



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES



2024 CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT

ABOUT US

THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES WAS ORIGINALLY CREATED UNDER P.L. 1-8, FORMERLY CODIFIED IN PART OF CMC §§ 2651, ET SEQ. EXECUTIVE ORDER 94-3 (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 23, 1994) REORGANIZED THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE BRANCH, CHANGED THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES. IN 1997, THE LEGISLATURE PASSED THE “PUBLIC LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES ADMINISTRATIVE ACT OF 1997” AND BECAME PUBLIC LAW 10-57 ON APRIL 18, 1997.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

PUBLIC LAW 10-57 REPEALED AND REENACTED CHAPTER 13, DIVISION 2 OF TITLE 1 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE, 1CMC§§2651, AND STATUTORILY ESTABLISHED THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DLNR) WITH THE STRUCTURE, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH INCLUDE (BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

- TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE ISLAND OF ROTA INCLUDING ITS MARINE ENVIRONMENT.
- TO PROTECT THE ISLAND OF ROTA’S WILDLIFE RESOURCES INCLUDING FISH, GAMES AND ENDANGERED SPECIES
- TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC LANDS SUBJECT TO THE SUPERVISION OF BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS AS PROVIDED BY THIS CHAPTER;
- TO CONDUCT SURVEYS OF PRE-WAR PROPERTIES AND PUBLIC LANDS ON THE ISLAND OF ROTA.
- TO WORK IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY AND DIVISION DIRECTORS TO ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

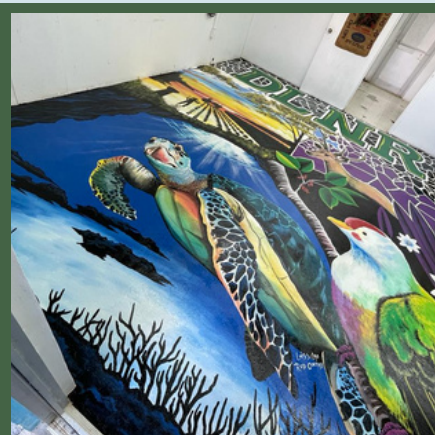
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PROGRESS:

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES (DLNR) IS STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY BUT CONTINUES EFFORTS TO OPERATE WITH AVAILABLE RESOURCES.
- MAIN OFFICE HOUSED AT THE FORMER ROTA HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING FACES AIR CONDITIONING ISSUES.
- FORESTRY SECTION PARTIALLY OCCUPIES THE OLD MAIN OFFICE, DAMAGED BY TYPHOON MANGKHUT IN 2018.
- DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE IS LOCATED IN THE FORMER CHANNEL FIVE BUILDING.
- AWAITING CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DEPARTMENT LOCATION, BUT THE DLNR TEAM CONTINUES TO FULFILL ITS MISSION.

SERVICES AND PROJECTS

- EQUIPMENT SERVICE & EXTENSION SERVICE:
 - PROVIDES SERVICES TO FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND THE COMMUNITY.
 - SUPPORTS THE ROTA BLUE COFFEE PROJECT, WITH 1,000 SEEDLINGS PLANTED AT THE SABANA PLOT AND 200 SEEDLINGS PENDING AT THE NURSERY.
- FORESTRY SECTION:
 - EDUCATES THE PUBLIC ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND RECREATIONAL USE OF FORESTS.
 - PROTECTS ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES AND FOREST CONSERVATION AREAS FROM DEVELOPMENT.
 - WORKS ON REFORESTATION AND PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR THE MAYOR'S 1,000 FRUIT TREE INITIATIVE WITH 547 SEEDLINGS PLANTED AND 453 PENDING.
- LUTA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:
 - COLLABORATES WITH USDA-NRCS SAIPAN AND USDA-FSA GUAM TO ASSIST LOCAL FARMERS WITH FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES.
- COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE (CRB) TEAM:
 - MONITORS AND APPLIES PREVENTATIVE MEASURES FOR THE INVASIVE SPECIES, FIRST IDENTIFIED IN OCTOBER 2017.
 - WORKS WITH THE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL TEAM TO MAINTAIN CRB TRAPS AND PARK GROUNDS.
 - 464 CRB TRAPS, INCLUDING PANELS AND NETTING, HAVE BEEN REPLACED ISLAND-WIDE.

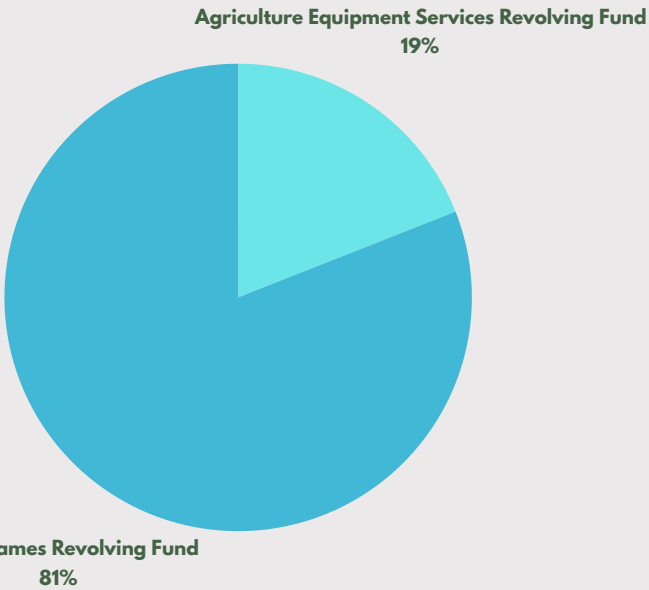
STAFF AND DIVISION UPDATES

- LAND REGISTRATION AND SURVEY:
 - STAFFED BY ONE SURVEYOR III AND ONE SURVEYOR TRAINEE, WHO CONTINUE PUBLIC SERVICE DESPITE LIMITED RESOURCES.
- DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE:
 - ACTIVELY PROTECTS LAND AND MARINE WILDLIFE, FOCUSING ON ENDANGERED SPECIES.

BUDGET

General Funds

General Fund:	\$681,431.00
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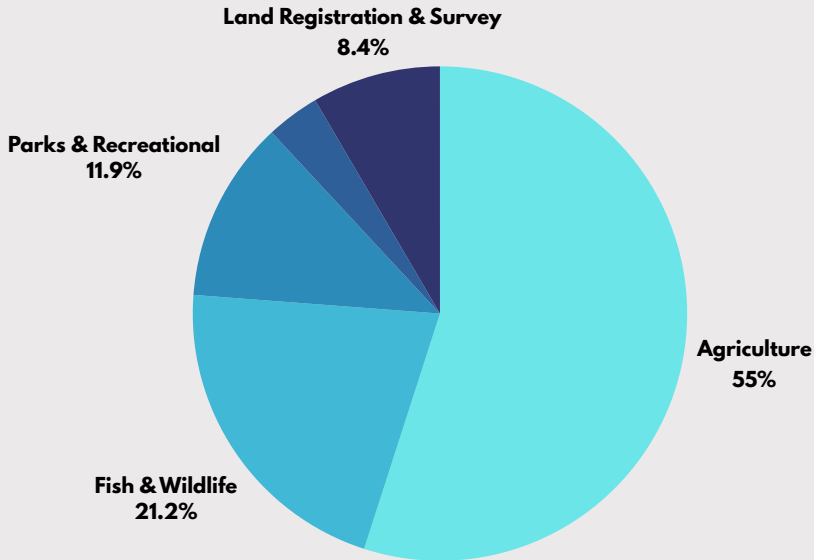


Other Sources

Agriculture Equipment Services Revolving Fund:	\$600.00
Fish & Games Revolving Fund:	\$2,555.00

Personnel Funding

Agriculture	\$370,750.00
Fish & Wildlife	\$143,245.00
Parks & Recreational	\$80,166.00
Soil & Water Conservation	\$23,525.00
Land Resignation & Survey	\$56,815.00



Departments Challenges & Needs:

- **FUNDINGS PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS.**
- **New Department Building needs to be constructed at the new location in Ginalangan.**
- **Restore FTE to all division/section to better function at the minimal capacity.**
- **Purchasing of parts and equipments.**



Future Goals

- **Following up with the anticipated date for construction of the New Building for the Department. Early on year 2025.**
- **Due the financial status, the department was not able to procure all proper equipment needed, during this fiscal year, but continues to work with the poor condition of our department equipment to provide farmers and ranchers with the descend service requested.**
- **Pending formulation of MOA between DPL and DLNR Parks & Recreational; PL:20-09 Section 711.**
- **Equipment Services Fee set at \$12.00 per hour and minimum of 2 hours per request. (Mowing, Disking & Slusher) to generate funds for fuel and equipment repair and maintenance.**
- **Providing better Equipment Service to Farmers and Ranchers.**
- **LSWCD together with USDA-NRCS Saipan and USDA-FSA Guam continues to assist farmers and ranchers of our island. Providing them with the available programs that will assist them with financial and technical assistance.**
- **Rota Blue Coffee continues to propagate a total of 1,200 seedlings.**
- **1,000 had been planted at the designated Coffee Plot in Sabana and 200 seedlings is at the nursery located at the Substation ready to be distributed to interested individual for their use.**
- **Continue preventive measure on the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle. A Total of 464 traps (77 Board Panels & 387 Netting) had been replaced island wide, to maintain and prevent the spread of this invasive species.**
- **Throughout January to September 2024, a total of 15 adult males, 20 adult females, 38 3rd instars, 9 2nd instars, 2 pupas have been found on these traps, on a monthly monitoring.**
- **In collaboration with the Office of the Honorable Mayor Aubry M. Hocog, Beautification project, roadside and visitor sites clean up, as well as the 1,000 fruit tree initiative. A total of 547 of assorted fruits trees and citrus had been planted along the roadsides and available public lands. Pending of 453 seedlings to be planted to complete this project.**