

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 20, 2013

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

**Vice Chairman Compton introduction of Acting Director Karina Stonesifer.**

- Mrs. Karina Stonesifer is the temporary Acting Director of Wildlife and Heritage Service.
- Director Paul Peditto is the temporary Acting Director of Human Resources for the Department of Natural Resources.

**Approval for the November 20, 2013 Meeting Agenda**

- The November 20, 2013 Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda was presented to the Commission.
- Ms. Spencer pointed out the two additional topics that were added under “New Business” to the November 20<sup>th</sup> agenda.
  1. The first addition was the Proposed Regulation for Disposition of Nuisance Beaver presentation given by Glenn Therres, Associate Director.
  2. The second addition was the Maryland Fur Trappers Association presentation given by Brian Elder.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Rodney moved to accept the November 20, 2013 Meeting Agenda as presented.
  2. Commissioner Wojton seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from October 23, 2013 Meeting**

- The October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes were distributed to the Commission prior to the meeting.
- Vice Chairman Compton outlined some changes to the October 23, 2013 Meeting Minutes.
  1. Vice Chairman Compton pointed out a correction on page 1 under WHS Regional Operations Program Update, listed under bullet 4; number 2 changed 70,000 to 8,000 acres in cooperative agreements.
- The changes that are listed on page 2 under the Information and Education Program Section.
  1. Bullet number 7 changed 2005 to 2010.
  2. Under bullet 7 and number 1 changed 27 to there were 127 students competed from seven schools.
  3. Under bullet 7 and number 2 deleted Bowhunter Society and added NASP.
  4. Under bullet 7 and number 4 added the word “numerous” before the word volunteers.
- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Wojton moved to approve the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes with the changes that were presented.
  2. Commissioner Rodney seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**2012 Conservationist of the Year Award – Presentation given by Commissioner Beth Wojton.**

- Commissioner Wojton highlighted points from the nomination letter about Mr. Jim White’s conservation efforts. **[ATTACHMENT A]**
- Commissioner Wojton presented Jim White, Executive Director of the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) for the 2012 Conservationist of the Year.
- Mr. White commented that the conservation efforts that have been implemented were assisted by not only by MPA but also the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS), Maryland Environment Services, and Maryland Department of Environment

(MDE). Mr. White accepted the award on behalf of all the partners and citizens of Maryland.

**2012 Employee of the Year Award** - Presentation given by Associate Director Jonathan McKnight and Central Region Invasive Plant Ecologist Kerrie Kyde.

- Ms. Kyde summarized the Employee of the Year nomination letter about Pete Stango. **[ATTACHMENT B]**
- Ms. Kyde's position requires that she finds, identifies, and quantifies, mapping, and destroying the invasive plants. Ms. Kyde could not have done her job as well as she does without Pete Stango's assistance. Mr. Stango assisted in Ms. Kyde learning Geographic Information System (GIS) and other electronic devices that are important tools for Ms. Kyde's position. Mr. Stango provided ongoing support even during afterhours. In addition, Mr. Stango worked closely with Ms. Kyde on a new effort that WHS is in the second year of a major grant from US Forest Service to do mapping and data collection so that staff can target strategically the controlled work.
- Mr. McKnight explained that the Geographic Information System (GIS), which is essentially a computer mapping system, to the Commission. The technology has moved along very quickly in our lives. As a result, the same is happening in the conservation and field activities. Mr. Stango has been assisting staff on learning these tools.
- Mr. McKnight mentioned to the Commission that Lynn Davidson seconded the nomination of Peter Stango for the Employee of the Year.
- Mr. Peter Stango thanked Ms. Kerrie Kyde for the nomination and explained that he does not mind helping staff.
- Vice Chairman Compton deleted the Maryland Natural Heritage Program Database Efforts from the agenda, since it was used as a decoy for the Employee of the Year Award.

**2014-2016 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Discussion** – Presentation given by Associate Director Pete Jayne.

- Mr. Jayne pointed out that the Game Program tried something different for the 2014-2016 Hunting and Trapping Regulations. The Game Program was asked by the Commission to alert the stakeholders prior to the releasing of the potential 2014-2016 hunting and trapping regulations concepts sooner than later. This dialogue typically involves bag limits and seasons dates. This process may include what weapons may be used and hunting devices.
- Staff members review the hunting and trapping regulations every two years.
- Internally, the Game Program is reviewing the potential 2014-2016 seasons. The WHS Leadership Team along with the Natural Heritage Program staff are also involved in the process of reviewing concepts for the 2014-2016 seasons.
- Mr. Jayne indicated that this is a good time for the Commission to bring up concepts for the Game Program to consider.
- Staff members are in the concepts stage of this process.
- There are two stakeholders included: 1) DNR staff (internal stakeholders) and 2) The external stakeholders include individuals from different conservation and wildlife groups/organizations along with organized hunting clubs, are invited. Once staff members have vetted the suggestions and recommendations, staff members compile that information and bring the concepts to the Commission for input and approval.
- After the Commission's input and approval, staff members will translate that information into proposals for the general public input.
- This process wraps up sometime around the end of March.
- The last time, staff received over 1,200 comments.
- Staff are considering a Fall Turkey Season statewide. The wild turkey population has been

restored across the State. For the last several decades, there has been a traditional Fall Turkey Season in the western counties. There is an issue with having a Statewide Fall Turkey Season; it is during the deer season and baiting for deer is allow on private lands but it is not allow for turkey season. Staff members are also considering a winter Turkey Season in January instead of a Fall Turkey Season statewide.

- Keep in mind that these are just concepts that staff members have been considering.
- Mr. Jayne introduced Mr. Brian Elder from the Maryland Fur Trappers Association to the Commission.
- Mr. Jayne announced that the Game Program surveyed deer hunters in Western Maryland on antlered restrictions in Region A. WHS staff members are waiting on the survey results. Depending on the results, staff may consider a concept on antlered restriction in Region A that would prohibit hunters from taking deer with antlers with a certain size. Mr. Jayne recalled showing some drafts to the Commission as to where the break out would be for yearling bucks and older bucks.
- Director Peditto added two years ago a bill was passed that gave the Department the authority to suspend and revoke hunting privileges – privileges being the key because not everyone is required to have a hunting license, particularly those individuals that may hunt on their own land.
  1. Director Peditto informed the Commission that he has a draft of the regulations.
  2. Director Peditto gave an overview of the potential process for managing these bad characters.
    - a. Director Peditto outlined that the WHS is not going to use a point system for this process because it requires a lot of administrative monitoring.
    - b. Director Peditto decided to go in another direction, which means that WHS will catalog most grievous acts that are associated with a fixed suspension or rectification act or penalty.
    - c. Director Peditto added that there will be an appeal process.
- Questions and Answers Section:
  1. Commissioner Rodney asked if staff decide to move forward with Winter Turkey Season, would the hunters still be allowed to hunt during fall season (western counties) and spring season (statewide).
    - a. The Winter Wild Turkey Season will be an addition and no changes to the Fall Wild Turkey and the Spring Wild Turkey Season. The potential Winter Wild Turkey Season would probably be a week long.
  2. Vice Chairman Compton received some feedback from hunters that hunt in CWD Management Area in Allegany County. From hunters' stand point, the deer harvest numbers are down over the last two years because of the mandatory butchering requirement in the CWD Management Area. They feel it has reduced the hunting pressure at Green Ridge Forest, which has allowed some of the younger bucks to become quality deer.
    - a. Mr. Eyler commented that Deer Project Team is uncertain about a higher percentage quality deer in the CWD Management Area, but the Deer Project Team just wrapped up a graduate project from the University of Delaware. The project allowed the students to collect population data on Green Ridge Forest and the students conducted a public opinion survey with the assistance of Responsive Management. The students did camera surveys and the students were able to capture photos of some impressive bucks. Mr. Eyler acknowledged that the hunting pressure has decreased in CWD Management Area.
    - b. Mr. Eyler illustrated that the deer density has declined to around 30 deer for a square mile. In fact, 10 years ago it was probably around 80 deer per square mile. From a scientific and disease management standpoint, the 30 deer for a square mile is a good thing.

Vice Chairman Brian Elder.

- Mr. Elder handed out the Maryland Fur Trappers Proposed Regulation Changes document that includes the justification under each proposal to the Commission. [ATTACHMENT C]
- The Maryland Fur Trappers Association has four proposals to the trapping regulations:
  1. Change the closing date of skunk season to coincide with the closing date of raccoon and opossum season.
  2. Change the closing date of fox trapping season to coincide with the closing date of fox hunting season.
    - a. Mr. Jayne outlined a little history, staff proposed a two-week trapping and the final outcome promulgated a two-week extension to the firearms (shooting only) for 2012-2014, which is the current hunting season. Staff proposed the two-week trapping season in 2010-2012 and the Maryland Fur Trappers choose to be against that.
  3. Establish a trap check time for lethal sets in wetlands to once per 2 calendar days.
  4. Eliminate (preferable) or increase the otter bag limit in the counties where the limit is currently 10. Increase the limit to 4 in the counties where it is currently 3. No change in the limit in Garrett and Allegany counties.
- Questions and Answers Section:
  1. Vice Chairman Compton asked if there is any biological impact during that time of the year.
    - a. Mr. Elder answered no – the catch is incidental from the start of fox season, which starts in November. This proposal is basically for protecting the trapper that do catch skunk while hunting for raccoon and opossum.
  2. Vice Chairman Compton asked if there is a reporting process for what is trapped by a trapper.
    - a. Mr. Elder explained that skunk is considered as a furbearer species. Yes, skunk is included in the catch report that is sent out every year by DNR to the trappers.
    - b. Mr. Jayne acknowledged that a trapper may catch a non-targeted species and the trapper may legally release it. However, if the trapper killed a non-targeted species out of season, yes that is illegal.
  3. Commissioner Rodney asked if a trapper goes to the extended hours and the traps are set around water, is the carcass protected by the colder temperature in the environment.
    - a. Mr. Elder responded yes, especially beaver, otter, and raccoon. Now, muskrat trappers do not tend to need the extended hours because most predator species such as hawks, owls, and raccoons will take an exposed dead muskrat. Mr. Elder pointed out that trappers are not going to just leave an animal, which is a risk to losing the pelt, because of the economic value of the pelt.
- Mr. Jayne informed the Commission that these proposed changes from the Maryland Fur Trappers Association were added to the concepts for consideration.

## **Break**

### **Director Paul Peditto's Status Update**

- Mark Hoffman is the new Mission Support Assistant Secretary. Assistant Secretary Hoffman is responsible for Licensing and Registration Service, Finance and Administrative Service, Human Resources Service and Employee Development, Office of Fair Practices, Audit and Management Review, and Information Technology. Shortly after the assignment of Assistant Secretary Hoffman's new role, the former Director of Human Resources left to take a position at MDOT.
- Assistant Secretary Hoffman asked Director Peditto to fill-in temporarily as Director Human Resources. Director Peditto has served in other roles over years to help out when necessary.
- Director Peditto indicated that he has learned a lot in his new role, but to be clear Director Peditto

assured the Commission that he will be back as Director for Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS). However, in the meantime Associate Director Karina Stonesifer has agreed to be the Acting Director for WHS.

**Wildlands Update** – Presentation given by Associate Director Jonathan McKnight.

- Mr. McKnight presented a summary version of the wildlands update that is being introduced in nine counties. [ATTACHMENT D]
- The public comment period is scheduled to end on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Information related to wildlands is located on DNR website at <http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/stewardship/wildland.asp>.
- After public comments are received, staff will review each parcel and develop delineation for what the wildlands boundary would look like so staff can set aside areas for future developments that need to be held to create descriptions that would maintain items like roads, etc. for the management of the sites.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update (MFB)** – Presentation given by Matt Tefteau, Assistant Director of Government Relations.

- Mr. Tefteau downloaded information about Maryland Farm and Harvest that was broadcast on Maryland Public Television on November 19, 2013 to the Commission.
- The Commission may visit Maryland Public Television at <http://video.mpt.tv/program/maryland-farm-harvest/> to check the next broadcast of the Maryland Farm and Harvest. There are 16 series on the topic.
- Mr. Tefteau had a discussion with Matt Wilson about the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry; about the 43 butchers that are part of the 2013-2014 Doe Harvest Challenge. Mr. Wilson received results from 11 butchers that processed 336 does.
- Mr. Tefteau mentioned that the Maryland Department of Agriculture proposed some regulations about a responsive management tool called Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) and it was withdrawn.
- The Maryland Farm Bureau Convention will be held from December 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> and the location is Ocean City. Associate Director Pete Jayne will be attending for wildlife related topics.
- Questions and Answers Section:
  1. Director Peditto asked if the MFB had some preempt legislative ideas.
    - a. Mr. Tefteau indicated that general legislative ideas are developed after the December Convention.
    - b. Mr. Tefteau mentioned that Colby Ferguson is the new Government Relations Director for the MFB.

**Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update** – Presentation given by Captain Edward Johnson for the Central Region.

- Captain Johnson provided a summary of the violations and citations during the Black Bear Hunt Season.
  1. There were seven locations of baiting.
  2. There were 17 citations issued: 12 citations related to baiting bears, 3 failure to remain in visual contact, 1 hunting bear with an ATV with a loaded weapon, and 1 operating an ORV in an undesignated area on State land.
  3. There were 27 warnings issued and most of those were failure to remain in visual contact.
- Question and Answer Section:
  1. Commissioner Wojton asked Captain Johnson to examine the failure to remain in visual

contact while bear hunting.

- a. Captain Johnson outlined that a black bear permit allows for a permittee and a subpermittee. These hunters must be in visual sight of each other while hunting for a black bear. This should minimize the chance for more than one bear to be taken under one permit.
2. Vice Chairman Compton requested the monthly statistical data on citations and warnings that are issued by NRP. This document is very instrumental to the Commission. The Commission uses this information to monitor the trend of NRP activities related to the protection of Maryland natural resources vs. traffic control (non-natural resources related issues).
3. Vice Chairman Compton also requested that Captain Johnson to provide continuous updates on Cadet Program along with NRP recruitment and retention.
  - a. The recruits that started with the NRP Academy are still training. Graduation will take place on January 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. NRP are working on background information for the next round of recruits.
  - c. The Cadet Program has returned and it is up and running. The Cadet Program will help with the recruitments for NRP because these cadets have been working with staff at DNR and NRP for a period of time.
4. Vice Chairman Compton asked about the progress related to having more hunter education courses available during the hunting season. Vice Chairman Compton is a hunter safety instructor for the lower Eastern Shore and there were two situations that youth hunters were looking for hunter education courses during this time of the year. Vice Chairman Compton wanted to know the progress of making available more courses during the deer season.
  - a. Captain Johnson mentioned that there were some classes added.
  - b. The hunting instructors made it clear that people should not wait until the last minute to sign up for hunter safety course because it may prevent the opportunity for folks to hunt due to the incompleteness of hunter education.
  - c. Captain Johnson did not have outcome information related to having additional courses available during the hunting season.
  - d. Director Peditto added that hunter education is not under WHS but the NRP safety education staff. They did amp up field days to accommodate those individuals that have completed the online component and needed to attend and pass the field day. Now, keep in mind that the online course is for 16 years of age and older. WHS staff are discussing lowering the age to 12 for the online course.

### **Old Business**

- Wildlife Management and Sustainability Act of 2013 – as indicated at the October meeting there will be no fee bills for the 2014 General Assembly.

### **New Business**

- Proposed Regulation for Disposition of Nuisance Beaver – Associate Director Glenn Therres summarized the regulation to the Commission. [ATTACHMENT E]
  1. During the 2013 Legislative Session, HB 510 was introduced to require DNR to authorize a person who takes into possession a live beaver under the authority of a wildlife cooperator permit to transport and release the beaver on a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) or any other area with written permission from the landowner or managing authority.
  2. The current regulation requires the landowner with a nuisance wildlife permit or wildlife cooperator to release onsite or euthanize it.
  3. WHS staff explained to the sponsor of HB 510 that the Department has the authority to make those changes through regulations instead of a law.

4. Mr. Therres handed out the proposed change to the nuisance wildlife permit regulation that deals with the disposition of wildlife by permit holder. In the current regulation beavers cannot be relocated so WHS proposed to delete beaver from the list of those mammals that are required to be released onsite or euthanized. Basically, we are removing beaver from B part of the regulation so that beaver will be subject to the conditions in A part of the regulation, which would allow the release onsite or allow it to be euthanized or allow that nuisance beaver to be transported and released on a WMA or other area with written permission from landowner or land manager within the same county or adjacent county.
  5. Mr. Therres asked the Commission to endorse the proposal to remove beaver from the list of species under the nuisance wildlife control cooperator regulations.
- Question and Answer Section
    1. Commissioner Rodney inquired if this new change to the regulation would require the trapper to use a live trap.
      - a. Yes, that means the trapper would need to use a live trap to be able to release the beaver and not a kill trap.
    2. Vice Chairman Compton acknowledged that this request was coming from an area that focuses on non-lethal management tools for wildlife. However, Vice Chairman Compton expressed that a person is taking a nuisance species from location A and moving it to location B, especially if the location is a WMA. Vice Chairman Compton indicated that he has some concerns about releasing a nuisance beaver to another location.
    3. Vice Chairman Compton asked the following questions: What makes it not a nuisance? What are we looking for in regards to written permission to release it? What are we looking at to provide written permission and whose doing that? What kind of criteria are we looking at before we grant permission to release a nuisance animal?
      - a. Written permission will be issued by the WMA regional manager based on the current population on that property.
      - b. The term nuisance is determined by the eyes of the beholder. For example, if a beaver is eating ornamentals from trees along a creek, it is a problem for that landowner and moving that beaver would be an option. However, if that nuisance beaver is chewing on maple, etc. along with the other beavers that are already on the WMA – that situation may not be a nuisance from a biologist's point of view.
      - c. This regulation change gives the Department the authority to say "no" sorry we cannot accommodate any more beaver on a property that is controlled or managed by DNR and the HB 510 did not give the Department that authority.
      - d. There are very few landowners that are willing to pay a trapper to attempt to trap a beaver with live traps, because of the time that is involved and the cost of that outcome. In addition, there are very few trappers that would use a live trap.
      - e. Mr. Brian Elder from the Maryland Fur Trappers Association commented that there are some fur trappers that are wildlife control cooperators along with Mr. Elder recognized it is a nice option but it is hard to catch a beaver in a live trap and it is not very efficient. If a person wants to live trap a beaver, relaxing snare trap is an alternative.
      - f. Mr. Brian Elder added with beaver being a warm-bodied animal, there is a rabies concern in reference to transporting beavers from one location to another.
  - Motion
    1. Commissioner Wojton moved to endorse the change to the regulation for disposition of nuisance beaver.
    2. Commissioner Fratz seconded.
    3. All in favor. Motion passed.
  - Acting Director Stonesifer mentioned that Ms. Spencer will be working on the 2014 WAC

Work Chart so please send your agenda items to Ms. Spencer via email.

- Acting Director Stonesifer asked the Commission for a wildlands letter of support to the Office of the Secretary.
- Motion
  1. Commissioner Wojton moved to endorse a letter of support on the wildlands.
  2. Commissioner Rodney seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.
  4. Ms. Spencer agreed to coordinate the letter of support for the Commission.

#### **Public Comment**

- Vice Chairman Compton pointed out in the October WAC Meeting Minutes Packet there was a proposed response about a shooting range, which included the cost.
- Motion
  1. Commissioner Rodney moved to approve the proposed response about a shooting range that included the cost.
  2. Commissioner Wojton seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

#### **Attendance**

Members:	L. Compton, G. Fratz, C. Rodney, and B. Wojton
Member via phone:	T. Gregor
Absent:	S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, and J. Plummer,
Guest:	B. Elder, M. Kleid, M. Teffeau, and J. White
Staff:	B. Eyler, P. Handy, P. Jayne, E. Johnson, K. Kyde, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, P. Stango, K. Stonesifer, T. Spencer, G. Therres



*Via electronic submission*

April 24, 2013

Paul Peditto, Director  
Wildlife & Heritage Service  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Tawes State Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Email: [ppeditto@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:ppeditto@dnr.state.md.us)

Dear Mr. Peditto:

As a member of the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission, I am writing to nominate Jim White, Executive Director of the Maryland Port Administration, for Conservationist of the Year for the significant achievements of the Port in the field of wildlife conservation and protection. While it may seem counterintuitive to recommend a Port Director for a conservation award, looking at the accomplishments of the Port of Baltimore as a creator of wildlife habitat under Jim White's direction can quickly provide justification.

The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) is required to provide placement capacity for dredged sediments in order to allow maintenance of the channels that access the Port. MPA has been a world leader in using dredged sediment to create habitat, which has ultimately benefited the Chesapeake Bay and the State. Accomplishments of the Port include construction of the Swan Creek Wetlands in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, which introduced approximately twelve acres to tidal flow in an urban setting, allowing creation of habitat for a number of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and spawning fish. Deer, muskrat, fox, turtles, frogs, snakes, blackbirds, heron, osprey, egrets, and rails are just a few of the various wildlife observed in the Swan Creek Wetlands. Fish such as various species of killifish, minnows, and carp have also been observed spawning in the Wetland.

In addition, MPA continues efforts to develop pond, wetland, mudflat and upland habitat at Hart-Miller Island (HMI) in Baltimore County, which has provided habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl as well as local mammal and reptile species. The HMI 300-acre South Cell environmental restoration project was completed in 2005 and has been an essential stopover for birds during the spring and fall migrations. Since HMI received its final inflow in 2009, the MPA and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have been planning the final habitat development design for the 800-acre North Cell, which will include a combination of the habitats that have been successfully restored in the South Cell. The 1100-acre wildlife habitat area will be an addition to the joint effort between MPA and DNR. DNR currently operates the HMI State Park that is frequently visited and used recreationally by the Baltimore community. MPA also encourages local student groups, as well as citizen groups to tour the HMI facility to learn about the dredged material process and restoration efforts.

Poplar Island is perhaps the best known example of habitat creation in the Chesapeake Bay region and, in addition to creating 1,800 acres of wetland and upland habitat and restoring eroded island habitat, MPA has focused on outreach to citizens of the State to enable education and perspective on the value of wildlife habitat to the State. Over 2,500 people visit Poplar Island each year on tours to learn about the history of the island, the construction process, the environmental and economical benefits that it provides, and to see the diamondback terrapins, shorebirds, herons, eagles, terns, etc.

Poplar Island has resulted in 37 nesting species, as of 2012, including desired species such as American Black Duck, Glossy Ibis, American Oystercatcher, Black-necked Stilt, Willet, Least Tern, Bank Swallow, Seaside Sparrow, Black-crowned Night Heron, Common Gallinule, and a State threatened species, the Common Tern. Spring and fall migrating songbird occurrences continue to grow in numbers and variety each year as vegetative cover and seed and berry production increase. Wintering waterfowl, seeking a safe winter haven, sometimes number in the thousands both within and just outside the site.

It is also on Poplar Island that MPA and the Corps of Engineers, their federal partner, began a partnership with the resource agencies that evaluate and permit the natural resources created in a project of this magnitude. Cooperative agreements with USFWS, NOAA, MDE, DNR, USGS, Ohio University, and UMCES have been signed by MPA and the Corps to allow habitat development with the latest adaptive management techniques. This has enabled maximization of habitat creation within available budgets.

MPA has continued the aforementioned outreach to USFWS with the Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility and the associated Masonville Cove habitat area, as well as the Cox Creek Dredged Material Containment Facility and the associated Swan Creek Wetland, with a Memorandum of Agreement, which will address the restoration of Chesapeake Bay Habitat by establishing "virtual" urban refuges at Port properties. This agreement provides a framework for USFWS and MPA to, in partnership, conduct strategic habitat restoration and conservation planning, monitoring and restoration activities, establish wildlife education programs, and provide conservation employment activities for urban youth. Perhaps most uniquely, these activities will restore the disappearing connection between Baltimore area residents and the USFWS Refuge System.

In addition to these initiatives with resource agencies and commitment to wildlife habitat creation, MPA has also focused strongly on outreach and education. Through their outreach program, over 31,000 citizens have learned about dredged material, habitat and the Chesapeake Bay and how the intersection of economic health and environmental health can sometimes bring the best of both worlds. MPA supports partnerships with Arlington Echo, Queen Anne's County Schools, Talbot County Schools, Dorchester Country Schools and the National Aquarium in Baltimore to bring diamondback terrapin ambassadors into the classrooms of students in the Bay region. This highly successful program allows the students to learn about Chesapeake Bay wildlife and habitat while they are raising their classroom terrapin or being visited by a traveling terrapin. At the end of the year, students can then visit Poplar Island and watch their terrapin return to the wild. The terrapins at Poplar Island remain part of a population monitoring study that has been ongoing for 11 years.

For providing an outstanding example of using a public position to enable creation of habitat, education of citizens and coordination with wildlife resource agencies, Jim White is recommended as conservationist of the year.

Sincerely,

Beth Wojton, Commissioner  
Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission  
259 Najoles Road  
Millersville, MD 21108

WHS 2012 Employee of the Year: **Peter Stango**  
Nominated by: Kerrie Kyde

4/1/13

Pete Stango exemplifies the kind of state employee that DNR can be proud of. He is hard-working, generous with his time and expertise, a terrific problem-solver, and is the techie go-to guy for many of the WHS field staff. He has adapted, in his permanent position, to a job spent mostly in the office, when as an LTC, his job was mostly in the field. Although he loves field work, he has undertaken desk and database work enthusiastically and professionally. His consistent willingness to go "above and beyond," especially when bringing *me* into the digital century, sets him apart. For these reasons, I nominate Pete Stango as the Wildlife and Heritage Service 2012 Employee of the Year.

Pete has an amazing work ethic. If he cannot immediately answer a phone call or email, he does so in short order, including after hours and on weekends. He has on more than one occasion talked me through a GPS/ArcPad glitch while I'm in the field and he is in Tawes. He goes out of his way to provide maps and data with very short turn-around time.

Pete never sounds as though I'm bothering him with a "stupid question." He is patient, understanding, helpful, clear with his instructions and his "fixes." He has generously given me hands-on lessons in using the hand-held GIS device and software that I use for field work, and helped set up a simple interface between the hand-held and my laptop. He is always available by phone or email for "how do I do...X?" and "what is the best way to ...? questions. Under his oversight, the rate of updating of the huge backlog of Natural Heritage Program data is increasing, and he's punctilious about sending out regular updates of Biotics data.

Because he keeps up with the ever-changing world of computers and mapping software, as well as networking and new phone applications, Pete can recommend the best combination of tools for achieving the results I need for any given task. We have used DNR's remote computer control capability so that he can solve a technical problem for me quickly and easily, while explaining how to prevent the problem from reoccurring. He helped me set up local back-up capacity and local storage of huge mapping files that I would ordinarily have to access, VERY SLOWLY, via the WAN, from Tawes to the field office where I'm located. He taught me how to use my phone to collect field data rather than using the more cumbersome ESRI products.

He is constantly looking for new digital tools to make our work easier, faster and more accurate. He has designed easy-access forms for keeping digital records of rare, threatened and endangered species. Last fall, NHP staff began a two-year project to compile site summaries, on a county basis, for over 700 ecologically significant sites across the state. Pete is part of the small group in charge of this effort, and was instrumental in setting up our SharePoint site, which allows us to share and modify documents, all working from the same set of resources. Pete also built and posted to SharePoint a set of ArcMap shapefile packages that allow field personnel to pull up all the pertinent information about a given site in one project, without having to spend the time to build them layer by layer, one by one.

On a personal level, Pete gave me some great advice when I bought a new home computer and switched from PCs to Macs. He's funny, a great botanist, and keeps introducing me to new music (die-hard 80s rocker that I am).

Pete Stango is somebody I'm proud to work with and glad to have on my team. He's really done a remarkable job in the last year, and deserves to be recognized as Employee of the Year.

# Maryland Fur Trappers

## proposed regulation changes:

1. Change the closing date of Skunk season to coincide with the closing date of Raccoon and Oppossum season.

### Justification:

- Skunks are commonly caught in Raccoon traps.
- Not easy to release alive without getting sprayed.
- Raccoon trappers can dispatch skunks and not be in violation of the law.
- Skunks are not a targeted species because of little or no value in fur trade. No danger of over harvest.

2. Change the closing date of Fox trapping season to coincide with the closing date of Fox hunting season.

### Justification:

- Fox populations are healthy therefore no danger of over harvest.
- Equality among all user groups

3. Establish a trap check time for lethal sets in wetlands to once per 2 calander days.

- Lethai sets only (Snares,Bodygrip traps, and footholds with positive drowning).
- Trap check times established by number of hours (i.e. 36 hours) expose a trapper to a violation.
- Increased efficiency for trappers (less gas, more traps).
- Animals are dead in the trap.

4. Eliminate (preferable) or increase the Otter bag limit in the counties where the limit is currently 10. Increase the limit to 4 in the counties where it is currently 2. No change in the limit in Garrett and Allegany counties.

- Population is healthy.
- Increase in limit will not impact either the population numbers or harvest numbers.
- States south and east of Maryland with the same habitat conditions have no bag limit and have healthy otter populations.
- Beaver trappers cannot avoid catching otter. By eliminating the Otter limit, trappers targeting Beaver will not have to stop trapping Beaver to avoid a legal violation. Beaver are at nuisance levels in most areas of Maryland.
- Very few trappers target Otter exclusively, most are taken in Beaver sets.



# Maryland's Wildland Preservation System

“The Best of the Best”



# What is a Wildland?

## Natural Resources Article § 5-1201(d):

“Wildlands” means limited areas of [State-owned] land or water which have

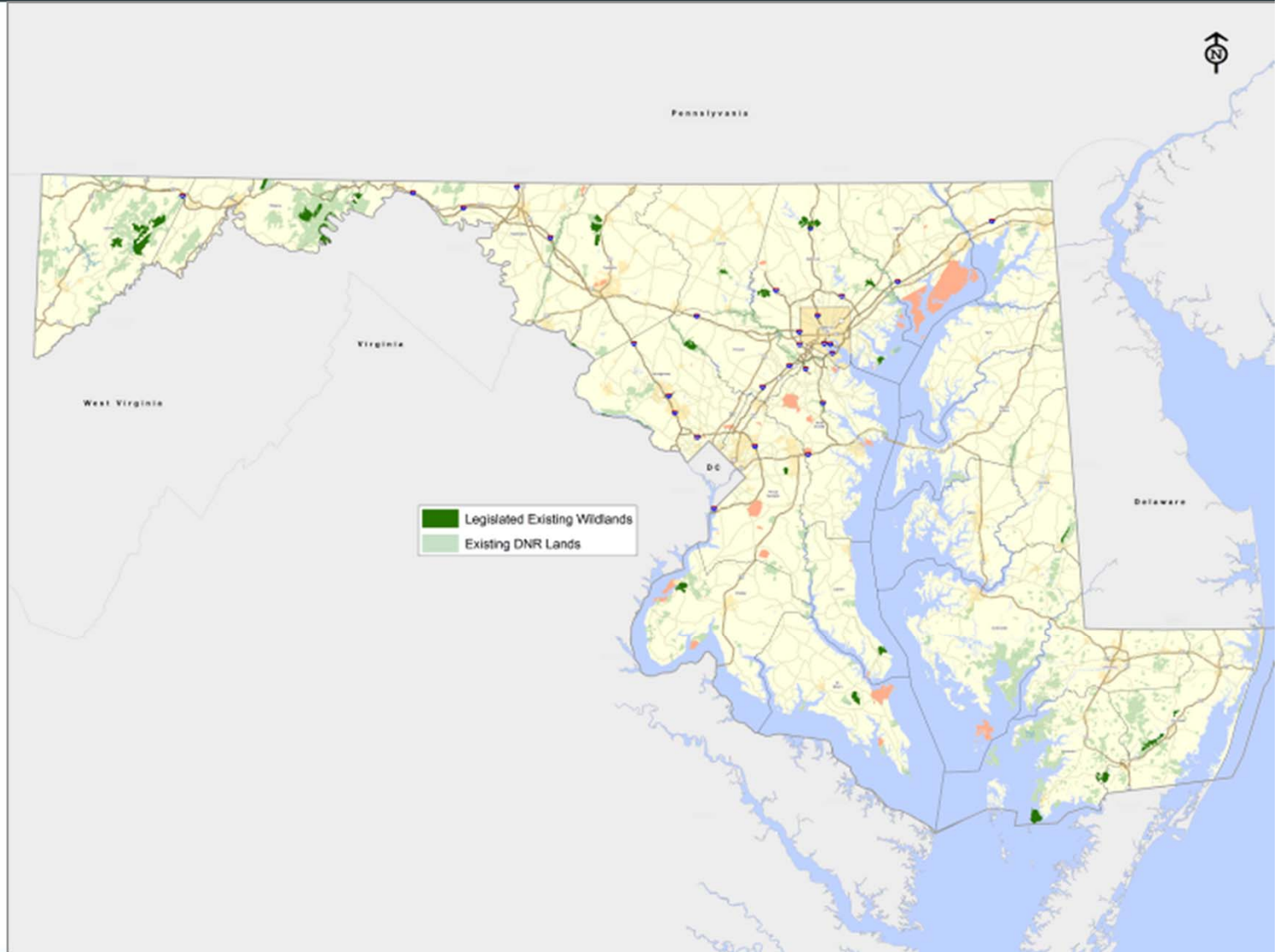
- Retained their wilderness character, although no necessarily completely natural and undisturbed, or
- Have rare or vanishing species of plant or animal life, or
- Similar features of interest worthy of preservation for use of present and future residents of the State.
- This may include unique ecological, geological, scenic, and contemplative recreational areas on State lands.





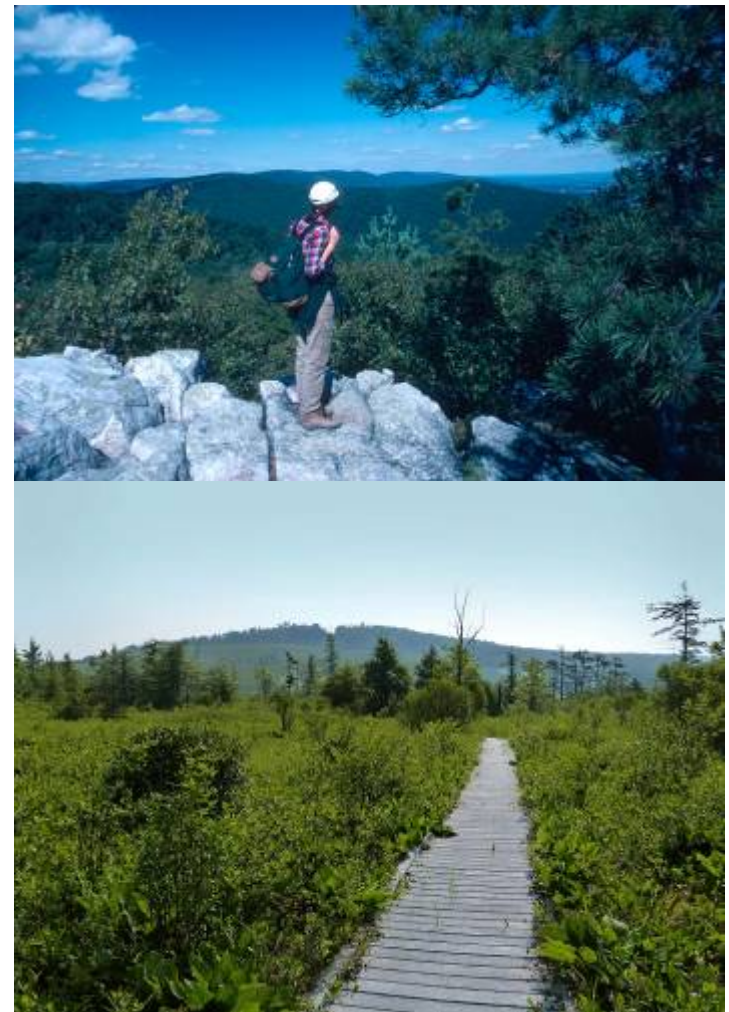
# Existing State Wildlands

- 29 areas
- 43,779 acres



# What is Permitted?

- Activities which are *consistent* with the protection of the wildland character of the area, such as hiking, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, hunting, fishing, & trapping
- Activities necessary to protect the area from fire, animals, insects, disease, & erosion (evaluated on a case-by case basis)



# What is Prohibited?

Activities which are *inconsistent* with the protection of the wildland character of the area:

- permanent roads
- structures
- installations
- commercial enterprises
- introduction of non-native wildlife
- mineral extraction



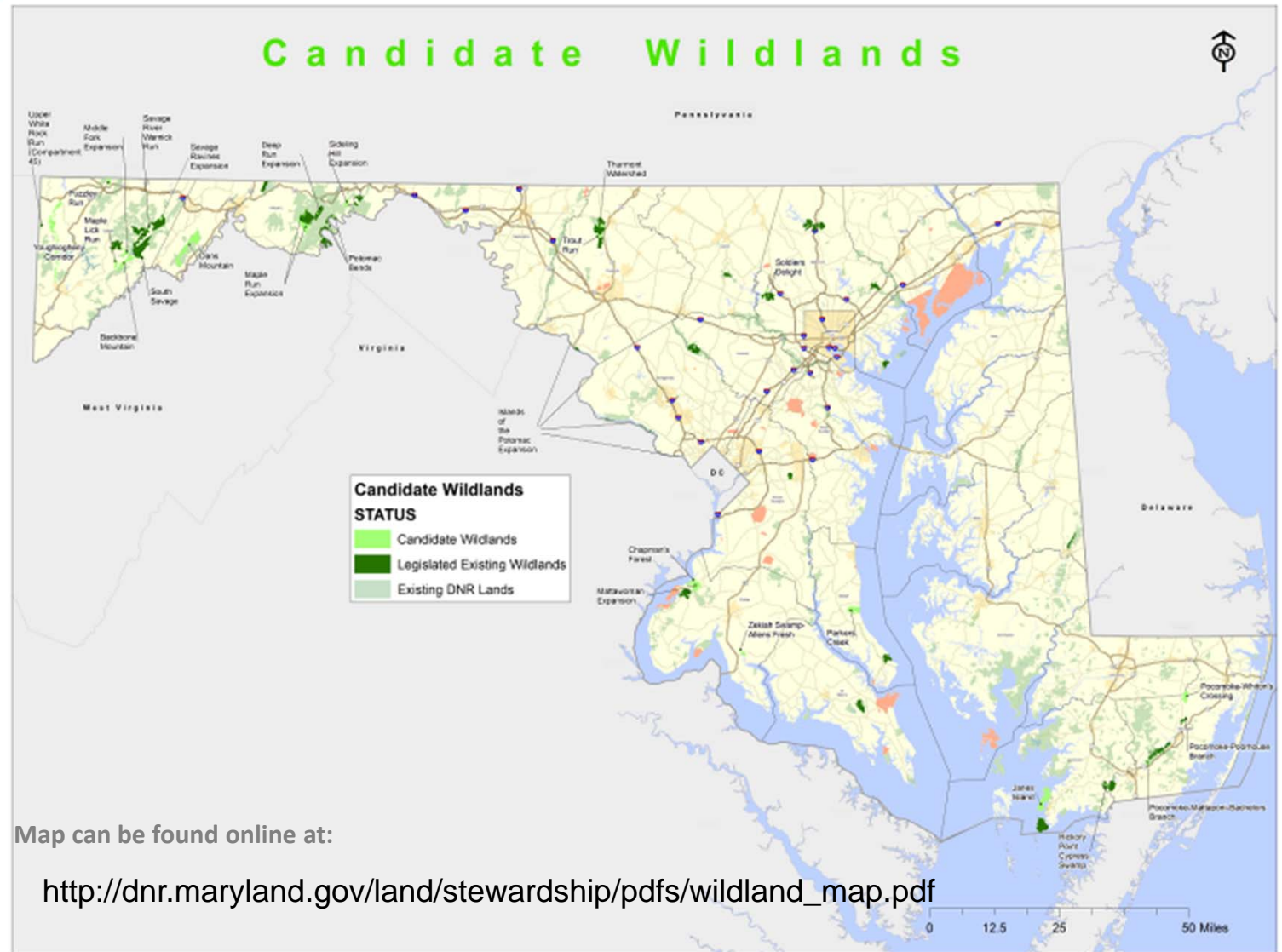
# What Activities Are Conditional?

These activities are only permitted when public safety, private property or a Wildland resource is threatened:

- temporary roads
- motorized equipment & vehicular transport
- transporting native wildlife
- forest management
- non-structural shore erosion control
- temporary structures, installations or equipment

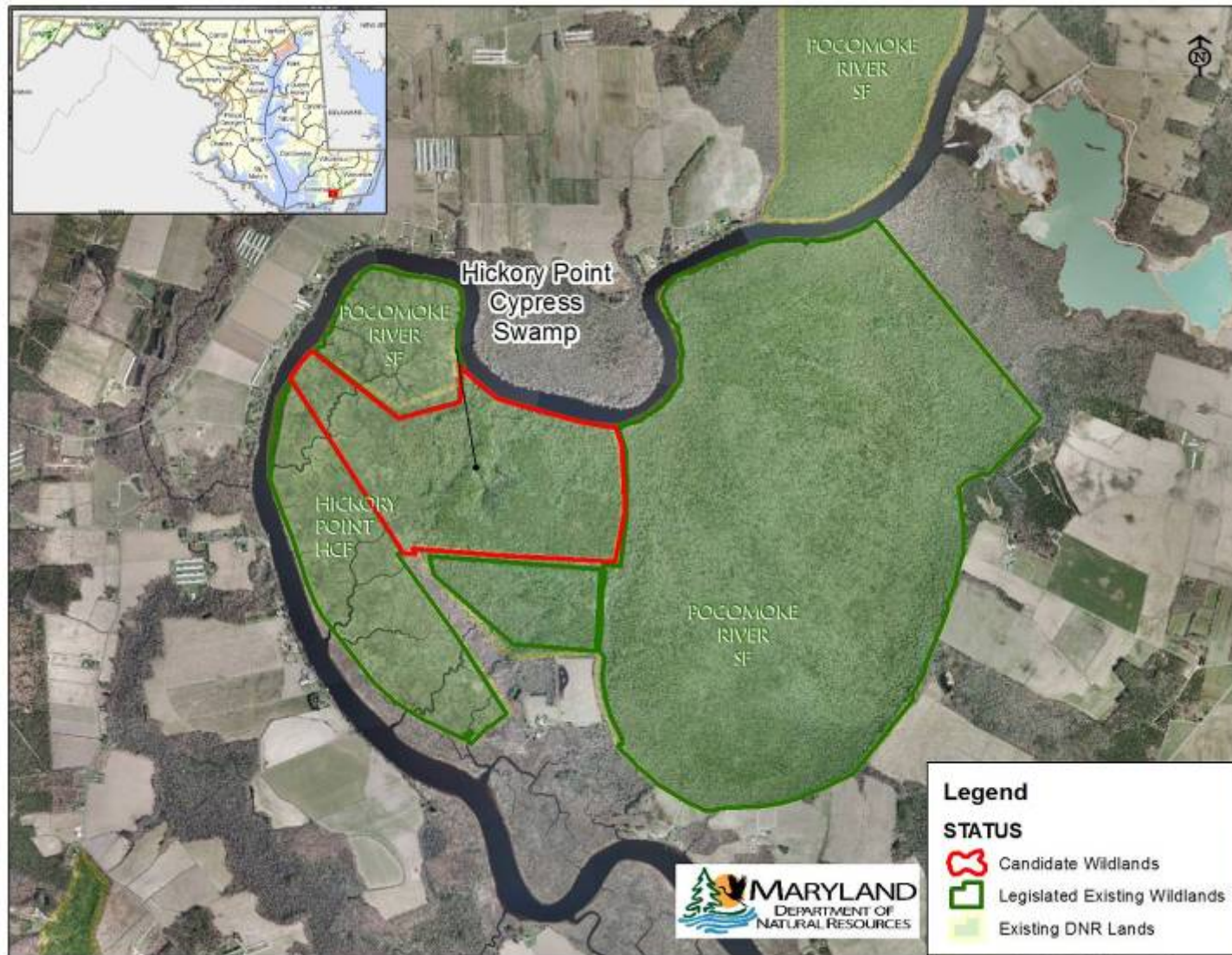
# Candidate Wildlands

- 27 areas
- 26,659 acres
- Of these:
- 10 new
- 17,125 acres
- 17 expansions
- 9,534 acres



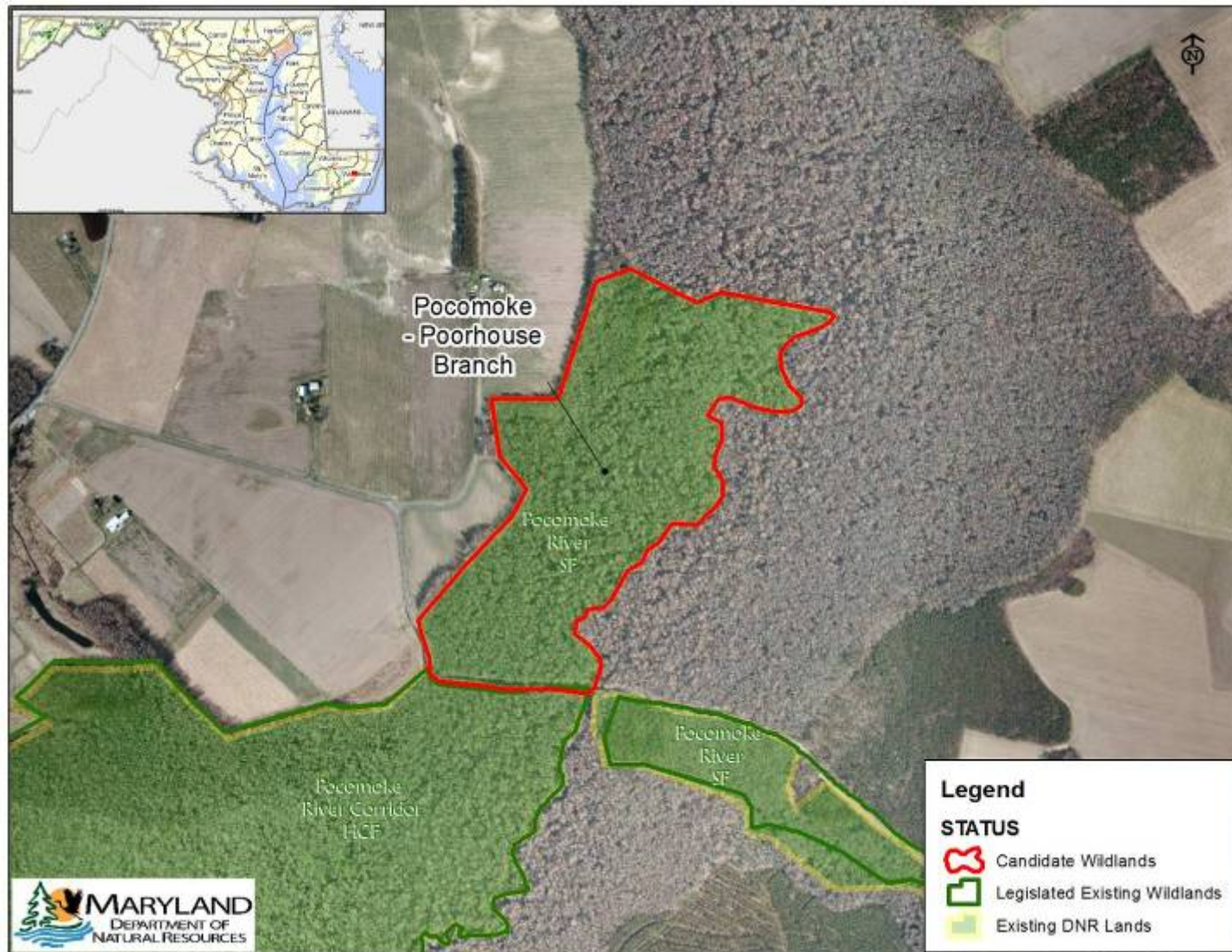


# Hickory Point – WO



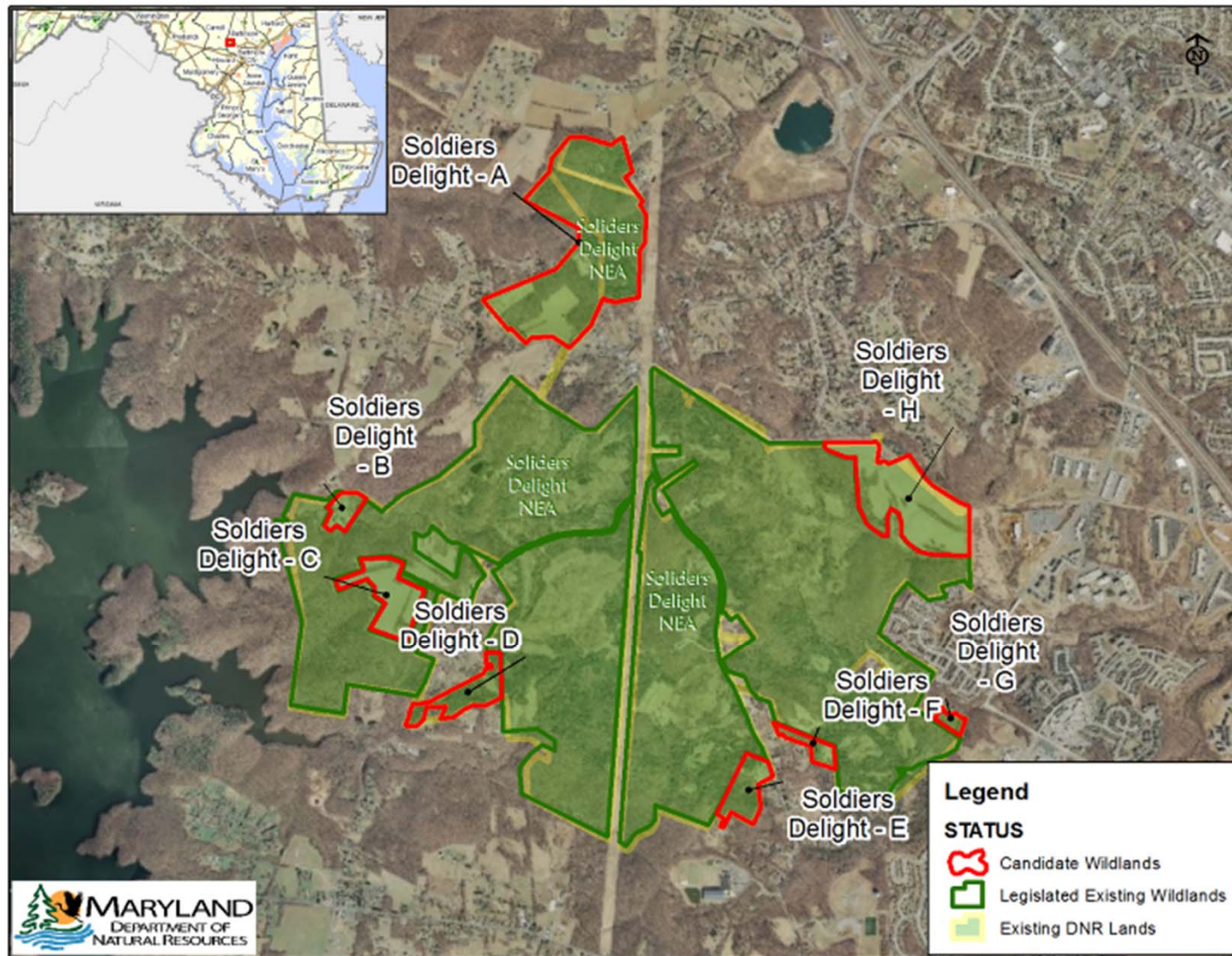


# Pocomoke - Poorhouse Branch – WO



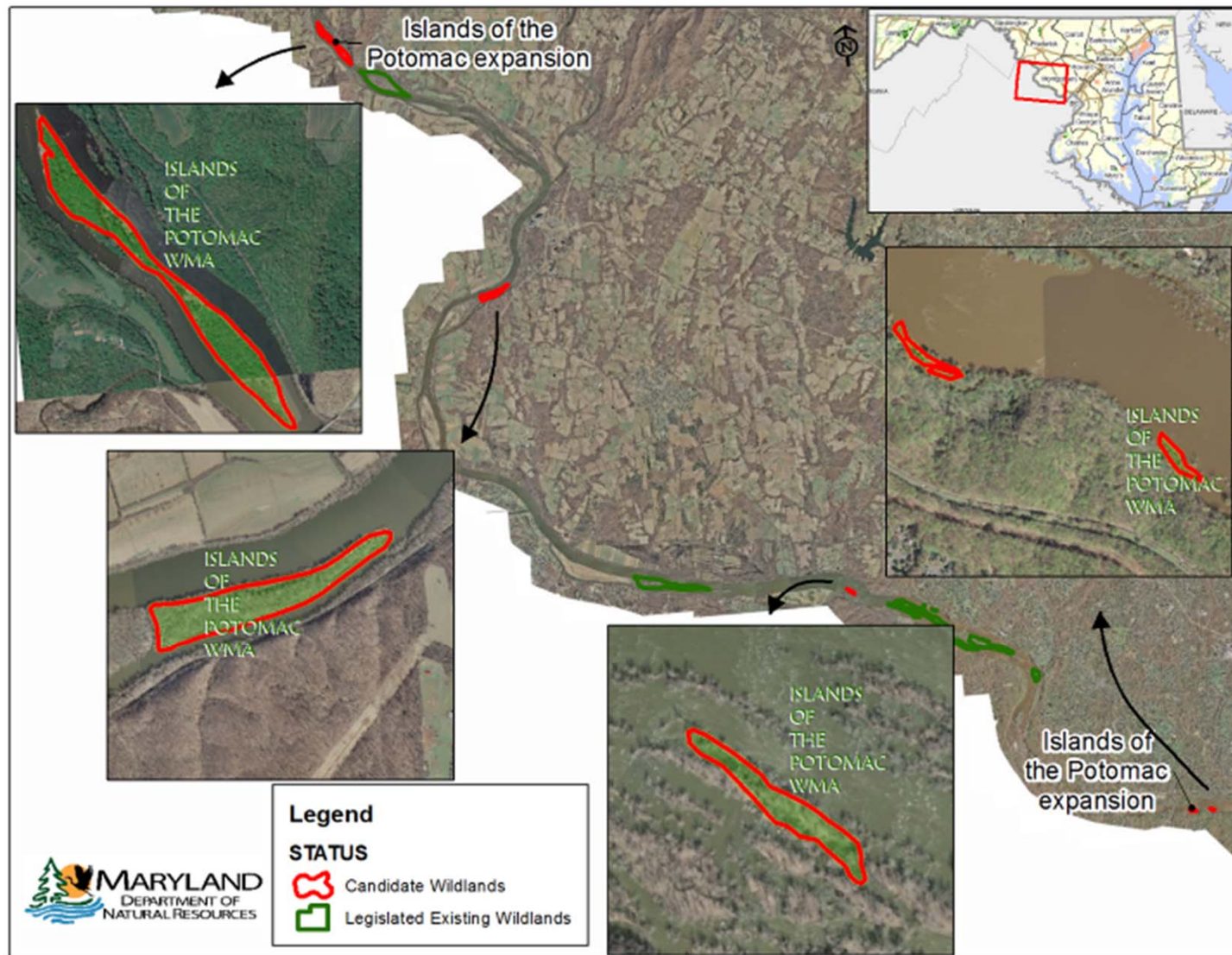


# Soldiers Delight – BA

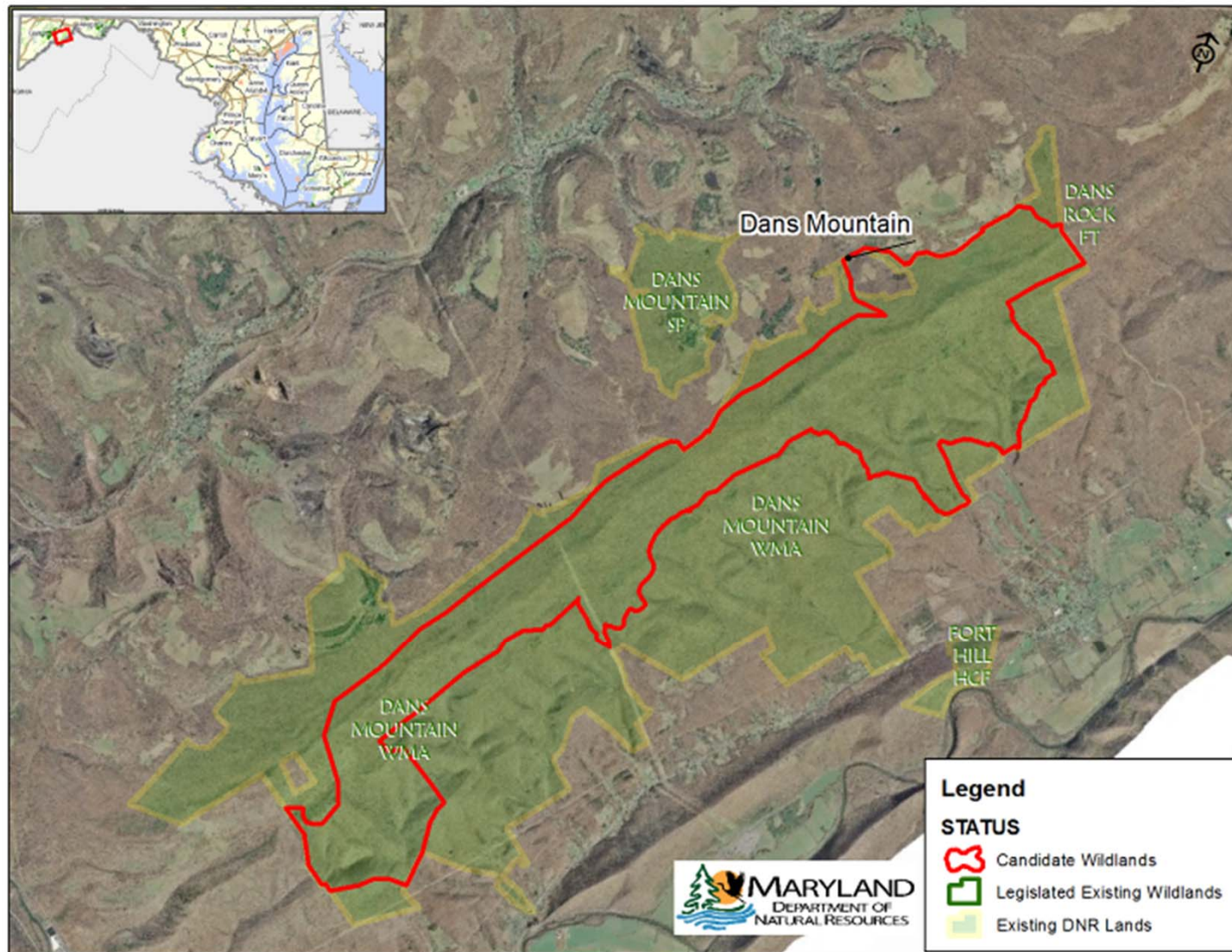




# Islands of the Potomac – MO

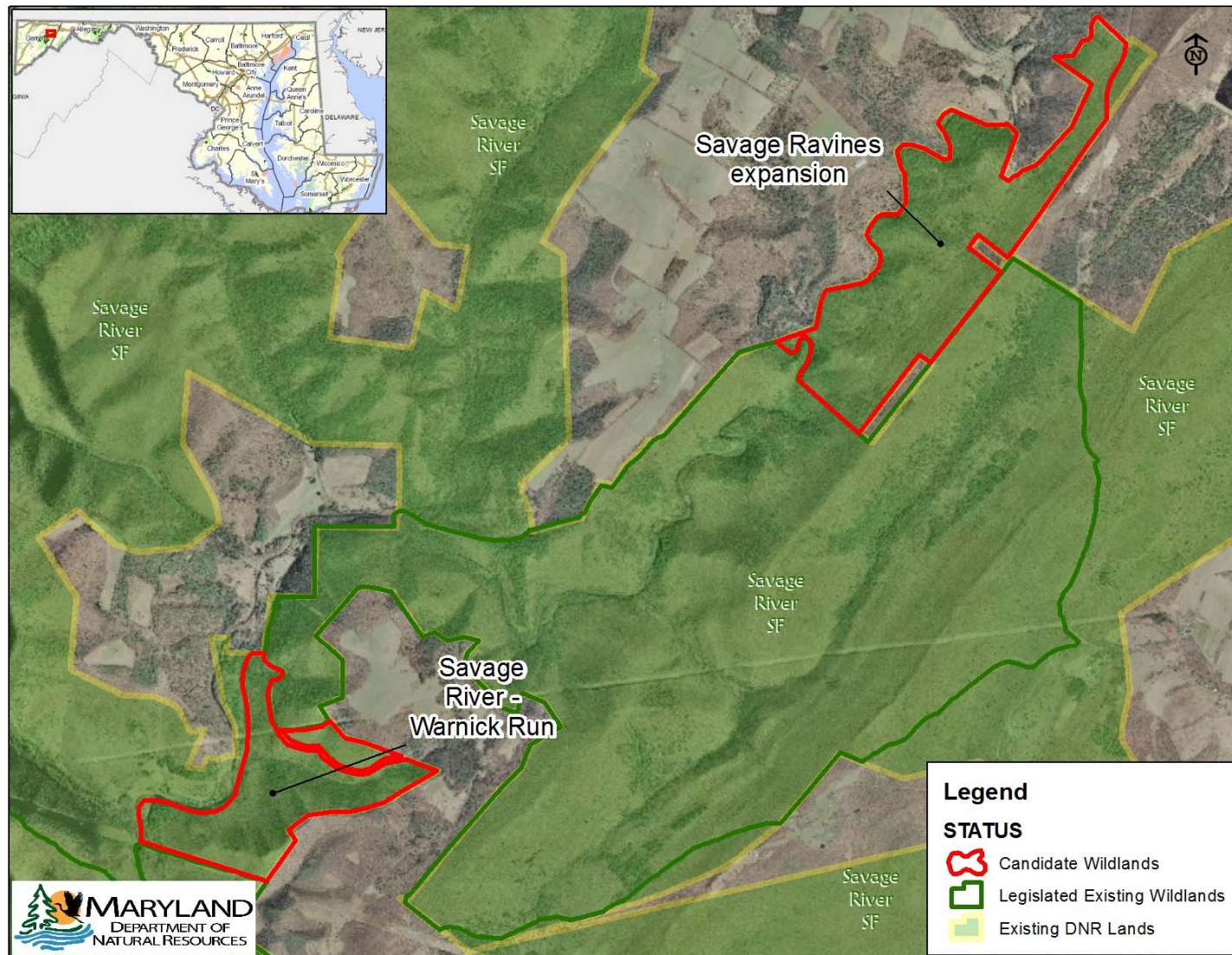


# Dans Mountain – AL



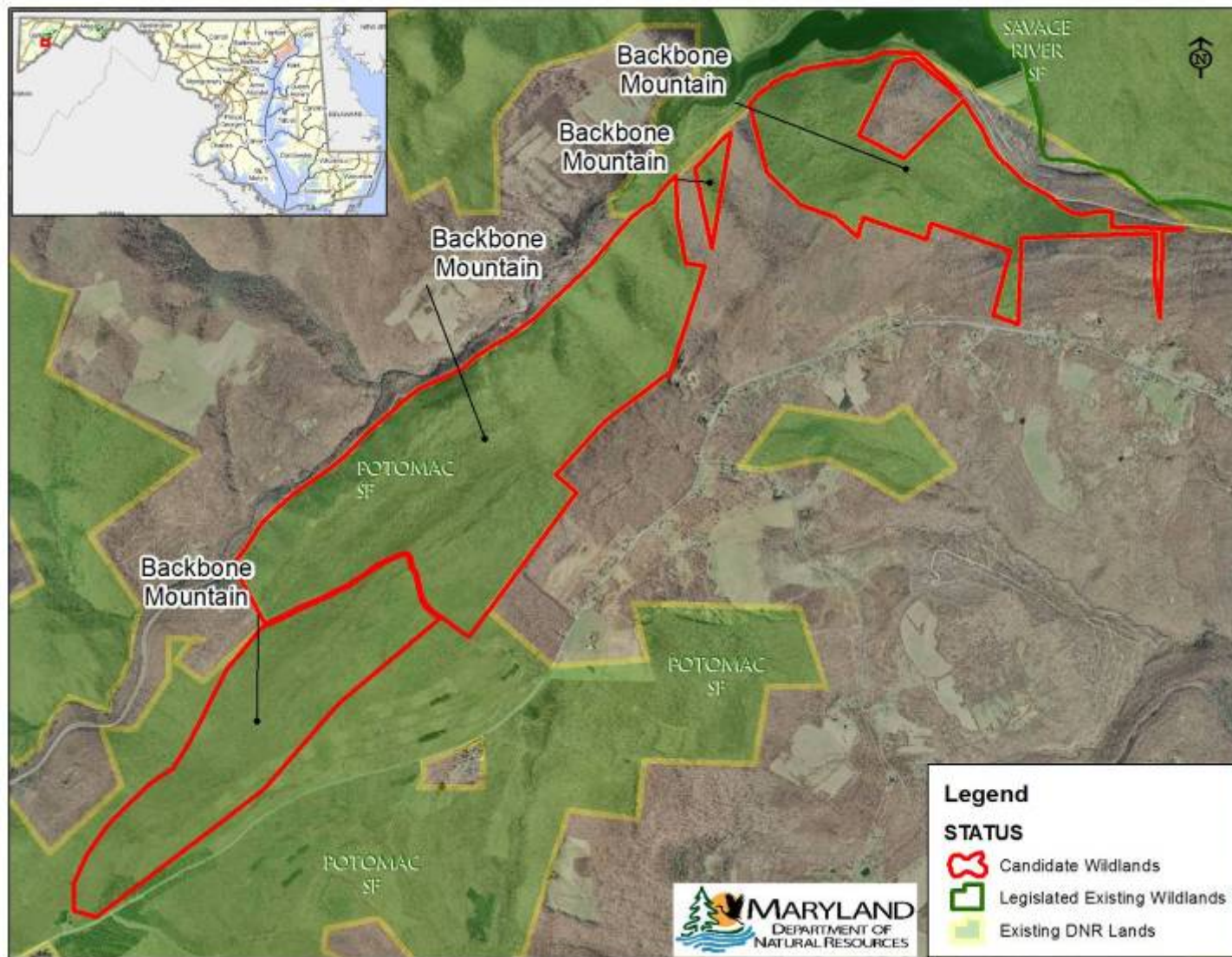


# Savage Ravines - Warnick Run – GA





# Backbone Mountain – GA





# Thank You!



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08.03.15.24

## **.24 Disposition of Trapped Wildlife.**

A. Any live wildlife taken into possession under the authority of this permit, except as provided in §§B—G of this regulation, shall be:

(1) Released on site;

(2) Transported and released on a wildlife management area or other areas with written permission from the landowner or managing authority, within the same or an adjacent county; or

(3) Killed.

B. Coyote, bobcat, [redacted] muskrat, mink, and otter shall be:

(1) Released on site; or

(2) Killed.

C. Raccoon, skunk, and fox shall be:

(1) Released on site;

(2) Killed; or

(3) Transported to a person licensed to rehabilitate rabies vector species if they are orphaned, healthy, and dependent young.

D. Nutria and mute swans shall be killed.

E. Reptiles and amphibians shall be:

(1) Released on site; or

(2) Transported and released on a wildlife management area or on other areas with written permission from the landowner or managing authority, within 2 miles of the location of capture.

F. Sick or injured wildlife shall be:

(1) Transported to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator authorized to handle that wildlife; or

(2) Killed.

G. Any captured nontarget species shall be released on site.

H. Unless specifically authorized by the Service, a wildlife damage control operator may not possess in captivity for longer than 24 hours any wildlife captured under authority of this permit.

I. Transportation.

(1) Captured wildlife shall be transported in covered, secure containers to minimize stress to the animal and potential

hazards to the general public.

(2) While transporting wildlife in a cage trap, the wildlife damage control operator shall:

(a) Minimize stress to the animal and its exposure to the elements by covering the trap or vehicle with appropriate material; and

(b) Ensure that the covering is of such material that the animal has an adequate supply of air to prevent overheating.

J. The permission of the landowner or client is required to release wildlife on site as allowed in §§A—C and E of this regulation.