



Possible dedicated funding sources for natural resources

VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE FEE

AMOUNT GENERATED

Some states have imposed a motor vehicle registration fee that goes into a fund to support parks and natural resources. If Ohio imposed a \$5 fee, on its over 11 million passenger cars, non-commercial trucks, RVs, motor homes, house vehicles, motorcycles and non-commercial vehicles it could generate over \$55 million per year. A similar fee on boat registrations would net an additional \$687,630.

\$55,921,420 (vehicle)*

\$687,630 (boat registration)*

*2006 figures

WATER SUPPLY TAP OR CONNECTION FEE

AMOUNT GENERATED

A water supply connection fee would raise as much as \$30 million per year. This estimate is based on the assumptions that 1) there are at least 1 million connections in Ohio and 2) a fee of \$30 per year was charged per connection. Maryland has such a fee that is used to support its natural resources.

\$30,000,000

PLASTIC CONTAINER FEE

AMOUNT GENERATED

The potential gross revenue range for a one cent fee on each plastic container, which could include water bottles, grocery bags, shopping bags, etc, based on 500 containers per household per year is over \$22 million. Note: Ohio had 4,445,773 households according to census data from 2000.

\$22,228,865

REAL ESTATE TRANSFER FEE

AMOUNT GENERATED

Several states use the RETT to support a portion of their natural resources programs, including Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, New York, North Carolina .

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PORTION OF SALES TAX

AMOUNT GENERATED

A small fractional increase in the sales tax would generate a large amount of money and the collection mechanism is already in place. .

\$139,454,545 (1/10th cent share)*

\$348,636,364 (1/4 cent share)*

*2006 figures

OREGON



Lottery

In 1995, \$2.2 million of lottery funds were granted to the Fisheries Restoration and Enhancement Board. Grants of varying amounts are regularly allocated from the Lottery to the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board.

In 1998, Oregon voters approved a constitutional amendment allocating 15 percent of the state's lottery revenues to support for parks and watershed health and habitat conservation programs. These funds are divided equally between the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and a conservation trust fund administered by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Two-thirds of the conservation funds are reserved for capital investments under the constitution. For the 2003-2005 biennium, the watershed board's share of the revenues was expected to total almost \$55 million, but the Legislature allocated about \$25 million to other agencies. The watershed enhancement board allocates most of the lottery funds through a competitive grants program focused on watershed health and habitat conservation, including restoration activities and acquisition of lands and conservation easements. Lottery funds also help support local watershed councils and technical assistance, fish and wildlife law enforcement, education and outreach, and monitoring.

MISSOURI



Sales Tax

The State Parks/Clean Water Initiative provides \$82 million through a one-half of 1% sales tax evenly split between State Parks and Soil Conservation Districts. First approved in 1984 by voter initiative, the fund was recently extended for another 10 years.

Almost two-thirds of Missouri voters renewed the tax in 1988 and in 1996, which is a very high percentage for a sales tax.

State Parks

Consistent funding from the sales tax has allowed the Missouri DNR Division of State Parks to maintain and upgrade the state park system. This has included upgrading electrical sites, increasing the number of electrical campsites, and renovating showerhouses and restrooms.

Water and sewer systems, lagoons and wastewater treatment facilities have been built or upgraded in approximately 30 state parks, ensuring that all environmental standards are met.

Soil and Water Conservation

The majority of the soils side of this tax has been used to assist agricultural landowners through the voluntary programs that are administered by soil and water conservation district boards in each county. The tax helps to promote good farming practices that help keep the soil on the fields.

WASHINGTON



Real Estate Transfer Tax

A two-year transfer tax was enacted in 1987. This tax generated \$18 million in the two years it was in existence, and was used to acquire land for natural area preserves, natural resources conservation areas, and other conservation programs. In 1990 County governments were authorized, with the approval of the majority of voters in the county, to impose a 1% tax on the selling price of real property. The proceeds of the tax are to be used for acquisition and maintenance of conservation areas. One of the thirty-nine counties has imposed this tax.