

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – AUGUST 16, 2017

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Approval for the August 16, 2017 Meeting Agenda**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to approve the August 16<sup>th</sup> agenda.
  2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from June 21, 2017 Meeting**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Boyles Griffin moved to approve the June 21, 2017 meeting minutes.
  2. Commissioner Schroyer seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**10-Year Deer Plan Revision Update** – Presentation given by Deer Project Leader Brian Eyler.

- Mr. Eyler reminded the Commission members about the email they received on July 20<sup>th</sup> about the 10-Year Deer Plan.
- Mr. Eyler mentioned that if the Commission members have any feedback or questions about the 10-Year Deer Plan to send questions or feedback to [brian.eyler@maryland.gov](mailto:brian.eyler@maryland.gov).
- Staff are working on the questions for the public opinion survey on the deer management plan.
- The Maryland 10-Year White-tailed Deer Plan Revision –Approximate Timeline was handed out to the Commission. [ATTACHMENT A]
- The Commission received a copy the summary of the White-tailed Deer Plan 2009-2018 goals, objectives, and strategies. [ATTACHMENT B]

**Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) Administration Update and WHS FY17 and FY18 Budget Update** – Presentation given by Associate Director Glenn Therres.

- Mr. Therres gave an update on the WHS Administration Program in a Power Point Presentation. [ATTACHMENT C]
- Mr. Therres provided an example of Special Funds, such as hunting license revenue. Special Funds are used for wildlife conservation specific purposes. The Wildlife Management and Protection fund is made up of all hunting license and stamp funds and is basically WHS' primary operation funding source.
- The itemized slide demonstrated the FY18 projected expenditures.
- WHS is funded by approximately 50% State Special Funds and 50% Federal matching funds.
- All of the Federal Aid funding sources have restrictions from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the use of those funds.
- Associate Director Glenn Therres handed out the WHS' FY17 and FY18 budget appropriations. [ATTACHMENT D]
- Funding is often impossible to spend during the current fiscal year due to the time required by state law or policy to effect a legally binding bid for high-priced machinery or higher-valued contracts. Often these requisitions will exceed one year and are almost always subject to several months of procurement process – putting those expenditures into following fiscal year and leaving the agency with what appears to be unspent appropriation.
- Discussion ensued about oversight of Special Funds and Federal Aid with the Board of Public Works. The Board of Public Works has the oversight of General Funds along with oversight of

Special Funds and Federal Aid which are not Maryland's tax dollars. Several states in the north east have the same procurement procedures.

- The USFWS allows the WHS to use funding for overhead. WHS funding sources are not exclusive. Our funding sources support the Office of Secretary, Information and Technology, Office of Communication, and Natural Resources Police.
- Food plots on wildlife management areas are federally funded...food plots are allocated from regional supplies and materials chart of account. WHS has not used new federal aid money to purchase new WMAs. WHS uses that money to manage WMAs. Each WHS regional manager has a regional budget to manage WMAs. If staff would obtain new land, the regional manager will coordinate with staff to get it ready for public access, which would include hunting opportunities.
- WHS does not receive any operational or start up monies from the acquisition process. There is a transfer tax from any real estate transaction that underwrites acquisition of public land. WHS manages 125,000 acres of land. DNR receives new lands almost every month through the Board of Public Works process.

### **Break 11:00 AM through 11:10 AM**

#### **Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Update** – Presentation given by Colby Ferguson, Government Relations Director

- Mr. Ferguson mentioned that MFB, and DNR met on July 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss crop damage and wildlife management at the Maryland Farm Bureau Office in Davidsonville, Maryland. Deputy Secretary Joanne Thowe and Assistant Secretary Daryl Anthony attended this meeting with Mr. Ferguson and a number of farmers from across Maryland. Also in attendance was one of the deer “sharpshooter” cooperators from Libby Brothers.
  1. The meeting was dominated by attendance from Eastern Region farmers.
  2. There were a few farmers attending from Central and Southern Regions.
  3. The discussion was centered on white-tailed deer and sika deer along with the discussion about DNR obtaining more public lands and unable to maintain the wildlife on these lands.
  4. There was discussion about creating deer cooperator permits for farmers that would allow nighttime shooting and the use of silencers. In the MFB opinion, the current model of the deer cooperator permit is not geared towards the agricultural community.
  5. The farmers are tired of taking 15% loss off the top every year.
  6. The farmers are tired of being the poster child for hunters to try to get more liberal bag limits and more hunting days. The farmers are caught being in the middle between the individuals against hunting and the hunting community.
  7. The MFB walked away with action items.
- Mr. Ferguson mentioned that there are several action items from the MFB and DNR meeting. Staff are working on a new deer cooperator permit for the agricultural community. Staff are working on a test but it will have a less rigorous requirement and more in line with someone who is controlling deer on agricultural lands.
- Mr. Ferguson expressed that he is so surprised that the farmers are this tolerant.
- Director Peditto indicated that some of the action items will require policy changes, some are likely law changes and others are probably regulations changes.
- The Commission discussed the fact that there are farmers who lease their properties to allow deer hunting - and are paid a lot of money to do so. The same farmers do not want to upset the deer hunters that are leasing their properties because the farmers make good money on these lease agreements. In addition, the Department has to be careful in issuing a Deer Cooperator Permit or

night-shooting permits because there are other stakeholders who have an interest in deer – hunters and non-hunters in particular, who do not farm.

- Discussion ensued again about deer management tools along with the cost of doing business on agricultural lands. One of the action items that came from the MFB and DNR meeting is to check with the Maryland Correctional Enterprises (prisons) about their ability to process deer.
- Other issues were raised:
  1. Hunting license dollars are paying for issuance of the deer management permits to farmers.
  2. Most farmer/landowners do not purchase a hunting license so they do not contribute to the funding that underwrites the assistance DNR-WHS provides to farmers.
  3. The Department has several action items from the MFB and DNR meeting. The Department is working on these actions. The Department will meet again with the MFB.
  4. Staff will be attending the MFB December Convention and staff will listen to members of MFB wildlife committee as they respond to the Department's implementing more deer management tools for the farmers to use.
  5. Some of these changes will be policies and will not be vetted through the stakeholders' process. Commissioner Michael mentioned that using a different process could be problematic.

#### **Natural Resource Police Update** – Presentation given by Sgt. Satterfield

- Sgt. Satterfield indicated that officers were busy doing background checks.
- The aviation status is still pending. NRP is hoping that the aviation unit will remain.
- Sgt. Satterfield expressed that Major Ingerson wanted Sgt. Satterfield to talk about hunter orange for landowners, spouses, and children. Historically, the first year of a new change like this, NRP would provide education, not citations. The preferred method will be a written warning.
  1. This season, landowners are required to wear fluorescent orange.
  2. Keep in mind, the original law only exempted the landowner (s). If the spouse was not listed as a landowner, then the spouse had to wear fluorescent orange along with the children.
  3. Basically, the landowners just need to put on a fluorescent orange cap.
- There is an active investigation related to the illegal fishing in Dorchester County so Sgt. Satterfield could not provide an update.
- Sgt. Satterfield had no knowledge related to the shooting of the velvet bucks that were left to die in a field in Dorchester County. Chairman Compton requested that Sgt. Satterfield provide an update at the next WAC meeting.
  1. The Department received a formal request that included a complaint along with an inquiry to provide information on deer management permits in general and how many permits are issued, how often the permits are used, and specific questions related to law enforcement from the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.
  2. Staff provided a response through the Secretary's office.

#### **Old Business**

- Chairman Compton reminded the Commission about the field day for September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The Commission will be at the wildlife office at the Gwynnbrook WMA and the following items are offered:
  1. Drone Demonstration
  2. Air Bow Demonstration
  3. Managed Hunt Program Overview
  4. Sunflower Field Discussion

- Director Peditto provided the Commission an overview of the issues related to the McKee-Beshers WMA sunflower fields. The sunflowers fields are planted for wildlife management and the funding source is from hunter dollars.

### **New Business**

- Director Peditto announced the retirement of Associate Director Peter Jayne to the Commission. The Commission members thanked Mr. Peter Jayne for his service and congratulated him on his retirement.
- Chairman Compton discussed with the Commission the lack of quorum for certain months and whether we had the ability to use some of the conference technology including using the Smartboard for members of the Commission who cannot attend.
  1. Commissioner Boyles Griffin indicated that it is not good idea to just conference in but if a member of the Commission could not make a meeting; the technology would have to be something like Skype. Commissioner Michael agreed with Commissioner Boyles Griffin suggestion.
  2. Director Peditto informed the Commission about concerns as to whether that person is on a public line and how we would manage the process since the Smartboard is not interactive.
  3. Commissioner Michael responded that the meeting minutes are excellent and minutes allow the Commission to be transparent so the Commission meets the requirement of being transparent.
  4. Commissioner Gulbrandsen mentioned that what would really help the Commission is to have a quorum and have nine members serving Commission as written in the law.
  5. From the discussion among the Commission, there are no members from Southern Maryland and no new minority representative.
  6. Chairman Compton agreed to reach out to former Commission member Charles Rodney about obtaining contact information for individuals that may be interested in serving on the Commission.
  7. The Department does not have the authority to maintain a list of candidates to serve on an appointed body.
  8. Chairman Compton announced to the Commission that anyone who knows someone that is interested in serving on the Commission should submit an application to the Governor's Appointment Office.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

### **Attendance**

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, J. Michael, and J. Schroyer
Absent:	M. Goetze and R. Weinberg
Guest:	C. Ferguson
Staff:	B. Eyer, P. Jayne, J. Moulis, S. Satterfield, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, G. Therres

## Maryland 10-Year White-tailed Deer Plan Revision -Approximate Timeline

### Summer 2017

- Update **Wildlife Advisory Commission (WAC)** regarding the start of the deer plan revision process and solicit input.
- Select stakeholders and invite them to participate in the revision process.
- Initiate contracting procedures to hire a public opinion survey firm to conduct a telephone opinion survey of the Maryland general public, landowners, and hunters regarding deer and deer management in Maryland.

### Fall 2017

- Convene stakeholders to identify deer management areas of interest/focus topics (this information will be used to refine the public opinion survey).
- Conduct three staff meetings to solicit input regarding deer management in Maryland (also to be used for 2018 regulatory process).
- Work with selected contractor to develop public opinion survey and perform survey.

### Winter 2017

- Receive telephone survey results from contractor and review results.
- Distribute survey results to **WAC**, stakeholders, staff. Post survey final report on DNR web page.

### Spring 2018

- Convene stakeholders to discuss survey results. Brief **WAC** at selected monthly meeting.

### Summer 2018

- Solicit public input regarding deer management in Maryland via web forum, telephone, and in writing.
- Conduct public meetings distributed across the state and present an overview of deer management, the telephone opinion survey results, and results from the stakeholders meeting.

### Fall & Winter 2018

- Provide a summary of the public comments on the DNR web page and to **WAC**, stakeholders, and staff.
- Revise deer plan using all forms of input that were received. Solicit comments on revised draft from **WAC**, stakeholders, and staff.

### Spring 2019

- Release final draft plan for 30-day public comment period. Send the final draft to **WAC**, stakeholders, and staff for final comments.

### Summer 2019

- Release final version of 2020-2029 revised 10-Year White-tailed Deer Management Plan.

### Current Deer Plan:

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Documents/2009-2018MarylandWTDDeerPlan.pdf>

# Maryland



## White-tailed Deer Plan

2009-2018

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) currently garner more attention than any other wildlife species in Maryland. Wildlife-watchers, photographers and hunters contribute millions of dollars each year to the state's economy while pursuing deer. At the same time, deer are responsible for Maryland's farmers and other citizens sustaining millions of dollars worth of damage to crops, landscaping and vehicles. Managing the deer population to satisfy recreational interests, while at the same time reducing damage concerns, is a challenging and controversial process.

White-tailed deer were plentiful in Maryland at the time of settlement in the 1600s. However, market-hunting and habitat destruction nearly extirpated deer from the state by 1900. The early 1900s through the 1960s was a period of population restoration and deer proliferated due to ideal habitat conditions and the protection of female deer from harvest. By the 1980s, management philosophies across much of the state changed from restoring deer to stabilizing and reducing deer numbers.

Active management of deer is a necessity in Maryland today if we are to maintain population levels compatible with the varied interests of the citizens of the state. As an evolutionary prey species, deer exhibit a high fecundity rate, enabling them to rapidly increase in number. Presently, non-lethal management techniques (such as contraceptives) and non-hunting mortality (disease, injuries and predators) are not sufficient to maintain deer populations at satisfactory levels. The lethal control of deer via regulated hunting remains the most effective way to balance the deer population with environmental and cultural concerns on a landscape scale. However, lethal control of deer is not always feasible in the more densely populated urban areas of the state. As a result, the Maryland Deer Management Plan addresses non-lethal deer management concepts and promotes their investigation and use to complement hunting and other lethal strategies so that MDNR may implement a full suite of management options statewide.

Along with addressing the use of lethal and non-lethal practices for deer management, the revised Deer Management Plan documents the history of white-tailed deer and white-tailed deer management in Maryland. It describes the current population status of white-tailed deer and white-tailed deer hunters in the state and covers some positive and negative impacts of deer. Finally, the Plan documents the responsibilities of the MDNR deer management program and outlines five major goals (Population, Education, Recreation, Damage and Operational Resources) and the underlying strategies and objectives for achieving those goals.

The revised Deer Management Plan is intended to represent the interests of all Marylanders and non-resident stakeholders who have an interest in Maryland's deer population. Therefore, the revised plan was created with extensive input from the public. Outreach efforts included a 25-member stakeholder group, a public phone survey, comments solicited at seven public meetings, and input from letters, email, the Internet and phone calls. Deer experts external to MDNR provided a technical review of the draft plan. The 2009 – 2018 Maryland Deer Management Plan will provide the foundation for all deer management activities and decisions for the coming 10 years.

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

This section identifies the broad, long-term goals for managing white-tailed deer in Maryland through 2018. The goals were developed with input from the white-tailed deer plan stakeholder group, WAC, general public comment, and MDNR expert opinion. These goals represent the values of a diverse citizenry and are general statements of how deer management in Maryland should proceed over the next 10 years.

Following each goal are objectives and strategies. The objectives describe how the goals will be achieved and some have measureable milestones. For those objectives that do not have a milestone, it is assumed the action will occur throughout the duration of the plan unless the objective should change. Under each objective, specific strategies are listed that further detail how the objectives and ultimate goal will be met.

While the broad goals for this plan should not change over the next 10 years, it is possible the objectives and strategies will change given the dynamic nature of deer management. Changing social, environmental, technical, administrative and political conditions can quickly alter deer management priorities and objectives. To be effective, a deer management program and its guiding plan must be adaptable to these potential changes. Therefore, objectives and strategies currently addressed in the white-tailed deer plan may not be accomplished or may be modified or replaced with other objectives and strategies in the future.

**Population Goal: Use diverse and progressive methods to ensure the long-term viability of Maryland's white-tailed deer population through comprehensive research, efficient monitoring, public outreach, trained staff and effective management.**

MDNR is legislatively mandated (§10-202) to conserve and manage the wildlife resources of the state. The management of white-tailed deer, one of Maryland's most prominent wildlife species, over the next 10 years will demand an increasingly refined approach based on sound science and public acceptance. Scrutiny of deer management techniques has become more intense from both the proponents and opponents of any given management option. This scrutiny requires the careful and thoughtful review of any new or existing program if it is to remain viable. A focus on lethal control is insufficient to comprehensively manage this resource. A publicly accepted deer program must necessarily remain current on lethal and non-lethal options, and use both judiciously.

Maryland is rapidly urbanizing, yet much of that development is focused in certain portions of the state, creating a mix of suburban and rural landscapes with very different deer management profiles. Deer management over the next decade must therefore shift into at least two increasingly diverse approaches, one for suburban settings and another for rural areas.

Objective 1: Identify or develop a metric (antlered deer harvest per square mile, population model estimate, etc.) to identify deer population trends (increasing population, stable population, or decreasing population) at the county level by February 1, 2010.



Strategy 1: Evaluate current data and model estimates already in place and determine if a satisfactory metric exists.

Strategy 2: Survey other states and scientific literature to determine available metrics for determining deer population trends.

Objective 2: Using the methodology developed in Objective 1, establish a deer population trend goal, (increase deer population, stabilize deer population, or decrease deer population) for each county by March, 2010. Update the population objective biennially.

Strategy 1: Determine the current deer population trend (increasing, stable, or decreasing) for each county and develop management proposals.

Strategy 2: Obtain public opinion on population trends from stakeholder groups, public meetings, comments, or surveys.

Strategy 3: Where necessary, use unique or experimental techniques to determine the deer population trend (for example, in suburban areas where traditional data collection methods may be inappropriate or inadequate).

Strategy 4: Evaluate requests to develop deer population trend objectives from municipalities and other areas as needed.

Objective 3: Use a diverse set of management tools to achieve or maintain the desired deer population trend objective for each county or other identified area.

Strategy 1: Use the regulatory process to adjust lethal control rates (i.e., deer hunting seasons and bag limits) up or down to achieve or maintain desired deer population trend objectives, with an emphasis on regulated hunting.

Strategy 2: Use non-lethal population control methods where feasible to meet desired deer population trend objectives.

Strategy 3: Use adaptive management to define management regions by grouping similar counties and/or municipalities in order to simplify hunting regulations and manage deer at a landscape scale.

Strategy 4: Foster the use of regulated hunting for deer population management while maximizing recreational opportunities for hunters.

Strategy 5: Maintain or increase the ability of deer hunters to access public and private land without prohibitive fees or other barriers.

Strategy 6: Recognize the special management needs of urban/suburban entities and facilitate any appropriate additional opportunities for deer population management.

Objective 4: Develop and maintain a current understanding of potential management techniques that can be used in populated and other unique areas where traditional lethal deer management techniques cannot be effectively employed.

Strategy 1: When available, use new techniques on a trial basis and monitor their effectiveness.

Strategy 2: Cooperate with non-traditional partners to identify feasible new techniques and apply them as appropriate.

Strategy 3: Continue to cooperate on research studies of non-lethal deer management techniques including contraceptives.

Strategy 4: Monitor the continual development of deer contraceptives and create an applicator certification program within one year of the certification of a deer contraceptive agent that MDNR determines is viable for use in Maryland.

Objective 5: Recognize and evaluate other sources of potential deer mortality and the corresponding impacts on deer (and other animal populations) and identify ways to address these impacts.

Strategy 1: Monitor deer diseases and proactively initiate programs to minimize the threat to other wildlife populations and Maryland citizens.

Strategy 2: Strictly limit the possession of live cervids in Maryland in a way that minimizes the transfer of disease to wild deer, domestic animals and humans.

Strategy 3: Strictly limit the importation of dead cervids or parts from areas of the country with diseases of concern.

Strategy 4: Monitor the potential threats created by trends in deer management, such as feeding/baiting, the use of natural deer lures, the development of tick control methodologies or other potentially hazardous practices. When warranted, address these activities via the regulatory process.

Strategy 5: Remain current or initiate research on the impacts large predators (especially coyotes and bears) have on deer populations.

Objective 6: Proactively inform Maryland citizens of our management approach, goals and techniques so they may gain a better understanding of what options are available, what the anticipated outcomes are for those options and why we selected the ones we have in place.

Strategy 1: Identify and use effective mechanisms to get information on Maryland's deer management program to the general public (see Education Goal, pg. 41).

Objective 7: Maintain a staff of well trained, properly equipped and adequately protected employees to conduct deer related work in Maryland.

Strategy 1: Provide periodic training and certification of staff so they are current on proper techniques. This would include refresher training.

Strategy 2: Communicate with health officials in the state to proactively inform staff on the health risks associated with handling deer and equip them with the proper protective gear.

**Education Goal: Educate Maryland citizens on all aspects of deer biology, including management tools, disease issues, economic aspects and recreational opportunities.**

This goal is intended to increase the public's understanding of deer biology and the impacts deer have on landscapes and people. A number of outreach mechanisms exist and these should be carefully selected to enable WHS to reach a diverse set of customers. An emphasis should be placed on providing information on the realities of deer population dynamics and the impacts too many deer can have on cultural interests, habitat and other wildlife species. Concurrent with this emphasis should be a focus on non-lethal and lethal management tools. Finally, information on the recreational opportunities provided by deer should be included.

Objective 1: Increase the public understanding of deer biology and the impacts deer have on habitat, people, water quality, and the health of the Bay.

Strategy 1: Provide current and useful information on the MDNR Website in a way that is easy to navigate. This information should be diverse in order to appeal to the general public, not just specific user groups.

Strategy 2: Provide press releases, media interviews and popular articles covering diverse subjects related to deer.

Strategy 3: Partner with other organizations to conduct deer related outreach on topics compatible with the WHS message.

Strategy 4: Increase outreach efforts to schools by continuing and expanding the use of educational deer trunks and other tools to ensure this approach is consistent with what the school systems want to use.

Objective 2: Assist community groups or other organizations in managing specific deer populations and provide staff support to accomplish shared goals when appropriate.

Strategy 1: Make presentations to organized groups to provide the different management options available to address problems in specific situations, such as communities, local government tracts, corporate holdings, military bases or school campuses.

Strategy 2: Advise these groups how they can use public hunting as the preferred management option and, where feasible, consider enrolling any resulting program in a WHS operated managed hunt program.

Objective 3: Increase the public's understanding and acceptance of regulated deer hunting and its importance as a management tool.

Strategy 1: Using the outreach mechanisms noted above, provide timely and focused information on the role deer hunting has in managing this population in Maryland.

Strategy 2: Proactively provide information on the safety of deer hunting for participants and non-participants.

Strategy 3: Establish deer hunting regulations that promote the safe, fair and ethical pursuit of this species in order to remain compatible with the values of the majority of Maryland citizens.

Objective 4: Increase public understanding of non-lethal deer management techniques in a manner that allows them to make informed decisions on the applicability of these techniques in a given situation.

Strategy 1: Using the outreach mechanisms noted above, provide timely and focused information on new and existing non-lethal deer management options and the likely outcomes they would produce in common circumstances.

Objective 5: Focus outreach efforts on the impacts deer have on the ecosystem, to include the deleterious effects high deer densities have on other fauna, flora, water quality, and the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Strategy 1: As they become available, use the outreach mechanisms noted above to provide timely and focused information on the impacts deer have on the environment. Where possible, tie this information to issues related to the health of the Chesapeake Bay, focusing on the role sound ecosystems have on water quality and the diversity of the Bay's living resources.

Objective 6: Educate Maryland deer hunters on the concept of Quality Deer Management (QDM) and encourage voluntary use of QDM.

Strategy 1: Work with the Quality Deer Management Association to develop a progressive and complete technical assistance program to guide landowners, clubs and hunters on voluntary adherence to QDM standards.

Strategy 2: Provide current and user-friendly QDM information on the MDNR website and in the annual hunting license guide.

Strategy 3: As work priorities allow, train selected staff on the application of QDM and have staff available to assist landowners, clubs, or hunters in applying this approach where they manage deer.

**Recreation Goal: Provide the opportunity for all citizens to safely, fairly and ethically enjoy diverse deer-related recreational experiences and traditions consistent with established deer population trend goals.**

Enjoyment of the deer resource in Maryland is very diverse, ranging from casual enjoyment by citizens incidental to other activities, to intensely focused hunting with strong traditional connections. The economic benefit of these uses is considerable, exceeding \$150 million annually in Maryland. Deer hunters spend an estimated 800,000 days afield each year pursuing deer

Objective 1: Provide adequate viewing opportunities of white-tailed deer combined with an outreach program designed to inform citizens on the biological and cultural aspects of deer.

Strategy 1: Incorporate input from non-consumptive white-tailed deer users into the biennial establishment of deer population objectives (Population Goal, Objective 2).

Strategy 2: Provide educational programs on the biology and cultural issues of deer designed to reach diverse audiences in Maryland.

Objective 2: Identify new non-consumptive deer-related recreational demands as they occur and develop quantifiable objectives for non-consumptive deer-related recreation.

Strategy 1: Use surveys, review popular literature, etc. to identify new non-consumptive demands for white-tailed deer. Use stakeholder groups/public input as needed to develop quantifiable objectives.

Objective 3: Consistent with deer population objectives and the legislative mandate to conserve and manage the wildlife of Maryland, maintain an annual average of 800,000 hunter-days for deer hunting.

Strategy 1: Incorporate input from consumptive white-tailed deer users (i.e., hunters) into the biennial establishment of deer population objectives.

Strategy 2: Use regulated hunting as the primary tool to achieve deer population objectives.

Strategy 3: Ensure that deer hunting regulations are responsive to the needs and traditions of the hunting community while remaining compatible with the expectations of the majority of the public.

Strategy 4: Recognize the value of venison donation programs in Maryland and support to the extent our resources allow.

Strategy 5: Promote deer hunting among youth, women, and non-traditional groups.

Strategy 6: Develop a deer hunter satisfaction index that can be administered annually via the Hunter Mail Survey.

Objective 4: Investigate and potentially endorse new deer hunting opportunities, techniques and management options that provide increased recreation, meet user expectations and help reach or maintain established deer population objectives. Monitor new techniques for long term feasibility, safety and compatibility with the cultural values of deer hunters and the general public.

Strategy 1: Evaluate the biological need to use new management approaches (such as Quality Deer Management) in order to meet or maintain established deer population objectives. Enact the appropriate regulation(s) when these programs, or the components of these programs, will significantly assist in achieving population objectives. Combine these new regulations with effective education programs.

Strategy 2: Evaluate the cultural demand to use new management approaches (such as Quality Deer Management) in order to increase user satisfaction. Be responsive to those demands in a manner that maintains hunting as the primary tool used to reach or maintain deer population objectives, is compatible with the desires of the majority of our users, and is culturally acceptable to the general public.

Strategy 3: Evaluate the safety and efficacy of new hunting techniques, seasons or weapons and review these for compatibility with hunter expectations and acceptance by the general public. This evaluation should consider local conditions that impact the ability of hunting to meet or maintain population objectives. Examples would be suburban areas, areas with localized ecological concerns or land tracts with unique conditions (such as urban parks or corporate grounds). Enact the appropriate regulations if the evaluations show positive results.

Objective 5: Ensure deer hunting remains a safe, fair and ethical activity that meets the expectations of the majority of Maryland citizens.

Strategy 1: Maintain high standards for the hunter and firearm safety programs required in Maryland.

Strategy 2: Promote the Hunter Education Program and provide technical assistance and advice to Natural Resources Police personnel who oversee the program.

Strategy 3: Evaluate, improve and standardize hunter qualification courses required to participate in managed hunts on public grounds.

Strategy 4: Retain or create regulations to keep hunting safe, fair and ethical while keeping this activity the most effective tool available to meet or maintain population trend goals.

Strategy 5: Ensure enforcement of deer hunting laws and regulations remains a priority of the agency.

**Damage Goal: Identify and actively address the negative impacts the deer population has on human interests and the ecosystem in a manner consistent with the long term viability of the deer population in Maryland.**

This goal includes economic losses as well as situations that detract from the overall quality of life for Maryland citizens. Economic losses can be wide ranging, from agricultural impacts to deer-vehicle collisions or damage to ornamental plantings. The overall quality of life includes a wide range of issues, including human health, safety, hygiene and peace of mind.

Ecosystem impacts are just being recognized, usually in very qualitative ways with little data available to establish in measurable terms what these impacts are or where they are most critical. It is necessary to document the impacts deer may be having on various natural communities before the value of any remedial action can be assessed.

Objective 1: Reduce deer-vehicle collisions across Maryland as measured by the number of vehicles registered in the state compared to the frequency of reported deer strikes.

Strategy 1: Continue to educate the public on defensive driving techniques by issuing press releases to the media at strategic times.

Strategy 2: Encourage state, county and city highway departments to maintain or erect new fences and incorporate wildlife passage ways under/over roads.

Strategy 3: Work in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to improve the reporting of deer-vehicle collisions and develop models to determine the relationships between habitat, geography and road conditions



with the frequency of a deer-vehicle collision occurrence. Use this information to target education and prevention measures to problem areas.

Strategy 4: Continue to participate in interstate and interagency task forces concerning deer-vehicle collision reduction strategies.

Strategy 5: Work with local governments, communities and other owners of open space to reduce deer populations in high traffic areas via managed hunting, Deer Cooperators or non-lethal approaches that remove deer.

Objective 2: Reduce deer damage incurred by agricultural producers in Maryland.

Strategy 1: Partner with leaders in the agricultural community to address deer damage in ways that are economically feasible, culturally acceptable and compatible with recreational hunting interests.

Strategy 2: Continue to issue Deer Management Permits as per existing protocols. Review the protocols every five years at a minimum to ensure compatibility with the expectations and needs of recipients and staff.

Strategy 3: Offer guidance to producers concerning alternative deer damage control measures (fencing, repellents, dogs, etc.). Monitor the progress of some of these approaches to ascertain effectiveness, using the results to further educate producers and refine techniques.

Strategy 4: Establish regular deer hunting seasons and bag limits in a manner intended to reach population objectives. These goals should be established to meet many criteria, including being responsive to agricultural interests.

Strategy 5: Identify public tracts of land with high deer populations that are adjacent to, or near agricultural producers and work with the managers or owners to address the overpopulation of deer.

Objective 3: Remain current on the potential deer related disease threats to human health and maintain a responsive approach to minimizing these threats.

Strategy 1: Monitor new developments and research concerning the potential disease threats to human health that are directly or indirectly associated with deer (Lyme disease, chronic wasting disease, ehrlichiosis, human babesiosis, fecal contamination, etc) and incorporate new information into a responsive technical assistance approach with the public.

Strategy 2: Take management actions to reduce any significant health threats to the public when warranted and feasible.



Strategy 3: Maintain deer populations at levels that minimize the threat of deer associated diseases or other human health implications.

Objective 4: Identify public tracts or other large parcels of land with high deer populations and work with the managers or owners to address the situation via lethal or non-lethal means. These tracts may be experiencing significant damage to their natural communities and/or providing a refuge for deer impacting surrounding properties.

Strategy 1: Meet with the appropriate land managers to inform them of the problems presented and provide technical guidance on how to rectify the situation.

Strategy 2: Assess the ability of WHS to actively manage any deer control measures on a tract by tract basis and initiate appropriate programs where feasible to do so.

Objective 5: Work with urban/suburban communities to reduce deer problems, including damage to gardens, shrubs and landscaping or the impacts to personal hygiene from extensive deer feces around homes, schools, parks, athletic fields and other public places.

Strategy 1: Provide technical guidance via presentations, meetings, correspondence and the DNR Website.

Strategy 2: Establish regular deer hunting seasons and bag limits in a manner intended to reach population objectives. These goals should be established to meet many criteria, including being responsive to urban/suburban community needs.

Objective 6: Provide a responsive means for effective localized deer management actions to address special situations where deer control outside existing hunting regulations is in the public interest.

Strategy 1: Issue Letters of Authority for special situations, such as airports and military bases.

Strategy 2: Operate a Deer Cooperator Permit program that maintains a safe and professional approach to addressing local deer population issues.

Objective 7: Provide staff with appropriate equipment and training to respond quickly to localized deer emergencies on a statewide basis. This would include deer that have entered buildings or are entangled in various manners; are injured; appear diseased; or are threatening public safety.

Strategy 1: Offer periodic staff training and certification on current techniques.

Strategy 2: Monitor new developments in firearms, immobilization drugs and delivery equipment and incorporate into staff training as appropriate.

Objective 8: Establish a means to quantify deer impacts to natural communities and/or listed species with the goal of identifying where those impacts are the most critical.

Strategy 1: Partner with Maryland Natural Heritage Program staff to find an efficient and feasible means to identify the natural communities most impacted by deer.

Strategy 2: Identify the natural communities most critically impacted by deer and develop remedial programs to address the deer population locally. Monitor ecosystem response as the remedial programs are enacted.

**Operational Resources Goal: Ensure that all necessary resources are available to support the proper management of white-tailed deer in Maryland.**

A variety of resources will be required in order to complete all desired tasks related to managing white-tailed deer in Maryland. These tasks are addressed in this management plan but won't achieve the desired outcomes if the resources aren't available to complete them. Funding is the most critical of these necessary resources and has traditionally been obtained via a variety of fees and taxes placed primarily on the consumptive user groups. However, other sources of revenue need to be explored due to a long term declining trend in hunter participation. The most efficient means to collect good data and/or satisfactorily complete projects is to use well trained/equipped staff from within WHS. Thus, having trained staff able to dedicate time to deer management tasks is equally critical.

Objective 1: Maintain and/or increase revenue through the sale of hunting licenses and stamps.

Strategy 1: Develop a standing committee of WHS staff charged with maintaining a national level understanding of hunter recruitment and retention trends and the programs in place to address these issues.

Strategy 2: Pending the conclusions of the committee, initiate and conduct programs intended to address hunter recruitment and retention that are related to deer.

Objective 2: Identify alternative sources of funding and support to conduct deer management in Maryland.

Strategy 1: A variety of grants are available for natural resources management. Identify and apply for those grant opportunities that pertain to deer research, management, disease monitoring and public education.

Strategy 2: Develop a program to enlist volunteers to conduct certain management activities. These volunteers should be well trained and offered incentives to assist with WHS deer management efforts.

Strategy 3: Investigate the applicability of successful efforts elsewhere in the nation to obtain funding that is not tied to the consumptive user groups. Seek to enact any of these programs, or innovative new ones that would apply in Maryland.



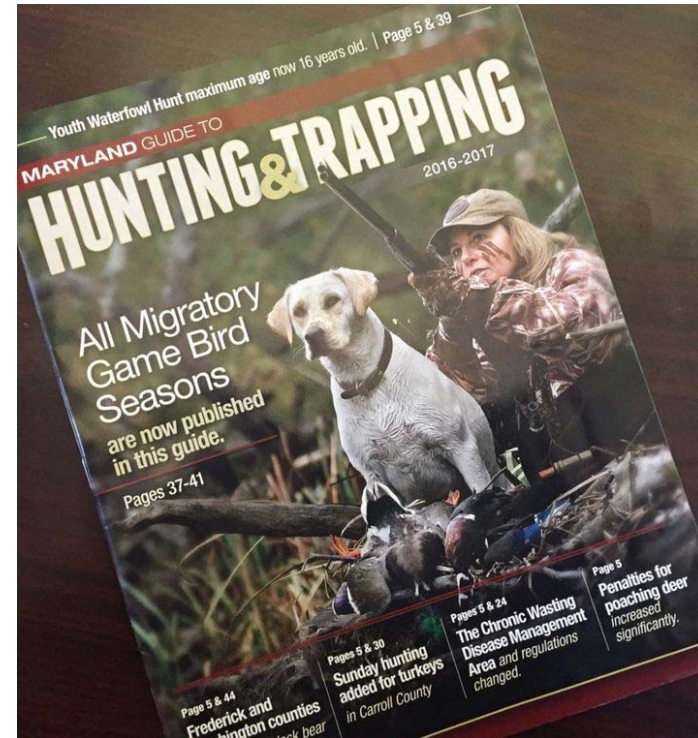
# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## WHS Administration Program



**Update to Wildlife Advisory Commission  
August 16, 2017**

- Budget, Procurement, Inventory
- Federal Aid Coordination
- Personnel
- Wildlife Permits
- Regulations
- Legislation
- Hunting Guide







# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## WHS Administration Program

### Program Staff

- Glenn Therres, Associate Director
- Tina Jarvis, Wildlife Permits
- Connie Roberts, Wildlife Permits
- Wade Henry, Graphic Arts & Hunting Guide (moving to I&E Program)
- Errica Muriel, Admin Specialist

## Wildlife Permits

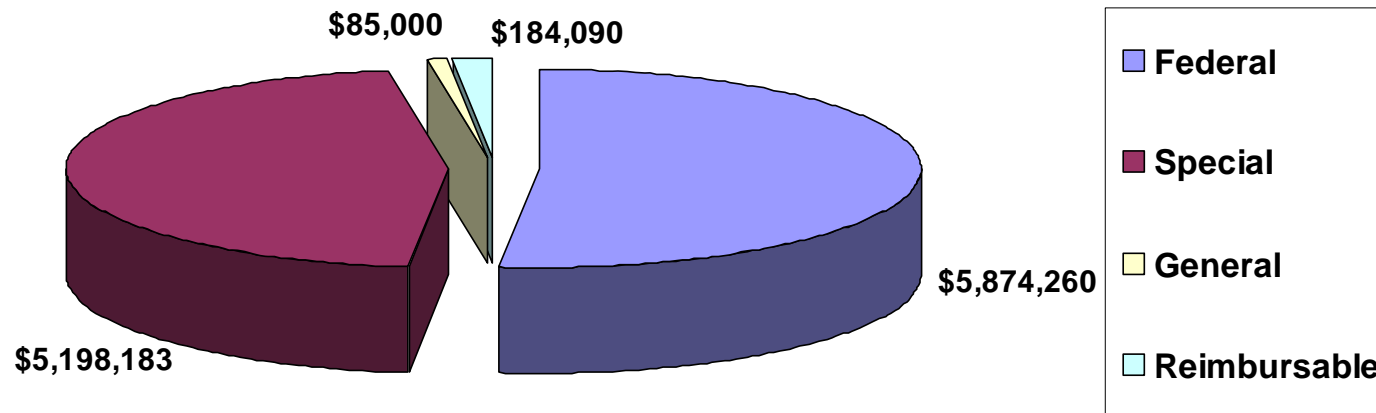
### Tina Jarvis

- Shoreline Blind Sites
- Endangered Species
- Scientific Collecting
- Regulated Shooting Areas
- USFWS special permits

### Connie Roberts

- Falconry
- Game Husbandry
- Captive Reptile and Amphibian
- Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Taxidermy
- Wildlife Damage Control Cooperator
- Waterfowl Guide and Outfitter

## FY18 Budget = \$11,341,533







# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## WHS Administration Program



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## WHS Administration Program

### State Special Funds - FY18

Wildlife Management & Protection = \$4,284,000

Chesapeake Bay & Endangered Species = \$400,000

Migratory Game Bird Fund = \$415,000

Upland Wildlife Habitat Fund = \$1,000

Deer Stamp Account = \$98,000



## Federal Aid – FY18

Pittman-Robertson = \$5,176,000

State Wildlife Grants = \$625,000

Section 6 Endangered Species = \$45,000

White-nose Syndrome Grant = \$18,000

Other = 10,000





# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WHS Administration Program



Funding

Staff  
Support



Serve  
the  
Public

Department of Natural Resources  
BRATS Appropriation by Unit / Object / Item  
Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriation

Date: 6/19/2017

Page: 1

	2018 Approp. (All Funds)	2018 General Funds	2018 Special Funds	2018 Federal Funds	2018 Reimb. Funds
Unit: C000 - WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE SERVICE					
Object 01 SALARIES AND WAGES	\$7,425,310		\$4,272,902	\$3,152,408	
Object 02 TECHNICAL AND SPECIAL FEES	\$725,192		\$15,541	\$707,061	\$2,590
Object 03 COMMUNICATIONS	\$259,235		\$134,525	\$124,710	
Object 04 TRAVEL	\$86,279		\$31,304	\$54,975	
Object 06 FUEL AND UTILITIES	\$69,478		\$58,428	\$11,050	
Object 07 MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANC	\$765,055		\$174,550	\$559,255	\$31,250
Object 08 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$1,155,900		\$165,705	\$889,945	\$100,250
Object 09 SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	\$408,694		\$145,038	\$263,656	
Object 10 EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	\$89,375		\$12,875	\$46,500	\$30,000
Object 11 EQUIPMENT ADDITIONAL	\$84,450		\$10,050	\$54,400	\$20,000
Object 12 GRANT, SUBSIDIES & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$95,000	\$85,000		\$10,000	
Object 13 FIXED CHARGES	\$177,565		\$177,265	\$300	
Unit C000 Total:	\$11,341,533	\$85,000	\$5,198,183	\$5,874,260	\$184,090

Department of Natural Resources  
BRATS Appropriation by Unit / Object / Item  
Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriation

Date: 7/25/2016

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	2017 Approp. (All Funds)	2017 General Funds	2017 Special Funds	2017 Federal Funds	2017 Reimb. Funds
Unit: C000 - WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE SERVICE					
Object 01 SALARIES AND WAGES	\$7,537,673		\$4,921,028	\$2,616,645	
Object 02 TECHNICAL AND SPECIAL FEES	\$697,016		\$15,541	\$678,885	\$2,590
Object 03 COMMUNICATIONS	\$248,377		\$138,417	\$109,960	
Object 04 TRAVEL	\$82,679		\$27,704	\$54,975	
Object 06 FUEL AND UTILITIES	\$71,556		\$68,706	\$2,850	
Object 07 MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANC	\$1,252,203		\$222,104	\$998,849	\$31,250
Object 08 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$1,723,049		\$174,100	\$1,429,289	\$119,660
Object 09 SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	\$414,376		\$158,932	\$255,444	
Object 10 EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	\$63,013		\$9,325	\$23,688	\$30,000
Object 11 EQUIPMENT ADDITIONAL	\$124,301		\$2,401	\$101,900	\$20,000
Object 12 GRANT, SUBSIDIES & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$134,000	\$85,000		\$49,000	
Object 13 FIXED CHARGES	\$178,912		\$177,912	\$1,000	
Unit C000 Total:	\$12,527,155	\$85,000	\$5,916,170	\$6,322,485	\$203,500