to oversee and direct two programs within the Heritage Trust Program (Botany & Archeology). Currently, these two programs report to the Deputy Director independently. By receiving a Program Manager III position to serve as the Heritage Trust Director, higher accountability, transparency, and efficiency will be provided to these programs. Additionally, increased opportunities for shared resources, workloads, and constituent services will be provided through the oversight of a Heritage Trust Director. This position is requested for 50% state funding and 50% Heritage Trust funding.
The second requested FTE positions (1 AH55 Program Manager III), and associated operating expenses, to serve as the Assistant Deputy Director for the Land, Water and Conservation Division. Currently, the Deputy Director for the Land, Water and Conservation Division is solely responsible for the direct oversight of all LWC programs (Geology, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Climatology, Flood Mitigation, Botany, Archaeology, Scenic Rivers, and the Business Office), partnerships, and statutory requirements. By receiving a Program Manager III position to serve as the Assistant Deputy Director, successional planning will be implemented, higher accountability will be given to all programs, increased compliance with statues and regulations, and efficiencies in workload processes throughout the division.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 204,714	$ -	$ -	$ 68,238
Employer Contributions	$ 97,751	$ -	$ -	$ 32,584
Operating	$ 15,000	$ -	$ -	$ 5,000
	$ 317,465	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 100,822**
FTE's	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.50

Personal Services >	$ 272,952
Employer Contributions >	$ 130,335
Operating >	$ 20,000
FTE's >	2.00
Total Request >	**$ 423,287**

(e) Executive Office Staffing Improvements:
This request includes 6.00 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions, and associated operating expenses. The first requested FTE position (1.00 BC32 Public Information Coordinator II) would serve as the Department's Conservation Education Coordinator. In FY27 the Department received $1.5 million dollars in non-recurring funding for conservation education through partner organizations. This increased demand for conservation education programming expands this program above the current staffing capacity and this position would allow the Department to more effectively administer and manage these programs.

The second requested FTE positions (1.00 AF30 Attorney III) will serve as the dedicated Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). Currently, SCDNR's Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) also serves as an SCDNR attorney responsible for governance, compliance, and legal oversight. This dual-hat structure places both operational cybersecurity and high-level legal and policy responsibilities on a single executive, requiring one individual to manage two full-time roles. As cybersecurity threats grow in complexity and breadth, separating these responsibilities allows a dedicated CISO to concentrate exclusively on protecting systems, responding to threats, and managing technical risk while the attorney focuses on legal oversight, regulatory interpretation, enterprise risk, and policy development. This ensures that both governance and operational security receive the executive attention necessary to safeguard SCDNR's mission and information assets. In 2025, major cyberattacks on state and local governments were observed in at least forty-four (44) U.S. states, the average cost of a U.S. data breach reached $10 Million in 2025, and one in six data breaches in 2025 were AI-driven. As threats increase, regulators impose new cybersecurity and privacy obligations, thereby increasing the need for focused leadership dedicated exclusively to legal, regulatory, and policy oversight. In 2025, states across the nation passed more than ninety (90) cybersecurity-related bills, including the South Carolina Energy Security Act.
Separating operational cybersecurity from compliance, legal oversight, and policy ensures that each area receives the dedicated executive focus needed to reduce risk, improve efficiency, and strengthen the State's overall security posture. A full-time CISO allows the agency to respond faster to threats, prevent costly incidents, and better safeguard public resources, while governance and compliance leadership can concentrate fully on legal, regulatory, and policy obligations. Funding this position is a direct investment in more efficient protection of the State's critical information assets.

This request also includes 4.00 FTE positions (2.00 AF30 Attorney III's & 2.00 LE70 Wildlife Biologist III's) to establish a Energy Liaison Bridge Team "the Bridge Team" to support the timely review, analysis, and coordination of natural resource concerns, such as minimization of impacts to endagered and threatened species, associated with energy infrastructure development.
South Carolina is experiencing significant and unprecedented population growth that drive increased demand on the State's energy infrastructure, requiring electric transmission expansion and modernization of existing generation systems. These projects frequently intersect with habitats supporting state and federally listed endangered and threatened species and important natural resources.
Establishment of this team would allow the Department to efficiently meet the demand for feedback on these energy infrastructure projects.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 509,600	$ -	$ -	$ -
Employer Contributions	$ 243,334	$ -	$ -	$ -
Operating	$ 75,000	$ -	$ -	$ -
	$ 827,934	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**
FTE's	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Personal Services >	$ 509,600
Employer Contributions >	$ 243,334

Employer Contributions >	$ 249,354
Operating >	$ 75,000
FTE's >	6.00
Total Request >	$ 827,934

Total Request:

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ 1,634,216	$ -	$ -	$ 68,238
Employer Contributions	$ 747,812	$ -	$ -	$ 32,584
	$ 959,053	$ -	$ -	$ 5,000
	$ 3,341,081	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 105,822**
FTE's	15.50	0.00	0.00	0.50

Personal Services >	$ 1,702,454
Employer Contributions >	$ 780,396
Operating >	$ 964,053
FTE's >	16.00
Total Request >	$ 3,446,903

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

6

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Agency Operations

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $5,601,088

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $5,601,088

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Conserve and protect the state's natural resources for social, economic, recreational, And commercial benefit while providing maximum human utilization through: (1) the development of public support through outreach, education, and safety programs; (2) the preservation of the peace and protection of human lives and property; and (3) the enforcement of the state's criminal laws through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of persons who violate those laws.

4.1.1 Acres of habitat owned by SCDNR and managed to promote species diversity and richness through planting, burning, maintenance and wetlands enhancement.

4.1.2 At-risk, threatened, and endangered species protected, monitored, and managed following state and/or federal law.

4.1.3 Number of constituents and contacts who attended organized public presentations and workshops to enhance awareness of conservation and natural resources or contacted SCDNR for technical assistance including but not limited to nuisance wildlife issues, wildlife species information, and management advice.

4.2.1 Number of fish hatcheries operated and maintained at a level to meet management demands.

4.2.2 Number of fish needed to meet demand for public water stocking.

4.3.1 Acreage of Wildlife Management Area Program land available to provide hunting opportunities to the public.

4.3.2 Number of state lakes maintained and open to the public for fishing.

4.3.3 Number of deer quota cooperators, specialty permits issued, lottery hunt participants, and participants in WFF division hunting/fishing events and programs.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Other Operating: Goods and services for program operations obtained by following the state procurement code. Most of these expenditures would be provided through state contract vendors.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

The Department has several operation needs that will improve delivery of services to the public

and improve internal processes that bolster accountability, compliance, and efficiency withing the agency.

(a) Law Enforcement:

Vehicle and Boat Rotations $1,544,000- As of July 2026, the SCDNR Law Enforcement Division will have 325 sworn officers statewide. To effectively fulfill its mission of enforcing boating laws, conducting search and rescue operations, protecting natural resources, and ensuring public safety on South Carolina's waterways, the Division must maintain a reliable and properly equipped fleet of vessels. The current fleet replacement schedule requires a consistent rotation plan to prevent aging equipment from impacting operational readiness.

The requested funding will support the acquisition of the following law enforcement outfitted vessels:

• 19-foot Pioneer fiberglass law enforcement outfitted boat packages

$82,000 each × 4 boats = $328,000

• 22-foot Pioneer fiberglass law enforcement outfitted boat packages

$110,000 each × 2 boats = $220,000

• Blackhawk aluminum law enforcement outfitted boat packages

$36,000 each × 6 boats = $216,000
Total Boat Fleet Request: **$764,000**

The anticipated service life for each vessel component is as follows:

• Fiberglass boats: 15-year life cycle

• Aluminum boats: 15-year life cycle

• Outboard motors: approximately 800 operational hours

• Trailers: 15-year life cycle for freshwater use / 5-year life cycle for saltwater use

Vehicle Fleet Replacement Request
The SCDNR Law Enforcement Division also requires continued investment in its vehicle fleet to maintain safe and effective statewide operations. Increases in vehicle costs since the previous funding request have significantly impacted replacement expenses and require additional funding to maintain an appropriate fleet rotation schedule. As of July 2026, the Division will support 325 sworn officers, many of whom require reliable vehicles to conduct law enforcement operations, respond to incidents, and perform conservation enforcement duties throughout the state.
The current estimated cost per fully equipped law enforcement vehicle is:
• Base vehicle: $66,000
• Cradle system/handheld equipment: $2,000
• Emergency lighting and equipment package: $10,000
Total cost per vehicle: $78,000
Requested replacement funding:
$78,000 × 10 vehicles = **$780,000**

(b) Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries:

Non-Game Species Statewide Operating $525,000 - Operating funds in the amount of $525,000 are requested to support the Bat program, Bird Conservation program, the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker program, and the Herpetology program. These funds support the critical functions of these programs that have relied on federal funding that is increasingly uncertain. This funding will assist with wildlife monitoring, surveillance, temporary/seasonal labor, gas, equipment and supplies to support the nongame projects (bird, bat, herp).

Wildlife Two Ponds Operating $300,000 – Funds would be used to manage the newly purchased 650 acres of waterfowl impoundments and uplands on the Two Ponds waterfowl management area. Management includes planting, fertilizing, liming, crops in the waterfowl impoundments as well as upland maintenance. Dike maintenance and upkeep of the pivot system is also included. This will allow for a significant increase in the number of lottery waterfowl hunters that can successfully be chosen in the waterfowl lottery system. This will likely reduce waiting times for those in the waterfowl lottery system.

Statewide Fish Habitat Enhancement Program $300,000 - The program's purpose is to establish a large-scale fish habitat restoration program on South Carolina's public waters. The program will use a variety of materials and techniques to enhance fish habitat and recreational angling opportunities. Appropriate materials will be utilized to

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

construct/enhance deep and shallow water habitats including production and planting of native aquatic plants.

(c) Marine Resources:

Research Vessel Operations $750,000 - This project supports the operation and maintenance of three state-owned research vessels; R/V Lady Lillian, R/V Palmetto, and R/V Silver Crescent. Collectively, these vessels support research, fishery species monitoring and habitat enhancement efforts, all in support of managing and improving populations of recreationally and commercially important fish and crustacean species. Monitoring is conducted through the Coastal Trawl Survey (CTS) and the Southeastern Reef Fish Survey (SERFS), two long-term fishery-independent surveys throughout the southeastern United States from North Carolina to Florida. These surveys provide critical scientific information on the abundance, distribution, habitat use, size, age, and reproductive condition of commercially and recreationally important marine species. The data collected through these programs are essential for fisheries stock assessments and informed management decisions that support sustainable fisheries and continued public access to marine resources. The vessels also support the estuarine trawl survey, to monitor estuarine species like blue crabs, shrimp, and finfish; the COASTSPAN survey to monitor sharks, and the longline survey to monitor sharks and adult red drum populations. The vessels also provide a platform for the deployment of artificial reef material, creating habitat for recreationally and commercially important reef species like snappers and groupers.

Funding will support vessel maintenance and repairs, fuel, and other operational costs necessary to safely and reliably conduct these surveys that are critical for state regional fisheries management and well as for fish habitat enhancement. The goal is to maintain the ability to ensure sustainable populations of marine species like shrimp, blue crab, snapper-grouper species, red drum, and many others that are important for South Carolina's commercial and recreational anglers.

Marine Facilities Operation & Maintenance $200,000 - The Marine Resources Center at Fort Johnson in Charleston houses is a collaborative campus with six state, federal, and university partners represented. SCDNR's presence include ~250 staff from all resource Divisions and the Executive office, 100,000 sq ft of laboratory and office space across eight buildings. Two of those buildings are historic and listed on the national historic register. It also includes a small marina for research, education, and law enforcement vessels.

Operational costs for the facilities continue to increase and often exceeds available funds across multiple sources. Costs include facility and grounds maintenance and repair supplies and equipment, contractual services such as boiler and chiller service, access control system, fire alarm and sprinkler, pest control, and other routine facility maintenance expenses as well as large vessel annual inspection and repairs.

Funds will ensure continuity of operations to accomplish wildlife law enforcement support, boat titling and licensing customer service, sustainable fisheries research and management, and public outreach services.

Oyster Shell Recycling Program Expansion (Phase 1) $214,118 - Oysters are one of the state's most important commercial and recreational fisheries, both economically and culturally. They also benefit South Carolina in a number of other ways: (1) they help keep our water clean. Adult oysters filter up to 2.5 gallons of water per hour, improving water quality in the process, (2) they provide habitat. Oysters build reefs, which provide habitat for fish, shrimp, crabs, and other animals that are important for supporting healthy fisheries, and (3) they help control erosion. Oyster reefs are natural breakwaters that protect shorelines.
Healthy oyster reefs are critically important for South Carolina's coast, fisheries, and people. Oyster reefs can be maintained and kept sustainable through replanting oyster shell – this helps the spat (larval oysters) land begin to grow new oysters. SCDNR does this through recycling of previously harvested oyster shell and through the purchase of both oyster shell and alternative materials like limestone. SCDNR seeks to greatly expand oyster shell recycling so that all shell planting needs are met through recycled shell in lieu of purchased shell and/or limestone. Currently, 40,000 bushels are recycled annually through a combination of public drop-off sites, event trailers, and a restaurant collection program. The program's goal is 100,000 bushels recycled annually. This request represents the first phase of expansion into Horry and Georgetown Counties and is anticipated to increase recycling by approximately 10,000 bushels annually.

(d) Land, Water, & Conservation:

Vehicle Rotation Program $230,000.00 – This request is for recurring funding for the replacement of old vehicles to ensure staff remain safe, reduced maintenance costs, and the use of programmatic operating funds for vehicles would be eliminated allowing those funds to be used for direct program support. By funding this, on average each year, 2 small to mid-sized SUV's ($32,500 x 2 SUVs = $65,000 total), 2 full size half-ton pick-up trucks ($50,000 x 2 trucks = $100,000 total), and one heavy-duty three-quarter-ton pick truck ($65,000) would be in rotation for upgrades across the division based on state fleet standards.

(e) Executive Office:

HQ building Operations $178,950 - This request is for recurring operating funding for Headquarter building operations to include building systems, appliance service contracts, cleaning support contracts, regulatory contracts, and supplies.

Statewide Facility Maintenance & Repairs $250,000 – This request is for recurring funding to address a growing backlog of maintenance and small repairs at agency facilities statewide.

Employee Safety Supplies $102,650 - This request is for recurring funding to purchase consumable items related to employee safety.

House Keeping Contracts $144,144 – This request is for recurring funding to cover 3 contracted custodians for the agency headquarters building.

Media and Outreach Operations $535,226 – This funding request is to increase our marketing and branding efforts to better reach, connect with, educate and the constituents of South Carolina to better connect them to the story of natural resource conservation. This will be accomplished through the following: Social media collaborations, print media marketing, digital media marketing, traditional media buys (TV, Radio, Billboards, etc.), video production support, public service messaging, strategic campaign planning and branding support, education and outreach materials.

Agencywide Contracts, Licenses, & Marketing $150,000 - This funding request is for software programs and management systems that support the agency's operational effectiveness, data management, regulatory compliance, performance monitoring, and service delivery functions. These tools streamline business processes, improve data accuracy, enhance communication and reporting capabilities, reduce administrative burden, and support informed decision-making across agency programs including: Canto - Digital Asset Management System ($45,850), Granicus-GovDelivery ($20,000), Qualtrics ($10,000), Newz Group ($14,700), Social Media Management Platform ($25,000), Adobe Acrobat, Music Bed, Flowcode, etc. ($34,450)

Staff & Agency Association Memberships $32,000 – This request is for recurring funding to cover agency Staff & Agency professional association memberships. These memberships are key to providing the agency and staff access to resources, data, and collaboration opportunities with industry experts and counterparts across the country.

Swim Lesson Initiative $25,000 – This request is for recurring funding to support the agency swim lesson initiative. Swimming is a valuable life skill that can lead to fewer serious incidents and fatalities along our state's waters.

Workforce Development $40,000 - This request is for recurring funding to support agency workforce development and training which will allow the agency to continue to develop and retain highly qualified and knowledgeable staff.

Employee Assistance $30,000 - This request is for recurring funding to support employee assistance initiatives throughout the agency.

Budget Centralization Contract $50,000 – This request is for recurring funding to support agency budget

centralization efforts through a contractual budget management system. This will allow the agency to enhance budgeting efforts through a more collaborative and centralized process.

Agency Operating Requests		
Law Enforcement Vehicle & Boat Rotations	$	1,544,000
Law Enforcement Operating Total	$	1,544,000
Non-Game Species Statewide Operating	$	525,000
Wildlife Two Ponds Operating	$	300,000
Statewide Fish Habitat Enhancement Program Operations	$	300,000
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Operating Total	$	1,125,000
Research Vessel Operations	$	750,000
Marine Facilities Operations & Maintenance	$	200,000
Oyster Shell Recycling Program Expansion	$	214,118
Marine Resources Operating Total	$	1,164,118
Land, Water, & Conservation Vehicle Rotations	$	230,000
Land, Water, & Conservation Operating Total	$	230,000
HQ Building Operations	$	178,950
Statewide Facility Maintenance & Repairs	$	250,000
Employee Safety Supplies	$	102,650
Housekeeping Contracts	$	144,144
Media & Outreach Operations	$	535,226
Agencywide Contracts, Licenses, & Marketing	$	150,000
Staff & Agency Association Memberships	$	32,000
Swim Lesson Initiative	$	25,000
Workforce Development	$	40,000
Employee Assistance	$	30,000
Budget Centralization Contract	$	50,000
Executive Office and Agencywide Operating Total	$	1,537,970
Total Agency Operations Request >	**$**	**5,601,088**

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

11

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Information Technology Operations

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $2,495,164

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $2,495,164

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority # 20

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
X	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

2.1-2.3 - Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security - Conserve and protect the state's natural resources for social, economic, recreational, and commercial benefit while providing maximum human utilization through: (1) the development of people support through outreach, education, and safety programs; (2) the preservation of the peace and protection of human lives and property; and (3) the enforcement of the state's criminal laws through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of persons who violate those laws.

5.1 To continuously evaluate and improve administrative and business processes, efficiency, effectiveness, and internal/external service delivery with a focus on transparency, communications, accountability, and the integration of new technologies.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Other Operating: Goods and services for program operations obtained by following the state procurement code. Most of these expenditures would be provided through state contract vendors.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Cellbright Tech, SmartCop & Tablets/Printers $290,000 –

Cellebrite Technology Upgrade – **$60,000**

Cellebrite technology will support the modernization and transformation of digital investigations by helping close the public safety gap through advanced digital intelligence capabilities. The Cellebrite Digital Intelligence Investigative Platform enhances collaboration across investigative teams, enabling agencies to accelerate case resolution, improve solvability rates, and increase the efficiency and transparency of criminal investigations.

For SC DNR Law Enforcement, this technology will provide the ability to access, extract, and analyze mobile device data in the field through advanced device acquisition capabilities. Investigators will be able to quickly collect and process digital evidence from a wide range of mobile devices, allowing for real-time intelligence gathering and actionable insights within minutes. This capability significantly improves investigative effectiveness and supports timely decision-making during critical operations.

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

SmartCop Mobile Technology Replacement – **$230,000**

This funding request supports the replacement of outdated iPads and mobile printers currently used with the SmartCop system, a critical platform for field reporting, real-time communication, records access, and operational data management. Aging equipment is increasingly prone to performance issues, compatibility limitations, and downtime, reducing the effectiveness of field operations.

Replacing these devices with updated technology will ensure continued compatibility with the SmartCop system, improve reliability and performance, and enhance officer productivity. The upgraded equipment will provide faster access to mission-critical information, improve reporting accuracy, and strengthen officer safety by enabling more dependable communication and data access in the field.

The project includes the replacement of 50 iPads with Windows-based tablets and 50 mobile printers:

• 50 Windows Tablets @ $2,400 each = $120,000

• 50 Mobile Printers @ $800 each = $40,000

• Associated hardware, software, licensing, integration, and deployment costs = $70,000

SmartCop Mobile Technology Replacement Total: $230,000

Motorola 800MHz Handheld Radio Service $116,214 - To keep pace with evolving communications technology and enhance officer safety, the SCDNR Law Enforcement Division is seeking funding for service and maintenance subscriptions for 350 handheld radios operating on the Palmetto 800 network. These services include SmartConnect, SmartLocate, SmartMapping, SmartProgramming, and RadioCentral.

SmartConnect improves communications reliability and officer safety by allowing radios to utilize cellular networks when outside the coverage area of Palmetto 800 radio towers, particularly in remote and rural locations. SmartLocate and SmartMapping provide GPS location and mapping capabilities, improving situational awareness and personnel accountability. SmartProgramming and RadioCentral streamline maintenance and reduce downtime by enabling remote radio programming and management.

Service and Maintenance Contracts for 350 handheld radios:

$332.04 per radio × 350 radios = $116,214

Shared Services & Technology Development $2,008,950 - The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is requesting $2,008,950 recurring funds to support the agency's IT environment. This funding will be used to purchase IT hardware ($297,853), software (1,517,806), and to pay the increase in shared services through the Department of Administration ($193,290).

the Department was appropriated $1,000,000 in recurring General Funds for IT Hardware in FY26, $683,675 in recurring General funds in FY22 for Shared Services through the Department of Administration. Additionally the Deparment received non-recurring General Funds of $750,000 in FY25 and $1,000,000 inFY27 for Information Technology operations. This request takes into account these previously appropriated general funds.

Hardware (Devices)	Quantity per Year	Unit Cost	Annual Cost	
Laptops	248	$ 1,600.00	$ 396,800.00	
Desktops	15	$ 1,500.00	$ 22,500.00	
Monitors	263	$ 400.00	$ 105,200.00	
Xerox Printers	45	$ 4,800.00	$ 216,000.00	
HP Network Printers (B&W)	3	$ 1,500.00	$ 4,500.00	
HP Network Printers (Color)	7	$ 1,700.00	$ 11,900.00	
iPhones	448	$ 100.00	$ 44,800.00	
iPads	105	$ 1,600.00	$ 168,000.00	
Drones	3	$ 31,667.00	$ 95,001.00	
	Annualized Cost:		$ 1,064,701.00	Various Cycle Durations

Hardware (Infrastructure)	Quantity	Unit Cost	Extended Costs	
MX75	37	$ 1,326.41	$ 49,077.17	
MX105	2	$ 6,191.05	$ 12,382.10	
C9300X-12Y-M	10	$ 15,272.09	$ 152,720.90	
C9300X-24Y-M	17	$ 22,458.96	$ 381,802.32	
C9300X-48HX-A	45	$ 13,412.41	$ 603,558.45	
CW9176I	167	$ 2,109.79	$ 352,334.93	
C9500-24Y4C	4	$ 20,048.09	$ 80,192.36	
		Total:	$ 1,632,068.23	
	Annualized IT Infrastructure Cost:		$ 233,152.60	Based on 7-year Cycle

Annual Software Costs:	$1,517,806
Annual Shared Services Costs:	$876,965
Total Annual IT Costs:	$3,692,624.76
Less Prior Recurring Appriorations:	($1,683,675)
Total Annual IT Need:	**$2,008,950**

The Department has consulted with the Department of Administration on these requests and they have expressed their support.

Information Technology Operations		
Cellbright Tech, SmartCop & Tablets/Printers	$	290,000
Motorola 800MHz Handheld Radio Service	$	116,214
Shared Services & Technology Development	$	2,088,950
Total Information Technology Operations Request	**$**	**2,495,164**

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

15

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Other & Federal Authority

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $0

Federal: $408,655

Other: $878,098

Total: $1,286,753

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

0.00

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
X	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Requested funding addresses the following in the accountability report:

2.12.3 Conserve and protect the state's natural resources for social, economic, recreational, and commercial benefit while providing maximum human utilization through: (1) the development of public support through outreach, education, and safety programs; (2) the preservation of the peace and protection of human lives and property;, and (3) the enforcement of the state's criminal laws through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of persons who violate those laws.
3.0 Sustain the State's living marine resources for cultural, recreational, commercial and economic benefit of the state's citizens and visitors.
1.0: Develop and Implement programs that study, manage and conserve the State's land resources through planning, research, technical assistance, public education and the development of a comprehensive natural resources database.
1.1: Provide reliable, science-based information to decision makers and the public on earth science, climate, and flood mitigation research and activities; land, soil and river conservation. Measures 1.1.1, 1.1.4
1.2: Provide reliable information and technical assistance to enhance and improve conservation efforts in the state. Measures 1.2.11.2.3
1.3: Monitor and protect cultural and other resources throughout the state on Heritage Trust properties and provide culturally related recreational/educational opportunities. Measures 1.3.11.3.3 (c)
4.1 Conserve and protect freshwater fish and wildlife species in South Carolina.
4.3 Provide quality hunting and freshwater fishing opportunities throughout South Carolina.
5.0 Continuously evaluate and improve administrative and business processes, efficiency, effectiveness, and internal/external service delivery with a focus on transparency, communications, accountability, and the integration of new technologies.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Personal Services: Personnel currently in FTEs and candidates qualified and hired to fill vacant FTEs.

Other Operating: Goods and services procured to support program operations will be obtained by following the state procurement code.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

2% General Increase

The Department is requesting additional authority for Other and Federal Funds which will fund the 2% General Increase authorized by the General Assembly effective for FY2027. This request also includes authority to apply the FY27 2% General Increase to Other and Federally funded temporary staff.

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Other Fund Operating Authority
$16,000 Earmarked Fund operating authority is needed for new case management system in the Legal Office.

$206,572 Restricted Fund operating authority is needed for a mitigation relicensing agreement in the Freshwater Fisheries section.

Classification Description	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted
Salary Actions	$ -	$ 319,261	$ 153,589	$ 358,541
Employer Contributions	$ -	$ 89,393	$ 43,005	$ 100,391
	$ -	**$ 408,655**	**$ 196,594**	**$ 458,932**

Personal Services >	$ 831,391
Employer Contributions >	$ 232,790
Total Other & Federal 2% General Increase	**$ 1,064,181**
Earmarked Operating	**$ 16,000**
Restricted Operating	**$ 206,572**
Total Other & Federal Authorit Request	**$ 1,286,753**

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

21

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

FTE Management

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

General: $0

Federal: $0

Other: $0

Total: $0

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

NEW POSITIONS

-6.56

Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
X	HR/Personnel Related
	AI Related
	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

The Department requests an adjustment to the FTE count by returning 6.56 Federal positions.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Additional funds are not requested. The authority that supported the FTEs has been absorbed by other changes to salary and employer contribution changes.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The Department requests a decrease of 6.56 FTEs supported by Federal Funds. Through changes in programs, missions and funding availability, these positions are no longer supported. Over time, the authority associated with the positions has been incorporated in remaining federally funded programs.

Fund Type	Classified	Unclassified	FY2027 Base	Classified Change	Unclassified Change	Total Changes	Adjusted FY2027 Base
General	497.81	12.75	510.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	510.56
Federal	198.89	8.00	206.89	-6.56	0.00	-6.56	200.33
Other	342.68	4.35	347.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	347.03
Total	1039.38	25.1	1064.48	-6.56	0.00	-6.56	1057.92

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

4

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Consolidated Utilities & Insurance

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$22,165,974

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Requested funding addresses the following in the accountability report:

(a) 1.0: Develop and Implement programs that study, manage and conserve the State's land and water resources through planning, research, technical assistance, public education and the development of a comprehensive natural resources database.

1.1: Provide reliable, science-based information to decision makers and the public on water resource and aquatic plant management; earth science, climate, and flood mitigation research and activities; land, soil and river conservation. Measures 1.1.11.1.4

1.2: Provide reliable information and technical assistance to enhance and improve conservation efforts in the state. Measures 1.2.11.2.3

1.3: Monitor and protect cultural and other resources throughout the state on Heritage Trust properties and provide culturally related recreational/educational opportunities. Measures 1.3.11.3.3

(b) 2.12.3 Conserve and protect the state's natural resources for social, economic, recreational, and commercial benefit while providing maximum human utilization through: (1) the development of public support through outreach, education, and safety programs; (2) the preservation of the peace and protection of human lives and property;, and (3) the enforcement of the state's criminal laws through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of persons who violate those laws.
(c) 3.0 Sustain the State's living marine resources for cultural, recreational, commercial and economic benefit of the state's citizens and visitors.
(d) 4.1 Conserve and protect freshwater fish and wildlife species in South Carolina.
4.3 Provide quality hunting and freshwater fishing opportunities throughout South Carolina.
4.3 Provide quality hunting and freshwater fishing opportunities throughout South Carolina.
(e) 5.0 Continuously evaluate and improve administrative and business processes, efficiency, effectiveness, and internal/external service delivery with a focus on transparency, communications, accountability, and the integration of new technologies.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Other Operating: Publicly and privately owned electric, water, sewer and telephone entities. State of South Carolina Insurance Reserve Fund, and state contract vendors providing specialty insurance for certain items.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

The department requests **$22,165,974** in non-recurring General Funds to provide relief to program funds currently being used to pay expenses for insurances (State, Non-state and Workers Compensation) and utilities (Water & Sewer, Natural/Propane Gas, Phone lines, and Electricity) for regional and field offices and headquarters property taxes, to be reprogrammed to support core functions of law enforcement, wildlife, freshwater fisheries, marine resources, and land,water, & conservation. During FY26 the Department expended $7,788,203.25 for insurance, utilities, & property taxes ($4,899,54.78 General, $825,294.42 Earmarked,

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

$887,336.25 Restricted, & $1,175,857.80 Federal). For comparison these costs were $6,872,741.06 in FY25, $6,070,249.54 in FY24, and $4,954,302.89 in FY23. This represents an average annual increase of 16% for insurance and utilities over the last three fiscal years (property taxes for FY26 of $182,359.82 were not included in the percentage increase as they were new in FY26). Using that average 16% increase we have projected our total insurance, utility, and property tax cost for FY28 and FY29 (less the current $1,000,000 appropriated in FY26) to be $22,165,974.

	FY26	FY25	FY24	FY23
Total Insurance Costs	**4,231,274.57**	**3,805,859.72**	**3,557,390.44**	**2,684,531.96**
Total Utility Costs	**3,556,778.68**	**3,066,881.34**	**2,512,859.10**	**2,269,770.93**
Total Insurance & Utility Costs	**7,788,053.25**	**6,872,741.06**	**6,070,249.54**	**4,954,302.89**
Annual change $	915,312.19	802,491.52	1,115,946.65	257,037.11
Annual change % (16% average)	13%	13%	23%	

FY27 Projected (includes 16% increase)	9,034,142
FY28 Projected (includes 16% increase)	10,479,604
FY29 Projected (includes 16% increase)	12,156,341
FY28-FY29 Projected Insurance & Utilitie Costs Total	22,635,946
FY28-FY29 Projected Property Tax Costs (includes 16% increase)	530,028
Total FY28-FY29 Projected Insurance, Utilities, & Property Tax	23,165,974
Recurring Insurance & Utility appropariations in FY26 Budget	(1,000,000.00)
Total Request	**22,165,974**

This request will also increase efficiency when processing invoice payments. Currently these expenses are funded from as many as 50 different accounts, making the most of available funds. Consequently, this decreases the availability of program funds including general funds, license revenue and grant awards for enforcement, management, research, and other mission supporting functions.

The Department has requested recurring funds since the FY25 budget request and received $2,500,000 non-recurring in FY25 and $1,000,000 recurring in FY26. The Department recognizes that there are more limitations on the availability in recurring funding and adjusted this request to cover 2 years of these expenses with non-recurring appropriations which would provide temporary relief for program operating funds.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

7

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Agency Equipment & Vehicles

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$10,733,848

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
X	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # 5

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Requested funding addresses the following in the accountability report:
2.12.3 Conserve and protect the state's natural resources for social, economic, recreational, and commercial benefit while providing maximum human utilization through: (1) the development of public support through outreach, education, and safety programs; (2) the preservation of the peace and protection of human lives and property;, and (3) the enforcement of the state's criminal laws through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of persons who violate those laws.
3.0 Sustain the State's living marine resources for cultural, recreational, commercial and economic benefit of the state's citizens and visitors.
1.0: Develop and Implement programs that study, manage and conserve the State's land resources through planning, research, technical assistance, public education and the development of a comprehensive natural resources database.
1.1: Provide reliable, sciencebased information to decision makers and the public on earth science, climate, and flood mitigation research and activities; land, soil and river conservation. Measures 1.1.1, 1.1.4
1.2: Provide reliable information and technical assistance to enhance and improve conservation efforts in the state. Measures 1.2.11.2.3
1.3: Monitor and protect cultural and other resources throughout the state on Heritage Trust properties and provide culturally related recreational/educational opportunities. Measures 1.3.11.3.3 (c) 3.0 Sustain the State's living marine resources for cultural, recreational, commercial and economic benefit of the state's citizens and visitors.
4.1 Conserve and protect freshwater fish and wildlife species in South Carolina.
4.3 Provide quality hunting and freshwater fishing opportunities throughout South Carolina.
5.0 Continuously evaluate and improve administrative and business processes, efficiency, effectiveness, and internal/external service delivery with a focus on transparency, communications, accountability, and the integration of new technologies.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Other Operating: Goods and services for program operations obtained by following the state procurement code. Most of these expenditures would be provided through state contract vendors.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Carrying out SCDNR's mission through various programs requires specific equipment. The rising cost of equipment along with expanded or new agency programs presents a need for funding in order to continue the high level of existing programs and improvement of services through new programs.

(a) Law Enforcement equipment needs:

ATV Equipment $268,000 - This funding is requested to support the equipment needs of the Law Enforcement ATV Team, which plays a vital role in patrolling hard-to-reach areas such as parks, trails, rural terrain, and during special events or search-and-rescue operations. The Department has already utilized existing funds to purchase six ATV's, and is requesting funding for the remaining needed Equipment.

Specialist ATV Team needs: (14) 4Wheelers with trailers at $12,000.00 = $168,000

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

(4) Side by Side Vehicles w/trailers at $25,000.00 = $100,000.00

Total ATV Equipment: $268,000

(b) Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries equipment needs:

Wildlife Vehicles & Equipment $3,405,500 - Funds will be utilized to purchase vehicles and equipment which are necessary to conduct management objectives expected by the general public. Fourteen (14) vehicles will be purchased to replace worn out vehicles that will be turned into State Surplus. One (1) marshmaster will be purchased to replace old marshmasters that continue to break down costing the Agency time and money. Multiple tractors (5) will replace old tractors (1990's models) that are beyond their useful life. This will save time and money and allow staff to be more efficient in planting and managing dove fields, wildlife openings, etc. Tracks for our oldest amphibious trackhoe are in need of replacing. If not replaced in a timely manner, tracks will come off in the marsh and result in a lengthy delay in getting necessary dike work completed. Four (4) bulldozers will replace older models that are no longer dependable and have a hard time locating parts for. A new lowboy haul unit will replace a 1998 version that is having mechanical issues. This unit transports heavy equipment (bulldozers, motor graders, trackhoes) that normal trailers cannot haul. This heavy equipment is used on all WMAs at various times as well as when fighting wildfires. A dump truck for Coosawhatchie WMA. This equipment will allow staff to complete projects in a more efficient and timely manner. Break downs and delays will be minimized. All equipment is required to efficiently conduct wildlife management activities across the state which results in providing quality opportunity for public enjoyment. $3,405,500

Statewide Fish Habitat Program Equipment $1,500,000 - Initial equipment costs for a statewide Fish Habitat Enhancement Program. This program's purpose is to establish a large-scale fish habitat restoration program on South Carolina's public waters. The program will use a variety of materials and techniques to enhance fish habitat and recreational angling opportunities. This request is for equipment associated with starting this program (trucks, trailers, boats/barge, excavator, loader, etc).

Diadromous Fisheries Equipment $250,000 - These requested funds would be utilized to purchased necessary equipement for the Diadromous Fish program including: a truck ($60,000), two boats with motors and trailers ($139,000), Nets ($20,000), and various other small equipment such as tablets, computers, boat electronics, etc. ($31,000).

(c) Marine Resources equipment needs:

New Program Equipment & Vehicles $686,848 - Start-up costs for five recurring requests including: State-based saltwater fisheries data collection program ($396,000), Oyster shell recycling program expansion ($200,848), Implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, long-term fisheries monitoring program Phase 1 (90,000). Costs include trucks, computers, cell phones, safety gear, scientific equipment and sampling gear, custom dump trailers for oyster recycling, and contract for developing and establishing state-based saltwater fisheries data collection methods.

(d) Land, Water, and Conservation equipment needs:

Weather Stations $4,475,000.00 – The Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan recommends the State increase the density of weather station. Additional weather stations will provide greater precision in developing weather and hydrologic models, drought assessments, flood forecasting, and other decision-making processes. Weather monitoring is essential to decision-making before, during, and after a weather event. South Carolina is only one of ten states that don't have a network of automated weather stations. In FY27, $525,000.00 was appropriated to the Department to begin the establishment of the statewide network of automated weather stations with 6 stations. This request would fully fund the remaining 40 weather stations (one per county), contractual support, and other support equipment needed for this network.

(e) Executive Office equipment needs:

Statewide Office Furnishings & Equipment $52,000 – This request is for funding to purchase display monitors at customer service offices in Charleston, Florence, Clemson, & Aynor as well as a large table for the headquarters break room. $52,000

Education, Outreach, & Information Equipment $36,500 - This request is to fund needed photographic/video equipment upgrades for our public information staff. Mirrorless Cameras (5x$7,000) and GoPro Cameras (3x$500) which will enhance video and photographic capabilities to improve marketing media.

State Naturalist Vehicle Replacement $60,000 - This request is for a vehicle replacement for the State Naturalist for a vehicle that has reached the end of its useful life.

Agency Equipment & Vehicles Requests		
ATV Equipment	$	268,000
Law Enforcement Equipment & Vehicles Total	$	268,000
Wildlife Vehicles & Equipment	$	3,405,500
Statewide Fish Habitat Program Equipment	$	1,500,000
Diadromous Fisheries Equipment	$	250,000
Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Equipment & Vehicles Total	$	5,155,500
New Program Equipment & Vehicles	$	686,848
Marine Resources Equipment & Vehicles Total	$	686,848
Weather Stations	$	4,475,000
Land, Water, & Conservation Equipment & vehicles Total	$	4,475,000
Statewide Furnishings & Equipment	$	52,000
Education, Outreach, & Information Equipment	$	36,500
State Naturalist Vehicle	$	60,000
Executive Office Equipment & Vehicles Total	$	148,500
Total Agency Equipment & Vehicles Request >	**$**	**10,733,848**

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

9

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Facility Upgrades & Feasibility Study

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$350,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
X	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
X	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

2.1-2.3 - Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security

Conserve and protect the state's natural resources for social, economic, recreational, and commercial benefit while providing maximum human utilization through: (1) the development of public support through outreach, education, and safety programs; (2) the preservation of the peace and protection of human lives and property; and (3) the enforcement of the state's criminal laws through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of persons who violate those laws.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Other Operating: Goods and services obtained by following the state procurement code.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The Department Requests **$350,000** to fund facility upgrades at several Law Enforcement evidence facilities and a feasibility study to investigate the potential of adding additional shared lab and office space to be used by staff in the Heritage Trust program and the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries division.

Law Enforcement Evidence Facility Upgrades $150,000 - The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Law Enforcement Division requests funding to upgrade existing evidence storage facilities and establish additional primary evidence holding locations to support compliance with national accreditation standards and best practices in evidence management. These improvements will strengthen evidence security, accountability, integrity, and chain of custody procedures.

Funding of $95,000 is requested to upgrade evidence facilities at the Georgetown, Anderson, Charleston, Union, and York Law Enforcement Offices. Improvements will include renovations and minor construction, evidence shelving, biological evidence refrigerators/freezers, security cameras, perimeter fencing, temporary evidence lockers, high-security locks, storage systems, Faraday equipment for digital evidence preservation, packaging supplies, signage, propane supplies, and backup power capabilities. These upgrades will improve storage capacity, security, environmental protection, and operational efficiency while aligning facilities with North American Wildlife Law Enforcement Accreditation (NAWLEA) standards.

An additional $55,000 is requested to establish primary evidence holding facilities between existing repositories in Charleston, Florence, Anderson, and Columbia. These facilities will expand statewide storage capacity, reduce transportation demands on field personnel, improve evidence accessibility, and enhance long-term security. Funds will support finished Conex-style evidence storage units, backup generators, fuel storage, security fencing, storage furnishings, and related equipment.

Together, these upgrades will create a secure, standardized, and modern evidence management system statewide. This initiative

will support accreditation compliance, protect investigative integrity, reduce liability, and improve the effectiveness of SCDNR Law Enforcement evidence and found property operations.

Joint Lab & Office Space for Heritage Trust Program and Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries $200,000 – This request is for non-recurring funding to cover a feasibility study to investigate the potential for a joint lab & office space to be shared by the Heritage Trust Program and the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries division. As these programs continue to add staff the need for additional lab and office space is becoming more apparent and such space is not available in the current location of these programs. Additional lab and office space would support further capacity and efficiency within these programs.

Total Request: $350,000

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

13

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Law Enforcment Protective Equipment

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$1,502,130

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
X	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

2.1-2.3 - Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security

Conserve and protect the state's natural resources for social, economic, recreational, and commercial benefit while providing maximum human utilization through: (1) the development of public support through outreach, education, and safety programs; (2) the preservation of the peace and protection of human lives and property; and (3) the enforcement of the state's criminal laws through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of persons who violate those laws.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Other Operating: Goods and services procured to support program operations will be obtained by following the state procurement code.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

Ballistic Vest Armor $810,435 - This funding request addresses the ongoing need for ballistic vest armor for law enforcement personnel. Ballistic vests are a critical piece of safety equipment, providing protection against firearm threats and other ballistic hazards that officers may encounter while performing their duties.

Funding will be used to purchase new ballistic vests, replace aging or expired armor, and ensure officers are properly fitted with equipment that meets current safety standards. Providing reliable and properly fitted body armor helps reduce the risk of injury, improves officer safety, and ensures personnel are prepared to respond to a wide range of situations.

Investing in updated ballistic armor strengthens the department's operational readiness and supports its ability to serve and protect the community safely and effectively. By equipping officers with dependable protective equipment, the department can better safeguard its personnel while maintaining a high level of public safety service.

204 Officers X $3,972.72 per Ballistic Vest Armor = Total: **$810,435**

Firearm Replacement Rotation $426,695 - This funding request supports the scheduled replacement and rotation of service firearms assigned to SCDNR Law Enforcement personnel. Maintaining a reliable and modern firearms inventory is critical to officer safety, operational readiness, and effective public service. Firearms used in law enforcement experience significant wear over time due to daily carry, training exercises, qualification requirements, and field operations. A structured replacement cycle helps reduce the likelihood of equipment failures, ensures consistent performance, and allows officers to remain equipped with current technology and enhanced capabilities.

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Replacing aging firearms with updated platforms improves accuracy, reliability, and officer effectiveness while supporting the Division's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of safety and preparedness.

The requested funding will support the following equipment purchases:

• Replacement of 16-inch FN rifles with FN 15 G2 14.5-inch rifles equipped with Aimpoint optics - 250 rifles × $1,545 each = $386,250

• Rifle-mounted lights for officer rifles -- $40,045

Total Firearms Replacement Request: **$426,695**

Turning Target System $265,000 - This funding request supports the acquisition and installation of a Turning Target System. The law enforcement firearms qualification requires the use of a Turning Target System, currently SCDNR must rely on the availability of the training range at the SC Criminal Justice Academy to try and schedule firearms qualification. This is difficult to work logistically and as far as timing. The purchase and installation of a Turning Target System at the Styx firearms range would allow SCDNR law enforcement to more efficiently and effectively train and allow for more manageable logistics and timing of firearms qualifications. This increase in training availability will allow SCDNR to better prepare officers to resolve critical incidents by improving reaction times and performing threat assessments which will result in training that produces life-saving skills.
Turning Target System = $250,000
Installation Costs = $15,000 **~~ Total: $265,000**

Total Request:

Law Enforcment Protective Equipment		
Ballistic Vests	$	810,435
Firearm Rotation	$	426,695
Turning Target System	$	265,000
Total Request >	**$**	**1,502,130**

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

14

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Conservation Education Textbook

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$1,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
X	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
X	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

1.0: Develop and Implement programs that study, manage and conserve the State's land resources through planning, research, technical assistance, public education and the development of a comprehensive natural resources database.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Other Operating: Goods and services for program operations obtained by following the state procurement code. Most of these expenditures would be provided through state contract vendors.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The Department requests **$1,000,000** in non-recurring funding to develop, publish, print, distribute, and implement a statewide Conservation Education Curriculum and Teacher Activity Guide for Fourth Grade Science in South Carolina elementary schools.

The textbook and supplemental resources will be developed as a South Carolina-specific, standards-aligned supplemental instructional resource for fourth-grade science teachers statewide. The Department is working with the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) to understand and navigate the state's curriculum standards and instructional-materials requirements. All curriculum content, lessons, activities, and supporting materials will be developed in accordance with South Carolina's statewide fourth-grade science curriculum standards and instructional expectations, with the goal of positioning the resource as a supplement to fourth-grade science high-quality instructional materials. This approach will allow the Department to connect required science instruction to South Carolina's unique natural resources and environmental systems while providing teachers with a resource that complements the instruction already occurring in their classrooms.

A significant component of the initiative will be statewide teacher training. Professional development will ensure educators are prepared to effectively use the curriculum, conduct the associated activities, and incorporate South Carolina's natural resources into standards-aligned science instruction. Providing both the instructional resource and the training necessary to implement it will promote consistent and effective use across the state.
Funding will also provide the classroom materials and consumable supplies needed to conduct the activities included in the guide. This is critical to ensuring that implementation does not create an unfunded financial burden for teachers, schools, or districts and that students across South Carolina have equitable opportunities to participate in hands-on learning.

The $1 million request represents a one-time investment to establish a statewide instructional resource capable of reaching thousands of fourth-grade teachers and tens of thousands of South Carolina students each year. By investing in the development, training, materials, and statewide distribution necessary for successful implementation - and strategically leveraging established conservation education resources where appropriate - South Carolina can provide educators with a high-quality, standards-aligned

	resource that connects classroom science to the natural resources, communities, and economy of the state.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

16

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Consesrvation Districts Technical Assistance Program

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$2,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

1.2: Provide reliable information and technical assistance to enhance and improve conservation efforts in the state. Measure 1.2.2 Number of contacts with farmers, landowners, and other constituents to work collaboratively, sharing our expertise and technical assistance in soil and water conservation.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Conservation Districts to be cover the cost of contract personnel to address a backlog of USDA payments to landowners and farmers.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Currently in South Carolina, approximately $131,000,000 of federal cost share funding are delayed, these are direct payments to farmers and forest landowners of South Carolina. The delay in receiving funding is due to the lack of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) personnel, specifically in South Carolina, capacity to disseminate these funds to farmers and forest landowners at no fault of the participant. The $131,000,000 that are under contract with participants which total over 2,200 active contracts. Many participants are currently fulfilling or have fulfilled their obligations to these contracts and are waiting on USDA for assistance to proceed or approval for payment of reimbursement for expenses incurred. USDA reduction of field personnel in South Carolina has created a significant bottleneck leading to delays of approvals and cost share payments affecting our state's farmers and forest landowners.

To assist with this current backlog and future needs of the state's farmers for conservation contracts, the Department requests **$2,000,000.00** to fund the Conservation Districts Technical Assistance Program. This program would provide a reimbursement to local Soil and Water Conservation Districts in providing boots on the farm/forest technical services to the state's agricultural producers in completing their federal conservation contracts and receiving their direct federal cost share payment. Approximately 23 time limited personnel would be hired by or contracted through local Soil and Water Conservation Districts covering two counties each at $40 per hour. Personnel would be hired/contracted to serve on a temporary part-time basis to resolve the current backlog on active contracts and ensure a significant backlog does not occur on future contracts. This would provide local Soil and Water Conservation Districts the funding to hire local conservation experts to assist the state's farmers and forest landowners on a reimbursement basis from SCDNR.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts in South Carolina would be reimbursed as work is completed and documentation is provided showcasing hours spent with each farmer and amount of federal cost share assistance provided through this service, as well as, service being signed off by each farmer served verifying services rendered.

If this request is approved, USDA will work with participating Soil and Water Conservation Districts to allow for the utilization of

	federal systems, vehicles, and other equipment as needed to support the delivery this critical program. SCDNR-Conservation Districts Section will administer the program at no increased cost to the state and without increased personnel. Funds would strictly be utilizedby Soil Water Conservation Disctricts for direct assistance on the farm and not their administrative costs.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
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FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

17

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Waterfowl Area Enhancements

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$1,500,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

4.1.1 Acres of habitat owned by SCDNR and managed to promote species diversity and richness through planting, burning, maintenance and wetlands enhancement.

4.1.2 At risk, threatened and endangered species protected, monitored and managed following state and/or federal law.

4.3.2 Acreage of Wildlife Management Area Program land available to provide hunting opportunities to the public.

4.3.3 Number of deer quota cooperators, specialty permits issued, lottery hunt participants, and participants in WFF division hunting/fishing events and programs

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Other Operating: Goods and services for program operations obtained by following the state procurement code.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The Department is requesting **$1,500,000** to be used to make repairs and improve infrastructure on many of the waterfowl areas across the state. These areas are in high demand by the public. Constant weather and tide wear and tear on these areas result in much need for ongoing maintenance. Funds will be used to control nuisance aquatic vegetation (on both CAT 1 & CAT II waterfowl areas) that make managing for desired aquatic plants species that are beneficial for waterfowl challenging (Cuban bulrush, Phragmites, etc). Fencing to protect crops planted for waterfowl (on the CAT 1 lottery hunts areas) from deer and hog damage will be conducted with these funds. Enhancements such as water control structures and dike maintenance will occur on Love WMA and Wateree River WMA waterfowl areas. Lumber to replace trunks and bulkheads on all coastal waterfowl CAT I areas.

The Department requested non-recurring funds for this purpose in FY26 ($4,950,000) and FY27 ($3,000,000) and was appropriated $1,500,000 in each of those years.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

18

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

New Property Start-Up Costs

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$2,000,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
X	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

4.1.1- Acres of habitat owned by SCDNR and managed to promote species diversity and richness through planting, burning, maintenance and wetlands enhancement.

4.1.2 - At-risk, threatened and endangered species protected, monitored and managed following state and/or federal law.

4.3.2- Acreage of Wildlife Management Area Program land available to provide hunting opportunities to the public.

4.3.3- Number of deer quota cooperators, specialty permits issued, lottery hunt participants, and participants in WFF division hunting/fishing events and programs.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Other Operating: Goods and services for program operations obtained by following the state procurement code.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The Department is requesting **$2,000,000** non-recurring General Funds to prepare newly acquired properties and properties acquired in the future for public use and access. These properties will be in the WMA program, and public use will be high. The public will expect to have access immediately, yet most of the properties will need significant infrastructure work before this can occur. Roads will need gravel and grading so that all forms of public transportation can traverse them. Boundaries will need to be surveyed, marked and posted with signage to ensure trespassing does not occur on neighboring private property. Gates will need to be erected to keep vehicles off of closed or sensitive areas. Directional signage will need to be installed for the public. All of these amenities will need to be conducted before a property can be made available to the public. The Agency has recently acquired a substantial amount of new property (Buckfield (Coosawhatchie WMA), Bannister WMA, South Saluda WMA, River Forks, Snows Island, etc) and several other large tracts are in the process of acquisition.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

19

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Coastal & Offshore Mapping & Monitoring

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$500,000

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
X	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
X	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

Requested funding addresses the following objective (s) in the accountability report: Goal 1; Strategy 1.1; Measures 1.1.1 and 1.1.2

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Other Operating: Use of these funds will be evaluated by Program Manager supervising projects.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

The Department requests **$500,000** non-recurring General Funds to support work addressing physical change along the coast. Physical change along the coast resulting from sea level rise is primarily local. This statement accurately captures the complexity of sea level rise. When looking at it on the local scale, the amounts of land eroded and submerged are very different, and a multitude of factors need to be understood, such as sinking land, coastal topography and habitat, human use and infrastructure, tidal range, and sediment transport. Other detrimental physical changes include beach erosion, coastal flooding, groundwater contamination and saltwater intrusion, and soil changes due to increased salt content—several of which can extend inland for many miles. Baseline maps and analysis to address coastal vulnerability to physical change and offshore maps to outline areas of sediment for beach renourishment are needed. The SCDNR Geological Survey has done pilot projects of both coastal vulnerability and offshore mapping. The SET (surface elevation table) network also needs to be expanded to cover the entire coast, and additional salt water monitoring wells need to be placed along the coast to determine rates of intrusion. Establishing baseline conditions allows for documentation of the physical changes that occur during these events. Results of these studies are used to address questions from the public and decision-makers. The information is needed now to begin to address the full effects of physical change along the coast over the next 10 to 20 years.

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

20

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Information Technology Equipment

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$4,578,200

What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:	
	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
X	IT Technology/Security related
	AI Related
	HR/Personnel Related
X	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding
	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority # 11

STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:	
	Education, Training, and Human Development
	Healthy and Safe Families
X	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
	Government and Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS

2.1-2.3 - Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security - Conserve and protect the state's natural resources for social, economic, recreational, and commercial benefit while providing maximum human utilization through: (1) the development of people support through outreach, education, and safety programs; (2) the preservation of the peace and protection of human lives and property; and (3) the enforcement of the state's criminal laws through the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of persons who violate those laws.

5.1 To continuously evaluate and improve administrative and business processes, efficiency, effectiveness, and internal/external service delivery with a focus on transparency, communications, accountability, and the integration of new technologies.

What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?

RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS

Other Operating: Goods and services for program operations obtained by following the state procurement code.

What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?

The Department is requesting **$4,578,200** in non-recerurring General Funds for several information technology equipment needs that need to be addressed in the near future to maintain information technology security, law enforcement communications, efficiency of agency operations, and keep up with increasing information technology capacity needs. The Department has consulted with and has the support of the Department of Administration on these requests.

Law Enforcement 800MHz Radio Replacement $3,920,000 - The Division's current 800 MHz handheld radio fleet is approximately eight years old, with more than 50% of the radios being over seven years old and nearly 99% no longer under warranty. As this equipment continues to age, concerns regarding reliability, maintenance, and interoperability are increasingly significant.
To ensure dependable communications and enhanced officer safety, the Division is seeking funding to replace 245 aging handheld radios with modern multi-band radios at a cost of $16,000 per radio. These upgraded radios will provide improved reliability, expanded interoperability, and enhanced communications capabilities, allowing officers to communicate effectively with partner agencies during routine operations, multi-agency responses, and emergency incidents.
Cost: $16,000 per unit × 245 units = **$3,920,000.00**

Law Enforcement Drone Equipment $164,400 - This funding request supports the acquisition, expansion, and operational enhancement of the department's specialized Drone Fleet. These critical resources will significantly strengthen the department's tactical response, search-and-rescue operations, surveillance capabilities, crime scene documentation, and overall situational awareness.
By integrating advanced aerial technologies, this initiative addresses existing operational gaps and improves access to challenging environments that are difficult to reach through conventional means. Funding will enable the purchase of state-of-the-art drones, insurance, maintenance supplies, and other mission-essential resources.
In addition, financial support will ensure comprehensive training and certification for personnel, promoting safe, effective, and sustainable deployment of these assets. This investment will enhance public safety, improve emergency response capabilities, increase operational efficiency, and provide law enforcement personnel with the tools necessary to effectively serve and protect the community.

JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

Cost: (12) - 4TD drone Package for the LE Division X $11,700.00 per = $140,400.00 ~~ Insurance cost $2,000.00 per drone X (12) = $24,000.00 **Total: $164,400**

Education, Outreach, & Information Laptops $46,800 – This funding request supports the purchase of eight laptops with improved graphic and media capabilities to increase the agencies marketing and media efforts.
8 Laptops x $5,850 = **$46,800**

Agency Facility Security & Audio/Visual Enhancements $447,000 – This funding request supports necessary security and A/V-related installations and replacements. Several agency facilities across the state have outdated or non-functional systems. Security systems serve to protect the agency's employees, confidential information and assets, while A/V systems support improved conveyance of important information and gained efficiencies through remote meeting capabilities.
Based on recent similar projects and high-level discussions with vendors, the following estimates were calculated:
- Aynor security upfit: $59,688
- Florence security upfit: $66,321
- Georgetown security upfit: $64,688
- Greenville security upfit: $39,792
- Styx Radio Room security upfit: $122,030
- Statewide Mass Comms System: $94,481

Total Security & Audio/Visual Enhancements: $447,000

Total Information Technology Equipment Request:

Information Technology Equipment		
800Mhz Radio Replacement	$	3,920,000
Drone Equipment	$	164,400
Education, Outreach, & Information Laptops	$	46,800
Agency Security & A/V Enhancements	$	447,000
Total Information Technology Operations Request	**$**	**4,578,200**

Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

3

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Walhalla Fish Hatchery Renovations Supplemental Funding

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$30,000,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY

CPIP was first submitted for Walhalla renovation (PY2028 priority 60 of 94) in FY23.

If state funding is not made available, staff will continue to attempt to manage around the deficiencies.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS

Walhalla - A1 approved and pred-design is in progress.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Walhalla Hatchery operates using license revenue, federal funds through the Sport Fish Restoration Fund, state appropriated funds, USACOE mitigation funds and Duke Energy mitigation funds.

Renovation of the Walhalla Hatchery will not result in increases in operations costs.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

SUMMARY

This Request is for **$30,000,000** non-recurring capital General Funds for renovations at the Walhalla Fish Hatchery. Hatchery renovations at the Walhalla State Fish Hatchery were previously funded at about $10.3 million. Discussion with the engineering firm hired to develop the project design have identified significant short fall in the current level of funding. With the current level of funding the firm feels we can replace the existing raceways, but funds will fall well short of addressing the other facility needs. With this new information in hand, we are requesting the following supplemental funds in order to complete the renovation of the facility:

Renovation of water supply and supplemental oxygen systems: $20,000,000

Renovation and upgrades to fish house and office building: $6,000,000

Partially Enclose fish production raceways to reduce piscivorous predator impacts and disease transmission: $4,000,000

Total Request: $30,000,000

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	8

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE	Bear Island WMA - Matthews Canal Renovation

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT	$500,000

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY	Matthews Canal (PY2028 priority 62 of 94) If this request is not funded staff will continue to try and manage around the deficiencies.

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS	No approval has been obtained for this project. Additional approvals must be secured from JBRC and SFAA as necessary.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	SCDNR will seek to use quality materials and provide maintenance to ensure a reasonable lifespan on all repairs and purchases.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

SUMMARY	The Department is requesting **$500,000** non-recurring capital General Funds for renovations to the Matthews Canal at Bear Island Wildlife Management Area. The dike along Matthews Canal, which serves as the primary source of water for a large portion of Bear Island waterfowl area has been decimated by hurricanes over the last 8 years and needs a total replacement before breaching occurs and repairs become much more costly. The dike has been retopped to the point where there is no material left in the adjacent canal. The canal will need to be moved further into the impoundment to provide material to raise the dike. The current canal will be filled with material from the new canal. This will allow us to raise and widen the dike along Matthews Canal. If this dike were allowed to breach it would negatively affect several hundred acres of waterfowl impoundments. We would contract this work out. Cost estimate is based on current pricing models for similar work conducted elsewhere. These funds will cover the cost of widening, strengthening, and raising the dike height to allow for continued waterfowl management on this highly popular CAT I waterfowl area (Bear Island).

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY

10

Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.

TITLE

Field & Regional Buildings - Capital

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

AMOUNT

$31,272,490

How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.

CPIP PRIORITY

Styx (PY2028 priority 85 of 103 on the FY25 CPIP), Murphy Island Dock (PY2028 priority 63 of 94), Dennis Center (PY2028 priority 53 of 94), Fish Habitat Buildings (PY2028 priority 59 of 94), Waddell Pond Renovation (PY2027 priority 34 of 94), Waddell Pumphouse Renovation (PY2028 priority 66 of 94), Historic Houses Interior Renovation (PY2028 priority 68 of 94)

Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.

OTHER APPROVALS

No approvals have been obtained for these projects. Additional approvals must be secured from Office of State Engineer and Joint Bond Review Committee.

What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

State and Other funds have been utilized to provide temporary fixes for several of these projects, but cannot sustain the much needed larger repairs/renovations/improvements.

What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?

SUMMARY

The Department requests **$31,272,490** to fund improvements and restore infrastructure at many of DNR's Wildlife Management Areas, Waterfowl Impoundments, Field Offices, Fort Johnson Buildings, and other structures. Many of the existing facilities are in need of new HVAC systems, roofs, windows, plumbing upgrades, painting, and/or siding, etc. Funding will allow us to ensure that we are properly addressing issues and protecting such facilities from further damage and more costly repairs and providing necessary facilities to manage said areas.

Styx Receiving Compound $ 3,000,000 - The Styx receiving compound, where all agency equipment and vehicles are received and prepared for service, is in need of major renovations/improvements to continue proper operations.

Murphy Island Boat Dock $350,000 - The public access dock at Murphy Island is in need of repair following a series of high tide events. It also needs to be elevated so that it is not inundated with water during routine high tide events.

Dennis Center $8,000,000 - The Dennis Center Administration Building was originally constructed in 1973. The facility is long overdue for renovations and improvements to ensure a safe and reliable workspace for program staff who work inside.

Fish Habitat Buildings $750,000 - The Department is proposing establishment of a new fish habitat restoration program on South Carolina's public waterways. As part of this program the following buildings would need to be constructed: 1) A greenhouse for the production of native aquatic plants will be established and operated to provide appropriate vegetation for plantings. **$250,000** 2) A storage building to store equipment and materials such as root wads (stumps), brush, other woody debris, stone "reef balls", gravel, etc. used by the program. **$500,000**

Waddell Pond Renovation $10,872,490 - Original estimates for the completion of the water tower renovation and pond renovations were obtained in 2014. Due to increases in construction costs current estimates require additional funding to complete phase 1 of the project.

Waddell Pumphouse Renovation $5,300,000 - The pumphouse is critical to the functioning of the pond systems for production of fish for stocking. The current pumphouse is nearly 50 years old, nearing the end of useful life, and needs to be relocation due to rising water levels.

Historic Houses Interior Renovation $3,000,000 - Two historic houses, the Marshlands House – formerly the plantation home of John Ball – and the Quarantine Officers Quarters at Fort Johnson are in need of interior repairs including: lead paint removal and remediation, repair leak-damaged plaster walls, repainting, refinish flooring.

Field & Regional Buildings - Capital	Total
Styx Receiving Compound	$ 3,000,000

Styx Receiving Compound	$	3,000,000
Murphy Island Dock Replacement	$	350,000
Dennis Center	$	8,000,000
Fish Habitat Greenhouse	$	250,000
Fish Habitat Storage Building	$	500,000
Waddell Pond Renovation	$	10,872,490
Waddell Pumphouse Renovation	$	5,300,000
Ft Johnson Historic Structures	$	3,000,000
Total Request >	**$**	**31,272,490**

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST

AGENCY PRIORITY	12
	Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.
TITLE	Coastal and Marine Resources Center
	Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.
AMOUNT	$100,000,000
	How much is requested for this project in FY 2027-2028? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.
CPIP PRIORITY	PY 2028 priority 69 of 94
	Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.
OTHER APPROVALS	No approvals have yet been obtained. SFAA/JBRC approval will be necessary. Environmental permitting (NEPA, SC DES, USACE), SC OSE, and other local permitting will eventually be required for this major construction project.
	What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)
LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY	It is anticipated that up to an additional $100,000,000 in State (appropriations) may be requested in FY29, dependent on the findings of the "Marine Resources Facility Feasibility Study". The operating costs for the proposed facility are anticipated to be far less that the outdated facilities that would be replaced – resulting in operational cost savings in utilities, efficiencies, and maintenance expenses. The operating expenses and related funding sources for a new facility would be identical to those currently being used to operate the existing facilities (which would be decommissioned and no longer be occupied or utilized). It is prudent to proactively begin the process of building a more resilient new marine resources facility. If a replacement facility is not built, it is likely that the maintenance costs for the existing building structures will increase substantially with every passing year. The foundation of the MRRI building has endured 50 years of frequent saltwater exposure from tides and storms. A tidal seawall and other engineering controls are being implemented to somewhat prolong the usable life of the existing buildings. However, saltwater inundation is already occurring to the buildings, roads, and parking areas on a frequent basis. In addition, saltwater effects on the foundation of these 50 year old buildings will eventually require substantial investment in repairs. It is therefore time to weigh these costs against the prudent decision to relocate and rebuild modern structures elsewhere. Determinations by Davis & Floyd during the 2023 "May Forest / Fort Johnson Masterplan" concluded that during the 30-50 year timetable, "this particular site is vulnerable to sea level rise" and that "Sea walls and other engineering solutions may provide shortterm protection. However, ultimately, major infrastructure will need to be relocated to maintain functionality." The expected useful life of the capital improvement would be more than 50 years, depending on theengineering, design, and materials used during construction.
	What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?
SUMMARY	Pursuant to the Fort Johnson Master Plan, the Department requests $100,000,000 to begin constructing a new facility on the Fort Johnson property to accommodate SCDNR's coastal and marine research, management, and other functions. The new facility would be located on higher ground due to current flooding issues and continuing sea level rise. SCDNR is in the process of conducting a feasibility study using agency carryforward funds to evaluate the costs and considerations that would be necessary to construct replacement buildings at Ft. Johnson for SCDNR's laboratory, offices, and mariculture facilities (i.e. MRRI and Eltzroth buildings); and shared common resources such as an auditorium, library, meeting rooms, work areas, and parking. These new structure(s) would be located a reasonable distance away from the water's edge, at much higher elevation, on the southeastern end of SCDNR's existing Ft. Johnson property. Such a move would bring modernization and greatly improved infrastructure resiliency and protections from sea level, tidal, and storm effects. SCDNR's Eltzroth Building (19,000 sq ft), Marine Resources Research Institute (MRRI) building (56,000 sq ft), and CofC's Grice laboratory buildings are currently located directly adjacent to Charleston harbor with a foundation ground elevation of only a few feet above Mean Higher High Water (MHHW). During many large spring tides or wind events, the foundation and crawlspace of the MRRI building, parking areas, front walkways, and groundwater drainage of the area are already often inundated with tidal salt water. Determinations by Davis & Floyd during the 2023 "May Forest / Fort Johnson Masterplan" concluded that during the 30-50 year timetable, "this particular site is vulnerable to sea level rise" and that "Sea walls and other engineering solutions may provide short-term protection. However, ultimately, major infrastructure will need to be relocated to maintain functionality." The Marine Resources Center (MRC) encompasses 78 acres of historic property located on James Island adjacent to the Charleston Harbor. SCDNR's facilities at Ft. Johnson are critical to the Marine Resources Division's primary roles of research, monitoring, management, and education about our state's coastal and marine resources. Per the agency's strategic plan, our goal (3) is to "Sustain the state's living marine resources for cultural, recreational, commercial, and economic benefit of the state's citizens and visitors." The MRC also supports several collaborative state and federal research facilities on a modern campus that is largely maintained by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. SCDNR buildings and facilities at Ft. Johnson support over 250 staff from all divisions of the SCDNR. Other collaborative partner institutions also located at the MRC include NOAA, NIST, MUSC, and CofC. Due to its proximity to the Charleston Harbor, river systems, and estuaries, SCDNR's Ft. Johnson location provides a tremendously advantageous location for our performance of marine science research, monitoring, and education. However, the SCDNR's Eltzroth and MRRI buildings are both over 50 years old and suffering the consequences of decades of

exposure to the harsh environment directly adjacent to Charleston Harbor's salty air and tidal saltwater intrusion. In addition, these structures, access roads, and parking areas are already affected several times a year by tidal flooding or storm-related events.

Therefore, to ensure that SCDNR's marine science facilities at Ft. Johnson can continue to fulfill its mission, it is prudent to begin the process of obtaining funding to relocate these important facilities to a higher elevation.

Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	47.12

Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").

TITLE	DNR: Exempted Fishing Permits

Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.

BUDGET PROGRAM	Marine Conservation & Management

Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.

RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	N/A

Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.

REQUESTED ACTION	Delete

Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	None

Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?

SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	The proviso directed DNR to explore the feasibility of employing exempted fishing permits within the South Atlantic region as a mechanism to allow limited state-level management of the federally managed snapper-grouper complex. This was to be done in cooperatin with natural resources management agencies in North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Countil, and NOAA Fishereies to determine interest in and the possibility of jointly pursuing individual state EFPs as well ass an overarching EFP that might allow for a new management approach for the South Atlantic snapper-grouper complex. The requirements of this proviso have been met as listed and DNR has implimented Exempted Fishing Permits for the South Atlantic Red Snapper as of October 2026 and will continue to explore the possibility of adding additional Exempted Fishing Permits in the future.

Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.

FISCAL IMPACT	No fiscal impact is anticipated with the deletion of this proviso.

Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.

	~~47.12. (DNR: Exempted Fishing Permits) The Department of Natural Resources shall explore the feasibility of employing exempted fishing permits (EFPs) within the South Atlantic region as a mechanism to allow limited state-level management~~

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT	~~of the federally managed snapper-grouper complex. The department shall work cooperatively with natural resources management agencies from the states of North Carolina, Georgia and Florida, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) and NOAA Fisheries to determine interest in and the possibility of jointly pursuing individual state EFPs as well as an overarching EFP that might allow for a new management approach for the South Atlantic snapper-grouper complex.~~

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM D – PROVISO REVISION REQUEST

NUMBER	47.NEW1
	Cite the proviso according to the renumbered list (or mark "NEW").
TITLE	Retention of Funds Reimbursed by State or Federal Agencies
	Provide the title from the renumbered list or suggest a short title for any new request.
BUDGET PROGRAM	II.C.1. Conservation Law Enforcement
	Identify the associated budget program(s) by name and budget section.
RELATED BUDGET REQUEST	No
	Is this request associated with a budget request you have submitted for FY 2027-2028? If so, cite it here.
REQUESTED ACTION	Add
	Choose from: Add, Delete, Amend, or Codify.
OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED	No other agencies are affected by this proviso recommendation.
	Which other agencies would be affected by the recommended action? How?
SUMMARY & EXPLANATION	Without this proviso the department cannot retain FEMA/EMD reimbursements for qualifying Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program reimbursements when available to the department beyond the year in which they occurred.
	Summarize the existing proviso. If requesting a new proviso, describe the current state of affairs without it. Explain the need for your requested action. For deletion requests due to recent codification, please identify SC Code section where language now appears.
FISCAL IMPACT	Impacts vary from event to event.
	Provide estimates of any fiscal impacts associated with this proviso, whether for state, federal, or other funds. Explain the method of calculation.
	47.NEW1. (DNR: Retention of Funds Reimbursed by State or Federal Agencies) The Department of Natural Resources is authorized to collect, expend, retain, and carry forward all funds received from other state or federal agencies in the

PROPOSED PROVISO TEXT	current fiscal year as reimbursement of expenditures incurred in the current or prior fiscal years.

Paste existing text above, then bold and underline insertions and strikethrough deletions. For new proviso requests, enter requested text above.

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN

TITLE

Agency Cost Saving and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan

AMOUNT

$2,789,462

What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.

ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS

There are no FTE reductions.

How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?

PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT

Budget Line	Program Name	3%
I.	Administration	47,900
II.A.1.	Outreach	95,272
II.A.3.	Web Services & Technology Devel	116,332
II.B.1.	Boat Titling & Registration	34,965
II.C.1.	Boating Access	17,634
II.D.1.	Wildlife Operations	306,059
II.D.2.	Wildlife Statewide Operations	26,936
II.D.3.	Fisheries-Regional Operations	97,582
II.D.4.	Fisheries-Hatchery Operations	81,991
II.E.1.	Conservation Enforcement	1,485,799
II.E.2.	Boating Safety	31,089
II.F.1.	Marine Conservation & Management	152,177
II.F.2.	Marine Research & Monitoring	74,444
II.G.1.	Earth Sciences	94,793
II.G.2.	Conservation	99,773
II.G.3.	Heritage Trust	17,163
II.G.4.	Environmental Review	9,552
P240	Total	2,789,462

What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?

SUMMARY

The impacts to programs are as follows:

I. Administration - Reduction in motor pool by 2 vehicles and reduce travel to lower maintenance, fuel, and insurance costs.

II.A.1. Outreach - Reduction in contractual outreach media and reduce staff travel to lower maintenance, fuel, and insurance costs.

II.A.3. Web Services & Technology Develelopment - Reduction in IT equipement replacement cycles.

II.B.1. Boat Titling & Registration - Reduction in hourly staffing and supplies.

II.C.1. Boating Access - Reduction in travel to lower fuel and maintenance costs.

II.D.1. Wildlife Operations - Reduce vehicle rotation by 6 vehicles.

II.D.2. Wildlife Statewide Operations - Reduction in intern program and reduct printing of Wildlife Management Area maps.

II.D.3. Fisheries-Regional Operations - Reduce vehicle rotation by 2 vehicles.

II.D.4. Fisheries-Hatchery Operations - Reduce equipment replacement cycle.

II.E.1. Conservation Enforcement - Reduce vehicle and vessel replacement cycle by 10 units each and reduce patrols to lower fuel and maintenance costs.

II.E.2. Boating Safety - Reduce abandonded vessel removal efforts.

II.F.1. Marine Conservation & Management - Reduce vehicle rotation/replacement by 3 vehicles, reduce travel to lower fuel and maintenance costs, reduce suppies, and defer non-critical faciliity maintenance.

II.F.2. Marine Research & Monitoring - Reduce travel to lower fuel and maintenance costs, reduce supplies, and defer non-critical facility maintenance.

II.G.1. Earth Sciences - Reduce vehicle rotation/replacement cycle by 2 units and reduce travel to lower fuel and maintenance costs.

II.G.2. Conservation - Reduce vehicle rotation/replacement cycle by 2 units, reduce travel to lower fuel and maintenance costs, and reduce aid to conservation districts.

II.G.3. Heritage Trust - Reduce vehicle rotation/replacement cycle by 1 unit, and reduce travel to lower fuel and maintenance costs.

II.G.4. Environmental Review - Reduct travel to lower fuel and maintenance costs.

Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.

AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS

Savings realized from reductions in mileage for Law Enforcement used to afford fuel.

What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than $50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?

Agency Name:	Department Of Natural Resources		
Agency Code:	P240	Section:	47

FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

TITLE

Reducing Cost & Burden to Businesses & Citizens

Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.

EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS

Law Enforcment use Of Warning Tickets: $2,249,625 in fines and 10,412.50 total hours of court time saved.

Wildlife Management Area Hunting Permits: $35,303,583 in potential hunt club memberships saved by hunters.

What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST

Mark "X" for all that apply:

	Repeal or revision of regulations.
X	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.
	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.
X	Other

METHOD OF CALCULATION

Law Enforcment use Of Warning Tickets:

Approximately 21,425 warning tickets were issued, multiplied by the minimum fine of $105.00 for most violations of SC Code Title 50.

Case prosecution would take approximately 15 minutes per case multiplied by 21,425 violations, multiplied by 2 to account for time spent by both the Officer and defendant.

The defendant's time plus the court staff's time would determine the total hours saved by citizens and businesses.

Wildlife Management Area Hunting Permits:

Assuming a minimum hunt club membership in SC would be $500/year.
Last year we sold 75,194 WMA permits at $30.50 (75,194*$30.50= $2,293,417)
If each of those people bought a club member ship (75,194*$500 = $37,597,000)
$37,597,000 - $2,293,417 = $35,303,583 in savings to those people

Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.

REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES

Law Enforcment use of Warning Tickets:
Fines for violations of SC Code Title 50.

Enabling authority is derived from SC Code 50-3-110.

Wildlife Management Area Hunting Permits:

Enabling Authority is derived from SC Code 50-9-510.

Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?

REDUCTION OF REGULATION

These actions do not require any amendments or deletions of current regulations.

Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?

Law Enforcment use of Warning Tickets:

During FY 2025-2026 a total of 26,025 warning tickets were issued. Using warning tickets versus courtesy summons for documented violations, the expected savings in fines is $2,732,625. Savings from court appearances are unknown for court personnel, it takes approximately 15 minutes per case for prosecution which would save at least 6,506.25 hours of officer time in court. These reductions are based on the minimum fine of $105 for most violations of SC Code Title 50 which also includes court fees. The public would save a minimum of 6,506.25 hours of personal or employer time due to not attending court. Court personnel would also see a savings of 6,506.25 hours due to not hearing these cases.

Wildlife Management Area Hunting Permits:

During FY2026 The Department sold 75,194 Wildlife Management Area (WMA) permits at price of $30.50 (for total cost of $2,293,417), which grant access to all WMAs in the state. Without access to these WMAs hunters without access to private land would potentially need to purchase a hunt club membership to have access to hunt. An average hunt club membership

SUMMARY	in South Carolina costs at least $500. If all hunters who purchased a WMA permit had to purchase a hunt club membership the total cost would be $37,597,000. The difference between total WMA permits purchased and the potential cost for a hunt club membership leads to a potential savings of $35,303,583. These actions do not affect agency operations.

Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?