

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – JUNE 17, 2015

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

New Members Appointed to the Wildlife Advisory Commission

- Commissioner Rand Weinberg is originally from Frederick, Maryland and continues to work as an Attorney in the Frederick area. He is an active hunter and is looking forward to serving on the Wildlife Advisory Commission.
- Commissioner Joe Schroyer is a long-time resident of Garrett County. He is also very active in the hunting community. Commissioner Schroyer serves as the Legislative Secretary for the Allegany Garrett Sportsmen's Association and serves on the Board of Directors for the Maryland Hunting Coalition.

Approval for the June 17, 2015 Meeting Agenda

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to accept the June 17th Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Boyles Griffin seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from February 18, 2015 Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gregor moved to approve the February 18th meeting minutes as presented.
 2. Commissioner Compton seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

WHS Regional Operations Program Update - Presentation given by Karina Stonesifer, Associate Director

- Associate Director Karina Stonesifer provided an update on the Regional Operations Program to the Commission. Associate Director Stonesifer introduced John Moulis, Eastern Regional Manager to the Commission. **[ATTACHMENT A]**
- Question and Answer Section:
 1. Commissioner Michael asked to explain the difference between permits and reservations in the Managed Hunt Program.
 - a. The permit is what a hunter needs to make a reservation to hunt the areas under the Managed Hunt Program system.
 2. Commissioner Michael asked about the Deer Management Permit.
 - a. The Deer Management Permit is also known as a Crop Damage Permit and is issued to farmers experiencing damage to their commercial agricultural operations. Staff issued 1,711 Deer Management Permits in 2014.
 3. Commissioner Michael asked if there are any other permits for animal damage that can be issued for species other than deer.
 - a. Yes, a landowner can obtain a nuisance wildlife permit through U.S. Department Agriculture (USDA). WHS and USDA have a partnership to handle nuisance wildlife related issues for Maryland.

WHS Information and Education Program Update – Presentation given by Karina Stonesifer, Associate Director.

- Associate Director Stonesifer presented an update on the Information and Education Program. **[ATTACHMENT B]**
- Patty Allen, Information and Education Manager was supposed to be in attendance but was called to handle the Hunter Recruitment and Retention Workshop for the Northeast states. Kerry Wixted is the other permanent staff member for the Information and Education Program.
- Associate Director Stonesifer recognized Commissioner Lou Compton for supporting and leading the Maryland's National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP).
 1. Commissioner Compton pointed out that the participation in the MD NASP is growing.
 2. Commissioner Compton added that the national tournament was held in Louisville, Kentucky. Over 12,000 students participated in the national tournament. At that event, over \$100,000 was given in scholarships.
 3. Commissioner Compton also added that in 2016, MD NASP will be hosting its first 3-D Archery Challenge in Maryland in Carroll County.

There was a brief Q&A session among the members and the staff.

Break 10:45 AM to 11:00 AM

Regulations from 2015 Legislative Session - Presentation given by Pete Jayne, Associate Director.

- Associate Director Jayne presented an overview of the regulations from 2015 Legislative Session related to SB0068 Charles County and St. Mary's County Deer Management Permit and SB0844 Frederick County – Deer Management Permit – Use of Rifles. **[ATTACHMENT C]**
- Associate Director Jayne also provided copies of the changes to the SB0068 Charles County and St. Mary's County Deer Management Permit **[ATTACHMENT D]** and changes to the SB0844 Frederick County – Deer Management Permit – Use of Rifles **[ATTACHMENT E]**.
- Question and Answer Section for Regulations related to SB0068:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked if staff differentiate between exempt vs. non-exempt agents as to the amount of deer taken.
 - a. The exempt agent does not have to comply with the hunting seasons when the hunting seasons are in effect but staff removed that language about exempt agent. This was enacted for the 2015 DMP. There is no difference between an exempt or non-exempt agent now.
 2. Commissioner Michael asked about the renewal period for DMP.
 - a. The vast majority of renewals for DMPs are done from February through March.
 3. Commissioner Boyles Griffin and Commissioner Compton wanted to know if DNR provided information about use of rifles to the Senate Committee.
 - a. There were conversations about repealing SB0966 Charles County and St. Mary's County – Deer Hunting, and then there was a bill to do less than repeal SB0966. Somehow the rifle section got into the mix of the conversations for SB0068 Charles County and St. Mary's County – Deer Management Permit. The use of a weapon is generally a local decision. The Department has the authority but defers that decision to the local jurisdictions.
 - b. It is going to be challenging for the law enforcement officers because the officers are going to be required to check out each reported complaint. Those farmers most likely will be checked by officers regularly.
 4. Discussion ensued about the history of DMPs with reference to the number of days, which is 365 days along with the weapons that DMP holder and his or her agents were allowed to use.

- Question and Answer Section for Regulations related to SB0844:
 1. Commissioner Weinberg asked if the error related to the Frederick County Zone was a drafting error of the bill.
 - a. Yes, it is a drafting error because that zone is no longer referenced in our regulations. The zone that is referenced in the law is located in slide with the cross-lines in red, which is again no longer being used.
 - b. Secretary Belton and Director Peditto have had conversations with the Frederick County officials to sort this out.
 2. Commissioner Weinberg asked if the Department was concerned about the drafting error of Frederick County Zone.
 - a. Yes, the Department is concerned about the drafting error. In Frederick County Zone 1 “Rifle Zone”, DMP holders can already use rifles; however, in Frederick County Zone 2 “Shotgun Zone”, DMP holders can now use rifles all year round. The agents in Frederick County Zone 2 “Shotgun Zone” can only use rifles during the October 1st through March 31st except during the firearms season. The agents are restricted to a shotgun, muzzleloader or bow.
 3. Commissioner Schroyer asked why the Department references Frederick County Zone 1 and Frederick County Zone instead of using land codes.
 - a. The Department references Frederick County Zone 1 and Frederick County Zone 2 because that is how SB0844 was written.
 4. Commissioner Schroyer indicated that this question was off the topic but asked what the purpose of land codes is.
 - a. Yes, this is off the topic. Instead of giving staff data from the entire county, the land code provides data at finer level for deer and turkey management.
 5. Commissioner Weinberg mentioned that he attended many of the Frederick County Council hearings where officials discussed this topic and it was one person that pushed this. Commissioner Weinberg suggested that in the future the Department should attend those hearings to present something simplified that if a person is in rifle zone – a person can use a rifle and if a person is in shotgun zone – a person can use a shotgun.
 - a. The Department did communicate that, and the Department had hoped to assist when SB0844 was being advanced. The Department has been communicating with the Frederick County Delegation and Frederick County Commissioners on this.
 - b. Frederick County’s GIS staff developed a map with a polygon around Frederick City, and it eliminates rifles from northern North I70 areas that are close to Frederick, and it eliminates rifles where it does not exist today South I70, and it leaves the remaining Frederick County for rifle use for deer. Staff thinks that this would be the outcome of the law. The Department has the authority to do this already.
 6. Discussion ensued as to the potential outcome related to the map from the Frederick County’s GIS staff developed with input from the Department. Director Peditto has had conversations and met with Frederick County Delegation and Frederick County Commissioners about this realignment map so this is not new to them. Matt Teffeau, Assistant Director of the Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) indicated that MFB supports the map. These changes will be submitted through the regular regulatory process.
- Director Peditto introduced Rich Norling, Legislative Director for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.
- Motion
 1. Commissioner Michael moved to support Charles and St. Mary’s Counties regulation changes

- as a whole as presented to the Commission.
2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
 3. Discussion:
 - a. Commissioner Michael reminded the Commission about the patchwork that comes through with local bills and that this Commission should oppose local bills related to wildlife management.
 - b. Commissioner Boyles Griffin pointed out that not everyone on the Commission necessarily always would oppose every local bill. It should be based on a case-by-case.
 - c. Chairman Plummer indicated that not every local bill is going to be a bad one.
 - d. Director Peditto reminded the Commission that the collected data during the extension of the deer season compared with the data when the hunters are afield. It speaks to itself related to using the hunters during the time of the year when the hunters are afield; the hunters take more deer.
 4. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Motion
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to support the regulation for compliance with the SB0844 legislation as presented by Associate Director Pete Jayne to the Commission.
 2. Commissioner Michael seconded.
 3. Discussion:
 - a. Commissioner Weinberg expressed concerns about the mapped area along with the use of rifles in very dense populated areas.
 - b. Staff reviewed the GIS map and looked at the places where they are clearly developed. Staff saw visually and realigned the areas that needed to be avoided.
 4. All in favor. Motion passed.

Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Update – Presented by Matt Tefteau, Assistant Director of the Maryland Farm Bureau.

- Matthew Tefteau, Assistant Government Relations Director is one of the lobbyists in Annapolis and Washington, DC for the MFB.
- Mr. Tefteau received the 2014 Farmer of Year winner from Ms. Spencer; the presentation will be given at the MFB Convention in December.
- Mr. Tefteau asked about the make-up of the Commission and if a MFB representative required.
 1. The law indicated that it “shall be a member of the farming community” to be on the Commission.
- Mr. Tefteau thanked Director Paul Peditto, Associate Director Pete Jayne, and Game Mammal Section Leader Harry Spiker for speaking on crop damage caused by black bears to members of Farm Bureau community in Garrett County.
- MFB has a Wildlife Management Committee that is made up of thirteen farm bureau members. The MFB Wildlife Management Committee met with Director Paul Peditto, Associate Director Pete Jayne, and Deer Project Leader Brian Eyler. The MFB, with the assistance of the Game Program staff, will be hosting a series of workshops to educate farmers on crop damage permits. This should help farmers know about this tool and help the farmers to get the best use of the crop damage permits.
- Question and Answer Section:
 1. Commissioner Gregor asked if there farmers that are not utilizing their DMPs because the farmers do not have people to use them. It appears that there are a lot of DMPs that are not being used.

- a. Mr. Tefteau responded that some farmers do not have the guns or the time.
2. Commissioner Compton highlighted that with all those DMPs issued and several of them not being utilized – it begs the question how much of an impact are deer having on these farms. If the monetary value of these crops is so valuable why is it that the DMPs are not being filled?
 - a. Mr. Tefteau responded that from what he is being told by many farmers is that it is because the farmers do not have the time or weapon of choice. It is easier for the farmers to take the deer with the use of rifles than with the use of shotguns. It takes more time for the farmers to take the deer with shotguns and many of these farmers do not have that time.
 - b. Commissioner Michael suggested adding DMPs information in the hunting guide to help utilize those hunters and merge that gap. Commissioner Michael recognized that some of the agents are hunters but also there is gross misunderstanding of DMPs. Commissioner Michael understood that it has been policy to keep DMPs separated from the hunting guide. DMP is a misunderstood program, and it causes a lot of controversies.
 - c. Those farmers have 12,000 agents and those agents have to be prepared to go out afield.
- Mr. Tefteau mentioned that MFB is no longer using NASS (National Agricultural Statistics Service) and MFB is working on developing a new survey for collecting data on crop damage to gather more accurate numbers.
 1. Commissioner Plummer responded that he does not know how MFB survey numbers are going to be more accurate than NASS because survey is going to be developed by MFB and farmers are the ones that want to kill more deer regardless.
 2. Mr. Tefteau added the questions would be worded to avoid loaded/biased questions. MFB does not track the production from each farmer from year to year.
 3. NASS tracks the actual production by the farmers.
 4. MFB has some quotes for the survey development. Mr. Tefteau is looking at Survey Monkey. Mr. Tefteau is working with staff at NASS to incorporate some of NASS questions.

Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update – Presentation given by Lieutenant Nick Powell

- NRP just completed a class of 22 cadets that graduated in April. The new officers are working on their field training.
- The Cadet Program is ongoing. Some of the cadets were able to move on to the NRP Academy if there is going to be one in April.
- There were no significant cases from the January Turkey Season.
- There is a new hunting apprentice program planned for Maryland in spring of 2016. This will allow a junior or new adult hunter the opportunity to try the sport for three years or one year. The new hunter must have an experienced adult, age 21 or over to mentor a person for a trial period.

Old Business

- The 2014 Wildlife and Heritage Service Employee of the Year is Larry Hindman. Mr. Hindman was nominated by the Maryland Waterfowlers Association and the award was presented to Larry Hindman at the Wildlife and Heritage Service Annual Meeting.
- The Commission was informed of the 2014 Farmer of the Year and 2014 Conservationist of the Year.

New Business

- Chairman Plummer announced that he will be retiring from the Commission. Chairman Plummer would like to spend more time mentoring youth hunters. With that announcement the Commission needs to nominate a new chairperson.

- Chairman Plummer asked for chair and vice chair nominations.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gregor nominated Lou Compton as chair.
 2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
 3. Call for any other nominations.
 4. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Compton nominated Commissioner Gregor as Vice-Chair.
 2. Commissioner Michael seconded.
 3. Call for any other nominations.
 4. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Commissioner Compton will not be at the July 29th WAC meeting, which will have the waterfowl season presentation as a primary agenda item.

Public Comment Period

- Dr. Joseph Lamp was a member of the Wildlife Advisory Commission for 14+ years. Dr. Lamp thanked Chairman Plummer for Chairman Plummer's tremendous contribution on the Wildlife Advisory Commission.
- Dr. Lamp expressed his concerns about passing of a SB0088 Natural Resources – Game Birds – Baiting and the fact that NRP was not allowed to testify. Dr. Lamp is requesting a meeting with Jeff Plummer, NRP, and Waterfowl Project Leader Larry Hindman to discuss the implications of this bill.
 1. Chairman Plummer summarized Dr. Lamp's comments that DNR was not allowed to testify on this bill. Chairman Plummer recognized that he does not know if the discussion as to whether or not the Department was or was not allowed to testify on a bill falls under the Commission's guidelines.
 2. Chairman Plummer concluded that at the July 29th meeting, there is the 2015-2016 Waterfowl Season Proposals agenda item. Larry Hindman, Waterfowl Project Leader, will be providing the waterfowl season proposals, and it would be a good time for this discussion. Chairman Plummer indicated that Dr. Lamp's concerns are related to the passing of this legislation, and its potential impacts it may have on the goose population. Another point that Dr. Lamp brought out was in regards to the precedent of politics and withholding NRP testimony on the bill. Chairman Plummer again expressed that he does not know if the Commission should or should not be part of that discussion about NRP not being allowed to testify.
 3. Commissioner Michael asked if the Department has been gagged during different Administrations.
 - a. Legislative Director Rich Norling outlined the process for the Commission, and he described how legislation is reviewed with the Office of the Secretary's team. The final decision is made by the State House.
 - b. The testimony of the Department is reviewed by the Administration and approved by the Administration.
 4. Dr. Lamp asked if there was testimony by the Department on SB0088 and was it submitted to the Governor's Office. Dr. Lamp also asked if he could get a copy of that information.
 - a. Legislative Director Rich Norling responded that Dr. Lamp requested that information and it is part of Public Information Act request; it will be handled as such.
 5. Commissioner Boyles Griffin added that she supports Dr. Lamp's concerns just because of the impact it is going to have on availability of enforcing. Since NRP is part of the agency mostly

impacted by whatever passed, NRP should have been given the opportunity to have the legislatures who represents the citizens of Maryland to understand the impact it potentially could have on law enforcement and the species population.

6. Commissioner Compton requested that Captain Lloyd Ingerson be in attendance at July 29th meeting and discuss the potential impact related to law enforcement. Dr. Lamp indicated that NRP told him they were ‘gagged’ and he wants them to speak to the issue.
7. Discussion ensued about the SB0088 and potential of hunters taking more animals because of this change in the law. This law follows USFWS law on this topic and several other states in the Atlantic Flyway also follow the same language that is in this law.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, July 29, 2015 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, J. Plummer, J. Schroyer, and R. Weinberg
Absent:	G. Fratz
Guest:	E. Hovermale, J. Lamp, and M. Teffeau
Staff:	K. Stonesifer, P. Jayne, J. McKnight, J. Moulis, R. Norling, P. Peditto, N. Powell, T. Spencer

Wildlife and Heritage Service

Regional Operations Program

WMA Mission

To conserve and enhance diverse wildlife populations and associated habitats while providing public enjoyment of the State's wildlife resources through hunting and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

Regional Ops Staff and Responsibilities

- 56 staff in 15 offices located from Garrett County to Somerset County.
- Land Management
- Wildlife Response
- Outreach Events
- Managed Hunt Program
- Technical Support to Other Programs

What's New

- In 2014 the Department formed a workgroup to help designate or re-designated a variety of properties.
- WHS officially became the land managers of 23 new parcels adding 9,211 acres of land to the WMA system.
- 15 of those parcels were absorbed into existing WMA's
- 8 of the new parcels created new WMA's

Land Management

- 60 Wildlife Management Areas totaling more than 120,000 acres
- Located in 18 of 23 counties
- Ranging in size from 1 -30,000 acres
- 8 of the 60 WMA's host a field office
- Land management crews range in size from 2-3 staff covering as many as 14 WMA's



Outreach and Education

- Junior Hunter Field Days
- Jakes Days
- State Fair
- Wetlands and Wildlife Field Days
- Hunter 101 Workshops
- Envirothon
- Support to the I&E program



Wildlife Response

24/7 Emergency Response

- Disease Outbreaks,
- Nuisance Animals,
- Injured Animals
 - 606 recorded responses in 2014
- Animal Damage Control
 - 1,711 permits issued in 2014



Black Bear Response Team

- 24/7 emergency response for:
 - Road Kills
 - Bears in homes
 - Aggressive bears
 - Livestock kills
-
- In 2014
 - 129 Bear calls
 - Approximately 70 of those after hours



Managed Hunt Program

- Myrtle Grove WMA Permit Office
 - Issued 2,855 permits and took 7,961 reservations for the 2014/2015 season
- Gwynnbrook WMA Permit Office
 - Issued 3,736 permits and took 12,401 reservations for the 2014/2015 season

Technical Support to Other Programs

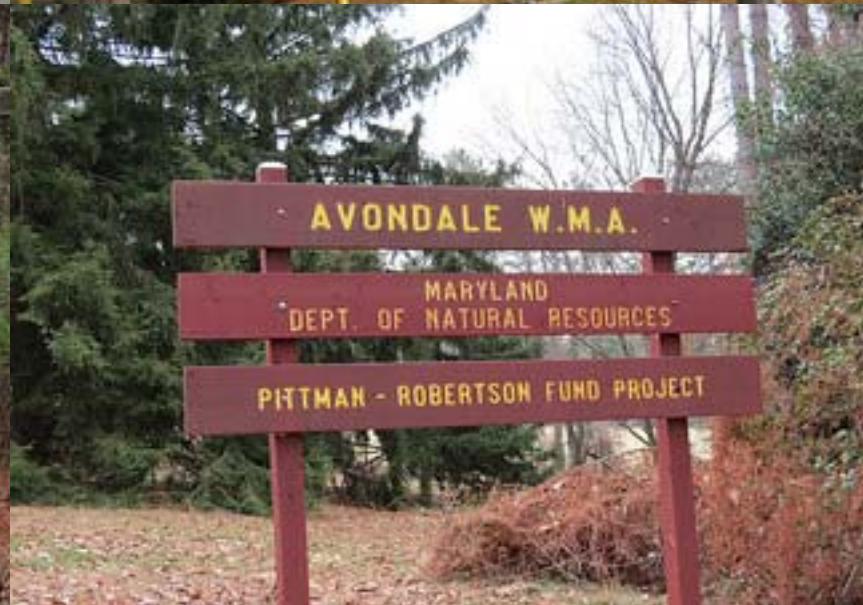


What's Next

- WMA planning effort for 2015
 - Idylwild
 - Dan's Mt
 - Nanjemoy WMA



WMA Branding



Questions?



Wildlife & Heritage Service Information & Education

June 2015





I & E Highlighted Programs

- Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW)
- Project WILD
- Jr. Hunter Field Days
- Mentored Youth Hunts
- National Hunting and Fishing Day
- Envirothon
- Education Trunks
- Habi-chat/ Wild Acres
- Black Bear Conservation Program
- MD Archery in the Schools Program
- Hunting & Shooting Sports Program



- The workshops introduce women to a variety of activities equally balanced between hunting and shooting, fishing, and non-harvest sports like canoeing and camping.





- Holding one 3-Day Fall Workshop
 - Participants choose from a list of 40 activities.
- Holding 4 mini-workshops (Beyond BOW)
- Over 3000 on our mailing list
- Still going strong!



Project **WILD**

- One of the most widely used environmental education programs
- International
- Focus on wildlife
- Audience: K-12 educators
 - Each activity adaptable to specific grades.



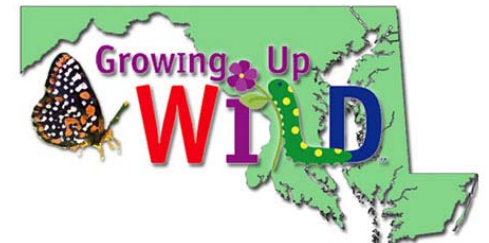
Growing Up WILD

- Early childhood education program
 - Children ages 3-7
- Adopted in MD in 2012



Project WILD & Growing Up WILD

- Held 43 Workshops training 687 educators
- Used by schools, nature centers, sportsmen's groups, humane society, girl scouts, boy scouts, 4-H groups
- Books are *free* with training
- Working to update materials at National level



Junior Hunter Field Days

- Purpose:
 - Increase youth interest in wildlife conservation
 - Instill hunter ethics
 - Increase youths interest in hunting as a life long pursuit



Junior Hunter Field Days

- Reaching ~650 youth in 2015
- 7 events
- High demand
- Going strong!



Mentored Youth Hunts

■ Mission:

- Every year hundreds of youths complete a hunter safety class, but not all go on to become hunters.
- This program will:
 - Identify those youth
 - Provide a positive experience that will encourage them to pursue hunting as a lifelong activity
- Provide a forum for youth to hunt with a mentor and interact with wildlife professionals.

Mentored Youth Hunts

- Offered 3 Mentored Youth Hunts in 2014-1015 Season
- Plan continuing to offer Mentored Youth Hunts





■ Mission:

- to encourage individuals and families to get involved and stay involved in outdoor activities like hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities.



NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY®

- Annually, 4th Saturday of September
- This will be it's 9th year
- Will be held at Associated Gun Clubs of Baltimore on Sept 26th, 2015 (10am-4pm)



Envirothon



- The MD Envirothon program is an exciting and fun way for high school students to learn about the environment.
- We offer training to teachers and students in Wildlife in all MD counties.



Education Trunks



- Black Bear Education Trunk
- White-tailed Deer Education Trunk
- Furbearer Education Trunk
- Turkey Education Trunk
- Growing Up WILD Education Kits
- Project EduBat Trunk (NEW)
- Locations throughout MD
 - Added- Baltimore City & Charles County!



Education Trunks

- Contains hands on educational materials & activities
- Contains a Teachers Guide
- Can be signed out for up to 2 weeks at a time
- Free!!



Wild Acres

- Online information & public talks
- How to provide suitable habitat for wild animals in you backyard
- How to live with wildlife



HabiChat

- A Quarterly Newsletter (free online) for steward's of Maryland's Backyard Wildlife.
- Covers a multitude of topics, including habitat tips, feeding wildlife, native plant profiles, Maryland wildlife, youth activity.

The image shows the cover of the HabiChat newsletter. It features a close-up photograph of a vibrant green bee, likely a sweat bee, perched on a white flower with prominent yellow stamens. The bee is covered in fine hairs and has a metallic green sheen. The background is a soft, out-of-focus natural setting.

HabiChat

Spring 2015
Vol. 20 No. 2

For stewards of Maryland's backyard wildlife

Black Bear Conservation Program

- The Black Bear Conservation Stamp Program began in 1996. Authorized by the Maryland General Assembly, the stamp (and other items) generates funds that are used to compensate farmers who have reported damage to agricultural crops caused by black bears.



Black Bear Conservation Program

- 2014 raised
\$4,096.70



Archery in the Schools

- MD NASP's mission is to promote student education through participation in the sport of archery with the focus being to provide international style target archery training in the 4th - 12th grades.
- Topics are taught through classroom instruction, positive communication and hands-on activities.
- We currently have 82 schools in 20 counties participating and 21 non-school organizations (Boy Scouts of America, Izaak Walton League-Rockville Chapter, Greenbelt Youth Center, Methodist Church- Christ's Service Brigade, Summer Camps, and home school groups).

Archery in the Schools

- Maryland's Third Annual NASP Tournament
 - March 8th, 2015
- Hagerstown Community College



Hunting & Shooting Sports Program

- Goals:
 - provide the 'next step' for novice hunters/shooters
- Mini-workshops



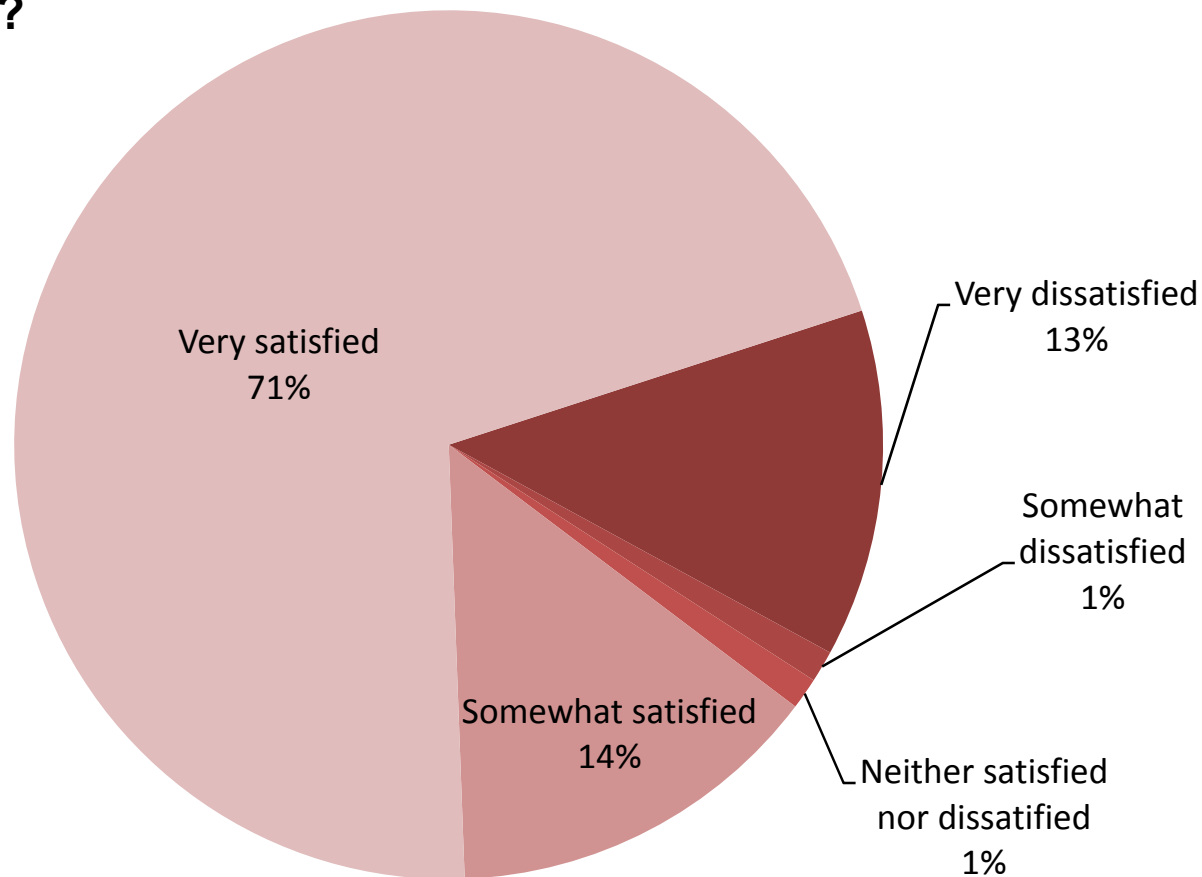
Hunting & Shooting Sports Program

- 14 Workshops since July 2014



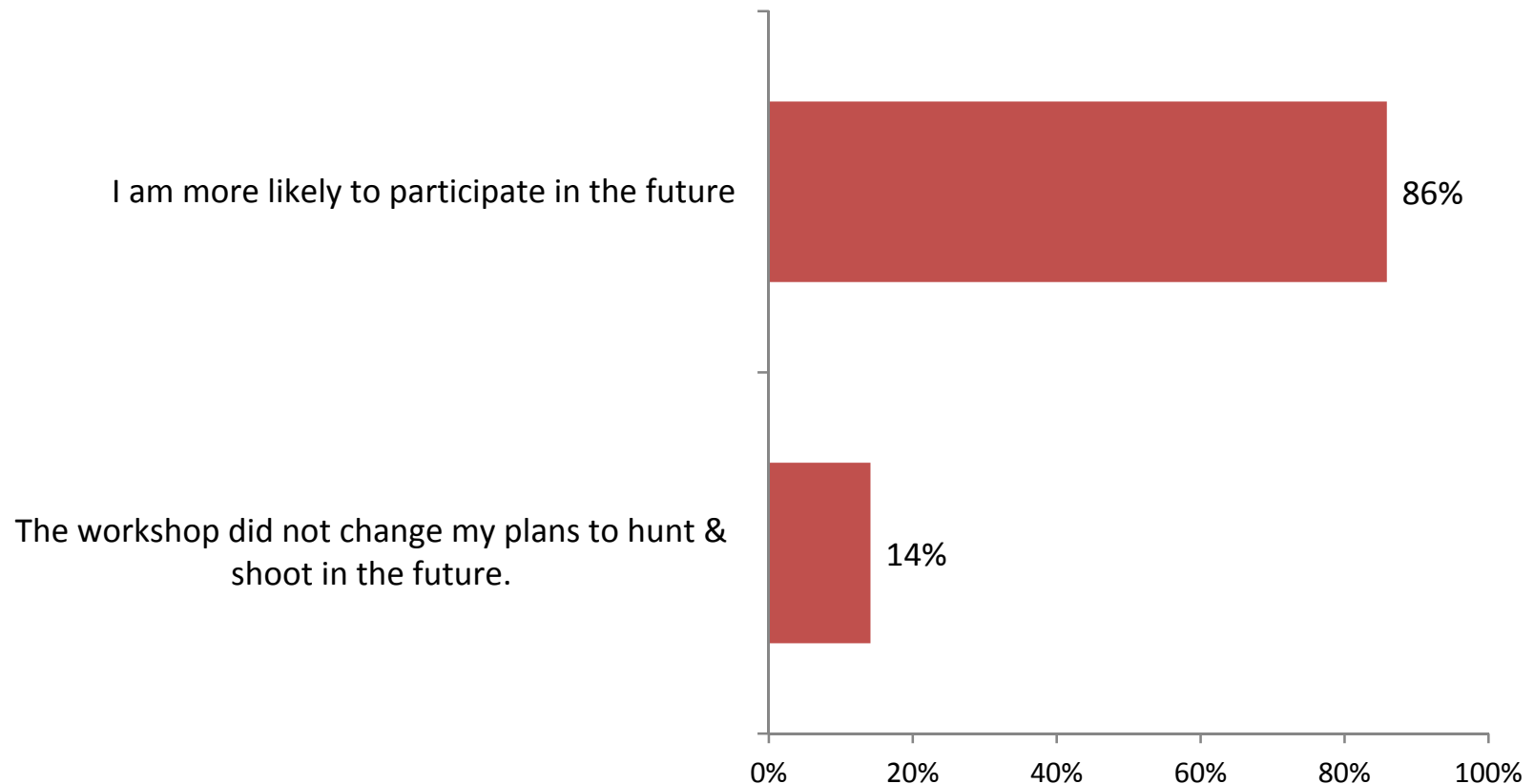
Hunting & Shooting Sports Program

Overall, how satisfied were you with the workshop?



Hunting & Shooting Sports Program

Did the workshop change the likelihood that you will participate in hunting or shooting sports in the future?



Social Media

- WHS are administrators for 5 Social Media outlets
 - Facebook:
 - Wildlife & Heritage Service
 - Maryland Natural Areas
 - Becoming an Outdoors-Woman
 - Maryland Conservation History
 - Twitter: Wildlife & Heritage Service
 - Flickr: Wildlife & Heritage Service



News Releases

- WHS has written and released 50 news releases this past year.



Webpage Updates

- WHS Internet Content Managers have updated web pages 295 times the past year.



Customer Service & Volunteer Hours

- WHS personnel has responded to 1,010 customer service requests this past year



Any Questions?



Delmarva fox squirrel, photo by John White

Game Management Program

Wildlife Advisory Commission

June 2015



Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife and Heritage Service

Regulations from 2015 Legislation

OR

**Why Managing Wildlife
Via Legislation
Can Be A Bad Idea**



Deer Management Permits

Deer Management Permit (DMP) Statistics (2014):

- 1,711 total permits issued statewide.
- allowed up to 33,000+ deer to be killed (~20/permit).
- 8,482 deer reported as taken (~5/permit).
- 11,400 agents were listed as shooters.
- ~2,000 agents reported shooting at least one deer.



SB 68

Repealed much of SB966 from the 2014 General Assembly. That bill greatly liberalized deer hunting and DMP use in Charles and St. Mary's counties.

1. Repealed the requirement for DNR to 'train rifle shooters' to hunt deer established in 10-408.2 on page 2.
 - We already submitted a reg to make this change – WAC saw this in May.
 - We didn't have any training sessions scheduled, so no changes there.
2. Repealed the requirement allowing shotgun deer hunting from January through March. See page 2 , 10-415 (2).
 - We made this change in the Hunting Guide. It was not in regulation, so no change needed.
 - Harvest was 378 in 3 months vs 2059 in the two week firearm season.



SB 68

3. Allows the use of breech loading rifles 'throughout deer season' for all DMP shooters. See page 3, 10-415 (d) (2) (i).

- We interpret 'deer season' to mean when the bow, muzzleloader or firearms deer seasons are open.
- Rifles would NOT be permitted outside the deer seasons.
- We intend to submit a reg change to allow this and to modify the DMPs prior to September 11 (start of bow season).

4. Restricts who may shoot on a DMP on 'State agricultural crop land' to just the person holding that land under a farm lease. See pages 3-4, 10-415 (d) (2) (ii).

- We intend to submit a reg change to correct this and to note the change in the new DMPs to be sent by September 11.



SB 68

5. Repeals the 3-year renewal period for DMPs in these counties, see page 4, item (3).

- No reg change needed, we made this change for the 2015 season.

6. Repeals the prohibition on using a DMP on Sundays for these counties, see page 4, the (4) with a strike out through it.

- No reg change needed, we made this change for the 2015 season.

7. Repeals the 3-year sunset clause, see page 5, Section 2.

- No reg change needed.

QUESTIONS?



SB 844

Allows for expanded use of rifles on DMPs in Frederick County only.

- Frederick County is divided into a rifle zone and shotgun zone for deer hunting.
- DMP shooters were formerly restricted from using rifles in the shotgun zone. Could use rifles in the rifle zone.
- SB 844 now allows all DMP shooters to use a rifle everywhere in Frederick County during certain dates.

1. Allows all DMP **Permittees** to use a rifle year-round, county wide. See page 2, item (4) (II).

- This change is pretty straightforward and we intend to make this change.

SB 844



2. Allows an **Agent** to use a rifle in a zone defined in regulation, see page 2, (4) (III).

- But the zone referenced is NOT the zone used to establish the rifle and shotgun deer hunting zones.
- The zone referenced is a deer management zone not currently in use.

Frederick County Zones



SB 844

Fortunately, the bill was written loosely and the referenced Zones have no impact on how DMPs are used.

- We can use the EXISTING rifle versus shotgun hunting zones.



SB 844



3. Allows an Agent in the Rifle Zone to use a rifle year round, see page 2, (4) (III).

- This is no change from what is allowed already.

4. Allows an Agent in Shotgun Zone to use a rifle from October 1 to March 31, except during the firearms deer season, see page 3, (4) (IV) (2).

- During deer firearms season they must use a shotgun, muzzleloader or bow, see (3).



SB 844



Rifle Zone: All DMP shooters may use a rifle year round – no change from how it currently is.

Shotgun Zone:

Permittees may now use a rifle year round – this is new.

Agents may use a rifle from October 1 to March 31, except during the firearms deer season – this is new.



SB 68 Versus SB 844

SB 68 allows DMP shooters to use a rifle
during the deer seasons.

SB 844 allows DMP shooters to use a rifle
except during the deer seasons.

QUESTIONS?

Game Management Program

Wildlife Advisory Commission

June 2015



Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife and Heritage Service

Chapter 147

(Senate Bill 68)

AN ACT concerning

Charles County and St. Mary's County - Deer ~~Hunting~~ Repeal Management Permit

FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that the Department of Natural Resources establish a program in certain counties to train rifle shooters to hunt deer for the purpose of controlling the deer population; repealing the requirement that the Department give certain applicants priority to participate in the program; repealing provisions of law that authorize the Department to terminate the program under certain circumstances; repealing a certain reporting requirement; repealing a requirement that the Department adopt certain regulations; repealing provisions of law that authorize a person to hunt deer with a certain shotgun in certain counties during certain months; ~~repealing provisions of law that authorize an individual who holds a certain permit in certain counties to hunt with a certain shotgun during deer season in certain locations; repealing a prohibition on the Department from requiring a certain permit holder to renew a certain permit more frequently than at a certain interval; repealing a prohibition on the Department from authorizing an individual in certain counties to hunt deer on Sundays under a certain permit;~~ authorizing an individual who holds a certain permit to use a certain rifle in certain locations and under certain conditions in Charles County and St. Mary's County; providing that a certain permit is valid for a certain period of time each year altering the circumstances and conditions under which an individual may hunt deer on State land in Charles County and St. Mary's County under a certain permit; authorizing the Department to authorize an individual to hunt deer on Sundays in Charles County and St. Mary's County under certain circumstances; repealing provisions of law that authorize the Department to terminate a certain deer season under certain circumstances; ~~repealing provisions of law that authorize the Department to restrict the lands on which a person may hunt deer under certain circumstances;~~ repealing a certain termination provision; making this Act an emergency measure; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to deer hunting in Charles County and St. Mary's County.

BY repealing

Article – Natural Resources

Section 10-408.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Natural Resources

Section 10-415

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 574 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2014
Section 2

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

[10–408.2.

(a) The Department shall establish a program in Charles County and St. Mary's County to train rifle shooters to hunt deer for the purpose of controlling the deer population in Charles County and St. Mary's County.

(b) When selecting applicants for participation in the program under subsection (a) of this section, the Department shall give priority to an applicant who holds a Deer Management Permit issued by the Department.

(c) The Department may terminate the program to protect public safety and welfare.

(d) On or before December 1, 2016, the Department shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on the implementation of the program.

(e) The Department shall adopt regulations to implement this section, including a system for staggering participation in the program.]

10–415.

(a) [(1)] There are the following 3 seasons to hunt deer:

[(i)] (1) Deer bow hunting season;

[(ii)] (2) Deer firearms season; and

[(iii)] (3) Deer muzzle loader season.

[(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may hunt deer with a shotgun approved by the Department from January through March in Charles County and St. Mary's County.]

(b) (1) Every person killing a deer shall report with the deer to a designated checking station within 24 hours after killing the deer.

(2) Notwithstanding any requirement of law, if the designated checking stations are closed in the county where a person kills a deer, a Natural Resources police officer shall authorize the person to report with the deer to a designated checking station in another county.

(c) (1) A person with a hunting license also may purchase bonus deer stamps from the Department.

(2) A bonus deer stamp allows a person with the hunting license to hunt 1 deer for each stamp purchased in any of the following hunting seasons for deer in the State:

- (i) Deer bow hunting season;
- (ii) Deer muzzle loader season; and
- (iii) Deer firearms season.

(3) An individual who purchases a bonus antlered deer stamp but does not use it during a particular season may use that stamp during any subsequent season in that hunting license year.

(4) The fee for each bonus antlered deer stamp issued in accordance with this subsection shall be \$10.00 for residents and \$25.00 for nonresidents.

(5) The Department may establish by regulation the type and number of deer stamps issued under this subsection if necessary to control the deer harvest in various areas of the State.

~~f~~(d) (1) In this subsection, "Deer Management Permit" means a permit issued by the Department authorizing the holder to hunt deer outside of deer hunting season for the purpose of preventing damage to crops.

(2) In Charles County and St. Mary's County, an individual who holds a Deer Management Permit may:

(i) Use a shotgun **OR BREECH LOADING CENTER FIRED RIFLE** approved by the Department to hunt deer throughout deer season in the locations and under the conditions set forth in the permit; and

(ii) ~~Hunt deer on State agricultural crop land located in Charles County and St. Mary's County to the same extent as the person is authorized under the Deer Management Permit to hunt on private land in Charles County and St. Mary's County~~
IF THE INDIVIDUAL LEASES STATE LAND IN CHARLES COUNTY OR ST. MARY'S

COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CULTIVATING CROPS, HUNT DEER ON THE LAND LEASED BY THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE LOCATIONS AND UNDER THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE PERMIT.

~~(3) The Department may not require an individual who holds a Deer Management Permit in Charles County or St. Mary's County to apply for renewal more than once every 3 years. A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT SHALL BE VALID FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 1 THROUGH JULY 31, OF EACH YEAR.~~

(4) The Department may ~~not~~ authorize an individual in Charles County or St. Mary's County to hunt deer on Sundays under a Deer Management Permit.

~~(5)~~ (4) To protect public safety and welfare, the Department may:

~~(i) Terminate the deer hunting season established under subsection (a)(2) of this section; and~~

~~(ii) Restrict~~ RESTRICT the lands on which an individual may hunt deer UNDER A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT.

~~{(e)}~~ (D) A person may not remove the head or hide or any part from any deer, except internal organs, or cut the meat into parts until the deer has been checked by the Department or 1 of the Department's agents at a designated checking station. Removal of the head or the hide of any deer not checked at a designated checking station shall be prima facie evidence that the deer was hunted illegally. Each separate deer or part of any deer taken illegally or found in possession shall be considered a separate offense.

~~{(f)}~~ (E) Any person who, while operating a motor vehicle on any highway in the State, accidentally strikes and kills a deer on the highway may have the deer if the person produces visible evidence of collision with the deer to any Natural Resources police officer, State law enforcement officer, or other designated representative of the Secretary. The provisions of this subsection shall be applicable to deer killed by collision with a motor vehicle at any time whether during the open season for killing deer or during the legally closed season.

~~{(g)}~~ (F) A person may not hunt a deer while the deer is taking refuge in or swimming through the waters of the State.

[(h)] Abrogated.

(i) ~~(G)~~ (H) Upon written request from a federal facility for a variance from the established deer hunting season, the Department shall review the request and may:

(1) Approve the request;

- (2) Deny the request; or
- (3) Approve the request with conditions.

Chapter 574 of the Acts of 2014

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2014. [It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act ~~shall take effect July 1, 2015~~ is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.

Chapter 202

(Senate Bill 844)

AN ACT concerning

Frederick County – Deer Management Permit – Use of Rifles

FOR the purpose of authorizing an individual in Frederick County who holds a Deer Management Permit to use a certain rifle to harvest deer throughout the year, including all deer hunting seasons; authorizing an agent of a permittee in a certain zone in Frederick County to use a rifle to harvest deer throughout the year ~~with a certain exception and~~; authorizing an agent of a permittee in a certain zone in Frederick County to use a rifle to harvest deer during a certain period with a certain exception and allowing the agent to harvest deer in a deer firearms season only by using the weapon approved for that season; defining a certain term; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to adopt certain regulations; making a technical correction; providing for the effective date of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to Deer Management Permits.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Natural Resources
 Section 10–415(d)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

BY adding to
 Article – Natural Resources
 Section 10–415(d)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)
 (As enacted by Chapter 574 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2014)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

10–415.

(d) (1) In this subsection, “Deer Management Permit” means a permit issued by the Department authorizing the holder to hunt deer outside of deer hunting season for the purpose of preventing damage to crops.

(2) (I) In Charles County and St. Mary’s County, an individual who holds a Deer Management Permit may:

[(i)] 1. Use a shotgun approved by the Department to hunt deer throughout deer season in the locations and under the conditions set forth in the permit; and

[(ii)] 2. Hunt deer on State agricultural crop land located in Charles County and St. Mary's County to the same extent as the person is authorized under the Deer Management Permit to hunt on private land in Charles County and St. Mary's County.

[(3)] (II) The Department may not require an individual who holds a Deer Management Permit in Charles County or St. Mary's County to apply for renewal more than once every 3 years.

[(4)] (III) The Department may not authorize an individual in Charles County or St. Mary's County to hunt deer on Sundays under a Deer Management Permit.

[(5)] (3) To protect public safety and welfare, the Department may:

(i) Terminate the deer hunting season established under subsection (a)(2) of this section; and

(ii) Restrict the lands on which an individual may hunt deer.

(4) (I) **THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY IN FREDERICK COUNTY.**

(II) **SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT, A PERMITTEE MAY USE A RIFLE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO HARVEST DEER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, INCLUDING ALL DEER HUNTING SEASONS.**

~~(III) AN AGENT OF A PERMITTEE MAY:~~

~~1. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ITEM 2 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, USE A RIFLE TO HARVEST DEER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR; AND~~

~~2. HARVEST DEER IN A DEER FIREARMS SEASON ONLY BY USING THE WEAPON APPROVED FOR THAT SEASON.~~

(III) IN FREDERICK COUNTY ZONE 1, AS DEFINED IN COMAR 08.03.03.06A.(3)(G), AN AGENT OF A PERMITTEE MAY USE A RIFLE TO HARVEST DEER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

(IV) 1. THIS SUBPARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY IN FREDERICK COUNTY ZONE 2, AS DEFINED IN COMAR 08.03.03.06A.(3)(H).

2. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, AN AGENT OF A PERMITTEE MAY USE A RIFLE TO HARVEST DEER IN A PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 1 AND ENDING MARCH 31.

3. IN A DEER FIREARMS SEASON, AN AGENT OF A PERMITTEE MAY HARVEST DEER ONLY BY USING THE WEAPON APPROVED FOR THAT SEASON.

(IV) (V) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

10-415.

(D) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT” MEANS A PERMIT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZING THE HOLDER TO HARVEST DEER OUTSIDE OF DEER HUNTING’ SEASON FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING DAMAGE TO CROPS.

(2) (I) THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY IN FREDERICK COUNTY.

(II) SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN A DEER MANAGEMENT PERMIT, A PERMITTEE MAY USE A RIFLE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO HARVEST DEER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, INCLUDING ALL DEER HUNTING SEASONS.

~~(III) AN AGENT OF A PERMITTEE MAY:~~

~~1. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ITEM 2 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, USE A RIFLE TO HARVEST DEER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR; AND~~

~~2. HARVEST DEER IN A DEER FIREARMS SEASON ONLY BY USING THE WEAPON APPROVED FOR THAT SEASON.~~

(III) IN FREDERICK COUNTY ZONE 1, AS DEFINED IN COMAR 08.03.03.06A.(3)(G), AN AGENT OF A PERMITTEE MAY USE A RIFLE TO HARVEST DEER THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

(IV) 1. THIS SUBPARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY IN FREDERICK COUNTY ZONE 2, AS DEFINED IN COMAR 08.03.03.06A.(3)(H).

2. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 3 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, AN AGENT OF A PERMITTEE MAY USE A RIFLE TO HARVEST DEER IN A PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 1 AND ENDING MARCH 31.

3. IN A DEER FIREARMS SEASON, AN AGENT OF A PERMITTEE MAY HARVEST DEER ONLY BY USING THE WEAPON APPROVED FOR THAT SEASON.

~~(IV)~~ (V) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect on the taking effect of the termination provision specified in Section 2 of Chapter 574 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2014. If that termination provision takes effect, Section 1 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. This Act may not be interpreted to have any effect on that termination provision.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.

COMAR

08.03.03.06 Deer Hunting — General.

A. Regional Management.

(3) There are four counties with deer management zones as follows:

(g) Frederick County Zone 1 is that portion of Frederick County that is both north of Interstate 70 and west of US Route 15; and

(h) Frederick County Zone 2 is that portion of Frederick County south of Interstate 70 and that portion of Frederick County east of US Route 15.