

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

**Will Meet at 10:30 AM
On Wed., August 20, 2025
Department of Natural Resources
Google Meet**

Meeting Agenda:

Approval of August 20, 2025, Meeting Agenda

Approval of June 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee Update (Associate Director Jonathan McKnight)

Natural Heritage Program Update (Associate Director Jonathan McKnight)

Outreach and Community Engagement Program Update (Associate Director Chris Markin)

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Tyler Hough)

Natural Resources Police Update (Lieutenant Brian Miller or Lieutenant Bill Davis)

Old Business:

- **Revamping Trapping Course Update - (Commissioner Kaitlin Rossignuolo)**
- **Sunday Hunting Discussion – (Group Discussion)**
- **Non-Lead Ammunition – Deferred to a Later Meeting.**

New Business:

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 2025 Meetings
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

January 15th	Google Meet
February 19th	Google Meet
March 19th	Google Meet
April 16th	Google Meet
May 21st	Google Meet
June 18th	In-Person Meeting at the Tawes State Office Building
July 16th	No Meeting
August 20th	Google Meet
September 17th	In-Person Meeting at the Sideling Hill Training Center
October 15th	Google Meet
November 19th	In-Person Meeting at the Tawes State Office Building
December 17th	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-4 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 20, 2025

Chair Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. This meeting was held by teleconference and in person. Chair Wagner requested a roll call from individuals on by teleconference. Unfortunately, due to the anonymity of Google Meet callers, it was impossible to determine the identities of every participant.

Approval of August 20, 2025, Meeting Agenda

- Chair Wagner corrected that the September 17, 2025, Wildlife Advisory Commission meeting will be held in person.
- Director Karina Stonesifer noted that the meeting will be held at the Hunter Safety Education Building in Sideling Hill Creek State Park. Staff will send all details to the Commission before the meeting. Additionally, the staff has arranged for Hunter Safety Education staff to give a presentation to the Commission.
- Motion:
 1. Vice Chair Schroyer moved to accept the agenda for the August 20, 2025, Wildlife Advisory Commission meeting.
 2. Commissioner Parks seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of June 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Parks moved to approve the June 18, 2025, meeting minutes.
 2. Commissioner Smith seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee Update – Jonathan McKnight, Associate Director

- There is no update from the Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee (WDAC).
- WDAC has not met since last year.

Natural Heritage Program Update – Jonathan McKnight, Associate Director

- Associate Director Jonathan McKnight introduced Dr. Gwen Brewer, who is the Science Program Manager under the Natural Heritage Program.
- Associate Director Jonathan McKnight gave an overview of the Natural Heritage Program.
[ATTACHMENT A]
 1. Staff manage, monitor, and restore rare and unique habitats, which is a significant part of their work with the inventory—locating species, identifying their habitats, and conserving them through various mechanisms, preferably via acquisition with our partners in Program Open Space.
 2. Staff implement and enforce Maryland's endangered species and habitat protection laws.
 3. Much of the work focuses on rare, threatened, and endangered species because these species are excellent markers for identifying rare and unusual habitats. Protecting these vulnerable species and their habitats, as scientific efforts have done across the United States, has shown that it is an effective way to conserve all species. Therefore, if staff concentrate on the rare, threatened, and endangered species and ensure they survive and remain stable, they can infer that a broader range of other wildlife species are also being protected.
 4. The Maryland Natural Heritage Program is one of the programs found in every state in the United States and in many territories. NatureServe is the central hub. Each state that manages rare species uses the same database, with the same metrics and forms when collecting field information, so that all the data across the United States follows the same format.
 5. Through NatureServe, there are natural heritage programs not only in the 50 states, but also in Canada, Mexico, and 15 other nations in South and Central America. Therefore, there is a

hemispheric network for science and data collection that helps staff understand what we are doing in Maryland in the broader context.

- There are three programs in the Maryland Natural Heritage Program:
 1. The Science Program, led by Dr. Gwen Brewer, includes experts such as the state herpetologist, the state ornithologist, the avian ecologist, and the entomologist. These specialists review the species within their expertise and ensure their populations are healthy. Additionally, staff stay informed about the latest science, read relevant literature, and track trends through species and habitat monitoring work.
 2. The Habitat Conservation Program staff are the field personnel responsible for managing species within each region. These staff members often handle more than their fair share of conflicts where rare species, unusual habitats, or valuable landscapes overlap with development activities. Recently, there has been a lot of discussion about projects like power lines and data centers that are connected by those power lines. The staff of the Habitat Conservation Program works with those building large-scale infrastructure to help minimize damage to wildlife habitats. They also ensure these projects follow state laws that protect wildlife habitats during construction.
 3. The Conservation Technology Program staff manages data collection for all information. They ensure their work is connected to the international network and that technology remains the most current and advanced. When field ecologists encounter a rare species or habitat, they used to fill out a standard form on a clipboard. Now, ecologists use a digital device, and as they carry out their work, that information is almost instantly uploaded into the databases. This creates a transparent and efficient way to channel data into our conservation technology databases, helping us keep our products current and as accurate and valuable as possible. Although not mentioned in the presentation because it is not a complete program, staff also bear responsibility for education, outreach, and the interpretation of non-game wildlife. Limited staff are working on integrating wildlife education into schools, expanding it through community outreach, and creating digital texts. One example is Guia de Observacion de Aves en Maryland, the Maryland bird guide in Spanish. Staff are driven to get this basic wildlife message out to schools, children, adults, and all kinds of groups, with staff constantly giving talks. One of the ways these staff members accomplish this is by providing the tools that teachers need to relay information to students, which helps the small team reach a large audience through their work.
- Sources of Funds for the Natural Heritage Program:
 1. The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants is a national grant program that provides the NHP with about \$780,000 each year. It is a federal pass-through grant allocated to all states and territories. This grant allows staff to do a significant amount of work on animals that are not covered by other funding sources. However, it does not provide any funding for plants, which is a missing piece from the NHP's overall budget.
 2. Maryland Tax Checkoff is on line 35 of your tax form, where you can choose to allocate some of your taxes to the Chesapeake and Endangered Species Fund. In a good year, it raises half a million dollars.
 3. Other Federal Funds, such as collecting funds from the EPA, funds from the Pittman and Robertson Fund (for the work we do with birds and mammals), and various types of federal grants.
 4. Wildlife Management and Protection Funds are from Maryland hunting license dollars.
- The Maryland Natural Areas Inventory is a system developed by staff to compile data collected in Maryland since 1979 through the Maryland Biodiversity Conservation Network (BioNet). It serves as a tool for people to identify planning areas that contain unique species or habitats within the database, helping to detect potential conflicts if projects are proposed. The public can access the Merlin Project, a public-facing database where users can find information about sensitive species review areas or SSPAS—resources that consultants use before building houses, roads, or other infrastructure to identify potential conflicts. There are various versions of this information, and the Conservation Technology staff continually refines it to develop products that partners and users can deploy in the field. Our goal is not just to gather and understand this information, but to make it accessible and

valuable for conservation efforts.

- The Maryland State Wildlife Action Plan is created every 10 years. Staff develop a comprehensive plan that serves as a blueprint for actions needed to protect these species in the state. They are currently finishing the latest plan. The previous plan was completed in 2016, and the next one is expected in 2026.
1. Dr. Gwen Brewer provided an overview of the State Wildlife Action Plan, which each state must develop to qualify for funds allocated annually by Congress. **[ATTACHMENT B]** Mimi Sanford is our State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator, but she was unable to attend this meeting.
 2. SWAP is a State Wildlife Action Plan. As mentioned earlier, the SWAP must be updated every 10 years. NHP is required to revise it. SWAP is intended to serve as a non-regulatory guiding document for conservation efforts, especially for species of greatest conservation need, which might include mammals, fish, birds, insects, and certain plant species. It also covers the habitats where these species are found.
 3. The last cycle, as Jonathan mentioned, was in 2016, and Maryland has a due date for our update of May 1, 2026. On slide two, a handy logo that was created for the last state wildlife action plan revision. The tagline stated, “Keeping common species common.” Staff try to address the needs of all the wildlife in the state by focusing on their habitats, along with a special emphasis on these species of greatest conservation need that require extra help.
 4. This State Wildlife Action Plan serves two primary purposes. It acts as a guiding document for conservation efforts in the state, not just a DNR plan. It's meant to be a plan for conservation for these species and their habitats across the state and across all different kinds of organizations, and our community members as well. It's required of states by the federal government. Staff must have the SWAP to get the federal funds.
 5. Until the end of April 2025, we conducted an initial series of meetings with various experts and stakeholders to discuss different groups of species. We held a bird meeting, an insect meeting focusing on various insects like beetles, a bat meeting, and another for small mammals, among others. Several people from DNR and other organizations, including universities, participated to help us identify which species are of the greatest conservation concern, which are declining, rare, or facing additional challenges. Staff expect some of these species to continue declining due to habitat changes. The Habitat-Focused meetings were held earlier in August. By September, staff will have conducted a second round of meetings, and NHP remains within that timeline. Our next step will be to write, review, and edit. Staff will gather all the valuable information from meetings—whether they are Taxa, Species, Habitat, or other topic meetings—and compile it to revise our last plan. Our goal is to have the first draft of the new plan completed by the end of the year. After that, staff will share the draft with the Commission, partners, and gather feedback for revisions and formatting in preparation for the final submission on May 1, 2026. Staff will submit SWAP to the Fish and Wildlife Service, our regional office, for review and approval for NHP to proceed.
 6. At the regional meetings, over 60 organizations, universities, and other groups attended. Staff from various units within DNR were also present. Chair Wagner had the opportunity to meet Mimi Sanford at one of the SWAP meetings. Staff appreciated people taking time on a Saturday to participate and offer input. During the meetings, participants were divided into groups to brainstorm threats and actions related to specific habitats, such as forests, aquatic environments, urban and suburban areas, and working lands. In the afternoon, we reviewed the morning's work, added any missing points, and attempted to prioritize the actions suggested. Overall, we received valuable input from our partners.
 7. Chair Wagner expressed gratitude to Dr. Gwen Brewer for the SWAP presentation. He also recognized both Dr. Gwen Brewer and Mimi Sanford, SWAP Coordinator, for the monumental effort they put into organizing these meetings, including collecting, incorporating, and recording a vast amount of information. The SWAP is a significant project, and my heartfelt appreciation goes to Dr. Gwen Brewer and Mimi Sanford; they are doing a lot of work. If there are additional meetings, Chair Wagner encouraged the Commission members to attend at least one, as these

meetings are very worthwhile. Although it was a Saturday, it was a well-spent time. Chair Wagner met some great people and made some contacts. Keep in mind, this SWAP is a project that NHP is required to do, and it demands a considerable amount of effort from staff. Additionally, Chair Wagner added that he looks forward to learning more and getting involved in future meetings. This will give Commission members an excellent insight into what goes into many of the rules, regulations, and decisions made throughout DNR.

8. Dr. Brewer replied that she would relay Chair Wagner's kind words to Ms. Sanford. Additionally, Dr. Brewer acknowledged an essential point that Chair Wagner made about partnership and contacts. Staff do not want this plan to sit on the shelf once it's completed, as a lot of effort is going into it. Staff are receiving many ideas from numerous people. It's a plan for the state, and staff really want organizations to use it. An essential part of this is allowing people to provide early feedback, facilitating communication among stakeholders, and preparing to implement some of the key actions prioritized in the plan. DNR truly needs partners to support us, and staff hope this process will help foster collaboration among partners to put the SWAP into action.
9. Commissioner Parks commented that it was a very impressive presentation.

Outreach and Community Engagement Program – Christopher “Chris” Markin, Associate Director

- The Outreach and Community Engagement (OCE) Program was previously called the Information and Education Program under the Game Management Program. There has been some restructuring, and we are now known as the Outreach and Community Engagement Program, a separate entity within the Wildlife and Heritage Service, which will provide more leeway to do different things and hopefully restructure staff and get more staff on board.
- Associate Director Chris Markin gave an overview of the newly formed Outreach and Community Engagement Program. [ATTACHMENT C]
- There are three main aspects of the OCE program, which are outlined in the presentation.
 1. Graphics/Publications – on the first slide, there is an image of the Maryland Hunting and Trapping Guide, which is the most well-known publication managed by our staff. It is distributed to all hunters upon the issuance of a hunting license. Graphics – some of you may have seen or received artwork created by our retired graphic artist, Wade Henry. If any of you knew him, he retired after 50 years with DNR and the Wildlife Heritage Service. WHS has been trying to fill his void.
 2. Communications - everything OCE staff do involves outreach, including posting information on social media - Facebook, and the staff compiles press releases. OCE manages the WHS Facebook, which allows it to be unit-specific. Regarding the Newsletters, staff are reaching approximately 30,000.
 3. R3 (Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation) Program – most of the members of the Commission are familiar with. There is information on our [website about R3](#), which “is a nationwide movement focusing on strategically increasing and diversifying participation in and support for shooting sports, hunting, and angling. The significant projects within the R3 Program are Hunting and Shooting Sports and the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP).
 - a. Staff are hoping to grow these programs as OCE obtains, hopefully, new staff. Chuck Farrell is a new staff member under the R3 Program. He enjoys hunting and is passionate about outreach.
 - b. Some of these events focus on retaining and recruiting lapsed hunters. Staff are reviewing individuals who have not purchased a hunting license recently but have in the past, trying to get these individuals back into hunting. The pheasant program supports that initiative. The stocked pheasant hunt, which has the highest participation, is held in four regions across the state. There are 16 different sites statewide, with about 328 participants overall. Staff will stock over 1,700 birds for the pheasant event.
 - c. Staff assisted with State Parks and other groups during various events. One of the biggest was Parks Day, where staff conducted some archery demonstrations. Unfortunately, the number of participants is unknown, but it was quite a crowd. OCE staff will help Patapsco State Park

staff with an adaptive hunt this fall; it will be a smaller group. The goal is to reach out to individuals with some physical limitations and encourage them to participate in hunting. This will be the first time for OCE staff to do this.

- d. The 2024-2025 NASP season participation was a little down. The acronyms in slide nine are BAI, Basic Archery Instructor; BAIT, Basic Archery Instructor Trainer; and BAITS, Basic Archery Instructor Trainer Specialist, which are different certification levels.
- e. The NASP State Tournament changed slightly because staff were unable to hold the State Bullseye Tournament on the same day as the State 3D Tournament. Instead, there were two separate events, each scheduled on a different weekend. The staff hosted the 3D tournament, which attracted 14 schools from eight counties and a total of 295 students. One of the staff's proudest achievements is that last year's tournament was awarded over \$20,000 in scholarships and prizes. They hope to grow these numbers, as they have increased each year. The staff believes this is important because many of these young people lack other sports scholarship opportunities. It provides a chance for youths who have participated in NASP to potentially receive \$2,000 - \$3,000 toward their education at the next level. The staff are pleased about this and hope to distribute even more money this year at the tournament.
- f. Slide 11 showed a breakdown of different NASP schools by county. There are two colors: red and green. The red indicates schools that are no longer part of NASP, while the green shows schools that NASP has gained. The numbers reveal that most of the state has NASP schools, but some counties still do not. Staff are working on certifying these counties and expanding NASP across all regions. The good news is that 118 schools are participating in NASP, which is an increase of 11 from last year. Staff members take pride in that growth.

- Q&A Section:

1. Commissioner Smith commented that as a hunter, he is not seeing that much of an outreach as far as the minorities, nor the energy directed to recruiting minorities. Commissioner Smith asked if there is a plan to change that.
 - a. Associate Director Chris Markin said that it is a great question. He mentioned that our goal is to work with groups that have direct contact with various minority communities. At the state level, staff share information on Facebook and through newsletters; however, they rely on who engages with our newsletters or follows our Facebook page. Staff definitely want to make a dedicated effort to reach these different communities. Additionally, this is a national issue involving finding a partner to help us build trust within these communities. Staff also acknowledged that some communities are wary of the state government entering their area and do not necessarily accept the WHS message.
 - b. Associate Director Markin added that it begins with partnerships, builds trust, and gets WHS a foot in the door. Then, staff will be able to spread our message and hopefully turn that around.
 - c. As far as the data and demographic data that could come with it, once staff obtain more boots on the ground.
2. Commissioner Smith emphasized that more effort should be directed toward community leaders to showcase the potential and opportunities related to hunting. He illustrated this point with an example involving his grandson. Commissioner Smith mentioned seeing young people engaged in various sporting activities, but there has never been an opportunity or someone to introduce them to something different. It could spark a youth's passion once they are exposed to something different. He offered to work and introduce Associate Director Chris Markin to some of the community leaders to help address this issue.
 - a. Associate Director Chris Markim replied that he is available to chat and meet with Commissioner Smith on this topic.
 - b. Director Stonesifer informed the Commission that the OCE, R3 portion still has several vacancies. Staff advertised and conducted the recruitment; however, there were issues with the classification of the positions. Due to the state's operational structure, staff targeted specific classifications and defaulted to our traditional biologist series classification. After gathering

- the candidate pool, the staff realized many candidates specialized in R3 outreach and building partnerships with diverse communities. As a result, the staff decided to pull back and reclassify these positions. However, we then encountered a hiring freeze, though staff hope to move forward with these positions in the coming months.
- c. Director Stonesifer acknowledged Associate Director Chris Markin's comments about moving toward partnerships and engaging with communities. She emphasized that outreach opportunities in diverse populations are a top priority for her; when those opportunities arise, the new positions will be involved. Staff will focus on finding people capable of building connections within diverse communities.
 3. Commissioner Wagner asked how many of the eight pins that were created by the legislation were filled.
 - a. Four of the eight pins were filled.
 - b. WHS is looking to fill three outreach positions/R3 and one digital media specialist.
 - c. This timing is terrible with the hiring freeze, but WHS will get there.
 - d. One focus is increasing our digital media presence because WHS is currently missing the mark, and stepping up our digital media efforts will help reach a larger audience.
 4. Commissioner Wagner asked how many of the 16,000-plus youth have been involved in NASP and whether staff are directing the youth towards the hunter certification course, or if there is a percentage of those youth who do not pursue hunting, and what that percentage might be.
 - a. There are national stats, but staff are changing things in Maryland because there is a need to track that information.
 - b. For youth to participate in NASP, youth must obtain a DNRID number, whether they plan to hunt or use it, and then that will give staff the ability to track their license-buying trends over time.
 - c. Maryland does not have the data that Chair Wagner requested. However, staff will have trend data in a few years once the DNRID number requirement is implemented.
 5. Commissioner Wagner asked if there are plans to target the under-35 market because the real growth is in that under-35 market.
 - a. Our events are attracting the under-35 market, but in terms of broader social media outreach, it's mainly following the trend of Facebook; nobody is effectively reaching the younger audience on Facebook. Therefore, staff will need to discuss this with the DNR Office of Communication. The main DNR does have an Instagram page, but it probably doesn't have a TikTok account. Discussions will occur over the next period as more state agencies move in this direction. Associate Director Chris Markin is aware of this issue since he currently manages the WHS social media page. WHS reaches about 25% of the under-35 market among its Facebook followers.
 - b. Staff can analyze different metrics from each post. Recently, staff posted "WHS is having our First Shot Mentored Hunt Again," and followers tend to be younger than 35 who are engaging with and specifically looking at that post. However, if staff post something about spotted lantern flies, the followers will generally be 35 plus or 45 plus; so, it really depends on the topic.
 6. Mr. Jenkins asked why more schools are not involved with NASP; is there a specific reason, or does it seem that the schools do not want anything to do with NASP? Does it have something to do with hunting?
 - a. Most of the time, the main issue is finding staff willing to do the program and put in the time, while a secondary concern is less significant because NASP offers scholarships, making it more about finances. For schools to join NASP, they need to purchase a basic kit that includes bows, arrows, and targets. NASP also provides scholarship programs for the kit.
 - b. Again, staff believe the challenge is finding teachers willing to run the program in the school.
 - c. Some schools may have issues with a bow in the school. However, staff do a great job of dealing with those issues. Staff talk about safety in the program.

- Chair Wagner thanked Commissioner Smith for his input. Chair Wagner concluded that he is looking forward to some changes, and hopefully, WHS will be able to hire more people. In doing so, he hopes it will change that number from losing hunters to starting to increase hunters, which is the real goal of R3—to get more people. That will improve the bottom line and reverse the trend.

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

- No MFB representative in attendance for an update.

Natural Resources Police Update (NRP) – Lieutenant Bill Davis gave an update.

- Lieutenant Bill Davis indicated the July 2025 stats. A lot of the stats from boating, fishing, and public lands are less active because, at this time of year, hunting is less active.
- In July, NRP had 521 commercial fishing inspections. There were 7,914 recreational contacts. There were 3,562 crab inspections. There was one game/wildlife inspection. Recreation boating, NRP had 111 inspections and 16,737 contacts.
- There were 18 boating accidents; 10 were reportable and 1 fatal.
- NRP spent 9,338 hours on waterway patrols.
- NRP spent 6,137 hours on public lands patrols.
- NRP had 141 reports generated with 33 supplementals
- NRP made 11,343 calls of service.
- NRP issued 959 citations, 3,085 warnings.
- NRP did 659 homeland security checks.
- NRP attended 6 community PR events.

Old Business

- Revamping Trapping Course Update—Deferred to September 17, 2025, meeting.
- Sunday Hunting Discussion—Staff are having internal discussions, so this topic was deferred to the September 17, 2025, meeting.
- Non-Lead Ammunition—Staff are having internal discussions. Deferred to a later meeting or until staff have an update for the Commission.

New Business –

- MD Outdoor Licensing System
 1. Chair Wagner reiterated comments from Commissioner Parks made in an email about the MD Outdoor Licensing System. Chair Wagner encouraged individuals to check out the new MD Outdoor Licensing System. Chair Wagner and Commissioner Parks both have their licenses. Chair Wagner received great feedback about the new system.
 2. Commissioner Parks expressed that the overall experience was great. Commissioner Parks pointed out that getting the word out is an imperative piece, not only to us but to organizations and groups who can circulate it beyond what falls under our purview. It would be great to have hashtags for those who use them on social media postings.
 3. Chair Wagner encouraged individuals to pay the extra \$10 for the card because it is so handy to have it in your wallet. The DNR team did a great job with the new system.
 4. Director Stonesifer sent Commissioner Parks some hashtags. However, Associate Director Chris Markin will send them out to the Commission.
- Mr. Jenkins inquired about antler restrictions on Sika deer. Mr. Jenkins mentioned that the Maryland Bowhunter Society has brought this issue to his attention. The Maryland Bowhunter Society surveyed with 171 responses, and 82% supported implementing a Sika deer antler restriction. The survey also showed that 83% agreed with regulations concerning one-spoke and two-branched antler stags. Additionally, a survey conducted by Morgan State University indicated that approximately 70% of participants believed there should be a Sika deer antler restriction.
 1. Chair Wagner mentioned that the great thing about the Sika deer stamp is that it allows staff to collect data. Chair Wagner assumed that the Sika deer antler restriction would be addressed

during the review of the regulation concepts.

2. Director Stonesifer informed the Commission that she will be meeting with the Game Management Program on Thursday, and staff have a list of things to go through. Staff will take a look at it all.

Public Comment –

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

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled at Sideling Hill Creek NRP Training Center on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. It will begin at 10:30 am.

Attendance

Members:	S. Keithley, K. Kullberg, J. Parks, K. Rossignuolo, J. Schroyer, M. Smith, and C. Wagner
Absent:	
Guest:	TJ. Jenkins, L. Radov, J. Seigler, and S. Volodin
Staff:	G. Brewer, C. Coriell, B. Davis, H. Devine, B. Eyler, K. Fleming, K. Harvey, K. Lamp, C. Markin, J. McKnight, J. Moulis, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, K. Stonesifer, J. Trudeau, and A. Ward

DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service

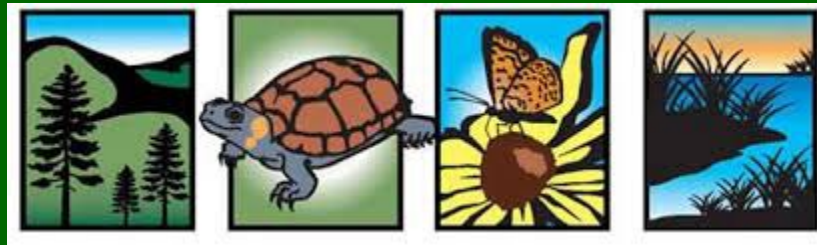
Maryland Natural Heritage Program

What we do:

Conserve and protect Maryland's
other 20,000 wildlife species

Monitor, manage and restore rare and
unique habitats

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







Three Programs:

Science Program

Habitat Conservation Program

Conservation Technology Program

Sources of funds

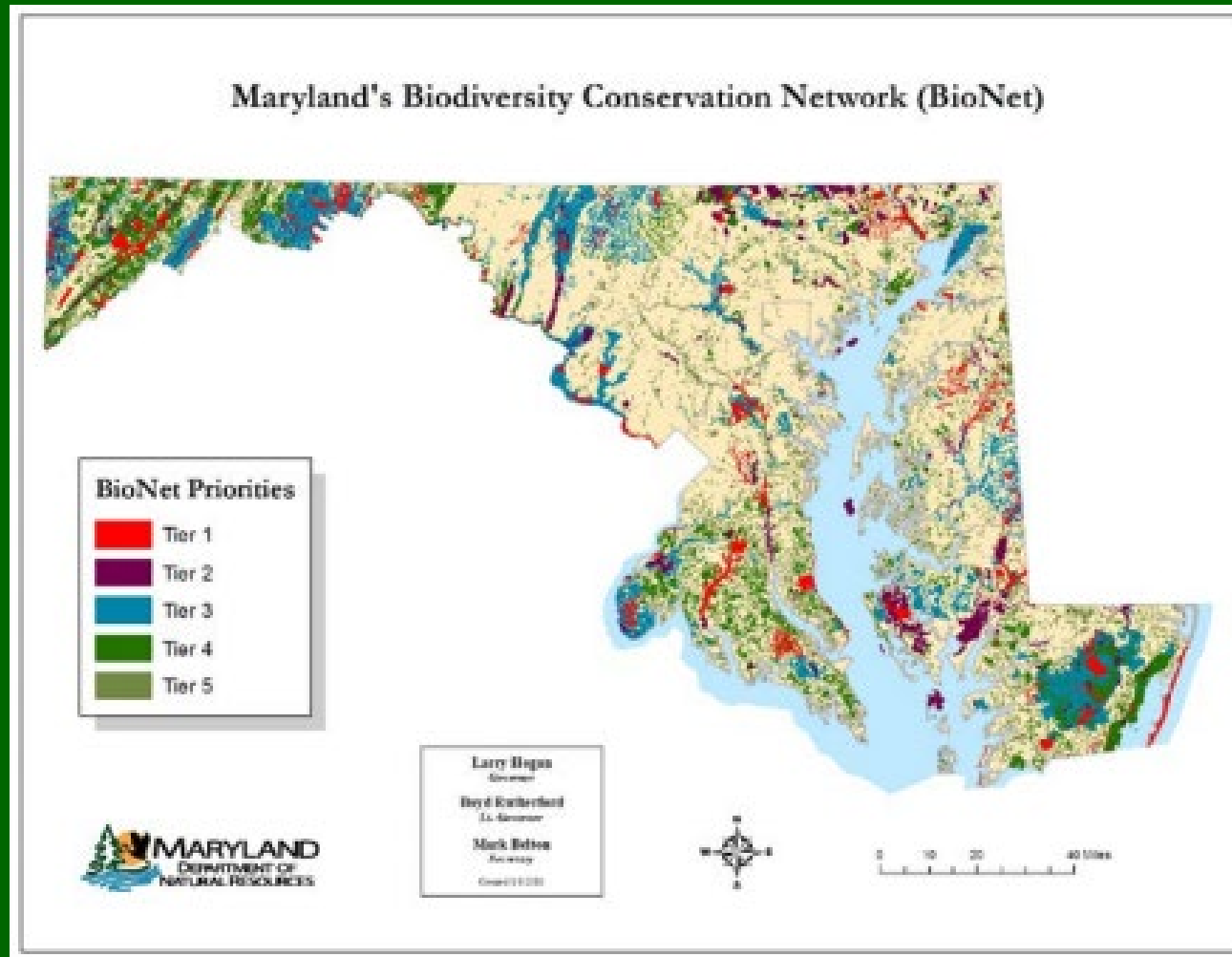
State Wildlife Grants

Maryland Tax Checkoff

Other Federal Funds

Wildlife Management and
Protection Funds

Maryland Natural Areas Inventory



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 a State Wildlife Action Plan
(SWAP) in 2005.

Updates are required in 2025



Next steps for the Maryland State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

Wednesday, August 20th

Mimi Sanford, SWAP Coordinator
Natural Heritage Program

Agenda

- What is a SWAP?
- What is *in* a SWAP?
- Timeline + where we are now
- Next steps
- Questions?



About SWAP

“Every ten years, Maryland is required to update its State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). A SWAP is meant to serve as a non-regulatory, guiding document for conservation efforts concerning the state's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) – mammals, fish, birds, insects, and more – as well as the habitats in which they are found. The last SWAP cycle was in 2015. As such, the updated SWAP is due to be completed by May 1, 2026.”

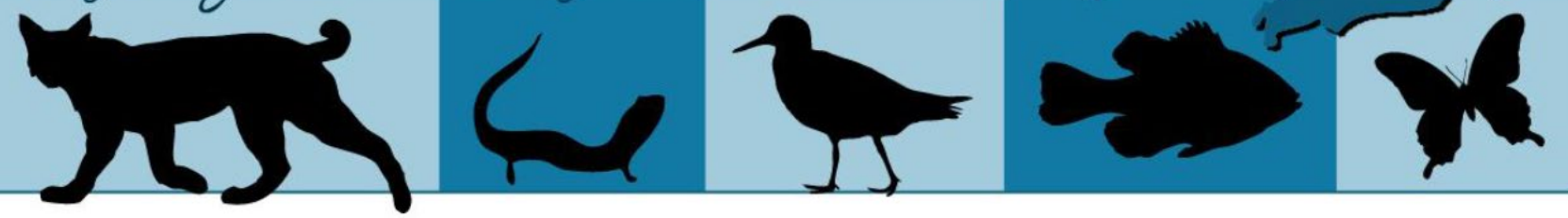




MARYLAND

State Wildlife Action Plan

Keeping common species common



Through the end of April 2025:
1st round of meetings –
Taxa/Species

May-September 2025:
2nd round of meetings –
Habitats/Other Topics

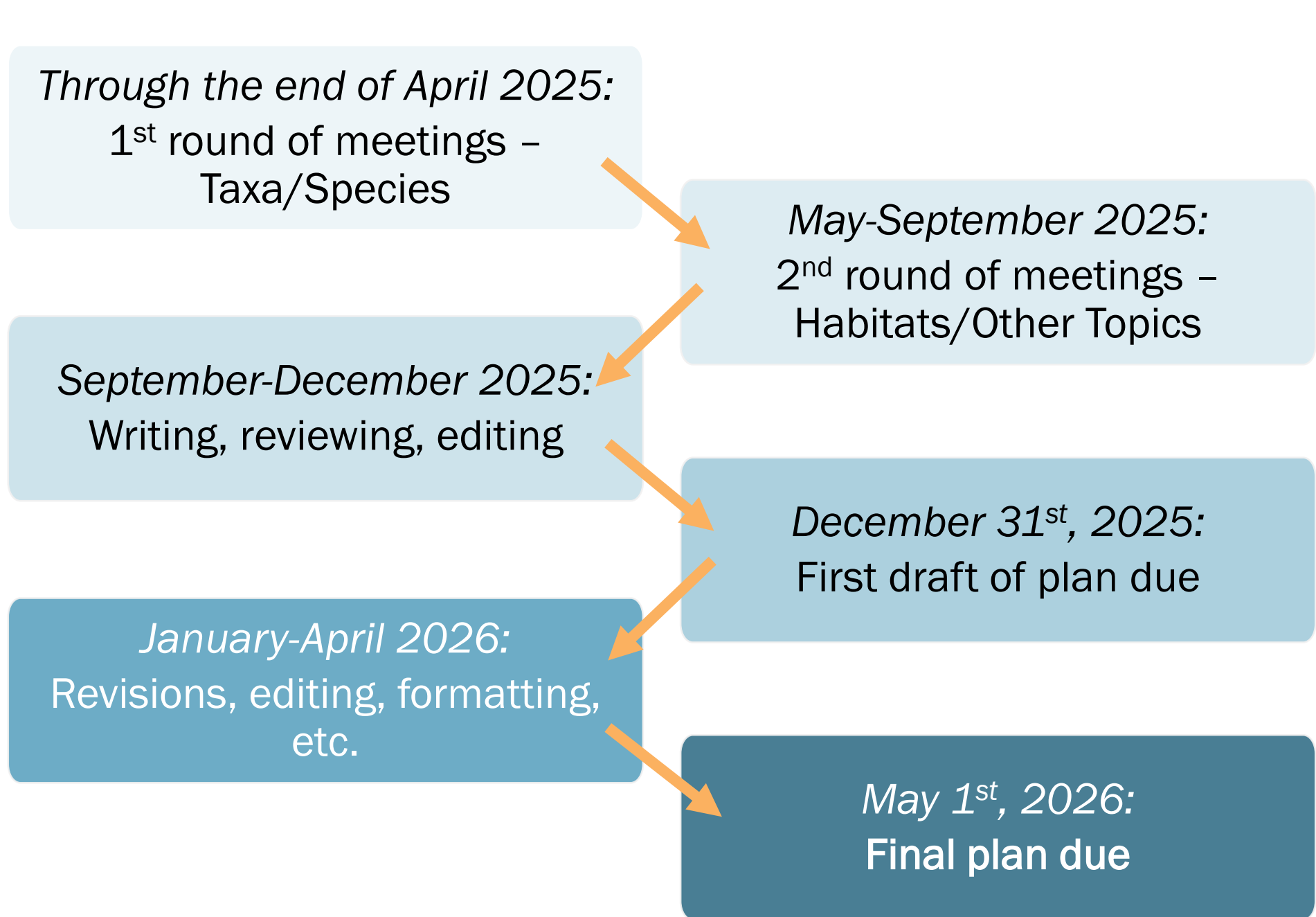
September-December 2025:
Writing, reviewing, editing

December 31st, 2025:
First draft of plan due

January-April 2026:
Revisions, editing, formatting,
etc.

May 1st, 2026:
Final plan due

We
are
here!



Region	Location	Date	Attendees
Central	Patuxent Research Refuge	Saturday, June 28th	43
Southern	Watkins Nature Center	Saturday, July 12 th	29
Western	Allegany College	Saturday, July 26th	30
Eastern	Blackwater Wildlife Refuge	Saturday, August 9th	28



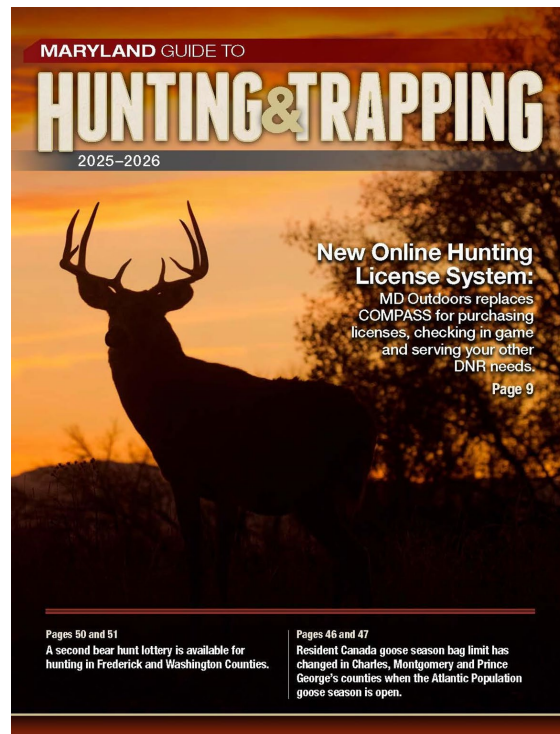
Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Mimi Sanford

443-716-8434 (work cell)

mimi.sanford@maryland.gov

Outreach and Community Engagement Program



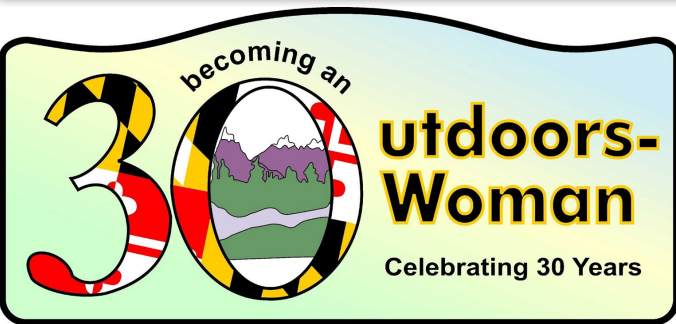
Chris Markin
Associate Director

OCE Program



- **Graphics/Publications**
- **Communications**
- **R3 Program**

Graphics



Maryland Hunting Seasons Calendar for 2024-2025

Species, Season, & Region	August	September	2024 October	November	December	January	February	March	2025 April	May	June	July
Black Duck			10/55									
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery ¹			8/6–10/18	10/60–11/29	12/20	1/3–1/9						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Firearms ²			8/6–10/18	10/60–11/29	12/20	1/3–1/9						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Firearms ³				10/14	12/14	1/12						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Muzzleloader ⁴			10/14	10/19	12/14	1/12						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ⁵			8/6–10/18	10/60–11/29	12/16	1/5–1/11						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ⁶				10/16	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ⁷				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ⁸				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ⁹			8/6–10/18	10/60–11/29	12/16	1/5–1/11						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ¹⁰				10/16	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ¹¹				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ¹²				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ¹³				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ¹⁴				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ¹⁵				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ¹⁶				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ¹⁷				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ¹⁸				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ¹⁹				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ²⁰				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ²¹				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ²²				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ²³				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ²⁴				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ²⁵				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ²⁶				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ²⁷				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ²⁸				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ²⁹				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ³⁰				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ³¹				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ³²				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ³³				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ³⁴				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ³⁵				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ³⁶				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ³⁷				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ³⁸				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ³⁹				10/17	12/20	1/5						
White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region A ⁴⁰				10/17	12/20	1/5						
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White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region B ⁴²												
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White-tailed Duck, Ardenburg, Archery, Region B ¹⁴⁷												



Communications



➤ **Social Media - Facebook**

Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife and Heritage Service

- ~43K followers (Up about 4k from last August)
- Over 3 million individuals reached since last August
- 59% Women/41% Men
- 49.6% of followers are between 35-54

➤ **Newsletters**

- Becoming an Outdoors-Woman
- Hunting and Shooting Sports Outreach
- Special Groups

➤ **Press Releases**

- Minimum of 36 annually

R3 Program



- **Hunting and Shooting Sports**
- **National Archery In the Schools Program (NASP)**

Events



➤ **Mentored Hunt Events**

- 8 events (4 deer, 2 turkey and 2 waterfowl)
- 127 participants

➤ **Managed Deer Hunt Events**

- 2 events
- 60 participants

➤ **Stocked Pheasant Hunt**

- All 4 regions have releases
- 328 participants
- Over 1700 birds stocked

Workshops



Subject	# of workshops	# of participants
Archery	9	157
Handgun	4	82
Becoming an Outdoors-Woman	5	171
Additional trainings and events	4	??

R3 Summit



- Virtual Format
- 80+ individuals attended
- 3 hours
- On a Wednesday evening

What's Different This Year?

- **Virtual Convenience:** This year's summit will be held entirely online, making it easier than ever to attend.
- **Shorter Duration:** We've condensed the summit to just 3 hours. While we know it will be difficult to fit all the great things that have happened over the past year in a short time, we want to make this as informative as possible, while not taking up too much of your evening.
- **Partner Spotlight:** We're eager to hear from our valued stakeholders! This year's focus will be on showcasing your innovative R3 programming and volunteer recruitment efforts.

Why the Changes?

We believe these changes will:

- **Increase Stakeholder Engagement:** By eliminating the need to travel and take a full day off, we hope to see even greater participation from you, our valued stakeholders.
- **Streamline the Summit:** We recognize that a full-day summit may not always be necessary, and this shorter format allows us to maintain a focused and impactful agenda.

What to Expect:

- **DNR Updates:** Karina Stonesifer, director of the Wildlife and Heritage Service, will provide a brief update on the R3 Strategic Plan and upcoming changes to our R3 program.
- **Partner Presentations:** Hear inspiring stories and learn about the incredible work being done by R3 partners and stakeholders. Whether you mentored a new hunter, hosted a community event, or simply shared your passion for the outdoors, we want to hear about it!
- **Interactive Q&A:** Opportunities to connect with other stakeholders and engage in discussions.

NASP 2024-2025



- Student Archers – 16,702
- Participating schools – 118
- Local Tournaments
 - Bullseye – 9
 - 3D/IBO – 5
 - Virtual - 1
- Instructors
 - Active BAIs – 313
 - Active BAITs – 13
 - Active BAITsS – 2
- Trainings
 - 18 classes held from 8/24-7/25



NASP State Tournament



- State Tournament - Bullseye
 - 26 schools (12 counties)
 - 624 students
- State Tournament – 3D/IBO
 - 14 schools (8 counties)
 - 295 students
- \$20,000+ given away in scholarships and prizes



NASP Schools



County	Private Schools	Public Schools	Non-School Organizations	Total
Allegany	0	1	0	1
Anne Arundel	1 (-1)	1	0	2 (-1)
Baltimore	1	6	3 (+2)	10 (+2)
Baltimore City	1	7 (-1)	0	8 (-1)
Calvert	1	0	1	2
Caroline	0	2	0 (-1)	2 (-1)
Carroll	1	8 (-1)	0	9 (-1)
Cecil	0	8	1 (+1)	9 (+1)
Charles	3	1 (+1)	1 (+1)	5 (+2)
Frederick	1 (-1)	9 (+3)	2 (+1)	12 (+3)
Garrett	0	3	1	4
Harford	0	0	1 (+1)	1 (+1)
Howard	0	4 (+1)	0 (-1)	4
Kent	0	1	1 (+1)	2 (+1)
Montgomery	1	5 (-4)	2	8 (-4)
Prince George's	1	4 (+3)	0	5 (+3)
Queen Anne's	1 (+1)	2	1	4 (+1)
Somerset	1	1 (+1)	3 (+1)	5 (+2)
St. Mary's	0	1 (-1)	1 (+1)	2
Talbot	0	0	1	1
Washington	2 (-1)	11 (+1)	3 (+2)	16 (+2)
Wicomico	1	4 (+3)	0	5 (+3)
Worcester	0 (-1)	0 (-1)	1	1 (-2)
Total	16 (-3)	79 (+5)	23 (+9)	
Grand Total: 118 (+11)				