

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

**Will Meet at 10:30 AM
On Wed., August 21, 2024
Department of Natural Resources
Google Meet**

Meeting Agenda:

Approval for August 21, 2024, Meeting Agenda

Approval for Minutes from the June 26, 2024, Meeting

Wildlife Heritage Program Update (Associate Director Jonathan McKnight)

Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee Update (Associate Director Jonathan McKnight)

WHS Information and Education Program Update (Program Manager Chris Markin)

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Tyler Hough)

Natural Resources Police Update (Captain Shawn Garren)

Old Business:

- **Revamping Trapping Course Update (Commissioner Kaitlin Rossignuolo)**
- **License Portal Update (Associate Director Brian Eyler)**
- **Use of Drone for Deer Recovery and Hunting – Tabled to a future date.**
- **Fox Chasing Non-License Requirement – Tabled to a future date.**
- **September 18, 2024, WAC Meeting Discussion (Field Day, or Meeting, or No Meeting)**

New Business:

- **Non-Lead Hunting Ammunition Topic (Group Discussion)**

Public Comment:

Adjourn

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

**The Proposed Schedule for the 2024 meetings
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

January 17th	Google Meet
February 21st	Google Meet
March 20th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
April 17th	Google Meet
May 15th	No Meeting
June 26th	Google Meet
July 17th	No Meeting
August 21st	Google Meet
September 18th	TBD - Google Meet or No Meeting or Field Day
October 16th	Google Meet
November 20th	Google Meet
December 18th	No Meeting

***PLEASE NOTE THAT MEETING DATES ARE HELD
ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH***

Note: Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be held via Google Meet. When meeting in person, they will be held in the C-1 Conference Room of the Department of Natural Resources—Tawes State Office Building beginning at 10:30 a.m. Available parking is located at the Navy Stadium Parking Lot.

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

AUGUST 21, 2024

Chair Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. This meeting was held by teleconference. Chair Wagner asked for a roll call of individuals on the “call.” Unfortunately, because of the anonymity of Google Meet callers, it was impossible to determine the identity of every participant.

Approval for August 21, 2024, Meeting Agenda

- Motion to Approve the August 21, 2024, Meeting Agenda:
 1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept the Commission Meeting Agenda for August 21, 2024.
 2. Commissioner Keithley seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from the June 26, 2024, Meeting

- Motion to Approve the June 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes:
 1. Commissioner Smith moved to accept the June 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes.
 2. Commissioner Kullberg seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Maryland Natural Heritage Program Update – Jonathan McKnight, Associate Director

- Associate Director Jonathan McKnight expressed profound appreciation on behalf of himself and the Natural Heritage Program staff for the invaluable work of the Wildlife Advisory Commission (WAC). The WAC's role as a support system and a board on which staff can bounce ideas is crucial. The WAC members' critical function for the Wildlife and Heritage Service is integral to our conservation efforts.
- Associate Director Jonathan McKnight presented the Commission with a PowerPoint overview of the Natural Heritage Program. [ATTACHMENT A]
- Natural Heritage Program staff tracks over 21,000 non-game species in Maryland. Most of these species have a conservation rank, which measures how secure they are. The rank is from one to five, with five being very secure and one being a very rare species.
- Staff are required by law to track species and identify those at risk of disappearing from Maryland's landscape. Also, staff are required by law to identify and protect those species.
 1. Staff implement the law, which almost always means proactive work on some occasions.
 2. Staff will advise people trying to accomplish things on the landscape. Staff will use information from our database about what may be in the area to help achieve their goals while obeying the law requiring the protection of those species. This collaborative approach ensures that we are all working towards a common goal.
 3. Staff assist in educating all generations of Marylanders about the magnificent wildlife resources in the State.
- Every state has a Natural Heritage Program integrated with a central database at a non-profit organization called NatureServe. All states use the same technology, forms, and metrics across the United States and its territories through NatureServe.
- The Natural Heritage Network includes 17 nations in South and Central America, the Caribbean, all states, the Canadian provinces, and Mexico.
- We track those species to include those that only spend a portion of their lifecycle in Maryland. Many species, such as birds, migrate to spend their winters in the Amazon or the Caribbean. Therefore, the conservation efforts for those species must be designed and spread across that level of range.
- Staff focus on protecting rare habitats, but most of our work involves protecting common habitats, so we are protecting the broad scope of habitats used by multiple species to include Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species.

- The Species Restoration slide was of a blackbanded sunfish, a small native sunfish, one of the rarest and smallest in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. It has been hammered hard by the development and introduction of several invasive species that eat them and out-compete them, most notably historically, the largemouth and smallmouth bass. Also, the invasive catfish and snakeheads have a negative impact on the black-banded sunfish population. The habitat for blackbanded sunfish is acidic pools and backwater areas. It is native to the Eastern Shore. Staff are trying to build a colony from the wild and work with the National Aquarium in Baltimore to create a captive population with which staff can propagate new members of the species to reintroduce into historic habitats. Only one small pond in Maryland contains a wild population of the blackbanded sunfish.
- The Hellbender slide showcases Maryland's largest salamander. It occurs in our Western Maryland rivers. The hellbender no longer occurs in the Chesapeake drainage but is only found in the Casselman and Youghiogheny rivers which are part of the Mississippi River drainage in Garrett County, Maryland. Staff are working to restore Hellbender in Maryland by propagating young in a hatchery and hope to stock them in the future similar to what Fisheries Service staff are doing with trout. Hellbenders have a very complex life cycle. However, hellbenders are long-lived animals. The actual period of vulnerability for hellbenders is the first three or four years of their lives when the hellbenders are devoured by crayfish. Once the hellbenders are four or older and stable, hellbenders can work on controlling their primary food source, which ironically is crayfish. At this point, the hellbenders are big enough and no longer prey but predators of the crayfish. The staff's goal is to raise hellbenders to four or five years of age and release them to create a balanced relationship between hellbenders and crayfish.
- The Habitat Conservation slide demonstrated a prescribed fire. Staff use fire on several habitats such as Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area in Baltimore County, as well as throughout Western and Eastern Maryland. Controlled fire can be used to restore habitat and help declining species. Over the last hundred years or so, wildlife habitat has changed, and fire-intolerant species have come to dominate the herbaceous portion of the surface of Maryland. The wildlife that has responded to that has been amenable to that by restoring fire. The outcome is a tremendous change in the diversity and a surging back of the species adapted to that habitat, lurking in small numbers or residual seed banks and waiting to respond to that kind of management. In addition to fire, staff mow and control successional habitats by logging, thinning, removing trees from several habitats, and a comprehensive range of habitat manipulation. NHP invests in habitat management and the direct conservation of habitat by working with Land Acquisition & Planning (DNR) to provide input and guidance into the land that is acquired to ensure that the land Maryland purchases is diverse with a rich wildlife and plant component.
- The Common Tern Nesting Raft – Habitat Restoration slide is a research project of a manufactured island in the Coastal Bays behind Assateague Island for colonial nesting water birds. Staff decided to create this island because of the development of Barrier Islands and the introduction of disturbance, particularly predators. There used to be a lot of sand spits in the Coastal Bays, but very few survive anymore. Staff added a series of ancillary islands offshore where chicks and birds that fall off the island can swim over to one of these ancillary islands to rest and fly back onto the Tern Island Raft.
 1. The island is made of floating docks.
 2. Staff brought out the raft and anchored it in a section of the Coastal Bays about a mile off Assateague Island.
 3. Two solar rays on the raft create the anchor lights. Staff must obtain a permit to use this raft for the colonial nesting water birds.
 4. The raft has navigational lighting and survey systems that include cameras. The cameras can rotate to read the bands of birds that have been raised on the raft in the past and remotely inventory the number of nests.
 5. A siren can be activated remotely if someone is too close to the island.
 6. The Assateague Coastal Kids created shelters on the island.
 7. One Common Tern has one chick per year. The Common Tern is listed as an endangered species.

8. There were 300 individual nests on the island, so they are called colonial nesting birds. The Common Tern essentially bands together for safety in order to protect itself from owl and seagull predation.
9. The island has housed more than a thousand birds since this research project started.
- Every state and territory in the United States must produce a State Wildlife Action Plan to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan is reviewed and updated every ten years. This plan is done to get state wildlife grants to conduct conservation work for rare, threatened, and endangered species.
 1. To receive money, staff must have an approved State Wildlife Action Plan; Maryland gets around \$650,000 annually from this funding source. This money is a core funding source for the NHP group because staff members can use it to leverage other funds as match for other grants. It also contributes to the salary basis for staff that do zoological work that is not based upon things that could be funded by the Pittman-Robertson Fund (PR), such as invertebrate, reptile, and amphibian work.
 2. The ten-year reviewing and updating cycle for the Maryland State Action Plan begins this year. Staff will work with other experts, agencies, and divisions to complete an assessment of the species we track and determine a path forward for a ten-year plan for what staff will be doing for the next ten years to accomplish our mission of protecting all these species. Maryland plans to focus on crucial wildlife habitats. Staff will identify the threats to the habitats, where the habitats are, and the needs of the habitats, and then identify conservation actions that staff can implement. The conservation actions are the plan for each succeeding year, and we will go forth and try to protect the biological diversity by preserving the habitats that the habitats need. The staff will protect all the species by focusing on the critical habitats.
- The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA)—This initiative was put together to vastly increase the funding reflected by the state wildlife grants and federal grants to the states. WAC has been a standout leader among national commissions in supporting the RAWA. Also, in the past, WAC has explicitly written to the Secretary of Natural Resources and elected representatives, including Maryland senators. Unfortunately, RAWA is essentially defunct, and it has not gone anywhere. It would have been a dramatic increase in the amount of money America invested across the board in non-game wildlife.
- Q&A Section:
 1. Commissioner Kullberg asked about open positions within the Natural Heritage Program and whether the Commission could help advertise for the positions.
 - a. Associate Director Jonathan McKnight expressed appreciation for the offer, but NHP has one open position for which recruitment has been completed.
 2. Commissioner Showalter asked about the Coastal Bay Nesting Island and whether there was fencing or aerial protection against the owls.
 - a. It is partly because the birds are in considerable numbers in a dense area, which gives them some protection.
 - b. Staff have had issues with owls, which is why this island (raft) is now close to Assateague. Great horned owls typically nest and roost in trees on the inland side of the Coastal Bays, so it is a more extended trip for them to reach the island. So far, staff have not had nocturnal predation of the chicks from the owls at this site.
 3. Commissioner Showalter asked if there were any initiatives to duplicate more floating dock sections because the island appears inexpensive to produce.
 - a. The island is producing this species for the entire state of Maryland, and it is the hottest spot on the East Coast regarding the species' density of nesting. Staff do not believe this is a sustainable system for producing birds.
 - b. Staff built it to demonstrate that a series of protected islands constructed in the permanent Coastal Bays would produce incredible bird life. Also, staff believes if given a few more hundred square feet of acreage, Maryland could be producing royal terns, black skimmers, and some of these other spectacular colonial nesting birds. These birds need a permanent home. It

- is just a matter of time before a mid-season hurricane takes that island, hurls it away, and damages someone's property. There are only four boat anchors that hold this island. Staff will not be able to build one again. The birds will not have a place to return to.
- c. The thing to do is to convince the decision makers to take some of the resources in the Coastal Bays and build these birds a permanent home with rocks and sand. This would produce a long-term solution for these colonial nesting birds.
 - d. The Corps of Engineers and the federal government are indeed the entities that can give DNR the permits and funding to create a permanent habitat for these birds. There is a 70-million-dollar budget for dredging annually to build up the north end of Assateague; DNR needs a small amount of that budget and materials to create a permanent habitat for these colonial nesting birds.
4. Chair Wagner asked about the cooperation of NHP Outreach & Education and the Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3) Program.
- a. NHP Outreach & Education works closely with the R3 Program, which is geared toward recreational hunting. When the two paths coincide, staff work together and share the same resources, but the focus of NHP Outreach & Education is traditional wildlife service work. NHP Outreach & Education is involved in items such as Envirothon, HabiChat, and the newsletter for people with backyard habitats.

Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee Update – Associate Director Jonathan McKnight

- The Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee has not met in the last year. Therefore, there is no update. One of the reasons for not meeting with WDAC is that staff have been involved with these committee members on different things, such as the tern raft and habitat burnings in Western Maryland.

WHS Information and Education Program Update – Program Manager Chris Markin

- Program Manager Chris Markin appreciated the WAC members' work and everything that WAC made happen related to WHS and our resources.
- Program Manager Chris Markin presented the Commission with a PowerPoint overview of the Information and Hunting R3 Program. [ATTACHMENT B] We were formerly known as the Information and Education Program.
- Program Manager Chris Markin pointed out that, as already mentioned, staff under the Natural Heritage Program deal more with education. The Information and Hunting R3 Program works closely with the NHP Outreach and Education Program to get messages out to the public.
- The majority of the WHS Facebook/Instagram followers fall in the age range between 35 to 60. Regarding TikTok, the age range is 35 and younger.
- Terminology explanation: reach means how many people we can get the message out to; impression means how many times the message pops up on a screen; interactions include how many likes, shares, and comments.
- WHS's highest post is anything related to bears.
- Staffing includes Chris Markin, Program Manager; Torey Vayer, R3 Coordinator; Wade Henry, Graphics Coordinator; and Ashley Moreland, National Archery Schools Program (NASP) Coordinator.
- Staff work with some of the local hunting clubs to help with workshops and events. These workshops and events are very popular and generally fill up quickly.
- Handguns are popular, so staff uses that captive audience to discuss other firearms and hunting topics.
- Due to the limited number of staff under the Information and Hunting R3 Program, staff are working with other organizations and volunteers to help with some of these efforts.
- The NASP numbers in Maryland are up.
- The staff's problem is finding event space for the state tournament. Staff are currently using the Westminster Ag Center. The tournament is generally held around March 15, the period outlined in the national tournament schedule. Therefore, staff is limited in where and when this event can be held.

Commission members should contact Chris Markin to see if a location could accommodate the state tournament. Staff cannot grow the program because the current location in Westminster cannot safely accommodate more people.

- St. Mary's County is no longer in the NASP due to a change in their policy of allowing archery in the schools. Staff were not told why, and staff have been stonewalled. St. Mary's County had three of the top active schools in terms of student archers and participation in the tournament.
- Q&A Section:
 1. Commissioner Keithley asked if Program Manager Chris Markin has approached Senator Jack Bailey about why NASP was canceled in St. Mary's County schools.
 - a. No, staff have not communicated with Senator Jack Bailey. The Superintendent's Office told staff they would no longer offer NASP in St. Mary's County schools.
 - b. Chair Wagner requested Commissioner Keithley contact Senator Jack Bailey on this topic. Chair Wagner pointed out that Senator Jack Bailey greatly supports DNR.
 - c. Commissioner Keithley agreed to discuss this issue with Senator Jack Bailey.
 2. Commissioner Smith asked if staff knew the dimensions of the building needed to host the state tournament for NASP.
 - a. No, Ashley Moreland, NASP Coordinator, would have that information. However, the indoor facility probably needs to be at least the size of a football field.
 - b. Program Manager Chris Markin agreed to get the building dimension to Commissioner Smith.
 3. Chair Wagner asked how close DNR is to filling the R3 position pins.
 - a. Staff will soon be working with Director Karina Stonesifer on recruiting the R3 position pins.
 - b. WHS has filled two of those positions. Although the bill passed a year and a half ago, WHS was not permitted to fill the positions until about seven months ago due to the nature of the budget cycle.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (MFB) – Tyler Hough, MFB Director of Government Relations

- MFB Director of Government Relations Tyler Hough acknowledged that he owes Chair Wagner a returned email about scheduling a meeting with Chair Wagner, which will be done once things settle down.
- Mr. Hough pointed out that Maryland farmers have had issues with transmission lines in multiple counties.
- Mr. Hough announced that MFB is in the middle of the policies development process, which will go through until the MFB convention in December.
- Mr. Hough invited Commission members and staff to attend the MFB convention. It is the first Saturday in December through Tuesday. The location is Hyatt in Cambridge. Please get in touch with Mr. Hough if you are interested in attending.
- Chair Wagner asked Mr. Hough to send Tracey Spencer the MFB convention information so she could disseminate it.

Natural Resources Police Update (NRP) – Captain Shawn Garren gave a presentation.

- The traffic violation amount was 3,081, which equates to about 14.7% of NRP violations.
- The public land violations amount to 2,351, which equates to 11.2% of NRP violations.
- The wildlife violations amount to 754, which equates to 3.6% of NRP violations.
- The fisheries violations amount to 6,953, which equates to 33.1% of NRP violations.
- The boating violations amount to 7,881, which equates to 37.5% of NRP violations.

Old Business

- Revamping Trapping Course Update—This meeting did not provide an update. Commissioner Rossignuolo will provide information at the next meeting.
- License Portal Update – Associate Director Eyler informed the Commission that Brandt is going as planned. Brandt is leaning towards a March 1 deployment, which is more in agreement with the Commission's recommendation.

- Use of Drone for Deer Recovery and Hunting – Tabled for a future date.
- Fox Chasing Non-License Requirement – Chair Wagner had a great meeting with Jane Seiger and her group on this topic.
 1. Chair Wagner mentioned that Jane Seigler and her group are willing to work with the Commission on this topic. However, there is no clear path forward regarding what the Commission needs to recommend. Chair Wagner informed the Commission that Ms. Jane Seigler has some ideas, but the ideas need to be condensed to one or two items for the Commission to discuss.
 2. Ms. Jane Seigler noted that the fox chasing community she heard from has no problem paying money or supporting DNR financially. However, there are some concerns about how that would be implemented.
 3. Chair Wagner thanked Ms. Seigler and the fox chasing community for their willingness to work with the Commission and DNR to develop a solution.
- On September 18, 2024, the WAC Meeting will be held virtually.
 1. Field Days depended mainly on the time of year and what was happening within the unit, such as a habitat tour of one of the Wildlife Management Areas.
 2. The Commission members want to attend a Black Bear Den site.
 3. The November 20, 2024, meeting will be in-person and virtual.

New Business –

- Non-Lead Hunting Ammunition Topic – Group Discussion
 1. Commissioner Showalter shared non-lead hunting ammunition information with the WAC members.
 2. Chair Wagner and some Commission members attended a Non-Lead Hunting Ammunition Workshop on August 13 at the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge.
 3. Chair Wagner mentioned last year's legislation to mandate non-lead hunting ammunition. The bill was defeated but may return for the 2026 Legislative Session. The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge will phase out lead ammunition beginning September 2026, so Chair Wagner asked the Commission for their thoughts on non-lead hunting ammunition.
 4. Commissioner Keithley indicated since stakeholders' meetings had low attendance, it must not be a big issue.
 5. Commissioner Rossignuolo mentioned that her father attended, and he was impressed with the demonstration of copper versus lead and the scientific background. Commissioner Rossignuolo saw pictures of the demonstration and expressed that it was impressive to see the difference between lead and copper.
 6. Commissioner Kullberg stated that one of the Commission members mentioned at another meeting that this topic will continue returning to the legislature. Therefore, Commissioner Kullberg encouraged the Commission that it is something that the WAC members should eventually learn to embrace. It is excellent that Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge will have no lead in 2026 for sensitive habitats such as wetlands, and it is moving in the right direction.
 7. Commissioner Schroyer informed the Commission that the Western Maryland Coalition attended the stakeholders' portion of the Non-Lead Hunting Ammunition Workshop and will fully support it as long as it remains voluntary.
 8. Chair Wagner commented that the hunting community needs to know and consider carefully how this should move forward.
 9. Associate Director Brian Eyler pointed out voluntary action, education, and outreach will help. Remember that there is no current alternative for a .22-long rifle, the most common cartridge used across the country; mandating non-lead for a .22-long rifle would be problematic because it does not exist for hunters. Also, starting with the big game species may be a good idea to promote non-lead ammunition.
 10. Chair Wagner highlighted that Maryland may lose more hunters if the non-lead ammunition becomes too restrictive. Chair Wagner noted that hunting license sales are down.

11. Associate Director Brian Eyler responded that hunting license sales have been bouncing around a couple of percent here and there, up and down for overall long-term trends for a couple of decades. There was a peak in hunting sales in the 1970s. Regarding the Sika deer stamp, resident Sika deer stamp sales are up around one percent or two percent, and non-resident Sika deer stamp sales are down by 40%, which is not a big surprise given the dramatic pricing increase.
12. Commissioner Jenkins agreed that non-lead ammunition should be a volunteer effort, especially since the manufacturing companies cannot keep up at this time. As outlined at the meeting, the companies only do certain calibers.
13. Chair Wagner noted from the meeting that statistically, 15% of ammunition is sold to hunters, and 85% is sold to shooters. Therefore, from the manufacturing side, only 15% of the total output goes to the hunting community.

Public Comment –

- The public may contact the Members of the Commission at wac.dnr@maryland.gov.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The following virtual meeting will be held using Google Meet at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 18, 2024.

Attendance

Members:	TJ. Jenkins, S. Keithley, K. Kullberg, J. Parks, K. Rossignuolo, J. Schroyer, R. Showalter, M. Smith, and C. Wagner
Absent:	
Guest:	A. Davis, T. Hough, J. Seigler, and K. Thompson
Staff:	B. Eyler, S. Garren, K. Harvey, J. Homyack, B. Long, C. Markin, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, J. Tabora, J. Trudeau, T. Spencer, H. Spiker, H. Walbridge, and R. Walls

DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service

*Maryland Natural
Heritage Program*

2024 Briefing
New Staff Edition

What we do:

Conserve and protect Maryland's other 21,000 wildlife species

Monitor, manage and restore rare and unique habitats

Implement and enforce Maryland's Endangered species and habitat protection laws

Teach all generations of Marylanders about our magnificent wildlife

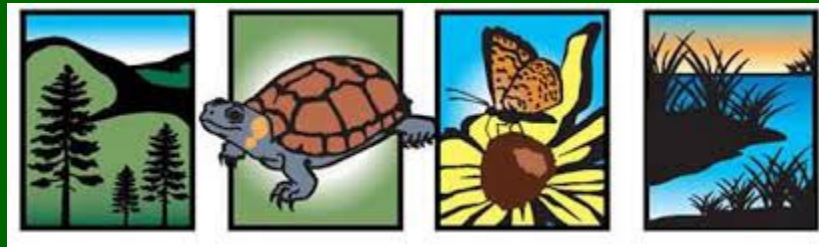
Three and 1/2 Programs:

Science Program

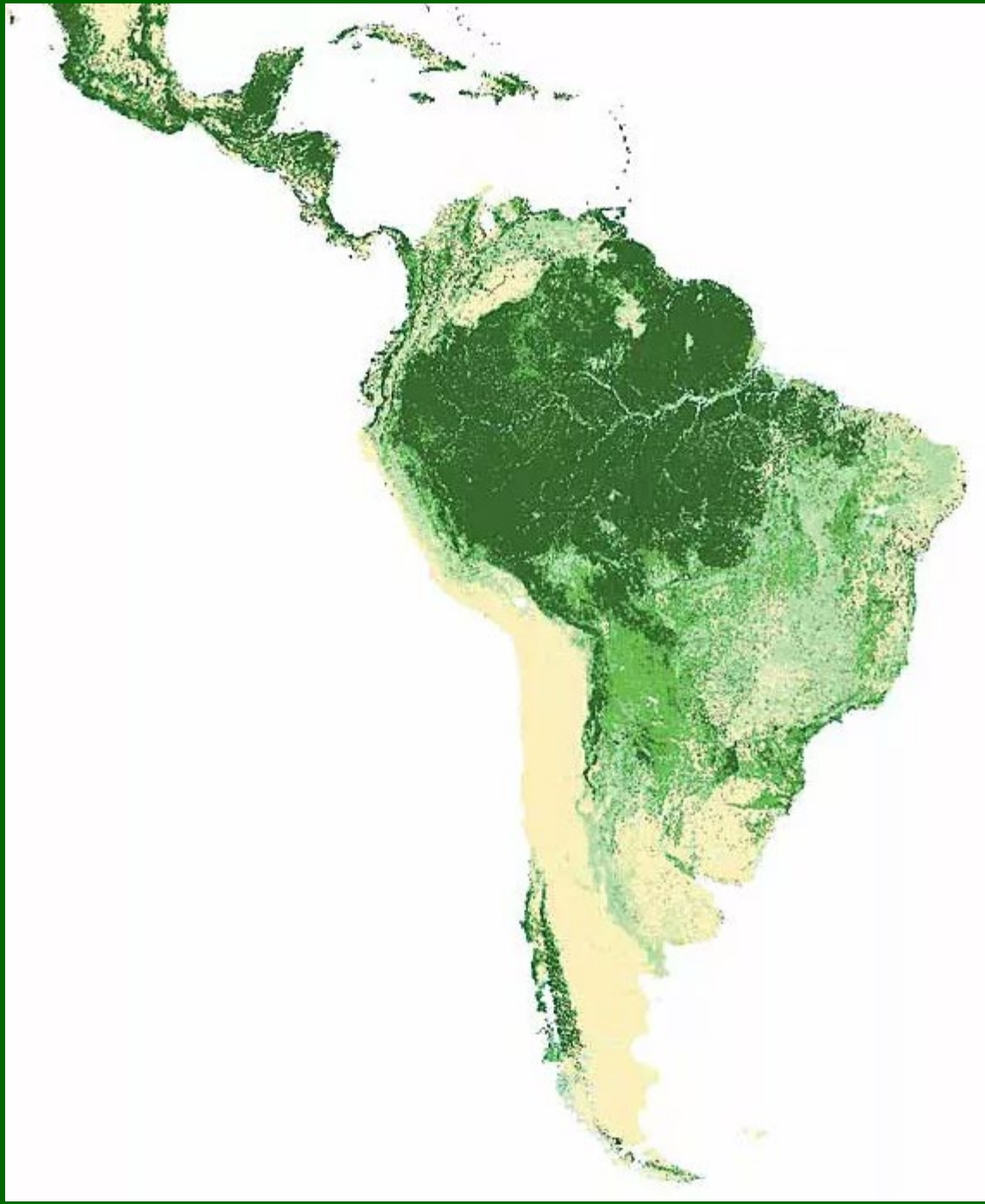
Habitat Conservation Program

Conservation Technology Program

Outreach and Education Program







Sources of funds

State Wildlife Grants

Maryland Tax Checkoff

Other Federal Funds

Wildlife Management and
Protection Funds

Personnel Turnover:

3 Western Maryland Positions

State Zoologist

Herpetologist

Entomologist

2 Conservation Technology Staff



Species Restoration



Hellbender



Habitat Conservation



Habitat Restoration







Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Tax Checkoff

CHECK IT TO PROTECT IT!

Line 35



Donate to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund
on your Maryland State Tax Form

Want to protect it? Check it!

Line 35



Donate to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund
on your Maryland State Tax Form

Want to protect it? Check it!

Line 35



Donate to the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund
on your Maryland State Tax Form



CHECK IT TO PROTECT IT!

DONATE TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ENDANGERED SPECIES FUND
LINE 35 ON YOUR MARYLAND STATE TAX FORM

Maryland
State
Wildlife
Action
Plan
2016



State Wildlife Action Plan

Required from each state as part of
State Wildlife Grants Program

All 50 States and five U.S. territories
developed State Wildlife Action Plans
(SWAPs) in 2005 and 2015.

Out new plan is due in 2025

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act





Information and Hunting R3 Program



Chris Markin
Program Manager

Outreach



- Social Media - Facebook
 - Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife and Heritage Service
 - ❖ 39,900 followers
 - ❖ Average reach is ~25,000
 - ❖ 58% Women/42% Men
 - ❖ High post garnered a reach of ~199,000 with ~203,000 impressions and ~3,000 interactions
- Newsletters
 - ❖ Becoming an Outdoors-Woman
 - ❖ Hunting and Shooting Sports Outreach
 - ❖ Special Groups

Graphics



becoming an
30 outdoors-
Woman
Celebrating 30 Years

Wildlife and Heritage Service
Maryland
Annual Big Game Report
2022-2023

KEEP BEARS WILD

- ✓ Never feed or approach bears.
- ✓ Secure food, garbage, recycling.
- ✓ Remove bird feeders when bears are active.
- ✓ Never leave pet food outdoors.
- ✓ Clean and store grills.
- ✓ Alert neighbors to bear activity.

BearWise.org
BearWise

Maryland Hunting Seasons Calendar for 2024-2025

Species, Season, & Region	2024	2025										
	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Black Bear ¹		10/21-10/29										
White-tailed Deer, Archery		9/6-10/16	10/20-11/20	12/16	1/6-1/8	1/13-1/14	1/18-1/19	1/23-1/24	1/28-1/29	2/1-2/2		
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region A												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region B												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region C												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region D												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region E												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region F												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region G												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region H												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region I												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region J												
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White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region M												
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White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region Q												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region R												
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White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region T												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region U												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region V												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region W												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region X												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region Y												
White-tailed Deer, Archery, Region Z												

Scan the QR Code for a First Harvest Certificate

You can receive a certificate for each of your first harvests of many game species.

All hunters are invited to participate including Mentored Hunters.

Use this QR code to access the First Harvest Certificate order form.

Email a photograph to be included on the certificate.

The Maryland Wildlife and Heritage will create the certificate and send you a hard copy and/or electronic copy.



MARYLAND JUNIOR HUNTER

2024-2025

2025

SOUTHEAST DEER STUDY GROUP

Cambridge, MD February 16-18, 2025

Workshops and Events



- Archery 101
- Handgun 101
- Hunting 101
- Becoming an Outdoors-Woman
- Women In The Outdoors
- Mentored Hunts – Blackwater NWR, Patuxent Research Refuge and working on Irvine Nature Center and Point Pleasant Farm
- Working with Delta Waterfowl on their university mentored hunt program, as well as mentored waterfowl hunts
- Annual R3 Summit

NASP 2023-2024



2023-2024

- Student Archers – 19,459
- State Tournament - Bullseye
 - 28 schools
 - 649 students
- State Tournament – 3D/IBO
 - 18 schools
 - 291 students



NASP Schools



County	Private Schools	Public Schools	Non-School Organizations	Total
Allegany	0 (-1)	1	0	1 (-1)
Anne Arundel	2	1	0 (-1)	3 (-1)
Baltimore	1	6	1 (-2)	8 (-2)
Baltimore City	1	8 (+2)	0	9 (+2)
Calvert	1	0	1	2
Caroline	0	2 (+2)	1 (+1)	3 (+3)
Carroll	1	9	0	10
Cecil	0	8 (+2)	0	8
Charles	3	0 (-1)	0	3 (-1)
Frederick	2 (+2)	6	1	9 (+2)
Garrett	0	3 (+1)	1	4 (+1)
Howard	0	3	1	4
Kent	0	1	0	1
Montgomery	1	9 (-2)	2 (+1)	12 (-1)
Prince George's	1	1	0	2
Queen Anne's	0	2 (+1)	1 (+1)	3 (+2)
Somerset	1 (+1)	0 (-1)	2 (+1)	3 (+1)
St. Mary's	0	2 (-3)	0	2 (-3)
Talbot	0 (-1)	0	1 (+1)	1
Washington	3 (+1)	10 (-1)	1	14
Wicomico	1	1 (-2)	0	2 (-2)
Worcester	1	1 (+1)	1	3 (+1)
Total	19 (+2)	74 (-1)	14 (+2)	
Grand Total: 107 (+3)				