

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES – AUGUST 21, 2019

Chairman Compton called the meeting to order at 10:54 a.m.

**Introductions of Wildlife Advisory Commission Members, Guest, and Staff**

The Commission and WHS staff welcomed newly appointed member, Mr. Carl F. Wagner. Commissioner Wagner introduced himself to the group. Commissioners, staff, and guests introduced themselves and offered welcoming remarks.

**Approval for the August 21, 2019 Meeting Agenda**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to accept the August 21, 2019 Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
  2. Commissioner Boyles Griffin seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval for Minutes from June 19, 2019 Meeting**

- Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gregor moved to accept the June 19, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.
  2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Wildlife and Heritage Service Regional Operations Program with Focus on the Western Region –**

Presentation was given by Western Regional Manager Rande Brown. [ATTACHMENT A]

- There are nearly 30,000 acres of Wildlife Management Areas in the Western Region.
- Western Regional staff have unique land management challenges due to the variety of weather conditions, topography, and habitats in the region.
- There is also an abundance of contiguous forest in Western Maryland.
- Western Regional staff members handle unique wildlife related issues, such as black bear crop damage and bear nuisance wildlife response.
- There were two unique wildlife projects recently conducted in the Western Region - the Golden Eagle Camera Trapping Survey and a Bobcat Population Study.
  1. Golden Eagle Survey: The USFWS for the last 10 years made an effort to document and measure Golden Eagle in the eastern Appalachians. Evidence from research has shown that Golden Eagles are spending the winter in Maryland. One of the cameras from the Golden Eagle Survey captured a bobcat and a coyote sharing a meal together.
  2. Bobcat Study: Staff finished up year one for the Bobcat Population Study. Maryland DNR and the University of Delaware have partnered up to study these remarkable animals. The cubby traps were used for the bobcat population study – cubby trap has bait in it and is designed to grab a little hair for DNR testing. The DNA results allow us to identify each individual cat by its unique genetic markers. More information is to follow on this project.
- The new pheasant hunt was established in Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties last year. It was opened to youth and apprentice license hunters. Staff are going to expand the pheasant hunt in 2019 to include key properties in the Central and Southern Regions.
- Staff planted warm-season grasses, native prairie grasses which are superior to other common grasses. Fire is used as a tool to manage warm-season grasses. Staff are exploring the possibility of conducting an understory burn on Dan's Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Staff are working with The Nature Conservancy to promote locally rare Table Mountain Pine, which is a species that benefits from the use of fire.

- Staff managed sunflower fields for wildlife species, such as, doves.
- Unique to Western Region is the annual Mast Survey, a survey of the natural foods in the woods, focused on oak and other hard and soft mast. The survey window is open from August 15 through August 31. The information collected is very valuable because it helps give an indication of potential crop damage issues and harvest trends that fluctuate with natural food abundance.
- Staff are finishing up a wheelchair accessible observation platform on Mt. Nebo WMA. It is located at one of the existing disabled hunter access roads and is intended for individuals with the Universal Disability Pass Permit.

**Black Bear Management Changes** – Presentation was given by Game Mammal Section Leader Harry Spiker. [ATTACHMENT B]

- The black bear on the first slide is not a dead bear. It was a 500-pound male bear that staff had to trap a few years ago in Garrett County.
- Agricultural Bear Damage Permit Program
  1. The agricultural bear damage permit is for the property that has agricultural damage due to a bear. The permit is valid during the black bear hunting season.
  2. Livestock kills tend to occur in the spring and the fall.
  3. WHS is requesting approval to modify the agricultural bear damage permit qualification process. Currently, every property that requests an agricultural bear damage permit is assessed by staff to ensure the producer meets the damage threshold to receive a permit. WHS has a lot of history with many of these producers and is suggesting that we allow staff to base the decision on the history with that property/producer. The recommendation is that if the producer has qualified for severe damage for three consecutive years, staff be allowed to grant them a permit. This seems fair to the producers and will save considerable staff time as the requests come in a compressed time frame during the few weeks leading up to the bear season when staff are very busy.
- Roadkill Bear Possession Tags
  1. There is no mechanism in place to give a roadkill bear to any individual for personal consumption. This change would allow some of these bears to be utilized.
  2. It is against Maryland law to sell any part of the black bear.
  3. Staff anticipates this change will only authorize the possession of five to six bears a year because most people do not want the meat nor the carcass after being struck by a vehicle or during the warmer months of the year.
  4. Staff still needs to collect the biological data so citizens will be asked to bring carcasses to a field office or meet with personnel in the field nearby the location.
  5. The new process will help keep our staff safer and reduce the after-hours spent; especially for staff members who are located out of state.
  6. Game Mammal Section Leader Harry Spiker walked the Commission through the process of obtaining a roadkill bear possession tag.
  7. The peak of bear roadkills are in May and June (yearlings are dispensing) and again in October and November (bears are fattening up for hibernation). Hibernation starts around mid-November and by December bears are usually hibernating.
  8. Staff members are seeking the support of the Commission for this minor operational change.
- Q&A Section:
  1. Commissioner Boyles Griffin asked so what if anything are farmers required to do in order to show an attempt to keep bears from their fields.

- a. The farmers are putting up with a fair amount of damage before contacting us so by the time the farmers are calling us it is a lot of damage and all are trying whatever options exist – hunting, fencing, electric barriers etc.
2. Commissioner Keithley expressed his concern about bears killing calves or loss of crops. WHS is providing a single bear damage permit to be used during the five-day bear hunting season.
  - a. There is nothing stopping producers from getting multiple bear permits or allowing multiple bear hunts on bear permits. Almost all of the producers have multiple people hunting; in part, most of the producers have figure out that driving bears out of their fields is a way to kill multiple bears.
  - b. Staff had a discussion with the members of the Western Maryland Delegation and the members of the Western Maryland Delegation are good with the product that WHS is using for the bear damage permit.
- The Agricultural Bear Damage Permit Motion:
  1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to endorse the changes to the Agricultural Bear Damage Permit.
  2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
  3. Motion passed with 5-support and 1-abstain.
- The Roadkill Bear Possession Tag Motion:
  1. Commissioner Keithley moved to accept the changes to the Roadkill Bear Possession Tag.
  2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
  3. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Director Peditto thanked the members of the Commission for their input.
- Chairman Compton commented that he continues to be impressed with the thought and the consideration for all the stakeholders when staff members make these type of changes. It is not something that comes off the cuff and staff members probably saw something coming forward two years ago with the legislative attempts. Chairman Compton applaud the staff for not addressing through the legislative process but instead through operational changes where possible. Commissioner Boyles Griffin expressed that some of these things came up when Commissioner Boyles Griffin received a couple of complaints from constituents about a change in the black bear hunting permits process. Commissioner Boyles Griffin contacted Director Paul Peditto immediately and Director Paul Peditto immediately responded as always. Commissioner Boyles Griffin expressed her appreciation along with her constituents' gratitude.
- Director Peditto acknowledged that these suggestions came from field staff (the boots on the ground) and this system allows us a fair way to review new ideas within the unit. It is a good system.

### **Break Time 11:44 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Wildlife and Heritage Service Information and Education Program Update** – Introductory presentation was given by Information and Education Manager Nancy Doran. [ATTACHMENT C]; following by more detailed presentation by Chris Markin.

- Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) presentation was given by R3 Coordinator Chris Markin.
  1. The Mentored Hunt Program, the goal is to match individuals up with a mentor. R3 Coordinator Markin are getting inquiries all time about the Mentored Hunt Program so he thinks it is going to be a success in Maryland.
  2. The First Shot is in participation with US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Wild Turkey

Federation. The spring turkey hunt and the deer hunt in the fall are the two events that occur a year at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. There are a limited amount individuals that can participate; the first shot turkey hunt has around 14 to 16 participates and the first shot deer hunt has around 20 to 24 participates. Participates will be new hunters from around the State and staff allow non-residents to participate in the First Shot hunts. These two events are geared towards adults.

3. National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) – Two students from Maryland received national honors, an eighth grader got 3<sup>rd</sup> place out 1062 eighth grader boys and a fifth grader got 4<sup>th</sup> place. Chairman Compton added that the quality of the NASP product is improving every year.
  - a. The students are feeling good about themselves. The students are competing on the national level.
  - b. In the end of 2018 school year, there were 203 academic archers from honor rolls and higher up and the number for 2019 is 452.
- Information and Education Manager Doran provided a summary of the released pheasant hunts in Maryland.
  1. It will be an online application that is geared towards apprentice, youth, and lapsed hunters. The pheasant will be released just before the season starts.
  2. It was funded by USFWS federal aid money.
  3. Any remaining birds may be taken by other hunters starting on Monday, November 25.

**Black Bear Conservation Program Update** – Presentation given by Information and Education Manager Nancy Doran.

- Information and Education Manager Nancy Doran gave an update on the Black Bear Conservation Program to the Commission. [ATTACHMENT D].
- R3 Coordinator Chris Markin also manages the Black Bear Conservation Stamp Contest to generate funds to compensate farmers who have reported the damage to agricultural crops caused by black bears.
- Staff reviewed the average amount of revenue generated by the Black Bear Conservation Stamp. There has been a decline in stamp interest.
- There is only one company in the US that can produce stamps. WHS has to pay the amount that the one company charges. The cost of the production of the stamps is increasing.
- Staff have to purchase a minimum number of stamps at \$4.50 per stamp and the fee for the stamp is \$5.00. This year, the minimum number of stamps was 300. It is not cost-effective for staff to continue selling the black bear stamp.
- Staff are trying to come up with new creative ways to generate funds for the Black Bear Conservation Program.
- The Black Bear Conservation Stamp is not a postal stamp. It is a collector's stamp.
- The minimum donation is \$5.00
- It has never generated a lot of money. Without the hunters contributing, the farmers would be getting .18 on a \$1.00.
- The net cost for WHS to continue with the issuance of the stamp continues to grow and it is a sinking program.
- Discussion:
  1. Commissioner Keithley asked if it is possible for WHS to auction off a black bear tag and the money goes to the management of the species.

- a. Something more popular would be going on a bear den that would reach a lot more people and generate more money. Anything that generates revenue requires the approval of the legislature for units like WHS.
  - b. WHS does not have the authority to establish revenue like the State Park Service so the legislature sets all fees related to WHS.
  2. Commissioner Keithley followed up with another question about how the Commission gets the legislature to allow WHS to establish their fees. WHS is struggling for funds and the Commission and WHS have to figure out a way to get around that issue.
    - a. Commissioner Keithley indicated that the protocol/procedures could be spelled out.
    - b. Any revenue obtained by hunters cannot be used for damage according to USFWS.
  3. Commissioner Keithley asked about states that present “Governor’s Tags”.
    - a. The revenue generated for those “Governor’s Tags” are not going to the farmers. The hunters’ revenue cannot compensate agricultural producers with state generated hunters’ dollars by federal law.
    - b. It cannot be a hunting permit or license.
  4. With staff time in managing and the cost to produce the item for the Black Bear Conservation Program, it is a net loss for WHS – either get rid of the program or find something that would actually bring in revenue. In fact, there are producers that won’t submit their claims because it is not worth the time to do the paperwork and that is why the new agricultural black bear damage permit is so popular among the producers. The producers get to harvest a black bear.
  5. Commissioner Wagner asked can a producer sell or auction or donate a “black bear tag” to an organization that can auction it off. Pairing up the producers with these organizations that can host an auction may increase the number of people register and may increase the value of those tags.
    - a. A producer can sell the rights to hunt on the property that the “bear tag” resides.
    - b. An agreement will have to be developed that some of the proceeds have to be applied to the Black Bear Conservation Program.
    - c. The permit is not transferable but the permit allows two sub-permittees.
    - d. Most producers do not want people that they do not know hunting on their property.
    - e. There is nothing stopping the producers from dealing directly with hunters; again all they have to do is add the hunters as sub-permittees.
  6. Commissioner Gulbrandsen commented that the Black Bear Conservation Program should be funded through the general funds - allowing DNR the opportunity to leverage that money on merchandise and trying to increase the money for the Black Bear Conservation Program.
    - a. There are few states that have compensation for wildlife damage.
  7. Maryland Farm Bureau Government Relations Director Colby Ferguson expressed that it is bluntly obvious that Program Open Space (POS) needs to contribute to wildlife management to make sure there is proper wildlife habitat. WHS has not received any additional money and WHS has been managing three times more lands than ten years ago, which is doing more with less. The money is not being allocated properly.
  8. Commissioner Gulbrandsen referenced Associate Director Glenn Therres presentation to WAC about the pending discussion about POS acquisition being used as PR match eligible for WHS.
    - a. It is still pending internally. USFWS has approved the decision. Staff is hoping to get a decision internally soon.
- Information and Education Manager Doran outlined some of the designs for a decal that would replace the stamp. Information and Education Manager Doran requested a vote from the Commission to move forward with a decal design.
  - Motion

1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen moved to endorse the changes to the Maryland Black Bear Conservation Program.
2. Commissioner Wagner seconded.
3. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Maryland Farm Bureau Update** – Presentation given by Maryland Farm Bureau Government Relations staff - Colby Ferguson.

- The Lower Eastern Shore counties are going to put on the Doe Harvest Challenge during the last weekend of the firearms deer season. The funding for that challenge comes through the Maryland Farm Bureau and the Grain Producers Association. Last year, there were 10 winners and each winner got a \$ 1,000. During the Doe Harvest Challenge, around 360 does were harvested.
- MFB would like to partner with DNR to promote the Lower Eastern Shore as a place for people to hunt.
- The MFB is not in the loop with Maryland Tourism. The Maryland Tourism use tools like campaigns to promote tourism in Maryland; they get information from WHS about hunting and fishing locations in Maryland.
  1. The MFB will send the Lower Eastern Shore places to Director Paul Peditto and Information and Education Nancy Doran to share with the Maryland Tourism.
- Possible MFB Legislative Changes:
  1. The MFB is looking for a sponsor for a bill related to Program Open Space (POS) and allowing funding for wildlife management and not just acquiring lands. MFB claims that they have enough data that show where the damage is coming from on public lands.
  2. Baltimore County is looking to remove the language related to requiring a hunting license to hunt groundhogs. Baltimore County is the last county that still requires a hunting license for hunting groundhogs.
  3. There is “talk” about adding more counties to the list of counties that allow rifles usage on Deer Management Permits where it is currently restricted.

**Natural Resources Police Update** – No representative from Natural Resources Police in attendance.

**Old Business** –

- The Commission will not have a field day on September 18, 2019. The Commission decided to have a field day in March - preferably a bear den site.
- The Commission decided to have an October 16, 2019 WAC meeting with the following topics: Natural Heritage Program Update and Migratory Game Bird Status Update along with a discussion about the 2020 WAC Annual Schedule.

**New Business** –

- Chesapeake Forest Lands Lottery process for the leased properties is opened to the public. The Forest Service manages the Chesapeake Forest Lands. WHS does not manage the Forests or the Chesapeake Forest Lands Lottery Process.
- Preliminary Atlantic Goose Population Results – It was a good breeding season; the weather was great. Do not anticipate any changes to the season dates and bag limits because the overall population is still below average.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 P.M.  
The next meeting will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 in the Tawes State

Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

**Attendance**

Members:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, , S. Keithley, and C. Wagner
Absent:	J. Griffin, J. Schroyer, and R. Weinberg
Guest:	C. Ferguson
Staff:	R. Brown, N. Doran, B. Luffman, J. Mackey, J. McKitrick, C. Markin, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, H. Spiker, K. Stonesifer, and K. Wixted

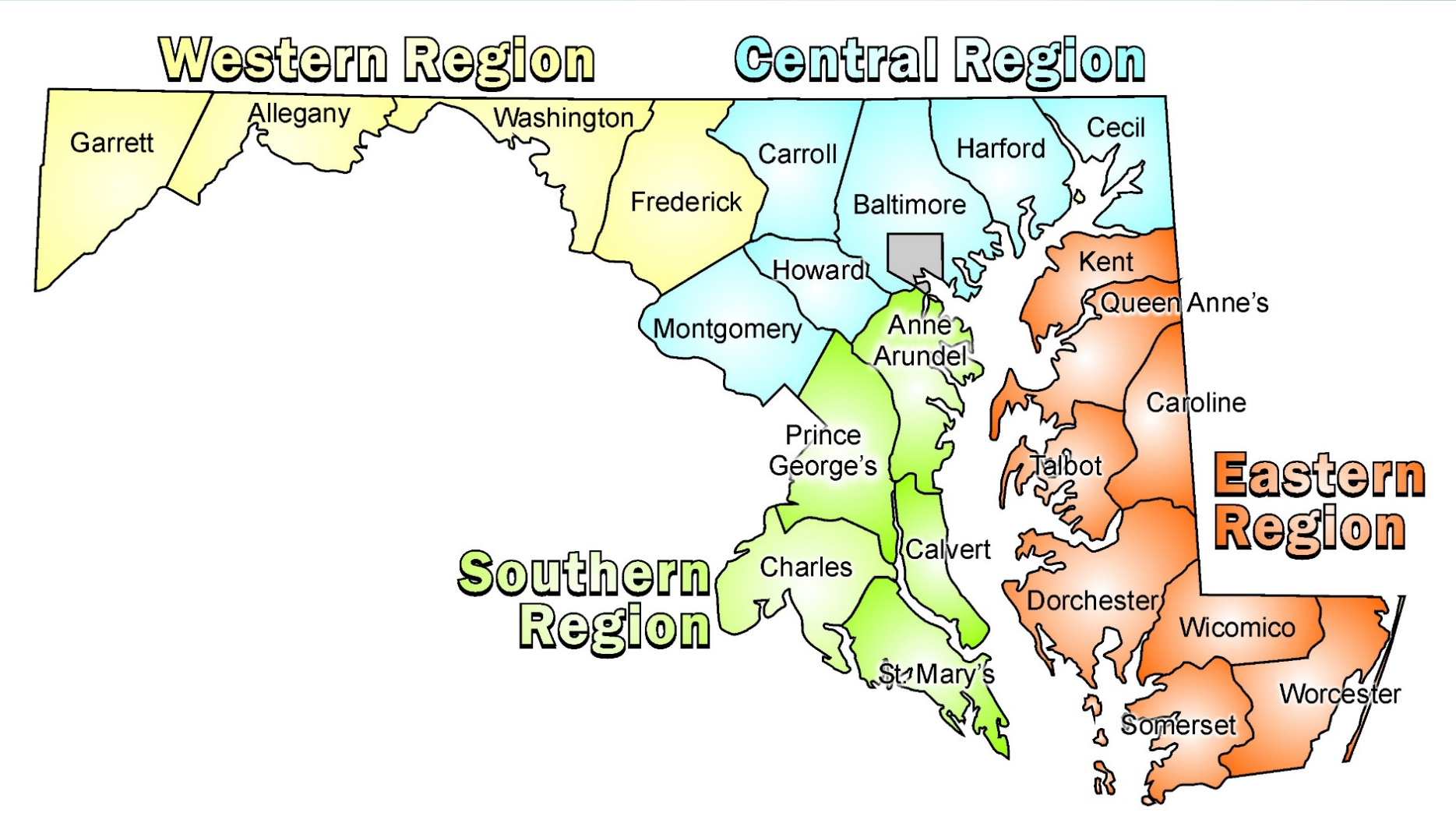
# A Snapshot of the Western Region

Rande Brown  
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# Four Management Regions



# Western Region

- Four Counties
  - 12 Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)
  - 1 Cooperative WMA
    - 3 State Forests
    - 23 Parks and Recreation Areas



# Unique Geology and Topography



# Land Use Challenges



# Land Use Challenges



# Land Use Challenges



# Unique Habitats



# Unique Habitats





# Unique Habitats



# Unique Wildlife Species



# Unique Wildlife Issues



# Unique Wildlife Issues

**'Significant' number of dead bears reported**

•Apr 18, 2019 - Cumberland Times



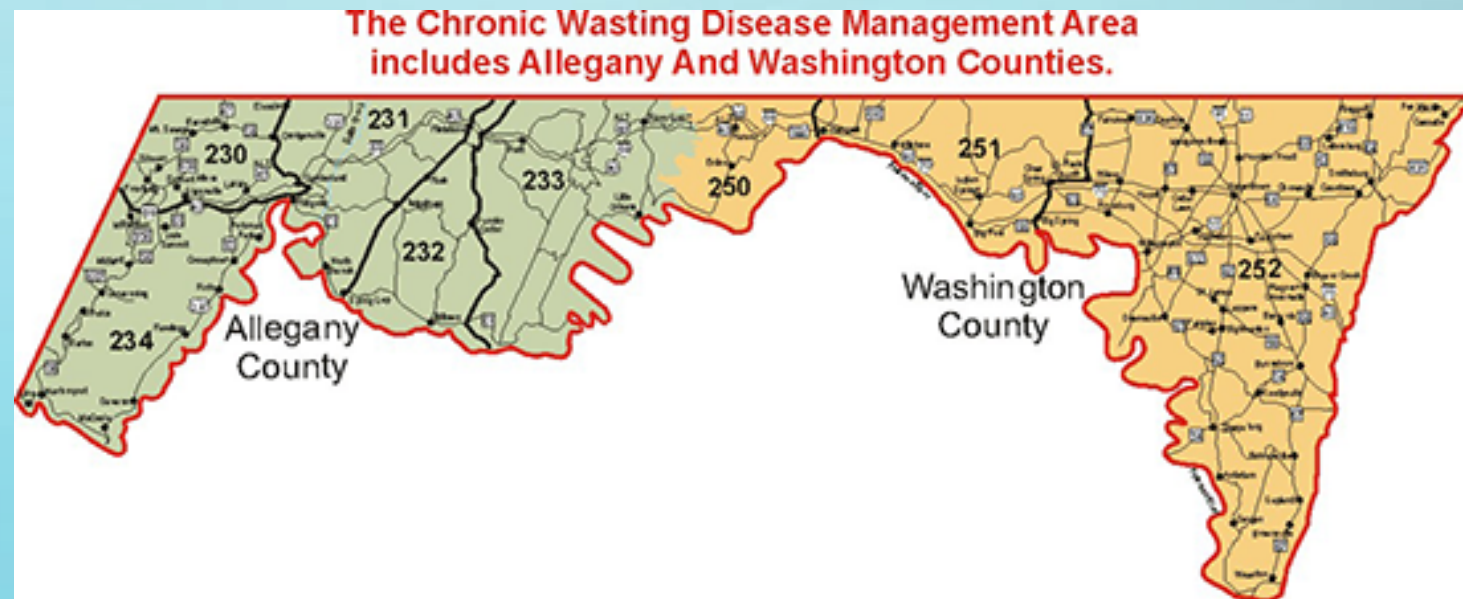
•**Maryland roads and mange have been particularly deadly for black bears this spring - Cumberland Times**

# Unique Wildlife Issues



## 'Zombie Deer' Or Chronic Wasting Disease Reported In Western Maryland

Chronic wasting disease, sometimes called Zombie deer disease, has been found in Maryland and 23 other states.



# Unique Wildlife Projects



# Unique Wildlife Projects



# Unique Wildlife Projects





# Unique Wildlife Projects



# Unique Wildlife Projects



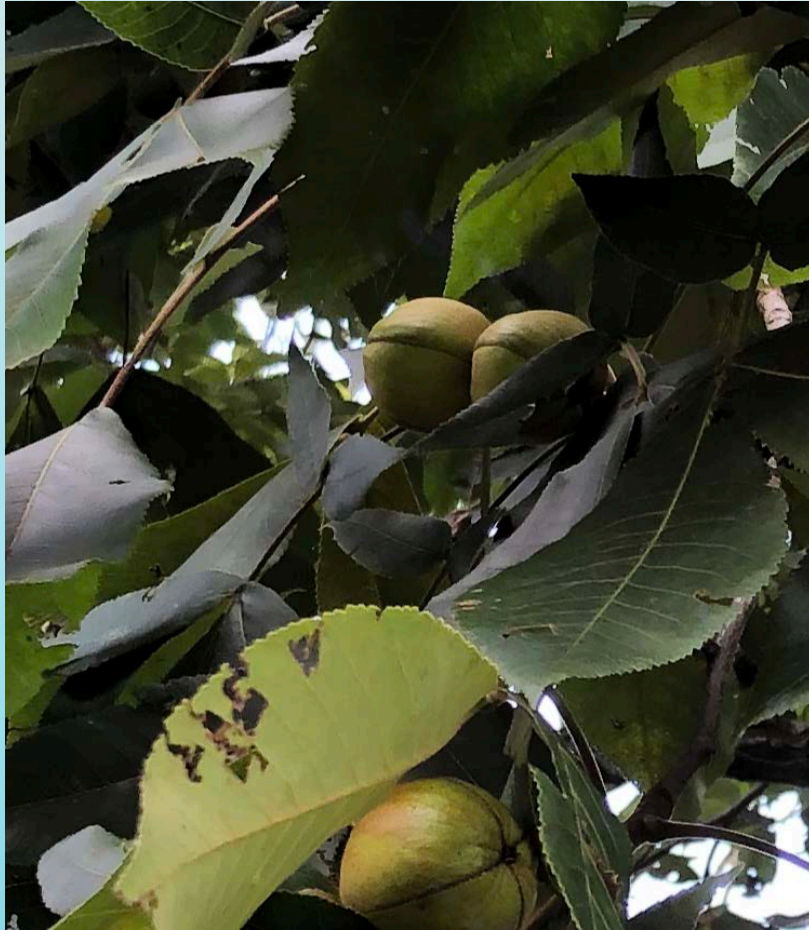
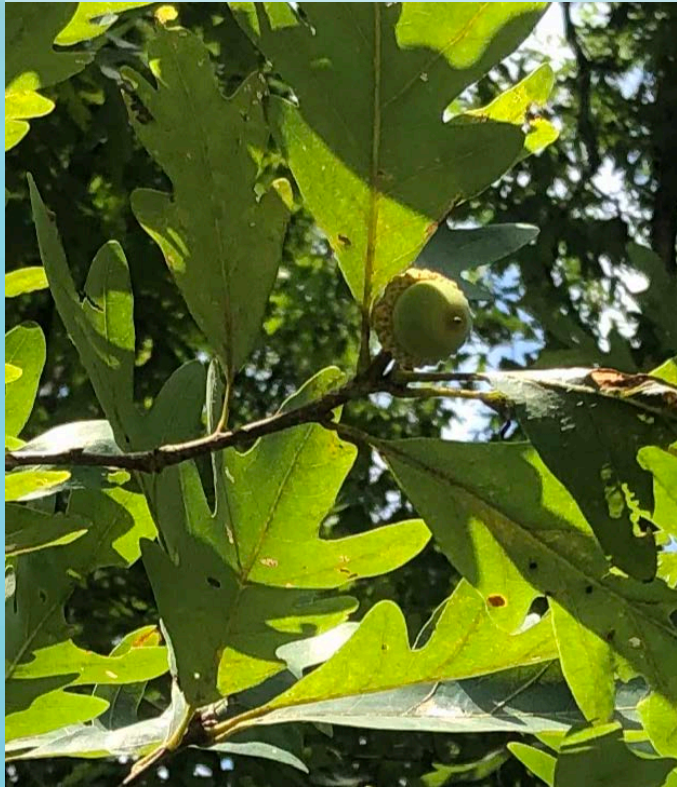
# Unique Wildlife Projects



# Unique Wildlife Projects



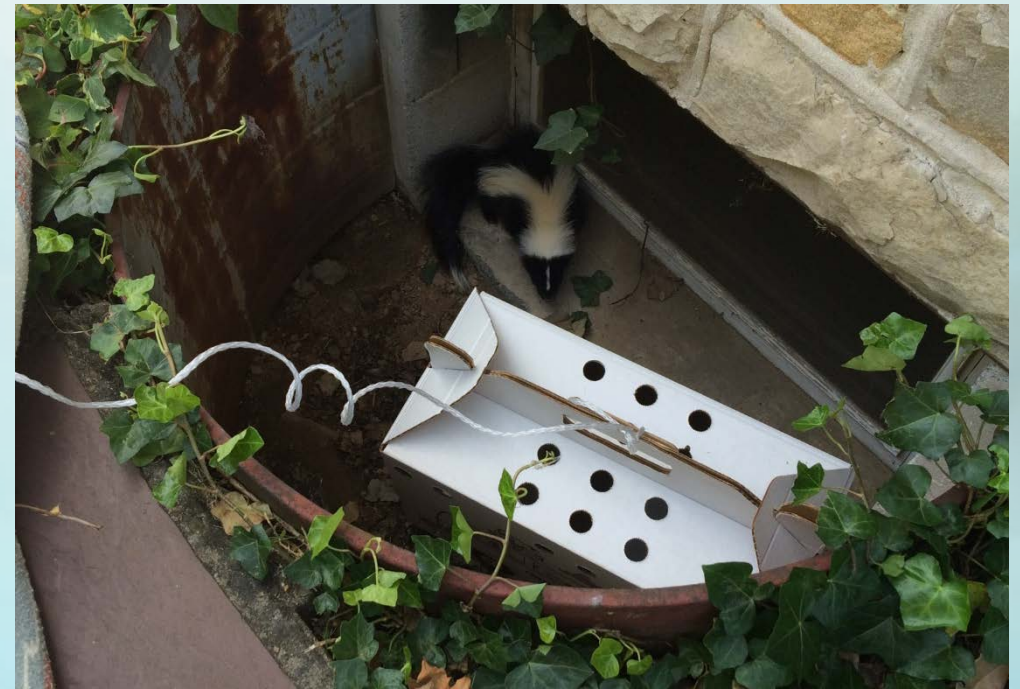
# Unique Wildlife Projects



# Unique Wildlife Projects



# Unique Situations



# Unique Situations





# Unique Situations



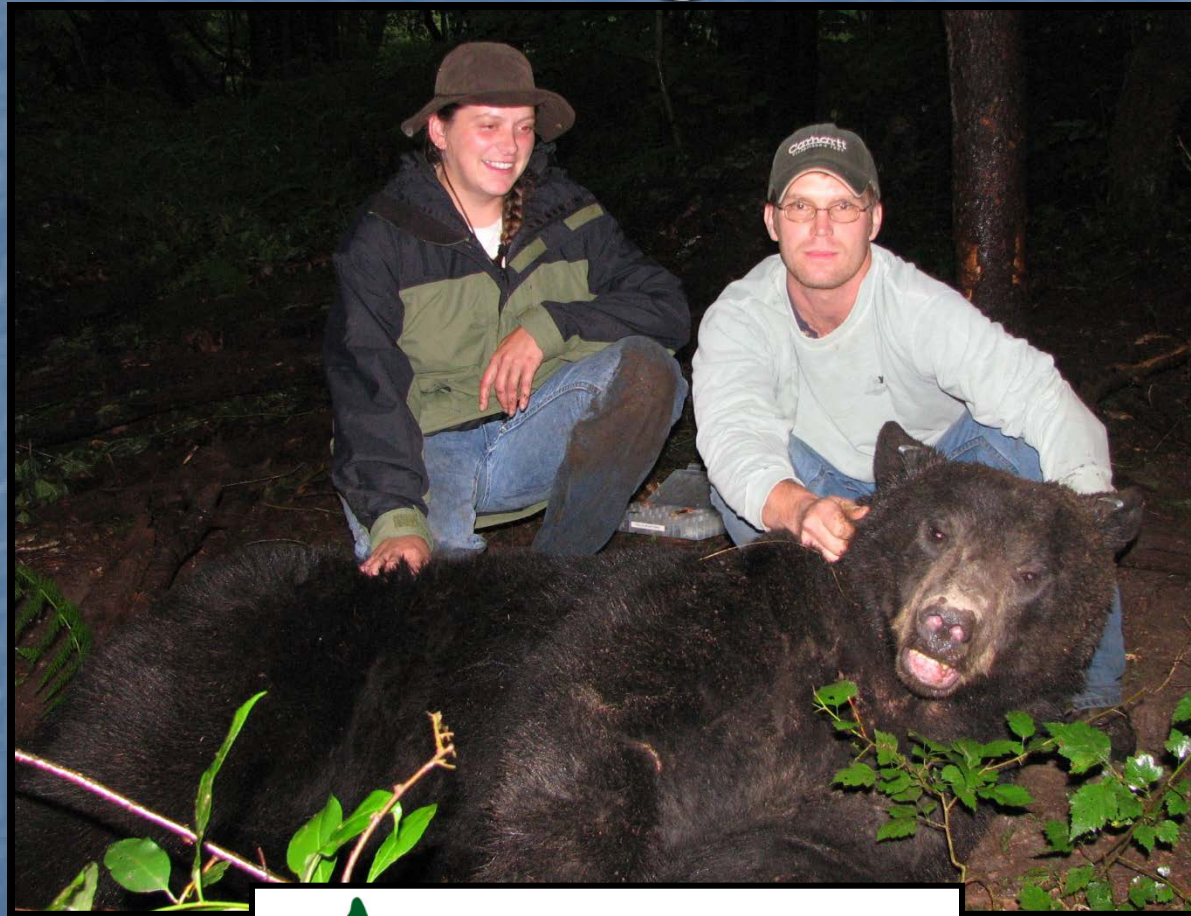
# Any questions?

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# Bear Management Changes

ATTACHMENT B



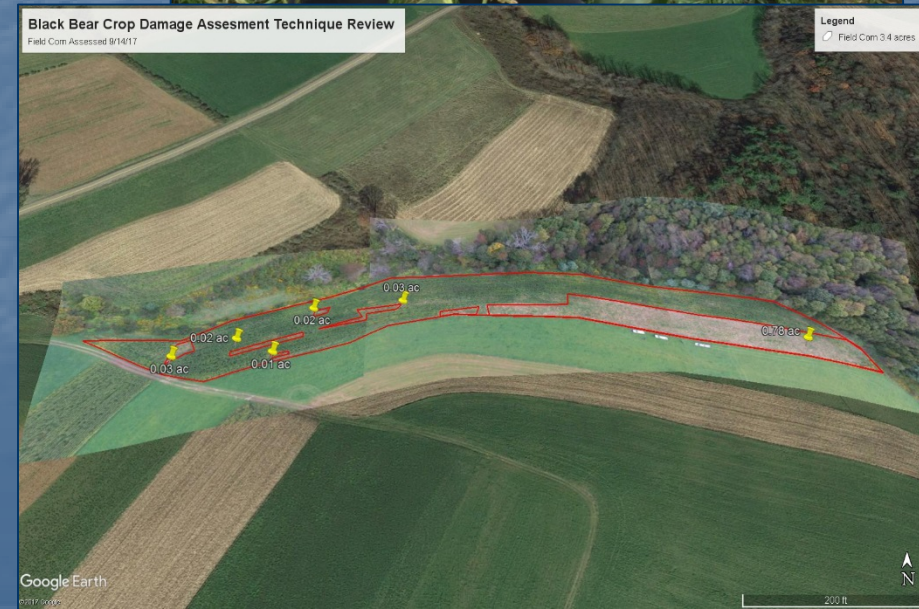
# Agricultural Bear Damage Permit Program

- Program started in 2017
- Farmers experiencing 'severe' bear damage qualify for EITHER a hunting permit valid on their land during bear hunting season OR compensation
- Examples of 'severe' damage include livestock attacks, 2 acres of field corn, 15 wrapped hay bales, etc.
- 18 Permits issued in 2017; 32 in 2018



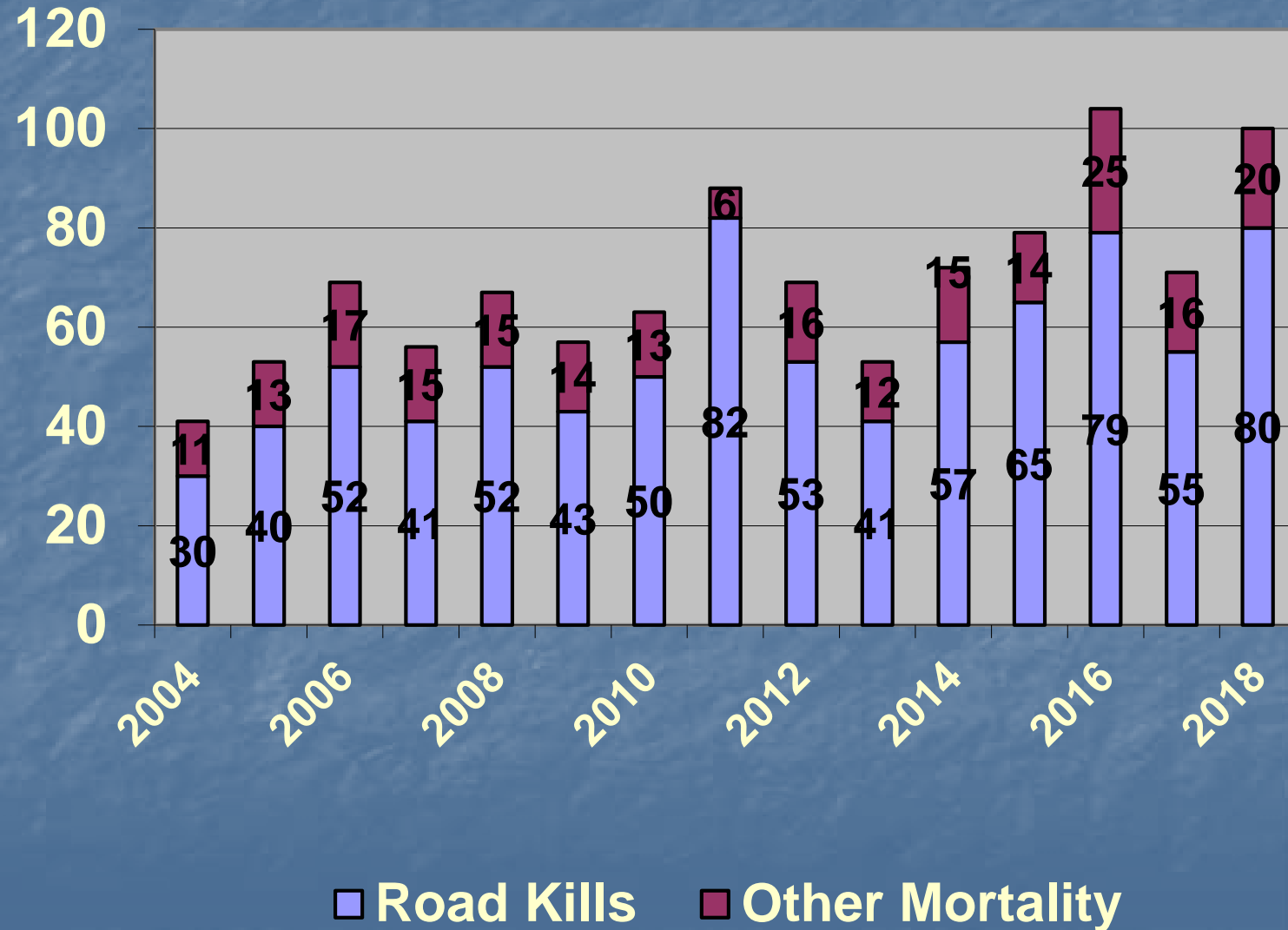
# Challenges & Proposed Change to Assessment Procedures

- Most calls come in a compressed time frame 1 to 2 weeks prior to the bear hunting season
- Assessing damage takes time! Staff must visit several areas in short period
- Decisions based on a 3-year history
  - Must have had severe damage 3 consecutive years
  - Would revisit every 3 years
  - Livestock kills would not count towards the history



- 15-Year avg. no. roadkills = 55
- Typical staff time required to pick up, handle and dispose of a road struck bear = 2 to 4 hours per bear
- Data from roadkill bears is an important management dataset
- Most bears are disposed of by burying – very limited use of the resource
- DNR does receive occasional requests to keep a roadkill bear (meat or taxidermy)

## Nonseasonal Black Bear Mortality (2004-2018)

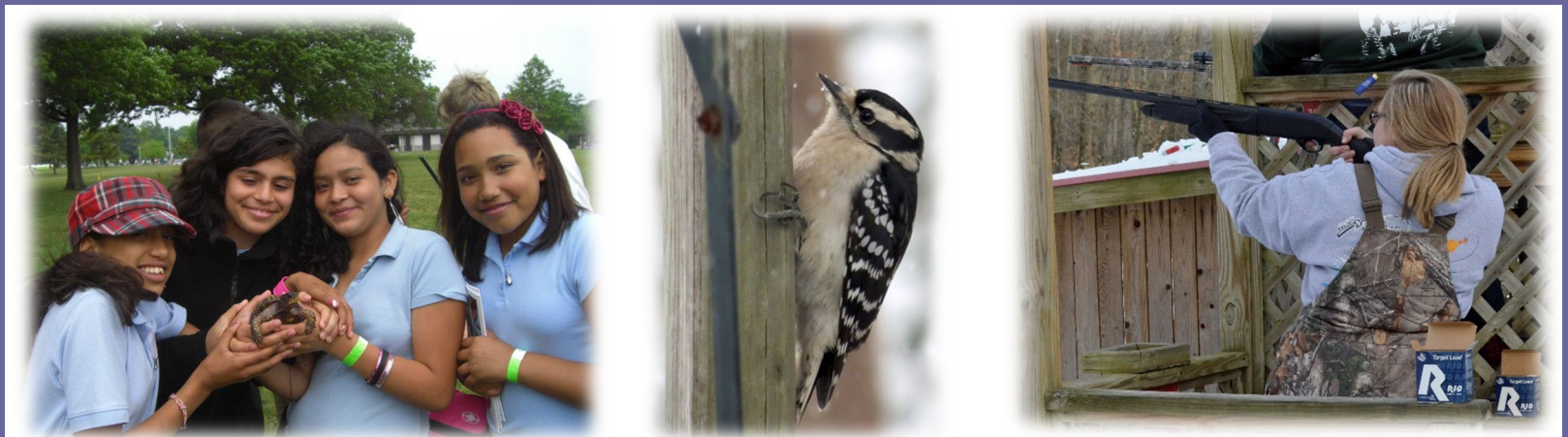


# Process to Allow Possession of Roadkills

- Possession tags issued by WHS
  - Same tags used for hunting season
- Critical data (tooth, sex, location, tag info) collected by WHS
  - Could be done on-site or at a WHS office
  - Would allow bear to be presented next day to be tagged



# *Wildlife & Heritage Service Information & Education Program*





# I & E Programs and Projects

- Project WILD/Growing Up Wild
- Envirothon
- Wild Acres/Habichat
- Video production projects – R3
- Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW)
- Social media presence
- National Hunting and Fishing Day
- National Archery in the Schools (NASP) Program
- Mentored Hunt Program (NEW)
- Pheasant Hunts (NEW)
- R3 initiatives – new ideas

# Who and what makes up the I & E Program?

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- Outreach/Education Specialist – Kerry Wixted
- Wildlife Education Assistant (seasonal) – Clare Walker
- Graphics/Design Specialist – Wade Henry
- R3 Coordinator (LTC) – Chris Markin
- Videographer (seasonal) – Jimmy Mackey
- Program Manager – Nancy Doran

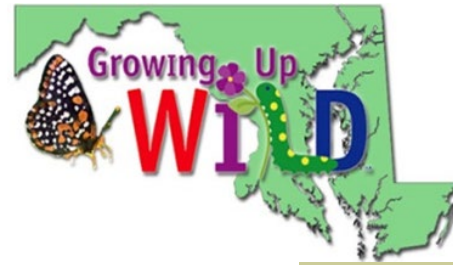


# Wildlife Education Specialist

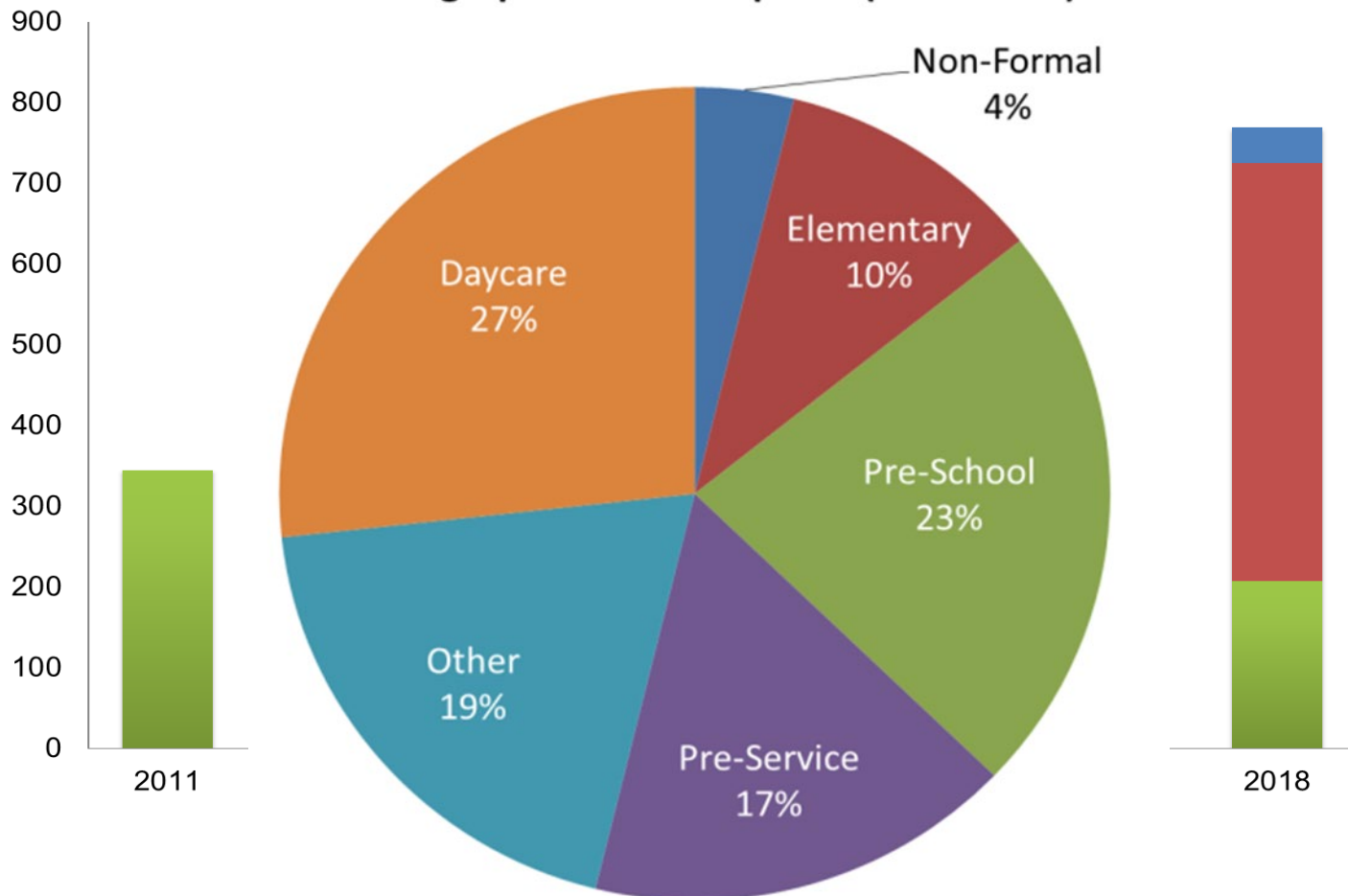


**Kerry Wixted**

# Project WILD



### Growing Up WILD Participants (2017-2018)



# Envirothon



- The Maryland Envirothon program is an exciting and fun way for high school students to learn about the environment.



# Education Trunks

- Black bear
- White-tailed deer
- Furbearers
- Turkey
- Growing Up WILD
- Bats

Can be borrowed from locations throughout Maryland



- Maryland's Wild Acres is a voluntary program which encourages Maryland citizens to create backyard wildlife habitat.



Provide wildlife fact sheets

Information about landscaping for wildlife



Plans for building nest boxes and feeders

# HabiChat

- A Quarterly Newsletter (free online) for stewards of Maryland's backyard wildlife.
- Topics have included:
  - Bird safe windows
  - Deer resistant plants for pollinators
  - Native plant profiles







# Wildlife Education Assistant



**Clare Walker**

# Developed five programs aligned to Next Generation Science Standards:

- Eat like a Bear
- Bees at Home
- Busy Bees
- Build the Best Nest
- Turtle Troubles





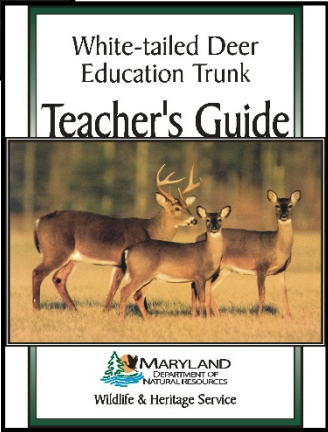
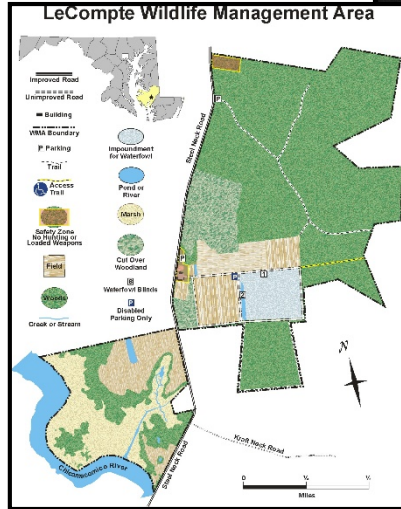
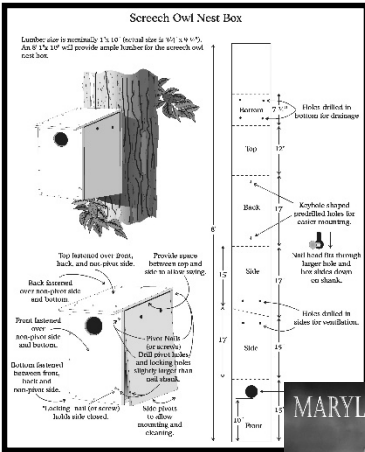
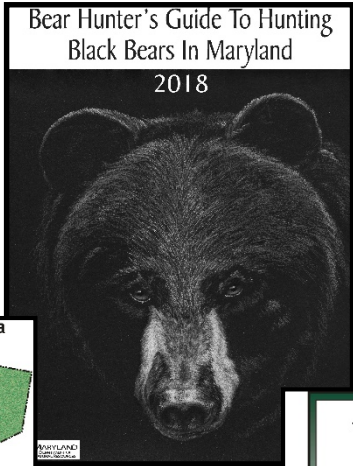
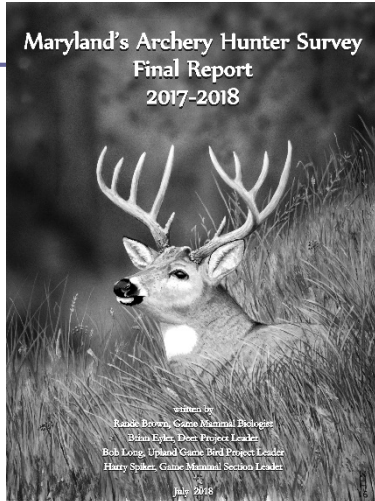
# Graphics and Design



**Wade Henry**



Expires  
7-31-19





# Videographer



**Jimmy Mackey**

# Video Projects



- Wildlife management area videos
- Promotional piece for BOW
- Promotional piece for NHFD
- Sighting in a scoped firearm
- Special projects – forestry
- Promotional piece for mentored hunt program
- Drone operator's license



# I & E Program Manager



**Nancy Doran**



- These workshops introduce women to a variety of activities equally balanced between hunting and shooting, fishing and non-harvest activities, such as kayaking and GPS.







- One three-day weekend workshop
- Beyond BOW workshops
- Maryland began offering BOW in 1995



# Black Bear Conservation Program

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Since its inception, in 1996, approximately \$130,000 has been paid out to farmers experiencing damage from black bears.



# Social Media

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- In July 2017, we had 20,657 followers on FB; as of July 31, 2018, WHS has 25,064 followers.
- In December 2017, we deactivated the WHS Twitter account; DNR still has Twitter account.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

facebook

# News Releases

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- WHS has written and released approximately 40 press releases this past year.



# Webpage Updates

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- WHS Internet Content Managers have updated web pages 309 times the past year.



# Customer Service Calls and Emails

- WHS personnel have responded to nearly 1000 customer service requests this past year.



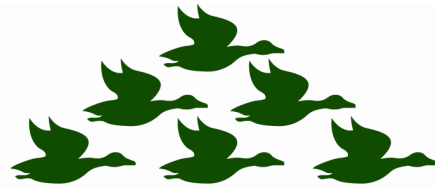


R3

Recruitment, Retention and  
Reactivation



**Chris Markin**



# NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY®

- Annually, 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of September.
- This year it will be September 22 at Izaak Walton League of America in Clear Spring – Wash. Co.





# National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)



**19,320 students reached during 2017-18 school year, representing 192 schools and organizations.**

**60 new basic archery instructors certified in 2018 so far. Nineteen schools added during 2017-18 school year - 10 of those benefitted directly from USFWS grant facilitated by MD WHS.**



**According to NASP student surveys, roughly 18% of NASP student archers have already hunted while ~ 30% say they want to hunt.**

# Special Event Pheasant Hunts

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- December 15-16, 2018
- Five WMAs:
  - Indian Springs (Washington County)
  - Belle Grove (Allegany County)
  - Warrior Mountain (Allegany County)
  - Mount Nebo (Garrett County)
  - Cunningham Swamp (Garrett County)
- Focused towards apprentice and youth license holders



# Mentored Hunt Program

- Designed to target new and lapsed hunters
- All about partnerships (USFWS, NWTf, U.S.A., Young Life, Muddy Marsh Outfitters)
- Participants fall into at least one of three categories
  - Mentee
  - Mentor
  - Landowner



# Mentored Hunt Program

- First event was a turkey hunt
  - Fourteen participants
  - Four turkeys harvested
- Dove and deer hunts scheduled
- Moving forward...
  - Build mentor and landowner database
  - Mentor training
  - Bigger picture versus “events”

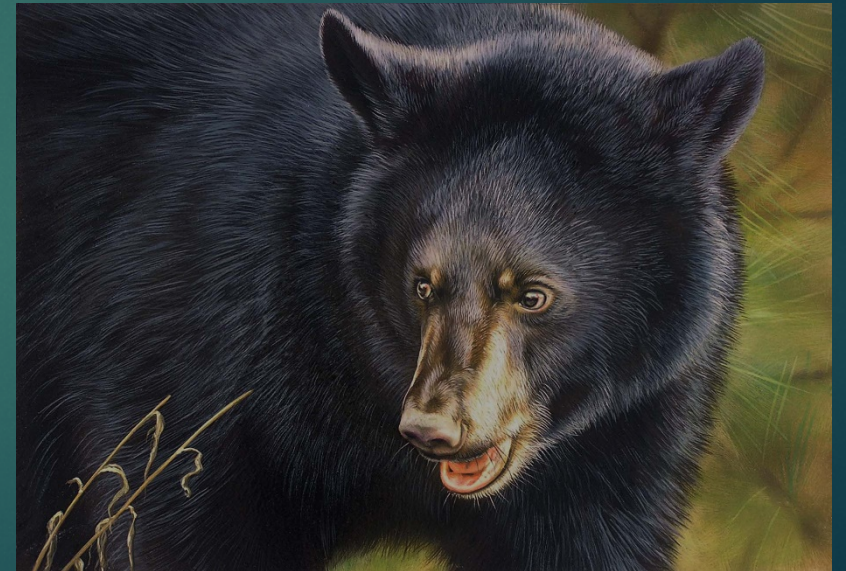


# Questions?

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# Black Bear Conservation Program



The Black Bear Conservation Stamp Program began in 1996. Authorized by the Maryland General Assembly, the stamp generates funds that are used to compensate farmers who have reported damage to agricultural crops caused by black bears. (The law gives us latitude to produce something other than a stamp.)

Since 2010, **\$1711/year** is the average amount of revenue from funds voluntarily donated by hunters, via COMPASS, when applying for/purchasing their bear tag.

Merchandise and stamps sold via the DNR Store (online) has averaged **\$2424/year**. Items are purchased with I & E program funds; all revenue goes back into BBCP fund.

Annual payout for agricultural damage has averaged **\$2807/year**.

We would like to transition from stamp design contest for several reasons:

- Decreased interest from artists
- Same art work gets submitted every year by those artists who don't win the stamp design contest
- Stamp collecting is not as popular as it once was and people are not buying the stamps; there are lots of unsold stamps and no way to use them

New ideas to replace stamps:

- Decals that can be purchased for same price as stamps; more appealing
- Different items for sale through DNR store to minimize expense to I & E program and increase revenue to BBCP fund
- Other suggestions?



# Cost to produce stamps:

2010/11	1,202 stamps	\$2180	\$1.81/stamp
2011/12	750 stamps	\$1931	\$2.57/stamp
2012/13	750 stamps	\$1989	\$2.65/stamp
2013/14	750 stamps	\$2053	\$2.73/stamp
2014/15	750 stamps	\$2152	\$2.86/stamp
2015/16	750 stamps	\$2126	\$2.83/stamp
2016/17	750 stamps	\$2189	\$2.91/stamp
2017/18	750 stamps	\$2348	\$3.13/stamp
2018/19	300 stamps	\$1350	\$4.50/stamp





Design ideas for  
decals and other  
items to sell.



# PROPOSED MARYLAND MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR THE 2019-20 HUNTING YEAR

## SPECIAL EARLY RESIDENT POPULATION CANADA GEESE

***Federal framework:*** A 15-day special season may be held between September 1 – 15 in the Eastern zone and a 25-day season between September 1 - 25 in the Western zone.

### Proposed Season Dates

Eastern Zone	Sep. 2 - Sept 14
Western Zone	Sep. 2 - Sept 25

Daily Bag Limit: 8 in both zones. Possession limit is 3 times the daily limit.

Eastern Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia line.

Western Hunt Zone: Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery and Washington Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97 and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County west of 301 to the Virginia line.

Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells may be used. Shooting hours in both zones are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

## SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

***Federal framework:*** States may select a 16 day season to be held between September 1 and 30. Teal season may not run concurrently with other seasons (resident Canada goose) that allow special considerations such as modified shooting hours or unplugged guns.

Proposed Season Dates      Sep. 16– Sep. 30

Daily Bag Limit: 6 blue-winged or green-winged teal, singly or in aggregate. The possession limit is 3 times the daily bag limit.

September Teal Hunt Zone: Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of 301 to the Virginia line. Shooting hours for teal during this season are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

## **DUCKS, COOTS and MERGANSERS**

***Federal Framework: A 60-day season may be held between the Saturday nearest September 24 and January 31.***

Proposed Season Dates      Oct. 12 - Oct. 19  
   Nov. 16 - Nov. 29  
   Dec. 16 - Jan. 31

Black Duck                      Nov. 16 - Nov. 29  
   Dec. 16 - Jan. 31

Duck Daily Bag and Possession Limits: The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is 6. The 6-duck limit shall consist of no more than 5 sea ducks (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters or 4 eiders), 2 mallards (no more than 1 hen mallard), 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks (during black duck open season), 1 fulvous tree duck and 1 mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the 6-duck limit. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In addition to the duck bag limit hunters may take 15 coots per day. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

**Note: In the designated sea duck zone, sea ducks may only be taken during the special sea duck season dates (Nov. 2 - Jan. 10).**

### **SEA DUCKS (Scoters, Long-tailed Duck and Eiders)**

***Federal Frameworks: A special 60-day season may be selected between September 15 and January 31 with a 5-bird daily bag limit (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters or 4 eiders) within established sea duck hunting areas. This bag limit is in addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular duck season. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tailed ducks) and possession limits.***

Proposed Season Dates:      Nov. 2 - Jan. 10

Daily Bag Limit:                5 (no more than 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks or 4 eiders) per day

## YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

**Federal Framework:** States may select two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days,” in addition to their regular duck seasons. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holiday or other non-school day when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. The days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season framework, within any split of a regular duck season or within any other open season on migratory birds.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 2 and Feb. 8

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: The daily bag limit of ducks (including mergansers) is 6. The 6-duck limit shall consist of no more than 5 sea ducks (no more than 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 scoters or 4 eiders), 2 mallards (no more than 1 hen mallard), 3 wood ducks, 2 scaup, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 fulvous tree duck and 1 mottled duck. All other species of ducks (except harlequin duck) may be taken up to the 6-duck limit. In addition, youth hunters may take 1 Canada goose in the Atlantic Population Hunt Zone or 5 Canada Geese in the Late Resident Canada Goose Hunt Zone, 2 brant, 25 light geese and 15 coots. No open season for harlequin ducks and swans.

Any licensed hunter 16 years old or younger may participate during these one-day hunts. Youth of this age who are exempt from the Maryland hunting license requirements may also participate. Youth waterfowl hunters must possess a receipt showing they purchased a \$9 Maryland Migratory Game Bird Hunting Stamp. A Federal Migratory Hunting and Conservation Stamp is required of youth hunters who are 16 years old. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years old that holds a valid Maryland hunting license or is exempt from the hunting license requirements. The accompanying adult may call waterfowl, assist with decoys, and retrieve downed birds but may not possess a hunting weapon.

## ATLANTIC POPULATION CANADA GEESE

**Federal Framework: AP Zone:** A 30-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 1-bird daily bag limit. These seasons also include white-fronted geese. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Dec. 21, 2019 - Jan. 4, 2020  
Jan. 17, 2020 - Feb. 5, 2020

Bag Limit: 1 per day

AP Zone: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, St. Mary’s, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97 and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George’s County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

## AF RESIDENT POPULATION CANADA GEESE

**Federal Framework:** An 80-day season may be held between November 15 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 23 - Nov. 29  
Dec. 16 - Mar. 10

Daily Bag Limit: 5 per day\*

RP Zone: Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; and that portion of Carroll County west of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97 and west of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; and that portion of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia line.

\*Includes Canada geese, cackling geese and white-fronted geese singly or in aggregate.

### **ATLANTIC BRANT**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 60-day season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 27) and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Nov. 8 - Nov. 29  
Dec. 16 - Jan. 31

Daily Bag Limit: 2 per day

### **LIGHT GEESE**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 1 - Nov. 29  
Dec. 16 - Feb. 8

Daily Bag Limit: 25 per day\*\* No possession limit.

\*\*Includes greater and lesser snow geese and Ross's geese singly or in aggregate.

### **LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER**

***Federal Framework:*** The conservation order allows new methods of taking light geese, allows shooting hours for light geese to end one-half hour after sunset and imposes no daily bag limits for light geese. Control activities may be conducted only when all waterfowl (including light goose) and crane hunting seasons, excluding falconry, are closed.

Proposed Season Dates: Dec. 2 - Dec. 14  
Feb. 10 - Apr. 15

Daily Bag Limit: No Limit, no possession limit

Hunt Area: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Howard, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester Counties; and that portion of Carroll County east of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and east of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line; that portion of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that portion of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia line. The Special Sea Duck Zone is excluded from this hunt area.

### **Special Regulations during Light Goose Conservation Order Season:**

(1) Participating hunters must possess a \$5 Snow Goose Conservation Order Hunting Season Permit while hunting light geese during this season; (2) Hunters may use shotguns capable of holding more than three shotshells; (3) Hunters may use electronic calls with recordings of light geese; and (4) Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

*Note: Shooting hours for regular waterfowl seasons are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset except for (1) Resident Canada geese during September seasons when shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, and (2) for light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order Season when shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. All season dates are inclusive. There is no possession limit for light geese; for all other waterfowl, the possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. In the Atlantic Flyway States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, where Sunday hunting is prohibited statewide by State law, all Sundays are closed to all take of migratory waterfowl (including mergansers and coots).*

### **WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS (Doves, Rails, Snipe and Woodcock)**

**Note: The USFWS recently approved compensatory days for webless migratory game birds for states including Maryland, where Sunday hunting for migratory game birds is prohibited by state law. Prior to this change, Sundays counted against the maximum number of days in states where Sunday hunting is prohibited by state law. Beginning with the 2018-19 hunting season, the federal framework will allow a maximum number of hunting days, rather than calendar days for webless migratory game birds. States were granted compensatory days for waterfowl hunting seasons in 1997.**

### **MOURNING DOVE**

**Federal Framework: States may select a 90-day season between September 1 and January 31 with a 15-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.**

Proposed Season Dates:      Sep. 2 - Oct. 19  
   Oct. 26 - Nov. 29  
   Dec. 21 - Jan. 10

Daily Bag Limit:                15 per day

## **KING AND CLAPPER RAIL**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 70-day season between September 1 and the last Sunday in January with a 10-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 2 - Nov. 21

Daily Bag Limit: 10 per day (No more than 1 King Rail)

## **SORA AND VIRGINIA RAIL**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 70-day season between September 1 and the last Sunday in January with a 25-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 2 - Nov. 21

Daily Bag Limit: 25 per day

## **COMMON SNIPE**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 107-day season between September 1 and January 31 with an 8-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Sep. 30 - Jan 31

Daily Bag Limit: 8 per day

## **WOODCOCK**

***Federal Framework:*** States may select a 45-day season between October 1 and January 31 with a 3-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Proposed Season Dates: Oct. 24 - Nov. 29  
Jan. 11 - Jan. 25

Daily Bag Limit: 3 per day



For additional information on population status, regulations, where to hunt, and more go DNR Waterfowl Page at [http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Hunt\\_Trap/waterfowl/index.asp](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Hunt_Trap/waterfowl/index.asp).

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