THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES – APRIL 16, 2014

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

Introduction: New Member

- New Commission member is Mr. Joseph S. Michael. Mr. Michael is a prosecutor in Washington County and Deputy State's Attorney. Mr. Michael mentioned that he has done a lot of DNR prosecution but not so much lately. Currently, Mr. Michael is a homicide prosecutor and administrator. Mr. Michael lives and hunts on a family farm. Since 1997, Mr. Michael has run a Regulated Shooting Area (RSA) on his family farm in Washington County. Mr. Michael follows the (RSA) commercial rules, but it is not really a commercial operation; Mr. Michael allows one release a year for the last several years. Also, Mr. Michael chases fox on the family farm.
- Mr. Michael is actively involved in the conservation of wildlife. In addition, Mr. Michael is a mounted fox hunter. Mr. Michael is the chairman of New Market-Middletown Valley Hounds.
- Mr. Michael is able to bring information to the Commission from a prospective that the Commission may not have about Sunday hunting and other issues. Mr. Michael expressed that the current Sunday hunting dates are adequate.
- Chairman Plummer clearly explained that the Commission members really appreciate balance on this body and Chairman Plummer welcomed Commissioner Michael to the Wildlife Advisory Commission.
- The Commission received copies of the new members' contact list along with the Commission's Operating Guidelines [ATTACHMENT A]. The Commission also received a copy of the Commission member's terms ATTACHMENT B].

Approval for the April 16, 2014 Meeting Agenda

- Motion:
 - 1. Commissioner Compton moved to accept the April 16, 2014 Meeting Agenda as presented.
 - 2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
 - 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from March 19, 2014 Meeting

- Motion:
 - 1. Commissioner Gregor moved to approve the March 19th meeting minutes as presented.
 - 2. Commissioner Rodney seconded.
 - 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Nuisance Wildlife Control – Presentation given by Mr. John Griffin (note no relation to former DNR Secretary Griffin).

- Mr. Griffin manages the Humane Wildlife Services section for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Prior to working with HSUS, Mr. Griffin owned a business in wildlife conflict resolution. Mr. Griffin has been working with HSUS since 2007.
- The Humane Wildlife Services offers nuisance wildlife services to constituents in the metro and DC region. Humane Wildlife Services (HWS) provided assistance on over 2,000 jobs.
- Mr. Griffin's goal is to try to find effective and humane ways of solving conflicts along with keeping young animals with the family group. Mr. Griffin and staff work together to reunite the young with the adult because in many cases the adult will keep trying to get inside; for an example, an attic to get to the young, which may cause more structural damage.
- Mr. Griffin presented a Power Point Presentation of the Humane Wildlife Services. Mr. Griffin

- outlined the approached of the Humane Wildlife Services in regards to nuisance wildlife services to advise, reduce, eliminate, and prevent wildlife issues or property, which is in the spirit of the law and regulations.
- Mr. Griffin and staff use a lot of video camera equipment in surveillance of wildlife to assess the situation and decide the best technique to use.
- Mr. Griffin pointed out that when staff from HWS talk to their clients/general public most of them are pretty set on wildlife only exists in a "wild place" or natural areas. Many of our native wildlife species can adapt to human environments. HWS staff do not set traps to relocate or kill animals. HWS staff makes sure all the animals are out by installing customized one-way entry door.
- Mr. Griffin mentioned that it is not just operators or people that are performing these services without licenses; it is also homeowners with an imperfect understanding of wildlife or no understanding of wildlife.
- Details of Mr. Griffin's Power Point of Humane Wildlife Services are in APPENDIX I.
- Chairman Plummer thanked Mr. Griffin for the presentation on nuisance wildlife control. Chairman Plummer added that if there was anything that WAC can do to get this information out to public, please let the Commission know.
- Question and answers followed.

Break from 10:35 AM to 10:45 AM

2014 Legislative Session Outcome – Presentation given by Director Paul Peditto.

- Director Peditto handed out the 2014 Legislative Session Outcome Summary to the Commission. [ATTACHMENT C]
- Director Peditto summarized some of the wildlife related bills from the 2014 Legislative Session.
- The highlight for the Department and the Administration was the expansion of the Wildlands System, which was SB336/HB 296 Natural Resources Wildlands Designation of New Wildlands. SB 336/HB 296 passed. This included adding nine wildlands to the current statewide total. The Commission received a briefing on the Wildlands several months ago. This is good news for conservation, hunting, fishing communities. The wildlands have the rarest species and best habitat onsite this raises the ecological bar for Maryland and preserves some of the best and most unique places in our state.
- SB 231 Bow Hunting Possession of Handguns for Protection –hoping that this does not result in an increase of bear kills. SB 231 passed.
- SB472/HB406 Allegany County, Garrett County, and Washington County Sunday Hunting allows Sunday hunting for all species except for migratory game birds and wetlands game birds on both private and public lands. WHS staff are in discussions as to how to proceed with this new authority that has been granted to the Department. SB 472/HB 406 passed.
- SB 473/HB432 Frederick County Deer Hunting Sundays –SB 473/HB 432 passed.
- SB 966 Charles County and St. Mary's County Deer Hunting This bill requires the Department to implement an additional 90 day firearms deer hunting season from Jan 1 to March 31, including all Sundays, in Charles and St. Mary's county. Also authorizes extensive access to public lands by private deer damage permit holders all during the Jan to March time period. The Department did not support this bill. The Maryland Farm Bureau and Maryland Horse Council supported this bill.
- Director Peditto highlighted the remaining bills in 2014 Legislative Session Outcome Summary [ATTACHMENT C].
- Commissioner Compton commented that the Maryland Bowhunters Society did not comment or testify on any of the archery related bills.
- Questions and Answers followed.
 - 1. Commissioner Compton suggested that the Commission should go on the record about SB 966.

The MFB supported SB 966 and was behind SB 966. Commissioner Compton pointed out that this is grievous and a violation of sound wildlife management practices – that is what implementation of SB 966 demonstrates. Commissioner Compton personally felt that SB 966 was a slap in the face as a member of the Commission and the passing of SB 966 sets-up a dangerous precedent. Commissioner Compton expressed that SB 966 stands so far outside what was the norm of sound wildlife management practices and it has gone against the advice of the biologists and trained personnel – for this to be done on the political side, it is just unfortunate and wrong.

- 2. Commissioner Boyles Griffin proposed that the Commission compile a letter to the Governor to veto SB 966.
- 3. Commissioner Michael commented on the issue of granularity of all this; the process has become more and more politicalize in the legislature. Commissioner Michael expressed disappointment in the authorization of Sunday hunting in the three counties, (Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties); this is still subject to regulations. Commissioner Michael mentioned that from the hunters' point of view it is very hard to understand. Commissioner Michael added that when these things are being dealt with county by county, it invites every county to have a different local law. The hunting population is the minority population; it invites perhaps the banning of hunting certain species and methods where hunting is least popular. This is the whole legislature picture, which should be discouraged because it could backfire because it could go the other way; if invited. Commissioner Michael observed that local bills are being more prevalent; it could go against the hunting community more often than go in favor. It is already happening in other states. When people asked the Governor to veto a local bill, most times the Governor does not want to step on local legislature toes. Commissioner Michael concluded that the Commission should encourage wildlife related bills on a state level through regulations and regulations could be more specific.
- 4. Chairman Plummer commented that MFB was caught in the middle; MFB's goal is to satisfy their constituency just like the local bills are trying to do. However, Commissioner Compton's point was the Commission is the liaison between the public and the Department. Chairman Plummer posed that when the Commission starts supporting things outside of biology and taking regulations out of the control of the Department that is slippery slope. Chairman Plummer acknowledged that if the Commission does not make a stance on this issue; it could open Pandora's Box to a lot of things down the road. Chairman Plummer agreed that this could be a very dangerous precedent that the Commission needs to consider a position. Chairman Plummer concurred with Commissioner Boyles Griffin and Commissioner Compton that the Commission needs to make some kind of point in whether in the minutes or a letter to the Governor.

Motion:

- 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to send a letter to the Governor requesting to veto SB 966 based on the Commission's opinion.
- 2. Commissioner Boyles Griffin seconded.
- 3. Discussion:
 - a. Commissioner Michael suggested that the letter be specific to the fact that it mandates the season and it takes regulatory authority out.
 - b. Commissioner Gulbrandsen confirmed that the letter should include the opinion that the Commission had expressed in the past that these decisions are best made in context of sound management and science along with the statewide implementation.
 - c. Chairman Plummer asked no further discussion. All in favor of a letter to the Governor to veto SB 966, this will be emailed to the Commission for consensus.
 - d. Results: 6-supported and no opposed.

- e. Motion passed.
- Joint Chairmen's Report on deer population management that is due December 31, 2014.
 - 1. The Horse Council was able to get a meeting with the Chair of House Committee and Chair of Senate Committee along with the Speaker, President, and ultimately with Secretary of the Department.
 - 2. Commissioner Michael met with the Speaker and others but was not in the meeting with the Secretary.
 - 3. No Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) staff members were included in those meetings.
 - 4. The outcome of those meetings included budget language that directs the Department to review the suite of deer management options that are available and report back to the General Assembly by December 31, 2014.
 - 5. Chairman Plummer concluded that the Commission needs to be consistent with dealing with issues that result in corresponding with the Governor or the Secretary. Chairman Plummer requested that the press release discussion should be added as a future agenda item for the Commission.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – Presentation given by Matt Teffeau, Assistant Government Relations Director and Colby Ferguson, Government Relations Director.

- Mr. Teffeau introduced Colby Ferguson, the MFB Government Relations Director.
- Mr. Teffeau started Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Update with SB 966, which MFB supported. The MFB is an organization that works from the county and up. The MFB supports longer deer seasons and/or longer firearms season for deer to control the deer population. Mr. Teffeau understood the concerns of the Commission, especially about the loss of the antlers during that extended deer season. That being said, the MFB decision making process is based on M FB policies.
- Mr. Teffeau provided a list of wildlife related bills supported by MFB. [ATTACHMENT D].
- Mr. Teffeau pointed out MFB supports Sunday hunting statewide.
- Mr. Teffeau informed the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Senate Committee and Environmental Matters House Committee that every year deer are costing about 7.0 to 8.5 million dollars' worth of damage. In Western Maryland, the cost is around 4.5 million dollars, which is an economic loss.
- Mr. Teffeau made the comment, both Sunday hunting bills related to Allegany County, Garrett County, Washington County, and Frederick County impact private lands only.
 - 1. Commissioner Michael responded that Mr. Teffeau's statement on Sunday hunting bills is incorrect.
 - 2. Director Peditto explained that that SB 472/HB 406 and SB 473/HB 432 Sunday hunting bills impact both private and public lands. WHS plans to open Wildlife Management Areas for Sunday hunting.
- Mr. Teffeau informed the Commission that the MFB will urge the Governor not to veto the Sunday hunting bills. These bills were vetted through the legislative process and the Department has provided information about the effectiveness of Sunday hunting.
- Chairman Plummer mentioned that the Commission understands that MFB is working for your constituency and policies. Occasionally, there will be some difference of opinion, and that is how it is going to be.
- Mr. Ferguson mentioned one of the issues is deer management; Maryland is in the perfect zone for deer. There is ample amount of food for the deer because of the crop lands. In Frederick County, 85 percent of lands are agricultural or resources conservation management; when there is that much area to cover out of 426,000 acres, the deer can go anywhere.

• Mr. Ferguson highlighted the economic impact to commuters and motorists, particular in Frederick County. Mr. Ferguson did not want it to be agricultural vs deer, because the agricultural community is not the only group impacted by deer. Mr. Ferguson collected information from DNR, AAA, and State Farm Insurance in Frederick County; deer cause an accident every 3.4 days. There were 1,600 deer and vehicle collisions in 2013. The average cost of an auto claim was \$1,980.00 and the average property damage claim was \$3,442.00. The agricultural damage was around 4.2 million for Frederick County.

Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update – Presentation given by Captain Ed Johnson.

- Captain Johnson informed the Commission that the NRP Academy started on April 7th with 21 cadets. The field training will start in the fall.
- Chairman Plummer expressed concern about hunters trying to figure all these changes; for example; where you can hunt, from when to when. All of the changes put hunters in jeopardy/risk of illegal activity.

Old Business

- The "Use of Approved Contraceptive Agents on Free-Ranging White-tailed Deer Policy." [ATTACHMENT E]
 - 1. Commissioner Boyles Griffin highlighted that this topic was prompted by a constituent's (former WAC member) email to the Commission. The constituent expressed excitement about some work being done in Baltimore County and Fairfax, Virginia and some other places on the use of approved contraceptive agents on free-ranging white-tailed deer.
 - 2. Commissioner Boyles Griffin acknowledged that the Department already has a policy on the use of approved contraceptive agents to manage white-tailed deer population in urban areas.
 - 3. Commissioner Boyles Griffin informed that Commission of a new deer management tool that is being used, called surgical sterilization. For a long time, a lot of animal activists were not real keen on surgical sterilization because of the amount of mortality that occurred during post-op or during the process of capture. Commissioner Boyles Griffin pointed out that Dr. Anthony DeNicola has sort of perfected the surgical sterilization Dr. Nicola has conducted this procedure in different places. Dr. DeNicola uses immobilization drugs and carrying out a surgical procedure that is not a full spayed but consists of an ovariectomy, which is minimum invasive compared to a complete spayed. Dr. DeNicola with a team of four were able to surgically sterilize 140 does. The mortality rate was 4; two of the animals were put down for humane reasons due to preexisting injuries; the third one fell down and injured it leg during the immobilization; the fourth one had complications during post-op. Commissioner Boyles Griffin added that from humane stand point mortality was less than 1-percent, which is pretty good.

• Sunday Hunting Discussion

1. Chairman Plummer provided his background to Commissioner Michael. Chairman Plummer is the past Maryland Waterfowlers Association and Sunday hunting does not impact hunting of migratory game birds. Chairman Plummer also hunts other species. Chairman Plummer attends many of the stakeholders, public meeting, and monitors many of the websites where discussions are posted. Chairman Plummer visits Maryland White-tailed Deer and Duckhunter.net; from these sites one of the objections from the hunting community is private lands is just that. Chairman Plummer pointed out, why shall one group get Sunday privileges and another group shouldn't, that seems to be the biggest objection from the hunting community. Chairman Plummer commented that he feels it is extremely valid why one group gets precedent over another on Sunday; safety issue comes up. Chairman Plummer commented after talking with the Department; there is no safety issue as far as incidents between horseback riding and the hunting community.

- 2. Commissioner Compton outlined his background to Commissioner Michael. Commissioner Compton spent 15 years as an officer of the Maryland Bowhunter Society. Most of those 15 years, Commissioner Compton spent as president Maryland Bowhunter Society. Commissioner Compton spends countless hours on Maryland's hunting related websites along with in person meetings and sportsmen's shows. Commissioner Compton pointed out that most requests from hunters are related to Sunday hunting opportunities. Everyone's lives have become busier, and a lot of hunters are in that Monday through Friday schedule; and the weekends are precious. Saturdays may involve little league or softball, soccer, dance recitals, etc.; it makes the availability to go out hunting on Sundays all the more attractive to a lot of Maryland's track record is proven historically. Commission Compton recalled that Director Peditto indicated that there has never been a recorded incident in the State of Maryland where a non-hunter has been injured by a hunter. In fact, most of the hunting accidents that have been recorded are not weapons, but related to tree stand falls for not taking proper precautions. In the minds and eyes of the hunters, this is not a safety factor; it should be considered why hunters are not allowed Sunday hunting as other recreational activity. Hunters are limited by the seasons; hunters regularly accept the limitations. It has been proven that hunting is one of the safest recreational activities. Commissioner Compton commented that he does not see why the horse community and the hunting community cannot co-exist, because we share the same fields, woods, and streams; we all have to learn to get along with one another and share the resources. Commissioner Compton added that when there are people who get so defensive about their position and not communicating as user groups, it is a problem. Commissioner Compton recalled that when he came to this Commission with heavy focus towards the bowhunters community, however, Commissioner Compton admitted that he has seen a lot and has earned a lot respect for the different user groups; even the Humane Society provides a whole new perspective on things. Commissioner Compton acknowledged that serving on this Commission has been educational. Commissioner Compton emphasized it is necessary to push for communication and working together on such issues.
- 3. Commissioner Gulbrandsen commented that he would like to hunt any other game species other than deer on Sundays. Commissioner Gulbrandsen added that he does his part in managing deer by deer hunting. Commissioner Gulbandsen's family farm is on a peninsula and there are no neighbors that do fox chasing, so there is no possibility that our hunting on that peninsula would have any effect on the neighbors. There is water between Commissioner Gulbandsen's family farm and the neighbors. In fact on one side there is about 8 miles of water. Commissioner Gulbandsen acknowledged that he never understood and probably never will understand the opposition towards allowing Sunday hunting on private lands. Commissioner Gulbandsen understood the opposition to hunt on Sunday on public lands because there are a lot of stakeholders involved, but as far as the opposition to not allow Sunday hunting on private lands why not make Saturday or Thursday.
- 4. Chairman Plummer recalled respecting the view point of former Commissioner Ed Fry (someone from the fox chasing community).
- 5. Chairman Plummer asked, can fox chasers use for example, a 100-acre farm for fox chasing, to Commissioner Michael.
- a. Commissioner Michael responded that minimum could be around 300 to 500 acres. There are very few landowners that own that much property. It depends on the size of the host.
- 6. Commissioner Michael explained that it is not a safety issue because fox chasers do not go out once the deer season opens. There is not a really problem with small game hunting and bowhunting. Commissioner Michael informed the Commission that he is not against Sunday hunting. Commissioner Michael expressed that hunters have enough hunting days. Commissioner Michael added that the fox chasers moved their activity from Saturday to

Sunday during the deer firearms season. Commissioner Michael informed that his hunting club fox chases on Thursdays and Sundays. Commissioner Michael commented that people do not want to go because they do not want a conflict. Commissioner Michael also commented that he rides on Sundays on his land because it is extremely uncomfortable to have that conflict. The Department moved the beaver season around because trappers cannot get in during the deer season because of access as an accommodation. The Department moves seasons around for the wild turkey season because of conflicts on baiting. You avoid your sport because of the conflicts or perceived conflicts.

- 7. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked Commissioner Michael, are you riding on your land or are you riding private and public lands.
- a. Commissioner Michael responded he rides mostly private lands and there is one location on public.
- 8. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked Commissioner Michael where the conflict is for you when riding on Sundays.
 - a. Commissioner Michael responded the hunter is unhappy with Commissioner Michael for disturbing the deer, even when Commissioner Michael is riding on his property on Saturdays so Commissioner Michael waits until Sunday to ride.
 - b. Commissioner Compton illustrated Commissioner Michael experiences with hunters. Commissioner Compton clarified that Commissioner Michael is riding on his property; the hunter must be within eye sight of Commissioner Michael. The hunter is hunting on his or her private property, which is engaging in a legal and lawful activity, but he or she is dissatisfied because Commissioner Michael is riding on his property, Commissioner Compton would respond to "get over it" to Commissioner Michael and the hunter that is upset. Commissioner Compton explained that Commissioner Michael has a right to ride and the hunter has a right to hunt. Commissioner Compton reiterated that it is not a safety issue.
 - c. Commissioner Boyles Griffin understood the horse community and fox chasers are uncomfortable in riding on the days where there is hunting.
 - d. Commissioner Compton indicated there are enough days for all user groups to share Sundays.
- 9. Commissioner Michael outlined the problems: sound is an issue (firearms scare horses) and lack of enjoyment comes with riding and fox chasing on Sundays when there is hunting. It is uncomfortable for some people that are using their backyards. There should be a day that people are certain that there is no hunting. Commissioner Michael added that maybe the answer is the time of day. Commissioner Michael emphasized the way of getting over it by these user groups is by moving their activity to Sundays. This organization could take a responsible statewide view on Sunday hunting that would satisfy a lot of people. Commissioner Michael suggested that if we took the best Sundays and limit Sunday hunting to those best Sundays, which is occurring in Washington County (we live with that). Commissioner Michael pointed out that the horses need exercise. Commissioner Michael does not ride during the rut, out of respect to my family. Commissioner Michael indicated it is important to note that we are talking about public lands in his counties. Commissioner Michael expressed that he does not want to get in a fight with anyone.
 - a. Chairman Plummer responded that he hopes it would never get to that point. Chairman Plummer recalled serving on the Commission with Dr. Joe Lamp (animal rights activist) and how Chairman Plummer and Dr. Lamp became good friends on the Commission. Chairman Plummer felt that Dr. Lamp was good for the Commission. Chairman Plummer added having different viewpoints are good for the Commission to get different sides and those different viewpoints are respected. The Commission members have to work

together.

- b. Commissioner Compton commented that having this type of dialogue is also good for the Commission. Commission Compton expressed that this dialogue has been educational and this is the type of dialogue that should be conducted in the general community. Commissioner Compton recalled when he visited Carroll County on the local level trying to get the Sunday hunting; Commissioner Compton tried to get meetings with the horse community and equestrian community Commissioner Compton requested their concerns because the Maryland Bowhunters Society has a newsletter to reach out to our constituency. There is an electronic version of the newsletter to reach people in different parts of the State, which could provide an opportunity to outline the concerns of the other user groups.
- c. Commissioner Compton expressed one comment to tag onto Commissioner Michael's last comment. Commissioner Compton mentioned that the thing that bothered him the most about the recent comments in the media about pending legislation for next year about the "Safe Sunday Act". Commissioner Compton indicated the "Safe Sunday Act" has the connotation that hunting is unsafe. Commissioner Compton expressed he really cherishes the sport of hunting. Commission Compton informed the Commission he has been a hunter safety instructor for many years and to read those comments is very upsetting.
- 10. Commissioner Michael drew attention to the, Department who has completed the hunting regulatory process so the Commission has some time to gather information. Commissioner Michael pointed out that the key is to get information to the Commission from the Department.
 - a. Chairman Plummer reminded the Commission, the Commission cannot wait to have further Sunday hunting discussion in October or November it would be too late.
 - b. Director Peditto informed the Commission, the Commission had fox chasers served on the Commission. Fox chasers have been involved in our stakeholders' process. Director Peditto recalled Nancy Hill, at the time the lobbyist for the chasing community, would provide presentations to the Commission and staff. The Department modified proposals to expand fox killing opportunities as a compromise with the chasing community. The Department carried the water against the animal rights community protecting the fox chasing privileges.
- 11. Director Peditto informed the Commission that the Department has to do regulations in regards to the mandates from the General Assembly; will need to be implemented for 2014-2015 hunting season.
- 12. Commissioner Michael understood that SB 966 is mandated. Commissioner Michael asked how we get the information out to the stakeholders in regards to the Western Maryland Sunday hunting.
 - a. The Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) develops the proposals and presents those proposals to the Commission for input and a vote.
 - b. Once the proposals have been supported, WHS sends the proposals to the Maryland Register.
- 13. Chairman Plummer concluded that compromise has always worked for this Commission. Chairman Plummer suggested the members of this Commission can start the conversations with the Commission, it is better than to take it through the legislation because someone is going to be disappointed on the legislative side. Chairman Plummer also suggested that the Commission should be a conduit to these conversations.

New Business

• No report.

Adjournment

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

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

ciidaiice	
Members:	L. Compton, S. Boyles Griffin, T. Gregor, E. Gulbrandsen, J. Michael, J.
	Plummer, and C. Rodney
Absent:	G. Fratz and Wojton
Guest:	M.Teffeau
Staff:	E. Johnson, P. Jayne, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, and K. Stonesifer



OFFICERS
Chairman
V. Wilson Freeland
Vice-Chairman
Jeffrey Plummer

COMMISSIONERS
Jacqueline Bonomo
Luen Compton, Jr.
Gary E. Fratz
Edwin Fry
E. Joseph Lamp, Ph.D.
Charles Rodney, Sr.

DNR POLICE REPRESENTATIVE NRP Capt. Lloyd Ingerson

STATE PARK REP
Deputy Superintendent
Chris Bushman

Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission Operating Guidelines April 20, 2011

- Serve as a liaison with the general public, conservation organizations and the sportsmen and women of Maryland on wildlife-related issues. The Commission shall provide advice to the Department of Natural Resources (Department) on proposed regulations, legislation and generally support the Department with input on important wildlife issues, not to include personnel, budget or day-to-day operational decisions.
- 2. The Commission shall follow Roberts Rules of Order. Decisions of the Commission represent the opinion of the Commission. The Commission, and any member, shall be bound by the decisions of the Commission. However, members are free to express a dissenting or clarifying statement on the decisions of the Commission. Individual member statements must instruct that the statement represents the personal opinion of the member and is not reflective of the final decision of the Commission.
- 3. The Commission encourages public input during the development of important wildlife-related policy, regulatory and legislative concepts. The Commission encourages the public to participate in the decision-making process and supports the Department in providing opportunities for public input toward development of important wildlife-related policy, regulations and legislative proposals.

§ 1-102. Units, etc., within Department.

(a) In general The Department shall include all units, programs, boards, commissions, and advisory boards and commissions referenced in this article.
(b) Additional units The following units are also included in this Department:
(1) The Maryland Membership Unit of the Interstate Commission of the Potomac River Basin;
(2) The Maryland Membership Unit of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission;
(3) The Maryland Membership Unit of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission;
(4) The Maryland Membership Unit of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission;
(5) The Maryland Membership Unit of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission; and
(6) The Maryland Membership Unit of the Interstate Mining Commission.
(c) Commission composition; terms; compensation
(1) Unless otherwise provided by this article, each advisory commission created by law consists of five members appointed by the Governor, with the advice of the Secretary, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
(2) (i) The Wildlife Advisory Commission is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor.

(ii) 1. The Governor shall solicit nominations for vacancies on the Wildlife Advisory Commission from individuals or organizations that promote the future of hunting and individuals or organizations that promote the preservation of wildlife in the State, with geographical distribution being a prime consideration for filling vacancies.
2. There shall be representation from the farming community.
(iii) The term of a member is 4 years.
(iv) A member may not serve more than 2 terms on the Commission.
(v) The terms of members are staggered so that:
1. 3 shall end in 1987;
2. 3 shall end in 1988; and
3. 3 shall end in 1989.
(vi) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.
(vii) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.
(3) A member shall be knowledgeable in the area of interest of the advisory commission on which he serves.
(4) Each advisory commission shall advise the Secretary or the administration of the appropriate Department unit, pursuant to rules and regulations the Secretary adopts.

.

•

- (5) The members of each advisory commission annually shall elect a chairman of the commission and may adopt procedures to conduct its meetings.
- (6) An advisory commission member receives the compensation provided in the Department budget. Every member shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses incurred in performing any official duty, pursuant to rules and regulations the Secretary adopts.
- (d) Creation of advisory unit.- In addition to any advisory body established by law, the Secretary, with the Governor's approval, may create administratively any advisory unit of a size and tenure the Secretary deems appropriate.
- (e) Consistency with interstate compacts. If any provision of this article as it affects the Maryland membership unit of any interstate agency is inconsistent with any interstate compact to which Maryland is a party, the provision of this article does not apply to that unit to the extent of the inconsistency.

[An. Code 1957, art. 41, § 233; 1973, 1st Sp. Sess., ch. 4, § 1; 1974, ch. 365; 1976, ch. 320; 1979, chs. 595, 601; 1980, chs. 27, 561, 616; ch. 712, § 2; 1981, ch. 162; 1982, ch. 184; 1983, ch. 388; 1984, chs. 136, 255, 794; 1986, chs. 211, 710; 1987, ch. 311; 1988, ch. 6, § 1; ch. 188, § 2; 2004, ch. 25, § 6.]

§ 10-204. Department advisory commissions.

- (a) Wildlife Advisory Commission established. There is a Wildlife Advisory Commission in the Department.
- (b) Members of former commission may continue to serve unexpired terms. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, a member of the Fish and Wildlife Commission as of June 30, 1972 may serve the unexpired remainder of the member's term as a member of an advisory commission created by law.

[An. Code 1957, art. 41, § 233; 1973, 1st Sp. Sess., ch. 4, § 1; 1977, ch. 784, § 5; 1990, ch. 6, § 2.]

2014 Legislative Session – Wildlife Bills Passed

Administration and Departmental Bills

SB 336 / HB 296 Natural Resources – Wildlands – Designation of New Wildlands – Expands 14 of the State's 29 existing Wildlands, and creates 9 additional Wildlands for a total of 21,887 additional acres of State-owned lands as Wildlands, an increase of approximately 50 percent. In total about 1 percent of Maryland's total land area will forever retain its wild character for future generations. Wildlands FAQ, descriptions and maps are located online at http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/wildland.asp. Effective October 1, 2014.

<u>SB 93</u> Natural Resources – Recreational Incentives Pilot Program – Establishes a three-year pilot program to determine whether offering discounted fishing and hunting licenses will increase license sales to individuals who have not held a recreational fishing or hunting license for at least three years. The bill requires DNR to develop a plan (including marketing strategy) to implement the program, and limits the incentive discounts to no more than 50 percent of the underlying license fee. Effective October 1, 2014.

Other Bills of Interest to DNR

<u>SB 231</u> Bow Hunting – Possession of Handguns for Protection – Prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from restricting specified licensed bow hunters from openly carrying a handgun under specified circumstances. Effective October 1, 2014.

<u>SB 309</u> / <u>HB 138</u> Montgomery County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone MC 5-14 – Establishes for archery hunters in Montgomery County a safety zone of 100 yards within which archery hunting may not take place except under specified circumstances. Effective July 1, 2014.

SB 471 / HB 420 Washington County - Off-Road Vehicle Trails - Prohibition of Establishment on Sideling Hill - Prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from establishing an off-road vehicle trail on State-owned property located at Sideling Hill in Washington County, including the Sideling Hill Wildlife Management Area and specified other areas and requires the Department to review and evaluate, regarding its suitability for preservation, the Sideling Hill Wildlife Management Area and State-owned property in the areas of Sideling Hill. Effective October 1, 2014.

<u>SB 472</u> / <u>HB 406</u> Allegany County, Garrett County, and Washington County – Sunday Hunting – Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person in Allegany County, Garrett County, or Washington County to hunt any game bird or game mammal, except migratory game birds and wetland game birds, on a Sunday on specified public and private land during the open season for that game bird or game mammal. The bill allows the Department to designate both the areas of public land that will be open for Sunday hunting and the specific Sundays those areas will be open for hunting. Effective July 1, 2014.

1. 4/10/2014

SB 473 / HB 432 Frederick County - Deer Hunting - Sundays - Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday on specified property from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive, in Frederick County subject to specified provisions of law. The bill allows the Department to designate both the areas of public land that will be open for Sunday hunting and the specific Sundays those areas will be open for hunting. Effective July 1, 2014.

<u>SB 966</u> Charles County and St. Mary's County – Deer Hunting – Requires the Department of Natural Resources to 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 those counties; requires the Department to give applicants who hold a Deer Management Permit priority in acceptance to the program; authorizes the Department to terminate the program under specified circumstances; requires the Department to provide a report to the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2016. Effective July 1, 2014 and remains effective for 3 years.

<u>HB 1124</u> Criminal Law – Possession of Dangerous or Wild Animals – Alters the list of entities and individuals to which specified provisions relating to dangerous or wild animals, including a prohibition on importing, offering for sale, trading, bartering, possessing, breeding, or exchanging specified animals, do not apply. Authorizes holders of a specified federal exhibitor's license to possess or breed specified animals if conditions are met and requires a local animal control authority to take steps to find long-term placement of seized animals. Effective July 1, 2014.

<u>HB 1174</u> Recreational Hunting or Fishing License Applications – Disclosure of Information – Amends recreational hunting and fishing license statutes to require collection of only the last 4 digits of applicants' Social Security numbers instead of the entire number. Partially effective June 1, 2014 and remainder effective upon receipt of federal waiver.

2014 Legislative Session - Wildlife Bills Not Enacted

Bills DNR Supported

<u>SB 191</u> / <u>HB 197</u> Anne Arundel County – Deer Hunting – Sundays – Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday on private property in Anne Arundel County from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January of the following year. SB 191 failed in Education, Health and Environmental Affairs (EHEA) Committee on a 5-5 vote.

<u>HB 671</u> Sunday Hunting – Deer Bow Hunting Season – Authorizes a person to hunt deer statewide on private property on any Sunday during the deer bow hunting season, subject to specified provisions of law. Not voted on by Environmental Matters Committee.

<u>HB 890</u> Natural Resources – Deer Hunting – Sundays – Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt deer statewide on private property on specified Sundays. Not voted on by Environmental Matters Committee.

Bills DNR Opposed

<u>SB 44</u> Agriculture – Noxious Weeds – Reed Grass – Classifies reed grass (phragmites australis) as a noxious weed subject to investigation, abatement, eradication, and general regulation under the direction of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Withdrawn by sponsor.

<u>SB 192</u> / <u>HB 196</u> Anne Arundel County – Turkey Hunting – Fall Season – Requires the Department of Natural Resources to establish by regulation a fall turkey hunting season for the portion of Anne Arundel County lying south of MD Route 214. Withdrawn by sponsors.

<u>SB 1010</u> / <u>HB 1473</u> Domestic Animals – Sterilization and Life-Sustaining Care of Cats – Determination of Dangerousness – Provides that a law prohibiting a person who owns, possesses, or has custody of a domestic animal from dropping or leaving the animal on a road, in a public place, or on private property with the intent to abandon the animal does not apply to a person who is providing sterilization or life-sustaining care to a specified cat that is not owned or lacks visible owner identification. SB 1010 not voted on by Judicial Proceedings Committee.

<u>HB 669</u> Harford County – Deer Muzzle Loader Season – January Days – Requires the Department of Natural Resources to include in the deer muzzle loader season a minimum of 2 days in January for the hunting of both antlered and antlerless deer in Harford County. Withdrawn by sponsor.

HB 675 / HB 769 Recreational Hunting or Fishing License Applications – Disclosure of Information – Establishes that the Department of Natural Resources may require an applicant to provide only specified information on an application for a recreational hunting or fishing license and alters the information that a request for information from a recreational hunting or fishing

1 4/10/2014

license application made by the Child Support Enforcement Administration of the Department of Human Resources to the Department of Natural Resources is required to contain. Environmental Matters Committee reported HB 1174 favorable instead of these bills.

HB 1547 Hunting Licenses – Exemption for Retired Members of the Armed Forces – Creates an exemption for a person who is a retired former member of the armed forces of the United States from the requirement to obtain a hunting license under specified circumstances and provides that the exemption applies only to hunting on specified farmland that is under specified ownership and requires a person who hunts under the exemption to possess a retired-military identification card, written permission to hunt during a specified time period from the property owner, and any required hunting stamps. Passed by House, not voted on by EHEA Committee.

<u>HB 670</u> Archery Hunting – Safety Zone – Establishes for archery hunters statewide a safety zone of 50 yards within which archery hunting may not take place except under specified circumstances. Reported unfavorable by Environmental Matters Committee.

<u>HB 672</u> Harford County – Sunday Hunting – Deer Bow Hunting Season – Authorizes a person to hunt deer on private property in Harford County on any Sunday during the deer bow hunting season, subject to specified provisions of law. No letter from Harford County delegation.

HB 673 Harford County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone - Alters the size of the safety zone for archery hunters in Harford County within which archery hunting may not take place except under specified circumstances. No letter from Harford County delegation.

HB 759 Calvert County - Deer Hunting - Sundays - Authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt deer on a Sunday on private property in Calvert County from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January of the following year, inclusive, subject to specified provisions of law. Passed House, not voted on by EHEA Committee.

<u>HB 860</u> Natural Resources — Baiting Deer — Restrictions — Prohibits a person from using food, salt, or other mineral-based attractants for the purpose of attracting deer except under specified circumstances. Withdrawn by sponsor.

HB 1133 Calvert County and St. Mary's County – Archery Hunting – Safety Zone – Establishes for archery hunters in Calvert County and St. Mary's County a safety zone of 100 yards within which archery hunting may not take place except under specified circumstances.

HUNTING/ WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCE BILLS

SB0472 (HB0406) Allegany County, Garrett County, and Washington County - Sunday Hunting

Senator Edwards / Delegate Beitzel

Passed Enrolled

This bill would give the Department of Natural Resources the authority to set Sunday hunting dates in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington County. MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 472 & HB406.

SB0473 (HB0432) Frederick County - Deer Hunting - Sundays

Senator Edwards / Delegate Beitzel

Passed Enrolled

Frederick County delegation amended the bill to add Frederick County to the original list of Western Maryland Counties. Since SB 472/HB406 were passed, there was no need to include the three Western MD counties so the bill was amended again to be a Frederick County only bill. In its final version, this bill would allow Frederick County to hunt deer on Sundays. The department would allow deer hunting from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January. Deer Hunting would only be allowed on private property or public land that is designated for hunting by the Department of Natural Resources.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB473 & HB 432

SB0093 Natural Resources - Recreational Incentives Pilot Program

Request of DNR

Signed into Law

This bill would create a pilot program to determine whether incentive discounts offered to individuals who have not purchased a recreational fishing or hunting license within the previous 3 years, due to the increase in fees. The incentive program would be allowed to offer up to a 50% discount on fishing and hunting license fees.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 93.

SB0231 (HB0262) Bow Hunting - Possession of Handguns for Protection

Senator Edwards / Delegate Beitzel

Returned

Passed

This bill would allow licensed bow hunters to carry a handgun while hunting in Region A for personal protection. The bow hunter must be at least 21 years old and may not use the handgun to kill wildlife wounded by a vertical bow or crossbow. MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 231 & HB 262.

SB0309 (HB138) Montgomery County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone

Montgomery County Delegation

Returned Passed

This bill would amend current law to allow archery hunters in Montgomery County to be within a 50 yard safety zone while hunting. Allowing archery hunters to be within 50 yards will help with the growing deer population in Montgomery and allow archery hunters to utilize safety hunting practices. MONTGOMERY CO. FB AND MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORT SB 309 & HB 138.

SB0966 Charles County, and St. Mary's County - Deer Hunting

Senator Dyson

Passed Enrolled

This bill would give the Department of Natural Resources the authority to establish a program in Charles and St. Mary's Counties to train rifle shooters to hunt deer for the purpose of controlling the deer population in the respective counties. If an applicant into the program holds a deer management permit, they are given priority before other applicants. Also, an individual who holds a deer Management permit in any of the three counties, would not have to apply for renewal more than once every 3 years. The Maryland Farm Bureau has policy, which supports the use of rifles to hunt deer in counties where allowed, and also enhances hunting opportunities on public lands, especially on those properties adjacent to agricultural lands.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS HB 759

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE SERVICE POLICY

SUBJECT: Use of Approved Contraceptive Agents on Free-ranging White-tailed Deer

UNIT OR AREA: Wildlife and Heritage Service

POLICY NUMBER: 2011-1 EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/26/2011

I PURPOSE: It is the intent of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to ensure that approved contraceptive agents for white-tailed deer are prescribed and used by the private and public sectors in a professional, humane, legal and effective manner.

II POLICY: This policy describes the protocol for the application of approved contraceptive agents to free-ranging white-tailed deer. All deer population control projects or research studies that propose the use of contraceptive agents for white-tailed deer shall be thoroughly reviewed and approved by DNR.

Only those contraceptive agents approved for use in white-tailed deer by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration may be permitted for use in Maryland. Contraceptives classified as Restricted Use Pesticides must also be registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA).

Applicators must be:

- (a) A DNR Deer Cooperator Permit holder and have taken and passed the exam on white-tailed deer capture, immobilization and drug application, or;
- (b) A University-affiliated professional wildlife scientist or wildlife academician intending to study contraceptive agents for research purposes; or
- (c) A government-employed professional wildlife scientist or deer manager.

All applicators must comply with the labeling requirements of all drugs or registered pesticides that will be used during the project. If the contraceptive is classified as a Restricted Use Pesticide the applicator must obtain an MDA pesticide applicators license and comply with MDA regulations.

Contraceptives may be applied to white-tailed deer in Maryland after the Director of the Wildlife and Heritage Service has reviewed and approved the project proposal or operational plan submitted by the applicant.

Furthermore:

- (a) All deer must be treated ethically and with approved handling procedures. Deer should not be captured when heat or cold stress is likely or when handling could interfere with fawn care. Deer may not be relocated as part of the contraceptive application program.
- (b) A project proposal or operational plan must be approved by DNR prior to the application of the contraceptive. Details regarding the delivery of the contraceptive drug, the marking of treated deer (if required), intended animal handling procedures

- and other relevant project details must be documented in the project proposal.
- (c) A detailed written report summarizing the contraception program should be forwarded to the DNR Deer Project Leader upon completion of the contraceptive application. This report must include the duration of the application program, total number of deer that were treated and any mortality that may have occurred during the contraception program.

III DISCUSSION

The application of contraceptives to white-tailed deer will be considered anywhere in Maryland where there is a demonstrated need. Typically, the contraceptive agent will be used to maintain a stable population after the herd density has been reduced via other means. The best results for contraceptive use will be on small, confined deer populations that are readily approachable and have limited ability for movement into or out of the application area. Site conditions will weigh heavily in the approval or rejection of proposed deer control projects employing contraception.

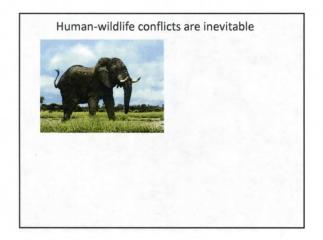
Contraception should be used in conjunction with other proven deer control techniques for best results. Contraception alone will not decrease deer density in a time frame short enough to effectively address most public concerns or minimize further habitat damage. Additionally, it may be required as a condition of the permit that applicators conduct follow-up deer population estimates to evaluate the effectiveness of the contraception program.

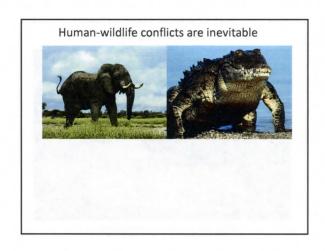
This policy does not apply to the use of experimental contraceptive agents being tested in conjunction with scientifically sound research projects. The use of those agents will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Director of the Wildlife and Heritage Service via a separate process.

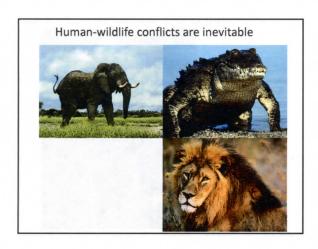
BC c. anth	26 April 2011	
Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service	Date	







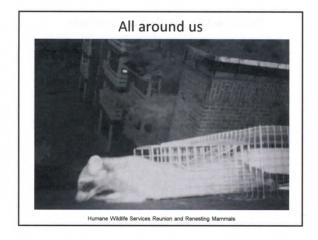








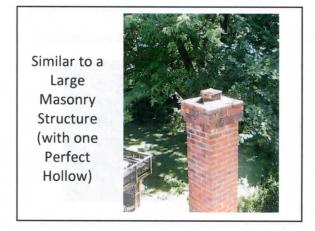


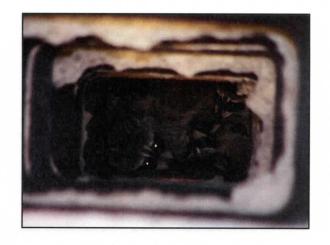






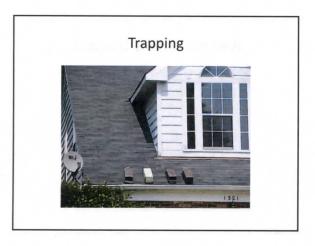










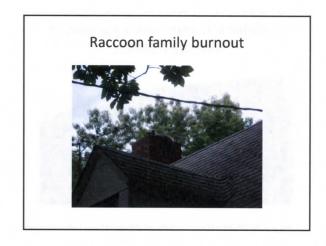




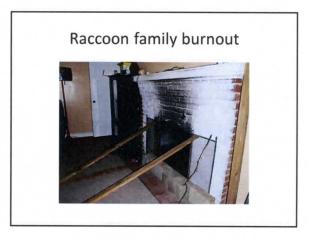








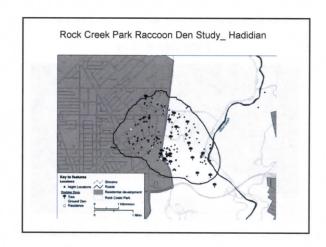


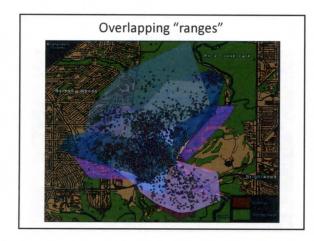


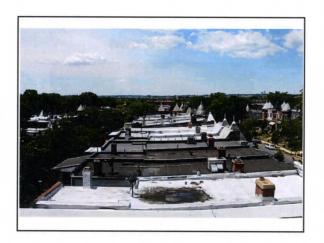




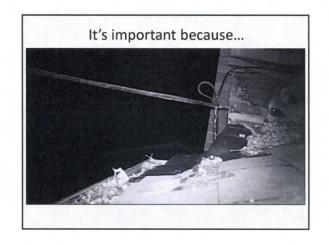


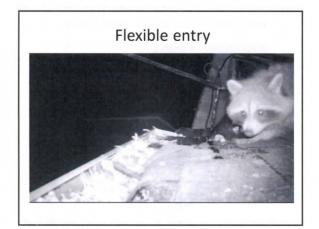


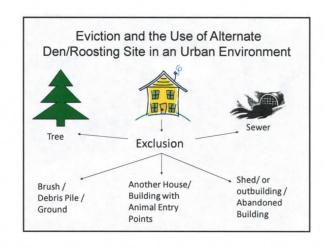




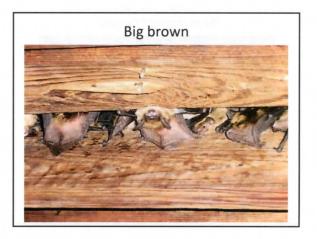
	Raccoon	Squirrel	Oppossum	Rat	Bird*	Groundhog	Stank	But*	Fox
	l reasons	Squita	Possum	Mice	Linu	Woodchuck	SHAR	LAK	rux.
Shelter Type Most Often Used	Attic, Chirmey Suffit, Cut- building	Attic, Soffit, Corner	Basement, CS Porch, Dack Shad	Basement Porch Wall Dack Attic	Cryer & Bath- room Vent Gutter, Attic	Crawlepace Porch, Dack Shed	Orawispace Porch Dack Shed	Attic, Soffit Under Trim Board	Crawlepace Porch Dack Shed
Entry Point Roof or Ground Level	Roof Lovel	Rod Level (foundation)	Ground Level	Rod level Ground level	RoofLevel	GoundLevel	GroundLevel	Rod Level	GrandLeve
Common Entry Point	Soffit, Chirmley TirmRod X Domer X R &A Vent	Soffit, TrimRod X, Corner X R &A Vent	Foundation Basement, CS Porch, Dack Shed	Foundation Basement, CS Porch, Dack R &A Vent	Dyer, Range & Bathroom Vert Soffit, R & A Vert		Fourdation Basement, CS Porch, Dack Shed	Soffit, TrimRod X, Dormer X R &A Vent	Foundation Basement, CS Parch, Dack Shed
Size of Entry Point (in inches)	≥4	>2	>4	1-2	1-3	>5	<4	<1	>4
Territorial/	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	- Y	Y	Y (Colony)	Y
Defined Home Range									
#of Litters	1	2	2	Sixeral	Sweral	1	2	1	1
Den Establishment Period	Fall-winter	Fall-winter Late Summer	Various	Various	Various	LateFall	LateWhter	Early Spring	Winter or Early Spring
Young Born	Spring: April-May	1. Spr, Feb Apr. 2. Field aup-Sept	Various	Year round	Verious	Spring April-May	Spring-Summer May-June	Early-Late May	Spring March-April
Number of young	1-7	26	1-12	512	2-4	25	410	1-2	2-7
Young Waned	>60 days	>64 days	>90 days	34wades	Flexige: 2-3 wades	>60 days	>60 days	September*	.63 days Early fall
Common Sounds Heard	Brd life chirps, All manner di growls, Ourney plackfro	Graving Repid footfalls Distress calls - Resping call	May him if cornered	Gnaving . Rustling Cocastional squark	Chiping Rusting Tapping Ruttering	Whistle Chatter, Hiss Squael Growl	Arrounced by small rather than by sound	Squeeking Rustling	Quet-like sicuries, usually smalled rather than heard
Active period*	Note	Day	Nort	24r	Day	DayOeo	Natt	Nort	Nort/

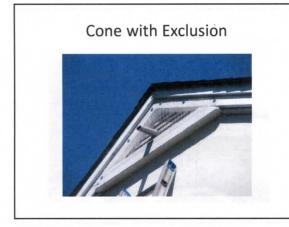


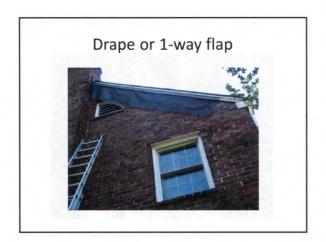


















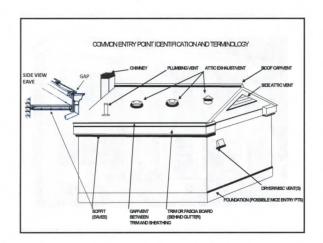


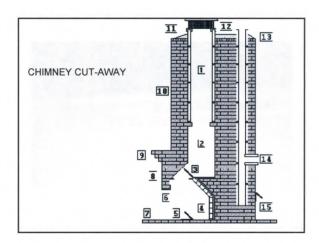










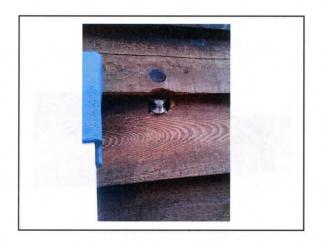




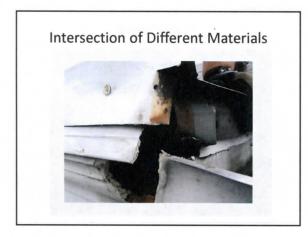




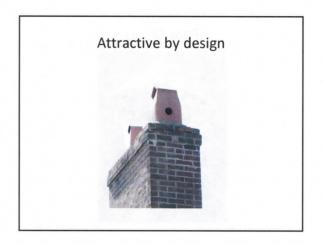


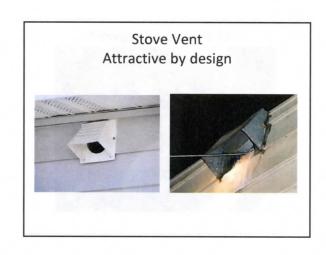
























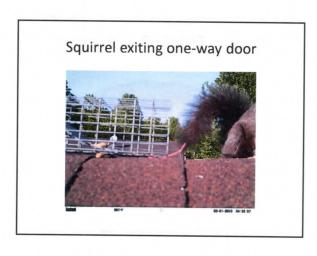


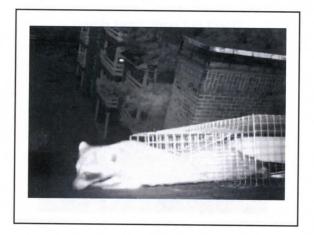


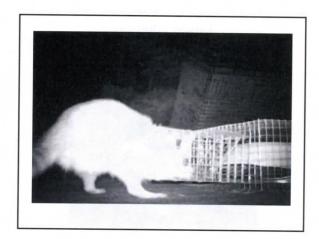


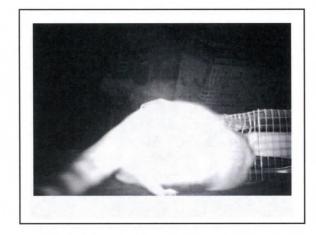










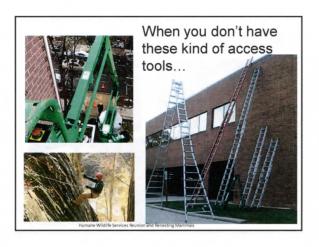














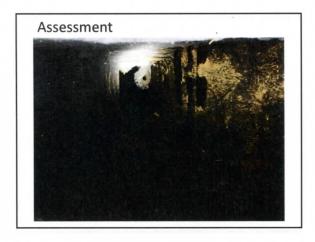




















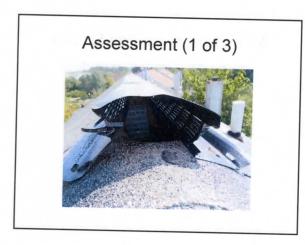


























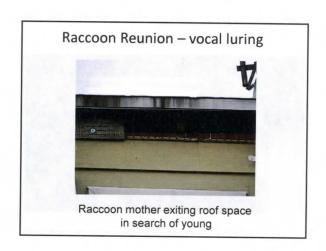
















Humane Wildlife Services Reunion an Renesting Mammals

Raccoon Reunion



Squirrel Self-Relocation (ideal)



THE HUMANE SOCIETY

Squirrel Reunion - Time elapsed/vicinity/vocalization



Reunion box /placement/mobile



Humane Wildlife Services Reunion an

Practicing Humane, Biologically Appropriate Urban Wildlife Management

Target Animal Specific

Minimize the Stress Caused by Removal

Preserve the Family Unit

Reduce or Eliminate the Conflict Maintain Existing Population Dynamics Prevent the Spread of Disease and Parasites

Utilize the Natural Response of the Animal Provide a Long Term Solution for the Constituent

