



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



2025 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 PUBLICLAW 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PUBLIC LAW 10-57 REPEALED AND REENACTED CHAPTER 13, DIVISION 2 OF TITLE 1 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE, 1CMC§§2651, AND STATUTORILY ESTABLISHED THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES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 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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DOING?

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.
- FORESTRY SECTION PARTIALLY OCCUPIES THE OLD MAIN OFFICE, DAMAGED BY TYPHOON MANGKHUT IN 2018.
- DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE HAS BEEN RE-LOCATED TO THE FORMER ROTA HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, IN LIYO.
- AWAITING CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT OFFICE, WHILE THE DLNR TEAM CONTINUES TO FULFILL ITS MISSION.
- DEPARTMENT CONTINUES BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT OF ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP/MOWING/BUSHCUTTING, ETC.

SERVICES AND PROJECTS

- EQUIPMENT SERVICE & EXTENSION SERVICE:
 - PROVIDES SERVICES TO FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND THE COMMUNITY.
 - SUPPORTS THE ROTA BLUE COFFEE PROJECT, WITH APPROXIMATELY 800 TREES (VARIETY OF SIZES) SEEDLINGS PLANTED AT THE SABANA PLOT AND ABOUT 400 MATURE TREES BEING CURRENTLY HARVESTED. THE REST, HOPEFULLY REACHES MATURITY BY DECEMBER.
- FORESTRY SECTION:
 - EDUCATES THE PUBLIC ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND RECREATIONAL USE OF FORESTS.
 - PROTECTS ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES AND FOREST CONSERVATION AREAS FROM DEVELOPMENT.
 - PROVIDED SUPPORT FOR THE MAYOR'S 1,000 FRUIT TREE INITIATIVE. 1,000 FRUIT TREE PLANTING WAS A SUCCESS.
- LUTA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT:
 - COLLABORATES WITH USDA-NRCS SAIPAN AND USDA-FSA GUAM TO ASSIST LOCAL FARMERS WITH FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES.

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.
 - PARTICIPATED IN THE 2025 BUD LIGHT LUTA FISHING DERBY.
 - ROTA DOG CONTROL IN PROGRESS. REGISTRATION OF DOGS WILL COMMENCE ON NOVEMBER 01, 2025.

Departments Challenges & Needs:

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



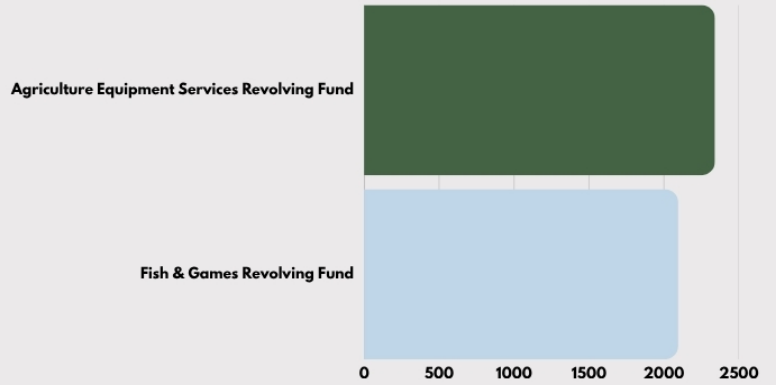
Future Goals

- **Following up with the anticipated date for construction of the New Building in Ginalangan for the Department. DPL designated old DLNR Building, ready for re-construction.**
- **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.**
- **To continue to provide and extend better Equipment Services 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 100 seedlings.**
- **800 had been planted at the designated Coffee Plot in Sabana and 100 seedlings is at the nursery located at the Substation awaiting sprouting.**
- **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 1,000 of assorted fruits trees and citrus had been planted along the roadsides and available public lands.**

BUDGET

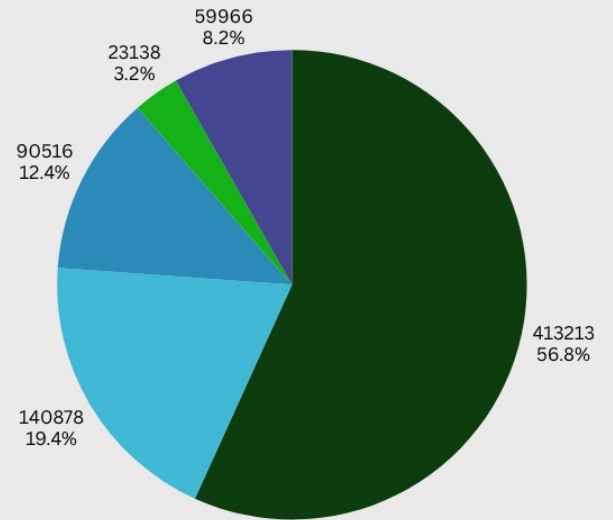
Other Sources

Agriculture Equipment Services Revolving Fund:	\$2,340
Fish & Games Revolving Fund:	\$2,095



Personnel Funding

Agriculture	\$413,213.00
Fish & Wildlife	\$140,878.00
Parks & Recreational	\$90,516.00
Soil & Water Conservation	\$23,138.00
Land Resignation & Survey	\$59,966.00



Operations

Agriculture	\$14,132.00
Fish & Wildlife	\$1,409.00
Parks & Recreational	\$905.00
Soil & Water Conservation	\$231.00
Land Resignation & Survey	\$600.00

