



# State of the State Lands Report Part 2

## for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023



A Presentation to the Board of Natural Resources

March 5, 2024

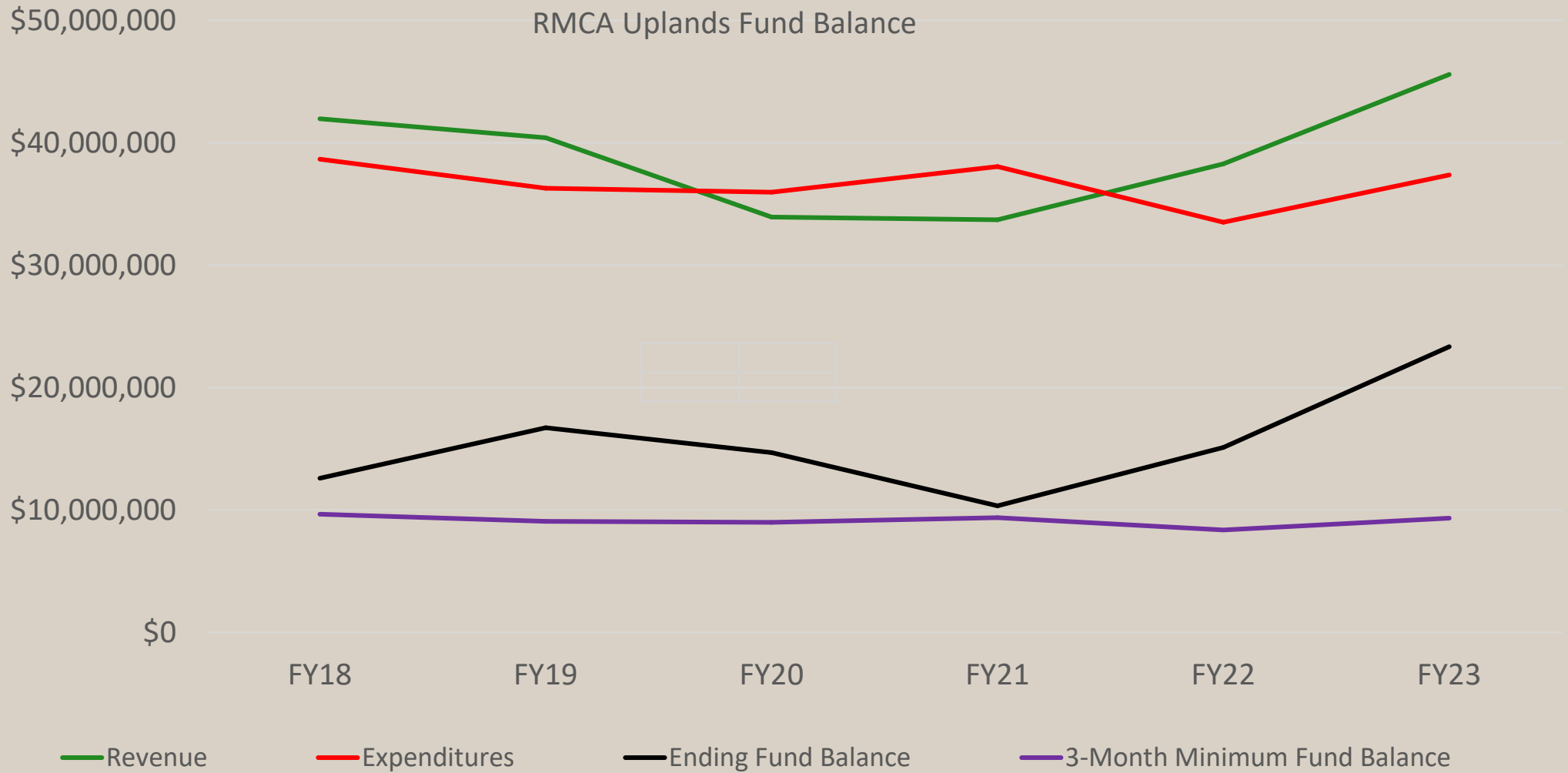
Todd Welker, Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

# State of State Lands FY22 and FY23 Part 2

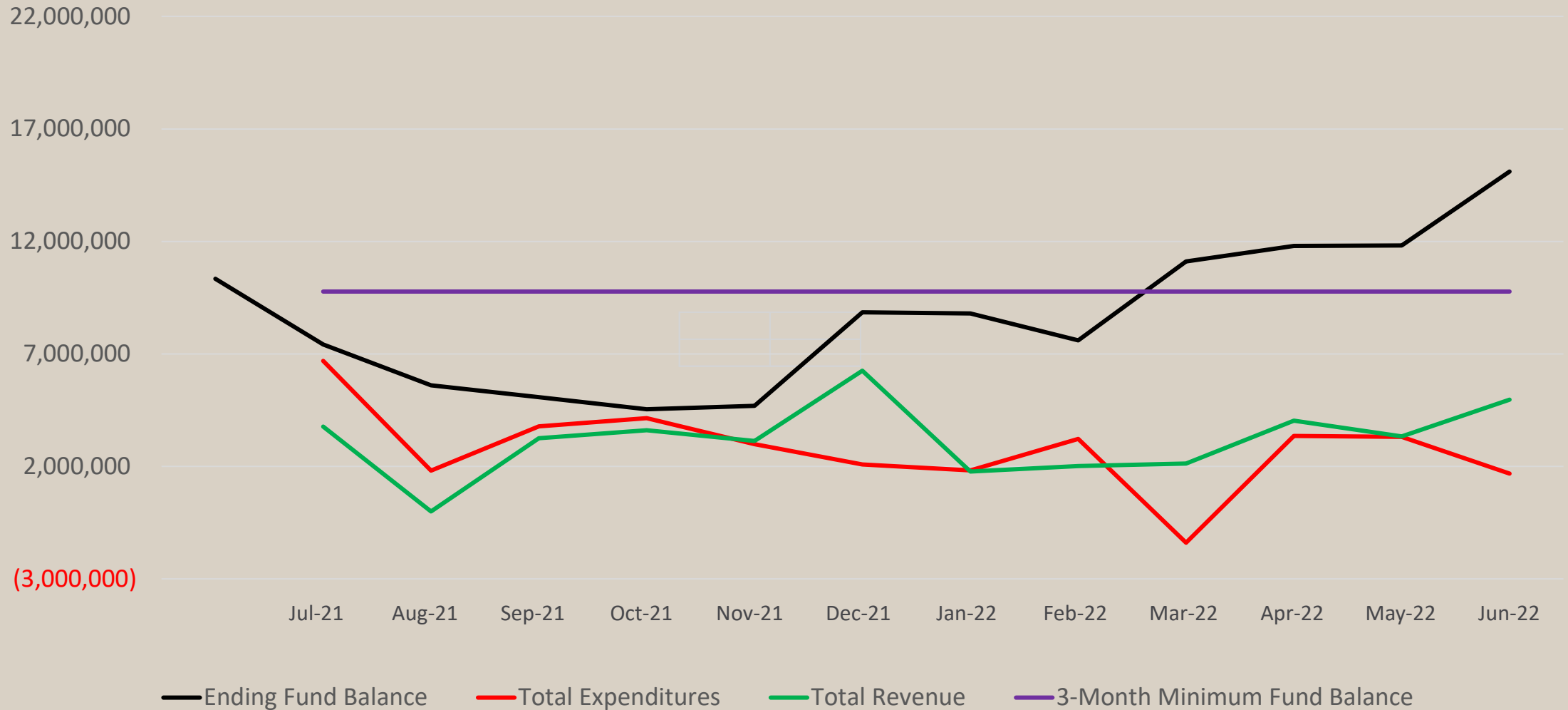
- Management Fund Balances
- Operating Funding Sources
- Staffing, Full Time Equivalents (FTE's)
- Supporting programs



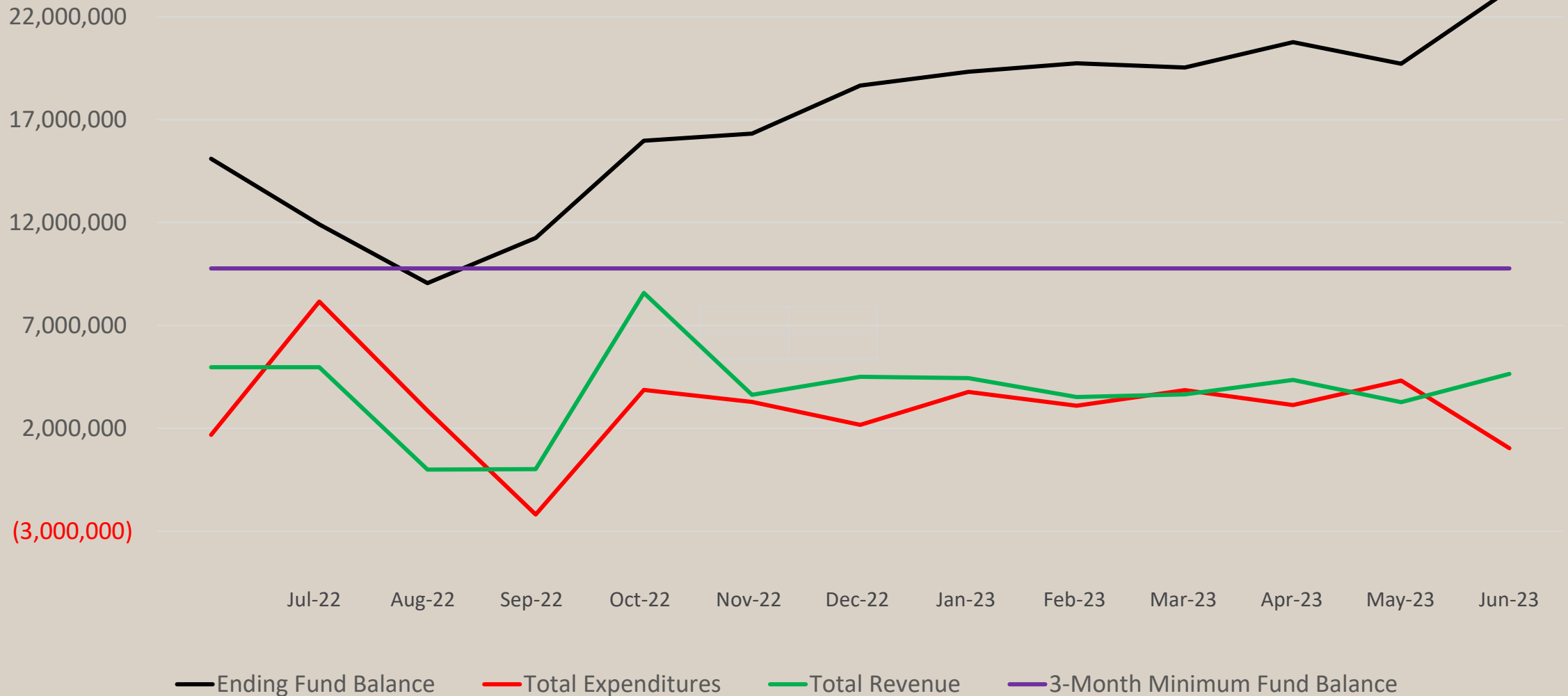
# RMCA Management Rate 31%



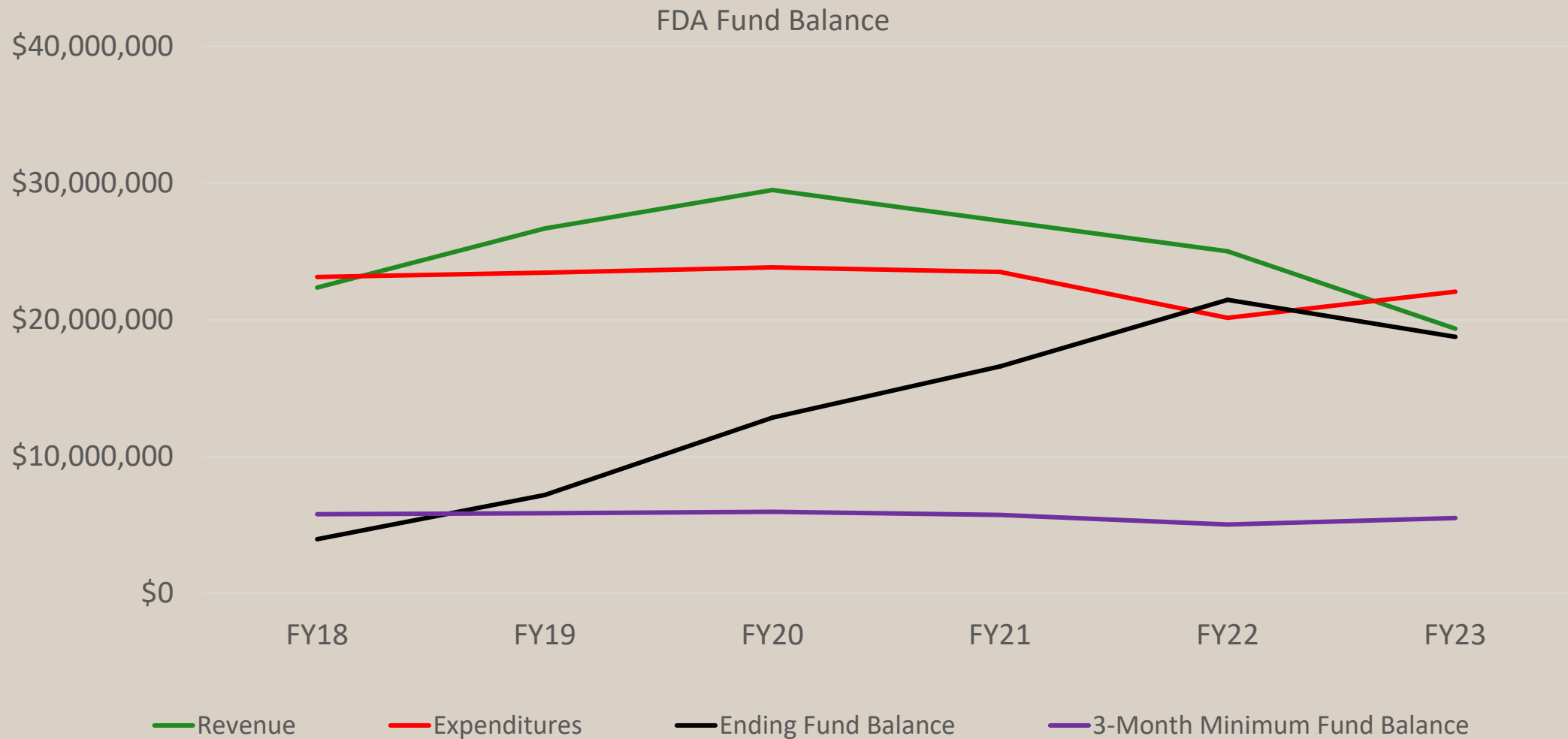
# RMCA Monthly Fund Balance FY 2022



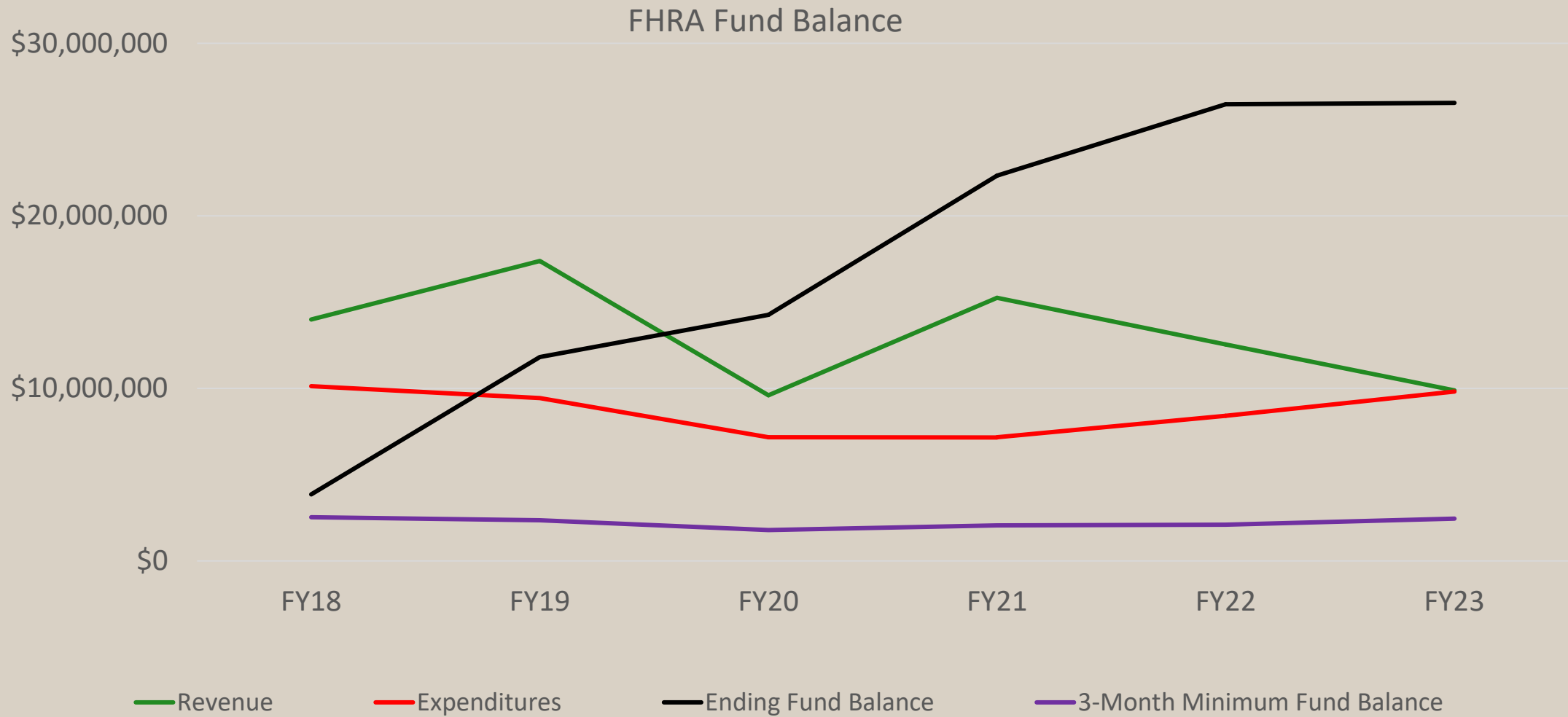
# RMCA Monthly Fund Balance FY 2023



# FDA Management Rate 25%

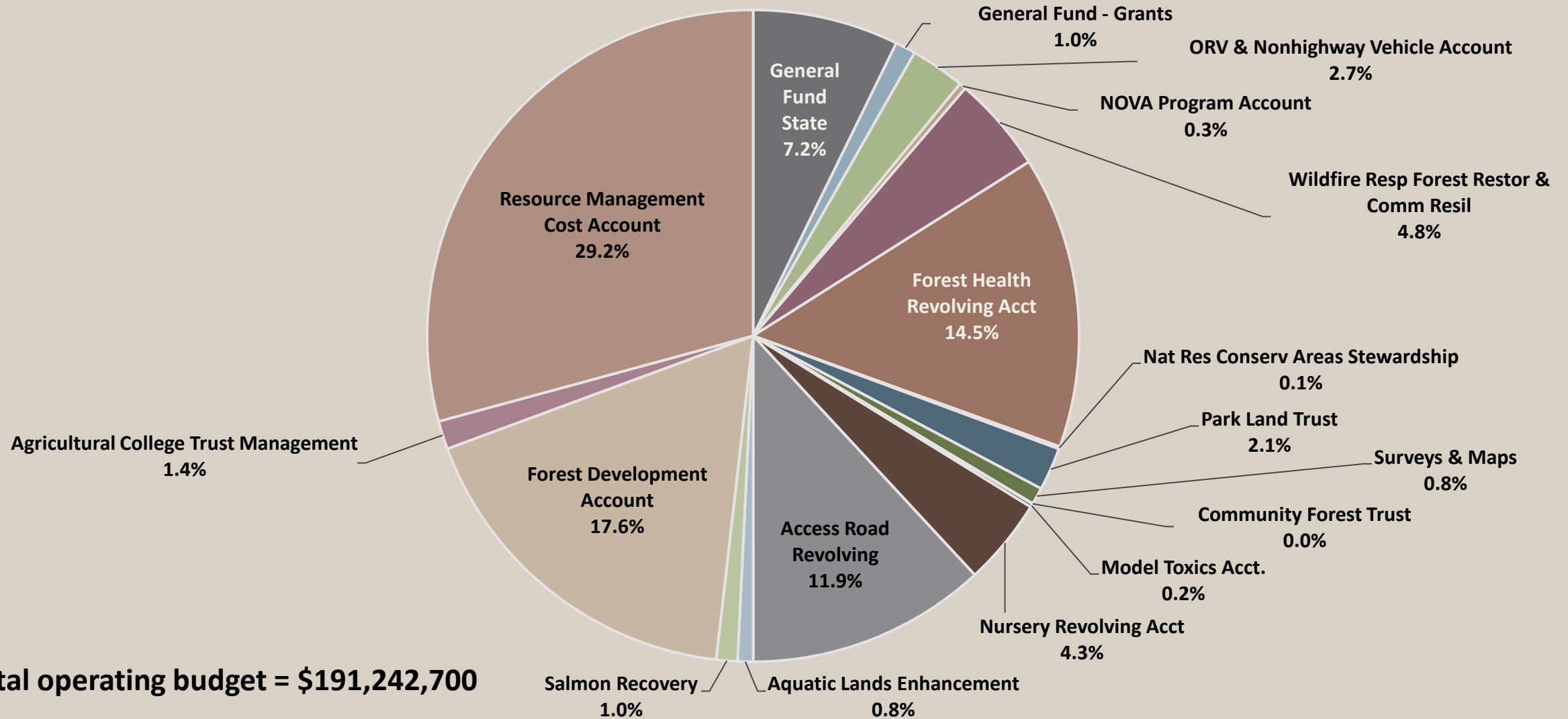


# Forest Health Account (21Q)



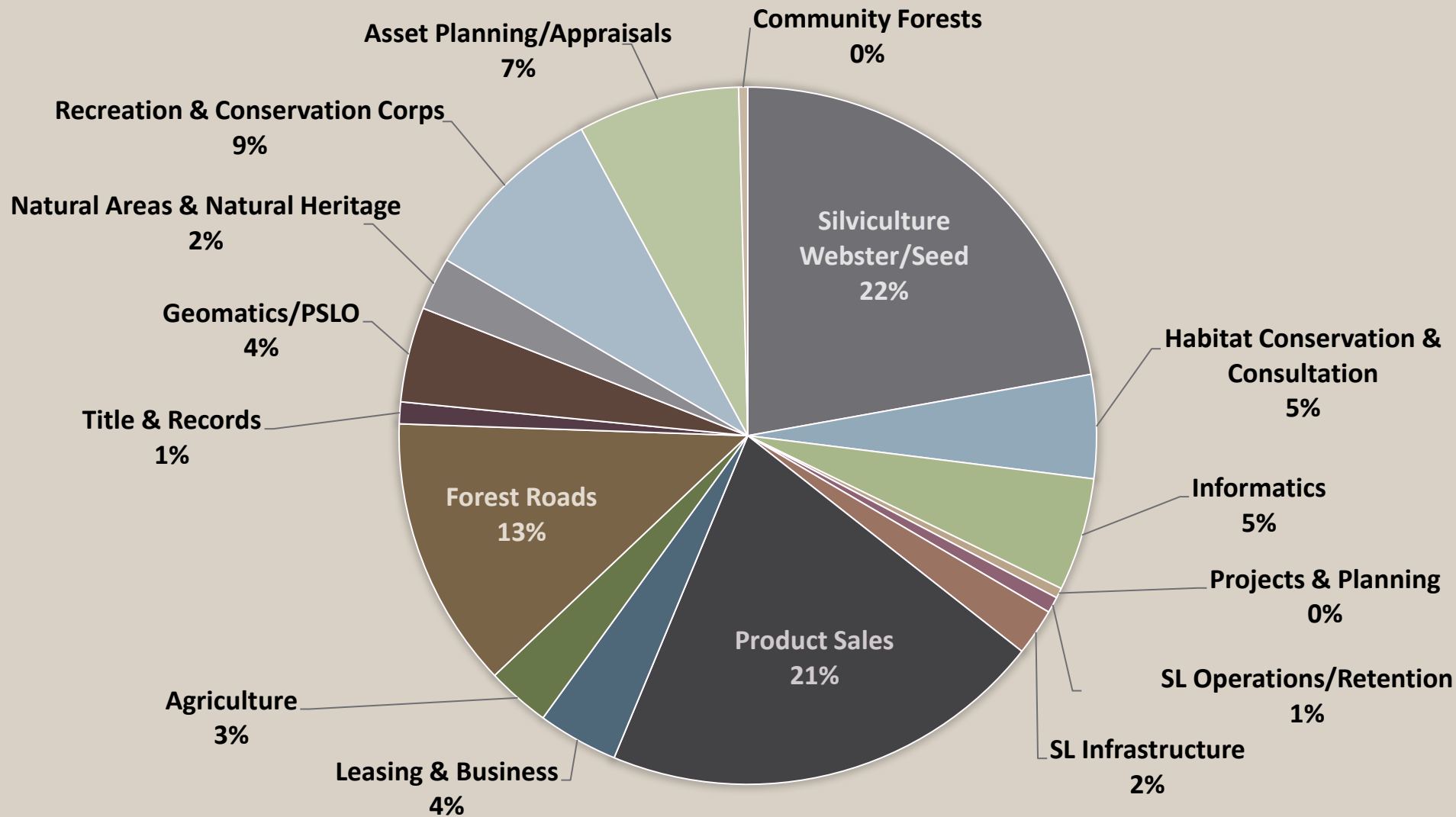


# BI 21-23 Operating Fund Sources for Uplands

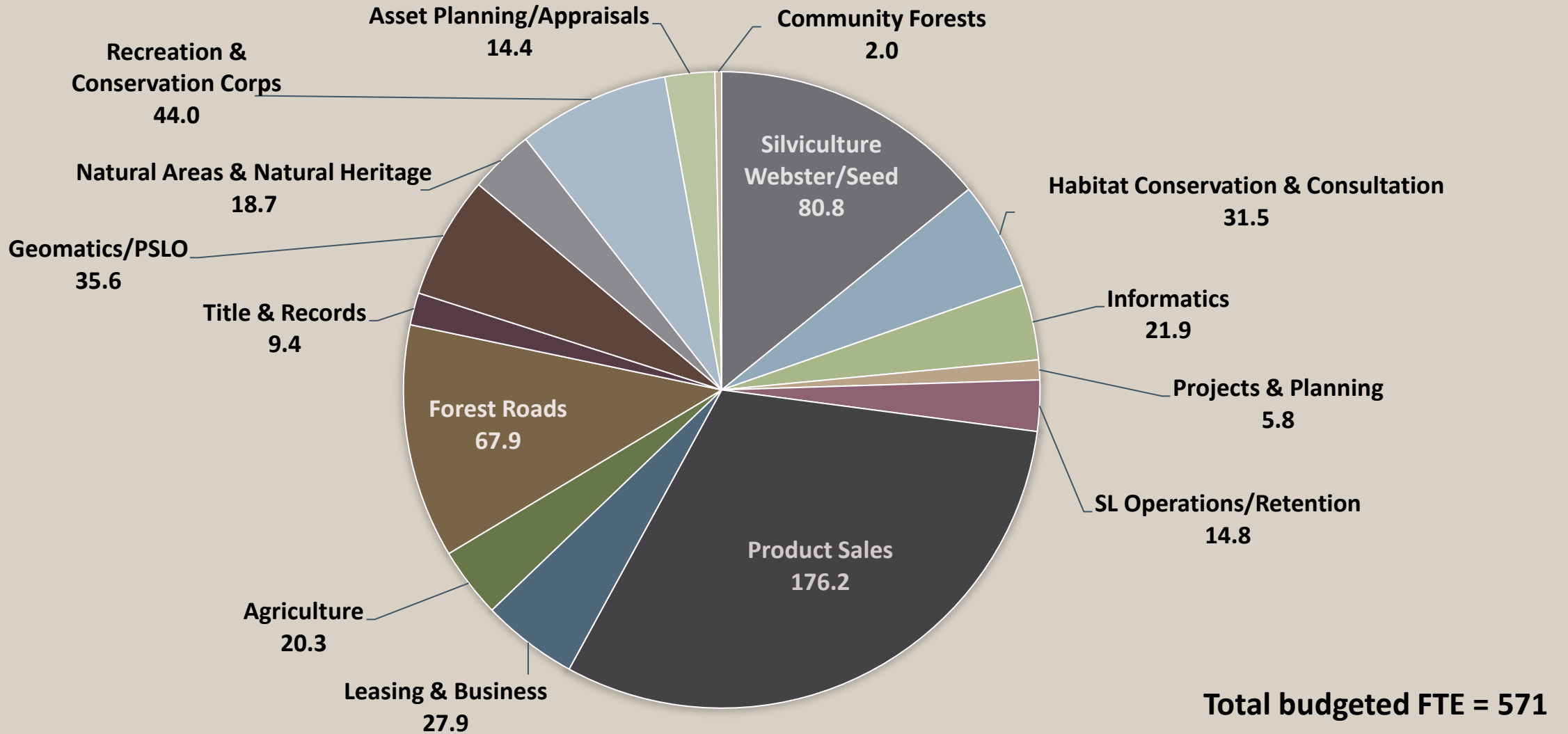


Total operating budget = \$191,242,700

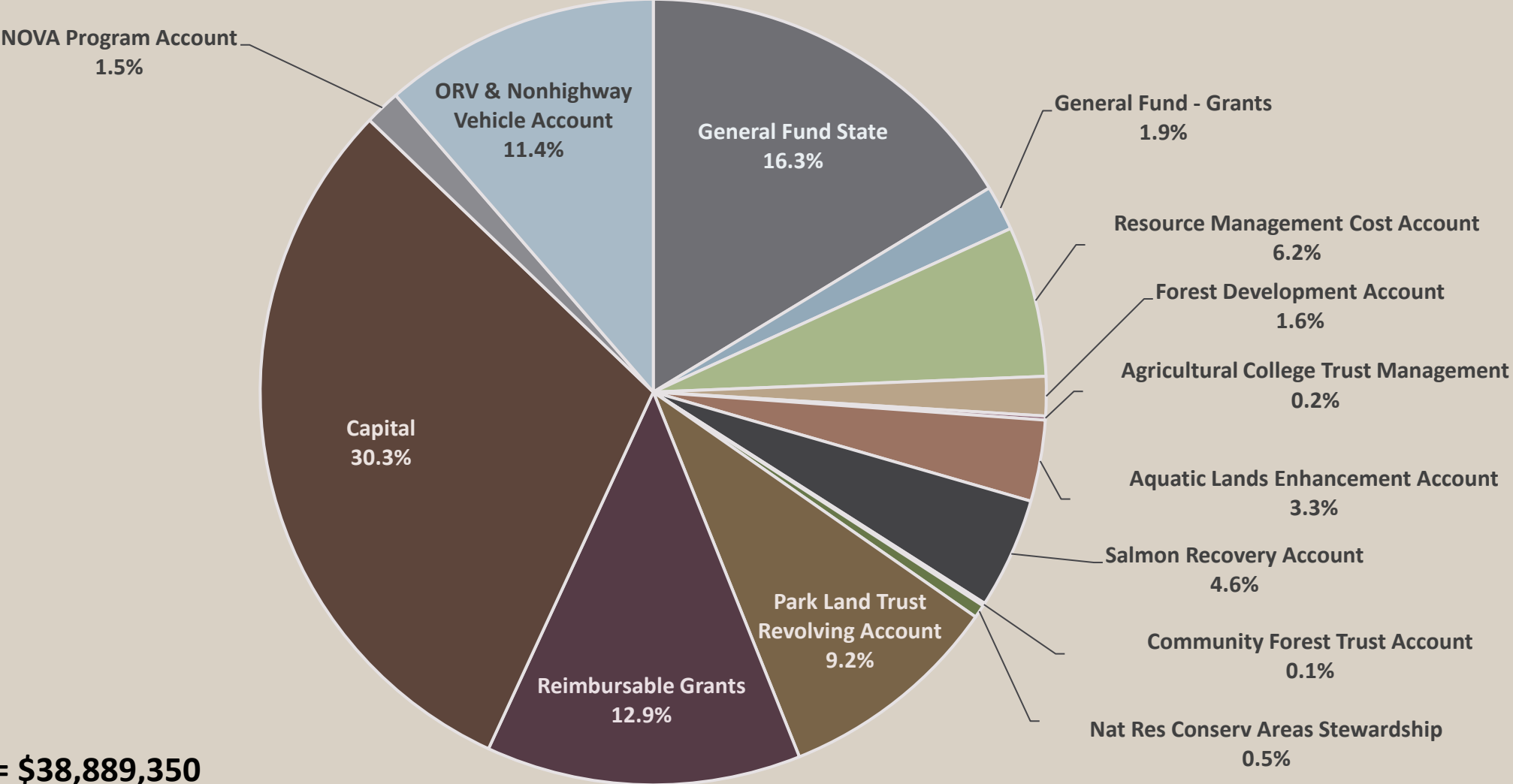
# BI 21-23 Operating Expenses by Program



# BI 21-23 Staffing FTEs by Program



# BI 21-23 All Fund Sources for Recreation and Conservation



Total budget = \$38,889,350

# Forest Resources Division

**Cameron Crump**, Division Manager

Silviculture

Webster Nursery

HCP & Scientific Consultation

Informatics



# Silviculture

## Updates:



- Seed Plant Replacement
- Post-fire Reforestation Research & Implementation
- Improved Young Stand Data Collection Efforts
- Research on PCT in Lynx Habitat



## Challenges:



- Long-Term Funding for Silviculture – Potential Loss of CCA Funding
- Maintaining Aging Reforestation Facilities and Systems
- Availability of Seed and Seedlings for Reforestation in a Changing Climate

## Opportunities:



- USFS Seed Orchard Restoration
- Webster Nursery Infrastructure Improvements & Expansion
- Optimization of Silvicultural Practices to Improve Stand Productivity and Resilience



# HCP & Scientific Consultation

## Updates:



- T3 Watershed Experiment Implementation in the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF)
- Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC® C012959) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Certifications
- Additional 600+ acres of old growth identified and conserved



## Challenges:



- Providing scientific consultations on legislatively funded forest management goals with limited qualified scientist recruitment pool
- Providing scientific information to decision makers and stakeholders regarding policy decisions

## Opportunities:



- Accelerating HCP habitat attainments through legislatively funded goals
- Completing HCP Headwaters Strategy
- Contributing to USFWS Barred Owl Management Plan



# Informatics

## Updates:



- Collected over 3,600 plots for our current inventory system and 19,600 plots across western WA for a separate intensive inventory system. A comparative analysis of systems will be performed (HB1168, BNR Resolution 1591)
- Formulating SHC technical modeling project structure with documentation of steps, requirements and methodology

## Challenges:



- Significant deliverable delays and staff turnover due to the 2019 SHC Lawsuit
- Additional large and detailed requirements (inventory plots, model reviews, audit, statistical and modeling analyses) from HB1168 and BNR Resolution 1591
- Clarity in SHC policy interpretations to inform SHC model formulations

## Opportunities:



- Sustainable Harvest Calculations – Decision by BNR on format of problem statements for model formulations
- Opportunity for BNR to test and assess risk of policy decisions on harvest planning





# Recreation and Conservation Division

**Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn, Division Manager**

Recreation  
Conservation  
Natural Heritage Program  
Natural Areas



# Recreation Program

## Updates:



- Increasing staff capacity statewide with “Backlogged Maintenance Funding”
- Completed initial OARR Plan engagement with Tribes, Beneficiaries and the public in February
- Increasing outreach and collaboration with Tribes through Recreation Impacts Inter-Agency and Tribes project



## Challenge:



- Balancing increased demand for recreation development with increased concerns about impacts
- No current capacity for data collection (visitation, impacts, etc.)



## Opportunities:



- Working with Board to develop a Commercial Recreation Policy if 2024 request legislation is successful
- Target shooting management (2024 legislative budget request)
- OARR Plan drafting and completion by December 2024



# Conservation Program

## Updates:



- Restoring 2008 staffing reductions with Climate Commitment Act dollars, including staffing all six regions with Natural Area managers
- Engaging Natural Heritage Advisory Council on future site proposals
- Developing grant proposals for restoration and acquisitions



## Challenge:



- Growing need for more science staff with increasing demand for scientific data collection and analysis in multiple program areas
- Uncertainty around Climate Commitment Act funding



## Opportunities:



- Working with external conservation partners on shared mission
- Advocating for program needs by sharing the conservation program mission
- Focusing efforts on long and short-term planning to guide program priorities



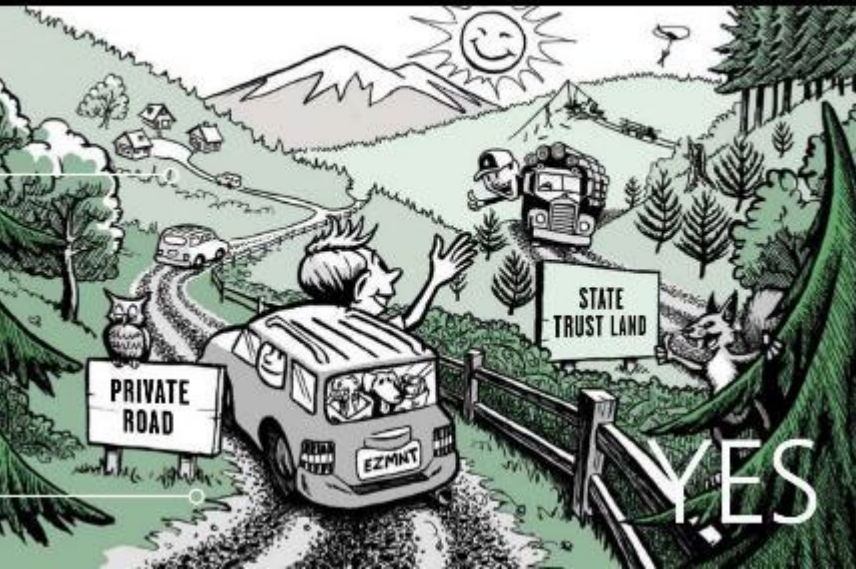
# Engineering Division

Dale Mix, Division Manager

Title and Records Office  
Rights of Way  
Forest Roads  
Land Survey  
Photogrammetry



PRIVATE ROAD WITH LEGAL ACCESS



# Engineering Division

## Did you know?:



- Title Reports containing ownership information for management decisions for activities on State Lands are produced in the Title Records Office.
- Easement applications for WSDOT injunction fish barrier restoration projects exceed current staff capacity

## Challenge:



- Aging road infrastructure is out-pacing current funding sources.
- Some residents use DNR roads to access their property without the legal right to do so and without paying fair market value as required by RCW 79.36.370

## Opportunities:



- Develop a funding source for road maintenance made necessary by high volumes of public traffic
- Scan and archive older aerial photography before it deteriorates to the point of being no longer usable



# Engineering Division

## Did you know?:



- Title reports may contain vital information for managing endangered species, such as the pygmy rabbit shown here:



## Challenge:



- The State Lands Survey Unit is not staffed for both surveying boundaries of Trust Land Transfer acquisitions and boundaries for timber sales

## Opportunities:



- The Public Lands Survey is making progress scanning and archiving older survey records, and there are still many to complete

# Strategic Planning Office

**Duane Emmons**, Assistant Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands

Acquisitions and Divestitures  
Projects and Planning  
Trust Outreach  
Special Projects

# Acquisitions & Divestitures

## Updates:



- \$70 million proviso work
- Trust Land Transfer
- Home Sites
- Commercial Real Estate



## Challenges:



- Over 130 transactions pending – 40 high value, 15 urgent but low value
- Real Estate Excise Tax
- Appraisal Costs

## Opportunities:



- New Land Transaction Authorities
- Compensating Tax Bill
- Increased Staffing





# Projects & Planning

## Updates:



- Older Forests & Carbon proviso
- Ecosystem Services proviso
- Eastside Sustainable Harvest
- Westside Sustainable Harvest



## Challenges:



- Provisos are consuming bandwidth for Trust Land Performance Initiatives
- Multiple planning efforts utilize the same staff experts



## Opportunities:



- Contracts for older forest & carbon work could provide input into SHC
- Eastside SHC allows for review of older procedures



# Questions?



