

WEST VIRGINIA

DNR

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



almost heaven

WEST VIRGINIA
DNR

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Websites

WVdnr.gov
WVstateparks.com
wonderfulWV.com



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Governor, State of West Virginia

James Bailey
Secretary, Department of Commerce

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Director, Division of Natural Resources

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Deputy Director of Operations

Wendy L. Greene
Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs

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Chief, Administration Section

Col. Bobby L. Cales
Chief, Law Enforcement Section

Bradley R. Reed, Sr.
Chief, Parks and Recreation Section

Paul R. Johansen
Chief, Wildlife Resources Section

Julia A. Morton
Supervisor, Land and Streams

Natural Resources Commissioners

Jeffrey S. Bowers – *Sugar Grove*

Gregory K. Burnette – *Elkview*

Tennis F. Cook – *Rock View*

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Janet Hamric Hodge – *Smithville*

Jerod Harmon – *Buckhannon*

David M. Milne – *Bruceton Mills*

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Annual Report 2022-2023 is published by the Division of Natural Resources and the Department of Commerce Communications.

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, services, programs and employment opportunities to all persons without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability, or other protected group status.

WVDNR programs receive federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you need more information, please write to:

Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Governor Justice:

Transmitted herewith is the annual report for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources for fiscal year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

This report contains a summary of the activities and projects undertaken by the WVDNR in the fulfillment of its statutory responsibilities of managing the state's renewable natural resources.

A detailed account of receipts and expenditures is also respectfully submitted, as prescribed by West Virginia Code, Chapter §20-1-7(17).

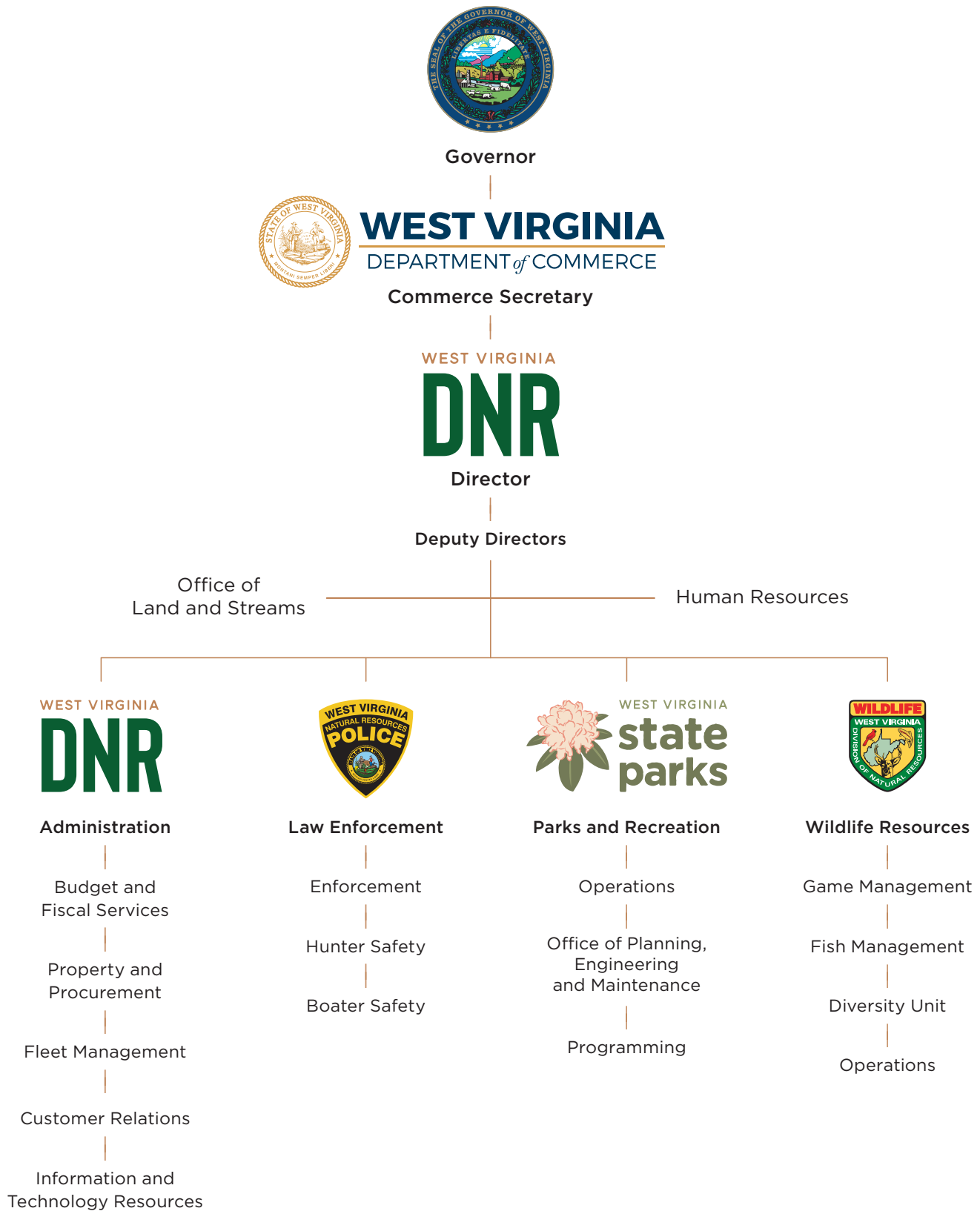
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett W. McMillion". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Brett W. McMillion

BWM:kb

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





Mission Statement

It is the statutory mission of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to provide and administer a long-range comprehensive program for the exploration, conservation, development, protection, enjoyment and use of the natural resources of the state of West Virginia.

VISION STATEMENT

Clean water, healthy forests, diverse habitats and abundant wildlife that are responsibly managed, protected and utilized by all residents and visitors to West Virginia, maximizing the economic potential of the state's natural beauty and abundant recreational opportunities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Public Trust and Accountability.** The WVDNR is accountable to the public and operates in an open and transparent manner so public trust is maintained.
- **Stewardship.** The WVDNR is the steward of all the state's natural resources for present and future generations.
- **Partnerships.** The WVDNR proactively seeks out new partnership opportunities, both public and private, to position itself to best serve the stakeholders of West Virginia's natural resources.
- **Customer Service.** The WVDNR provides excellent service to all customers, both internal and external.
- **Diversity.** The WVDNR promotes not only diverse ecosystems, but diversity in the workplace so all stakeholders may benefit from the enjoyment of the state's natural resources.
- **Valued and Highly Skilled Staff.** The WVDNR supports the development of its staff and fosters an environment of collaboration and innovation so employees as well as the agency can reach full potential.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ON WHICH THE DIRECTOR SERVES

- West Virginia Natural Resources Commission §20-1-17(b)
- Wildlife Endowment Fund Advisory Board §20-2B-2
- West Virginia Public Land Corporation §5A-11-2(b)
- West Virginia Whitewater Commission §20-2-23(a)
- West Virginia Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund Board §5B-2G-4(a)
- National Coal Heritage Area Authority §29-31-2(b)
- State Resiliency Office Board §29-30-2
- West Virginia State Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund Board §20-5A-2(b)

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, services, programs and employment opportunities to all persons without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability or other protected group status.

STATE PARKS, FORESTS AND RECREATION AREAS



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

DISTRICT 1 (304) 825-6787

1. Bear Rocks Lake
2. Burches Run
3. Castlemans Run Lake
4. Cecil H. Underwood
5. Center Branch
6. Cheat Canyon
7. Cross Creek
8. Dents Run
9. Dunkard Fork
10. Fairfax Pond-Rehe
11. Hillcrest
12. Lantz Farm and Nature Preserve
13. Lewis Wetzel
14. Little Canaan
15. Little Indian Creek
16. Pedlar
17. Pleasant Creek
18. Pruntytown State Farm
19. Snake Hill
20. Teter Creek
21. Upper Deckers Creek

DISTRICT 2 (304) 822-3551

22. Allegheny
23. Edwards Run
24. Fort Mill Ridge
25. Lost River
26. Nathaniel Mountain
27. Shannondale Springs
28. Short Mountain
29. Sideling Hill
30. Sleepy Creek
31. South Branch
32. Thorn Creek
33. Warden Lake
34. White Horse Mountain
35. Widmeyer

DISTRICT 3 (304) 924-6211

36. Becky Creek
37. Big Ditch
38. Burnsville Lake
39. Elk River
40. Handley
41. Huttonsville
42. Slatyfork
43. Smoke Camp
44. Stonecoal Lake
45. Stonewall Jackson Lake
46. Summersville Lake
47. Valley Bend

DISTRICT 4 (304) 256-6945

48. Anawalt Lake
49. Beury Mountain
50. Bluestone Lake
51. Daniels Ridge
52. Horse Creek Lake
53. Meadow River
54. Moncove Lake
55. Panther
56. Plum Orchard Lake
57. R.D. Bailey Lake
58. Tate Lohr
59. Tug Fork

DISTRICT 5 (304) 756-1023

60. Amherst/Plymouth
61. Beech Fork Lake
62. Big South
63. Big Ugly
64. Bright McCausland Homestead
65. Chief Cornstalk
66. Chief Logan
67. East Lynn Lake
68. Green Bottom
69. Hilbert
70. Laurel Lake
71. Little Coal River
72. McClintic
73. Mill Creek
74. Tomblin
75. Upper Mud River

DISTRICT 6 (304) 420-4550

76. Buffalo Run
77. Burning Springs
78. Conaway Run Lake
79. Elk Fork Lake
80. Federal Ridge
81. Frozen Camp
82. Hughes River
83. Little Kanawha River
84. Lynn Camp
85. O'Brien Lake
86. Ritchie Mines
87. Rollins Lake
88. Sand Hill
89. Sandy Creek
90. Stumptown
91. The Jug
92. Toll Gate
93. Turkey Run
94. Walker Creek
95. Wallback
96. Woodrum Lake

STATE FORESTS (304) 558-2764

- A. Cabwaylingo
- B. Calvin Price
- C. Camp Creek
- D. Coopers Rock
- E. Greenbrier
- F. Kanawha
- G. Kumbrabow
- H. Seneca

NATIONAL FORESTS Monongahela WMAs

- I. Beaver Dam
- J. Blackwater
- K. Cheat
- M. Cranberry
- N. Little River
- O. Neola
- P. Otter Creek
- Q. Potomac
- S. Rimel
- U. Tea Creek

George Washington WMAs

- L. Cove Creek
- T. Shenandoah
- V. Wardensville

Jefferson WMAs

- R. Potts Creek

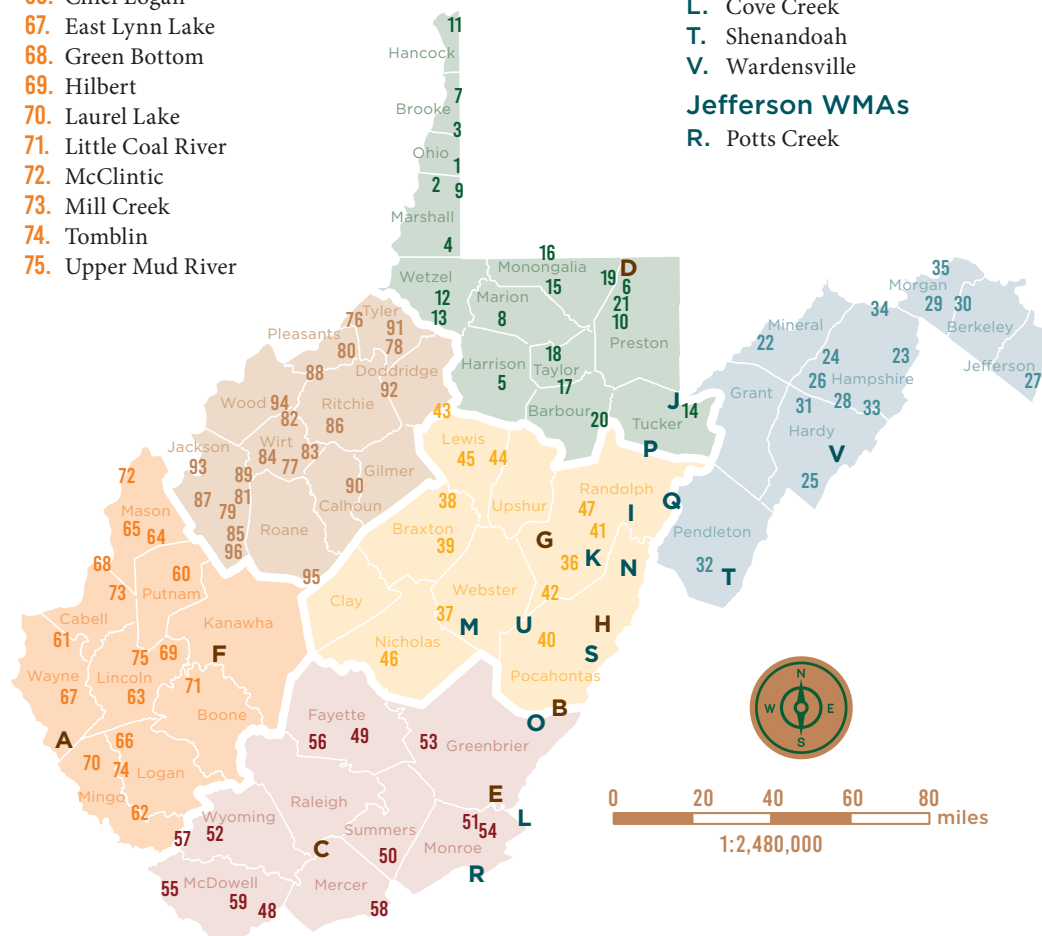


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WEST VIRGINIA

DNR

ADMINISTRATION

Mark C. Collins, *Chief*



The Administration Section provides services to all Division of Natural Resources offices in the areas of budgeting, accounting, investments, staffing, payroll, employee relations, employee benefits, workforce development, procurement, property management and control, fleet management, general services, computer application development and maintenance, customer relations and hunting and fishing license sales. It also publishes “Wonderful West Virginia” magazine.

This section has seven major units: Office of the Chief, Human Resources, Fleet Management, Property and Procurement, Information and Technology Resources, Customer Relations and Budget and Fiscal Services.



Human Resources

The Human Resources office has nine staff members working in three primary areas: Employee Relations, Workforce Development and Employment Services. During FY 2023, the Human Resources office processed 249 job postings, 918 new hires (55 permanent and 863 temporary), 49 resignations, 25 retirements, 65 workers’ compensation claims and 108 unemployment claims.

Fleet Management

The Fleet Management office is managed by the Fleet Coordinator who oversees all administrative tasks pertaining to WVDNR-owned vehicles (cars, trucks, boats, ATVs, UTVs and utility trailers). These tasks include fuel and maintenance management, titles and registration, inventory management, insurance, reimbursements of sold vehicles and driver safety training. During FY 2023, the WVDNR purchased 31 vehicles. The WVDNR received \$150,951.80 in reimbursements from vehicles that were sold. Under the direction of the Fleet Management office, the WVDNR received 100 percent compliance for the 2023 Driver Safety Training program.

Property and Procurement

The Property and Procurement office has nine staff members, including six District Radio Operators. Property and Procurement staff are responsible for the procurement of commodities and services for the WVDNR. During FY 2023, the office processed:

Fixed Assets Added	423
Fixed Assets Retired	277
Agency Delivery Orders Completed	2,921
Master Agreements Awarded	19
Change Orders and Modifications Issued	243
Contracts under \$25,000 Issued	103
Contracts over \$25,000 Issued	57

Information and Technology Resources

The Information and Technology Resources office has one full-time staff member. The office performs IT support services, technology planning, project management and database and document services. This technical component of the Administration Section is charged with supporting business operations by utilizing and improving available technology.

SERVICE HITS PER WEBSITES:

WVdnr.gov	5,249,680
State Parks	12,992,567
Wonderful West Virginia Magazine	20,098

ADMINISTRATION

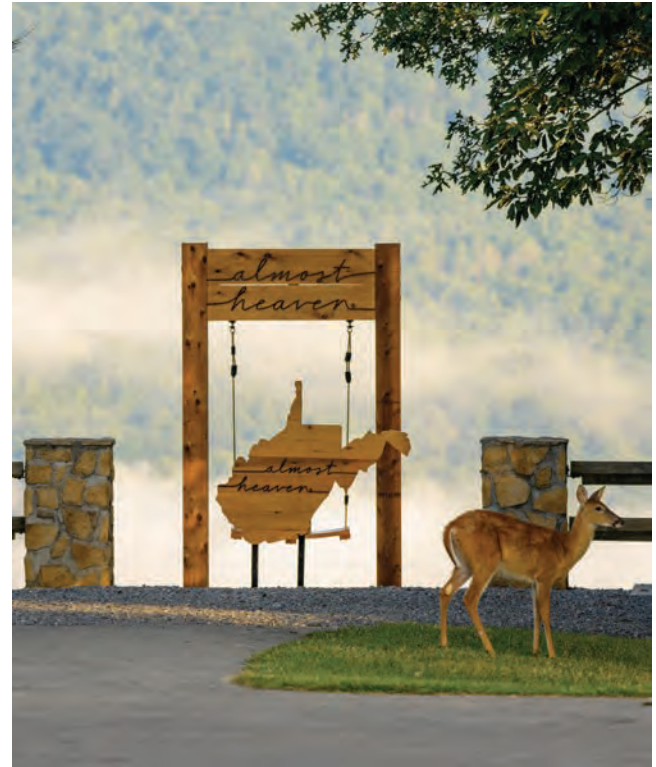
Customer Relations

Customer Relations consists of the Hunting and Fishing License Unit, the Wonderful West Virginia magazine staff and front desk operations at the South Charleston office and has a total of nine staff members.

Wonderful West Virginia magazine is an official publication of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. In FY 2023, the average number of copies mailed each month to individual subscribers was 14,608. An average of 1,273 copies were distributed each month to paid bulk subscribers such as governmental agencies, chambers of commerce, hotels, real estate firms, State Park gift shops and other newsstand distributors.

The Hunting and Fishing License Unit is responsible for administering all aspects of hunting and fishing license operations. In calendar year 2022, there were 828,699 license privileges sold, resulting in license revenue of \$14.76 million. In calendar year 2022, there were 9,751 lifetime license privileges sold, resulting in lifetime license revenue of \$1.3 million.

The new electronic licensing system went live on January 1, 2015, making 2022 the eighth year that 100 percent of hunting and fishing licenses were sold by electronic means.



TOTAL LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Residency and Class – Calendar Year 2022

Resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	13,439	\$ 255,341.00
AH	Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 19.00	1,171	\$ 22,249.00
AHJ**	Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 11.00	1,905	\$ 20,955.00
B	Fishing	\$ 19.00	71,910	\$ 1,366,290.00
L	5-Day Fishing	\$ 8.00	1,760	\$ 14,080.00
N	Antlerless Deer Hunting	\$ 10.00	60,229	\$ 602,290.00
BG	Big Game	\$ 10.00	3,087	\$ 30,870.00
RG	Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 21.00	21,041	\$ 441,861.00
RB	Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 21.00	19,905	\$ 418,005.00
RM	Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 16.00	1,570	\$ 25,120.00
X*	Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 30.00	82,584	\$ 2,477,520.00
XJ**	Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 11.00	4,361	\$ 47,971.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	4,539	\$ 36,312.00
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	23,349	\$ 233,490.00
O	Trout Fishing	\$ 10.00	94,541	\$ 945,410.00
CS***	Conservation Stamp	\$ 5.00	172,720	\$ 863,600.00
Resident Subtotal			578,111	\$ 7,801,364.00

*The listed price of X (\$30) does not include the price of the CS (\$5). Total price of X is \$35.

**The listed price of XJ & AHJ (\$11) does not include the price of the CS (\$5). Total price of XJ & AHJ is \$16.

***CS includes the CS stamps sold on X , XJ and AHJ licenses.

Non-resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
I	National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 2.00	24,160	\$ 48,320.00
E	Non-resident Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	26,656	\$ 3,172,064.00
EE	Non-resident Bear Hunting	\$ 162.00	1,962	\$ 317,844.00
AAH	Non-resident Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 119.00	910	\$ 108,290.00
AAHJ	Non-resident Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 16.00	814	\$ 13,024.00
F	Non-resident Fishing	\$ 37.00	17,950	\$ 664,150.00
H	Non-resident Small Game Hunting - 6 day	\$ 27.00	628	\$ 16,956.00
LL	Non-resident Fishing - 1 day	\$ 3.00	47,872	\$ 143,616.00
NN	Non-resident Antlerless Deer	\$ 27.00	16,374	\$ 442,098.00
RRG	Non-resident Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 43.00	4,307	\$ 185,201.00
RRB	Non-resident Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 37.00	3,217	\$ 119,029.00
RRM	Non-resident Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 37.00	298	\$ 11,026.00
UU	Non-resident Archery Deer	\$ 32.00	9,290	\$ 297,280.00
VV	Non-resident Muzzleloader Deer	\$ 32.00	1,769	\$ 56,608.00
WW	Non-resident Turkey	\$ 32.00	5,096	\$ 163,072.00
XXJ	Non-resident Junior Sportsman	\$ 16.00	1,417	\$ 22,672.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	1,189	\$ 9,512.00
DS-EE	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	1,962	\$ 19,620.00
OO	Trout Fishing	\$ 16.00	19,205	\$ 307,280.00
J	Small Game Shooting Preserve Hunting - 6 day	\$ 10.00	1,055	\$ 10,550.00
CS/LE	Non-resident Conservation / Law Enforcement	\$ 13.00	64,457	\$ 837,941.00
Non-resident Subtotal			250,588	\$ 6,966,153.00

Grand Total Resident + Non-resident Sales			828,699	\$ 14,767,517.00
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ADMINISTRATION

ONLINE LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Residency and Class – Calendar Year 2022

Resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	6,656	\$ 126,464.00
AH	Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 19.00	766	\$ 14,554.00
AHJ**	Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 11.00	959	\$ 10,549.00
B	Fishing	\$ 19.00	30,820	\$ 585,580.00
L	5-Day Fishing	\$ 8.00	1,162	\$ 9,296.00
N	Antlerless Deer Hunting	\$ 10.00	34,052	\$ 340,520.00
BG	Big Game	\$ 10.00	1,810	\$ 18,100.00
RG	Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 21.00	11,207	\$ 235,347.00
RB	Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 21.00	11,856	\$ 248,976.00
RM	Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 16.00	1,027	\$ 16,432.00
X*	Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 30.00	44,437	\$ 1,333,110.00
XJ**	Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 11.00	2,276	\$ 25,036.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	2,480	\$ 19,840.00
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	14,403	\$ 144,030.00
O	Trout Fishing	\$ 10.00	46,028	\$ 460,280.00
CS***	Conservation Stamp	\$ 5.00	84,712	\$ 423,560.00
Resident Subtotal			294,651	\$ 4,011,674.00

*The listed price of X (\$30) does not include the price of the CS (\$5). Total price of X is \$35.

**The listed price of XJ & AHJ (\$11) does not include the price of the CS (\$5). Total price of XJ & AHJ is \$16.

***CS includes the CS stamps sold on X , XJ and AHJ licenses.

Non-resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
I	National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 2.00	16,660	\$ 33,320.00
E	Non-resident Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	19,435	\$ 2,312,765.00
EE	Non-resident Bear Hunting	\$ 162.00	1,484	\$ 240,408.00
AAH	Non-resident Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 119.00	582	\$ 69,258.00
AAHJ	Non-resident Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 16.00	639	\$ 10,224.00
F	Non-resident Fishing	\$ 37.00	11,564	\$ 427,868.00
H	Non-resident Small Game Hunting - 6 day	\$ 27.00	521	\$ 14,067.00
LL	Non-resident Fishing - 1 day	\$ 3.00	28,804	\$ 86,412.00
NN	Non-resident Antlerless Deer	\$ 27.00	12,231	\$ 330,237.00
RRG	Non-resident Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 43.00	2,982	\$ 128,226.00
RRB	Non-resident Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 37.00	2,710	\$ 100,270.00
RRM	Non-resident Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 37.00	240	\$ 8,880.00
UU	Non-resident Archery Deer	\$ 32.00	7,175	\$ 229,600.00
VV	Non-resident Muzzleloader Deer	\$ 32.00	1,325	\$ 42,400.00
WW	Non-resident Turkey	\$ 32.00	4,024	\$ 128,768.00
XXJ	Non-resident Junior Sportsman	\$ 16.00	1,139	\$ 18,224.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	826	\$ 6,608.00
DS-EE	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	1,484	\$ 14,840.00
OO	Trout Fishing	\$ 16.00	12,087	\$ 193,392.00
J	Small Game Shooting Preserve Hunting - 6 day	\$ 10.00	1,041	\$ 10,410.00
CS/LE	Non-resident Conservation / Law Enforcement	\$ 13.00	43,996	\$ 571,948.00
Non-resident Subtotal			170,949	\$ 4,978,125.00

Grand Total Resident + Non-resident Sales	465,600	\$ 8,989,799.00
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AGENT LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Residency and Class – Calendar Year 2022

Resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	6,783	\$ 128,877.00
AH	Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 19.00	405	\$ 7,695.00
AHJ**	Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 11.00	946	\$ 10,406.00
B	Fishing	\$ 19.00	41,090	\$ 780,710.00
L	5-Day Fishing	\$ 8.00	598	\$ 4,784.00
N	Antlerless Deer Hunting	\$ 10.00	26,177	\$ 261,770.00
BG	Big Game	\$ 10.00	1,277	\$ 12,770.00
RG	Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 21.00	9,834	\$ 206,514.00
RB	Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 21.00	8,049	\$ 169,029.00
RM	Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 16.00	543	\$ 8,688.00
X*	Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 30.00	38,147	\$ 1,144,410.00
XJ**	Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 11.00	2,085	\$ 22,935.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	2,059	\$ 16,472.00
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	8,946	\$ 89,460.00
O	Trout Fishing	\$ 10.00	48,513	\$ 485,130.00
CS***	Conservation Stamp	\$ 5.00	88,008	\$ 440,040.00
Resident Subtotal			283,460	\$ 3,789,690.00

*The listed price of X (\$30) does not include the price of the CS (\$5). Total price of X is \$35.

**The listed price of XJ & AHJ (\$11) does not include the price of the CS (\$5). Total price of XJ & AHJ is \$16.

***CS includes the CS stamps sold on X , XJ and AHJ licenses.

Non-resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
I	National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 2.00	7,500	\$ 15,000.00
E	Non-resident Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	7,221	\$ 859,299.00
EE	Non-resident Bear Hunting	\$ 162.00	478	\$ 77,436.00
AAH	Non-resident Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 119.00	328	\$ 39,032.00
AAHJ	Non-resident Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 16.00	175	\$ 2,800.00
F	Non-resident Fishing	\$ 37.00	6,386	\$ 236,282.00
H	Non-resident Small Game Hunting - 6 day	\$ 27.00	107	\$ 2,889.00
LL	Non-resident Fishing - 1 day	\$ 3.00	19,068	\$ 57,204.00
NN	Non-resident Antlerless Deer	\$ 27.00	4,143	\$ 111,861.00
RRG	Non-resident Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 43.00	1,325	\$ 56,975.00
RRB	Non-resident Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 37.00	507	\$ 18,759.00
RRM	Non-resident Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 37.00	58	\$ 2,146.00
UU	Non-resident Archery Deer	\$ 32.00	2,115	\$ 67,680.00
VV	Non-resident Muzzleloader Deer	\$ 32.00	444	\$ 14,208.00
WW	Non-resident Turkey	\$ 32.00	1,072	\$ 34,304.00
XXJ	Non-resident Junior Sportsman	\$ 16.00	278	\$ 4,448.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	363	\$ 2,904.00
DS-EE	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	478	\$ 4,780.00
OO	Trout Fishing	\$ 16.00	7,118	\$ 113,888.00
J	Small Game Shooting Preserve Hunting - 6 day	\$ 10.00	14	\$ 140.00
CS/LE	Non-resident Conservation / Law Enforcement	\$ 13.00	20,461	\$ 265,993.00
Non-resident Subtotal			79,639	\$ 1,988,028.00

Grand Total Resident + Non-resident Sales	363,099	\$ 5,777,718.00
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ADMINISTRATION

LIFETIME LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Class – Calendar Year 2022

Adult/Child				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A-L	Hunting and Trapping*	\$ 1,146.73	14	\$ 10,517.90
AB-L	Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing*	\$ 360.74	2,029	\$ 963,987.50
A-1-L	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 75.00	51	\$ 3,825.00
B-L	Fishing*	\$ 592.53	64	\$ 30,718.80
O-L	Trout*	\$ 99.32	988	\$ 126,120.50
Resident Subtotal			3,146	\$ 1,135,169.70

*Price is the average due to staggered scale for Child Lifetime Licenses and elimination of the Infant Lifetime products in July.

Senior				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
XS	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 25.00	6,605	\$ 165,125.00
Resident Subtotal			6,605	\$ 165,125.00

Grand Total Lifetime Sales			9,751	\$ 1,300,294.70
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Budget and Fiscal Services

The Budget team has two full-time employees and a shared position with the Accounts Receivable sub-unit in Fiscal Services. The team prepares all appropriation requests for the WVDNR, develops expenditure schedules and amendments to the fiscal year budget and monitors all budgeting processes. The team also manages the automated clearing house payment system for federal programs and prepares the WVDNR's indirect cost allocation plan. During legislative sessions, the Budget team coordinates and processes all legislative fiscal notes.

The Fiscal Services team has thirteen full-time employees who handle all the payment and revenue processes for the WVDNR, including travel reimbursements and compliance. Fiscal Services has five sub-units: Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, P-Card Management, Financial Reporting and Internal Auditing.

ADMINISTRATION

Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2022-2023

ADMINISTRATION SECTION

BUDGET & FISCAL SERVICES

Current Expense	\$	274,768.03
Employee Benefits		241,550.73
Equipment		81,616.22
PEIA Reserve Transfer		81,719.48
Personal Services		774,822.03
Repairs and Alterations		205.01
WV OPEB Contribution		12,565.00
BUDGET & FISCAL SERVICES Total	\$	<u>1,467,246.50</u>

EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE

Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	\$	2,174.40
Current Expense		867,746.00
Employee Benefits		137,820.82
Equipment		46,447.35
Personal Services		544,031.18
Repairs and Alterations		643.19
Wildlife Endowment Fund Transfers		8,758,560.00
WV OPEB Contribution		6,090.00
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE Total	\$	<u>10,363,512.94</u>

GENERAL SERVICES

Current Expense	\$	367,619.97
Employee Benefits		103,318.78
Equipment		1,171.75
Personal Services		320,622.77
Repairs and Alterations		11,633.28
WV OPEB Contribution		4,965.00
GENERAL SERVICES Total	\$	<u>809,331.55</u>

STAFFING/PAYROLL

Current Expense	\$	21,501.87
Employee Benefits		114,644.92
Personal Services		469,361.64
WV OPEB Contribution		4,795.00
STAFFING/PAYROLL Total	\$	<u>610,303.43</u>

WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA MAGAZINE

Current Expense	\$	451,562.81
Employee Benefits		42,337.78
Personal Services		115,068.51
WV OPEB Contribution		2,520.00
WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA MAGAZINE Total	\$	<u>611,489.10</u>

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	3,047,813.03
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		9,463,605.23
Special Revenue Appropriated		1,349,441.73
Federal Revenue Appropriated		<u>1,023.53</u>
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$	<u><u>13,861,883.52</u></u>

Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION

LAW ENFORCEMENT			
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	\$	8,697.60	
Current Expense		2,630,546.10	
Employee Benefits		2,575,992.41	
Equipment		929,455.74	
PEIA Reserve Transfer		16,328.25	
Personal Services		8,150,404.41	
Repairs and Alterations		184,746.09	
WV OPEB Contribution		85,225.00	
LAW ENFORCEMENT Total	\$	<u>14,581,395.60</u>	
General Revenue Appropriated	\$	2,969,216.66	
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		3,228,733.38	
Special Revenue Appropriated		7,283,790.33	
Federal Revenue Appropriated		1,099,655.23	
TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT	\$	<u>14,581,395.60</u>	\$ <u>14,581,395.60</u>

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS			
Building Improvements	\$	18,052.47	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		313,698.55	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		1,587,829.04	
Current Expense		505,323.89	
Employee Benefits		26,077.70	
Land Improvements		10,900.00	
Land Purchases		966,026.15	
Personal Services		118,757.87	
Repairs and Alterations		121,875.11	
WV OPEB Contribution		1,575.00	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Total	\$	<u>3,670,115.78</u>	
CLAUDIA WORKMAN EDUCATION CENTER			
Current Expense	\$	46,822.14	
Employee Benefits		388.65	
Personal Services		5,080.50	
Repairs and Alterations		5,934.04	
CLAUDIA WORKMAN EDUCATION CENTER Total	\$	<u>58,225.33</u>	
COLD WATER FISH MANAGEMENT			
Building Purchases	\$	11,070.00	
Current Expense		1,797,320.01	
Employee Benefits		513,922.06	
Equipment		88,435.75	
Personal Services		1,560,497.00	
Repairs and Alterations		141,821.64	
WV OPEB Contribution		25,690.00	
COLD WATER FISH MANAGEMENT Total	\$	<u>4,138,756.46</u>	

ADMINISTRATION

Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2022-2023

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

ELKINS OPERATIONS CENTER	
Current Expense	\$ 310,259.62
Employee Benefits	49,133.56
Equipment	29,633.00
Personal Services	140,863.98
Repairs and Alterations	29,263.44
WV OPEB Contribution	2,660.00
ELKINS OPERATIONS CENTER Total	\$ 561,813.60
GAME MANAGEMENT	
Building Improvements	\$ 15,071.78
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	1,800.00
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project	110,522.30
Current Expense	2,703,236.01
Employee Benefits	927,981.28
Equipment	1,037,966.71
Land Purchases & Improvements	84,835.72
PEIA Reserve Transfer	174.43
Personal Services	3,459,870.10
Repairs and Alterations	738,876.07
WV OPEB Contribution	40,110.00
GAME MANAGEMENT Total	\$ 9,120,444.40
HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE UNIT	
Current Expense	\$ 251,718.53
Employee Benefits	71,985.75
Personal Services	188,192.07
WV OPEB Contribution	4,200.00
HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE UNIT Total	\$ 516,096.35
SPECIAL PROJECTS	
Current Expense	\$ 181,783.81
Employee Benefits	46,867.69
Personal Services	131,191.49
Repairs and Alterations	193,271.14
WV OPEB Contribution	2,520.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS Total	\$ 555,634.13
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	
Current Expense	\$ 72,012.65
Employee Benefits	185,260.12
Equipment	2,968.00
Personal Services	522,004.11
WV OPEB Contribution	7,910.00
TECHNICAL SUPPORT Total	\$ 790,154.88

Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2022-2023

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

WARM WATER FISH MANAGEMENT

Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project	\$	250,202.18
Current Expense		903,727.40
Employee Benefits		422,494.17
Equipment		321,845.04
Land Improvements		155,400.00
Personal Services		1,493,804.03
Repairs and Alterations		325,729.48
WV OPEB Contribution		20,370.00
WARM WATER FISH MANAGEMENT Total	\$	3,893,572.30

WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CENTER

Current Expense	\$	98,034.33
Employee Benefits		55,148.77
Personal Services		277,994.62
Repairs and Alterations		36,398.45
WV OPEB Contribution		3,360.00
WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CENTER Total	\$	470,936.17

WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION

Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	\$	169,037.60
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		3,377,746.67
Current Expense		1,506,751.19
Employee Benefits		274,500.71
Equipment		122,508.41
Land Improvements		895,853.02
Personal Services		970,060.92
Repairs and Alterations		51,373.44
WV OPEB Contribution		12,740.00
WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION Total	\$	7,380,571.96

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

Current Expense	\$	561,903.94
Employee Benefits		337,191.28
Equipment		30,004.93
PEIA Reserve Transfer		1,996.04
Personal Services		1,475,401.36
Repairs and Alterations		797.96
WV OPEB Contribution		18,935.00
WILDLIFE DIVERSITY Total	\$	2,426,230.51

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	106,425.95
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		15,626,575.99
Special Revenue Appropriated		9,179,792.96
Federal Revenue Appropriated		8,669,756.97

TOTAL WILDLIFE RESOURCES \$ 33,582,551.87

ADMINISTRATION

Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2022-2023

PARKS & RECREATION SECTION

PARKS & RECREATION

Bank Costs	\$	1,298,194.43
Building Improvements		59,662.94
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		1,070,508.33
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		10,469,731.44
Current Expense		22,746,259.56
Employee Benefits		5,856,285.59
Equipment		1,431,639.63
Land Purchases & Improvements		2,796,795.00
PEIA Reserve Transfer		50,693.44
Personal Services		25,885,543.69
Remittance of Taxes		1,147,583.79
Repairs and Alterations		3,035,332.12
WV OPEB Contribution		244,300.00
PARKS & RECREATION Total	\$	<u>76,092,529.96</u>

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	21,324,228.80	
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		45,145,069.46	
Special Revenue Appropriated		9,623,231.70	
Federal Revenue Appropriated		-	
TOTAL PARKS & RECREATION			\$ <u><u>76,092,529.96</u></u>

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES SECTION

OFFICE OF LAND & STREAMS

Building Improvements	\$	15,852.22
Current Expense		1,360,025.01
Employee Benefits		63,392.33
Equipment		253,513.30
Land Purchases		375,309.84
PEIA Reserve Transfer		1,576.36
Personal Services		275,174.39
WV OPEB Contribution		2,520.00
OFFICE OF LAND & STREAMS Total	\$	<u>2,347,363.45</u>

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	-	
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		8,749.67	
Special Revenue Appropriated		2,338,613.78	
Federal Revenue Appropriated		-	
TOTAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES			\$ <u><u>2,347,363.45</u></u>

Grand Total General Revenue Appropriated	\$	27,447,684.44	
Grand Total Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		73,472,733.73	
Grand Total Special Revenue Appropriated		29,774,870.50	
Grand Total Federal Revenue Appropriated		9,770,435.73	
GRAND TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$		\$ <u><u>140,465,724.40</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Appropriated Funds

GENERAL FUND (0265)

Appropriated Fund - No Cash Balance

Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(15,855,018.92)	
Employee Benefits		(4,798,469.61)	
Current Expense		(1,443,811.01)	
Repairs and Alterations		(1,234,663.54)	
Equipment		(470,601.44)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(936,566.73)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(761,999.19)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer		(118,049.43)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(280,359.50)	
Building Improvements		(37,212.94)	
Land Improvements		(10,932.13)	
Land Purchases		(1,500,000.00)	
Total Disbursements			\$ <u>(27,447,684.44)</u>

SPECIAL REVENUE LICENSE FUND (3200)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022	\$	890,143.27	
Investment Balance July 1, 2022		13,773,907.72	
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$	<u>14,664,050.99</u>	
Receipts			
Animal Replacement Costs	\$	73,309.60	
Hunting & Fishing Licenses and Stamps		10,981,440.05	
Investment Earnings		524,586.20	
Miscellaneous Permits and License		2,353.50	
Miscellaneous Collections		8,618.35	
Surplus Property Sale		29,357.60	
Fund Transfers		4,640,840.00	
Contract Reimbursement		30,966.00	
			\$ 16,291,471.30
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(6,927,923.72)	
Employee Benefits		(2,081,490.21)	
Current Expense		(5,579,752.00)	
Repairs and Alterations		(449,338.91)	
Equipment		(487,599.13)	
Building Improvements		(23,781.20)	
Land Improvements		(26,354.84)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(180,205.65)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(547,631.00)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(80,227.77)	
			(16,384,304.43)
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$	<u>14,571,217.86</u>	
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023		(14,034,079.78)	
Cash Balance June 30, 2023	\$	<u><u>537,138.08</u></u>	

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Appropriated Funds

GAME, FISH AND AQUATIC LIFE FUND (3202)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	3,157.22
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			520,273.19
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>523,430.41</u>
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	18,867.47	
Fish Promotion & Research		<u>-</u>	
		\$	18,867.47
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	(27,944.78)	
Equipment		<u>-</u>	
			(27,944.78)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>514,353.10</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(514,140.66)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>212.44</u></u>

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY FUND (3203)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	70,964.13
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			1,645,400.07
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>1,716,364.20</u>
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	63,163.88	
Miscellaneous Collections		2,323.65	
Sale of Wildlife Calendars		147,412.71	
Sale of Wildlife License Plates		469,550.00	
Special Events		3,139.60	
Animal Replacement Costs		<u>-</u>	
		\$	685,589.84
Disbursements			
Equipment	\$	(30,657.99)	
Personal Services		(496,562.86)	
Employee Benefits		(59,218.02)	
Current Expense		(137,352.09)	
WV OPEB Contribution		<u>(2,310.00)</u>	
			(726,100.96)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>1,675,853.08</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(1,618,563.95)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>57,289.13</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Appropriated Funds

USE & DEVELOPMENT FUND - PUBLIC LAND CORPORATION (3205)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	7,786,115.76
Receipts			
Channel Changes	\$	200.00	
Docking Facilities		8,000.00	
Low Water Fords		18,700.00	
Low Water Level Bridges		50,000.00	
Miscellaneous Collections		1,550.00	
Permits		-	
Pipeline Permits		377,900.00	
Right of Way		131,050.00	
Sand/Gravel ATE Management		3,400.00	
Oil and Gas Royalties		-	
Oil & Gas Leases		7,001.83	
Miscellaneous Deposits		47,035.00	
Sand and Gravel Royalties		600.00	
Stream Restoration		1,400.00	
Structures		432,700.00	
Subterranean Cable Permit Renewal		285,900.00	
Water Intake Supply System		4,700.00	
			\$ 1,370,136.83
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(184,091.32)	
Employee Benefits		(39,421.02)	
Current Expense		(1,348,453.12)	
Equipment		(254,737.99)	
Building Improvements		(15,852.22)	
Land Purchases		(375,309.84)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer		(1,576.36)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(1,680.00)	
			(2,221,121.87)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023			\$ 6,935,130.72

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Appropriated Funds

PARKS AND RECREATION ENDOWMENT FUND (3211)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	681,136.02
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			15,456,949.77
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>16,138,085.79</u>
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	511,835.93	
Royalty Payment Marcellus Gas Drilling		19,292,348.58	
Gas Royalties		<u>1,685,004.63</u>	
			\$ 21,489,189.14
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	<u>-</u>	
			-
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>37,627,274.93</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(33,928,030.34)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>3,699,244.59</u></u>

WHITewater STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT FUND (3253)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	22,062.63
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			116,698.87
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>138,761.50</u>
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	5,009.36	
Miscellaneous Collections		14,202.65	
Study and Improvement Fees		25,512.35	
Whitewater Stocking Study Fee-Gauley River		<u>11,350.50</u>	
			\$ 56,074.86
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(35,791.23)	
Employee Benefits		(17,191.42)	
Current Expense		(7,622.08)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer		(352.60)	
WV OPEB Contribution		<u>(840.00)</u>	
			(61,797.33)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>133,039.03</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(132,708.23)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>330.80</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Appropriated Funds

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES LOTTERY FUND (3267)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	2,876,609.75
Receipts			
Lottery Transfers	\$	3,591,404.00	
Surplus Property Sales		2,103.75	
			\$ 3,593,507.75
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(1,986,944.22)	
Employee Benefits		(812,650.73)	
Current Expense		(510,550.68)	
Equipment		(2,667.64)	
Repairs and Alterations		(504.90)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer		(28,896.04)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(81,792.58)	
			(3,424,006.79)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023			\$ 3,046,110.71

STATE PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND (3277)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	9,505,652.51
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE			
Receipts			
Lottery Transfers	\$	1,505,000.00	
Reimbursement		-	
Surplus Property Sale		22,438.45	
			\$ 1,527,438.45
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	(21,788.64)	
Repairs and Alterations		(24,840.00)	
Equipment		(348,400.66)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(58,101.60)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(6,476,463.44)	
			(6,929,594.34)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023			\$ 4,103,496.62

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL FUND (8707)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	407,492.87
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			3,158,869.34
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	3,566,362.21
Receipts			
Law Enforcement			
Boating Safety	\$	589,228.00	
Duplicate Boat Safety Cards		220.00	
Hunter Safety Replacement Cards		7,265.00	
Hunter Safety		459,206.96	
Surplus Property Sale		69,985.50	
			\$ 1,125,905.46

ADMINISTRATION

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Appropriated Funds

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL FUND (8707)

Wildlife Resources			
Aquatic Outreach Program		19,255.04	
Avian & Mammal Surveys		210,010.78	
Boating Access Administration		837,832.04	
District Wildlife Management		2,692,569.49	
Endangered Animals		89,708.03	
Enhancing Fishery Opportunity Program		326,367.59	
Elk West Virginia		120,556.00	
Conservation & Recovery Candy Darter		22,660.44	
Fish Hatchery Operations		2,517,338.18	
Fish and Wildlife Coordination		409,561.45	
Asian Carp FW Service		47,905.21	
Enhanced Hunter Education		289,563.27	
Investment Earnings		108,793.69	
CWD Data Sharing Mgmt in N America		67,065.45	
Miscellaneous Collections		3,704.11	
Mount Storm Lake		273,677.60	
NRCS Watershed at Cherry River		88,804.57	
Participation in Regional Conservation Needs		8,084.64	
State Wildlife Grant		352,518.90	
USDA Monongahela Nat Forest Botanical Surveys		63,504.26	
USDA Monongahela Nat. Forest Schools Roads		12,342.03	
USDP AG NRCS Wildlife Habt Inc		52,340.68	
White Tailed Deer Ecology		349,090.35	
AML DEP Subgrant Wildlife		32,937.50	
F41R1 Commercial Navig Rivr		3,561.19	
FBI Payment		10,273.31	
Land Cover and Habitat Mapping		5,305.54	
Timber Rattlesnake Translocation		3,250.96	
Upland Bird Management Program		24,136.85	
USDA APHIS SARS Surveillance in WT Deer		419.39	
Wildlife Research		1,027,446.16	
		\$ 10,070,584.70	
			\$ 11,196,490.16
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(4,764,525.03)	
Employee Benefits		(1,257,137.34)	
Current Expense		(3,008,339.41)	
Repairs and Alterations		(66,319.84)	
Equipment		(232,664.81)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(58,862.50)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(325,000.00)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(57,586.80)	
		(9,770,435.73)	
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$	4,992,416.64	
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023		(3,967,663.03)	
Cash Balance June 30, 2023	\$	1,024,753.61	

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM FUND (3204)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	1,211,158.92
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			4,585,630.30
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>5,796,789.22</u>
Receipts			
Boating Under Influence Grant	\$	9,847.88	
Commercial Shoot Preserve		510.00	
Ginseng Dealer Fee		-	
Hatfield McCoy Trail Patrol Reimbursement		332,927.03	
Fund Transfers		237,222.00	
Investment Earnings		359,513.50	
License Reinstatement Fee		5,965.00	
Miscellaneous Collections		5,364.50	
Miscellaneous Permits		4,620.00	
Motorboat Licenses		703,761.50	
Surplus Property Sales		-	
Tipping Fees		568,415.45	
Reimbursement for Service		115,208.31	
Whitewater Rafting Licenses		30,010.00	
Law Enforcement Oil & Gas Transfer		6,046,278.84	
Marcellus Gas Drilling Payment		3,932,997.54	
Gas Royalties		68,577.66	
			\$ 12,421,219.21
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(1,135,013.83)	
Employee Benefits		(396,992.14)	
Current Expense		(276,254.56)	
Equipment		(885,632.42)	
Repairs and Alterations		(4,461.59)	
WV OPEB Contribution		39,269.70	
			(2,659,084.84)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>15,558,923.59</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(15,300,728.14)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>258,195.45</u></u>

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTS (3208)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	5,764.90
Receipts			
	\$	<u>-</u>	
			\$ -
Disbursements			
Current Expenses	\$	<u>(145.65)</u>	
			(145.65)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>5,619.25</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

DISASTER FUND DNR (3210)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	24,571.58
Receipts			
	\$		-
Disbursements		\$	-
	\$		-
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u>24,571.58</u>

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY RIFLE TEAM PROGRAM FUND (3213)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	-
Receipts			
WVU Rifle Team Donations	\$	10,121.65	
		\$	10,121.65
Disbursements			
	\$		-
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u>10,121.65</u>

WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND (3224)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	109,871.33
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			77,330,598.14
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>77,440,469.47</u>
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	(277,517.25)	
Lifetime Hunting & Fishing License		1,659,863.98	
Wildlife Mitigation			-
		\$	1,382,346.73
Disbursements			
Fund Transfers	\$	(8,758,560.00)	
			(8,758,560.00)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>70,064,256.20</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(69,959,214.89)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u>105,041.31</u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

WILDLIFE RESOURCES-RECREATION FUND (3227)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	1,101,981.69
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			31,762,375.23
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	32,864,356.92
Receipts			
AML DEP Subgrant Wildlife	\$		-
Campsite Rentals			26,774.46
Co-op Agreements			28,000.00
Dredging Mussel Mitigation			471,285.59
Elk Tour Tickets			6,664.00
Entrance Fees			100,189.58
Fish Promotion and Research			216,862.30
Fund Transfers			1,908,142.00
Gas Royalties			109,001.53
Gift Shop Sales			27,526.58
Gifts & Bequests			755.56
Gifts, Grants & Donations			17,025.00
Electronic Licensing System Hunting & Fishing License Issuance Fee			352,052.00
Habitat Land Inquiries			14,850.00
Hunters Helping the Hungry			45,962.49
Information Retrieval			25,800.00
Insurance Payments			12,273.86
Investment Earnings			1,074,823.58
Leases			8,476.00
Miscellaneous Collections			151,382.14
Mitigation Wildlife			105,870.06
Picnic Shelter Fees			1,606.95
Refunds			7,839.19
Right Of Way			12,115.40
Royalty Payment Marcellus Gas Drilling			6,632,809.00
Scientific Collection Permit			41,400.00
Surface Damages			98,797.25
Surplus Property Sales			7,091.65
Timber Sales			(2,486.43)
Law Enforcement Oil & Gas Transfer			(6,046,278.84)
		\$	5,456,610.90

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

WILDLIFE RESOURCES-RECREATION FUND (3227)

Disbursements		
Personal Services	\$	(1,256,804.47)
Employee Benefits		(370,121.12)
Current Expense		(3,853,560.04)
Repairs and Alterations		(162,422.36)
Equipment		(855,111.72)
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(256,340.00)
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(3,872,411.15)
Building Improvements		(181.58)
Land Improvements		(1,037,473.90)
WV OPEB Contribution		(19,452.43)
		<u>(11,683,878.77)</u>
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$	26,637,089.05
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023		(26,382,547.99)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023	\$	<u><u>254,541.06</u></u>

BEAR DAMAGE FUND (3228)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022	\$	46,527.16
Investment Balance July 1, 2022		859,464.54
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$	<u>905,991.70</u>
Receipts		
Bear Damage Stamps	\$	249,270.00
Investment Earnings		33,367.79
Refunds		-
		<u>282,637.79</u>
Disbursements		
Current Expense	\$	(269,704.26)
		<u>(269,704.26)</u>
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$	918,925.23
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023		(902,832.33)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023	\$	<u><u>16,092.90</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

CONSERVATION STAMP FUND (3232)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	152,673.57
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			3,619,551.40
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>3,772,224.97</u>
Receipts			
Conservation Stamp Sales	\$	1,289,731.00	
Investment Earnings		<u>97,802.16</u>	
			\$ 1,387,533.16
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(84,056.86)	
Employee Benefits		(7,296.37)	
Current Expense		(275,135.57)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(581,258.04)	
Equipment		(19.98)	
Land Purchases		(1,049,186.15)	
Repairs and Alterations		<u>(262.63)</u>	
			(1,997,215.60)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>3,162,542.53</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(2,911,625.78)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>250,916.75</u></u>

TROUT STAMP FUND (3233)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	290,127.90
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			482,732.24
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>772,860.14</u>
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	34,108.03	
Trout Stamp Sales		1,244,080.00	
Fund Transfers		<u>1,972,356.00</u>	
			\$ 3,250,544.03
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(1,106,520.05)	
Employee Benefits		(404,432.05)	
Current Expense		(304,253.85)	
Repairs and Alterations		(31,711.51)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(21,700.00)	
Equipment		<u>(8,440.28)</u>	
			(1,877,057.74)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>2,146,346.43</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(1,944,929.27)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>201,417.16</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

GIFTS, GRANTS & BEQUESTS (3237)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	68,006.60
Receipts			
Recycling Income	\$	6,594.60	
Special Events		54,698.00	
			\$ 61,292.60
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	(35,032.53)	
			(35,032.53)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023			\$ 94,266.67

LAND MINERALS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS (3239)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	909,297.80
Receipts			
Miscellaneous Collections	\$	-	
Land Leases		40,710.13	
Rental Leases		700.00	
Right-of-Way		48,268.00	
			\$ 89,678.13
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	(8,669.89)	
Equipment		(79.78)	
			(8,749.67)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023			\$ 990,226.26

PAYROLL CLEARING ACCOUNT (3245)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	12,067.80
Receipts			
	\$	-	
			\$ -
Disbursements			
	\$	-	
			-
Cash Balance June 30, 2023			\$ 12,067.80

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SPORTS EDUCATION STAMPS (3247)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	86,108.55
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			297,685.99
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>383,794.54</u>
Receipts			
Law Enforcement / Sports Ed. Stamps	\$	429,481.00	
Investment Earnings		<u>8,303.35</u>	
			\$ 437,784.35
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(412,261.28)	
Employee Benefits		(135,247.71)	
Current Expense		(1,674.75)	
WV OPEB Contribution		<u>(4,384.62)</u>	
			(553,568.36)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>268,010.53</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(149,989.34)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>118,021.19</u></u>

MAGAZINE SALES & SUBSCRIPTIONS (3248)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	38,334.10
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			852,528.15
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>890,862.25</u>
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	28,427.03	
Magazine Sponsorship		23,825.00	
Magazine Bookshelf Sales		1,955.31	
Magazine Sales		23,029.04	
Magazine Subscriptions		277,452.50	
Miscellaneous Collections		<u>-</u>	
			\$ 354,688.88
Disbursements			
Equipment	\$	(126.99)	
Current Expense		<u>(451,435.82)</u>	
			(451,562.81)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>793,988.32</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(750,955.18)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>43,033.14</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

CLEARING ACCOUNT-EQUIPMENT (3251)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	328,520.24
Receipts			
Rental Leases	\$	<u>9,680.00</u>	
			\$ 9,680.00
Disbursements			
Repairs and Alterations	\$	(215.98)	
Equipment		(31,788.00)	
Current Expense		<u>(312.32)</u>	
			(32,316.30)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$ 305,883.94</u></u>

CLASS A-1 SMALL ARMS HUNTING LICENSE (3259)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	19,222.02
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			<u>1,037,757.77</u>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE			\$ 1,056,979.79
Receipts			
Class A-1 Small Arms Hunting License	\$	45,808.00	
Lifetime Small Arms Hunting License		3,300.00	
Investment Earnings		39,589.80	
Surplus Property Sales		<u>5,005.00</u>	
			\$ 93,702.80
Disbursements			
Current Expenses	\$	<u>-</u>	
			-
ENDING FUND BALANCE			\$ <u>1,150,682.59</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			<u>(1,147,347.57)</u>
Cash Balance June 30, 2023			<u><u>\$ 3,335.02</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

WATTERS SMITH MEMORIAL STATE PARK (3261)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	11,620.84
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			1,160,359.26
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>1,171,980.10</u>
Receipts			
Gas Royalties	\$	1,658,857.35	
Investment Earnings		60,826.38	
Oil & Gas Leases		1,007.00	
Misc Collections		3.12	
Surplus Property Sales		-	
			\$ 1,720,693.85
Disbursements			
Repairs and Alterations	\$	(535.16)	
Equipment		(2,885.37)	
Current Expenses		(19,383.07)	
Building Improvements		(14,250.00)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(75,840.00)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(721,007.01)	
			(833,900.61)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>2,058,773.34</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(2,034,185.64)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>24,587.70</u></u>

DECOY ANIMALS ASSESSMENT FEE (3264)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	1,222.44
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			5,488.92
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>6,711.36</u>
Receipts			
Miscellaneous Collections	\$	300.00	
Investment Earnings		210.33	
			\$ 510.33
Disbursements			
	\$	-	
			-
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>7,221.69</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			(6,699.25)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>522.44</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

STATE PARK OPERATING FUND (3265)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	3,205,523.95
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			19,514,966.27
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	22,720,490.22
Receipts			
Bath / Massages	\$	855,714.86	
Bicycle Rental		4,411.31	
Boat Rental		80,473.43	
Bonus Payment Marcellus Gas Drilling		1,686,899.41	
Cabin Advance Reservation		5,797,170.74	
Cabin Rentals		1,082,061.93	
Campsite Advance Reservation		5,089,373.98	
Campsite Rentals		398,496.65	
Coin Laundry Machines		12,041.07	
Consumers Sales Tax		16,781.69	
Cot & Crib Rental		2,751.46	
Driving Range		27,472.63	
Entrance Fees		84,622.06	
Equipment Rental		12,079.93	
Facility Use Rental		301,926.05	
Firewood Sales		249,141.01	
Food & Snacks		423,088.49	
Fund Transfers		1,015,578.95	
Games		1,670.80	
Gas & Oil Leases		2,947.12	
Gas Royalties		117.94	
Gift Cards		257,671.74	
Gift Shop Sales		4,659,148.11	
Greens Fees		556,087.35	
Gifts, Grants & Donations		16,502.23	
Hiking Club		645.00	
Hotel Occupancy Tax		1,169,790.48	
Insurance Payments		39,999.73	
Investment Earnings		703,626.02	
Lift Ticket Fees Parks		39,863.93	
Lodge Advance Reservation		5,842,137.27	
Lodge Rooms		4,462,386.56	
Lottery Collections - Net		15,267.27	
Magazine Sales		40.00	
Miniature Golf		13,172.33	
Miscellaneous Collections		52,778.76	
Miscellaneous Non-Taxable		487,602.53	
Miscellaneous Operations		1,344,450.76	
Picnic Shelter Fees		314,971.58	
Pro Shop		165,897.12	
Residence Rentals		23,885.31	
Railroad Fares		20,402.32	
Restaurants		3,237,064.13	

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

STATE PARK OPERATING FUND (3265)

Roman Bath		447,629.15		
Nature Center		4,338.82		
Shooting Ranges		35,347.22		
Sled Rental		277,020.76		
Spa Products		30,673.17		
Special Events		86,077.40		
Surplus Property Sale		8,618.55		
Swimming Fees		409,647.32		
Tram		79,167.92		
Vending Machines		8,371.70		
Wine Tax		5,462.31	\$	41,960,566.36
Receipts - Concessions				
Boat Dock Concession	\$	29,186.62		
Golf Carts		296,492.71		
Marina		(49,390.47)		
Miscellaneous Concession		85,239.07		
Restaurant Concession		1,477,411.30		
Riding Stable		10,844.10		
Zip Line Ticket Sales		(88,138.82)	\$	1,761,644.51
				\$ 43,722,210.87
Disbursements				
Personal Services	\$	(12,633,232.88)		
Employee Benefits		(1,666,627.36)		
Current Expense		(22,322,048.27)		
Repairs and Alterations		(163,875.82)		
Equipment		(1,255,802.54)		
Remittance Of Taxes		(1,147,583.79)		
Bank Costs		(1,298,068.13)		
Building Improvements		(8,200.00)		
Land Improvements		(36,172.71)		
Land Purchases		(1,249,690.16)		
PEIA Reserve Transfer		(3,613.57)		
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(2,510,261.80)		
WV OPEB Contribution		8,014.00		
				(44,287,163.03)
ENDING FUND BALANCE			\$	22,155,538.06
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023				(20,668,902.13)
Cash Balance June 30, 2023			\$	<u>1,486,635.93</u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Non-appropriated Funds

CANAAN MAINTENANCE FUND (3274)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	2,798.84
Receipts	\$	<u>-</u>	
		\$	-
Disbursements			
Building Improvements	\$	<u>-</u>	
			-
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>2,798.84</u></u>

COYOTE MANAGEMENT FUND (3292)

Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	9,244.78
Investment Balance July 1, 2022			<u>18,262.13</u>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>27,506.91</u>
Receipts			
Coyote Management Donations	\$	4,812.20	
Investment Earnings		<u>981.83</u>	
		\$	5,794.03
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	<u>-</u>	
			-
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>33,300.94</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2023			<u>(32,743.96)</u>
Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>556.98</u></u>

SANDY DISASTER FUND (3015)

Fund 3015 (OCT '12 SANDY DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	155,545.14
Receipts	\$	<u>-</u>	
		\$	-
Disbursements			
Current Expenses	\$	<u>(24,793.56)</u>	
			<u>(24,793.56)</u>
Sandy Disaster Fund Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>130,751.58</u></u>

FLOOD DISASTER FUND (3207)

Fund 3207 (JUN '16 FLOOD DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2022		\$	237,159.72
Receipts	\$	<u>-</u>	
		\$	-
Disbursements			
	\$	<u>-</u>	
			-
Flood Disaster Fund Cash Balance June 30, 2023		\$	<u><u>237,159.72</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2022-2023

RECAPITULATION OF FUNDS

	Revenue	Disbursements	Investments
General Fund	\$ -	\$ (27,447,684.44)	\$ -
Consolidated Federal Funds	11,196,490.16	(9,770,435.73)	3,967,663.03
Appropriated Special Revenue Funds	45,032,275.64	(29,774,870.50)	50,227,522.96
Non-Appropriated Special Revenue Funds	70,687,049.31	(73,472,733.73)	142,192,701.47
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ 126,915,815.11	\$ (140,465,724.40)	\$ 196,387,887.46



WEST VIRGINIA

DNR

**OFFICE OF LAND
AND STREAMS**

Julia A. Morton, *Supervisor*



Overview

The state of West Virginia, through the Division of Natural Resources, holds title to certain lands and mineral resources, and the rivers and streams of the state. The Division of Natural Resources is charged with administering and managing those certain state lands and mineral resources, and the state's rivers and streams to provide a comprehensive program for their conservation, development, protection, enjoyment, and use.

The Office of Land and Streams, within the Division of Natural Resources, is responsible for the Division of Natural Resources' real estate and is charged with the maintenance, preservation and custody of the records relating thereto. The Office of Land and Streams administers the acquisition, disposal, and leasing of the Division of Natural Resources' real estate and the permitting of the State of West Virginia's rivers and streams.

Lands of the Division of Natural Resources Acquisition, Disposal, and Leasing

The lands of the Division of Natural Resources administered by the Office of Land and Streams include state parks, wildlife management areas, natural areas and preserves, wetlands, state forests, state rail-trails, administration structures, and public access sites to rivers and streams. They are of great natural and/or historical significance and are for the use and benefit of the citizens of West Virginia and its visitors.

Wildlife Management Areas/Public Access Sites/Natural Areas	432,925 acres
State Parks	77,467 acres, 23.6 miles for the Elk River Trail and 37.4 miles leased for the Elk River Trail
State Forests	72,683 acres
Administration	69 acres
Total Lands	583,144 acres
Rivers and Streams	34,000 miles including approximately 5,000 named waterways

Land Acquisition

The Office of Land and Streams, on behalf of the state of West Virginia, Department of Commerce and the Division of Natural Resources, acquires land and interests in land by purchase, lease, donation and exchange, and is responsible for the preparation and execution of all documents related to the real estate transaction.

The real estate acquisition process includes communication with other Sections within the WVDNR, other governmental agencies, negotiation with property owners, inspection of property, title searches, obtaining appraisals and surveys. This also includes the preparation, execution and recordation of documents.

Real property is acquired by deed, right-of-way, easement, lease, license and agreement.

State Park Land Acquired in Fiscal Year 2023		
PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE/MILEAGE
Watoga	Ebersbach	14.755 acres
TOTAL (ACREAGE)		14.755 acres
Elk River Trail	The Elk River Railroad	12.59 miles
Elk River Trail	The Elk River Railroad	11.01 miles
TOTAL (MILEAGE)		23.60 miles

LAND ACQUISITION CONTINUED...

State Park Land Leased in Fiscal Year 2023		
PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE/MILEAGE
Elk River Trail	The Elk River Railroad	37.40 miles
TOTAL (MILEAGE)		37.40 miles

State Park Land Lease Renewed in Fiscal Year 2023		
PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE/MILEAGE
Pricketts Fort	U.S. Army Corps	188.47 acres
TOTAL		188.47 acres

State Forest Land Acquired in Fiscal Year 2023		
No land was acquired for State Forests in the fiscal year 2023.		

Administration Land Acquired in Fiscal Year 2023		
No land was acquired for Administration in the fiscal year 2023.		

Wildlife Management Land Acquired in Fiscal Year 2023		
PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE
Big Ugly	Jerry Lawson	522.91
Daniels Ridge	Mark Hylton	83.16
Little Coal	Jon Hatfield	96.53
Little Kanawha	Dorothy Cain Family	75.00
Tomblin (Conservation Easement)	Lyme Timber	2,263.00
TOTAL		3,040.60

Wildlife Management Land Licenses in Fiscal Year 2023		
PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE
Little Coal	Greenbrier Land Company	5,118.00
Handley	Pocahontas County Commission	16.00
TOTAL		5,134.00

Wildlife Management Land Lease Renewed in Fiscal Year 2023		
PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE
Stoncoal Lake	Monongahela Power Company	3,000.00
TOTAL		3,000.00

LAND ACQUISITION CONTINUED...

Public Access Sites Land Acquired in Fiscal Year 2023		
PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE
West Fork River	Alvarez	1.00
West Fork River	Petito	0.20
TOTAL		1.20

Public Access Sites Land Leased in Fiscal Year 2023		
PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE
Tygart River	City of Grafton	0.25
TOTAL		0.25

Public Access Sites Lease Renewed in Fiscal Year 2023		
PROPERTY		ACREAGE
Brier Creek		0.50
McCubbins Ford		0.02
Old Field		1.00
TOTAL		1.52

Public Access Sites Lease Not Renewed in Fiscal Year 2023		
PROPERTY		ACREAGE
Chester		2.00
Parsons-Shavers Fork		0.05
TOTAL		2.05



Oil and Gas Leasing

The Office of Land and Streams is responsible for leasing the state’s mineral interests in, on and/or underlying state lands, rivers, and streams. The State’s mineral interests include oil, gas, coal, sand, and gravel. At the end of FY 2023, there were 75 Oil and Gas Leases and one Sand and Gravel Lease on state lands, rivers and streams.

The leasing process is statutorily required to be done through the competitive bid process. The competitive bid process includes receiving a mineral bid nomination, obtaining approval from the Governor, preparing a Bid Prospectus, receiving a competitive bid and preparing, executing, and recording a Lease Agreement.

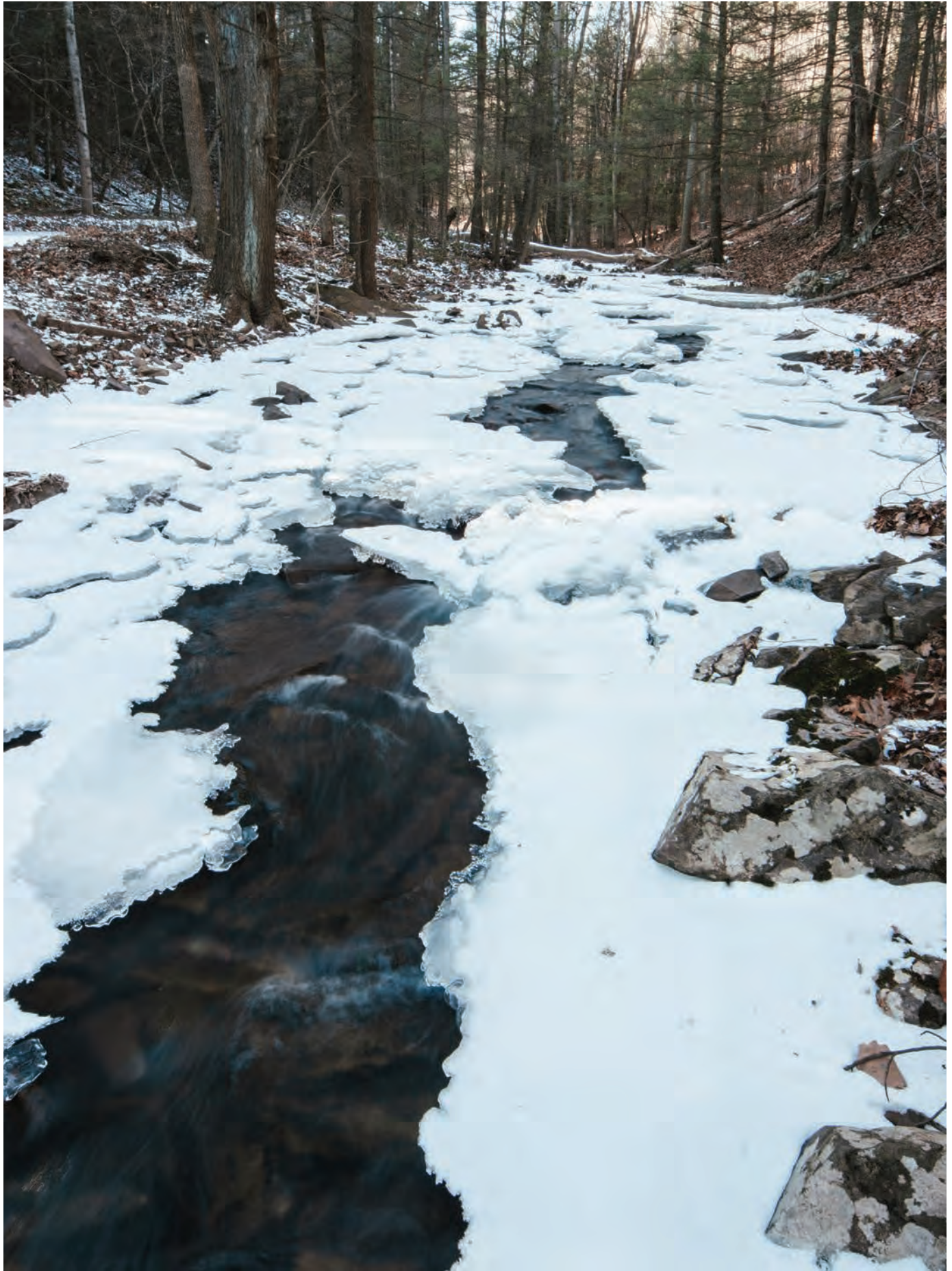
Oil and Gas Leases Obtained in Fiscal Year 2023		
AREA	ACREAGE	NUMBER OF LEASES
Big Wheeling Creek	25.178	1
Castleman Run WMA	190.640	1
Fishing Creek	178.610	2
Middle Island Creek	27.230	1
Ohio River	716.780	2
Short Creek	5.000	1
TOTAL	1,143.438	8

River and Stream Management

The Office of Land and Streams issues governmental agencies, companies and individuals right-of-entry permits to cross rivers and streams and to do work to the banks of rivers and streams. Right-of-entry permits are issued for pipelines, stream mitigation, habitat enhancement, bank stabilization, culverts, structures, cables, utility lines, dredging, loading, docking and mooring projects.

The right-of-entry permit process includes receiving an application, a review of the application by a wildlife biologist and the preparation and execution of the right-of-entry permit.

Permits Issued in Fiscal Year 2023	
PROJECT	NUMBER
Stream Activity Bed/Bank Work	445
Pipeline and Cable	942
Stream Structure	278
Loading, Docking and Mooring	9
TOTAL	1,674





LAW ENFORCEMENT

Colonel Bobby L. Cales, *Chief*



The Law Enforcement Section is responsible for the prompt, orderly and effective enforcement of all Chapter 20, Code of West Virginia laws and rules promulgated under that authority and protection of the citizens of this state. Accomplishing this mission is made possible by having a highly visible, uniformed WVDNR Police patrol and the support of sportsmen, the Wildlife Resources and Parks and Recreation sections of the WVDNR, federal agencies and other state agencies.

The methods employed by the section extend beyond traditional law enforcement roles. WVDNR Police conduct land and water patrols, environmental crimes and complaint investigations, ATV enforcement, boating safety checks, and educate the public on hunting and boating safety. The section uses its unique capabilities to respond to emergencies and mutual aid requests, coordinate with stakeholders and inspire and cultivate the next generation of conservationists.

This year marked the second half of the section's 125th anniversary. The section strives to operate efficiently and effectively while always considering the best interests of the state. The success of the section and the WVDNR depends on the hard work of officers in the field and the office support staff. WVDNR Police have a proud history of carrying out duties with pride, integrity, honor, commitment, accountability, loyalty, courage, teamwork, dependability and respect.

Law Enforcement Program

The Law Enforcement Section normally has a staffing level of 126 officers and 10 support personnel. Currently the section has 117 active officers. During FY 2023, one officer retired, five officers separated from service, two new officers were hired and six officers were promoted. One civilian support personnel retired after 38 years of service and one civilian support personnel resigned.

The section has been actively seeking new and innovative methods for the accomplishment of our overall mission. The following are some highlights of FY 2023:

- The public and media are following the work done by officers on the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Facebook page. The page, facebook.com/DNRpolice, continues to see an increase in state and national media contacts for additional information. The reporting of wildlife law violations at WVDnr.gov/report-a-natural-resources-crime is being used by the public to solve cases.
- Reporting forms have been moved into electronic form to allow for internet transfer and approvals. This allows for faster updates of changes to forms for an officer's access. The section continually utilizes technology to reduce travel and administrative costs. Cellphones, desktop/laptop computers, radios and the internet are used to transmit reports, complaints and information. Conference calls are used to conduct meetings, boards or planning sessions to cut down on in-state travel.
- The section continues to work with federal and state agencies to procure grants to assist with equipment purchases. The United States Fish and Wildlife Services' Hunter Education and United States Coast Guard Recreational Boating Safety grants are monitored to maximize returns from the section's expenditures of time and resources.
- To reduce vehicle expenditures, the section keeps vehicles that are operating efficiently for five years or 125,000 miles. High maintenance cost vehicles are traded earlier to avoid excessive repairs. All state vehicle contracts were canceled. Manufacturers are still trying to get back on track from their own supply issues and new manufacturers do not produce contract quality vehicles for consumer product lines, so the section is currently searching for and acquiring non-premium SUVs and trucks that meet basic requirements as they become available on dealer lots. During FY 2023 the section received 25 new vehicles (four Chevrolet Tahoe police special service vehicles, six Chevrolet Tahoe police pursuit vehicles, five Ford Interceptors, and 10 Ford Rangers). Boat motors have a similar supply and lead time issues as vehicles. Boats ordered at the end of the last fiscal year for deployment this year have been delayed until 2024 at earliest. Most specialty boat companies manufacturing pursuit or whitewater crafts have suspended new orders until the current orders are filled.
- Due to the ever growing issue of litigation, not only for the section but for the officers, the Colonel has implemented a technology advancement plan for field officers. Body worn cameras have been purchased and are currently being deployed. All the beginning phases for in-car WiFi (Cradlepoint), Toughbook style laptops and a computer aided dispatch system have been started. The in-car laptops and computer aided dispatch system will allow officers to run real time identity, license, warrant checks which is crucial for officer safety and will also let officers see the locations of everyone in the system for emergency responses.

Law Enforcement Program continued

- In honor of its 125th anniversary and being the oldest law enforcement agency in the state, the section implemented the WVDNR K9 Program. The section purchased six labs and German shorthairs named Ziva, Luna, Xena, Pepper, Maze and Keen from Tarheel Canine. Each canine was trained through the Virginia DNR and the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation. Six officers (one from each district) were selected for the program and underwent extensive training with their new partner before being released for duty during the section's spring statewide meeting. The new K9 officers specialize in evidence recovery and search and rescue.
- The section is beginning the process of becoming an accredited agency by joining in the North American Wildlife Enforcement Accreditation.
- Some of this year's legislation that passed included:
 - **HB 3299** Provides for additional recruitment and retention opportunities for WVDNR Officers. Allows new officers to transfer a maximum of three years from the Public Employees Retirement system over to the Natural Resources Police Officer retirement plan.
 - **HB 3122** Allows breech loading muzzleloaders that use an encapsulated powder charge (i.e., firesticks) to be used during any established muzzleloader season, Mountaineer Heritage Season excluded. These types of muzzleloaders can be used outside of established muzzleloader seasons provided no other rules or laws are being violated.
 - **SB 733** Creates nonresident lifetime licenses and makes changes to the Class A-1 Small Arms (Handgun) Hunting Stamp.
 - **SB 200** Expands dog tracking of mortally wounded deer or bear to include turkey, wild boar and elk (during season).



Officer Training

The Law Enforcement Section had extensive training during FY 2023. The FY 2023 quarterly training consisted of off-duty (concealed) secondary handgun training, moving targets firearms training, defensive tactics refresher with training in scenario-based response to resistance and use of force reporting and training in unstable platform firearms. During the statewide training meeting held at Pipestem Resort State Park, WVDNR Police Officers received a refresher in search and seizure open-field doctrine and received training in wildlife law enforcement K9 and body-worn camera initial integration.

During FY 2023, two Law Enforcement personnel attended an Advanced Defensive Tactics Instructor School, four officers completed the Instructor Development Course and 12 Swift Water Rescue Technicians were certified. Seven newly sworn WVDNR Police Officers attended the mandatory eight hour Seated Battery Transition Course for BUI enforcement, while 102 officers completed the four-hour Seated Battery refresher course and seven officers attended Motorola APX radio programming training.

During FY 2023, two officers attended Waterfowl Enforcement School and six officers completed a 40-hour course on Wildlife Enforcement Intelligence and Investigations Training. Six District Lieutenants received training on evidence handling and National Instant Criminal Background Check System training and 22 officers completed the Smith and Wesson M&P 15 Armorer's course.

During FY 2023, two officers attended a Wildlife Enforcement Agency Accreditation Manager training and 30 officers received training on Law Enforcement UTV operation. Supervisory In-Service in FY 2023 consisted of technical sessions during national conferences, UCR Crime Reporting/NIBRS and various virtual trainings approved by the West Virginia Law Enforcement Training Subcommittee.

During FY 2023, the Law Enforcement Section instituted its first Wildlife Enforcement K9 Program and the six K9s and their handlers completed a total of 360 training hours.

The Law Enforcement Section Honor Guard/Color Guard continues to attend opening ceremonies for sporting events, special events and funeral services.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Hunter Education Program

West Virginia's Hunter Education Program continues to grow as more middle and high schools participate. All persons born on or after Jan. 1, 1975, must first successfully complete a certified hunter education course before purchasing a base hunting license. During FY 2022, 5,791 students graduated from 500 statewide hunter education classes. The Law Enforcement Section offers public and in-school courses throughout the year.

Volunteer Hunter Education instructors continue to provide a great service to the Hunter Education Program. More than 171 volunteer instructors drove 21,517 miles and donated 5,594.75 hours to the program. WVDNR Police Officers logged 12,564 hours and drove 120,298.5 miles.

The Law Enforcement Section dedicates six regional training sergeants, one office assistant and one state administrator to the Hunter Education Program.

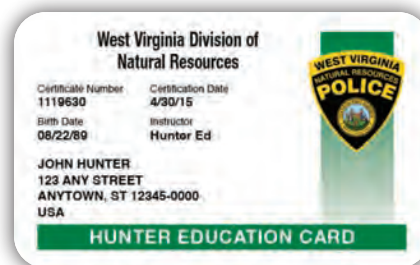
The Law Enforcement Section maintains Hunter Education class information and registration services on register-ed.com. Online courses approved by the International Hunter Education Association-USA and the state of West Virginia are designed to eliminate the classroom portion of the program. However, students will not receive their certification until they pass the hands-on practical and final exam at the nearest District Office. Traditional in-seat courses are still taught throughout the state of West Virginia.

During calendar year 2022, West Virginia experienced 10 Class A hunting incidents (an injury caused by the discharge of a bow or firearm while hunting) resulting in two fatalities. There were three Class B hunting incidents (falls from a tree stand) resulting in two fatalities. There were seven Class C hunting incidents (injuries sustained while hunting that are not from a firearm or bow) resulting in four fatalities. There were zero Class D hunting incidents, which are defined as property damage reports.

WVDNR Police Officers across the state participated in several sporting and hunting shows, attended summer camps and other special events such as JAKES Days and the Archery in the Schools State Tournament. The Law Enforcement Section continues to train prospective coaches for the National Archery in the Schools program.

The Law Enforcement Section has conducted numerous interviews for TV, radio and magazines promoting safe hunting and boating.

“Safe Hunting is No Accident.”





Boating Safety Program

The Law Enforcement Section offers in-seat Boating Safety classes in all counties in West Virginia. Students may view class information and register online at register-ed.com. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and The U.S. Power Squadron also teaches Boater Education in West Virginia. Online Boater Education courses approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the state of West Virginia can be found at WVdnr.gov. Anyone born on or after Dec. 31, 1986, is required to successfully complete a NASBLA-approved boating safety course before operating a motorboat. While using news releases and interviews during Spring Aboard, the mandatory Boater Education message reaches many new boaters.

A grant from the Governor’s Commission on Drunk Driving Prevention provided the Law Enforcement Section additional funding for enhanced BUI patrols on West Virginia waters from July 1, 2022, to Sept. 29, 2022. These patrols resulted in 14 BUI arrests and 786 other citations/warnings.

WVDNR Police Officers participated in the nationwide program Operation Dry Water from July 2-4, 2022, to reduce alcohol-related boating incidents. This operation resulted in 262 citations/warnings and six BUIs. The Section has renewed its efforts toward water safety and increased lifejacket usage by the public through our Wear It Campaign on Facebook and general boat patrols.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Whitewater Enforcement Program

The Law Enforcement Section has the responsibility of regulating the commercial whitewater industry in West Virginia. During the 2022 calendar year, 21 commercial whitewater outfitters and guides were licensed. A total of 26 general outfitters and guides are licensed to conduct business in designated whitewater zones for calendar year 2022.

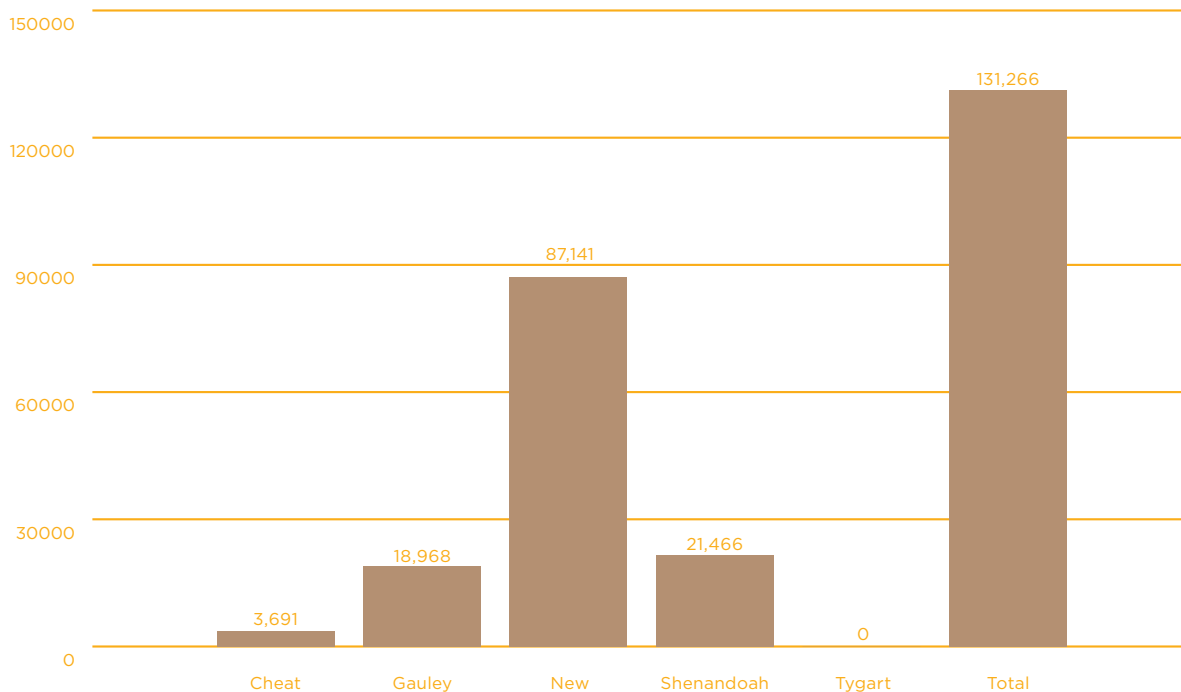
The Section issues all commercial whitewater licenses, collects fees, maintains submitted injury reports, user number reports and trip leader reports for outfitters, investigates new license applications and reviews license transfers for approval. WVDNR Police Officers patrol rivers, conduct compliance checks on guides and equipment and investigate whitewater accidents.

Whitewater zones are located on the Cheat, Gauley, New, Shenandoah and Tygart rivers. In the calendar year 2022, approximately 131,266 people were reported users in whitewater by commercial whitewater and general outfitters.

The Whitewater Commission and the WVDNR continue to work together, making commercial whitewater operations as efficient and safe as possible. The Commission and the WVDNR continue to work diligently to maintain a comprehensive whitewater reporting system. The website has streamlined all required reporting by outfitters conducting business in whitewater zones.



2022 WEST VIRGINIA WHITEWATER USER NUMBERS

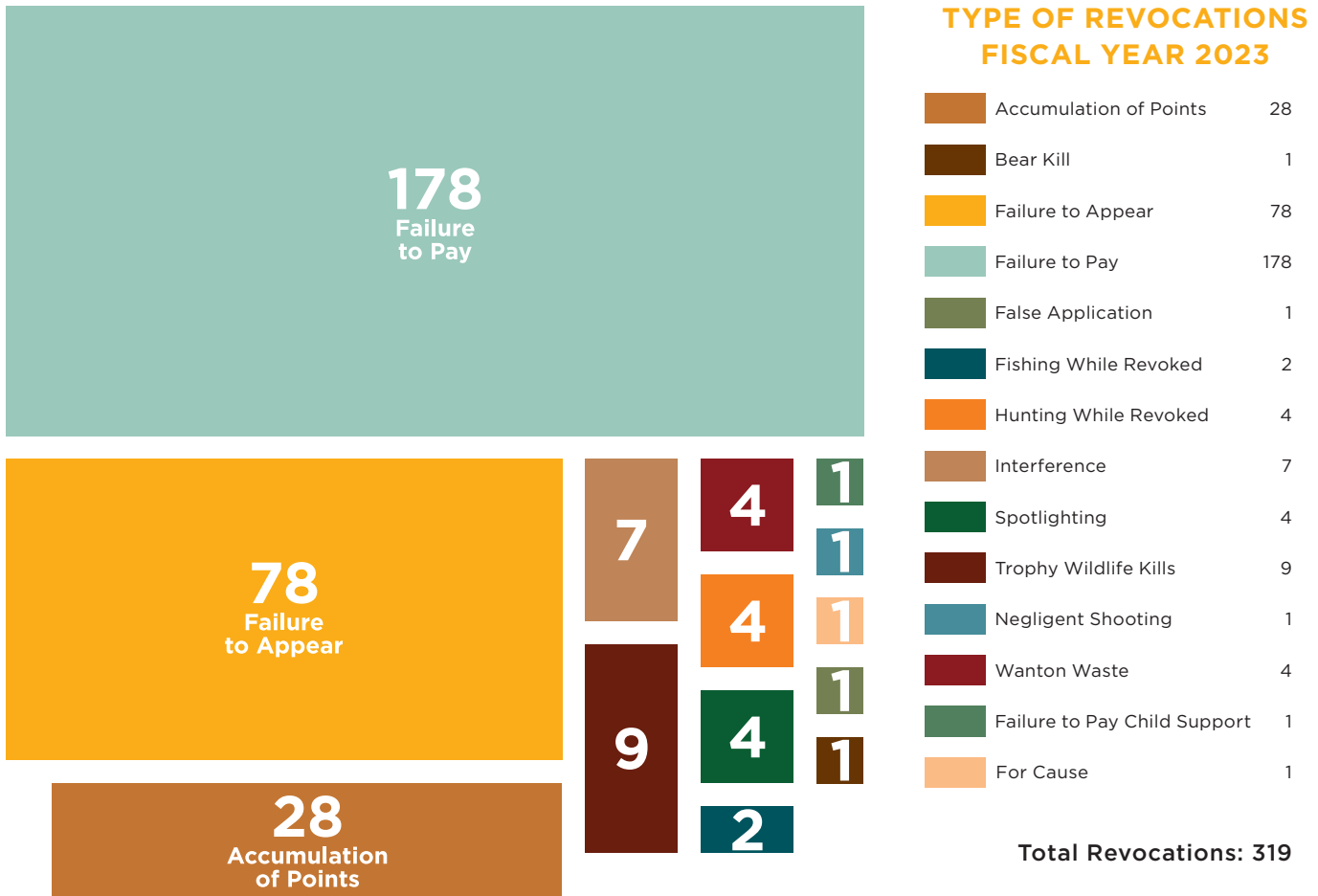


The License/Privilege Revocation System

The Section procedures for revoking the hunting, trapping and fishing license and privileges are governed by Legislative Rule 58CSR23.

According to the terms of the Interstate Wildlife Violator's Compact, of which West Virginia is a member, a suspension in any of the compact states is effective in all of the compact states if the wildlife conviction is a suspendable offense in the respective states. The threat of not being able to hunt, fish or trap in all or some of the IWVC member states serve as a powerful deterrent to would-be poachers.

More than 8,036 revocation notices have been sent to individuals convicted of hunting, trapping and/or fishing violations since the commencement of the electronic revocation system in the early 1990s. During FY 2023, 319 revocation letters were processed and 97 revocations were ratified by the WVDNR on the IWVC.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Activity

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY BY DISTRICT - JULY 3, 2022, THRU JULY 1, 2023

DISTRICT	ARRESTS					WARNINGS				COMPLAINTS					
	Chapter 20 Arrests	Chapter 22 Arrests	Arrest Warrants	Other Arrests	TOTAL ARRESTS	Chapter 20 Warnings	Chapter 22 Warnings	Warnings Other	WARNINGS TOTAL	Complaints Received	Complaints Investigated	Wildlife Damage Complaints Received	Wildlife Damage Complaints Investigated	Other Complaints	COMPLAINTS TOTAL
1	489	84	18	65	656	755	528	90	1,370	686	615	149	146	370	1,966
2	327	55	39	53	474	137	88	53	278	581	586	258	265	157	1,847
3	405	59	12	37	513	916	214	93	1,223	725	694	245	243	168	2,075
4	357	71	50	115	593	724	196	167	1,085	649	666	160	178	268	1,921
5	809	142	59	119	1,129	958	392	169	1,519	824	852	103	82	138	1,999
6	396	56	26	47	519	352	241	77	669	444	453	104	98	97	1,196
TOTALS*	2,792	468	204	438	3,892	3,850	1,659	650	6,153	4,155	3,866	1,019	1,012	1,198	11,004

*Statewide Totals include retirees and resignations that left during the fiscal year.

Definitions

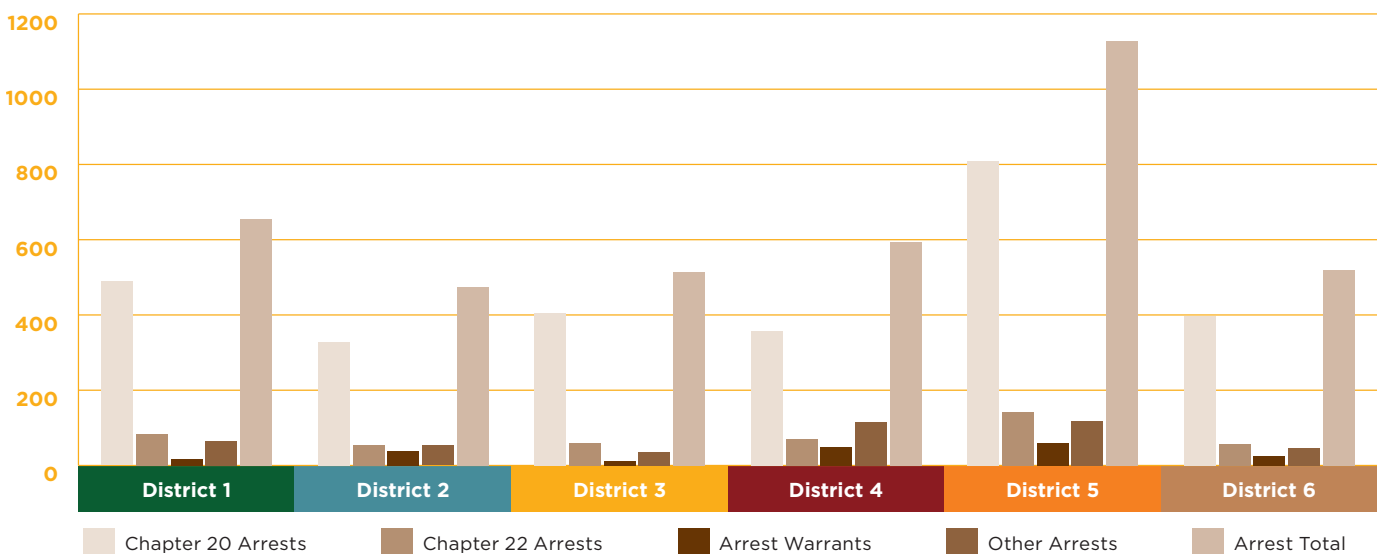
Chapter 20: Citations/Arrests for natural resources violations, including Forestry.

Chapter 22: Citations/Arrests for environmental violations such as outside burning, air pollution, open dumps, etc.

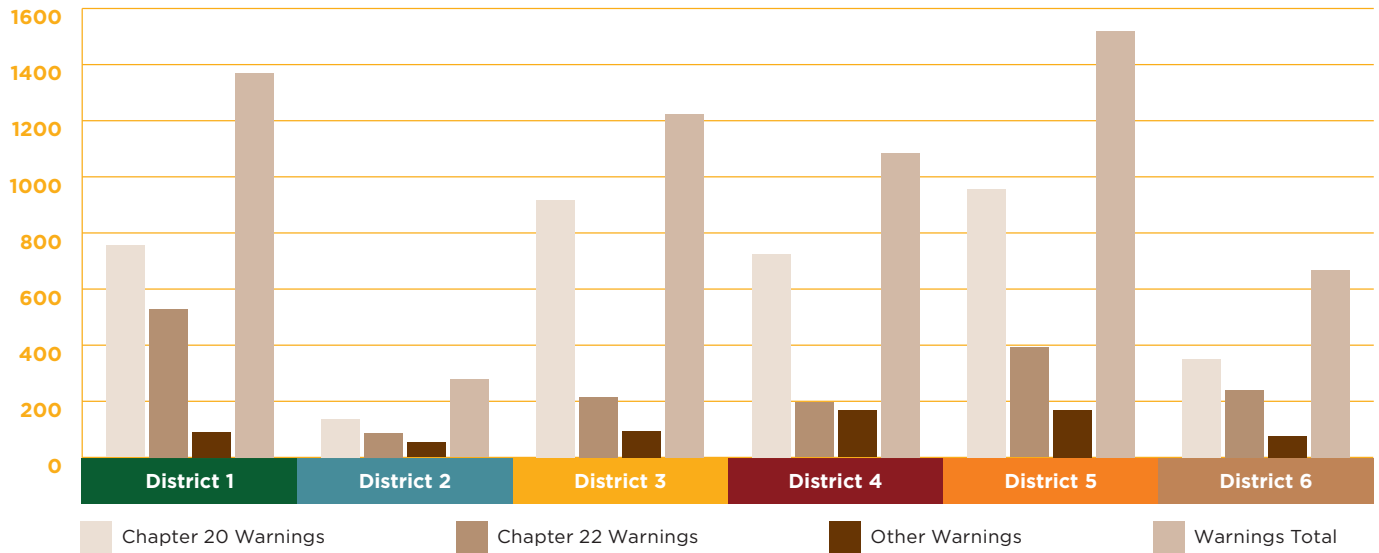
Warrants: Arrest warrants for violations that occur outside the officer's assigned county/area.

Other: Citations issued for violations that occur on the Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area, State Forests, State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas. Also included in "Other" are arrest for motor vehicle violations, possession of controlled substances, etc., that occur in the officer's presence.

ARRESTS BY TYPE AND DISTRICT - JULY 3, 2022, THRU JULY 1, 2023



WARNINGS BY TYPE AND DISTRICT - JULY 3, 2022, THRU JULY 1, 2023

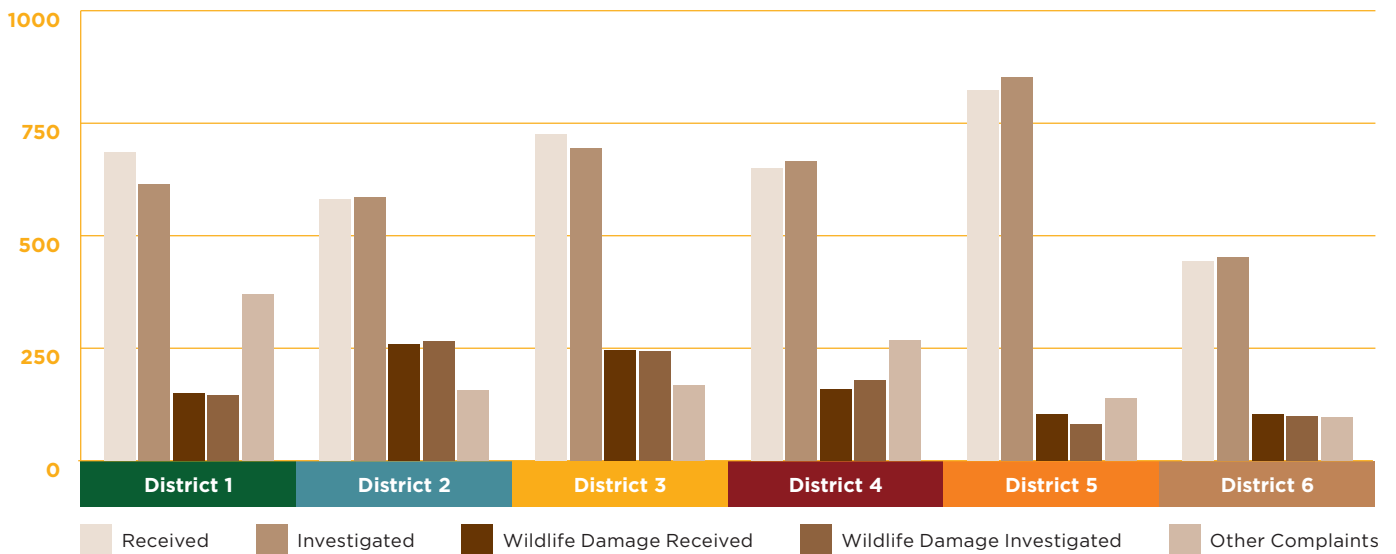


Definitions

Chapter 20: Citations/Arrests for natural resources violations, including Forestry.

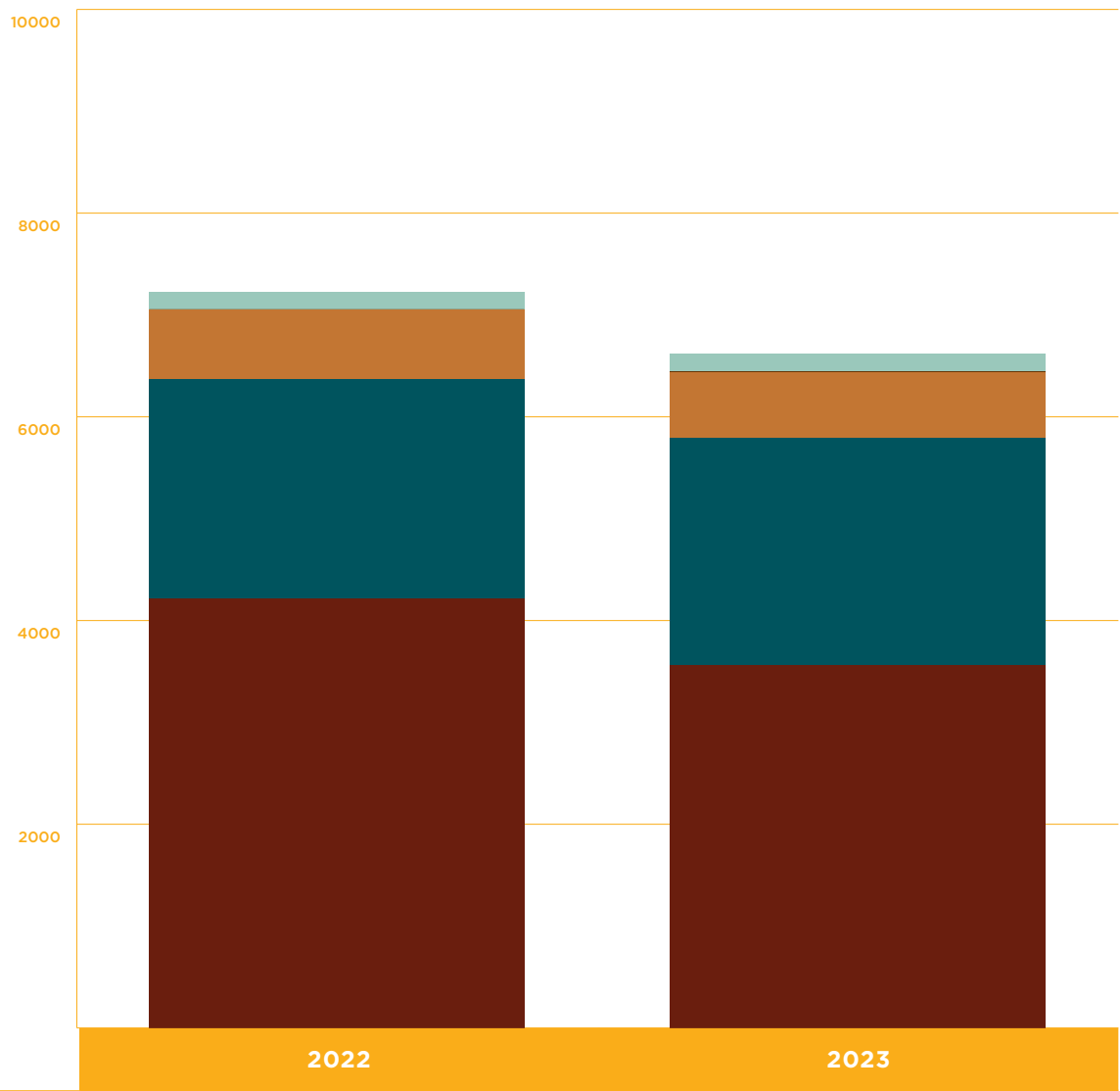
Chapter 22: Citations/Arrests for environmental violations such as outside burning, air pollution, open dumps, etc.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND INVESTIGATED BY DISTRICT - JULY 3, 2022, THRU JULY 1, 2023



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Prosecution Comparison - FY 2022 vs. FY 2023



	2022	2023
Number of Prosecutions	4,214	3,564
Convicted	2,156	2,229
Dismissed	685	645
Acquitted	0	7
Failed to Appear	165	174
Pre-Trial Diversion	0	1

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2023	
HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Littering	
Litter, Highway	4
Litter, Public/Private Road or Property in waters of State or w/in 100ft waters	11
Litter, Private Property	5
Litter, Greater than 500 lbs.	8
Litter, 100-500 lbs.	3
Litter, Less than 100 lbs.	54
Litter, No Record of Mandatory Disposal	69
TOTAL Littering	154
License	
Fishing Paraphernalia in Possession without License	32
Hunting Paraphernalia in Possession without License	2
Residents Fishing without License	344
Residents Hunting without License	86
Non-Residents Fishing without License	99
Non-Residents Hunting without License	22
Hunt/Trap without License in Possession	2
Hunt/Trap/Fish without Photo ID in Possession	24
Fishing without License in Possession	3
Fishing without Trout Stamp	25
Hunting Bear without Bear Damage Stamp	5
Hunting Additional Deer without RB/RRB Stamp	3
Hunting Additional Deer without RG/RRG Stamp	1
Hunting Antlerless Deer without Class N/NN Stamp	14
Hunting without Class BG Resident Big Game Stamp	1
Hunting without Class A-1	1
Hunting without Class Y Permit	1
Hunting Migratory Birds without Federal Stamp	2
Fishing while License Revoked	2
Hunting while License Revoked	5
Improper Fishing License	2
Hunting without Hunter Education Card	7
Failure to obtain Catch and Sell License	1
Trapping without a License	1
TOTAL License	685

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2023	
HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Hunting	
Bear, Failure to Check	4
Bear, Failure to Submit Bear Tooth	15
Possess/Harvest/Sell/Buy Bear Parts from Illegal Bear Kill	2
Hunt/Kill/Possess Bear/Bear Parts Closed Season	1
Blaze Orange, None or Insufficient	27
Closed Season	71
Exceed Bag Limit (daily)	4
Failure to Check Game(Deer/Bear/Turkey/etc)	123
Failure to Field Tag Game	44
Illegal Killing or Taking of Deer, Turkey, Boar	2
Illegal Possession of Wildlife or Parts Thereof	242
Hunt Deer fail to comply with Limited Antlerless Permit	2
Hunt Deer with Illegal Firearms/Ammo	14
Loaded/Uncased Firearm or Nocked Crossbow, Land Conveyance	3
Uncased Gun, Closed Season	1
Hunt/Shoot Across or in Public Road	18
Shoot Within 25 yards of Vehicle	12
Hunt/Shoot From Motor Vehicle/ATV/Land Conveyance	72
Shoot at Game Not Plainly Visible	4
Negligent Shooting - Person, Serious Injury or Death	1
Negligent Shooting - Livestock/Property	4
Illegal Shooting Distance of Dwelling	31
Spotlighting/Night Vision	16
Trapping Using Exposed Bait	1
Hunt without Permission - Lands of Another	100
Fish, Wanton Waste Game Fish	1
Hunt, Wanton Waste Migratory Game Birds	1
Wanton Waste Big Game	12
Hunt After Killing Legal Deer	14
Hunt Turkey after obtaining season limit	1
Hunt/Take/Kill by Bait/Trap/Snare: Bear, Turkey, Grouse, Pheasant, Quail	19
Hunt Bear/Boar/Mig Bird/Prot Bird or Mammal w/Bait/Trap/Net Snare	2
Hunt Deer half hour Before Sunrise - half hour After Sunset	27
Hunt, Illegal Kill, Additional Antlered Deer or exceed Three Deer limit	1
Hunt, Illegal Kill, Additional Antlered Deer prior to Antlerless	2
Hunt Under the Influence	3
Interference with Hunter/Trapper	8
Hunt/Use unleashed dog to track injured deer	1
Hunt/Migratory Birds with Unplugged Gun	3
Hunt/Take/Possess NON-Game Bird/Protected Bird	1
Dogs Chasing Deer	3
Failure to Tag Traps	3
Failure to Tend Traps Daily	1
Illegal Import of Wildlife	1
Illegal sale of Wildlife - including bear	1
Hunt/Bows/Arrows & Gun in Woods/Field same time	1
Hunting on Sunday/Private land without permission	3
Hunt/Trap/Kill Fur-Bearing Animal out of season	3
Hunt/Trap/Lands of Another without written permission	8
TOTAL Hunting	934

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2023	
HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Fishing	
Fishing without Permission	6
Fishing in Restricted Area	33
Fishing, Illegal Possession of Wildlife or Parts Thereof	6
Taking Fish by Illegal Methods	5
Using Prohibited Bait in Restricted Areas	6
Fishing within 200 Ft of DNR Personnel Stocking Fish	2
Access Site Violation, Alcohol	11
Access Site Violation, Possession/Use Controlled Substances	2
Access Site Violation, Unauthorized Use of	2
Access Site Violation, Litter	1
Fish, Size Limit Violation	1
Exceed Two Pole Limit/Trout	1
Exceed Daily Creel Limit/Trout	9
TOTAL Fishing	85
Boating	
Create Wake in No-Wake Zone	5
Boat, No Diver Down Flag	1
None or Insufficient, Fire Extinguisher, MB	10
None or Insufficient Lights	5
None or Insufficient Number of PFDs for Children Under 12	41
None or Insufficient Number of PFDs	153
Improper Location or Spacing of Numbers	1
Operation of PWC during Illegal Hours/Ski/Pull Skier	2
Reckless Operation	12
Operating Boat without Required Boater Safety Card	3
Tow/Pulling Skier without Observer/Mirror	6
Boat, Unregistered Watercraft	10
Boat without Registration Card	8
Overload Boat, Passengers	6
Operate Watercraft while Under the Influence	1
Boat Under the Influence (BUI)	13
Tow or Operate Boat without PFDs	9
Exceed 10HP Motor Limit	2
Boat, Operating in Restricted Area	1
Boat, PWC Operation Under Age of 15	1
Boat, Operate/Permit to operate not properly equipped	5
WHITEWATER	
Outfitter/Guide without License	1
TOTAL Boating	296

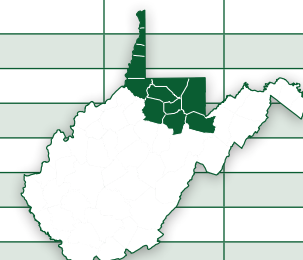
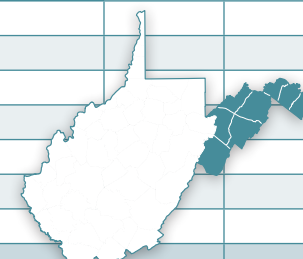
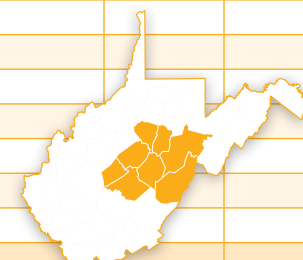
LAW ENFORCEMENT

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2023	
HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Solid Waste	
Open Burning, Air Pollution	14
Open Burning of Refuse/Solid Waste	119
Open Dump, Creating or Contributing to	95
Unauthorized Use of Dumpster	4
Failure to remove doors from abandoned refrigerator/freezer	3
Unlawful Disposal Method of Solid Waste	1
Endangerment by Waste Disposal	83
Deposit Dead Animals/Offensive Substances in/near waters/roadways	6
Burning of Waste Tires	2
Unlawful Disposal of Waste Tires	8
TOTAL Solid Waste	335
Forestry	
Failure to Safety Strip Around Fire	11
Failure to Attend to or Extinguish Fire	7
Illegal Burning	19
Permitting a Fire to Escape	6
Throw Lighted Material on Road or Forest Lands	12
Noncompliance with Burning Permit	4
Burning During Fire Season without Permit	19
GINSENG	
Dig Out of Season	18
Without Certification	3
Ginseng, less than 5 years old	3
Buy without Required License	6
Failure to Plant/Remove Seed at Harvest	1
TIMBERING	
Failure to obtain timbering license	4
Theft	1
Peel Trees/Timber without Permission	
Possess/Haul on Public Road without Owners Permission	2
Timber/Trespassing to Cut/Take/Damage Trees	
TOTAL Forestry	116
General	
Conspiracy - Hunting	85
Conspiracy - Fishing	9
Conspiracy - Non-Hunting or Fishing	5
Conspiracy - Commit Felon/Misdemeanor	3
General Obstruction/Withhold Information	44
General Obstruction/Verbal Threats	7
General Obstructing an Officer	3
General, Snakes Exceed Possession Limit	1
General, Vandalism of Cave	1
General, Persuade Person to Hunt/Fish out of Season/ Protected	1
General, No Stream Activity Permit for Protected Stream	1
STATE PARK VIOLATIONS	
Prohibited Discharge of Firearm in Park	1
No Hunting on SP/Wildlife Refuges	4
Destruction of Property/SP	3
Uncased Firearm/Bow/Arrow in WMA/SP/SF	1
National Forest Use MV in Closed Area	4

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2023	
HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
General continued	
WMA VIOLATIONS	
Alcohol	22
Camping Violations	12
Destruction of Property	3
Hunting - ATV in Restricted Area of WMA	10
Improper Disposal of Refuse	4
Motor Vehicle Violations	19
Fire in Undesignated Area	1
Trap without Permit	1
Use During Prohibited Hours (10 p.m. - 6 a.m.)	4
Bait/Feed Wildlife	24
Possess/Use Controlled Substance on WMA	7
OUTSIDE CHAPTER 20	
Alcohol	2
Animal Cruelty	1
Motor Vehicle Violations	86
DUI	8
Driving Revoked/Suspended	33
No Operators/Permits - DL	17
Forgery of Public Records	1
Fleeing from Officer	7
Wanton Endangerment	2
Larceny-Petit/All Other Thefts	1
Illegal Possession of Controlled Substances	32
Possession of Marijuana	28
Illegal Possession of Firearms (Prohibited Person)	11
Insurance/No Insurance	27
Registration Violations	28
Remove/Turn off Dog Collars	1
Trespassing	31
False Pretenses/Obtain Goods by over \$1000	1
Destruction of Property/Felony	2
Child Restraint Violation	4
Child Support/License	1
Child Neglect/Create Risk of Injury	1
HATFIELD-MCCOY RECREATIONAL AREA	
Alcohol Possess/Consume	125
No Glass Containers While Riding a Motor Vehicle within HMRA	3
Riding/Remain on Designated/Marked Trails	10
Riding without Helmets	107
Riding without Permits	88
On Trail half hour After Sunset to half hour Before Sunrise	7
Failure to Follow ATV/UTV Manufacture Specs on Age/Size	10
Obey all Traffic Laws/Devices/Signs	8
TOTAL General	963

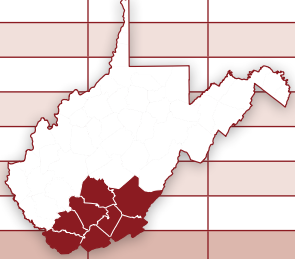
LAW ENFORCEMENT

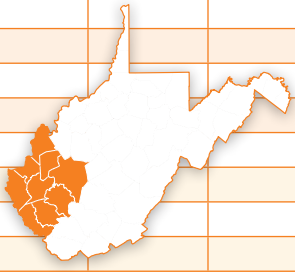
Reports of Prosecutions for FY2023

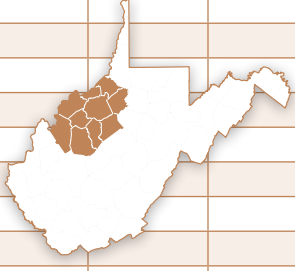
DISTRICT	TOTAL ARRESTS	TOTAL WARNINGS	COUNTY	NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS	DISPOSITIONS OF PROSECUTIONS			FAILED TO APPEAR	PENDING COURT
					CONVICTED	DISMISSED	ACQUITTED/ DEFERRED SENTENCE		
	656	1,370	Barbour	37	36	0	0	0	1
			Brooke	22	19	1	0	1	1
			Hancock	25	19	2	0	4	0
			Harrison	138	105	19	0	8	6
			Marion	87	69	8	0	7	3
			Marshall	32	27	4	0	1	0
			Monongalia	88	71	9	0	6	2
			Ohio	24	9	8	0	4	3
			Preston	57	53	2	0	1	1
			Taylor	54	29	18	0	5	2
			Tucker	32	29	1	Acquitted 1	1	0
Wetzel	20	17	3	0	0	0			
			TOTAL	616	483	75	1	38	19
	474	278	Berkeley	50	29	6	0	4	11
			Grant	48	42	4	0	0	2
			Hampshire	52	40	0	0	2	10
			Hardy	54	31	3	0	2	18
			Jefferson	83	41	2	0	12	28
			Mineral	27	15	0	Acquitted 6	0	5
			Morgan	16	5	4	0	0	7
			Pendleton	53	52	0	0	0	1
						TOTAL	383	255	19
	513	1,223	Braxton	27	23	2	0	2	0
			Clay	41	16	13	0	9	3
			Lewis	110	94	1	D. Sentence 1	4	10
			Nicholas	153	112	28	0	9	4
			Pocahontas	41	35	3	0	2	1
			Randolph	68	58	5	0	2	3
			Upshur	33	31		0	1	1
			Webster	57	55		0	2	0
						TOTAL	530	424	52

Reports of Prosecutions for FY2023

DISTRICT	TOTAL ARRESTS	TOTAL WARNINGS	COUNTY	NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS	DISPOSITIONS OF PROSECUTIONS			FAILED TO APPEAR	PENDING COURT
					CONVICTED	DISMISSED	ACQUITTED/DEFERRED SENTENCE		

4	593	1,085	Fayette	65	45	7	0	8	5
			Greenbrier	76	47	12	0	7	10
			McDowell	94	65	1	0	10	18
			Mercer	381	235	34	0	9	103
			Monroe	35	12	13	0	0	10
			Raleigh	114	57	10	0	11	36
			Summers	70	46	3	0	1	20
			Wyoming	116	85	9	0	9	13
			TOTAL	951	592	89	0	55	210

5	1,129	1,519	Boone	80	47	24	0	0	9
			Cabell	28	1	11	0	0	15
			Kanawha	100	30	46	0	7	17
			Lincoln	45	20	6	0	0	19
			Logan	169	62	81	0	0	26
			Mason	71	32	27	0	0	12
			Mingo	57	12	29	0	0	16
			Putnam	24	6	6	0	0	12
			Wayne	34	1	25	0	0	8
			TOTAL	608	211	255	0	7	134

6	519	669	Calhoun	27	17	5	0	0	5
			Doddridge	3	2	1	0	0	0
			Gilmer	6	45	1	0	0	0
			Jackson	70	30	31	0	8	1
			Pleasants	39	25	9	0	3	2
			Ritchie	57	46	8	0	0	3
			Roane	104	45	42	0	0	17
			Tyler	31	19	8	0	0	4
			Wirt	29	17	12	0	0	0
			Wood	110	58	36	0	12	4
		TOTAL	476	304	153	0	23	36	

STATE TOTAL	3,884	6,144		3,564	2,269	643	8	174	503
	3,892	6,153	THIS STATE TOTAL INCLUDES RETIREES AND RESIGNATIONS THAT OCCURRED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2023						



PARKS AND RECREATION

Bradley R. Reed, Sr., *Chief*



Introduction

This report provides a review of major programs, policies, actions and challenges addressed during the 2023 fiscal year.

Overview

The story of State Parks is one of great success. Conceived out of a nationwide conservation and park construction movement in the late 1920s and early 1930s, the development of West Virginia's state parks promoted preservation and conservation principles as ways to spur tourism and development in economically depressed areas of the state. Acquisition and construction of state parks, recreational facilities on state forests, and rail trails continues to this day, adding to West Virginia's reputation as a destination for travelers and a great place to raise a family.

The impact of park development on local communities is particularly evident in places such as Canaan Valley, Pipestem and Logan, where park construction created a catalyst for similar private entrepreneurialism. Now, 96 years later, the parks system continues that legacy by being one of the cornerstones of the state's robust tourism industry, hosting nearly 10 million visitors annually. It has dramatically increased local property values, helped to create new businesses, created jobs where few to none existed and dramatically improved the health and wellness of West Virginia citizens living nearby.

Additionally, the development of a state park system in West Virginia has proven to be a great investment for the taxpayers. In 2016, the WVDNR commissioned a study to renew the understanding of the economic impact of West Virginia's state parks and forests on the state and its citizens. A key finding of this study was that the total economic impact of the system annually ranges between \$160.5 million and \$189.5 million. Economic impact is a measure of fresh money infused into the state's economy that likely would not have been generated in the absence of the parks system. The study showed that for every dollar of general tax revenue provided to State Parks, \$13.15 on average was generated in fresh money that would not be present except for the operation of state parks and forests. It is important to note, however, that according to [usinflationcalculator.com](https://www.usinflationcalculator.com), the national inflation rate has increased from 1.4 percent in 2016 to 7.5 percent in 2023. Park revenue collections and attendance have grown significantly in the same time frame. The Parks and Recreation Section has commissioned a new study to update numbers noted in the 2016 report. This report will be available this fall.

West Virginia's state park system ranks very favorably when stacked against those systems found in the rest of the country in various categories. Note the following information (sourced from National Association of State Park Directors):

CATEGORY	WV RANK IN UNITED STATES
Total Lodging Revenue	2
Number of Ski Slopes	2
Swimming Pools/Areas	3
Restaurants	4
Holes of Golf	6
Total Cabin Revenues	8
Miles of Trails	11
Attendance	28
Total Revenue Collections	28



PARKS AND RECREATION

Overview continued

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Section, as detailed in the West Virginia Code §20-5-3, is to promote conservation by preserving and protecting natural areas of unique or exceptional scenic, scientific, cultural, archaeological or historical significance and to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for the citizens of this state and its visitors.

The Parks and Recreation Section has successfully met the mandates of this legislated mission throughout its 96-year history with its protection and preservation of over 164,000 acres of easily accessible public land. The Parks and Recreation Section promotes conservation with its mere existence. Fifteen state park areas feature primary or secondary old growth forest. The system has 35 state parks, nine state forests and three state rail trails. West Virginia citizens enjoying state parks and forests normally represent 63 percent of visitation, while 37 percent are guests traveling from outside the state.

The protection of these wildland green spaces and largely undisturbed ecosystems is vitally important to the state and nation. State park lands are set aside in their most natural condition for the benefit of the public now and for generations to come. This preservation has enormous ecological, scientific, and cultural benefits. Additionally, the upper watersheds of many of the state's rivers and streams are within the Parks System's responsibility, helping to ensure healthy water supplies for the citizens within and outside of our borders. Moreover, this prime real estate adds significantly to the values of surrounding privately owned lands, which contribute to the tax base of county governments.

In terms of the legislated mission to provide recreation, agency management efforts provide nearly 14,000 acres of developed recreational lands, not including land utilized for trails. Recreational activities range from intense components such as downhill skiing and rock climbing to more relaxed activities like golf and boating. Other activities to enjoy are quiet campfires, picnicking, hiking and traditional park recreation.

A snapshot of the facility inventory within the Parks System includes 798 lodge rooms, 358 cabins, 1,546 campsites, 152 picnic shelters and 559 playground units. Parks System staff maintain more than 2.5 million square feet of indoor space in nearly 1,500 buildings, the average age of which is more than 50 years. More than 700 miles of hiking trails are provided across 46 areas. The Parks System has diverse revenue-producing features, such as town and train operations at Cass, an island and sternwheel boat operation at Blennerhassett Island, a ski area at Canaan Valley Resort and zip line operations at Pipestem Resort, all of which separate West Virginia's State Parks system from national norms. It is well known in professional parks and recreation circles that the West Virginia State Parks system is one of the best in the nation.

Every state park and forest contributes to the value of the state and the excellence and complexity of the system. Unique West Virginia treasures such as Blackwater Falls, the Babcock Glade Creek Grist Mill, Twin Falls Resort Pioneer Farm and the Droop Mountain Battlefield Civilian Conservation Corps-era Lookout Tower are iconic representations of West Virginia. Exceptional scenic overlooks are on display at areas such as Hawks Nest, Cacapon Resort, Pipestem Resort, Babcock, Lost River, Coopers Rock and Carnifex Ferry. The preservation of the impressive virgin forest at Cathedral State Park and representation of 18th century life at Prickett's Fort State Park, while at the same time the Parks System's operation of Stonewall, Canaan Valley and Pipestem Resorts, further represents the diversity of the system and its management challenges.

General Information

GUEST SAFETY AND SATISFACTION

Guests visiting the Parks System have an overwhelmingly safe and satisfying experience. The Parks and Recreation Section is constantly ensuring the appropriate operation of complex facilities such as trams, excursion boats, elevators, marinas, historic structures, pools, lakes, dams, water systems, sewage systems and other similar important facilities offered for the care and use of the public. The system provided recreation to the public this past year with minimal incidents or safety concerns. The Parks System affords the traveling public a safe outdoor recreation experience. Fundamental for marketing is the awareness that all overnight facilities and park grounds are considered free from danger by the traveling public. A significant gauge of this success is the minimal number of incidents occurring in parks or forests which escalate to the level of arrests or citations. Comment card reports show overwhelmingly Excellent or Good ratings of our parks and forests. A major management emphasis in park operations is placed on hospitality and providing excellent guest services. This year our internal hospitality training program won the award for Excellence in Tourism Education from the West Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association.



IMPROVEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

A brief listing of significant projects, issues and happenings which took place in FY 2023.

- The Parks and Recreation Section absorbed the Planning, Engineering and Maintenance department.
- Acquisition and development of the Elk River Trail continued with the WVDNR now in ownership of 43 miles of trail in the Dundon to Widen and Hartland to Duck sections. Additionally, the WVDNR is leasing 25 miles of trail between Duck and Gassaway. A superintendent and staff were placed at the trail this year and heavy maintenance equipment was purchased. Plans are in progress to develop a visitor center, gift shop, park office and boat launch in the area.
- All work was completed to bring the North Bend Rail Trail back to full service after fiber installation and multiple utility projects.
- Watoga State Park, Calvin Price State Forest and Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park have been designated official Dark Sky Parks by the International Dark Sky Association.
- Two new cottages were constructed at Stonewall Resort State Park.
- Utility work and partnership with the City of Lewisburg was completed on the Greenbrier River Trail. The WVDNR received a new parking lot as a part of the construction.
- An excellent addition to the campground and new bathhouse at Canaan Valley Resort State Park were constructed and opened to guests.
- The West Virginia Division of Highways completed the full restoration of the Sewell Trail at Babcock State Park. This was a major undertaking and the DOH should be lauded for the work. Additionally, the DOH constructed access steps to the swinging bridge across Manns Creek in that area.
- A major brown trout stocking initiative began in Glade Creek at Babcock State Park.
- Participated in the West Virginia Department of Tourism's Almost Heaven swing program with multiple areas receiving and placing the very popular attraction.
- Participated in the Department of Tourism waterfall trail program with multiple state park waterfall areas being promoted.
- The concession operator of the sternwheel vessel Island Belle at Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park has, in its three years of operation, traveled more miles than it would take to traverse the circumference of the earth.



- The WVDNR is working in partnership with the Department of Tourism on multiple rebranding initiatives including park signs.
- The Cabwaylingo State Forest pilot project to permit ATV/UTV riding was made permanent with Hatfield-McCoy Trails as the continuing operator.
- Bids were awarded for the replacement of the tramway at Pipestem Resort State Park. This work will begin in the fall.
- Electric utilities were installed at the Kanawha State Forest campground.
- The old stable at Kanawha State Forest was renovated and reopened to the public with a concession operator providing equestrian services.
- Wastewater treatment plant replacement was completed at Pipestem Resort State Park.
- Event pavilion construction at Watters Smith Memorial State Park was completed.
- Cacapon Resort State Park was awarded a \$3.2 million grant for mountain bike trail construction.
- Canaan Valley Resort State Park was awarded a \$750,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for trail improvements.
- The Wildlife Resources Section added acreage from Blackwater Falls State Park to the Natural Area program.



WORKFORCE

Likely one of the greatest challenges to the continuing operation of the West Virginia State Park system is the current and continuing issues with workforce. As of this writing, parks has 85 full-time and 233 seasonal staffing vacancies. Normally the system employs 380 full-time staff and approximately 1,500 seasonal and summer staff. This level of staffing shortfall is a challenge for the park system to provide exceptional quality and service to our guests. Salaries and wages for park staff must be increased to compete and exceed the offerings available to guests of the private sector.

EDUCATION

Parks System management continued to increase emphasis on education and interpretation. Park and forest superintendents interpret the resources existing on specific areas and promote the conservation mandate. Naturalists and historical interpreters are employed to aid in this effort. There were nine full-time and 17 part-time naturalists who engaged thousands of guests through programming and nature center visits during this past year. Volunteer docents and interpreters, ranging from museum guides to bluebird box builders and programmers, assist with this effort.

The system continues to improve the quality of programming, concentrating largely, but not exclusively, on interpretation of state flora, fauna, natural history, and the mission of the Parks System. A major emphasis is placed on programming geared toward youth. Programmers and naturalists are charged with implementing programs which include interpretive hikes, wildlife observation, water study, etc., and to engage visitors in discovering and understanding the outdoors through interpretive interaction. Energizing and encouraging families to get outside is a priority.

State parks and forests are visited regularly by school groups. The areas are considered an outdoor learning laboratory, always available for nature study and specifically providing preservation of rare, threatened, and endangered species in unique ecosystems. The system operates four museums and six nature centers that are open year-round. Other nature centers, visitor centers and museums operate seasonally.

Finances

REVENUE GENERATION

Wisely over the years, management of the WVDNR, with the support of governors and legislators, has invested money into developing high quality facilities that not only are revenue centers that defray the cost of operating a statewide parks and recreation system, but also create jobs in 35 counties across the state.

As it pertains to self-generated revenue, fiscal year 2023 was an incredible one for the Parks System with overall revenue collections at an all-time high of \$33.9 million. The largest revenue generating years in the history of the park system all occurred in the past five years.

EXPENDITURES

Revenue collections from user fees and rentals last fiscal year accounted for 66.3 percent of field park and forest expenditures (third best in history). It is important to note, however, that West Virginia State Parks operations only received \$22.7 million in appropriations from the Legislature last year, meaning that park system earnings far surpassed tax dollars being used for support of the same. This appropriations amount is roughly equal to 0.12 percent of overall state spending and equates to \$12.76 per West Virginia citizen.

The success of the Parks System sometimes can be reduced to strictly internal fiscal matters by those without a full understanding of what the system fully provides for the citizenry. There are multiple factors to consider when those thoughts are presented. To begin, consideration of the total economic impact of the Parks System as noted above must be given. Like the tourism industry, the Parks System brings an excellent annual financial return to the taxpayers in terms of commerce brought into the state from its presence. Additionally, the Parks System often serves as community or county parks to local governments and citizens and provides free recreation and quality of life enrichment. Many parks only possess revenue centers at minimal levels.

FUNDING

Outstanding needs for the Parks System remain present for continued infrastructure replacement, renovations, equipment purchase and the enhancement of high use revenue centers. A recent estimate of that need created by Parks System management exceeded \$150 million dollars.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Surplus funding has been made available by the Governor and Legislature for major projects and concepts begun over the past few years. These projects include:

- Cabin Development at Coopers Rock State Forest
- Tram Replacement at Pipestem Resort State Park
- Tram Replacement at Hawks Nest State Park
- Additional Campground Development at Coopers Rock State Forest
- Elk River Trail Land Acquisition
- Elk River Trail Building(s) Construction
- Public Restroom Renovation System Wide
- Wastewater Renovation and Replacement at Multiple Areas

DIVERSITY

It is important that the Parks System cultivates a workforce representative of the people of West Virginia. To do so, the Parks System desires to increase the representation of minority groups in the workforce.





AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE

Critical to the mission of providing recreation to the public, the Parks System must provide services, facilities and programs to all people in a safe and accepting environment. Most of the items identified in the original systemwide ADA assessment are complete while additional and ever-evolving needs remain and require funding. The excess lottery bonds will address many Americans with Disabilities Act needs.

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES

The spread of non-native invasive species plants is quickly becoming a significant issue in state parks such as North Bend and Cacapon Resort. The seemingly exponential spread of species such as Japanese Stiltgrass, Japanese Barberry, Garlic Mustard, Bush Honeysuckle and Autumn Olive are creating monocultures in numerous natural areas. This is forcing out native species biodiversity that, in turn, critically harms healthy ecosystems. A plan for addressing problem areas and a plan for protecting non-affected areas needs to be developed, funded and implemented.

Individual Area and Section Activity Reports

AUDRA STATE PARK

Severe weather events brought down trees on several occasions including three that fell in the campground, impacting five separate campsites. Cleanup from that event took two weeks. The maintenance building and pavilion were pressure washed and sealed. The auxiliary parking area was striped. Staff built multiple picnic tables. The campground store and gift shop received new display panels. A tree contractor removed several dangerous trees during the off season.

BABCOCK STATE PARK

The West Virginia Division of Highways completed repairs and upgrades to the Old Sewell trail that runs five miles through the park to within sight of the New River near the town of Cunard. New interpretive signs were also installed along the trail. A flooding event damaged the access road to Cabin 5, a footbridge and a major water line. Park staff repaired all damage with assistance from the DOH. The large supply water line that crosses Glade Creek at the Grist Mill was replaced. This line supplies water to the reservoir at the Sugar Camp picnic area. A large tree fell on Cabin 20 resulting in roof and other structural damages that were repaired by staff. The cabin also was painted during this project. Several CCC-built stone structures were repaired throughout the park. The DOH built access steps on both sides of the old train trestle on the Narrow-Gauge Trail to allow for smoother access. The gift shop received upgraded merchandise displays. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held near the Grist Mill to dedicate the newly upgraded trail leading to the old town of Sewell. A new Almost Heaven swing was added near the parking lot across from the Grist Mill for photo opportunities.

BEARTOWN STATE PARK

Several new directional and interpretive signs were installed. A large section of the boardwalk was replaced due to rot.

BEECH FORK STATE PARK

The operating season was extended further into the fall of 2022 in all campgrounds thanks to milder weather and to allow for camping during a new Halloween “Pumpkin Chunkin” event. Several park structures were reroofed, cabins received minor upgrades and improvements were made to the wastewater plant and sewage lift stations. The park held the second annual Beech Fork State Park Open disc golf tournament with proceeds going to the Park Foundation. The annual Heron Festival was successful and all campsites are already reserved for next year’s event. The park was impacted by two major weather events that required extensive cleanup efforts: the Mother’s Day weekend flood and a “bomb cyclone” cold front that brought extreme strong winds and wind chills of 20 below zero in December. All park staff received CPR/First Aid AED training.

BERKELEY SPRINGS STATE PARK

The Main Bathhouse expanded their services to include skincare treatments, such as facials, body treatments, waxing and derma plane services. Special events hosted at the park included several Art in the Park events, monthly Mountain State Cruisers car shows, the Summer Concert Series and a Family Movie Night/ Backpack giveaway. The Apple Butter Festival returned to Berkeley Springs State Park after being on hiatus for two years due to COVID. The event was a great success for vendors visiting the park as well as the park’s gift shop.

BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

The lodge completed a year of operations after the recent extensive renovations. A new hospitality station was added just a few steps from the front desk with fresh West Virginia coffee and vending machines available 24 hours a day. The new campground building was opened, and a firewood storage shed was added. New projects initiated included sewer line replacement at the Trading Post and the lodge. The trail system in the park saw the beginning of a program to perform extensive work improving the existing trails and developing new trails, all under the supervision of a new trail coordinator. A mountain bike park addition is also in the planning stages. More than 300 new sleds were added to our inventory at the Sled Run, and plans were underway to increase snowmaking capabilities. The Blackwater Falls State Park Foundation was created and received 501(c)(3) designation. The first project for the new foundation will be working with the park naturalist on a Dark Sky Initiative to increase awareness of the excellent environment for stargazing. The Mushroom Gathering and Wildflower Pilgrimage enjoyed record attendance while the Half Marathon and Revenge of the Rattlesnake races continued to be popular and drew large crowds.

The park hosted more than 114 groups, retreats and conferences, 12 family reunions and 23 weddings. The Nature Center saw an estimated 18,400 visitors with more than 1,000 scheduled activities held. The Trading Post exceeded \$1 million in sales.





BLENNERHASSETT ISLAND HISTORICAL STATE PARK

The Island Belle Sternwheeler boat has run for 4,000 hours with no major issues. For the past three years under concessionaire operations, it has made, essentially, one trip around the circumference of the Earth at 24,901 miles (6.4 mph x 4,000hrs = 25,600). Spring cleanup included extensive flood debris and damage mitigation. The park foundation applied for and was awarded a \$40,000 grant to replace the air handling unit on the museum's third floor, allowing it to be used once again as a space used for meetings, luncheons, and receptions. The island's water infrastructure received an upgrade with a new water well pump and water filters donated by the Chemours company. Park volunteers worked 4,656 volunteer hours to help with staffing mansion tours, running the gift shop, driving the golf cart to make the park accessible, and staffing the Maple Shade house for visitors. The park's signature evening event, Mansion by Candlelight, continues to sell out.

BLUESTONE STATE PARK

Bluestone constructed and erected the first of the new entrance signs designed by the Department of Tourism under their state parks branding initiative. These new and iconic looking signs are placed at all the entrances to the park, with a large central sign located on the park road overlooking Bluestone Lake. One of the Department of Tourism's Almost Heaven swings was installed by maintenance staff near the signs, further enhancing already abundant photo opportunities.

In conjunction with Pipestem Resort State Park and the National Park Service, Bluestone hosted the American Brother Foundation's first USMC Mecot Camara Memorial Ruck in September. The event had 87 participants who hiked 10 miles from Bluestone's Shelter to Pipestem Resort's Mountain Creek Lodge. Some who attended the event said they planned to attend next year and to stay for a whole week so that they could more fully enjoy both parks.

While many areas struggled to fill both full-time and seasonal positions, Bluestone found qualified individuals for all open positions, resulting in a full complement of staff for the first time in several years. All campgrounds were open for the first time since 2019, in part due to the availability of workers. Cleaning up from the many flooding events of the past three years took a great deal of time and effort, but opening all campsites for guests was well worth it. Ongoing Phase 5 work at Bluestone Dam by the Army Corps of Engineers still poses a higher risk for flooding the campgrounds.

A new ADA accessible walkway and entrance to the park office is in the planning stages. Once completed, the park office will be easily accessible for all guests. Infrastructure projects completed at Bluestone for FY 2023 include installation of new anode bags at the wastewater treatment plant, water line replacement in various locations, the continued removal of high-risk trees from around the cabins and campsites, and the construction of new fixtures for the gift shop. The shelving for some of the gift shop fixtures was made of cedar trees that were part of the tree removal process.

The park has worked intensively on non-native plant removal. Work Exploration education partnership students assisted with the removal of Autumn Olive and Garlic Mustard. The Tree of Heaven plant, which is a host for the Spotted Lanternfly, is more difficult to remove due to its habit of growing on cliffs, but efforts are ongoing.

Bluestone employees and volunteers designed and created a new trail, the Eagle Point Trail. This trail offers a spectacular view of both the confluence of the Bluestone and New rivers and Bluestone Lake. The trail was officially opened in May as part of the National Park Service's Annual Spring Wildflower Fling.

CABWAYLINGO STATE FOREST

The Cabwaylingo State Forest Trail System two-year pilot project permitting ATVs and ORVs was fully adopted and is now a permanent recreational feature for the forest. This trail system of more than 80 miles, with four horseback riding trails, was developed and is operated by the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority. Cabin renovations were completed and include new tankless water heaters, kitchen cabinets, bathroom remodels, new furniture, flat screen TVs and internet services. All cabins were repainted inside and out to improve appearances while also protecting these historic structures. Additional areas were cleared to provide better access to fishing opportunities, as well as providing more scenic vistas. Historic Civilian Conservation Corp structures had vegetation cleared throughout the Long Branch recreation area. Cabwaylingo experienced a greater than average amount of rain and storm damage throughout the reporting period that caused large amounts of downed trees in the old growth forest. Damage to structures was minor but large amounts of labor time were required to clear the areas.

CACAPON RESORT STATE PARK

Irrigation leaks, repairs, upgrades and preventive maintenance were completed for the golf course throughout the year. A new golf course irrigation system computer was installed and a new parking area for golf carts was completed next to the Pro Shop. Numerous shelters, buildings and other park amenities were repaired and ongoing preventive maintenance was performed in the cabin areas. A cabin linen room was completed in the basement of the lodge, a storage shed for lodge propane tanks was installed, and boiler gas regulators that were causing a hot water issue in the lodge were repaired. The Park Foundation brought the newest Recreational Trails Program grant to a close with nine new bike trails and a skills course being connected to the Batt Picnic area. They also began a successful recycling program at the lodge, provided 35 mountain bikes to Warm Springs Middle School for students to ride trails, and contributed funding needed to complete the paving of the Batt Picnic Shelter area. Healing Waters Spa introduced Spa Memberships due to high demand, with multiple tiered options for guests to choose from. Special events hosted at the park this year included an Independence Day celebration with a performance by the Morgan community concert band, Irish Road Bowling, Haunted Hayrides, Project Tree Early Childhood with WV Forestry, Christmas at the Old Inn, New Year's Eve Celebrations, Annual First Day Hike, Valentine's Day Dinner, WV Save our Streams, Easter Egg Weekend/Hunt, Earth Day Celebration, Envirothon and the Youth Fishing Derby on Kids to Parks Day.

CAMP CREEK STATE PARK

Camp Creek State Park employees completed several projects this year including installation of a new metal roof on the shower house and outside lighting to the restrooms, laundry room and check-in station. Plumbing repairs were completed in the attic and lighting replaced in men's and women's restrooms and laundry facility. The shooting range was modified to extend the total length to 60 yards to accommodate the WVDNR Law Enforcement Section's rifle qualifications needs. Other improvements were completed to the area to bring it up to standards. This year, with the assistance of employees from Forrest Labs, 5,000 board feet of lumber harvested from downed trees in the park and forest were milled, graded and stored for future use. Water line replacement was completed in various areas of the park and extensive repairs were made to the Blue Jay pump house including rafter repair/replacement and a new metal roof. With the help of the West Virginia Division of Forestry, the new day rider parking area located just past the CC Horse and Rider campground was cleared and leveled.

The annual Ramp Dinner and Lumberjack Festival was held once again and saw the largest event turnout ever seen at the park. This included 31 vendors, including Mercer County CVB and the West Virginia Department of Tourism, and 4,000-5,000 guests. Camp Creek also hosted the second annual Jeep'n at the Creek jeep show as well as the Birds of Prey show with Three Rivers Avian Center and the Peak of the Bloom event with the Grass Roots District located in Princeton. Wagon rides were provided to the sunflower field at Wildlife Area 10 for the Peak of the Bloom event. Camp Creek State Park Foundation funded installation of all new seamless gutters and downspouts at the shower house, and funded half of the metal roof for the shower house and purchased a storage building.

CANAAN VALLEY RESORT STATE PARK

Canaan Valley Resort State Park saw many significant improvements and hosted several large groups and events during the reporting period. The ski area added airless snowmaking guns and Snowmax equipment to its man-made snow making capabilities, which allowed for improving trail coverage, as well as a new tube park design. A total of 25 new campground sites were completed, bringing the park total to 59 sites. A new campground bathhouse was also constructed. Canaan hosted large events such as the Wheeling Symphony, New Year's Firework show, Civil War reenactment, NICA bike race and many more. Canaan was also the host to large groups such as annual business conferences, first Almost Heaven Classic Golf Event, National Lotus convention and the annual West Virginia State Park superintendents meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION



CARNIFEX FERRY BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

Park staff painstakingly and carefully cleaned, restored and re-painted the full-sized replica James Gun Cannon. The cannon serves as a backdrop and subject for many photographs, school pictures and postcards as well as a centerpiece and highlight for tours of the battlefield and park visitors. The porch on the Patterson House museum was repaired and repainted as was the floor to the historic hand dug well next to the museum. The museum and gift shop continued to be improved with more displays, artifacts and souvenir items. Park staff continued to improve and upgrade the park trail system with properly sized and visible trail markers. The trail system is a very popular park attraction as it leads to three different overlooks with spectacular views of the Gauley River.

The Carnifex Ferry Sign Shop produced a total of 1,616 signs for various WVDNR facilities during FY 2023.

CASS SCENIC RAILROAD STATE PARK

Renovations to House 241 were completed and it was added to the rental inventory, providing a new and welcome addition to the Company House rental pool. It is significant as it is one of the houses on Main Street that was in the worst condition and required extensive work to the foundation and interior.

A new geocache network was set up at Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. This network takes guests through the park in various areas and provides them with the historical background of each location. Porches on three company houses were rebuilt/refurbished. The Methodist Church at Cass Scenic Railroad State Park was donated to West Virginia State Parks. The building needed electrical and plumbing repairs which were completed, and the first wedding was held at the facility. It will also serve as an excellent meeting and conference center for the park.

Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins partnered with Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. They had their first multi-day seminar at the park in October. During the seminar participants could learn old style guitar, banjo, dulcimer and singing. This was the first of many events of what will be an ongoing partnership.

A new concessionaire for restaurant operation was selected and began work this year. Additionally, the restaurant was renamed “Shays” for promotional and historic purposes. The soda fountain at the park restaurant was renovated. Significant renovation work was completed at this facility including floor leveling, installation of a new subfloor, tiling of floors and counters and new cabinets. In addition, a new ice cream cooler and dishwasher were installed, the soda fountain mirror was replaced and etched glass was added.

CATHEDRAL STATE PARK

The park saw continuing growth in use of the area by hikers and an increase in day-use visitors. Cathedral served as a point of interest for the Naturalist Workshop and Wildflower Pilgrimage hosted by Blackwater Falls State Park.



CEDAR CREEK STATE PARK

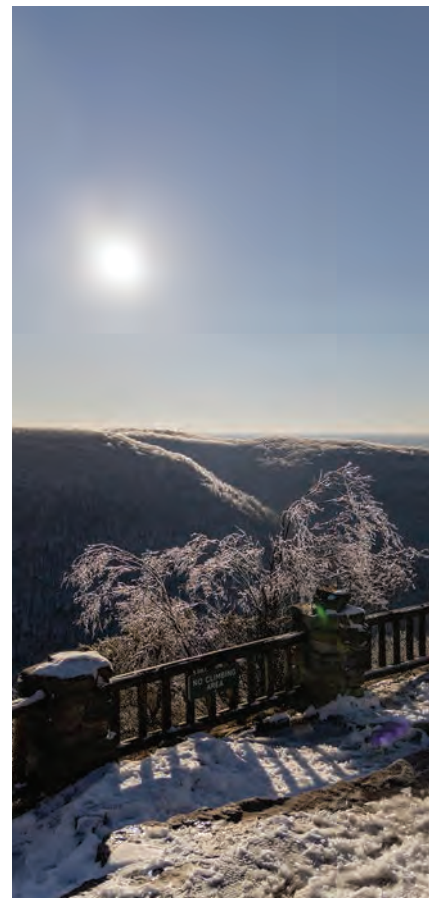
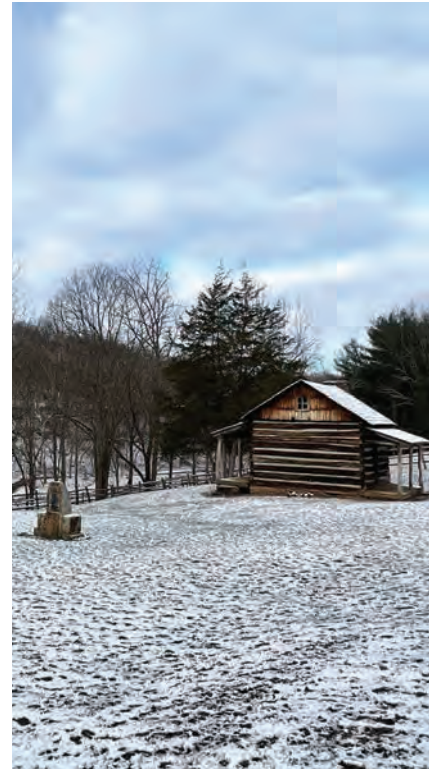
Cedar Creek State Park made several noteworthy upgrades and repairs during the reporting period. The Park Foundation purchased 12 lounge chairs for the pool, and concrete for pads to be poured at several campsites. The foundation also contributed to funding for the purchase of gravel for all sites. The General Store, Recreation Building and all three campground bathhouses received a fresh coat of paint with help from the staff and foundation volunteers. New mulch was placed at all playgrounds throughout the park. New swings and spring rider toys were purchased by the foundation and placed at the playground near the first bathhouse. Both the main swimming pool and the baby pool received a new coat of paint prior to opening Memorial Day weekend 2023. During the offseason, hazardous trees were removed from various locations in the park to protect infrastructure. Removal of invasive species was also performed. The park accepted a donation of gravel to improve the shelter in the group camping area.

CHIEF LOGAN STATE PARK

Chief Logan State Park saw many improvements in the park during the reporting period. The Youthworks group volunteered at the park and cleaned shelters, installed signs, cleaned playgrounds and flower beds, and cleared brush. The Lawson Heirs donated \$25,000 for improvements to the Wildlife Center and museum. The Wildlife Center had some trees removed for safety and aesthetics and a new perimeter fence was installed. Older wooden playground units were removed, and each remaining playground received new cushioning material as well as a coat of paint. Sewage line upgrades were completed for the campground and all 26 sites are now equipped with electric, water, and sewage hookups. The public Elk Tours continued. The miniature golf course was repaired and re-carpeted for the 2023 season. The pool concession stand was cleaned and painted, cooking equipment was replaced, and park staff took over operation of the concessions. Special events included the Wildflower Hike in April 2023 and the 29th annual Christmas in the Park event ran from Thanksgiving night through Dec. 31, 2022.

COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST

The expansion project at McCollum campground began with earth moving and utility installation. The cabin area construction included the access road and cabin loop road work and early preparation of the actual cabin sites including utilities and sewer lines. Improvements made in Rhododendron Campground included a new lift station and electric service to the bathhouse which will allow further improvements in the future. A project to remove redundant or unnecessary signs is underway throughout the forest. The gateway entrance was improved with sealing and stain which will prolong the lifespan of the iconic entryway. A volunteer camp host site at Rhododendron Campground was prepared which will allow for better and more responsive service for guests. Improvements were made to the group camping area. A major repair project was completed on the bridge to the overlook with assistance from the Planning, Engineering and Maintenance office.



PARKS AND RECREATION

DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

The superintendent's residence interior was painted and hardwood floors were refinished. An Almost Heaven swing was installed at the tower's scenic overlook.

ELK RIVER TRAIL

During the reporting period, the first 25 miles of trail to be official state park property (the section of trail from Hartland bridge to the Duck trail head) were officially transferred to state ownership. An additional lease for the second section of trail from Duck north to Gassaway was finalized. Several of the small communities that the trail passes through have started to take pride in the trail and what it has to offer. All trail crossing signs have been installed and work began to get the larger trail head signs in place. With the many long stretches of trail that pass through uninhabited areas, wildlife sightings were numerous and include two bald eagle nesting sites. Staff worked with Clay County High School carpentry students who built a dozen picnic tables that were placed along the trail, several eight-foot hemlock benches and one 10-foot bench.

GREENBRIER RIVER TRAIL

A major waterline project performed by the City of Lewisburg impacted the trail and included a new trail parking lot and access upgrades at Hopper. A new parking lot was constructed at Caldwell. This very large parking area includes a picnic shelter, new signage, and an access path to the trail. Several interpretive signs were installed along the trail containing historical and nature information.

GREENBRIER STATE FOREST

Repairs were made to the chimneys of Cabins 1, 2, 8 and 11. Gutters were installed at the maintenance shop. Shelter 2 was repainted and the parking area re-graveled. The campground bathhouse roof was repaired, interior ceilings within the building were lowered and new lighting was installed. The Greenbrier East High School Building and Construction trades class constructed two much needed foot bridges along the Mabel Dowdy Trail. Events at the forest included two sanctioned Professional Disc Golf tournaments.

HAWKS NEST STATE PARK

To better enhance the guest experience, the 1970s era steps leading to Lover's Leap Overlook were replaced with concrete, gravel and treated lumber providing a much safer trek into the New River Gorge. Upgrades were made to the wastewater lift station to include a rebuilt pump, replaced backflow valves and new electrical system. Twelve new lighted displays were added to the Lights Along the Midland Trail Christmas Lights this year bringing the total number of displays to 145. The Mitsubishi HVAC rooftop units installed at the lodge in 2012 were refurbished with new compressors, evaporators, condensers, and electronic control boards. A below-zero cold spell in late December 2022 brought with it a power outage that resulted in the water lines in the new Event Center catering kitchen freezing and bursting. All water lines had to be replaced along with ceilings, flooring and drywall throughout the kitchen area.

HOLLY RIVER STATE PARK

The newly renovated Patrol Cabin opened for rentals to good reviews. New furniture was added to the cabins, along with two new refrigerators, four new microwaves, and one new oven range. All cabin fireplace grates, grilles and several fire rings were replaced. More than 150 tons of gravel was spread throughout campsites. A new generator was purchased and installed for backup operations at the restaurant. The restaurant kitchen was renovated by park staff to exceed health department standards. More than seven tons of junk and scrap metal have been sold with permission by the WVDNR and Surplus Property. A new freezer was purchased for the restaurant. Hazardous trees were cut in the cabin area, along with nearly 100 dead Ash and Hemlock trees in the campground. Portions of Holly River State Park were named a Natural Area by the WVDNR Wildlife Resources Section. The Dark Sky initiative began its initial phases of a three-year approval process.



KANAWHA STATE FOREST

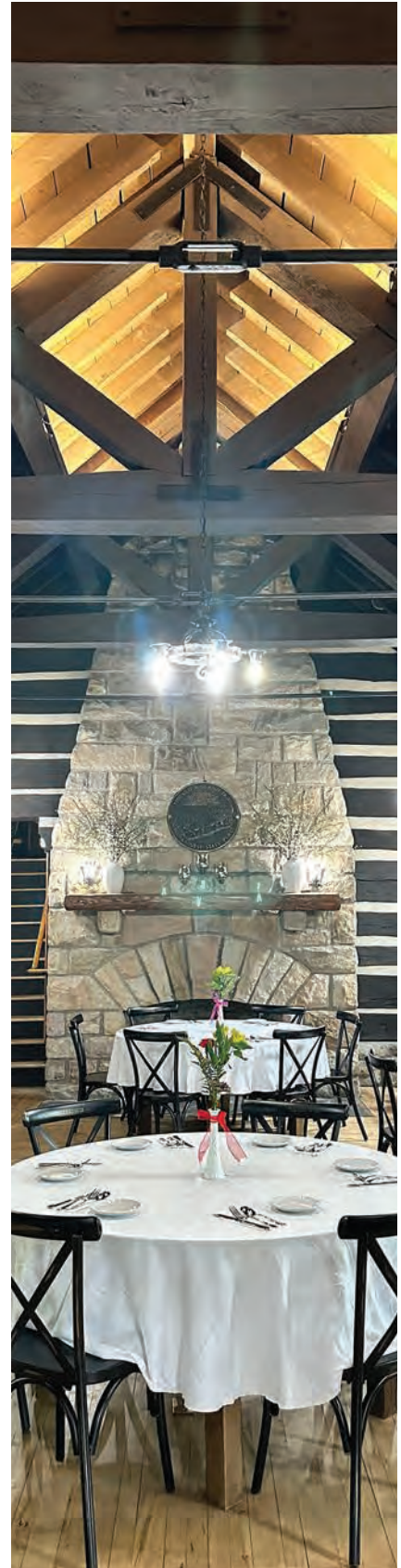
Following the previous year's project to remove the CCC-built dam and perform restoration and enhancements to Davis Creek, fish stocking resumed in Davis Creek. The creek was stocked with rainbow and golden trout the first week of March as part of the Class Q stockings, providing Class Q and youth 14-and-under angler's exclusive access to fishing in the forest from March 1 through May 31. The campground underwent a major upgrade to electric service. Three sites were upgraded to 30 amp and 22 sites were upgraded to 50-amp service. Additionally, 50-amp electric service was added to nine previously primitive camping sites. After nearly a decade of sitting vacant, the horse stables underwent a major restoration project to reopen for guided trail rides. The project was primarily funded by an equine interest group, the West Virginia Horse Coalition and included repairs to and reshingling of the roof, repairs to sections of the upstairs flooring, restoration of water and electric utilities, replacement of the septic tank and leach field, addition of landline telephone services and treatment for insects and pests. The WVDNR entered a contract with a concessionaire, Circle B Stables, to provide guided trail rides which began just prior to the end of the fiscal year. The already extensive hiking, biking, and equine-use trail system had two additions to it in FY 2023. The Amphibian Loop, located across from Rattlesnake Hollow, was created to highlight amphibian habitat and portions of the Davis Creek stream restoration project. Middle Ridge Trail was extended by an additional 1.3 miles on the southern end of the forest, connecting the existing Middle Ridge trailhead into the Black Bear trailhead. This addition provides hikers and bikers with different difficulty options and allows them to avoid paved road traffic while accessing other trails and areas of the forest. These additions bring Middle Ridge Trail to 11.2 miles in length, and the overall forest trail system to nearly 57 miles.

KUMBRABOW STATE FOREST

Several facilities were painted, new furniture was received and placed in cabins. Brush and trees were cleared from the office area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District and the WVDNR signed a partnership document for a feasibility study to remove a low water crossing in Kumbrabow State Forest.

LITTLE BEAVER STATE PARK

The focus at the park was placed on cleanliness, safety and guest satisfaction. A comprehensive gift shop re-inventory and reorganization was initiated to provide better efficiency and product placement. Continuous landscaping and maintenance were performed on recreation areas, parking lots and trails with a concentration on litter removal. Work to remove accumulated debris and discarded materials from the maintenance shop and the surrounding area was performed. Comprehensive plumbing repairs were performed at several public facilities. Extensive work was performed on the hiking trails by park staff and volunteers, which included removing downed and overhanging trees and cleanup after severe weather. Several park roads were repaired and upgraded to improve surface conditions and to provide better drainage control. Maintenance was performed on the road to Redden Cemetery, and measures were implemented to provide year-round access to cemetery visitors. Special events during the fiscal year included the annual Three Rivers Avian Center Migration Day Celebration, 32nd annual Kids Fishing Derby, Shady Springs annual cross-country meet, Shade Tree Car Club car show, Christmas light display, and Halloween Trunk or Treat event at the campground.



PARKS AND RECREATION



LOST RIVER STATE PARK

The main office check in station and gift shop were remodeled. Many roadway bridges and guardrails were repaired and painted throughout the park. New fencing was placed around the historic primitive cabin and Tentrr Site F. Many dead trees and storm damaged trees were removed and cleaned up following a massive storm that hit the park in December. Steps leading to game hill and the horseshoe pit and volleyball courts were rebuilt and upgraded. Roofs were replaced on Cabin 4 and the park maintenance shop. Archery targets were rebuilt by a local group of Eagle Scouts.

MONCOVE LAKE STATE PARK

Ground maintenance throughout the park included removal of tree stumps and improvements to all recreational areas. Downed trees were removed and trail repairs were completed by park staff on Devil's Creek, Grouse Knoll, Diamond Hollow and Roxalia Springs trails to address damage from storms and inclement weather. The swimming pool pump motors were replaced and plumbing repairs were made to correct issues that caused an early closure the previous summer. The second pump in the lift station for the water treatment plant was repaired and installed. Mountain View Elementary School held end of school year field trips at the park for grades 6-8.

NORTH BEND RAIL TRAIL

A new precast vault toilet was purchased using a grant from the West Virginia Division of Highways and installed at mile marker 14. Additional funds from the grant will be used to build a shelter with a fire ring, horse tie outs and picnic tables. Two more bear proof trash receptacles were purchased and installed, with the North Bend Rails to Trails Foundation securing a grant to purchase six additional units. Two more bicycle repair stations that were purchased through a grant were installed in Pennsboro and West Union.

NORTH BEND STATE PARK

North Bend saw a resumption of all normal operations after the lodge renovations and pandemic, welcoming back annual groups, hosting various training courses for staff, accommodating other state agency meetings and partnering with the local community for such things as weddings and family reunions. A vendor was hired to operate the Ice Cream Shack, located by Shelter 4 near the lodge, to provide the community and guests alike with a new experience while visiting the park. Park management began working with a rock-climbing guide service to offer onsite hospitality at a Base Camp location, utilizing the old camp store building, which is being renovated for a spring 2024 opening. During the off season an extensive tree removal and pruning project was done to remove dead and hazardous trees in public areas, and trim back trees to allow clearance for larger camping units. This project will hopefully prevent excessive storm debris in the future. Park staff improved landscaping with new mulch at the lodge and front entrance, and perennial native plants were established in both areas to promote pollinator habitat. The park began an invasive plants management plan, coordinating with the West Virginia Division of Forestry to obtain drone footage of the current Autumn Olive situation at the Cokeley Recreation Area.

Special events included the 43rd West Virginia International Sports Jamboree and Ritchie County Schools two-week summer camp. North Bend was also one of two parks selected to partner with the Buckskin Council Boy Scouts to assist them in service projects, merit badge programs, and testing primitive camping skills.

PANTHER STATE FOREST

During the reporting period, improvements were made to the Group Camp, including replacing the well pump and firepit circle benches, replacing the back deck and installing a new water heater. The gift shop was completely inventoried, labels were made and entered into the Camplife system and the gift shop was in full operation. The pool was painted, a leaking skimmer was replaced and a new hot water tank was installed and the facility was opened for the first time in three years. All hiking trails were cleared and clearly blazed. Benches were built and installed on Overlook Trail. The main breaker box/electrical service electrical lines for the office were replaced, the outside breaker box was relocated inside and a new service drop was installed.

PINNACLE ROCK STATE PARK

Pinnacle Rock State Park employees plumbed all new water lines into the shelter/restroom area and remodeled restrooms. Employees built and installed a new entrance gate at the shelter along with a new split rail fence. New park signage was installed at Jimmy Lewis Lake and Jimmy Lewis Lake Road. Several dangerous trees were removed from the park and trail system including a large red oak that blocked access to the maintenance building. Gates were removed from John Butt Road this year per the West Virginia Division of Highways to allow vehicular access from Jimmy Lewis Lake Road to Route 52. A contractor upgraded the public water chlorination system in early May. The Park Foundation held the annual Kids Fishing Derby. Foundation members obtained grant money to purchase 11 new picnic tables for the shelter and playground area. The Foundation also purchased new informational signage for the three kiosks at the park and funded the shelter waterline upgrade and restroom upgrades.

PIPESTEM RESORT STATE PARK

Most major renovation projects were completed with a few still underway. The park saw all normal activities resumed after being curtailed or reduced during the pandemic and guest visitation continued to rebound in facility use and activities. Canyon Rim Center renovations were completed with the addition of a wooden ADA walkway leading to the tram, ADA parking, ADA entrance to the building, ADA interior lifts, restrooms and new roofing. Mountain Creek Lodge received new individual split pack HVAC units for each of the 30 guest rooms. An ADA ramp was constructed connecting the guest rooms to the lower tram area and one guest room was converted to comply with ADA standards. Construction of a new wastewater treatment plant serving the lodge, cottage area C and the golf club was completed. All interior work was completed on the bunkhouse located at the 18-hole pro shop and work on the exterior fire escape was planned for the fall of 2023. Major electrical and mechanical repairs were performed on the aerial tram throughout the winter to prepare for the summer season. The existing tram will close for the last time on Oct. 29, 2023, and construction on the new tram is scheduled for 2024.

The 53rd Pipestem Invitational Golf Tournament drew the maximum field of 150 golfers and 25 additional golf tournaments drew 1,352 participants. The seventh International Bowhunter Organization Triple Crown Championship was conducted in May with a record number of 950 participants. Special events included the 22nd Annual Car Show, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Trick or Treat, monthly concerts in the Amphitheater and monthly craft sales held from May through October. The Farm to Table Dinner was held in September and was a huge success with 100 guests attending. The monthly Seafood Buffet continued and attracted an average of 250 guests. A New Year's Eve Celebration, Valentine's Dinner and Line Dancing and Ballroom Dance weekends were held in the winter months. The Hospitality Academy was held during the months of January through March. Approximately 300 employees from the park system attended the two-day class. Pipestem was also the site for the initial K-9 Training and Certification for the Law Enforcement Section of the WVDNR.

PRICKETT'S FORT STATE PARK

Damaged grills were replaced in the picnic areas with grills that were rehabilitated by the local vocational and technical school students. The Educational Annex was transformed into the Junction Café, a sit-down eating establishment. As part of this project, the building received an exterior painting and sidewalks were repaired with new sections added around the side of the building. A kayak launch was installed at the courtesy dock.



PARKS AND RECREATION



SENECA STATE FOREST

The popularity of the Thorny Mountain Fire Tower remained strong, with bookings running a year in advance. All eight cabins received new living room furniture as part of the cabin upgrade program. Wooden porch swings were refinished for all cabins. New mulch was placed in the fall zone around the playground equipment. The gift shop area of the headquarters building was remodeled, and new merchandise displays were purchased. Several new pedestal grills were installed. All gates in the forest received a coat of paint or stain as did the boat dock and fishing pier at the lake. The shower house interior received a new coat of paint, new lighting and new fixtures and plumbing upgrades. Volunteers worked throughout the year to clear several miles of trails and began the rehabilitation of two hike-in campsites. Retail sales increased significantly over previous years. Numerous hazardous trees were removed from the picnic area, cabin areas and campground. New entrance signs were installed along State Route 28.

STONEWALL RESORT STATE PARK

Two additional deluxe cottages were completed, and placed into service earlier this year, and all deluxe cottage driveways were paved with parking spaces painted. The bathrooms and kitchens of the original cottages were completely remodeled. A new trail, including a footbridge, was added in the passive park near the deluxe cottages. Golf course improvements include upgraded drainage lines with a focus on the bunkers. The lodge was upgraded with projects including new HVAC equipment in the guest corridors, kitchen and new guest room and administrative RFID door locks installed. A new fleet of kayaks was added to our recreational inventory. The resort operator created a Safety and Security Department, which includes a supervisor and eight staff members who help ensure a safe and secure environment for the employees and guests.

TOMLINSON RUN STATE PARK

One of the highlights of the year was the successful completion of a new camping cabin within the campground. This cabin was constructed as part of the Simulated Workplace Program and was built by the Career Center in Hancock County. To support the new camping cabin and pave the way for future expansions, a new electric line was installed. This line not only provides power to the cabin but also lays the groundwork for the potential expansion of electric services throughout the campground. The Park Foundation played a pivotal role in improving the camping cabin experience by procuring new beds and mattresses for the cabin. A new Almost Heaven swing was installed in a picturesque location along the south fork of Tomlinson Run. Two new composite memorial park benches were generously donated to the park. Staff also removed hazardous trees from both the campground and picnic areas.

TU-ENDIE-WEI STATE PARK

The public building renovations continued to update plumbing for ease of maintenance and to prevent winter freeze damages. Several tree plantings were made to improve and maintain the park's aesthetics. The monuments in the park received a deep cleaning for appearances and preservation. Multiple displays and framed items in the Mansion House were cleaned, reworked, and relabeled for easier viewing and interpretation. Materials were donated to the park for reconstruction of the Panther Stone building. The bank of the Ohio River was cleared of brush and debris.





TWIN FALLS RESORT STATE PARK

Twin Falls Resort State Park saw improvements in nearly every department during the reporting period. Renovations and enhancements were made to lodge rooms, cabins, the restaurant, the golf course and pro shop, the recreation areas and the Pioneer Farm. Significant changes were witnessed through the completion and release of the new Twin Falls Pro Shop that is now operational and open to the public. The lodge complex at Twin Falls had several upgrades to room amenities in both the Cardinal and Monarch wings. New lamps, luggage racks and coffee makers were purchased for all lodge rooms. The bathroom in Room 204 in the Monarch Wing was renovated to include a new shower stall with sliding glass doors, new wall tile and removal of the popcorn ceiling. This will serve as the standard for future renovations to the original lodge rooms of the Monarch Wing. The lodge restaurant received new modern light fixtures throughout the dining and waiting area. A new security camera system was installed throughout the dining area, wait station and kitchen. Restaurant management also purchased local artwork to display in the dining area. A new water line was installed in the cabin area. This line served to replace an outdated and unreliable transit pipe water line. The new line completes the water line project at Twin Falls that replaced all lines on Smokey Ridge except for the campground. Cabin floors were refinished in four of the cabins and all two-bedroom cabins were outfitted with new butcher block microwave and storage carts and replacement ceiling fans. The fireplace hearth in Cabin 8 was re-concreted to address heat and stress cracks and fix loose material.

The Golf Course received aesthetic improvements that included new out of bounds markers and fairway yardage markers. The course had several smaller scale projects that addressed drainage on three holes, and at the rear of the pro shop, where water had begun to collect on the cart path. Several irrigation system fixes to water lines occurred throughout the course and an evaluation of the current pump system was professionally conducted. The bridge at No. 10 green was improved and stabilized by repairing and adding additional concrete and steel to the structure, along with asphalt cart path repair throughout the course. The driving range received drainage improvements and removal of thick vegetation throughout the range. This is part of the planned transition of the range from self-retrieval to a more conventional driving range model where balls are purchased and used on the range to be collected by park staff. The Amphitheater was upgraded with power, wireless internet connectivity, and a new back wall to replace the existing rotted one. The shooting range, used for Special Natural Resources Police Officer pistol certification for the academy, was cleared, with gravel added and new target backstops were made. The historic Pioneer Farm roof was repaired with materials that fit with the building's design. Cedar wood shingles were used on the roof, as well as rough cut lumber for the porch beams and poles. While this fits aesthetically, a rubberized liner and current roof construction techniques were used, hidden from view. A living memorial apple orchard for service members killed in action was created at Twin Falls Resort State Park through the Gold Star Mothers organization. The group, along with the park, planted 55 apple trees, one for each West Virginia County, in the Scout Field at Twin Falls. A black granite memorial bench, with six flag poles was also constructed on the site.



TYGART LAKE STATE PARK

Tygart Lake State Park saw many improvements in FY 2023. A short access trail was added from the Tygart Adventure Lake to the overflow parking area. This trail allows visitors to walk from the overflow parking to Adventure Lake avoiding the traffic on busy days. Ace Adventures added several new inflatable attractions that prove to be very popular with guests. Electrical upgrades were made to the Adventure Water Park building including some new wiring and replacement of old outlets with new GFCI outlets. All cabins at Tygart remained open through the winter for the first time in FY 2023. Weekend cabin rentals through the winter were very popular and weekday business showed potential. Electrical upgrades to the cabin kitchens were completed, including new wiring and hot-water tanks. Improvements were made to the multiuse Bus Loop Trail. Drainage and tread work, water bars, creek crossings and a small footbridge were enhanced. Three benches were added along the trail to provide scenic views and places for people to enjoy a short rest. Two benches were also added to a recently reclaimed natural area adjacent to the Nature Center.

VALLEY FALLS STATE PARK

The park had a new wastewater system installed. As part of the project, the old wastewater system was capped off, a new septic system was installed including new electric service, a new control panel, two pumps and a leach field. Park staff installed new gutters and fascia on the office. Staff also made repairs to multiple bridges on the trail system. Park staff worked with the foundation to make additional improvements to flower beds and install new benches throughout the park. The park continued to be a very popular location for weddings and family gatherings. Special events held during the year included a Car Show, Enduro mountain bike race, trail running race, an ultra-marathon, kayak training event, kayak float trip event and saw-whet owl banding.

WATOGA STATE PARK

More dead and dangerous trees were removed from the Beaver Creek Campground, Riverside Campground and cabin areas. Many dead trees were cut down by park staff and the more difficult ones were removed by a professional contractor. Ten non-electric campsites at Beaver Creek Campground were lengthened, widened, and leveled to accommodate larger campers before adding electric service to those sites. All electric upgrades at the campground were completed and included running all new conduits, wiring, pedestals, transformers and panel boxes to sites 1-22. The 30-amp electric pedestals in sites 23-38 at Beaver Creek were upgraded to 50-amp pedestals. Park staff replaced 300 feet of old sewer line from the Beaver Creek bath house to the lagoon and installed larger drain lines inside the bathhouse.

Contractors replaced all water lines throughout the Beaver Creek campground and installed new water filtration systems in three of our pump houses. Two pump houses had all switches, electronics and control boxes removed and upgraded to a single computerized control system. New wiring and floats were also installed in two of the water reservoirs and ten automatic air release valves were installed on existing water lines. Sewer lift stations at cabin two and Riverside Campground were rebuilt with new pumps, rails and control panels. Twenty more composite park benches were installed throughout the park bringing an end to the memorial bench program. Eighty benches were donated and installed throughout the park during this program. A new 18-hole disc golf course was designed by a professional and installed near the swimming pool.

The maintenance crew built two new footbridges on the lake trail and built wooden steps and concrete sidewalks at the boat docks. A 150-foot long concrete walkway was also poured from the parking area to the fishing dock and handicap pier at the lake. A new double-sided sign was installed at the main park entrance.

The final 10 legacy cabins received new furniture and all cookware and utensils were replaced in the cabins. Two in-ground water reservoirs were drained, cleaned out and sanitized. Chain link fencing with locks was installed around three water reservoirs.



WATTERS SMITH MEMORIAL STATE PARK

First Energy volunteers and park staff planted more than 500 trees and shrubs in many of the open areas in the forest canopy created by the die off of American Ash trees. Environmental remediation of Duck Creek and surrounding areas of the park was completed. In this area more than 1,000 trees and shrubs were planted.

The long-awaited shelter project was finally completed. This shelter can seat more than 100 people and is equipped with a kitchen. Two pergolas and an old farm wagon were placed on grounds surrounding the shelter to provide photo opportunities for park visitors.

Students from Harrison County United High School completed trail and building maintenance projects. This was a combined program with the West Virginia Department of Rehabilitation, NUSkool and Harrison County Board of Education. United Technical's Electrical Technology program constructed garbage can covers and wooden Easter egg decorations for the park.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Planning, Engineering and Maintenance (P.E.M.)

OVERVIEW

The Planning, Engineering and Maintenance office is a unit of the Parks and Recreation Section that serves the WVDNR through many functions. The Planning Office is responsible for the proper planning of all significant capital improvement projects as well as major maintenance projects. It also is responsible for all construction or consulting-related bidding documents and overseeing their ultimate proper disposition through the West Virginia Division of Purchasing. Finally, the Planning Office represents the WVDNR as the owner for all significant construction and architectural/engineering projects by providing administration for these contracts.

The Planning Office also is tasked with assisting in and ensuring the compliance of federal and state environmental regulations by all sections of the WVDNR. This office maintains the agency's West Virginia National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits and provides support to the sub agencies in their compliance, recordkeeping and reporting.

In addition to providing technical support to the Parks and Recreation and Wildlife Resources sections, the Planning Office also serves the Administration and Law Enforcement sections. This support includes technical advice for building maintenance and improvements, environmental compliance, water and wastewater treatment and infrastructure repairs and improvements.

The Planning Office is responsible for monitoring and maintaining certain systems as they relate to public safety. Proper inspection, maintenance and repairs are required to maintain public safety for the WVDNR's dams, ski lifts, aerial tramways, surface lifts and nautical vessels. This very important function of the Planning Office is accomplished by striving to ensure compliance with codes and standards.

The Planning Office also works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security following the occurrence of a state disaster to submit reports of damages and to see that the damages are repaired and the state is properly reimbursed.



*Kanawha State Forest Campground
Electrical Upgrades*



Kanawha State Forest Stable Roof

PARKS AND RECREATION SECTION

SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE PROJECTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

- Blackwater Falls State Park
 - Lodge Renovation Construction
- Kanawha State Forest
 - Horse Barn Wastewater System Replacement
 - Horse Barn Roof Replacement
 - Campground Electrical and Improvements
- Pipestem Resort State Park
 - Aerial Tramway Service and Inspection
 - Par 3 Pro Shop Electrical Panel
 - Par 3 Pro Shop Main Water Valve Replacement
 - Golf Course Irrigation Valve Replacement
 - McKeever Lodge WWTP Construction
- Twin Falls Resort State Park
 - Sprayground and Pro Shop Construction
- Watoga State Park
 - Waterline and Water Treatment Improvements
- Watters Smith Memorial State Park
 - New Event Pavilion and Additions
 - Pavilion Septic System
- Systemwide
 - WWTP System Contractual Assessment and Monitoring



Twin Falls Pro Shop



Watters Smith Pavilion

PARKS AND RECREATION

CONSTRUCTION OR COMPLIANCE PROJECTS IN PROGRESS AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

- Blackwater Falls State Park
 - Trading Post Construction
- Cacapon Resort State Park
 - Batt Shelter Paving and New Restroom
- Canaan Valley Resort State Park
 - Water Treatment System Compliance Upgrade
- Cedar Creek State Park
 - Wastewater System Upgrade
- Coopers Rock State Forest
 - Five New Cabins and Campground Construction
- Pipestem Resort State Park
 - New Tram Construction
- Stonewall Resort State Park
 - Wastewater Metals Removal Pilot Project
- Tomlinson Run State Park
 - Residence Master Bath Addition
- Systemwide:
 - Ski Lift Compliance and Safety
 - Wastewater Treatment Monitoring, Consulting and Report Control Management



Cacapon Resort State Park Batt Shelter Paving and New Restroom



Coopers Rock State Forest Campground Addition in Construction

EMERGENCY PROJECTS IN DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

- Beech Fork State Park
 - Wastewater EQ Tank Replacement
- Blackwater Falls State Park
 - Sewer Line and Manhole Repairs
- Cedar Creek State Park
 - Replacement of Failing Lagoon with a new Septic System
- Coopers Rock State Forest
 - Rhododendron Campground Pump Station
- Hawks Nest State Park
 - CCC Pavilion Structural and Roof Repair
- Kanawha State Forest
 - Headquarters and Campground Wastewater Repairs
- Moncove Lake State Park
 - WWTP Replacement
- Pipestem Resort State Park
 - Boiler Repair and Replacement
 - Mt. Creek Lodge and Tram Buildings Fire Alarm System
- Valley Falls State Park
 - Wastewater Improvements



Beech Fork EQ Tank Replacement



Valley Falls State Park Wastewater Improvement

PARKS AND RECREATION

PROJECTS IN DESIGN OR PLANNING AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

- Audra State Park
 - Restroom Renovations
- Babcock State Park
 - New Campground Restroom
- Beech Fork State Park
 - New Cabin Area Design
 - Restroom Renovation
- Berkeley Springs State Park
 - Pool House Bathroom Renovation
- Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park
 - Island Belle Compliance and Safety
 - Boat Dock Repair and Renovation
 - Necessary House Facility Upgrade
- Bluestone State Park
 - HQ Restroom and ADA access
 - Overlook at Lilly Bridge
- Cabwaylingo State Forest
 - Restroom Renovations and Replacement
- Cacapon Resort State Park
 - New Mountain Bike Trails
 - Pro Shop Restroom Renovation
- Camp Creek State Park/Forest
 - Bathhouse Renovation
- Canaan Valley Resort State Park
 - LWCF Trail Grant
 - Force Main Sewer Upgrades
 - Conference Rooms Carpet
- Cass Scenic Railroad State Park
 - New Campground
 - Restroom Reno./Replacement
- Cedar Creek State Park
 - Restroom Renovation
- Coopers Rock State Forest
 - Seven Additional Cabins
 - Pedestrian Bridge
 - New Campground Restroom
 - Overlook Restroom Replacement
 - Wastewater and Water Tank Construction
- Greenbrier State Forest
 - Campground Restroom Replacement
- Hawks Nest State Park
 - New Tram
 - Tramway Site Prep
 - Tram Final Completion
 - Sewage Lift Station
 - CCC Restroom Renovation
- Holly River State Park
 - Restroom Renovation and Addition
- Kanawha State Forest
 - Campground Restroom Replacement
 - Headquarters Sidewalk and Restroom Improvements
- Little Beaver State Park
 - New Campground Restroom
- Lost River State Park
 - New Campground
- Pipestem Resort State Park
 - Tram Replacement
 - Hudkins Conference Center Roof Replacement
 - Restroom Renovation
- Tygart Lake State Park
 - Restroom Renovation
- Watoga State Park
 - Restroom Renovations



Coopers Rock State Forest Pedestrian Bridge Concept



District 6 Headquarters



Guyandotte Boat Ramp Renovation

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE PROJECTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

- District 6 : New District Headquarters Complex
- Elk River Boat Ramp
- Guyandotte Boat Ramp Facility Renovations
- Kanawha River St. Albans Boating Public Access Site Renovation
- Salt Rock Public Access Site Slip Repair
- Panther WMA Wildlife Manager Residence Roof replacement
- McClintic WMA Dam Spillway Repair
- White Horse WMA New Headquarters

CONSTRUCTION OR COMPLIANCE PROJECTS IN PROGRESS AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

- Elkins Operation Center HVAC Renovation
- DNR Dam Safety Inspections

PROJECTS IN DESIGN OR PLANNING AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

- Bear Rock Lakes WMA Dam Repair
- Bellville WMA Wildlife Manager Residence Roof Replacement
- Clendenin Boating Public Access Site
- District 4 New District Headquarters Complex
- DNR Gun Range Lead Management Plan Project
- Grafton Boating Public Access Site
- Greenbrier River Boat Ramp in Summers County
- Greenbrier River Boat Ramp at Hopper
- Leon Buffalo Boating Public Access Site Boat Ramp and Dock Renovations
- Meadow River WMA Wetlands Project
- Parkersburg Law Enforcement Boat Dock
- Palestine Hatchery New Mussel Rearing Facility
- Palestine Hatchery - Pond Rehabilitation
- Pendleton Lake Dam Repairs at Blackwater Falls State Park
- Plum Orchard WMA New Headquarters
- Reeds Creek Hatchery Water Box Repair
- Ridge Hatchery New Collection Line Construction
- Tomblin WMA Visitors Center and Viewing Tower
- Turkey Run WMA Lake Impoundment Removal
- West Fork River 10 New Boating Public Access Sites



WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Paul R. Johansen, *Chief*



The Wildlife Resources Section is responsible for the management of the state's wildlife resources for the use and enjoyment of its citizens. The primary objective of the Wildlife Resources Section is to maintain and perpetuate fish and wildlife at levels compatible with the available habitat, while providing maximum opportunities for recreation, research and education.

Operations Unit

INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

Public meetings were held around the state to present proposed regulations changes to hunters, anglers, and other interested individuals. Public open house format meetings were held in Beckley, Elkins, Flatwoods, Grafton, Harrisville, Lewisburg, Logan, Martinsburg, Milton, Moorefield, Parkersburg and Triadelphia where 227 people attended. Comments on the proposed regulations for the upcoming seasons were solicited through submission of written responses to questionnaires. Twenty-four clubs with 1,500 members, and 329 individuals submitted completed questionnaires.

The WRS staff assisted conservation and civic clubs, schools and communities with various wildlife-related inquiries and informational needs. These activities included working with organizations and events such as the Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs, Envirothon, hunting, trapping and fishing-based clubs, nature tours, outdoor and hunting shows, fairs and training schools. Cooperation was extended to universities and colleges by staff serving as guest lecturers.

The West Virginia State Wildlife Center continued to provide an excellent opportunity to observe and learn about the state's abundant wildlife, both past and present. In 2022, the facility was visited by 34,292 people, generating \$77,050 in total admissions. An additional \$22,632 was made through gift shop sales. The Wildlife Center celebrated several events, including Groundhog Day, the Rendezvous and the Tails, Trails and Treats Halloween event. The Wildlife Center focused this year on facility improvement for the animals. Extensive repairs were made to underground skirting and fencing in several enclosures. New enrichment items were placed in the enclosures for the black bears in the form of a large water trough, additional roosting posts for the owls and a felled tree was provided to the wolves. Two new species were acquired in 2022: bobwhite quail and a barn owl. The Wildlife Resources Section will continue to improve the facility and experiences for the public.

In FY 2023, more than 208 hunters had a deer scored by an official WVDNR scorer or affiliated scorer, certified through the Boone and Crockett Club and/or Pope and Young Club. One hundred ninety-six bucks harvested during the 2022-2023 hunting seasons were scored. Of those, 93 bucks met the requirements of the West Virginia Big Buck Certification Program.

Staff conducted many fishing educational events. These events included National Hunting and Fishing Days, Black Walnut Festival, Conservation Camp, Charleston Hunting and Fishing Show, Gold Rush, Mountain State Art and Craft Fair, Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, Kids' Fishing Derby and numerous Outdoor Classrooms.

The weekly West Virginia Outdoors and WVDNR Report radio programs were broadcast over 17 Metro News-affiliated stations throughout the state.

The West Virginia Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) Strategic Plan

The WVDNR continued and strengthened its efforts to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters, anglers, boaters, shooting sports enthusiasts and wildlife viewers. The WVDNR's Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) strategic plan began in 2018 and was finalized in May of 2020. The WVDNR continued with the R3 plan throughout the pandemic with marketing specifically targeting licenses and outdoor activities that could be done while following all safety guidelines.

The WVDNR has continued to find new ways in its implementation and expansion of programs to help in our recruitment, retention and reactivation of our customers. The Archery in the Schools State Tournament has expanded and found a home at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. The space provided allowed the program to begin to introduce vendors like Cabela's into the state tournament. Plans are underway to bring more vendors and partnering programs from around the state to the tournament each year to help encourage the program's growth and to further introduce people to the outdoors.

Other programs in the R3 strategic plan include Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Project Wild and our Outdoor Classroom program. The Outdoor Classroom program was presented in more than 50 schools in FY 2023 to teach more than 5,000 students about conservation and wildlife with hands-on demonstrations and interactions with live animals native to West Virginia. The Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center has had several events since its opening in June 2022 and has been praised by members of the surrounding communities.

INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Archery in the Schools

More than 25,000 students received or participated in Archery in the Schools' curriculum for the first time during the 2022-2023 school year, the program's 18th year. Fifteen more schools were added to the 300 schools that are already part of the program. During FY 2023, the WVDNR hosted six Basic Archery Instructor Training courses, adding an additional 77 instructors to the program. Five more training courses are scheduled to take place by the end of the year.

This year, the WVDNR hosted the 18th annual West Virginia Archery in the Schools State Tournament at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. It was the biggest state tournament in program history. More than 1,400 students representing 96 schools participated in the state qualifier. This was the first time, the top 10 qualifying teams and the top 15 boys and girls from elementary, middle and high school all participated in the state tournament. In total, 752 archers from 69 schools participated in the state tournament.

West Virginia had 16 schools participate in the National Archery in the Schools Eastern National Tournament in Louisville, Ky. At the national tournament, one elementary division team placed in the top 10 and several individual archers placed in the top tier of their age group.



Hunters Helping the Hungry

The Hunters Helping the Hungry program is a cooperative effort that involves the WVDNR, the hunting community, meat processors, Mountaineer Food Bank, Facing Hunger Foodbank and a statewide network of more than 600 food pantries, shelters, churches, children's homes and similar groups. Since its inception in 1992, the program has provided more than 1 million pounds of venison to those in need. In 2022, hunters donated a total of 681 deer (24,580 pounds of venison) that contributed to approximately 32,774 meals. In 2022, program costs (e.g., processing and transport) were \$46,703.84. Many of these costs were offset by donations from annual events, such as Share the Harvest Sunday and the Governor's One Shot fundraiser and the generosity of private individuals. The WVDNR is prohibited from using license revenue to fund the program and must rely upon these generous funding sources to successfully operate the program.

National Hunting and Fishing Days – Summit Bechtel Reserve

West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days is still growing and evolving. The event was at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean on Sept. 10-11, 2022.

The event provides the public with many hands-on learning opportunities with demonstrations of deer and squirrel field dressing, taxidermy, and casting. Although the event met with some unforeseen weather, that didn't keep people from enjoying the event and trying their skills in many of our activities including shotgun shooting, archery and bow fishing. The WVDNR partnered with the West Virginia Wildlife Federation and the Summit Bechtel Reserve to promote and coordinate this event.

Outdoor Youth Challenge

The annual Outdoor Youth Challenge is held in conjunction with West Virginia's National Hunting and Fishing Days. During the challenge, youths 18 and younger participated in multiple events and activities, such as muzzleloader and shotgun shooting, casting for accuracy and archery. The hands-on activities and displays encouraged youths to gain knowledge and experience about wildlife, hunting, fishing, firearms safety and outdoor recreation. A lifetime hunting and fishing license and other hunting and fishing-related items were just some of the prizes awarded. Youth ages 11-18 could also win conservation camp scholarships. The WVDNR Law Enforcement staff coordinate the challenge with the assistance of Wildlife Resources staff. This year, there were 200 participants in the challenge.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The Wildlife Resources Section continued its successful capital improvements program to enhance opportunities for hunters, anglers, and other wildlife recreationists. Funds for capital improvements are primarily derived from 10 percent of the hunting and fishing license revenues and from the purchase of conservation stamps by licensed hunters and anglers. This program provides facilities, such as wildlife management areas, shooting ranges, fishing and boating access sites, physically challenged accessible hunting and fishing facilities, fish hatcheries and dam improvements for the benefit of hunters, anglers, shooting sports participants and boaters.

The year's major projects were:

- Completion of the new District 6 office in Parkersburg (Wood County).
- Completion of construction and rehabilitation of five boat launches into the Elk River (Kanawha County).
- Renovation of the St. Albans boat launch into the Kanawha River (Kanawha County).
- Renovation and upgrades to the boat launch at the mouth of the Guyandotte River in Huntington (Cabell County).
- Construction of a new headquarters building on White Horse Mountain WMA (Hampshire County).



WILDLIFE RESOURCES

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

Geographic information systems and technical support staff provided data and support for Wildlife Resources Section projects and activities including species database maintenance, data analysis and management and metadata development. Data requests from consultants, partners and other federal, state and non-government organizations were fulfilled as needed. Staff reviewed consultant survey projects, prepared and submitted fiscal notes on proposed legislation and reviewed the Wildlife Endowment Fund Plan and expenditures.

Staff assisted the West Virginia GIS Technical Center with developing an internal mapping tool for the Office of Land and Streams. This is a valuable application and brings together multiple geospatial data into one tool. The Wildlife Resources Section will benefit through improved wildlife management area and fish management from tracking of leases, gas wells, land ownership, internal tract boundaries and water withdrawal locations. Data sharing between sections will be more seamless and data more readily available for review.

Support of annual projects included summarizing game harvests, processing antlerless deer eligibility notices and summarizing results and responses from the spring gobbler survey, bowhunter survey and statewide hunting outlook and mast survey. Staff continued to transition several public and internal surveys to electronic format using Esri ArcGIS Survey123. Google Forms were also utilized for simple surveys that can be taken in a connected environment.

GIS capabilities were deployed across the agency and ongoing staff instruction was provided by request. Staff provided technical assistance and training on GIS, mobile data collection, data quality assurance and quality control, data development, application use, cartography, large-format printing and spatial data analysis. Print and digital maps of wildlife management areas and lakes were updated for internal and public use and are available at the Elkins Operations Center, District offices and via the Avenza Maps mobile application. Staff supported data collection efforts using Trimble GPS units, ArcGIS Survey123 and Avenza Maps.

GIS staff managed more than three terabytes of natural resource base mapping information, including statewide aerial photography, topographic maps, soil surveys, geology, elevation data, public land boundaries, streams, fishing access sites, wetlands, public fishing lakes, lake depth, demographics, political boundaries, land use/land cover and more. Use of these GIS datasets by agency staff continued to grow and become incorporated into the daily workflow and basic analysis of project data.

Analysis projects included the Land Acquisition Prioritization Tool, Motus Tower Siting Tool, Cheat Mountain Salamander Management Unit Map and Box Turtle Road Crossing Risk Assessment. Staff consulted with Wildlife Resources biologists on habitat suitability models and developed Northern Long-eared Bat, Tricolored Bat and American Kestrel models. Butterfly Atlas

map and chart production and Appalachian Grizzled skipper site selection were also supported. A West Virginia land cover classification updated to 2020 National Agriculture Imagery Program data is underway in partnership with the West Virginia University Natural Resource Analysis Center.

Staff maintained several GIS-based tools and applications, providing data updates and support. The use of ArcGIS Online continues to grow for reporting needs. Existing StoryMaps were updated and a new White-Tailed Deer Project StoryMap was released. Dashboards were built and converted to Google Looker Studio to provide more interactive online reporting for many of our hunting surveys. A new public-facing Google GIS data and mapping site was released to bring all the content together on one site.

The hunting, trapping and fishing interactive online map continued to be hosted by the West Virginia GIS Technical Center. This tool provides the public with increased access to Wildlife Resources facilities such as wildlife management areas and stream access sites, and provides information about float trips, license agents, physically challenged (Class Q) opportunities, district office contact information and links to online resources for license purchases and regulations. Staff collected, processed and added to the lake depth data as part of a Sport Fish Restoration Project cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and West Virginia GIS Technical Center to analyze project areas for threatened and endangered species. The online tool generated appropriate conservation practices to assist Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel in protecting species during project planning.

GIS staff continued to develop the Watershed Resources Registry and assist Wildlife Resources Section staff in its use. Development is underway with NatureServe for an environmental review tool specific to West Virginia and proposals are being pursued for a custom database application and a wildlife management area accomplishment tracking map application.

Jennings Randolph Lake



ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION PROGRAM



Hydropower

Staff coordinated with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, applicants and operators on hydropower projects. Actions were taken on 14 licensed and active hydropower projects ensuring compliance with Clean Water Act conditions and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license articles.

Four projects remained in varying stages of construction. Compensatory mitigation for the loss of aquatic resources continued for four of the licensed projects with discussions and further analysis being conducted for the remaining licensed projects. Staff received a number of desktop entrainment analyses for projects on the Ohio River and established compensatory mitigation requirements for those projects. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved the relicensing application for the Lake Lynn Hydroelectric Project facilities and with an expected licensing date of 2024. Deliberations continued with the Millville Project to achieve adequate downstream passage protection for the American eel with an expected implementation plan in October 2023. Invoices were submitted on projects that were authorized or reauthorized after July 2008 for fish entrainment/impingement.

Oil and Gas

Wildlife Resources staff provided coordination with the natural gas industry to mitigate impacts to our charge resources. Staff reviewed various applications for oil and gas related activities, including well locations, pipeline activities and fractionation plant development. Technical support was provided to the WVDEP's offices of Oil and Gas and Waste and Water, concerning impacts to fish and wildlife associated with oil and gas production and transmission. Support was also provided to Fish and Game Management units for oil and gas activities on wildlife management areas.

Staff provided support during the implementation of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Header Restoration Project, which started in spring 2023. Staff also did not object to the continuation of the mobilization of the Mountain Valley Pipeline beginning in summer 2023.

Technical assistance continued with the WVDEP concerning stream impacts from construction of transmission lines, gas fractionation facilities, and the associated stream restoration projects required as mitigation. Staff aided the WVDEP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and United States Environmental Protection Agency in reviewing the Clean Water Act Section 404 violations at numerous oil and gas construction sites and related wetland, stream mitigation, and restoration activities. Assistance was also provided to industry, state and federal regulatory agencies related to monitoring of Permittee Responsible Mitigation projects. Staff provided continued support to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in protecting their charge resources potentially impacted by the oil and gas industry. National Environmental Policy Act review, as a cooperating agency, was provided to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Clean Water Act 404/401 and Section 10

The Coordination Unit continued to provide technical support for Clean Water Act Section 404/401, and River and Harbors Act Section 10 certifications, to WVDEP under our long-standing memorandum of understanding. Staff reviewed and submitted comments for wetland and stream restoration, economic development projects, etc. Considerable mitigation in the form of avoidance, reduction of potential impacts, restoration and enhancement of aquatic resources was secured because of these efforts. Coordination staff reviewed recent federal policy changes to the Clean Water Act to determine the WVDNR's role in the conservation of our charge resources.

Staff submitted comments to the WVDEP on approximately 20 404/401/Section 10 permit applications. Considerable time and effort were asserted on the NUCOR permit application.

Staff reviewed 12 stream management plans submitted by the West Virginia Conservation Agency on behalf of individual landowners to accomplish relatively minor bank stabilization and channel improvement projects.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Highways

Staff continued to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act process for several West Virginia Division of Highways projects. Staff coordinated two large unfinished sections of Corridor H, Parsons to Davis and Wardensville to Virginia Line. Fishing access was requested at several bridge sites. Staff is coordinating with WVDOH staff to provide aquatic and terrestrial organism passage at road crossings where practical.

Staff reviewed numerous smaller transportation improvement projects, including 101 bridges, 74 culverts, 32 bank stabilizations, four low water crossings and 10 miscellaneous projects such as sidewalk and rail trail repairs.

Staff responded to requests from the WVDOH, local officials, state officials and numerous watershed groups for information on permitting issues relating to wetland/stream disturbance, mitigation obligations, permit compliance, Natural Stream Design, flooding and other related topics. Staff reviewed and submitted comments on potential endangered species issues to West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Relief regarding flood-related private bridge repair/replacement projects.

The federal Infrastructure and Jobs Act (HR 3684) has federal funds available to install signage and crossing structures to reduce wildlife vehicle collisions. Staff is working with the WVDOH to include a few wood turtle crossings in the construction plan for the Wardensville to Virginia line section of Corridor H. Coordination is participating in a working group in efforts to prioritize aquatic organism passage projects to secure federal grant funding for projects.



Mitigation Banking and In-Lieu Fee

Staff served on the Interagency Review Team to review, comment, and recommend approval for mitigation banks and in-lieu fee projects. Staff attended 30 field reviews and provided design input for the development of several newly proposed mitigation banks and in-lieu fee projects. Staff verified yearly monitoring reports and conducted field reviews at existing mitigation banks. The first for profit mitigation bank has been approved at Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area. A cooperative agreement between the Wildlife Resources Section and the sponsor was agreed upon to help retire portions of Little Indian Creek Road within the WMA and improve fishing opportunities and parking areas within the WMA. The bank is set to restore approximately 18,000 linear feet of stream and reestablish 15 acres of wetlands. In-lieu fee project construction was completed at Kanawha State Forest. Two hundred and twenty-five acres of land abutting the Meadow River WMA have been optioned to be purchased in part with the in-lieu fee Meadow Bluff project that is under construction and the Meadow Bluff Mitigation Bank that is pending. There were 60 projects being administered by the Interagency Review Team during this reporting period, 42 of which were Mitigation Banks and 18 in-lieu fee projects. The Huntington District has a total of 25 mitigation banks, four of which are pending permits and three have entered long-term management. The Pittsburgh District has a total of 17 mitigation banks, one of which completed construction this year, two are currently in construction, one is in long-term management and four received their permit to begin construction. Of the 18 in-lieu fee projects, 10 are currently active, one is in construction, two completed construction this year and five of the 18 projects are in long-term management.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Spawning Waivers

Staff received, reviewed, coordinated and documented the issuance of fish spawning season restriction waivers, as required by the WVDEP's 401 Water Quality Certification Standard Condition No. 12. Approximately 219 waiver requests were received and reviewed during the reporting period. Waiver requests were received from the WVDOH (42) and for pipelines (71), water withdrawal (7), mining (6), stream restoration (7) and other miscellaneous projects (10).

Wind Power and Solar Energy

Ravenswood was the only new wind power project that has advanced beyond conceptual site locations this reporting period. Coordination continued for the Short Mountain, Black Rock and Beech Ridge II wind facilities. Several general locations for solar facilities have been proposed for West Virginia. The sponsors have requested rare, threatened and endangered species reviews and they have met to discuss best management practices to reduce impacts to wildlife.



Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Staff served as lead contact for a Trustee Council associated with the Hanlin-Allied-Olin Natural Resource Damage Assessment. This task required coordination with multiple Wildlife Resources Section staff, WVDEP, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, as well as the responsible parties for the damage. This project may result in compensation for long term industrial impacts that occurred in the Hannibal Pool of the Ohio River. Coordination represented the Section as a Trustee Council member for the Union Carbide Natural Resource Damage Assessment project. Time was expended this reporting period in discussions concerning field studies with the Trustee Council membership and the responsible party.

Mud River Flood Control Project

Staff coordinated with the WVDEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the proposed Mud River Flood Control project at Milton, West Virginia. The Mud River is a high-quality musky fishery and efforts were made to incorporate design features that minimize impacts to the fishery.

Collection Permits and Database Review Requests

A total of 319 scientific collecting permit applications were reviewed and permits issued to researchers, consultants, government agencies and educators. Most permits were issued to consultants conducting presence/absence surveys or performing biomonitoring required by other agencies. Three permit applications were denied. Approximately 525 projects were reviewed for the occurrence of rare, threatened, and endangered species. These included flood-relief projects, USACE permit applications, infrastructure development and improvements, highway projects, solar facilities and coal, oil and gas activities.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Game Management Unit

PUBLIC LANDS PROGRAM

The Wildlife Resources Section's Game Management Unit conducted habitat management and law enforcement activities on 100 wildlife management areas and eight state forests, totaling 508,227 acres.

Acquisition of public lands and unique habitats continues to be a priority, especially in targeted regions of the state. The Little Coal River WMA was added to the public lands program in Boone County, 5,118 acres by license agreement and 96 acres by fee acquisition. Fee acquisitions were made to the Little Kanawha WMA (75 acres) and Big Ugly WMA (523 acres). Land reviews and associated due diligence were conducted during the fiscal year on numerous properties which will be closed in FY 2024.

An extensive wildlife management program was conducted on nearly 1.1 million acres of national forest land (comprising 14 WMA units) located in West Virginia through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and the WVDNR. State wildlife biologists and managers devoted a significant portion of their time reviewing national forest scoping notices, timber sales and providing technical input in the development of national forest plans. Management issues were closely reviewed to ensure that our fish and wildlife resources receive the maximum possible benefit. Annual joint meetings with the U.S. Forest Service, West Virginia Division of Forestry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and numerous working groups or symposia occurred in various capacities.

Management of WMAs and national forest lands was directed toward improving forest age structure and stand composition, which created more living space for a variety of species. Much of the forest is of similar age, making it more susceptible to disease and disturbance, therefore reducing resiliency. Commercial forest management activities, which create young forest and structurally complex habitat, were delayed in most cases due to the up-listing of a bat species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to endangered species status. Approximately 13 acres of field border cuts were created and approximately 35 acres of forest mulching was conducted.

Management activities by personnel on state and national forest lands included releasing and/or grafting existing trees and planting additional trees and shrubs for food and cover on 75 acres.

A total of 2,375 acres of wildlife clearings were mowed and four acres of new clearings were established. Lime was applied to 158 acres and fertilizer applied to another 250 acres. A total of 292 acres were seeded to create food plots and dove fields.

Prescribed fire was applied to 197 acres to improve the diversity and abundance of desired plants. Herbicide was used

on 456 acres to control undesirable and invasive vegetation. Sharecropping agreements were executed on 950 acres to maintain open land habitat and 41 waterholes were maintained to provide a year-round water supply for wildlife.

The water level on 195 acres of wetlands was manipulated to encourage waterfowl utilization, while 153 wood duck boxes and 31 other species nest structures were maintained.

A total of 589 miles of roads, 236 miles of trails and 14 vehicle and foot bridges were maintained. Road closures (gates) were installed and/or maintained at 659 locations.

A total of 982 information and regulation signs were erected or maintained and 125 miles of boundary was posted. A total of 365 campsites, six boat ramps, 23 shooting ranges, 199 parking areas and 23 access sites for anglers and hunters with disabilities were maintained for public use.

The highly successful controlled waterfowl hunting program at McClintic and Green Bottom WMAs continued to provide quality waterfowl hunting. A total of 41 waterfowl ponds and 22 shooting stations were maintained on the McClintic WMA including two shooting stations for the physically challenged. A special controlled dove hunt was held on the South Branch WMA with stations available for draw.

As part of Gov. Jim Justice's Upland Game Bird Initiative, 21,000 flight-pen reared bobwhite quail were released over a 14-week period in the summer and fall of 2022. These releases occurred on the following public lands; Burnsville Lake WMA, Cross Creek WMA, Frozen Camp WMA, Huttonsville State Farm WMA, Laurel Lake WMA, Pleasant Creek WMA and Greenbrier State Forest. Release stations, or refugia stations, were established on these public lands to provide protection to the birds in each release, as well as to be able to form a covey and to assimilate to the area. A box of 25 quail were released at each station during seven separate release dates. A goal of this initiative was for outdoor enthusiasts to have the opportunity to see and hear bobwhite quail.

WILDLIFE DAMAGE AND NUISANCE WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The Wildlife Damage Control agent program allows for businesses to be licensed with the WVDNR to take and dispose of nuisance wildlife. The WVDNR licensed 29 businesses as agents during 2022-2023. The WVDNR is assisted by staff from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on a feral swine control program in West Virginia.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Technical assistance provided agencies that manage national and state forests with technical review of proposed actions, assisting private landowners with habitat questions and answering questions from the public. Intra-agency assistance often involves field reviews, coordination and the development of specific management recommendations as well as technical review and comment to National Environmental Policy Act actions. A total of 2,570 staff days were spent providing technical assistance.

REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION PROGRAM

Many of the challenges and issues faced by the Game Management Unit are shared by other state and federal agencies. COVID-19 pandemic in-person meeting restrictions relaxed for organizations and events in 2022-2023, with virtual, hybrid and in-person meeting attendance occurring. Notable organizations included the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (for which the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources hosted), Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, The Wildlife Society, Atlantic Flyway Council, Southeast Deer Study Group, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, Eastern Management Unit Dove Technical Committee, Northeast Habitat Technical Committee, Northeast Gamebird Technical Committee, Northern Bobwhite Conservation Committee, Southeast Wild Turkey Working Group, Ruffed Grouse Committee and Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture.

WILDLIFE POPULATION SURVEY AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Activities

Due to crop damage or nuisance activity, the WVDNR killed 57 nuisance bears. Hundreds of other bear complaints were resolved with harassment measures and/or removal of edible attractions. The WVDNR processed 63 bear damage claims.

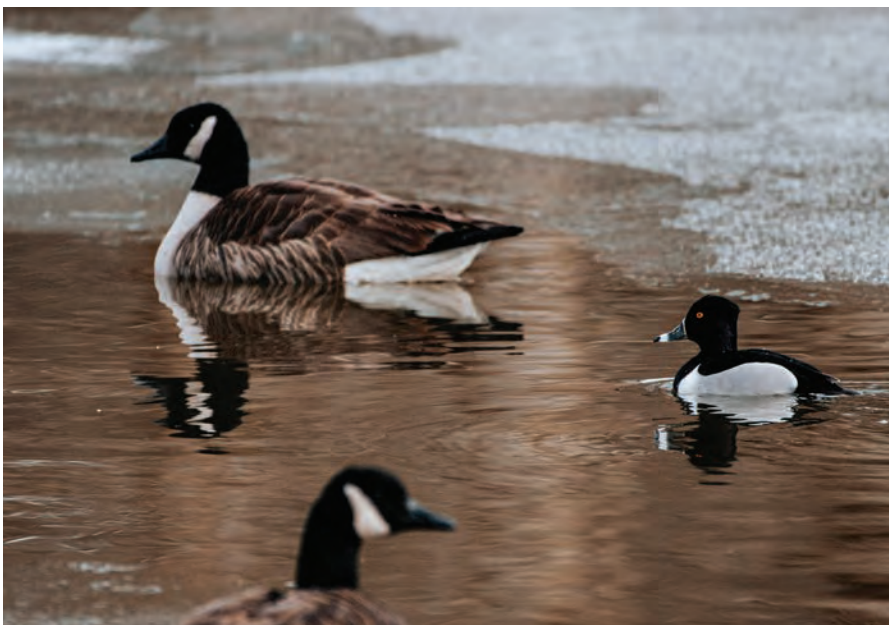
WVDNR staff handled thousands of additional calls regarding sick, injured or nuisance wildlife. Calls about nuisance wildlife often are resolved by providing technical advice and recommendations, but many require capture and relocation or euthanasia of the animal.

Wildlife Population Surveys and Research

The WVDNR conducted 19 woodcock singing ground survey routes in cooperation with states in the Eastern Management Region and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A total of 31 woodcock were captured and banded, with 20 being equipped with transmitters as part of a cooperative woodcock research project with the University of Maine. A ring-necked pheasant survey was carried out on the Hillcrest WMA. Canada geese and mourning doves were banded in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlantic flyway states and states in the Eastern Dove Management Unit to monitor populations and establish harvest regulations. As a part of this effort, 659 Canada geese were banded across the state. In addition, 425 mourning doves were banded. For the past three years, West Virginia participated in a region-wide dove reward band study, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S.

Geological Survey Bird Banding Lab to determine band reporting rates of new style bands. During the 2022-2023 post-hunting season, 152 ducks were banded. During this time, six hen mallards were fitted with a GPS mobile communications transmitter and six geo locators as part of a flyway wide eastern mallard study. Ducks were tested as part of avian influenza surveillance in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services.

Harvest and biological data were compiled and analyzed for hunter-harvested big game species (e.g., deer, turkey, bear and wild boar) as well as hunter and trapper-harvested furbearers (e.g., beaver, fisher, bobcat and otter).



WILDLIFE RESOURCES

WILDLIFE POPULATION SURVEY AND RESEARCH PROGRAM CONTINUED...

White-tailed Deer

In 2022 and during the Mountaineer Heritage Season in January 2023, deer hunters harvested 118,449 deer. This was an increase of 12.5 percent from the 2021 and January 2022 harvest of 105,278 and 9.9 percent above the previous five-year harvest average of 107,776. The total deer harvest represents one deer killed for every 124 acres of deer habitat in the state. From 1945 to January 2023, a total of 6,892,011 deer harvests have been recorded in West Virginia.

Special controlled deer hunts were held in 2022 at Beech Fork State Park, Cacapon Resort State Park, North Bend State Park and Twin Fall Resort State Park. A total of 121 deer (86 antlerless and 35 antlered deer) were harvested. This was the seventh year for such a hunt at Cacapon State Park and the sixth year for controlled deer hunt at North Bend State Park. All state park-controlled deer hunts are by application only.

A large-scale deer research project is being conducted in conjunction with West Virginia University. Personnel have captured and equipped 350 deer with transmitters since the study began. The project is expected to conclude in Summer 2025.

A bowhunter survey has been conducted annually since 1995. This cooperative venture with the West Virginia Bowhunters Association is an excellent means of monitoring populations of game animals and furbearers, as well as providing a method for bowhunters to report their observations.

Elk

With the release of 24 elk from the Land Between the Lakes Recreation Area in western Kentucky in late December 2016, wild elk have been roaming the mountains of West Virginia for the first time in more than 140 years. Subsequent releases with elk from Kentucky and Arizona were made in 2018. Although the effort suffered a setback in the summer of 2019 from an unexpectedly high mortality rate caused by a known parasite, calving over the past five summers has produced approximately 100 known calves. This has stabilized the population with 120-130 elk currently roaming the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area. All released elk were marked and equipped with GPS telemetry collars so movements could be tracked. In addition to this, efforts continue each winter to capture, mark and collar calves and other un-collared elk so data can be collected. A cooperative effort with WVU was initiated to examine the genetics of the new elk herd. Efforts also continue to identify a source herd from which additional elk can be transferred to West Virginia to supplement the herd, but no new relocations are set at this time.

A salt block/trail camera study at 50 sites throughout the elk management zone continued to allow monitoring of both native-born and uncollared animals and to detect elk which may move in from surrounding states. In addition, high use areas were monitored during the summer by cellular trail cameras to detect calving successes.

Several presentations regarding the program's status were given to public and government groups, including the West Virginia Legislature. The eastern elk workshop was attended to monitor the development of scientific advancements regarding elk and to network with other elk researchers. Maintenance and upkeep of the elk pen is ongoing, and a squeeze chute was erected. No elk were imported into West Virginia during FY 2023.

Black Bear

West Virginia hunters harvested 1,727 black bears during the combined 2022 archery and firearms seasons. The 2022 harvest was 37 percent below the 2,756 bears killed in 2021. The black bear harvest of 2022 was the lowest since 2006. This was done by design of manipulating the hunting seasons.

Age data from the 2021 tooth samples have been received and hunters have been notified of their bear's age. Hunters submitted 1,984 usable teeth for age consideration. There were 23 cubs (1 percent), 26 percent (518) came from yearlings, 24 percent (469) came from 2-year-olds, 17 percent (328) came from 3-year-olds and the remaining 32 percent (646) were 4 years or older. Biologists use age data from hunter-harvested bear teeth to calculate population estimates and mortality rates for black bears in West Virginia. The 1,984 usable teeth submitted in 2021 represent 72 percent of the total black bear harvest. Hunters submitted 49 percent of the harvest in 2016, 53 percent of the harvest in 2017, 63 percent in 2018, 68 percent in 2019 and 67 percent in 2020.



WILDLIFE POPULATION SURVEY AND RESEARCH PROGRAM CONTINUED...



Wild Turkey

Spring gobbler season began in 1966 on our wildlife management areas and went statewide in 1968. Hunters harvested 12,217 bearded turkeys during the 2023 spring gobbler season. This is 30.4 percent above last years' harvest (9,366), 12.6 percent above the five-year average (10,850) and 14.6 percent above the 10-year average (10,661). Hunters harvested 1,012 fall turkeys in 2022, up 45.8 percent from 2021 and 0.24 percent below the five-year average.

The spring gobbler survey was conducted jointly by the Wildlife Resources Section and the West Virginia Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation. The survey serves as a means for hunters to report their observations and opinions about wild turkey management. It also allows biologists to track species throughout time and serves as a valuable tool to help monitor wildlife populations.

Wild Boar

Hunters killed 111 boars during the fall 2022 and February 2023 seasons. This was the third consecutive season with a total harvest exceeding 100. The last occurrence of three consecutive seasons exceeding 100 was between 1995-1997. The total harvest was significantly influenced by the February firearms season, which produced a harvest of 54 boars. Thirty-six boars were harvested in Logan County and 18 in Boone County during the winter firearms season. The February harvest was comparable to the four-year average of 55 for the previous February seasons.

Annual Mast Survey

Since 1970, the WVDNR, in conjunction with the West Virginia Division of Forestry, has conducted annual surveys around the state to determine relative abundance of soft and hard mast produced by 18 trees and shrubs of importance to wildlife populations. Mast surveys were completed at 208 locations, covering all regions of West Virginia in 2022.

Compared to the 2021 survey year, the statewide combined index for all monitored species was down approximately 22 percent for survey year 2022 and 16 percent below the long-term average.



Fish Management Unit

The Fish Management Unit is responsible for providing fishing opportunities to meet recreational fishing demand. This is accomplished by protecting and managing more than 98,000 miles of rivers and streams and more than 22,000 acres of public impoundments. Fish management efforts included enhancement of fishing through stockings, development of habitat and research projects.

FISH HATCHERY PROGRAM

The fish hatchery program operated seven cold-water hatcheries, two warmwater hatcheries and two grow-out facilities. Fish hatchery program staff stocked waters around the state for the purposes of fisheries enhancement, sustainability and reintroduction, when warranted. The distribution of fish from state hatcheries provided anglers with harvest opportunities beyond the sustainability of our natural systems.

Major renovations to the Bowden Hatchery near Elkins, West Virginia, were completed in 2022. Those renovations converted the Bowden Hatchery into a state-of-the-art partial recirculating aquaculture system. Prior to the renovations, Bowden was a flow-through system utilizing three water sources, the Shavers Fork River and two springs. A flow through system means that water passes through the fish rearing units only one time and then exits the system. With this new partial recirculating system, we can now eliminate the water of the river and use only the water of two springs. This use of only spring water combined with the partial reuse results in an increase in the overall water efficiency at the facility, therefore, increasing the number of fish that can be cultured at the facility. Because water can now be reused, an additional 20 fish rearing units were installed. The Bowden Fish Hatchery now has 62 outdoor rearing units for a combined length of over one mile. Those additional rearing units are anticipated to increase trout production by approximately 100,000 fish annually.

Trout Hatcheries

In 2022, staff stocked 706,271 catchable trout weighing 556,675 pounds (Table 1). The 2022 trout stocking year was down from the annual hatchery production goal of 750,000 pounds. These trout were distributed to 74 impoundments, nine reservoir tailwaters and numerous locations on 128 streams.

The average size of catchable trout stocked into put-and-take managed waters in 2022 was 12.5 inches and 0.73 pounds, similar to 2021. This large average trout size is a result of adequate hatchery water supplies over the stocking period. The White Sulphur Springs Federal Hatchery provided 5,266 surplus trout that were stocked during the fall stocking season.

Trout stocking also occurred in 11 Class Q waters, which provided fishing opportunities for anglers with disabilities and children 10 and younger. These special regulation waters were stocked the first week of March. Thirty-six waters across the state also received two stockings each during a two-week period in October 2022.

Wild trout management continued to receive special attention in West Virginia. The program is focused on protecting and enhancing native brook trout populations and stocking fingerling trout to maintain wild trout populations. In 2022, more than 65,419 fingerling trout were stocked in 21 waters throughout the state (Table 2). Assistance from various conservation groups and citizen volunteers was an essential part of the fingerling trout stocking program.

FISH HATCHERY PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Table 1

Total number and weight of catchable and brood trout distributed to more than 200 waters statewide during 2022.

Distribution Hatchery	Brook		Brown		Golden		Rainbow		Tiger		All Trout Species	
	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT
Bowden	15,761	11,166	10,731	5,965	34,693	15,773	108,143	73,961	2,659	2,534	171,987	109,399
Edray	13,411	11,645	96	64	13,373	12,753	99,157	78,864	1,707	3,411	127,744	106,737
Petersburg	2,520	2,756	1,870	1,363	5,028	4,047	34,453	31,383	1,469	1,239	45,340	40,788
Reeds Creek	5,531	4,851	5,419	3,652	6,307	4,979	65,489	54,392	2,622	2,174	85,368	70,048
Ridge	0	0	1,213	770	9,895	8,630	50,162	42,823	452	412	61,722	52,635
Spring Run	16,452	15,625	5,112	3,703	21,064	17,889	53,873	53,360	3,160	4,468	99,661	95,045
Tate Lohr	2,862	2,086	399	386	14,465	9,872	92,493	65,881	4,176	3,798	114,395	82,023
TOTALS	56,537	48,129	24,840	15,903	104,825	73,943	503,770	400,664	16,245	18,036	706,217	556,675

Table 2

Total number and weight of fingerling trout distributed in 21 waters statewide during 2022.

Distribution Hatchery	Brook		Brown		Golden		Rainbow		All Trout Species	
	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT
Bowden	0	0	15,760	151	0	0	0	0	15,760	151
Edray	0	0	10,750	186	0	0	12,000	443	22,750	629
Petersburg	0	0	0	0	0	0	26,909	250	26,909	250
TOTAL	0	0	26,510	337	0	0	38,909	693	65,419	1,030

Table 3

Total number of warmwater fish distributed in 98 waters statewide during 2022.

SPECIES	CLASS	State Warmwater Hatchery		State Warmwater Rearing Facility			Total NUMBER
		APPLE GROVE	PALESTINE	BEE RUN	BOWDEN	FALLS MILL	
Blue Catfish	Advanced Fingerling	25,743					25,743
Channel Catfish	Advanced Fingerling	30,035					30,035
	Adult	4,307			3,853		8,160
Hybrid Striped Bass	Fingerling	182,494					182,494
Muskellunge	Advanced Fingerling	42,303					42,303
	Advanced Fingerling		412	142		750	1,304
	Fry		68,000				68,000
Tiger Musky	Advanced Fingerling	209					209
Walleye	Advanced Fingerling		436				436
	Fingerling	86,715	77,250				163,965
TOTAL		371,806	146,098	142	3,853	750	522,649

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

FISH HATCHERY PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Warmwater Hatcheries

Warmwater hatcheries produced blue catfish, channel catfish, muskellunge, hybrid striped bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, tiger musky and walleye during 2022. A total of 522,649 fish were produced and stocked in 98 waters throughout the state (Table 3). Warmwater hatcheries produced and stocked both fingerlings and advanced fingerlings.

Blue Catfish

A total of 25,743 blue catfish were stocked in R.D. Bailey Reservoir and the Pike Island Pool of the Ohio River (Table 3). The stocking of blue catfish in the lower Ohio River has demonstrated successful restoration efforts of this previously extirpated species. Blue catfish stocking has also been successfully achieved in the R.D. Bailey Reservoir and now provides a fishing destination for this species.

Channel Catfish

A total 8,160 catchable-sized adult channel catfish were stocked in 57 waters in June 2022 to provide enhanced recreational fishing opportunities at city and state park lakes (Table 3). Adult channel catfish are stocked annually prior to the annual free fishing weekend. This stocking also provides anglers with more catchable fishing opportunities throughout the summer season. Additionally, more than 30,000 fingerling and advanced fingerling channel catfish were stocked in 38 waters to supplement recreational angling opportunities.

Muskellunge

A total 1,304 advanced fingerling muskellunge were stocked (Table 3) in East Lynn Reservoir, Monongahela River, North Bend Lake, Stonecoal Reservoir, Stonewall Jackson Reservoir and Woodrum Lake. In addition, 68,000 muskellunge fry were also stocked in Mill Creek of the Ohio River, Monongahela River and Sandy Creek. Staff typically collect brood stock for hatchery production from Elk River, Little Kanawha River, Middle Island Creek, Monongahela River and North Bend Lake.

Hybrid Striped Bass

A total of 182,494 fingerlings and 42,303 advanced fingerling hybrid striped bass were stocked in Bluestone and R.D. Bailey Reservoirs, Castleman Run and Rollins lakes, Middle Wheeling Creek Dam as well as the Ohio, Kanawha and Monongahela rivers (Table 3). Hybrid striped bass do not reproduce, so supplemental stocking was necessary to sustain a fishable population.

Tiger Musky

A total 209 advanced fingerling tiger musky were stocked in Big Ditch and Mountwood lakes (Table 3). Tiger musky stocked by the Apple Grove Hatchery staff were received as surplus from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. This cooperative program helped to create a destination tiger musky fishery in these two lakes for anglers choosing to target this species.

Walleye

Approximately 163,965 fingerlings, 436 advanced fingerlings were stocked in 2022. The number of stocked walleye fingerlings has been increasing annually for the past several years due to good production and improved culture techniques. In 2022, walleye were stocked in Cheat Lake, Elk River, Greenbrier River, Gauley River, Kanawha River, New River, Ohio River and Stonecoal Reservoir.



FISHERIES AND HABITAT SURVEY PROGRAM

Reservoirs

Black bass electrofishing surveys were conducted on five large reservoirs in the state including Bluestone, Mount Storm, R. D. Bailey, Stephens and Stonewall Jackson lakes. Black bass surveys monitor population characteristics of largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass. These monitoring surveys are used to inform management needs and help guide management recommendations for these important recreational species.

Electrofishing surveys targeting black bass on Mount Storm Lake also assessed other sportfish populations (crappie, striped bass, walleye and yellow perch). Additional black bass surveys conducted on Bluestone and Stonewall Jackson lakes were part of an ongoing statewide black bass genetics assessment in cooperation with West Virginia University. This project is evaluating the genetics of current black bass fisheries and is also monitoring for invasive Alabama bass.

Electrofishing surveys were conducted on Stonewall Lake as part of a general assessment of sportfish populations available.

Walleye surveys were conducted on Summersville Lake to monitor population characteristics and to collect broodstock for hatchery purposes.

Electrofishing surveys were conducted for muskellunge on Burnsville and Stonewall Jackson lakes to assess population characteristics of these fisheries.

Electrofishing and gill-net surveys were conducted for crappie and yellow perch on Cheat and Tygart lakes to assess population characteristics and as part of an ongoing study designed to evaluate angler catch and harvest rates of these species.

Rivers and Streams

River and stream fisheries surveys were conducted to assess genetic diversity or population characteristics for fish communities or a range of target species, including largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, trout, catfish, sauger and walleye.

Streams targeted by fisheries staff in 2022 include the Ohio River, Middle Island Creek, Little Kanawha River, West Fork River, Monongahela River, Wheeling Creek, Fish Creek, Fishing Creek, Dunkard Creek, Simpson Creek, Tenmile Creek, Elk Creek (Harrison), Buffalo Creek (Marion), Paw Paw Creek, Whiteday Creek, Big Sandy Creek, Horseshoe Run, Dry Fork, Three Fork Creek, Buckhannon River, New River, Greenbrier River, Bluestone River and South Branch River (Potomac)..

Additionally, 111 surveys were conducted in coldwater streams deemed potentially capable of sustaining reproducing trout and to obtain broodfish for field-spawning. Ninety-five of these surveys were focused within southern West Virginia to determine the status and distribution of wild trout populations in that region, where approximately 25 percent of streams harbored healthy, reproducing trout populations. Nine coldwater surveys were conducted to confirm successful heritage lineage brook trout reproduction in three streams.

Small Impoundments

Small impoundment fisheries surveys were conducted to assess population characteristics for a range of species, including largemouth, spotted and smallmouth bass, crappie, muskellunge, tiger musky and walleye. Big Ditch Lake, Charles Fork, Dog Run Lake, Elk Fork Lake, Kimsey Run Lake, New Creek Lake, North Bend Lake, O'Brien Lake, Parker Hollow Lake, Rollins Lake, Sleepy Creek Lake, Spruce Knob Lake, South Mill Creek Lake and Woodrum Lake were surveyed by fisheries staff in 2022.

Fish Health Surveys

Annual fish health surveys, as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Wild Fish Health Survey, were conducted on sauger from the Ohio River. All samples were found to be negative of fish pathogens.

Trout species from our cold-water hatcheries were also tested for annual fish health inspections. A total of 570 trout which included rainbow, golden rainbow, brook (two genetic strains), brown (two genetic strains), and tiger trout were tested from our cold-water hatcheries. Laboratory results indicated all hatchery facilities were negative for whirling disease. All hatcheries were also negative for four major viruses of concern: hematopoietic necrosis virus infectious pancreatic necrosis, viral hemorrhagic septicemia and spring viremia carp virus. Multiple bacterial pathogens were observed across species and all facilities. These bacterial pathogens are widespread and typically present in the natural spring water sources that sustain the hatcheries. The presence of these bacterial pathogens is not usually a concern to natural systems.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

INTERSTATE FISHERIES COORDINATION PROGRAM

Fish management staff coordinated with state and federal agencies on several research and management activities on the Ohio River. These efforts included population assessments of sauger and flathead catfish. Much of this work was guided by the interstate Ohio River Fisheries Management Team. Fish management staff continue to coordinate with West Virginia University on a paddlefish population assessment to evaluate the success of previous stocking efforts. Fisheries biologists participated in the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association's aquatic nuisance species planning efforts to minimize impacts upon West Virginia's aquatic resources.

A cooperative effort continued with Ohio River basin states and federal partners monitoring populations of invasive carp species (bighead and silver carp). Activities included surveys targeted to monitor population expansion, physical removal of fish, fish community surveys and tracking movements through acoustic telemetry. Bighead carp are more regularly sampled in the lower Ohio River in low numbers, while silver carp are still rare, more specimens were collected in 2022 than in previous years.

The WVDNR hatchery system also conducts fish trades between states to better accomplish the fish stocking goals of West Virginia and surrounding states. Currently, the hatchery program receives a limited number of tiger musky from Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission on an annual basis to support destination tiger musky fisheries in Big Ditch and Mountwood lakes. Surplus musky eggs are received from New York Department of Environmental Conservation to supplement the advanced musky stocking and research programs in several waters across the state. Hatchery staff captures male sauger from the Ohio River and extract milt, which is provided to several surrounding states to assist in their saugeye culture and stocking programs. The WVDNR also trades golden rainbow trout eggs to Maryland DNR in return for Chesapeake strain striped bass that are stocked into Mount Storm and Bluestone lakes to provide unique fisheries in those waters.

HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Fisheries management staff continued habitat enhancement projects in FY 2023. Staff deployed 1,164 habitat structures across eight impoundments. Habitat structures deployed included 1,100 Christmas trees, 19 woody structures and 45 fallen trees. Habitat structures were placed in locations (coves, points, drop offs, littoral areas and shoreline fishing areas lacking habitat) to improve habitat for existing fish populations and enhance recreational fishing opportunities. Recycled Christmas trees were placed at Burnsville (100), Cheat (175), Mount Storm (70), Stonecoal (100), Teter Creek (55) and Tygart (600) lakes. Many of these installations were in cooperation with local fishing organizations and the WVDEP Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Other forms of habitat enhancements were created by fisheries management staff to improve lake habitat. Larger woody and wreath structures were installed at Stonecoal (4), Stonewall Jackson (3) and Tygart (12) lakes. Large trees were dropped and anchored at Stonecoal (20), Stonewall Jackson (10) and Summersville (15) lakes.

The acidified streams program applied more than 4,200 tons of limestone sand to improve water quality for native brook trout and other game species, making quality fisheries in more than 300 miles of impaired streams and 455 acres of small impoundments.

A cooperative project was initiated with the West Virginia University to restore native brook trout habitat to a two-mile section of First Fork, a major tributary of Shavers Fork. The project treated the section of stream with large woody habitat structures to improve native brook trout habitat as well as enhance productivity for all aquatic life.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATION AND TROPHY FISH CITATION PROGRAM

A total of 967 bass, catfish, musky, crappie/panfish, trout and carp tournaments were registered on 42 waterbodies in 2022. These results came from 32 waters, including 13 reservoirs (greater than 500 acres), six small rivers and three larger rivers. In addition to traditional fishing tournaments that conduct events/weigh-ins at a single location, 25 tournaments requiring length only and immediate release for species such as black bass and musky across multiple waters were reported in 2022.

The Trophy Fish Citation program, which recognizes anglers who catch trophy-sized fish, was restructured so anglers received one certificate for each species for which they caught at least one trophy-sized fish for that species. Multiple trophies for a species are recorded on the one certificate. In 2022, 628 trophy certificates were awarded, representing 27 species. Of 11 waters (private lakes are counted as one water) yielding 10 or more fish citations, 72 percent were from streams and rivers, 18 percent from private lakes and ponds and 10 percent from public lakes. The trophy citation program was started in 1976 and has recognized more than 60,000 anglers for their outstanding catches. The year 2004 marked the first year of issuing length-only citations in addition to the certified weight citation. In 2020, the weight certification was removed, and the program went strictly to using length to determine citation fish.

Wildlife Diversity Unit

ORNITHOLOGY PROGRAM

Staff conducted field reviews of citizen reports of rare bird occurrences for confirmation. Staff coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service to deploy automated recording units at historical northern goshawk sites and to conduct avian point-count surveys at Cranberry Glades. We also coordinated or conducted several monitoring efforts which included breeding bird survey routes and the Christmas Bird Count. Staff monitored several state priority bird species, including loggerhead shrike, bald eagles, peregrine falcon and a variety of marsh birds.

Staff represented the agency on several national councils, technical committees and working groups. Staff provided technical assistance to state residents, agencies and other organizations. Staff assisted private landowners in the implementation of farm bill programs targeting cerulean and golden-winged warbler, hosted coordination meetings in support of private lands work.

Staff provided review and comments on various energy development activities, including wind facilities, shale gas and developed a draft outline for agency renewable energy guidance.

Staff provided regulatory oversight and permitting of falconry activities. Continued development of a draft outline for revision to the West Virginia Forest Songbird Management Guidelines, taught Master Naturalist classes, and answered state resident inquiries pertaining to birds.

MUSSEL PROGRAM

Mussel coordination activities included reviewing and providing comments on mussel issues for more than 71 stream activity requests and contractor surveys. Several private landowner project clearance surveys were completed. Provided extensive technical expertise and research assistance on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration project.

Mussel surveys were conducted for private landowners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the West Virginia Land Trust and on public fishing access sites. General mussel surveys were conducted on Meathouse Fork and Patterson Creek. Long term mussel monitoring was conducted at seven sites. New pilot sites were created in Dunkard Creek stocking approximately 1,600 animals. In June 2023, an additional 4,000 animals were placed in Sutton and Burnsville lakes. Staff assisted White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery, Virginia DWR and Virginia Tech by collecting brood stock animals.

BOTANICAL REVIEWS AND MONITORING

Staff continued to train and supervise two Good Neighbor partner botanists for the Monongahela National Forest. Red and white ramps were collected from several populations for common garden and genetic studies to determine proper taxonomy for these iconic West Virginia plants. We have added several lichen species to our list of tracked rare species for West Virginia. Final revisions were completed for two co-authored journal articles: The 2014 Crum Workshop: Bryophytes of the Allegheny Highlands of West Virginia, "Evansia" 39: 97-114, and Riverscour Ecosystems of Eastern Unglaciaded North American: A Review, "Natural Areas Journal" 43: 148-168.

NATURAL AREA PROGRAM

Staff assisted with delineation, nomination and designation of the Pollinator Program. Wildlife Diversity staff monitored the populations of four rare butterflies (Appalachian grizzled skipper, bog copper, northern metalmarks and Olympia marble) at locations across West Virginia. An adult russet-tipped clubtail was discovered on the Ohio River. This species was last recorded in West Virginia in 1930. Staff coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor the site of a timber sale that posed a possible threat to the Appalachian grizzled skipper population in the form of dust and road edge encroachment.

ECOLOGY PROGRAM

Staff sampled 14 vegetation plots. Staff planned and implemented the first long term wetland monitoring site for the Mid-Atlantic at Big Glade of Cranberry Glades.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

In the effort to inventory and document the state's rare plants, animals and communities, a total of 568 new element occurrences were added to Biotics consisting of 172 vertebrate animals, 160 invertebrate animals, 45 communities and 191 plants. In addition, a total of 2,167 records were improved and updated in Biotics consisting of 599 vertebrate animals, 386 invertebrate animals, 230 communities and 952 plants. Staff responded to 181 data requests from cooperating agencies and researchers needing element occurrence data for a variety of research projects within the state.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

RARE, THREATENED, AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

The endangered species program oversees monitoring and conservation of rare and federally protected species in West Virginia and coordinates with private landowners, industry and state and federal agencies. Staff provided general technical assistance to the WVDOH, WVDEP, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Staff provided technical assistance and answered information requests from more than 100 private citizens and private corporations. Staff developed guidance on time of year restrictions and optimal survey windows for rare, threatened and endangered species and have begun development of new conservation guidance for renewable energy development projects. Staff worked with conservation partners to develop a private lands conservation working group that will support conservation of rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitat statewide.

Surveys and Monitoring

Bat populations were monitored at 11 hibernacula, six Virginia big-eared bat maternity colonies and on approximately 23 acoustic monitoring routes. A northern long-eared bat habitat suitability model was developed. Surveys for Cheat Mountain salamanders were performed in 10 benchmark populations. Rusty patched bumble bee surveys were conducted in Randolph and Tucker counties, resulting in identifying two new occurrence areas for the species. A pilot study was conducted to assess feasibility of radio telemetry on bumble bees. A population of cobblestone tiger beetles was monitored on the Ohio River.

Northern flying squirrel monitoring was conducted at six known population sites using a combination of acoustic and nest box survey methods. A monitoring plan for Guyandotte River crayfish implemented, with surveys conducted in all streams currently known to be occupied. Surveys for diamond darter were conducted at 12 of 13 historically known locations. A programmatic plan for Endangered Species Act compliance for all WVDNR land management activities was developed.



AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE PROGRAM

The amphibian and reptile program has continued to implement monitoring programs for wood turtles, woodland box turtles and Cheat Mountain salamanders. Data collected from these monitoring initiatives allow biologists to better implement management and conservation actions to protect and enhance populations. Staff have continued to track and study eight repatriated box turtles that were released onto a state wildlife management area in June 2022. This research is critical in developing effective conservation outcomes for turtles that have been confiscated as part of unlawful possession. Road mortality is a major threat to box turtles and thanks to participation and submission of thousands of box turtle observations from the public, staff and the WVDOH have been able to create a GIS layer that can aid in direct conservation to this charismatic species.

Staff collaborated with Marshall University to present three venomous snake handling workshops to train law enforcement and land managers how to safely capture and move venomous snakes to mitigate negative human-snake interactions. Workshops were attended and were staffed by the WVDNR's Law Enforcement, Wildlife Resources and Parks and Recreations sections and by the U.S. Forest Service. Staff continue to provide technical assistance to citizens and land managers as well as conduct targeted surveys for amphibian and reptile species listed as species of greatest conservation need.



ZOOLOGY PROGRAM

Motus Project

A radio telemetry station was installed in November 2022 at the Three Rivers Avian Center, which will allow for study of raptor survival following rehabilitation. An additional radio telemetry station was installed in January 2023 at the East River Mountain overlook. These stations are part of the international Motus wildlife telemetry system network and have already successfully documented migratory animals. In July 2022, eastern red bats were mist-netted and radio-tagged at the Fox Forest WMA Motus station. Agency partners (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and AmeriCorps) were invited to learn how to mist net bats. Day roosts were observed within Fox Forest WMA during three ground surveys with handheld antennas and detections were picked up by the Fox Forest Motus tower over a four-week period. In August and September 2022, we deployed sixteen Lotek NanPin Standard radio tags on monarch butterflies from habitat that was within 15-kilometer radio signal radius of the Hanging Rock Motus station. All individuals except for one gradually dispersed from the tower over the course of two weeks based on radio signal data detections from the Motus SensorGnome computer, indicating the possibility of a future larger scale effort studying this monarch migratory pathway. The Hanging Rock Motus station has detected rare migratory birds such as Kirtland's warbler passing through West Virginia in Fall 2022.

Rare Fireflies

Rare firefly surveys conducted in 2022 and 2023 yielded several new species discoveries including the rare Appalachian blue ghost (*Phausis reticulata*). West Virginia is now home to 32 species with several more awaiting confirmation. A weather station was installed on Cheat Mountain as part of a synchronous firefly (*Photinus carolinus*) conservation management plan that will allow us to study and predict the species phenology.

Allegheny Woodrat

A species distribution model for Allegheny woodrat was improved with eight more sites surveyed using baited camera traps. These sites yielded 266 unique encounters of nine mammal species but for a second year yielded no woodrat detection at these sites.

BOTANY PROGRAM

The botany program focuses on three main areas of activity: 1) Federally threatened and endangered species management and monitoring, 2) Natural Heritage botany, which includes surveying, cataloging, and ranking plant species of conservation concern using a set of standardized methods and 3) outreach, education and program development.

Federally Protected Plants

Staff completed endangered plant species monitoring projects for harperella, Virginia spiraea, running buffalo clover and shale barren rockcress. Work continued on development of a running buffalo clover management plan for the Monongahela National Forest.

Natural Heritage Botany

Under a cooperative agreement with National Park Service staff, staff conducted rare plant and lichen surveys and vegetation plots along the New, Gauley, Meadow and Bluestone rivers. Staff provided recommendations for possible Virginia spiraea reintroduction locations within National Park Service lands.

Staff digitally cataloged several thousand plant vouchers in the botany herbarium. The voucher records were uploaded to the Smithsonian Institution data portal and are now public facing records. The natural heritage program is notified every time a West Virginia natural heritage program record is cited in a publication. This feature provides documentation of the West Virginia natural heritage program contribution to science.



WILDLIFE RESOURCES

PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

As identified in West Virginia's State Wildlife Action Plan, conservation efforts on private lands (approximately 90% of WV) remains a priority of our agency. A private lands specialist oversaw conservation and management activities through coordination with other state and federal agencies. The focus of this new position is to oversee invasive species outreach efforts, provide technical assistance to private industrial landowners, serves as point of contact with private landowners funded through Natural Resources Conservation Service, and to enhance current DNR program (WildYards, Master Naturalist, and pollinator restoration, etc.).

Wild Yards Program

Staff received and processed more than 25 wild yards applications, created a new online application form, updated website and outreach materials on the program and promoted the Wild Yards program at various events, such as the West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage, Toyota Pollinator Workshop and the West Virginia Master Naturalist Annual Conference. Revisions to the Wild Yards Manual are in development.

Master Naturalist Program

Staff instructed several master naturalist classes for multiple state chapters and conducted outreach to chapters statewide. Educational and display materials were loaned to several chapters and used at more than 20 events including Earth Day Celebrations, Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs and many other presentations to local groups.

AQUATIC COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

During the 2022-2023 field seasons, a total of 127 fish surveys were conducted statewide to continue documenting the distribution and status of West Virginia fish species. Of the 127 fish surveys, 119 were wadeable and eight were non-wadeable. Wadeable surveys consisted of backpack electrofishing surveys, seining surveys, parallel-wire fish community monitoring surveys, snorkeling and nocturnal surveys. Non-wadeable surveys were completed by gill netting, and raft and boat electrofishing. Additionally, distributional information, meristic specimens and genetic samples were collected for bluestone sculpin (*Cottus sp. 1*) to improve the understanding of this species' distribution and regional congeners (e.g., banded and broadband sculpin groups). As a result, *Cottus* spp. tissue samples (fin clips) are currently being analyzed by U.S. Geological Survey to determine if populations warrant a full species designation and federal listing status. Genetic samples were collected from several other fishes to resolve ambiguity associated with population genetic structure prior to beginning restoration efforts. Sampled species include Appalachia darter, Kanawha minnow, brook trout, eastern and western sand darters, candy darters and variegated darters.

Rare, Threatened or Endangered Fishes

Staff participated in collaborative efforts involving two federally listed fish species, the candy darter and the diamond darter. During ten surveys, a minimum of 29 individuals were detected among the ten sites sampled. Restoration efforts targeting the candy darter that included monitoring surveys of two reintroduced populations (stocked in 2018-2019). Genetic monitoring of existing populations and additional propagation efforts in collaboration with White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery. Monitoring results indicate that one population is showing signs that it may have established by having continued reproduction and recruitment. Present and former staff were recognized as conservation champions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for significant contributions to the recovery of the federally endangered candy darter.





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