

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – MARCH 19, 2014

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

Approval for the March 19, 2014 Meeting Agenda

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gregor moved to accept the March 19, 2014 Meeting Agenda as presented.
 2. Commissioner Compton seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from February 19, 2014 Meeting

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

Letter to the Commission – Update given by Chairman Plummer

- Chairman Plummer handed out copies of the thank you letter from Secretary Joe Gill. Chairman Plummer announced that Secretary Joe Gill was confirmed.
- Chairman Plummer expressed his concerns about the role of the Commission related to adopting a position of support for a gubernatorial nominee.
- Chairman Plummer reminded the members of the Commission about the importance of voting on wildlife related issues and being informed by attending public meetings and stakeholders meetings along with reading information. This allows the Commission to be a liaison between the public and the Department.
- Discussion Section:
 1. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked how she can find out when the stakeholders meetings are going to be held.
 - a. Acting Director Karina Stonesifer recalled historically the Commission as a body has not been invited to the stakeholders meeting, just the Chairman has. WHS will invite all Commissioners in the future. The two public meetings held were in Frostburg and Wye Mills. The public meetings announcements are done by press releases and via the Department's website.
 - b. Action Items:
 - i. WHS agreed to invite the Commission in the future to the game species regulation stakeholders meetings.
 - ii. WHS will make sure that the Commission receives wildlife related press releases.
 - c. Commissioner Gregor benefited from reading the comments on the Department's website related to the game species concepts. Commissioner Rodney agreed with Commissioner Gregor.
 - d. Chairman Plummer also mentioned there are several interest groups with websites that include comments which were worth reviewing. Reviewing these will allow the Commission to get a better understanding as to what the public wants.

2014-2016 Hunting Seasons Regulation Proposals – Presentation given by Associate Director Pete Jayne.

- Mr. Jayne handed out the 2014-2016 Regulation Proposals to the Commission. [ATTACHMENT A]
- Mr. Jayne presented the Regulation Proposals: 2014-2015 and 2015-16 Hunting Seasons to the Commission in a Power Point Presentation. [ATTACHMENT B]
- Mr. Jayne recommended that the Commission should vote on each proposal. Staff values the Commission input and will consider the Commission's input as staff members move these proposals through the regulation process.
 1. Hunting Privilege Suspension Proposal – To develop a process and establish guidelines for the suspension of hunting and trapping privileges for hunting/trapping related convictions.
 - a. Recommendation: WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Chairman Plummer mentioned that he does not see a problem with the 1-year suspension in regards to catching those “bad apples” and repeat offenders. Chairman Plummer expressed his concerns about the 1-year suspension regarding a simple trespassing citation and that a 1-year suspension is a big loss for an honest hunter. Chairman Plummer also added that he did not hear any complaints about the five year suspension.
 - i. Director Peditto explained that there is a provision where someone could be charged and convicted for failure to have written permission. WHS is specifically looking at this. The Criminal Article for trespass regarding posted private property is a different charge than the Natural Resources charge for trespassing. However, many NRP officers will use the Criminal Article charge because it makes a much stronger case in the District Court if the officers are challenged. NRP officers are looking for individuals that knowingly hunt on property without written permission.
 - c. Chairman Plummer pointed out that people want to know all the possibilities for getting that 1 year suspension; especially for those incidents where a hunter mistakenly stumbles on a property that a hunter does not have permission to be on. Chairman Plummer reiterated that he understands the purpose of this is to catch repeat offenders or “bad apples”; however, “commoners” (average hunters) do not want this to impact unintentional situations. Chairman Plummer expressed that not knowing what applies to the 1 year suspension is the biggest concern he has heard.
 - i. Director Peditto commented that WHS will do a better job in linking the actual laws and regulations for the hunting community.
 - ii. Discussion ensued regarding examples.
 - d. Commissioner Compton verified that a conviction triggers a suspension but a probation before judgment (PBJ) does not. PBJ is technically a conviction.
 - i. Director Peditto noted that was correct. PBJ is not considered a conviction for the purpose of the hunting privilege suspension hearing.
 - e. Commissioner Rodney asked what the maximum fine for hunting without written permission is.
 - i. The maximum if an individual goes to court is \$1500.00 and it is a pre-payable amount of around \$320.00. A hunter may opt to pay the \$320.00.
 - ii. Commissioner Compton added that the payout is also an admission of guilt and that would trigger a 1-year automatic suspension.
 - f. Director Peditto emphasized that WHS will provide notification that pre-paying a citation is an admission of guilt and therefore is subject to the suspension of privileges. WHS learned from observing the Fisheries Service model that many people did not know this. Director Peditto reiterated that notification is an important part of this process.
 - g. Commissioner Wojton asked how often a warning would be issued as opposed to a

ticket/citation given when a hunter accidentally shoots an extra goose.

- i. Captain Edward Johnson responded that it depends on the individual officer's discretion. It would be based on the officer's observations and any statements made by the hunter.
 - h. Chairman Plummer expressed that he is not thrilled about this. Chairman Plummer continued by reiterating that there is some public hesitation on this proposal based on a general distrust of the government. Therefore, the public is uncomfortable about the government having this authority. However, Chairman Plummer is slightly leaning towards the fact that something needs to be done with the "bad apples" and that outweighs the possibility that one or two people may get snagged up in this. Chairman Plummer concluded that he sees the benefit of this and that it may have more good points than bad.
 - i. Commissioner Compton agreed with Chairman Plummer's points. Commissioner Compton added that fines are often considered as the cost of doing business for these "bad apples". Commissioner Compton explained that he has enough trust in this particular agency that these Administrative Hearings will be conducted with a level head and those average "Joes or (commoners)" that make an honest mistake will be handled in a reasonable fashion. Commissioner Compton warned the Commission that they may receive some heat for supporting this initially, but down the road it will prove to be something that the Commission will be able to stand behind.
 - j. Commissioner Wojton mentioned that she had discussions with a number of outfitters, about goose hunting violations. She feels those outfitters are very concerned about the details, Commissioner Wojton concurred with Chairman Plummer and Commissioner Compton about the need to address the "bad apples" and trusts the system to be fair to the people that make mistakes and who do not try to violate laws and regulations.
 - k. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote:
 - ii. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
2. Mourning Dove Proposal – Add 20 days to the mourning dove season.
- a. Recommendation: WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. No questions or comments from the Commission on this proposal.
 - c. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 5-support and 1 oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
3. Wild Turkey Proposal – Create a seven day, either-sex, winter wild turkey season statewide. The season would begin on the third Saturday in January and rifles would be prohibited in all counties. This season would share the current fall bag limit of one either-sex turkey.
- a. Recommendation: WHS plans to modify the proposal to be for three days only and move it to the regulation process.
 - b. Commissioner Compton asked whether staff considered the Sunday hunting option of the current bills.
 - i. Staff members have not considered the Sunday hunting option. This is a great point and staff members thought they had looked at every possible scenario. That is one of the reasons why staff have a public input period.
 - ii. The spring turkey season Sunday hunting opportunities are limited.
 - iii. HB0406 and SB047 for Sunday hunting in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties –for all game species except migratory game bird species would require this proposal

- to change if these bills pass.
- iv. Commissioner Compton pointed out that Statewide there will be the traditional Spring Wild Turkey Season, the Fall Wild Turkey Season in Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties will remain, and lastly, the new Statewide Three-Day Winter Wild Turkey Season will be added. Therefore Allegany, Garrett, and Washington Counties will potentially have three seasons for wild turkey hunting.
 - c. Commissioner Gregor understood that the wild turkey bag limit is not going to increase but it provides additional days afield in other counties.
 - i. Hunters may take two bearded birds during the spring wild turkey season. However, hunters may take one additional either-sex turkey in either the fall or winter season.
 - ii. This is a very common request staff members have received for several years. In past years, staff did not feel that the wild turkey population could withstand the extra pressure. Now, staff are comfortable that the wild turkey population can withstand this change.
 - d. Chairman Plummer reported that at the public hearing the state chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation expressed opposition for this proposal. These members are passionate about turkey hunting. Chairman Plummer indicated this is a concern to him.
 - e. Chairman Plummer added another concern is the baiting issue because there are going to be some hunters baiting for deer on private lands and to subject turkey hunters to that is an issue. In addition, the approval of the hunter privilege suspension proposal really dampens his enthusiasm for this season. Chairman Plummer expressed that he does not foresee a lot hunters participating in this season. Additionally, staff received more negative than positive comments on this proposal so Chairman Plummer is not sure why WHS is moving forward with this.
 - i. The task of balancing public comment is a complex issue. Staff consider public comments and the reasons stated in those comments for opposing or supporting a Proposal.
 - ii. In regards to baiting being an issue with this proposal; staff members have minimized conflicts by selecting the winter dates that are proposed.
 - iii. Another opposition comment was that hunters should not be harvesting hens in the winter and staff looked at the population data and feel the harvest will be well below that threshold.
 - iv. Chairman Plummer noted that all the big clubs in Dorchester County will have sika deer hunting during this time period. Chairman Plummer illustrated that if someone wants to turkey hunt on those tracts, they will be in jeopardy of losing their licenses for one year. This is a real problem.
 - v. Director Peditto drew attention to the fact that this issue has been present since 1973 with the fall wild turkey season in Western Maryland. In addition, this has existed with goose hunters while white-tailed deer season is open, so potentially every field on the Eastern Shore is facing that issue for goose hunting. In addition, staff have managed this successfully with the bear hunt.
 - vi. Director Peditto understood Chairman Plummer's concerns. In fact, WHS staff had very deliberate discussions on this for a lot of reasons. The National Wild Turkey Federation is essentially debating against WHS science on this proposal and claiming that WHS data is incorrect. Staff would not have suggested this as a concept if the science did not support it.
 - vii. The ten-year average of harvested wild turkeys is 173 in the western counties during the fall season. In Pennsylvania, a fall wild turkey season has been the tradition since

- 1918; PA opened the spring season in 1968. Starting in 2000, PA harvested more birds in the spring season than the traditional fall season. Yet, PA wild turkey populations remain sustainable.
- viii. Chairman Plummer commented that he did not think anyone was debating the biology of this.
 - ix. Director Peditto responded yet this is what the National Wild Turkey Federation is arguing with WHS staff. In fact, the National Wild Turkey Federation is in support of wild turkey fall seasons.
 - x. Chairman Plummer is very concerned over supporting the loss of hunting privileges for hunting violations and then putting hunters in jeopardy by allowing this wild turkey season.
 - xi. Captain Ed Johnson repeated that the NRP officer has to factor everything on the site and make a decision whether to charge or warn. NRP officers receive training in the academy for situations such as baiting violations.
 - f. Commissioner Compton noted that this turkey season proposal is a good compromise. Commissioner Compton reminded the Commission about the hunter's responsibility to know if bait is present. Keep in mind that turkey hunters have to do some scouting before deciding to hunt a location.
 - g. Commissioner Boyles Griffin added again this will only be an issue on private lands. If the hunter does not know that a property is being baited then the hunter probably does not have good communication with the landowner(s). She added that the hunter needs to have written permission to be on property.
 - h. Discussion ensued.
 - i. Chairman Plummer expressed that he does not like things that are vague and in his opinion leaving it up to the NRP officer's discretion to cite or warn is vague.
 - j. Mr. Jayne reminded the Commission that the NRP officer has to prove that the bait is a lure/attraction.
 - k. Commissioner Gregor informed the Commission that she is a member of the Central Maryland Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The Central Maryland Chapter was not opposed to this proposal. It is good to know everything before making a decision.
 - l. Director Peditto clarified it is not enough that a NRP officer has to show that there was bait on site; NRP officer must show it was a lure beyond a reasonable doubt, which means that if a judge has any inclination that it was not the reason that the turkeys were present, the judge cannot convict a hunter. Director Peditto acknowledged that this is really a high bar for the government to prove.
 - m. Chairman Plummer emphasized that the government and the public have a disconnect. The public feels that once things are in the hands of the government, they get very leery and that is what Chairman Plummer was addressing. Chairman Plummer's final comment was people want to know that things are black and white and this is clearly not black and white.
 - n. Commissioner Rodney supported this proposal. Commissioner Rodney highlighted that if WHS does this as a pilot program and gets a count; the count is probably going to be low. Commissioner Rodney added that, in reading the forum comments, it appears it is going to be a small amount of hunters that participate in the winter wild turkey season. The chances are that a lot of these violations are not going exist and the harvest is going to be low too. Commissioner Rodney requested that WHS provide that information once it has been gathered at the appropriate period of time to the Commission.
 - o. Commissioner Fratz indicated that Washington County is possibly going to have more harvest than anywhere west of Cumberland. Commissioner Fratz indicated that a person

- would have to be dedicated to want to go turkey hunting during the month of January in Garrett County. This is going help other parts of the State. Commissioner Fratz supported this proposal.
- p. Vote:
- i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
4. Wild Turkey Proposal – Shift the fall turkey season later in the western counties to avoid conflicts with other major seasons.
- a. Recommendation: WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. The Commission had no questions or discussion on this proposal.
 - c. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
5. Black Bear Proposal – Eliminate the quota system approach and open the bear hunting season for a pre-determined number of days.
- a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Commissioner Fratz asked if the WHS plans to recommend four or five days.
 - i. If this proposal goes through, WHS staff members decided to submit four days for the 2014-2015 Bear Hunting Season. WHS staff members have the ability to go to five days if necessary for the 2015-2016 Bear Hunting Season.
 - ii. WHS staff have collected bear harvest data for the last 10 years and the hunters generally reach the quota by the fourth day.
 - c. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked how staff would know if the harvest is acceptable if there is no quota established.
 - i. Commissioner Fratz responded “by the 10 years of harvest data”.
 - ii. WHS staff know what the goal is related to the harvest amount and staff know the hunter success rate. Our data show that hunters have been very consistent at around 11 or 12 percent. Staff know how many of our permittees hunt; staff also do a post-hunt survey of our black bear permittees. Staff members have been doing these things for the last 10 years; therefore, staff are confident that they can keep that harvest amount within an acceptable range.
 - d. Chairman Plummer added that the trip to Western Maryland was very worthwhile. He gained great insight as to what data staff collect and felt the trip helped him better understand the black bear management program. Chairman Plummer is very comfortable with the data that is collected, so he is comfortable with this proposal if staff think that the data support it.
 - e. Commissioner Fratz pointed out that he was on both of the Black Bear Task Forces. Commissioner Fratz commented that staff have collected 10 years of data, which is sufficient history accumulated and this is a step that needs to be done.
 - f. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 5-support and 1-oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
6. Black Bear Proposal – Eliminate the requirement that bear hunting Permittees and Subpermittees maintain visual contact while bear hunting.
- a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.

- b. Commissioner Fratz questioned how a team could be completely honest in trying to comply with this regulation.
 - c. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked why the regulation was put in place in the first place if it was not critical.
 - i. When staff started the black bear hunting program, staff members were extremely conservative and staff have stayed conservative over the years. Now, that staff have monitored this program for 10 years, they feel comfortable allowing more flexibility in what hunting strategies may be used.
 - d. Commissioner Compton asked if there is any bear hunting education requirement between the Department and the hunters.
 - i. Everyone that participates in the bear hunt receives a printed Black Bear Hunting Guide. Also, in the past, all new permittees had to attend an information meeting prior to the hunt.
 - e. Commissioner Compton asked if the original regulation was more of a limiting factor towards hunters.
 - i. People felt that staff could not stay with the quota and that hunters in teams could potentially take more than one bear. With that in mind, staff felt the need to make visual contact a regulation to address that concern among people.
 - ii. The good news is that this has not been an issue.
 - iii. This is the most common requested change from bear hunters that staff received over the past 10 years.
 - iv. This will allow hunters to use different techniques.
 - v. The hunters are still required to wear fluorescent orange.
 - vi. Maryland is the only state that has this regulation for bear hunters.
 - f. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 5-support and 1-oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
7. Black Bear Proposal – Change the structure of the Permittee/Subpermittee hunting teams by eliminating the ‘Landowner Subpermittee’ and replacing it with a second ‘Subpermittee.’
- a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Commissioner Fratz agreed with this proposal.
 - c. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
8. Furbearers Proposal – Change the trap checking requirement for traps set in water or tidal marshes to once per two calendar days.
- a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Commissioner Boyles Griffin echoed her concerns from the February 19, 2014 WAC meeting. There is never a guarantee that an animal that enters a ‘kill trap’ is going to die humanely whether it is a snare or ‘drown set’ or ‘conibear’ (body-gripping) trap; all of which are designed to kill the animal. If the trap does not kill the animal, the animal will suffer – drowning is not instantaneous. It could take an aquatic animal 20 minutes to drown in a set. In situations when those traps are used properly, the animal may not always experience a very quick death. Commissioner Boyles Griffin advised the Commission that these traps should be checked every 24 hours. Commissioner Boyles Griffin expressed that she is appalled that it is currently 36 hours and to make it every two

- days is too long of a time for an animal to suffer in a trap. This proposal is a concern for Commissioner Boyles Griffin personally and for the constituents that Commissioner Boyles Griffin represents.
- c. Commissioner Fratz asked if it is possible for these traps to be checked within 24-hours.
 - i. Mr. Dan Baker, President of Maryland Fur Trappers, Inc. commented he traps for muskrats in the tidal marshes on Eastern Shore, which have water level fluctuations anywhere from a foot to two feet depending on the weather. There are situations that prohibit the trapper from getting to the traps in the marshes within 36 to 48 hours. Most of the trapping that is taking place is for muskrats and otters; therefore, the traps are set under water. These animals are already under the water and it may take up to two days for the trapper to get through the marsh. Currently, if a trapper goes beyond 36 hours, the trapper is breaking the law.
 - d. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked what if a trapper is unable to get to the traps within 48 hours. The trapper is still in violation was the reply.
 - i. Mr. Brian Elder commented that usually the way the tide is a trapper can get to his or her traps within the 48 hours period.
 - ii. Mr. Brian Elder explained that the muskrat is at the bottom of the food chain so a trapper is not going to leave the muskrat in that trap any longer than he or she has to.
 - iii. Mr. Brian Elder mentioned that for the last five to six years, there has been only one occasion that there was not enough water for him to get to his traps within 48 hours.
 - e. Chairman Plummer concluded that this provision is reducing the jeopardy for the law abiding trapper. He added that financially the trappers do not want to wait for 48 hours; the trappers probably want to be onsite within 24 hours. It appears that the longer the muskrat is in the trap the more accessible it is to predators, which is means a negative impact financially for the trapper.
 - f. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 5-support and 1-oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
9. Fox Proposal – Extend fox trapping season two weeks to end concurrently with the fox hunting seasons.
 - a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Chairman Plummer commented that the fox hunting community would like to see the fox hunting seasons extended by another two weeks. Chairman Plummer recognized that the recommendation to extend the fox hunting season is not a proposal but this was a comment that Chairman Plummer received that should be recorded in the minutes.
 - c. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
10. Skunk Proposal – Extend skunk season to end on the same date as raccoon and opossum trapping.
 - a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
11. Beaver Proposal – Adjust the beaver season to open two weeks earlier in Garrett and Allegany

- counties.
- a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 5-support and 1-oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
12. Deer – Wanton Waste Proposal – Establish a regulation to prohibit the wanton waste of white-tailed and sika deer.
- a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer at hearing no discussion, asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
13. Frederick County Shotgun Zone Proposal – Modify the shotgun only zone for deer hunting in Frederick County.
- a. WHS plans to drop this proposal.
 - b. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
14. White-tailed Deer Proposal – Implement an antler point restriction (APR) specifying that no more than two antlered deer harvested per license year (statewide) may have less than three points one inch or longer on each antler present. This would apply in Region A and Region B.
- a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Commissioner Gregor asked if Region B was added after the stakeholders meeting.
 - i. Region B was added at the end of the stakeholders meeting in February. The Region B recommendation came from the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) and was supported by several others present.
 - ii. The Maryland Bowhunter’s Society (MBS) did not voice support of the APRs going to Region B. Apparently, Allan Ellis from the Outdoorsman Radio Show supported the APRs going to Region B.
 - c. Commissioner Compton expressed that APRs generated a lot of controversy and comments. MBS conducted a survey on the proposals; the survey was similar to the one the WHS conducted. The MBS survey has a slight edge towards support of the APR Proposal. It showed broader support for the implementation of APRs for Region A and a lot less support for APRs for Region B. MBS would support APRs for Region A but not Statewide.
 - d. Commissioner Compton added that the most common thing that was heard throughout the comment period from individuals who were not in favor was this Proposal was going to have such a minimal impact, then why are staff doing this? MBS got that type of feeling from the people that were commenting on this proposal. A lot of people disagreed with the government trying to influence a cultural concept. WHS has to be prepared to deal with the common attitude of distrusting government.
 - i. This change will affect around 10 percent of Maryland’s successful deer hunters.
 - ii. Director Peditto is spending a lot of time outlining to lawmakers what WHS is doing with the deer population. This year, there are a lot of bills introduced about deer management. WHS is trying to find creative ways to reduce the deer population so that lawmakers can see that the Department is working on this. Proposing APRs in Regions

A and B is one way of doing this.

- iii. APRs may not immediately appear to have a meaningful impact in terms of reducing the number of deer on the landscape, but it very well could in the long term by changing the mindset of the average deer hunter. Some hunters that are deciding whether to take that small antlered deer or not will stop and think about their overall buck bag limit and wait. This may shift the hunters to taking more antlerless deer. With that in mind, the Commission should remember there is a push by lawmakers and their constituents for WHS to do something to reduce the deer herd other than increase Sunday hunting. WHS knows that Sunday hunting is the most important remaining tool in our box for managing the deer population, but we need to be using other means as well.
 - iv. Director Peditto and staff recognize that if WHS does not get more creative and try some of these other tools; it is going to get more complicated with the lawmakers. Please keep this in mind, that there is more to this proposal than just managing the buck harvest.
 - v. WHS typically does not count the votes; however, for this proposal the votes were counted. Staff reviewed the data from the past years and not only the votes from the hunting community, which has been coming in for years, but also, several sound public surveys were considered. Both counts demonstrated support for Statewide APRs.
 - e. Chairman Plummer outlined the comments that he received, which was people do not want to be told what they can and cannot shoot when there is no biological reason for this proposal. From a hunter's stand point, Chairman Plummer likes this proposal. Chairman Plummer pointed out that there is no biological reason for this proposal and noted the fact that people feel that this proposal is a foot in the door to expand trophy deer hunting.
 - f. Chairman Plummer revisited his debate with Brian Eyler, Deer Project Leader at the Stakeholders Meeting. Chairman Plummer disputed the legitimacy of the process if it is not brought up prominently at the stakeholder meetings; it appears it was snuck in by the back door by QDMA. Chairman Plummer expressed concern about the process for this proposal and how it looks to the public. Chairman Plummer added that it appears to him that Region B was introduced late in the process.
 - i. Staff originally did not include Region B in the APR proposal, however it was brought up towards the end of the stakeholders meeting when the floor was open for new concepts (listed on the agenda) that had not been discussed; it was at this point that several people made the suggestion to add Region B to the APR concept.
 - ii. Keep in mind that there is a statewide antlered bag limit. Maryland no longer has a Region A and a Region B antlered bag limit so it really makes sense to have Statewide APRs.
 - iii. Chairman Plummer disagreed with that reasoning about the statewide antlered bag limit. Chairman Plummer debated that WHS has a Region A and Region B because they are managed differently, so that reason is not a valid point.
 - iv. There is no Region A and Region B antlered bag limit – again it is a statewide antlered deer bag limit.
 - v. Discussion ensued about the application of APRs to Region B.
 - g. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 4-support and 2-oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
15. White-tailed Deer Proposal – Reduce the bag limit on antlerless deer in Region A to two per

- year, but no more than one in any weapon season.
- a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
16. Sika Deer Proposal – Change the sika deer bag limit to three deer per weapon season with no more than one antlered.
- a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Commissioner Compton mentioned that MBS survey showed favorable comments on this proposal.
 - c. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
17. Sika Deer Proposal – Increase the sika deer antlerless bag limit to allow two antlerless deer (or three, pending the considered bag limit change) to be harvested during any portion of the early or late muzzleloader season.
- a. WHS plans to move this to the regulation process.
 - b. Vote:
 - i. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 - ii. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - iii. Motion passed.
18. The Commission received a letter from the Quality Deer Management Association about supporting the 2014-2016 deer regulation changes. [ATTACHMENT C]

Break

March Agenda - Chairman Plummer made a few changes to the agenda because of scheduling conflicts.

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

- Captain Johnson understood that the Commission received a public comment about some officers writing citations to hunters that did not have written permission, but had verbal permission to hunt on private land. The Maryland statute § 10-411 clearly states that written permission is required from the landowner or his agent before hunting on private land.
 1. NRP officers are interacting with hunters during the entire hunting season. NRP officers have a general idea as to who is supposed to be on the property or not at a given location.
 2. NRP officers do not want to cite someone for something that the officer cannot prove in a court of law.
 3. Chairman Plummer suggested that the last sentence in paragraph four be deleted, since there is nothing in the works to change the language in Maryland statute § 10-411. The last sentence stated, “The WHS feels this is the correct course of action until the language in § 10-411 is modified to recognize verbal permission.” The Commission agreed that the last sentence in the fourth paragraph needs to be deleted. [ATTACHMENT D]
 4. NRP plans to send a training bulletin to all the officers on this.
 5. Vote:

- a. Chairman Plummer asked, noting the striking of the last sentence in the fourth paragraph, for a vote.
 - b. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 - c. Motion passed.
- The next NRP Academy is scheduled to start on April 7th.
 - Captain Johnson shared information about an interstate case that happened in Montgomery County where an officer was contacted by North Carolina about some poaching in Maryland. MD NRP officers did some leg work and received tips from the public. Officers were able to locate these North Carolina residents that were illegally hunting in Maryland. This is a very good example for interstate cooperation.

Wildlife Advisory Commission Regulation – Presentation by Glenn Therres, Associate Director

- Mr. Therres presented the current Wildlife Advisory Commission regulation. The Commission received copies of the current regulation and proposed changes. [ATTACHMENT E]
- The proposed changes:
 1. Replace [Administrator] to **Director of the Wildlife and Heritage Service**,
 2. Replace [two] meetings with **six** meetings shall be held in each fiscal year.
- WHS would like the support of WAC on these suggested changes to the current regulation. Also, WHS would like any suggested changes or additions from the Commission.
- Vote:
 1. Chairman Plummer asked for a vote.
 2. Results: 6-support and no oppose.
 3. Motion passed.

2014 Working Agenda - Review and Approval - Commission Discussion.

- Chairman Plummer moved the “Use of Approved Contraceptive Agents on Free-Ranging White-tailed Deer Policy” to the April 16th meeting.
- Chairman Plummer suggested for the October 15th field day meeting for the Commission to visit the lower Eastern Shore area.
- Commissioner Compton reminded the Commission that Director Peditto suggested that the Commission meet at Sandy Point State Park and maybe go on a tour of Poplar Island and possible other locations along the Chesapeake Bay.
- Director Peditto mentioned the benefits of other committees within DNR that have the opportunity to experience different DNR field activities. The Commission will have an opportunity to enjoy some of the DNR field activities on October 15th.
- Chairman Plummer repeated that he gained a lot of good information during the trip to Mt. Nebo that the Commission took last October. Chairman Plummer expressed that he is looking forward to the October 15th trip.
- Chairman Plummer requested that Ms. Tracey Spencer make the October 15th arrangements for the Commission.
- Commissioner Compton admitted that he is not a furbearer trapper. However, Commissioner Compton has taken some time to get acquainted with individuals that are trappers to learn a little more about trapping.
- Commissioner Compton asked if someone from the Maryland Fur Trappers, Inc. would provide the Commission with a trapping demonstration at the October 15th Field Day or a future date.
 1. Mr. Baker agreed to provide the Commission with a demonstration of trapping in Maryland.
 2. Chairman Plummer concurred with Commissioner Compton about learning more about

trapping, so that he can be more informed in the process.

3. Director Peditto responded that staff will provide the Commission with some options.

Break

2014 Legislative Session Update – Presentation given by Glenn Therres, Associate Director.

- Associate Director Therres provided the Commission a list of bills that the Wildlife and Heritage Service is following. **[ATTACHMENT F]** The summary is set-up with the bill number in the first column, second column is the general topic of the bill, third column is the delegate or senator or delegation that introduced the bill, and fourth column is the status of the bill (as of the date that the summary was printed).
- These bills are wildlife-related or otherwise affect the Wildlife and Heritage Service. There are additional bills that the Department of Natural Resources is monitoring.
- The Commission can review natural resources related bills by going to <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frm1st.aspx?tab=home>, then click on By Broad Subject, where you can select Natural Resources (M1) or Hunting and Fishing (M2); this will provide the list of all bills under the Department's jurisdiction or hunting and fishing section.
- There are two bills that were added: HB1520 Sales and Use Tax – Free Periods – Hunting and Sporting Equipment and HB1547 – Hunting Licenses Exemption for Retired Members of the Armed Forces.
- SB 0966 – Calvert County, Charles County, and St. Mary's County – Deer Hunting – The Commission voted at the February 19, 2014 meeting to provide a letter in opposition to SB 0966. SB 0966 passed the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. SB 0966 has not been scheduled to be heard in the House Environmental Matters Committee.
 1. Mr. Therres suggested to the Commission to change the letter and address it to the House Environmental Matters Committee since SB 0966 already passed the Senate.
 2. The Commission received copies of the drafted letter of opposition for SB 0966. **[ATTACHMENT G]**
- Discussion ensued about the constituencies that are opposing wildlife related hunting bills.
- Vote:
 1. Chairman Plummer asked all in favor of sending the SB 0966 opposition letter to the House of Environmental Matters Committee.
 2. Results: 6-support and no opposed.
 3. Motion passed.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (MFB)

- No report.

Public Comment –

- Associate Director Pete Jayne updated the Commission on the second Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) case. The Commission received information about this in an email from Associate Director Pete Jayne on March 5, 2014. There is a map of the CWD cases in the Power Point Presentation. **[ATTACHMENT B]**
 1. The first CWD case was reported in 2011. The second CWD is on the boundary and the blue section is the current CWD Management Area, where WHS have special regulations in place. There is a prohibition of feeding/baiting of wildlife in the CWD Management Area. This prohibition only applies to Forest Game species so does not include song birds.

2. WHS staff are discussing options currently.
3. WHS staff anticipated having more CWD in Maryland because more CWD cases are being found north and south of Maryland.
4. WHS staff will keep the Commission informed on this.

Old Business

- No report.

New Business

- No report.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P.M.
The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

Members:	L. Compton, G. Fratz, S. Boyles Griffin, T. Gregor, J. Plummer, C. Rodney, and B. Wojton
Absent:	E. Gulbrandsen
Guest:	Dan Baker and Brian Elder
Staff:	B. Eyler, B. Harvey, E. Johnson, P. Jayne, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, H. Spiker, K. Stonesifer, and G. Therres



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Joseph P. Gill, Secretary
Frank W. Dawson III, Deputy Secretary

**HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATION
PROPOSALS
FOR
2014-2015 AND 2015-2016**

The public comment period will end at 4:00 pm on March 17, 2014.

You may comment by mail, phone, fax or via the internet at:
http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Comments/2014-2016_Proposal.asp

**Wildlife and Heritage Service
Tawes State Office Building E-1
580 Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-260-8540 phone
410-260-8596 fax**

Hunting Privilege Suspension

1. To establish a process for the suspension of hunting and trapping privileges pursuant to a conviction on certain hunting/trapping related violations.

In addition to imposing fines, a court may also order the revocation of hunting and trapping privileges. Absent a court order, the Department of Natural Resources may suspend the hunting and trapping privileges of a person convicted of an applicable violation. A person who pays a fine in lieu of a court appearance has admitted guilt and is convicted on the citation charged.

Suspension can be assessed for a number of hunting and trapping violations but the penalty is reserved for those violations that affect the safety of people or property, or impact the valuable natural resources of Maryland.

Periods of suspension are tiered and reflect the nature of the offense. One-year suspensions are reserved for violations of general game laws or regulations; three years for acting in a manner that could endanger people or property; and five years for causing harm to people or property, or repeat offenders. Maximum suspension by law is five years.

Maryland's legal definition of 'hunt' means *"to pursue, capture, catch, kill, gig, trap, shoot or attempt to pursue, capture, kill, gig, trap or shoot, or in any manner reduce any bird or mammal to personal possession."* A person may be charged and convicted for illegally hunting or attempting to hunt wildlife. By law, 'attempt' includes attempting to shoot, pursue, capture, kill, gig or trap. Killing of wildlife is not a requirement for a charge, conviction or suspension.

Following is a list of the violations, the Natural Resources Article or COMAR reference and applicable suspension period (note state citation may include federal equivalent when conviction occurs in federal court):

- Making a false statement to obtain a hunting or trapping license, stamp or permit {10-310; 10-1108(2)(i)} – 1 year
- Hunting without proper hunter safety certification [10-301(g)(1)(i)]– 1 year
- Hunting within safety zone of a school [10-410(g)(2)] – 1 year
- Unlawful hunting during open season-bear, deer, turkey or migratory waterfowl [10-410(c)(1); 10-416(a); 10-416(b); 10-602(h); 08.03.04.05A(2)(c); 08.03.04.05C; 08.03.04.06B; 08.03.04.20D; 08.03.10.02]– 1 year
- Hunting, possessing or transporting any bear, deer, turkey or migratory waterfowl during closed season or in excess of daily or season limits [10-403(a); 10-403(b); 10-404(c); 08.03.03.01] – 1 year
- Trapping during closed season [10-406]– 1 year
- Hunting on posted private property without permission of the owner [CR Article 6-402] – 1 year
- Killing, or attempting to kill, threatened or endangered species while hunting or trapping [08.03.08.04 and 08.03.08.07]– 1 year
- Unlawful use of bait [10-412; 08.03.02.05; 08.03.04.11; 08.03.10.07] - 1 year
- Unlawful use of lights or unlawful nighttime hunting [10-410(b); 10-410(e)(1); 10-416(c); 10-602(b)] – 1 year
- Littering or dumping on state land [08.03.02.19] – 1 year
- Failure of a nonresident of Maryland to appear in court in accordance with a natural resources citation [10-1108(2)(iv)] – 1 year or until the person appears for their hearing (not to exceed five years).

- Hunting or trapping while revoked or suspended – 3 years
- Carrying firearm while hunting under the influence of alcohol or narcotic drug – 3 years
- Damaging public property [08.03.02.20] – 3 years
- Negligent hunting [10-424] - longer of three years or until disposition of criminal proceedings (not to exceed five years).
- While hunting, shooting and injuring another person – longer of three years or until disposition of criminal proceedings (not to exceed five years).
- While hunting, shooting and killing another person - 5 years
- A second conviction within 12 months of any violation above occurring on a separate day from the original violation [10-1108(2)(ii)] – 5 years

Mourning Dove

1. Add 20 days to the mourning dove season.

Rationale/Goal: The new harvest strategy for doves in the Eastern Management Unit (EMU) may allow states to have a 90-day season beginning in 2014-15. Our dove population has been stable over the short (10 years) and long-term (47 years). Dove harvest is heavily front-loaded. Adding days after the first month of the season adds little to the total harvest but provides additional opportunity.

Wild Turkey

1. Create a seven day, either-sex, winter wild turkey season statewide. The season would begin on the third Saturday in January and rifles would be prohibited in all counties. This season would share the current fall bag limit of one either-sex turkey.

Rationale/Goal: Provide a new hunting opportunity for hunters statewide and help retain fall turkey hunters in the western counties without negatively affecting the statewide turkey population. The January timing of the season will reduce conflicts resulting from the widespread use of legal bait for deer on private land before and during the deer firearm season.

Comments: Requests to expand fall turkey hunting opportunities statewide have increased in recent years. However, several potential issues have kept WHS from implementing a statewide fall season. A winter turkey season minimizes these concerns:

- The use of bait for deer hunting is less common after the deer firearm season and landowners/hunters can more easily comply with the baiting prohibition for turkey hunting.
- Conflicts with other types of hunting would be reduced.
- Turkey populations have grown substantially in recent years in areas where densities were once very low. For example, the wild turkey population in Central Maryland has nearly doubled since 2007.
- Less than three percent of the estimated fall turkey population is harvested each year during the current seven day fall season in western Maryland. Harvest in a January season is expected to be similar or lower due to seasonal differences in turkey behavior and hunter participation. Harvest levels under 10% are considered to have minimal impact on overall turkey populations.
- Rifles will be prohibited statewide during this January season to reduce regulation complexity, address safety concerns in counties with limited topography, and avoid the possibility of overharvest in areas with highly visible winter flocks.

- Virginia recently established a January turkey season. The Virginia season has been well received by participants and the harvest has been sufficiently low to remain sustainable.

2. Shift the fall turkey season to open two Saturdays prior to the Junior Deer Hunt.

Rationale/Goal: The fall turkey season currently starts on the last day of the early muzzleloader season in Region B. It is also possible for the bear season to occur during this season. This change would avoid overlap between turkey season and deer/bear seasons, reducing safety concerns and possibly increasing fall turkey hunting participation. We would avoid an overlap with the Junior Deer Hunt.

Comments: Avoiding an overlap of the fall turkey season with these seasons will minimize safety concerns related to the fact turkey hunters are not required to wear fluorescent orange.

Black Bear

1. Eliminate the current quota hunt approach and open the bear season for a pre-determined number of days. Note: this proposal does not require a regulatory change but is significant enough to be vetted through our regulatory process.

Rationale/Goal: A pre-determined number of days approach will allow WHS to eliminate the quota hunt approach. This change will allow hunters to plan their hunt more effectively and will eliminate the need for hunters to call a hotline each night to determine the status of the hunt.

Comments: Past harvest rates will be used to determine how many days to select if we make this change. The lottery system will still be used to award bear hunting permits. WHS will be able to increase/decrease harvest by changing the number of permits awarded each year as well as changing the length of the season.

2. Eliminate the requirement that bear hunting permittees and subpermittees maintain visual contact while bear hunting.

Rationale/Goal: To allow hunters more flexibility in choosing hunting strategies by removing the requirement to maintain visual contact.

Comments: There will still be a limit of one bear per hunting team so the burden is on the hunting team to ensure that they do not exceed that.

3. Change the structure of the Permittee/Subpermittee hunting teams by eliminating the 'Landowner Subpermittee' and allowing each Permittee to assign two 'Subpermittees' instead of one 'Subpermittee' and one 'Landowner Subpermittee'.

Rationale/Goal: To allow bear hunting Permittees flexibility in who may participate in the hunt with them and increase hunting participation accordingly.

Comments: We believe this change will help to maintain/increase hunting pressure throughout the duration of the hunt. If this change is made, a landowner could still be a subpermittee and could participate on tracts other than just that landowner's.

Furbearers

1. Change the trap checking requirement for traps set in water or tidal marsh to once per two calendar days. The current trap check requirement for these traps is 36 hours.

Rationale/Goal: This would allow increased efficiency for trappers and greater flexibility in dealing with tidal systems. The impacted sets are typically kill sets so live animals in the sets are not a concern.

2. End fox trapping season concurrently with fox hunting season in both zones.

Rationale/Goal: To allow more trapping opportunity during a time when fox pelts retain their quality.

Comments: Impacts to the population are expected to be minimal. Two years ago the fox hunting season was extended by two weeks but trapping season remained the same. This would also impact other terrestrial trapping activities (e.g. coyote, fisher) since the Department strives to maintain synchrony amongst terrestrial species seasons. There are no known biological concerns with the impact on terrestrial furbearers.

3. Extend skunk season to close on the same date as opossum and raccoon season.

Rationale/Goal: Skunks may be caught in raccoon traps. This change will avoid requiring trappers to release them alive on site.

Comments: Skunk season runs concurrently with weasel season so weasel season will be shifted to run concurrently with other terrestrial trapping seasons (e.g. fox, coyote, etc.).

4. Open beaver and otter trapping seasons approximately two weeks earlier in Allegany and Garrett counties. Keep the closing date the same as it currently is.

Rational/Goal: Weather conditions often include ice during the current seasons in these two counties. Moving the season earlier will allow trappers and landowners better opportunity to manage beaver problems.

Comments: Otter season would need to be opened at the same time to address the possibility of otters being caught in beaver sets.

Deer

NOTE: Current Maryland law prohibits DNR from amending Sunday hunting restrictions through the regulatory process without prior approval from the Maryland Legislature. However, DNR has supported legislative efforts to expand Sunday hunting for deer in recent years.

1. Establish a regulation to prohibit the wanton waste of white-tailed and sika deer.

Rationale/Goal: To require a person to make every reasonable and legal attempt to take possession of deer killed or wounded while hunting or shooting under the authority of a permit issued by the Department (crop damage permits, sharp shooting permits).

Comments: The regulation would not supersede laws or regulations requiring written permission to enter private land and certain public properties. Deer that have been checked-in may be butchered in the field to allow the hunter to take possession of only the edible parts.

2. To adjust the current zone that limits deer hunting to shotguns only in Frederick County. A draft map of the proposed new zone is attached at the end of this document.

Rationale/Goal: To respond to requests from Frederick County officials and Farm Bureau members to redraw the shotgun only zone for deer hunting to include more of the suburban area around the city of Frederick and less of the rural area to the south of Route 70.

White-tailed Deer

1. Implement an antler point restriction (APR) specifying that no more than two antlered deer harvested per license year (statewide) may have less than three points one inch or longer on each antler present. This would be the case in Region A and Region B.

Rationale/Goal: Yearling buck (i.e. 1½ years old) harvest in Maryland ranges from 50–80% depending on the region and year. The nationwide average is under 40%. Implementing an APR will reduce yearling buck harvest and shift some of the harvest to antlerless deer, aiding with population management.

Comments: Implementing APRs is one of the most common requests the Department receives from deer hunters. Current yearling buck harvest rates are not a significant management concern for the Department, particularly in Region B. The Department recognizes that harvest trends in Region A are more heavily skewed towards yearling bucks. Antlered deer can be harvested in any order concerning the APR, and Junior Hunters are exempt from the APR during all deer seasons.

2. Reduce the bag limit on antlerless deer in Region A to two per year, but no more than one in any weapon season.

Rationale/Goal: Reducing the antlerless deer bag limit will aid in reducing pressure on this component of the Region A deer population should antler point restrictions be implemented.

Comments: Many hunters remain dissatisfied with the current deer population levels in Region A and think they should be higher. This change will ensure the population remains stable.

Sika Deer

1. Increase the sika deer bag limit to three per weapon with no more than one antlered.

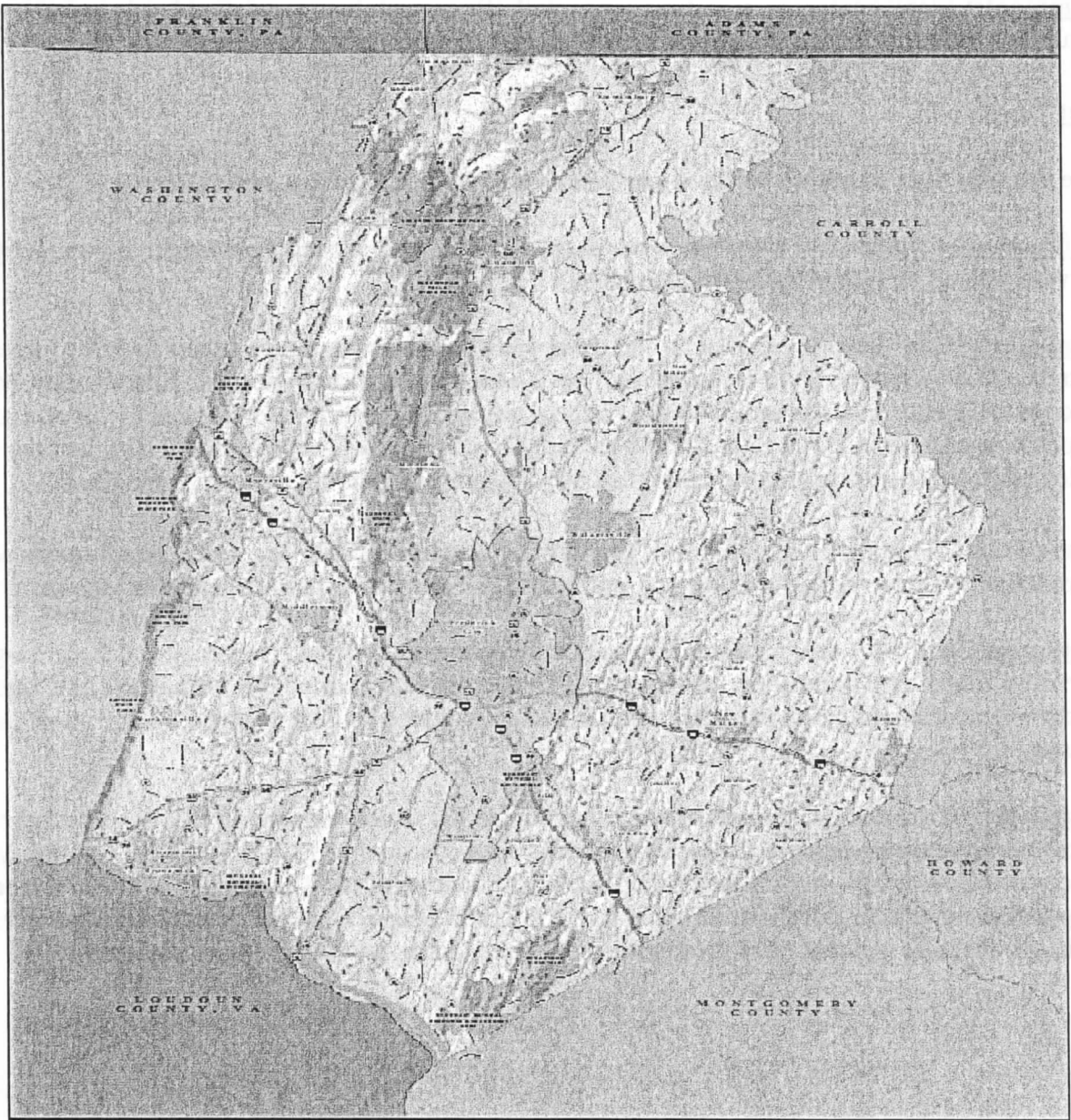
Rationale/Goal: Sika deer continue to increase in number and expand their range. Liberalizing the harvest will aid with population management.

Comments: Crop damage complaints and overpopulation issues concerning sika deer are increasing. Sika deer have expanded into Delaware and have been observed as far north as Kent County, MD. Wicomico County now has an established and significant population as evidenced by harvest records. Population surveys in Dorchester County have observed densities greater than 80 sika deer per square mile and juvenile survival rates greater than 80%, suggesting hunting pressure is moderate.

2. Increase the sika deer antlerless bag limit to allow two antlerless deer (or three, pending the considered bag limit change) to be harvested during any portion of the early or late muzzleloader season.

Rationale/Goal: Sika deer continue to increase in number and expand their range. Liberalizing the harvest will aid with population management. Hunters have requested this change to allow them to maximize their hunting opportunities when traveling to hunt sika deer during the early muzzleloader season.

Comments: Crop damage complaints and overpopulation issues concerning sika deer are increasing. Sika deer have expanded into Delaware and have been observed as far north as Kent County, MD. Wicomico County now has an established and significant population as evidenced by harvest records. Population surveys in Dorchester County have observed densities greater than 80 sika deer per square mile and juvenile survival rates greater than 80%, suggesting hunting pressure is moderate.

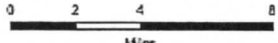


Proposed Shotgun-Only Zone Topo
Frederick County, Maryland
 Board of County Commissioners

- Major Roads
 - Interstate
 - US Highway
 - US Alternate
 - Business Route
 - Maryland
- Proposed Shotgun-Only Zone
- Municipalities
- Rivers and Lakes
- Parks
- Major Road Corridor



February 04, 2014
 Frederick County GIS



Projection: NAD 83 / GCS North America / NAD 83
 Units: Feet
 Date: 2/4/2014 10:00:00 AM
 Author: GIS
 Title: Proposed Shotgun-Only Zone Topo
 Keywords: Shotgun-Only Zone, Topographic, Frederick County, Maryland



ATTACHMENT B

Regulation Proposals: 2014-15 and 2015-16 Hunting Seasons



Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife and Heritage Service

Regulation Cycle



Nearing the end of a multi-month process:

- Held several stakeholder groups.
- Two public meetings.
- Online forum with ability to comment.
- Numerous personal contacts, emails, phone calls.
- Reg Concepts/Proposals have been dropped, added and modified in response to input.

Next step is to present our final recommendations to WAC.

- We will evaluate your input along with all other input.
- Surviving Proposals will go to formal Regulation process.

Hunting Privilege Suspension



Proposal: To develop a process and establish guidelines for the suspension of hunting and trapping privileges for hunting/trapping related convictions.

- DNR may suspend the hunting and trapping privileges of a person convicted of an applicable violation.
- Periods of suspension are tiered and reflect the nature of the offense.
- One-year suspensions are reserved for violations of general game laws or regulations.
- Three years for acting in a manner that could endanger people or property.
- Five years for causing harm to people or property, or repeat offenders.
- Maximum suspension by law is five years.
- A process will be available for persons to appeal the revocation of their hunting/trapping privileges.

Hunting Privilege Suspension



Proposal: To develop a process and establish guidelines for the suspension of hunting and trapping privileges for hunting/trapping related convictions.

Comments:

- Mixed, more questions on details than concerns.
- Some consistent concerns that a hunter that unintentionally violates a hunting regulation could lose hunting privileges.

Recommended Action:

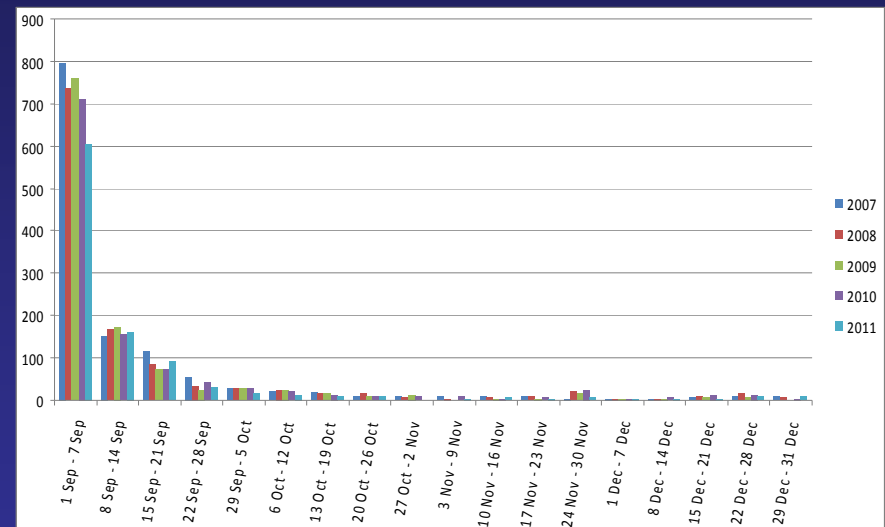
- Move to the regulation process.

Mourning Doves



Proposal: Add 20 days to the mourning dove season.

- The new harvest strategy for doves in the Eastern Management Unit (EMU) will likely allow states to have a 90-day season beginning in 2014-15.
- Doves in the EMU have been stable or slightly increasing over the long-term (>45 years).
- Adding days after the first month of the season adds little to the total harvest but provides additional opportunity.



Mourning Doves

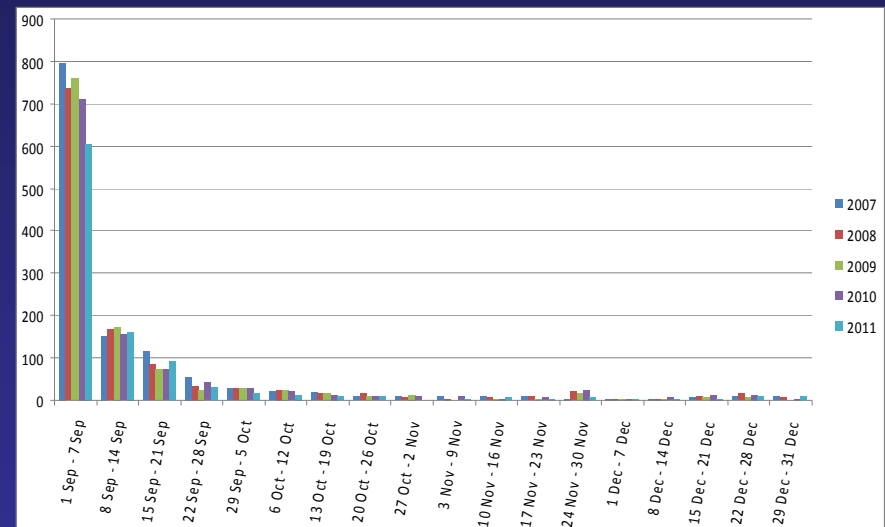
Proposal: Add 20 days to the mourning dove season.

Comments:

- Minimal input on tweaking dates, but widely supported.

Recommended Action:

- Move to the regulation process.



Wild Turkey

Proposal: Create a seven day, either-sex, winter wild turkey season statewide. The season would begin on the third Saturday in January and rifles would be prohibited in all counties. This season would share the current fall bag limit of one either-sex turkey.

- Requests to expand fall turkey hunting seasons have increased in recent years.
- Several concerns have kept DNR from proposing a traditional statewide fall turkey season.
- A January season minimizes these concerns while providing additional opportunity.



Wild Turkey



Potential impacts on turkey populations:

- Harvest is expected to be low and well-below levels that would negatively impact populations.
- Populations have increased in areas where densities were previously very low (Central Maryland).
- October/November season may shift pressure to public lands and impact local populations.

Deer baiting/Law enforcement concerns:

- The use of bait for deer hunting is less common after the deer firearm season and landowners/hunters can more easily comply with the baiting prohibition for turkey hunting.
- An October/November season would greatly limit the number of private lands that could be legally hunted.
- An October/November season would create more law enforcement issues and possibly increase illegal take.

Wild Turkey



Proposal: Create a seven day, either-sex, winter wild turkey season statewide. The season would begin on the third Saturday in January and rifles would be prohibited in all counties. This season would share the current fall bag limit of one either-sex turkey.

Comments:

- Very active Proposal, lots of comments.
- Mixed, pro and con but trending to more negative.
- We also considered that expanding the fall season has been a major request for years.
- Timing is non-traditional, but best fit considering baiting issues.

Wild Turkey



Proposal: Create a seven day, either-sex, winter wild turkey season statewide. The season would begin on the third Saturday in January and rifles would be prohibited in all counties. This season would share the current fall bag limit of one either-sex turkey.

Recommended Action:

- Modify Proposal to be 3 days (Thurs-Sat).
- Tie bag limit to spring limit – not fall limit.
- To fall at the end of the proposed week long season.
 - Maximizes time since last firearm deer season date.
- Would be considered a pilot effort, monitor participation, harvest, baiting violation issues.
- Move the modified Proposal to the regulation process.

Wild Turkey

Proposal: Shift the fall turkey season later in the western counties to avoid conflicts with other major seasons.

- To open two Saturdays prior to the Junior Deer Hunt.
- This change would eliminate the overlap between turkey season and deer/bear seasons, reducing safety concerns and possibly increasing fall turkey hunting participation.



Wild Turkey

Proposal: Shift the fall turkey season later in the western counties to avoid conflicts with other major seasons.

Comments:

- Mixed, some concerns over conflicts with peak rut dates for bowhunting, some bowhunters positive.

Recommended Action:

- Does not require a formal reg change.
- We can tweak the season dates to minimize overlap.



Black Bear

Proposal: Eliminate the quota system approach and open the bear hunting season for a pre-determined number of days.

- This change will allow hunters to plan their hunt more effectively and potentially increase time afield for hunters.
- Hunters will no longer be required to call a hotline each evening to check the status of the hunt.
- Bear hunting permits will still be awarded via a lottery system.
- WHS will be able to increase/decrease harvest by changing the number of days and number of permits awarded each year.
- Note: this does not require a regulatory change.



Black Bear

Proposal: Eliminate the quota system approach and open the bear hunting season for a pre-determined number of days.

Comments:

- Very positive.

Recommended Action:

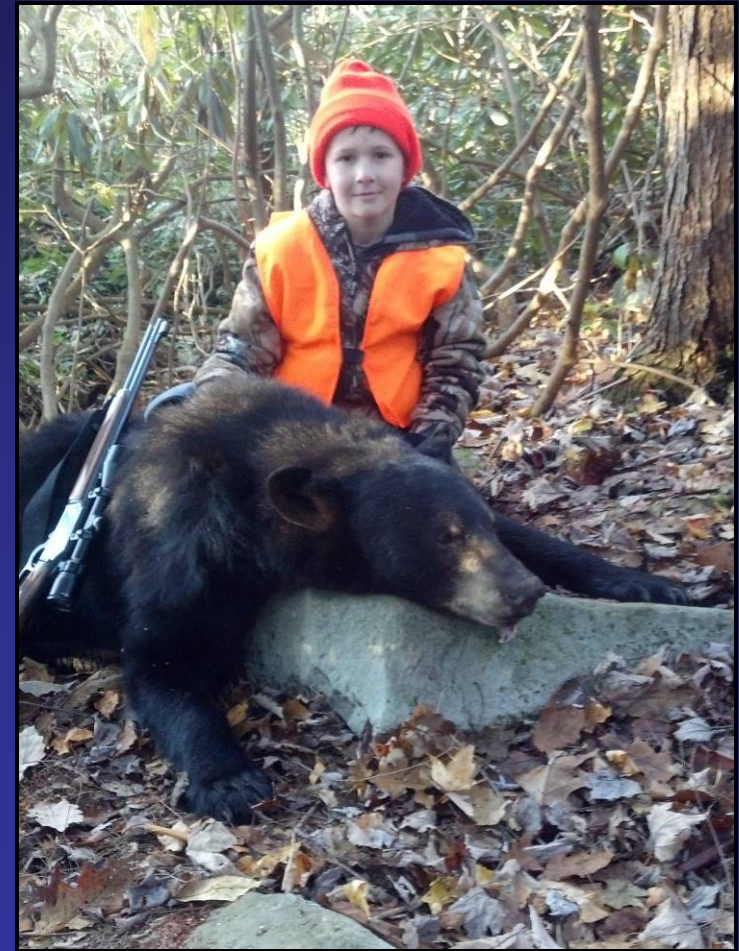
- Does not require a formal reg change.
- **Suggest we make this change.**
 - Stay very conservative with a four day season.
 - Add more days as needed in future.



Black Bear

Proposal: Eliminate the requirement that bear hunting Permittees and Subpermittees maintain visual contact while bear hunting.

- Currently, a Permittee may name (1) Subpermittee and (1) Landowner Subpermittee who may hunt bears with them.
- Any two eligible hunters would be allowed to hunt with the Permittee.
- Landowners who are put on permits would be allowed to hunt on any property – not limited to their own.



Black Bear

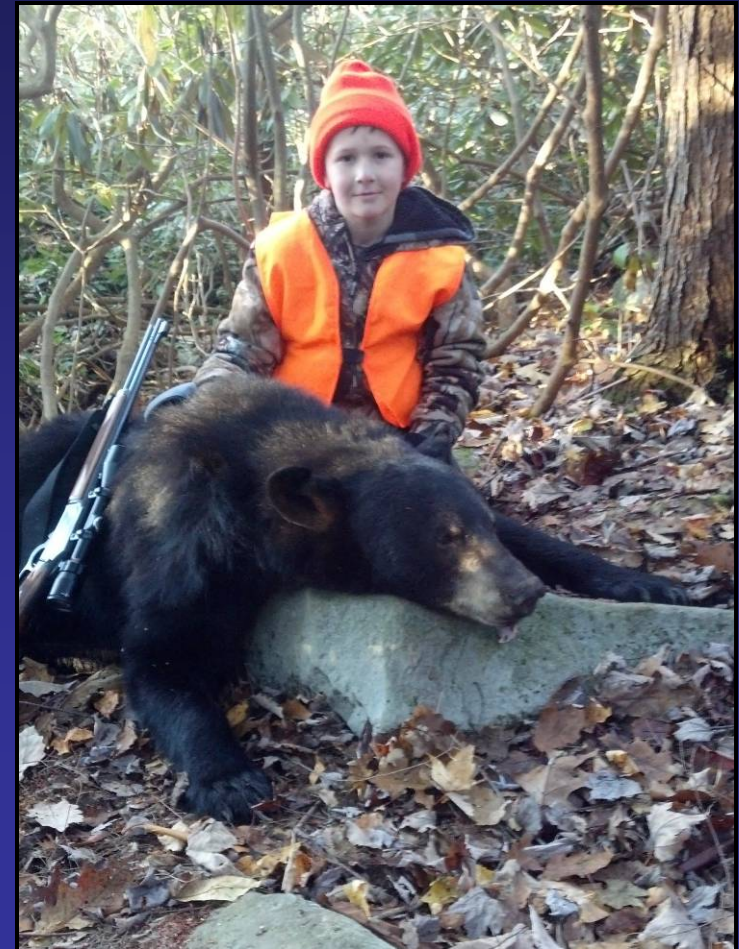
Proposal: Eliminate the requirement that bear hunting Permittees and Subpermittees maintain visual contact while bear hunting.

Comments:

- Positive.

Recommended Action:

- Move to the regulation process.



Black Bear

Proposal: Change the structure of the Permittee/Subpermittee hunting teams by eliminating the 'Landowner Subpermittee' and replacing it with a second 'Subpermittee'.

- Currently, a Permittee may name (1) Subpermittee and (1) Landowner Subpermittee who may hunt bears with them.
- Any two eligible hunters would be allowed to hunt with the Permittee.
- Landowners who are put on permits would be allowed to hunt on any property – not limited to their own.



Black Bear

Proposal: Change the structure of the Permittee/Subpermittee hunting teams by eliminating the 'Landowner Subpermittee' and replacing it with a second 'Subpermittee'.

Comments:

- Positive.

Recommended Action:

- Move to the regulation process.



Furbearers

Proposal: Change trap checking requirement for traps set in water or tidal marshes to once per two calendar days.

- Current trap check requirement is once every 36 hours.
- Will allow increased efficiency for trappers.
- Will allow greater flexibility in dealing with tidal systems.
- Impacted sets are 'kill' sets.



Furbearers

Proposal: Change trap checking requirement for traps set in water or tidal marshes to once per two calendar days.

Comments:

- Positive, except for a concern expressed at last WAC Meeting.

Recommended Action:

- Move to regulation process.



Fox (Red and Gray)

Proposal: Extend fox trapping season two weeks to end concurrently with fox hunting seasons.

- Trapping opportunity would mirror hunting opportunity.
- Would impact other terrestrial trapping activities (e.g. coyote, fisher) to maintain synchronous approach to trapping seasons.
- Will have a limited impact on fox/furbearer populations statewide.



Fox (Red and Gray)

Proposal: Extend fox trapping season two weeks to end concurrently with fox hunting seasons.

Comments:

- Mostly positive.

Recommended Action:

- Move to regulation process.



Skunk

Proposal: Extend skunk season to end on the same date as raccoon and opossum trapping.

- Skunks may be caught in raccoon traps.
- This change will eliminate the need for trappers to live-release skunks on-site.
- Skunk season runs concurrently with weasel season – weasel season will be shifted to align with other terrestrial trapping seasons (fox, coyote, etc.).



Skunk

Proposal: Extend skunk season to end on the same date as raccoon and opossum trapping.

Comments:

- Positive.

Recommended Action:

- Move to regulation process.



Beaver

Proposal: Adjust the beaver season to open two weeks earlier in Garrett and Allegany counties.

- Current season timing typically gives trappers little time before ice cover inhibits access.
- An earlier opening date would give trappers more time to address nuisance beaver problems.
- Otter season would open concurrently since otters can be caught in beaver sets.



Beaver

Proposal: Adjust the beaver season to open two weeks earlier in Garrett and Allegany counties.

Comments:

- Keep current ending date.
- Positive.

Recommended Action:

- Adjust the opening season dates, keep closing dates unchanged.
- **Move to regulation process.**



Deer - Wanton Waste



Proposal: Establish a regulation to prohibit the wanton waste of white-tailed and sika deer.

- To require a person to make every reasonable and legal attempt to take possession of deer killed or wounded while hunting or shooting under the authority of a permit issued by the Department (crop damage permits, sharpshooting permits).
- This would not supersede laws restricting access to private or public property.
- Deer may be butchered in the field once they are checked in and a confirmation number has been obtained.

Deer - Wanton Waste



Proposal: Establish a regulation to prohibit the wanton waste of white-tailed and sika deer.

Comments:

- More questions than concerns.
- Not a lot of pro or con input.

Recommended Action:

- Move to the regulation process.

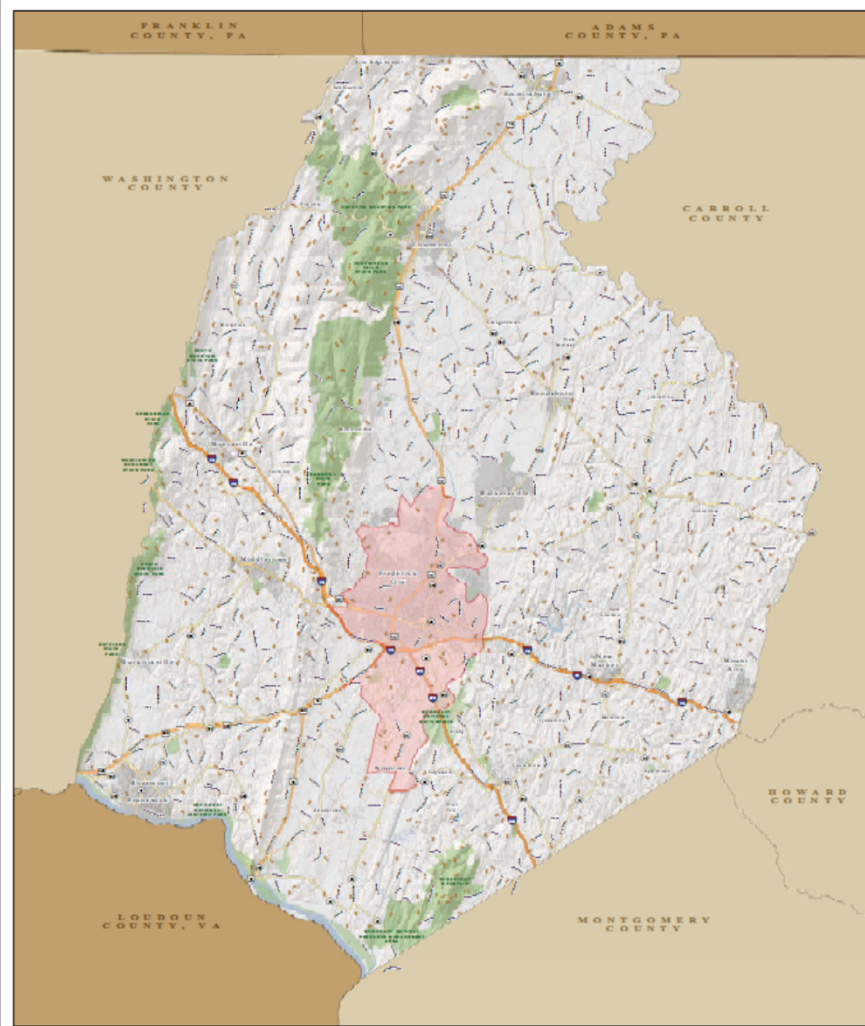
Frederick County Shotgun Zone



Proposal: Modify the shotgun only zone for deer hunting in Frederick County.

- Requested by Frederick County officials and Frederick County Farm Bureau.
- Adjust zone to include more of Frederick City and suburbs and less of rural areas in southern portion of county.
- Current zone is approximately all of the county south of Rt 70.

Frederick County Shotgun Zone



Proposed Shotgun-Only Zone Topo
Frederick County, Maryland
Board of County Commissioners

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Major Roads | Proposed Shotgun-Only Zone |
| Interstate | Municipalities |
| US Highway | Rivers and Lakes |
| US Alternate | Parks |
| State or Route | Major Index Contours |
| Maryland | |



February 04, 2014
Frederick County GIS

Projection: NAD 1983 StatePlane Maryland FIPS 1000 Feet
Units: Feet
This information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for engineering, planning, or other applications.
The map is for informational purposes only and should not be used for engineering, planning, or other applications.
MDNR-2010

Frederick County Shotgun Zone



Proposal: Modify the shotgun only zone for deer hunting in Frederick County.

Comments:

- Strongly negative, input from many residents, the mayor of Meyersville, etc.

Recommended Action:

- Drop this proposal.

White-tailed Deer



Proposal: Implement an antler point restriction (APR) specifying that no more than two antlered deer harvested per license year (statewide) may have less than three points one inch or longer on each antler present. This would apply in Region A and Region B.

- Antlered deer bag limit would remain at one per weapon season statewide (plus one bonus buck in Region B).
- A hunter could take any number of antlered deer within the bag limit that meet or exceed the APR.
- Junior hunters (16 yrs old or less) would be exempt during all deer seasons.
- The antlered deer could be taken in any order with respect to the APR.

White-tailed Deer



Proposal: Implement an antler point restriction (APR) specifying that no more than two antlered deer harvested per license year (statewide) may have less than three points one inch or longer on each antler present. This would apply in Region A and Region B.

Comments:

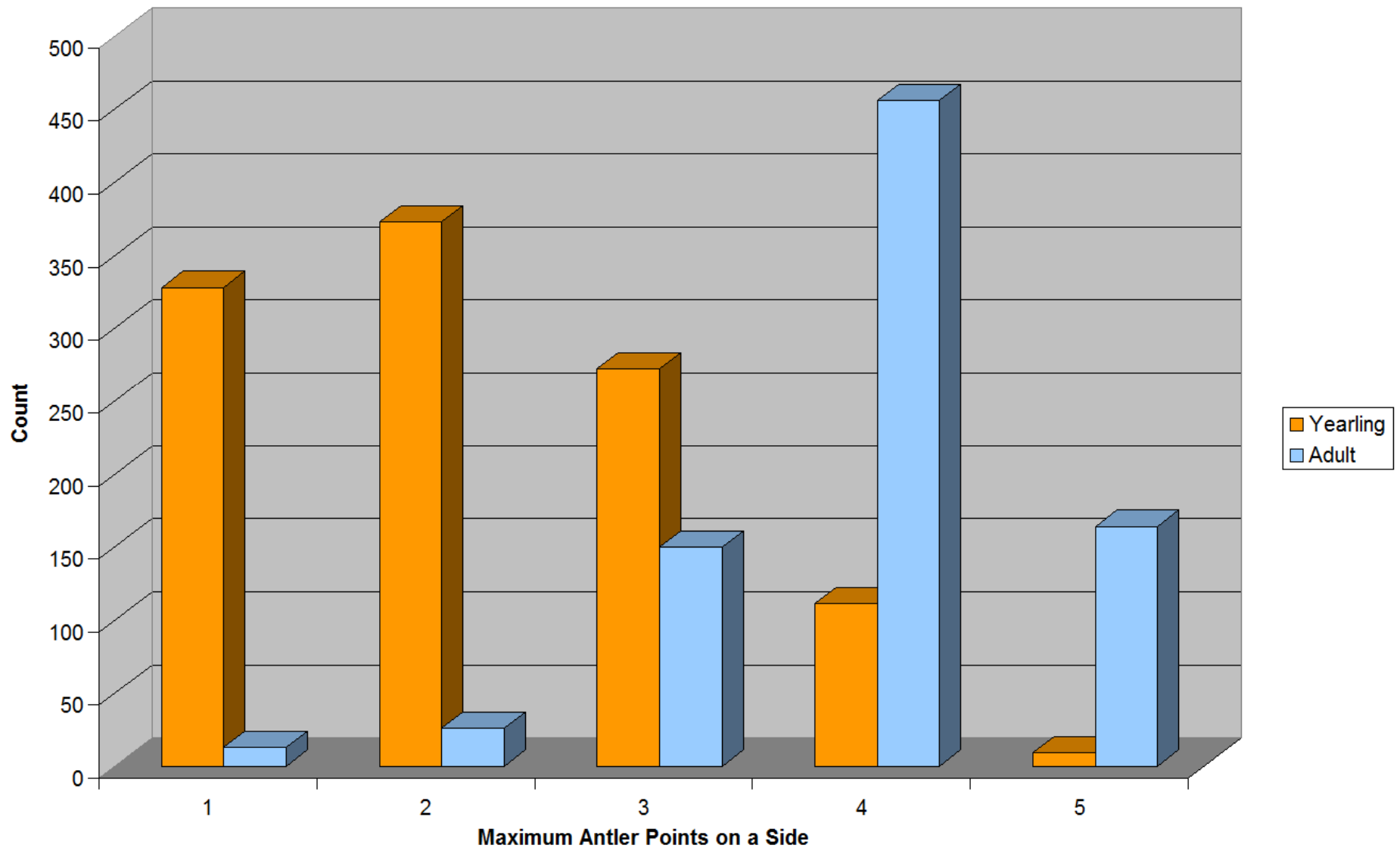
- Intense levels of comment with both pro and con statements.
 - Supporting comments slightly higher than opposing ones.
- Current and past surveys show ~65% support by hunters.
- APRs have been a very common request for years.

Recommended Action:

- Move to the regulation process for both Regions A and B.

White-tailed Deer

Frequency Distribution of Yearling and Adult Antler Points



White-tailed Deer

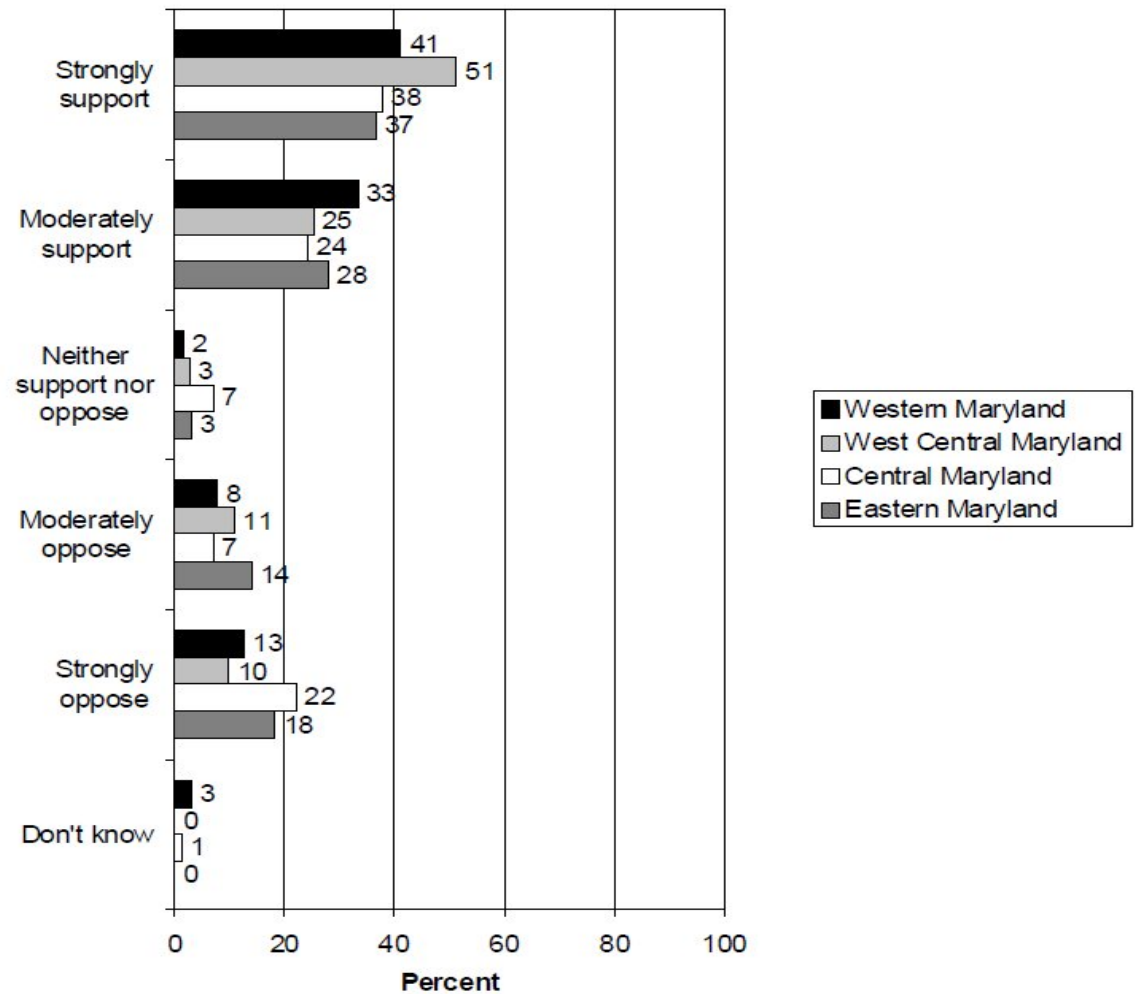
Antler Point Restrictions

- APRs limit the harvest of yearling bucks, permitting many of them to survive and reach the next age class when some will be available for harvest as a larger antlered buck.
- APRs also can shift harvest pressure to antlerless deer, aiding with population management where needed.
- Yearling buck harvest in Maryland varies from 50 to **80%** depending on the region and year.
- Nationally yearling buck harvest is 40%.
- **Instituting an APR regulation is one of the most common requests the Department receives.**
- APRs are fairly common throughout the United States, including the mid-Atlantic region.



White-tailed Deer

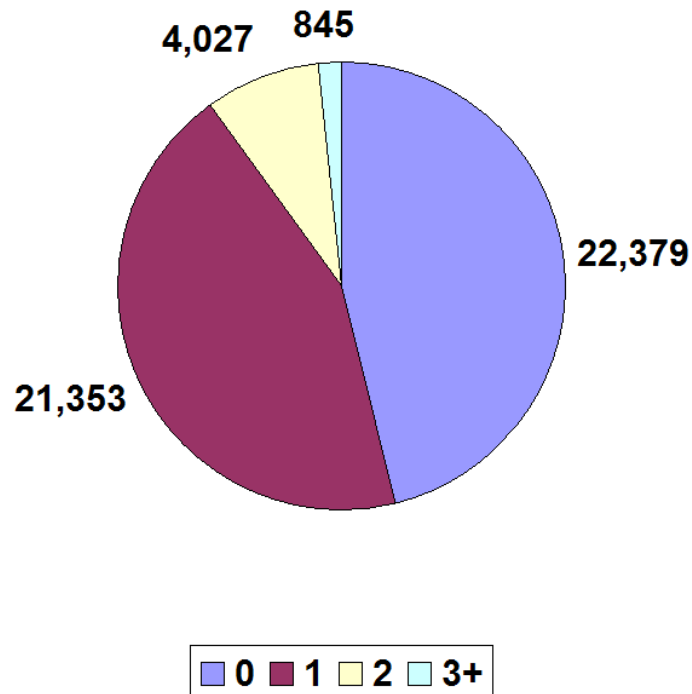
Q111. In general, would you support or oppose establishing mandatory quality deer management regulations in the area where you hunt in Maryland? (Hunter survey.)



White-tailed Deer

Proposed APR Regulation - Impact to Hunters

Number of Hunters Who Took 0, 1, 2, or 3 or More Bucks in 2013-14



- Minimal direct impact to hunters.
- Regulation would encourage behavioral changes in current deer hunter trends.
- Department will continue to promote voluntary quality deer management principles.
- Yearling buck harvest level is not a *significant* biological concern to the Department. APRs are viewed as a social issue and treated accordingly.

White-tailed Deer



We reviewed input from every possible source.

- Show overall support.

Comment Opportunity	Support the Proposal	Against the Proposal
DNR Online Forum	67	51
Wye Mills Public Meeting	7	14
Frostburg Public Meeting	33	9
MWC Poll#1	81	53
MWC Poll#2	66	58
MWC Thread	27	37
TOTAL	281 (56%)	222 (44%)

White-tailed Deer

Proposal: Reduce the bag limit on antlerless deer in Region A to two per year, but no more than one in any weapon season.



- Proposed to compensate for increased pressure on antlerless deer due to possible antler point restrictions in Region A.
- Would also allow for a potential growth in herd size in Region A over time.
- Harvest in Region A has been stable or declining since 2004.
- Current limit of two antlerless deer on DNR lands would no longer be needed.

White-tailed Deer

Proposal: Reduce the bag limit on antlerless deer in Region A to two per year, but no more than one in any weapon season.



Comments:

- Overall positive, some resistance from a few hunters/farmers.

Recommended Action:

- Move to regulation process.

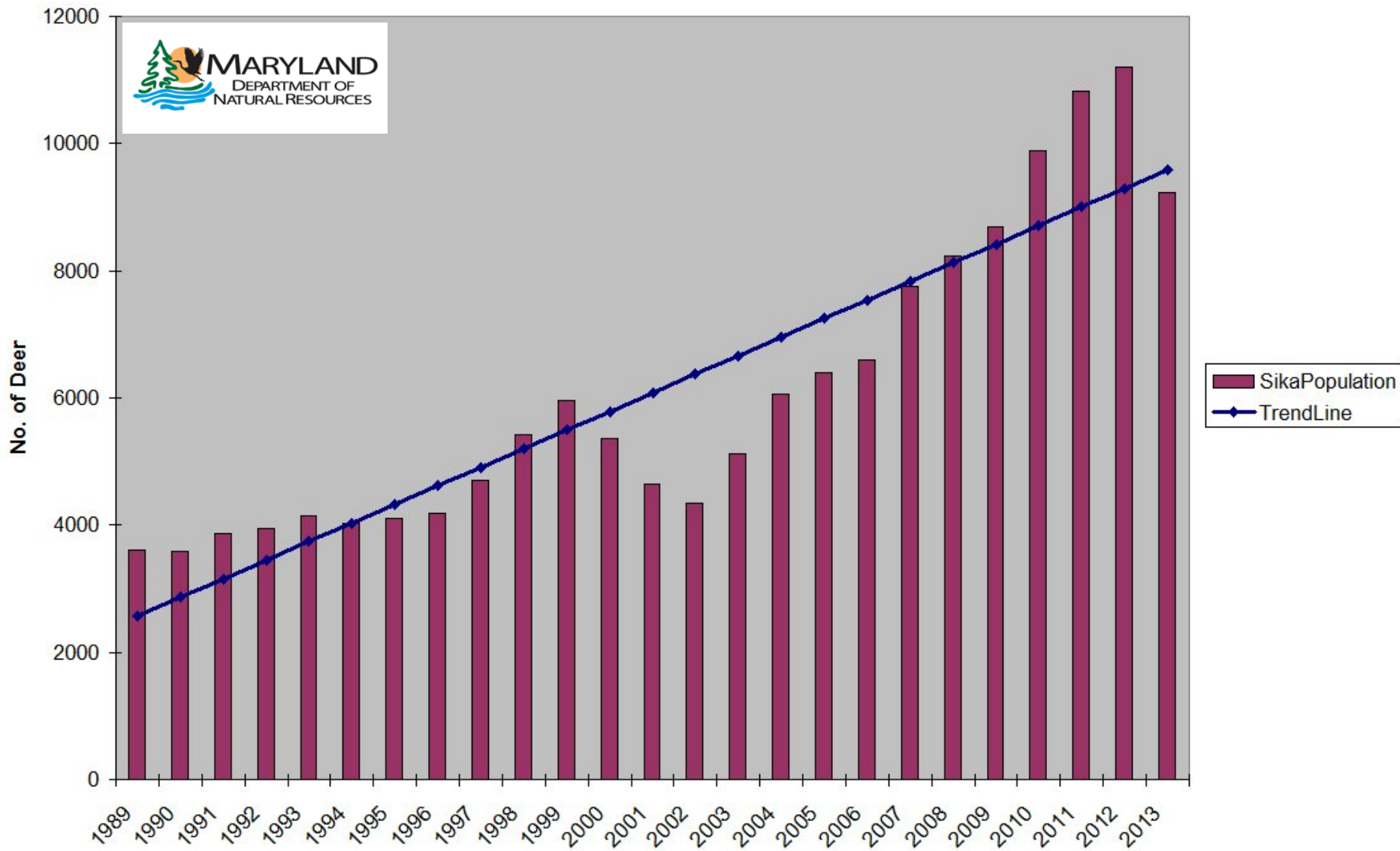
Sika Deer

Proposal: Change the sika deer bag limit to three deer per weapon season with no more than one antlered.

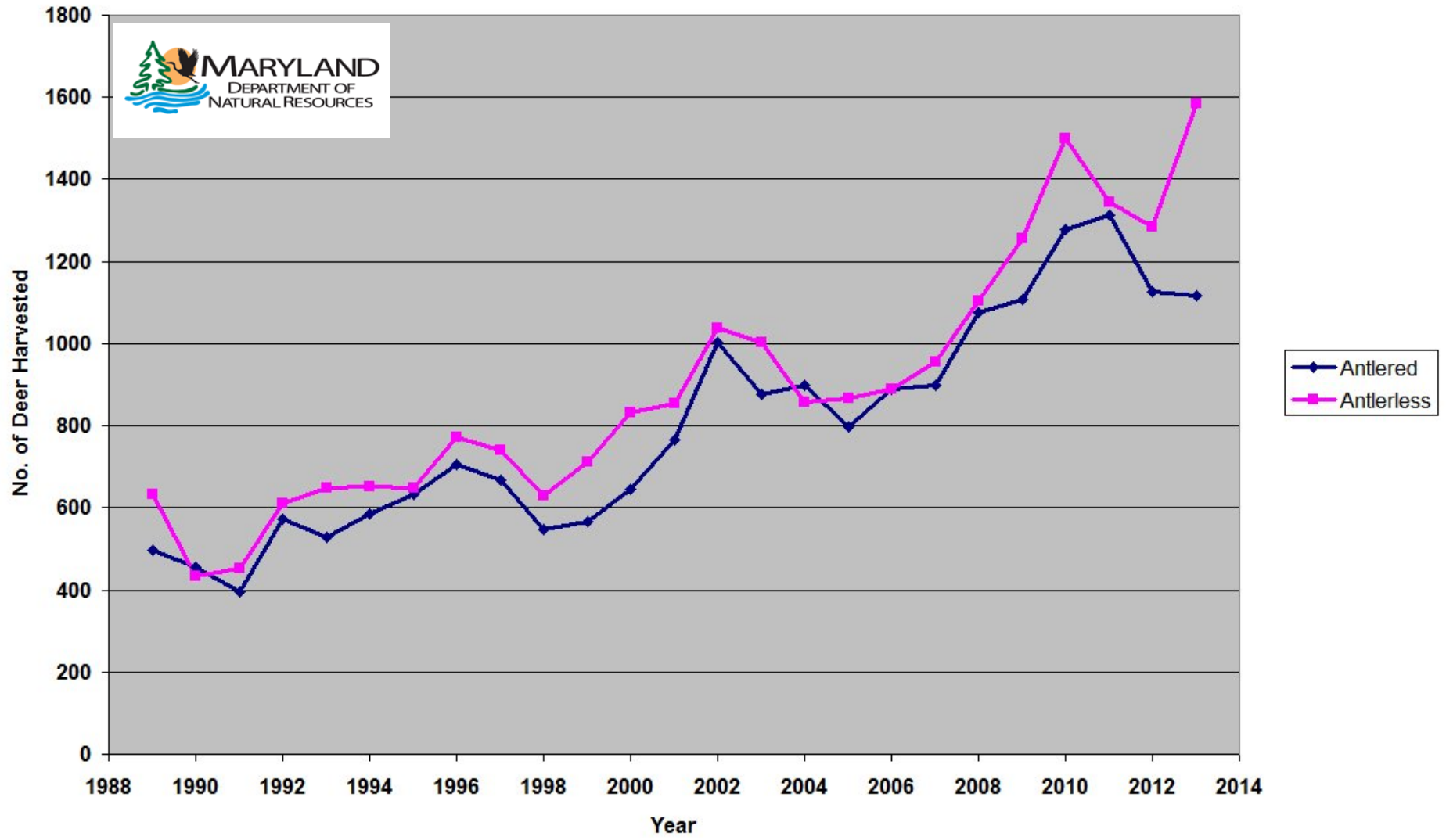
- Sika deer population is increasing and expanding its range resulting in increasing crop damage complaints.
- Recent studies have documented high densities of sika deer and high survival rates across their range on the Eastern Shore.
- Proposed action would increase the harvest of antlerless sika deer and aid with population management.



Sika Population, 1989 - 2013

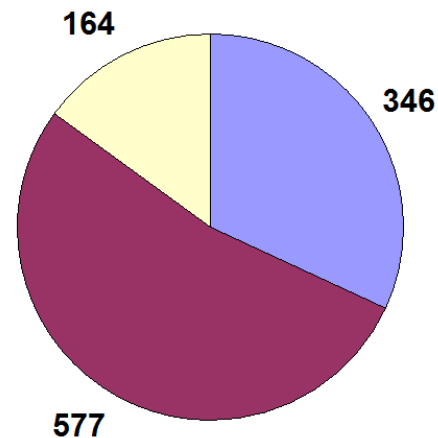


Maryland Sika Deer Annual Harvest



Proposed Sika Bag Limit Increase - Impact to Population

Number of Sika Hunters Who Took 0, 1, or 2 Hinds with a Firearm in 2013-14



0 1 2

- No detrimental impact to the current sika population.
- Would enable farmers and other managers to more effectively manage sika deer on their lands.

Sika Deer



Proposal: Change the sika deer bag limit to three deer per weapon season with no more than one antlered.

Comments:

- Very mixed – strong input on both sides.
 - Some hunters negative.
 - Many landowners, some hunters positive.

Recommended Action:

- We feel this is a very important change.
- We need to slow population growth, bring the population down slightly.
- Have no intention of removing sika deer, unlike Assateague Island NS. We recognize the value of sika deer for hunting in Maryland.
- **Move to regulation process.**

Sika Deer

Proposal: Increase the sika deer antlerless bag limit to allow two antlerless deer (or three, pending the considered bag limit change) to be harvested during any portion of the early or late muzzleloader season.

- Sika deer population is increasing and expanding its range resulting in increasing crop damage complaints.
- Proposed action would increase the harvest of antlerless sika deer and aid with population management.
- Proposed change would not be detrimental to the population.
- Hunters have requested this change. Those that travel to the Eastern Shore to hunt sika deer would like to maximize their efforts while they are there.



Sika Deer

Proposal: Increase the sika deer antlerless bag limit to allow two antlerless deer (or three, pending the considered bag limit change) to be harvested during any portion of the early or late muzzleloader season.

Comments:

- Mixed, but mostly positive.

Recommended Action:

- Move to regulation process.



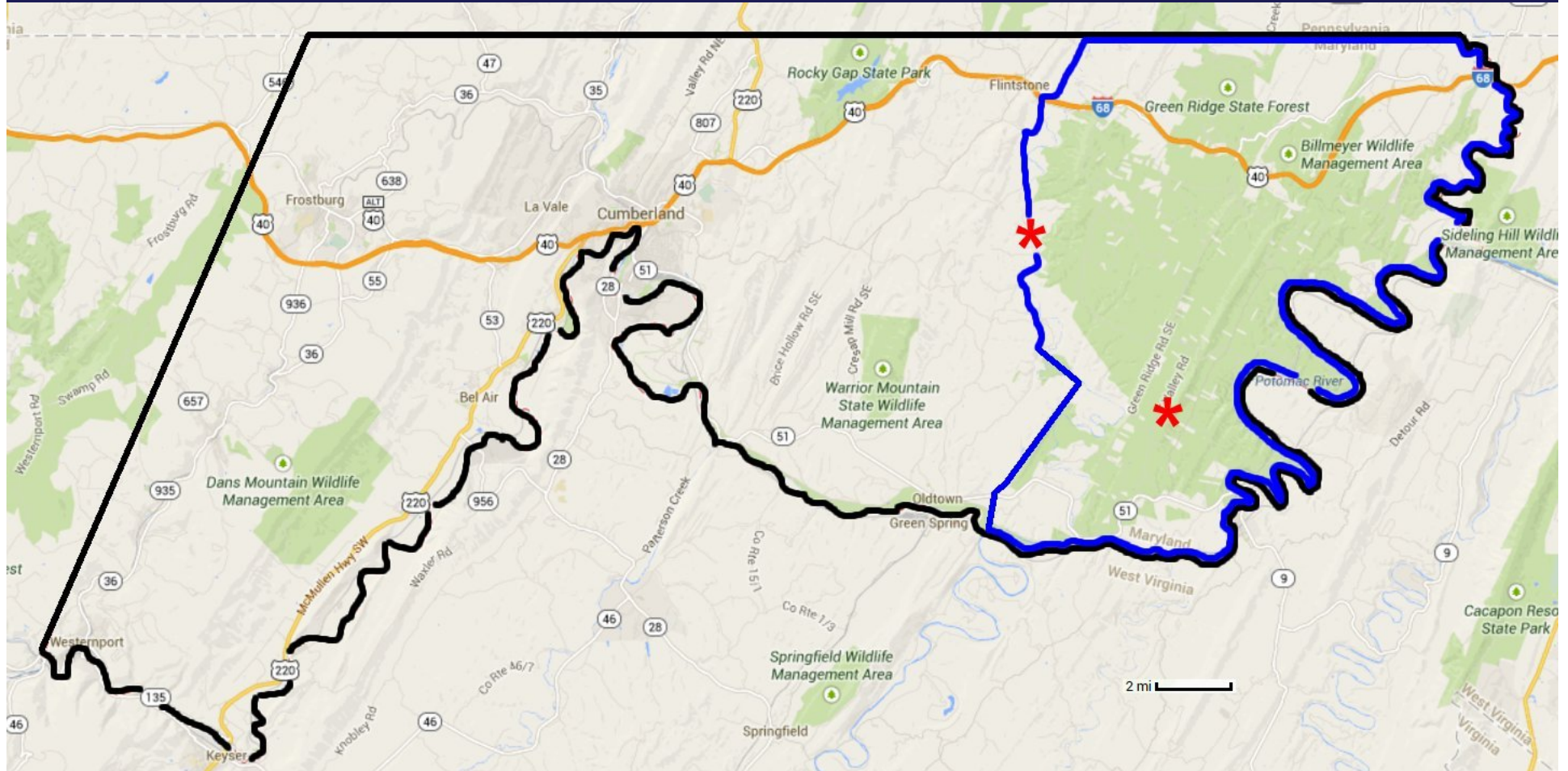
Regulation Proposals: **2014-15 and 2015-16 Hunting Seasons**



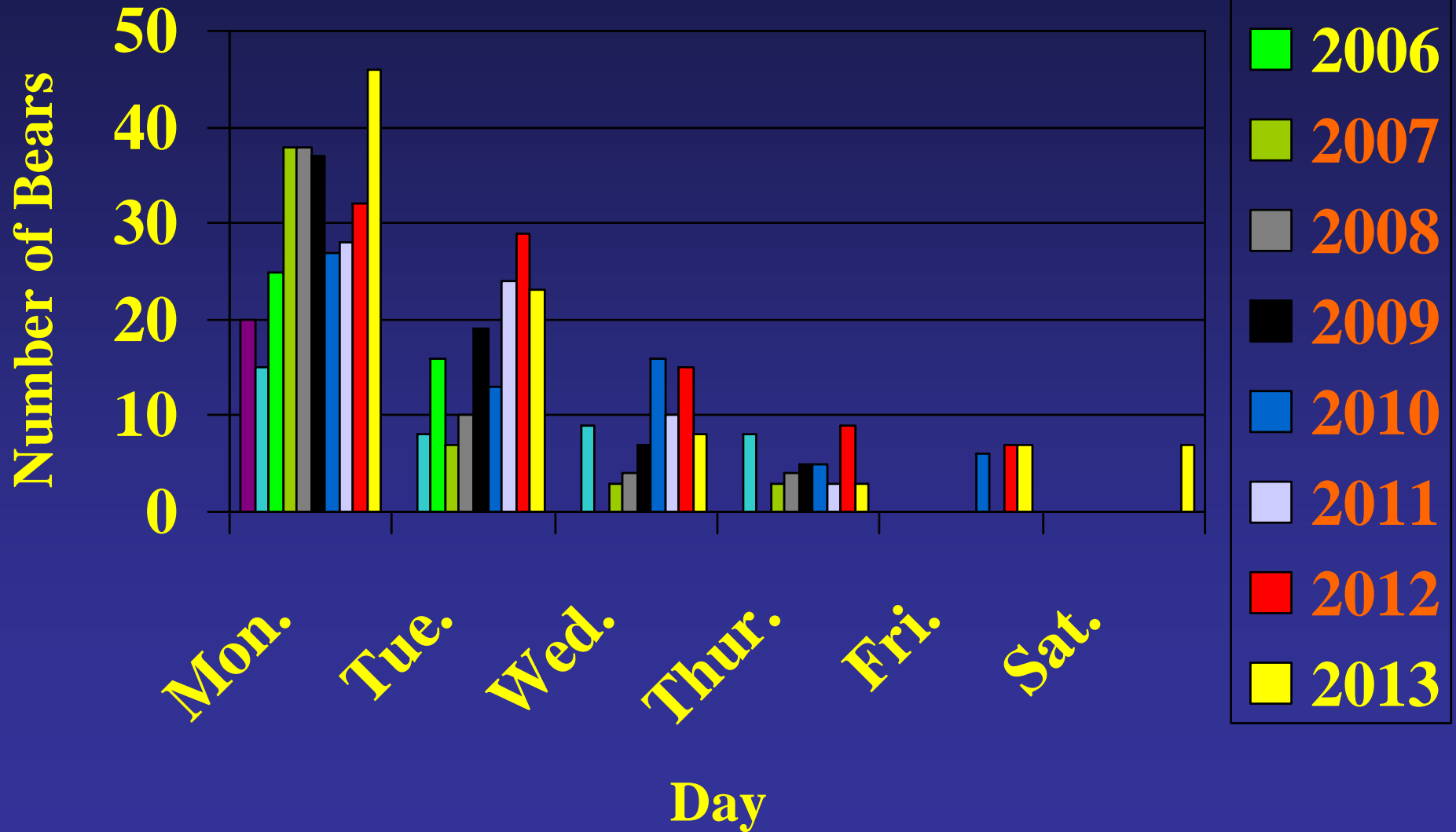
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

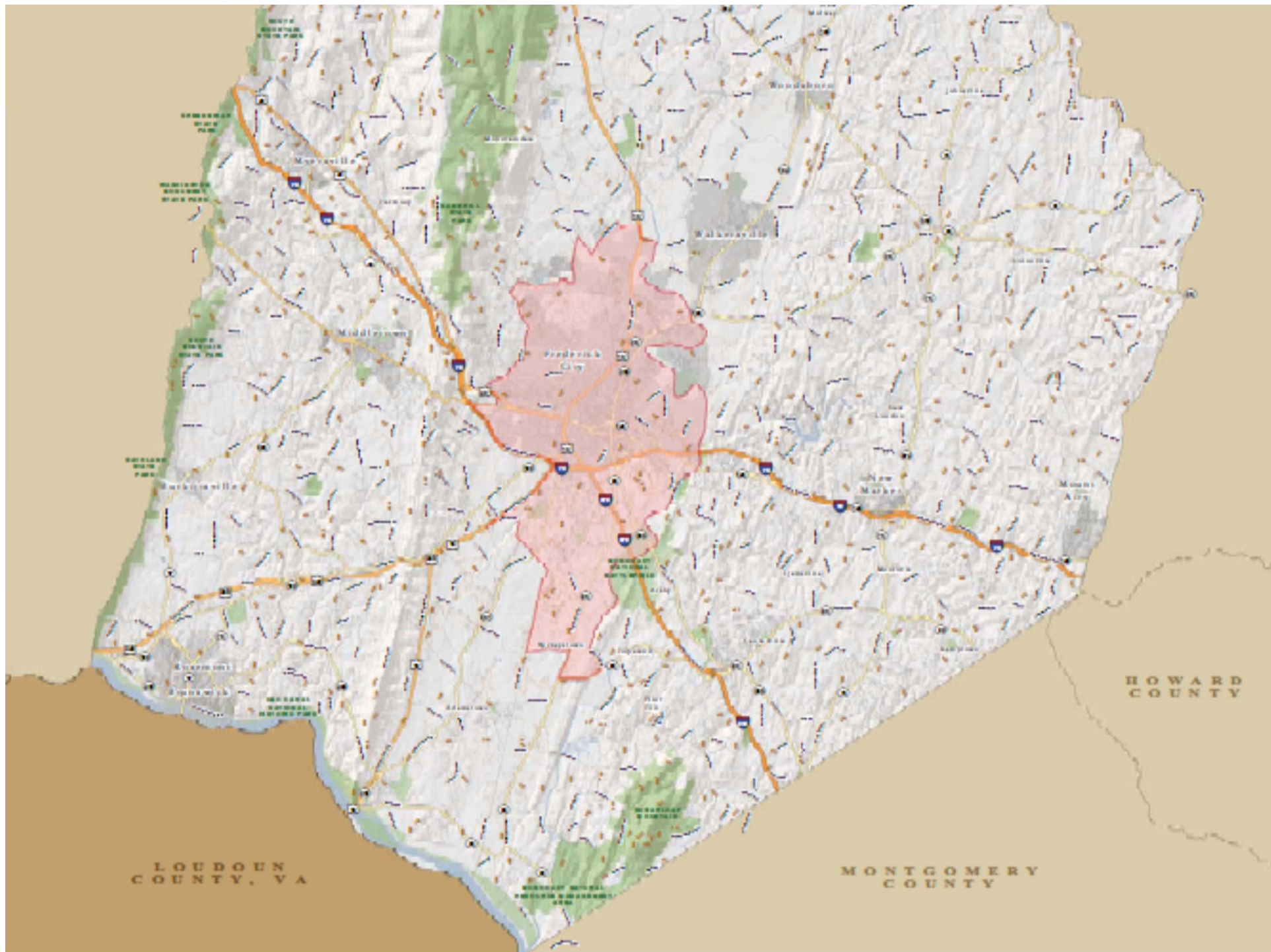
Wildlife and Heritage Service

CWD Locations – March 2014



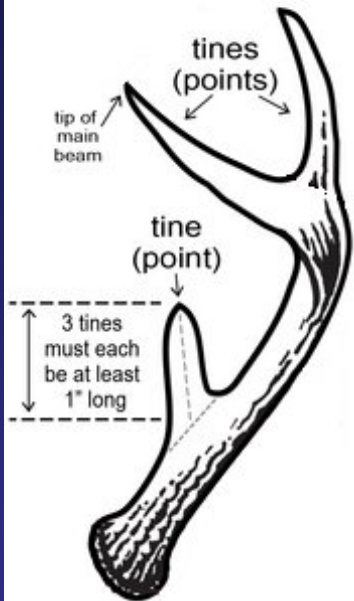
Bear Harvest by Day





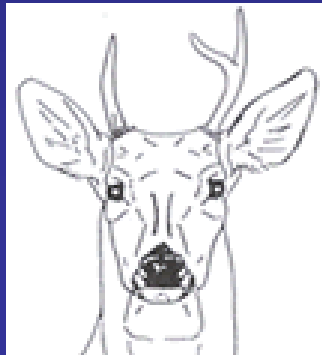
White-tailed Deer

3-point-minimum:
at least one of a deer's antlers
must have all these attributes

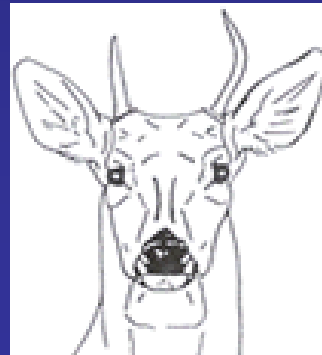


Order of Harvest

Region A



1



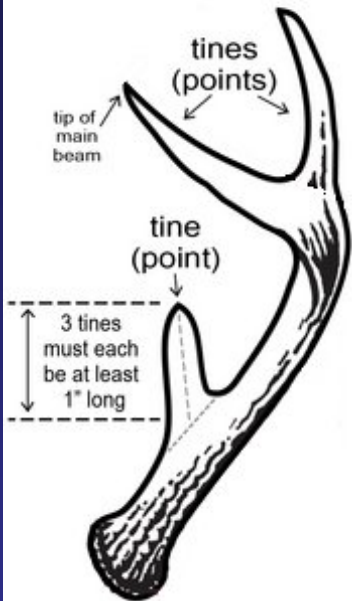
2



3

White-tailed Deer

3-point-minimum:
at least one of a deer's antlers
must have all these attributes

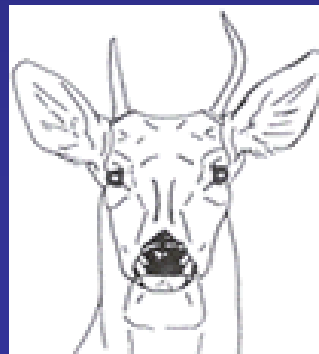


Order of Harvest

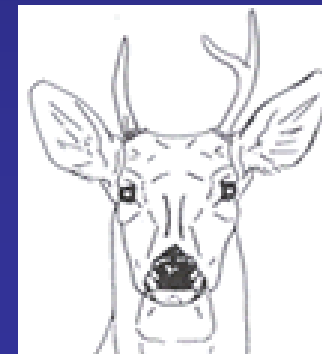
Region A



1



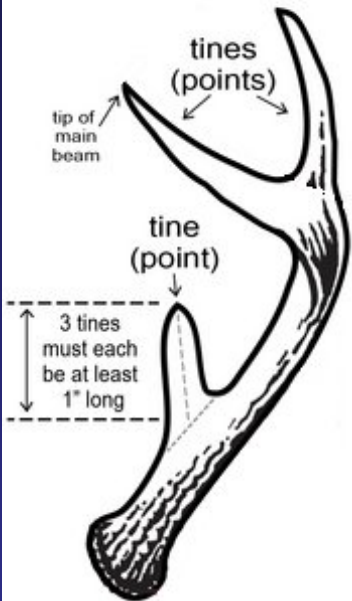
2



3

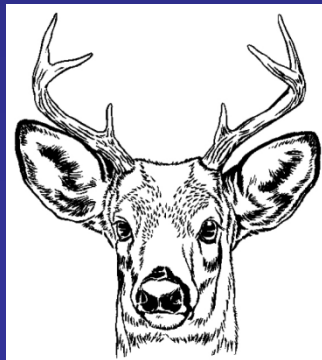
White-tailed Deer

3-point-minimum:
at least one of a deer's antlers
must have all these attributes

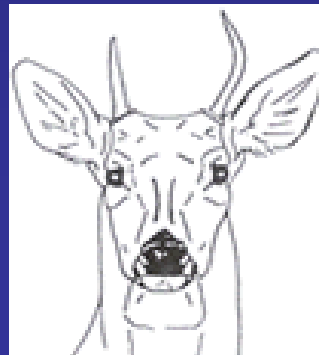


Order of Harvest

Region A



1



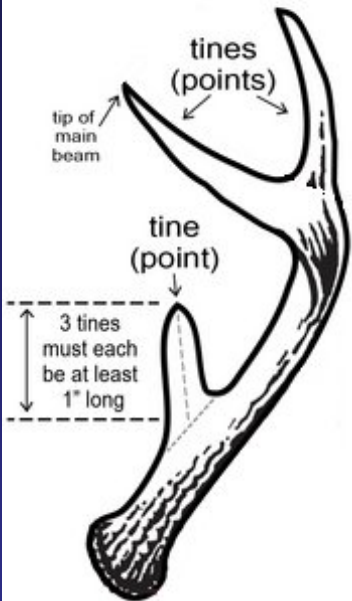
2



3

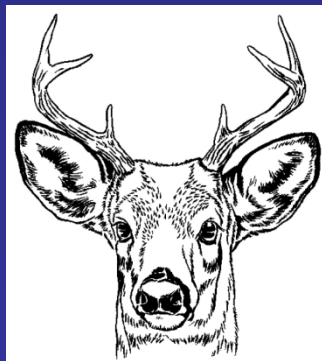
White-tailed Deer

3-point-minimum:
at least one of a deer's antlers
must have all these attributes



Order of Harvest

Region A



1



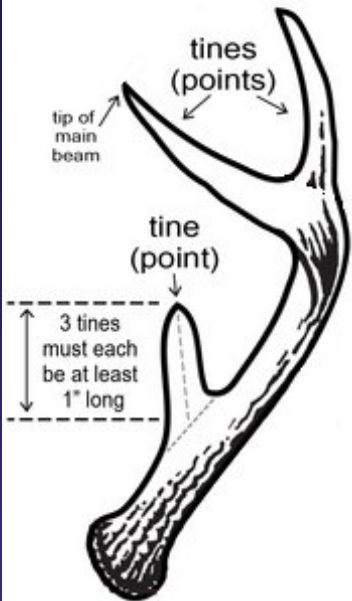
2



3

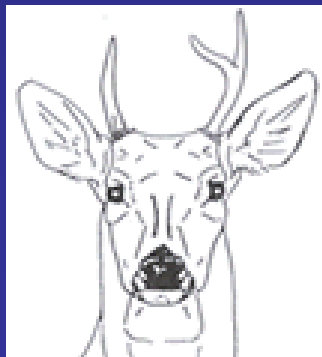
White-tailed Deer

3-point-minimum:
at least one of a deer's antlers
must have all these attributes



Order of Harvest

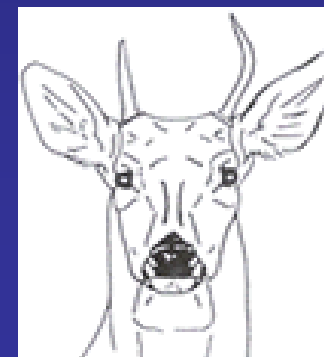
Region A



1



2



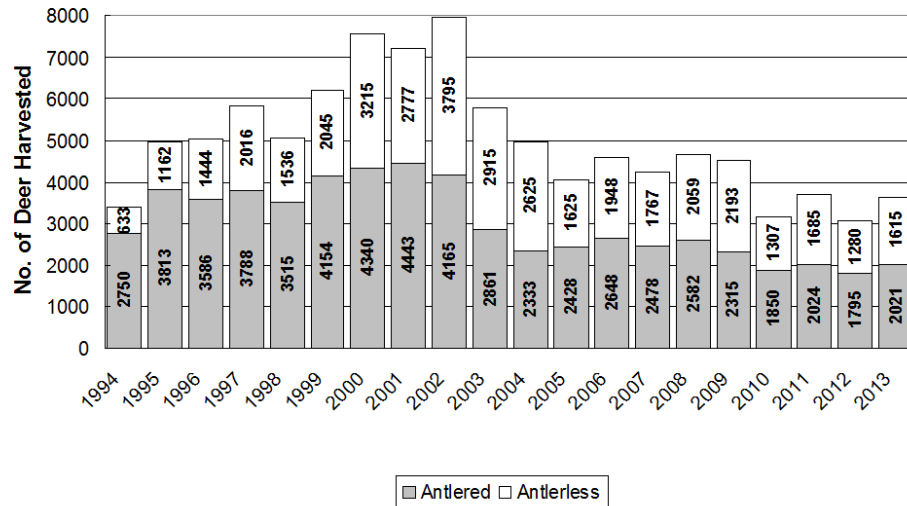
3

White-tailed Deer



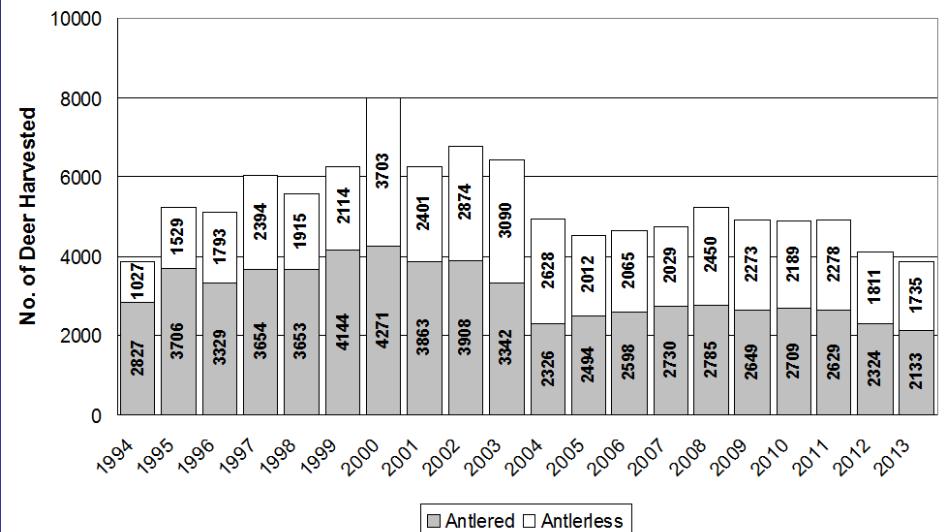
Allegany County

Total White-tailed Deer Harvest - Antlered & Antlerless



Garrett County

Total White-tailed Deer Harvest - Antlered & Antlerless





QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 160 □ 170 Whitetail Way □ Bogart, GA 30622
PHONE: 800.209.3337 □ FAX: 706.353.0223 □ www.QDMA.com

Date: March 19th, 2014

To: Wildlife Advisory Committee

From: E.W. Grimes, Maryland State Chapter QDMA Representative

Re: Deer Management

On behalf of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA) and the Maryland State Chapter we appreciate the opportunity to provide support for regulation changes on Maryland's 2014-16 deer season. The QDMA is an international nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to ensuring the future of white-tailed deer, wildlife habitat, and our hunting heritage. The QDMA has over 54,000 members nationwide and our membership includes hunters, landowners and numerous natural resource professionals.

We would like to commend the Department on many facets of your deer management program. Maryland deer seasons provide abundant recreational opportunities and our liberal bag limits provide abundant antlerless harvest opportunities. These opportunities enable hunters to spend additional time afield and are necessary to balance deer herds with their habitats and maximize youth hunter recruitment and retention.

The percentage of yearling bucks in the antlered harvest has steadily declined from a national average of 62 percent in 1989 to 37 percent in 2012. Unfortunately, the percentage of yearling bucks in the antlered harvest in Maryland is still well above the national average.

Yearling bucks can be protected through antler point or spread restrictions, earn-a-buck programs, or by numerous other techniques. With regard to antler restrictions, we prefer antler spread restrictions. Antler spread restrictions involve establishing a minimum width of spread a buck must have to be eligible for harvest. The premise of a width restriction is few yearling bucks attain an outside antler spread of more than 14-15 inches. Hunters can estimate a buck's spread by viewing where the antlers are in relation to the animal's forward pointed ears. Ear tip to tip distance is approximately 14-15 inches for northern deer and slightly less for southern deer. Therefore, if a buck's antlers are as wide as or wider than his ears, there is a good chance he is at least 2.5 years old.

The advantage of a spread restriction is it is a much better predictor of whether a buck is 1.5 or 2.5 years old or older and therefore can do a better job protecting yearlings. Disadvantages of a spread restriction include it is slightly more difficult to determine the legal status of a buck in the wild (vs. antler point restrictions), it can be more difficult for state agencies to enforce, and some mature bucks can have tall, narrow racks that are less than 15 inches wide. Preferred antler spread restrictions do a better job protecting yearlings and would get measureable results faster.

As of 2011, 22 states implemented some form of antler restriction to protect yearling bucks. Point restrictions were the most commonly used technique (15 of 22 states), followed by combination restrictions using antler spread and main beam length or antler spread and antler points (4 States), and antler spread restrictions (3 states).

The Maryland State Chapter and Branches lend our support to help the Department promote the benefits to hunters and the deer herd of protecting the majority of yearling bucks and continue pursuing avenues to harvest additional antlerless deer in Region B where deer density is negatively impacting native habitat. However many areas have reduced deer numbers and should be considered as part of regulation changes and the future management plan.

Encourage hunters and the general public to participate in educational events to increase their knowledge on deer biology and deer and habitat management. Topics such as harvesting bucks based on age or a combination of age/antler spread are advantageous to creating more knowledgeable hunters(include in Hunters Guide) and better stewards of our natural resources. The Maryland QDMA State Chapter and Branches will conduct numerous educational seminars, workshops and field days on an annual basis.

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR DEER:

1. Implement an antler point restriction (APR) specifying that no more than two antlered deer harvested per license year (statewide) may have less than three points one inch or longer on each antler present.

Rationale/Goal:

Yearling buck (i.e. 1½ years old) harvest in Maryland ranges from 50–80% depending on the region and year. The nationwide average is under 40%. Implementing an APR will reduce yearling buck harvest and shift some of the harvest to antlerless deer, aiding with population management.

2. Reduce the antlerless bag limit in Region A from three antlerless deer to two antlerless deer, no more than one per weapon season.

Rationale/Goal:

Reducing the antlerless deer bag limit will aid in reducing pressure on this component of the Region A deer population should antler point restrictions be implemented.

The Maryland State Chapter QDMA and Maryland Branches supports these proposed changes, changes that will improve educational value for protecting yearling bucks while not effecting most deer hunters or harvest trends. Monitoring the next 2 years percentage of yearling bucks in antlered harvest will determine if APR's are successfully protecting additional yearling bucks from harvest.

We appreciate the good working relationship with the Department and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 deer regulations and bag limits.

Respectfully,



E.W. Grimes
Maryland State Chapter QDMA Former President
Representative Maryland State Chapter QDMA

Spencer, Tracey

From: Spencer, Tracey on behalf of Wildlife Advisory Commission
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 2:01 PM
To: 'Ed Schaubert'
Subject: RE: Hunting W/O Written Permission Law

Hello Mr. Schaubert,

Thank you for contacting the Wildlife Advisory Commission about your concerns on the issues surrounding the need for written permission while hunting. The Commission appreciates your service to DNR and glad to see you continue to be interested in hunting related matters.

The Commission understands your point that many landowners will grant verbal permission to hunt, but won't issue that same permission in writing. The Commission further recognizes that some hunting permission has been granted verbally for years, perhaps decades, by the same landowner to the same hunters. This issue is further complicated when a hunter that has written permission invites a friend along for a day of gunning. Quite often that guest does not have written permission.

Nevertheless, Maryland statute § 10-411 is clear that hunters need to have written permission from the landowner or his agent before hunting on private land. As you no doubt know from your experience as a law enforcement officer, many laws are written in a way that allows for significant interpretation. However, the language in § 10-411 is very clear and direct and does not make allowances for verbal permission.

The Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) shared your email with the NRP liaison and learned that their position on written permission is that it is clearly required by § 10-411. However, most field officers interact with hunters every day during the fall and winter months and have learned to use discretion when making the decision whether to cite someone for being in violation of § 10-411 or not. Field supervisors monitor citations and will train officers on those rare occasions where a warning for failure to have written permission would have been more appropriate.

The Commission realizes this is not the answer you were hoping for, but § 10-411 gives us little choice. The Commission will discuss your email further with our NRP representatives; perhaps a better course of action can be devised to address your concerns while still meeting the provisions of this statute.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Plummer
Chairman,
Wildlife Advisory Commission

From: Ed Schaubert
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 5:26 PM
To: Wildlife Advisory Commission
Subject: Hunting W/O Written Permission Law

Dear Wildlife Advisory Commission Members,

My name is Ed Schaubert and I am a retired Natural Resources Police Officer who worked primarily in the old

Inland Division in the Eastern Region of the state. I retired in 2000 and spent plenty of time working illegal hunting complaints in that region. I have heard rumors that the law requiring written permission from a landowner is being applied incorrectly and thus this letter. The law that requires written permission from the landowner was originally used to charge trespassing hunters in cases where the landowner was absent and/or did not want to get involved in the Article 27 Trespass process. It was a payable offense but with a higher fine than the hunting w/o permission charge. We used that charge when there was an actual trespass but I am told that this is not the case today. Those rumors I mentioned earlier are that hunters who have verbal permission to hunt are being charged with Hunting W/O Written Permission because they do not have that permission in writing. There are many landowners who will give verbal permission but not written permission and that is their choice. I personally have verbal permission to hunt several properties but no written permission. I think that the law requiring written permission is a useful tool to combat illegal hunting but believe that if the lack of possession of a signed piece of paper overrules the landowner's verbal permission there is a problem. I am fully behind NRP charging violators with this law but am against making violators out of honest hunters. Please consider addressing the potential misapplication of this law.

Thank you,

Ed Schaubert


Spencer, Tracey

From: Therres, Glenn
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2014 4:00 PM
To: Spencer, Tracey
Cc: Peditto, Paul; Stonesifer, Karina
Subject: Review for WAC Regulation
Attachments: WAC regulations 2014.doc

Please send this email to the members of WAC for their upcoming March 19th meeting.

The Department is required to review the regulations governing the Wildlife Advisory Commission (COMAR 08.01.01.05) by April 1st. Attached is a copy of the current regulations and some recommended changes, mostly house cleaning changes. Please review these and be prepared to discuss them at next week's meeting. Language enclosed in brackets is proposed to be deleted and bolded language is proposed new language.

Other changes are welcomed.

Thank you.

Glenn D. Therres, Associate Director
Wildlife and Heritage Service
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
410-260-8572

08.01.01.05

.05 Wildlife Advisory Commission.

- A. The Wildlife Advisory Commission shall have the duty of advising the Administrator of the Wildlife Administration on all matters referred to the Commission by the Administrator of the Wildlife Administration.
- B. Members may not receive compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incident to their attendance of the meetings of the Commission according to the provisions of the standard travel regulations of the State, and within budgetary limitations.
- C. The Wildlife Advisory Commission shall elect annually at the first meeting after July 1, a chairman, who shall be eligible for re-election in any subsequent year.
- D. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chairman or the Administrator of the Wildlife Administration, or, within budgetary limitations, upon petition of a majority of the members, stating the purpose of the meeting. Not less than two meetings shall be held in each fiscal year.

Recommended Changes:

- A. The Wildlife Advisory Commission shall have the duty of advising the [Administrator] **Director** of the Wildlife [Administration] **and Heritage Service** on all matters referred to the Commission by the [Administrator] **Director** of the Wildlife [Administration] **and Heritage Service**.
- D. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chairman or the [Administrator] **Director** of the Wildlife [Administration] **and Heritage Service**, or, within budgetary limitations, upon petition of a majority of the members, stating the purpose of the meeting. Not less than [two] **six** meetings shall be held in each fiscal year.

**Summary of 2014 Proposed Legislation
Wildlife and Heritage Service
(as of March 18, 2014)**

HB0138 (SB0309)	Montgomery County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone MC 5-14	Montgomery County Delegation	In the House - Third Reading Passed (120-8)	Environmental Matters 3/7/2014 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0196 (SB0192)	Anne Arundel County - Turkey Hunting - Fall Season	Delegate Costa	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters; Withdrawn	Environmental Matters 1/29/2014 - 2:00 p.m.
HB0197 (SB0191)	Anne Arundel County - Deer Hunting - Sundays	Delegate Costa	In the House - Hearing 1/29 at 2:00 p.m.	Environmental Matters 1/29/2014 - 2:00 p.m.
HB0262 (SB0231)	Bow Hunting - Possession of Handguns for Protection	Delegate Beitzel	In the House - Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 3/4/2014 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0296 (SB0336)	Natural Resources - Wildlands - Designation of New Wildlands	Speaker	In the Senate - First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Environmental Matters 2/5/2014 - 2:00 p.m.
HB0406 (SB0472)	Allegany County, Garrett County, and Washington County - Sunday Hunting	Delegate Beitzel	In the House - Third Reading Passed (117-13)	Environmental Matters 3/7/2014 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0420 (SB0471)	Washington County - Off-Road Vehicle Trails - Prohibition of Establishment on Sideling Hill	Delegate Myers	In the Senate - First Reading Judicial Proceedings	Environmental Matters 2/12/2014 - 2:00 p.m.
HB0432 (SB0473)	Allegany County, Frederick County, Garrett County, and Washington County - Deer Hunting - Sundays	Delegate Beitzel	In the House - Third Reading Passed (115-15)	Environmental Matters 3/7/2014 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0669	Harford County - Deer Muzzle Loader Season - January Days	Delegate Glass	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters; Withdrawn	Environmental Matters 3/7/2014 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0670	Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Delegate Glass	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters	Environmental Matters 2/12/2014 - 2:00 p.m.
HB0671	Sunday Hunting - Deer Bow Hunting Season	Delegate Glass	In the House - Hearing 2/12 at 2:00 p.m.	Environmental Matters 2/12/2014 - 2:00 p.m.
HB0672	Harford County - Sunday Hunting - Deer Bow Hunting Season	Delegate Glass	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters	Environmental Matters 3/7/2014 - 1:00 p.m.
HB0673	Harford County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Delegate Glass	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters	Environmental Matters 3/7/2014 - 1:00 p.m.

HB0675	Recreational Hunting or Fishing License Applications - Disclosure of Information	Delegate Glass	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters	Environmental Matters 2/12/2014 - 2:00 p.m.	
HB0759	Calvert County - Deer Hunting - Sundays	Calvert County Delegation	In the House - Third Reading Passed (120-15)	Environmental Matters 3/7/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB0769	Recreational Hunting or Fishing License Applications - Disclosure of Information	Delegate O'Donnell	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters	Environmental Matters 2/14/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB0860	Natural Resources - Baiting Deer - Restrictions	Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo	In the House - Unfavorable Report by Environmental Matters; Withdrawn	Environmental Matters 2/19/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB0890	Natural Resources - Deer Hunting - Sundays	Delegate O'Donnell	In the House - Hearing 2/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Environmental Matters 2/19/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB1133	Calvert County and St. Mary's County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Delegate O'Donnell	In the House - Third Reading Passed (122-8)	Environmental Matters 2/28/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB1174	Recreational Hunting or Fishing Licenses - Denial, Suspension, and Required Disclosure	Delegate Dumais	In the Senate - Hearing 3/25 at 1:00 p.m.	Environmental Matters 3/5/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/25/2014 - 1:00 p.m.
HB1356	Bow Hunting - Possession of Handguns for Protection	Delegate Glass	In the House - Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 3/4/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB1520	Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Periods - Hunting and Sporting Goods	Delegate Ready	In the House - First Reading House Rules and Executive Nominations	Rules and Executive Nominations	
HB1547	Hunting Licenses - Exemption for Retired Members of the Armed Forces	Delegate O'Donnell	In the House - Third Reading Passed (128-0)	Environmental Matters 3/11/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	

SB0093	Natural Resources - Recreational Incentives Pilot Program	Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee	In the House - Hearing 3/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 1/14/2014 - 3:00 p.m.	Environmental Matters 3/19/2014 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0191 (HB0197)	Anne Arundel County - Deer Hunting - Sundays	Senator Reilly	In the Senate - Unfavorable Report by Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/4/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	
SB0192 (HB0196)	Anne Arundel County - Turkey Hunting - Fall Season	Senator Reilly	In the Senate - Unfavorable Report by Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs; Withdrawn	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	
SB0231 (HB0262)	Bow Hunting - Possession of Handguns for Protection	Senator Edwards	In the House - Hearing 3/18 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 1/28/2014 - 1:45 p.m.	Judiciary 3/18/2014 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0309 (HB0138)	Montgomery County - Archery Hunting - Safety Zone	Montgomery County Senators	In the Senate - Third Reading Passed (45-1)	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/18/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	
SB0336 (HB0296)	Natural Resources - Wildlands - Designation of New Wildlands	President	In the House - Hearing 3/19 at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/4/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	Environmental Matters 3/19/2014 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0471 (HB0420)	Washington County - Off-Road Vehicle Trails - Prohibition of Establishment on Sideling Hill	Senator Edwards	In the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Judicial Proceedings 2/12/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	Environmental Matters
SB0472 (HB0406)	Allegany County, Garrett County, and Washington County - Sunday Hunt	Senator Edwards	In the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/11/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	Environmental Matters
SB0473 (HB0432)	Allegany County, Frederick County, Garrett County, and Washington County - Deer Hunting - Sundays	Senator Edwards	In the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 2/11/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	Environmental Matters
SB0966	Calvert County, Charles County, and St. Mary's County - Deer Hunting	Senator Dyson	In the Senate - Third Reading Passed (45-1)	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 3/11/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	

**OFFICERS**

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 Jeffrey Plummer
 Vice-Chairman
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March 19, 2014

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Maryland House of Delegates
 Environmental Matters Committee
 Room 251
 House Office Building
 Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Opposition to SB966

Dear Environmental Matters Committee:

DNR POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

NRP Capt. Edward Johnson

STATE PARK REPRESENTATIVE

Deputy Superintendent
 Chris Bushman

The Wildlife Advisory Commission opposes Senate Bill 966 – Calvert County, Charles County, and St. Mary’s County – Deer Hunting. We are opposed to the establishment of a three month deer firearms season by law as it takes away the ability of the Department of Natural Resources to manage the deer population using sound science. We also know from experience and public input that the current deer season already challenges the tolerance of landowners, farmers, non-hunters and others who wish to use the woods and fields outside of the deer firearms season. Finally, the Wildlife Advisory Commission opposes Senate Bill 966 because it will over burden Natural Resources Police operations in southern Maryland. The Natural Resources Police are already under staffed.

The Wildlife Advisory Commission is a Governor-appointed commission of nine members representing the interests of the public regarding wildlife conservation and management in Maryland. We serve as a liaison with the general public, conservation organizations and the sportsmen and women of Maryland on wildlife-related issues. The Commission provides advice to the Department of Natural Resources on proposed regulations, legislation and generally supports the Department with input on important wildlife issues.

We urge an unfavorable vote for Senate Bill 966.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Plummer
 Chairman,
 Wildlife Advisory Commission