

West Virginia *Natural Resources*



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012



WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia



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The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Annual Report 2011-2012 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.

Foreword

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Frank Jezioro
Director

December 1, 2012

The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Governor Tomblin:

Transmitted herewith is the annual report for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources for fiscal year July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012.

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

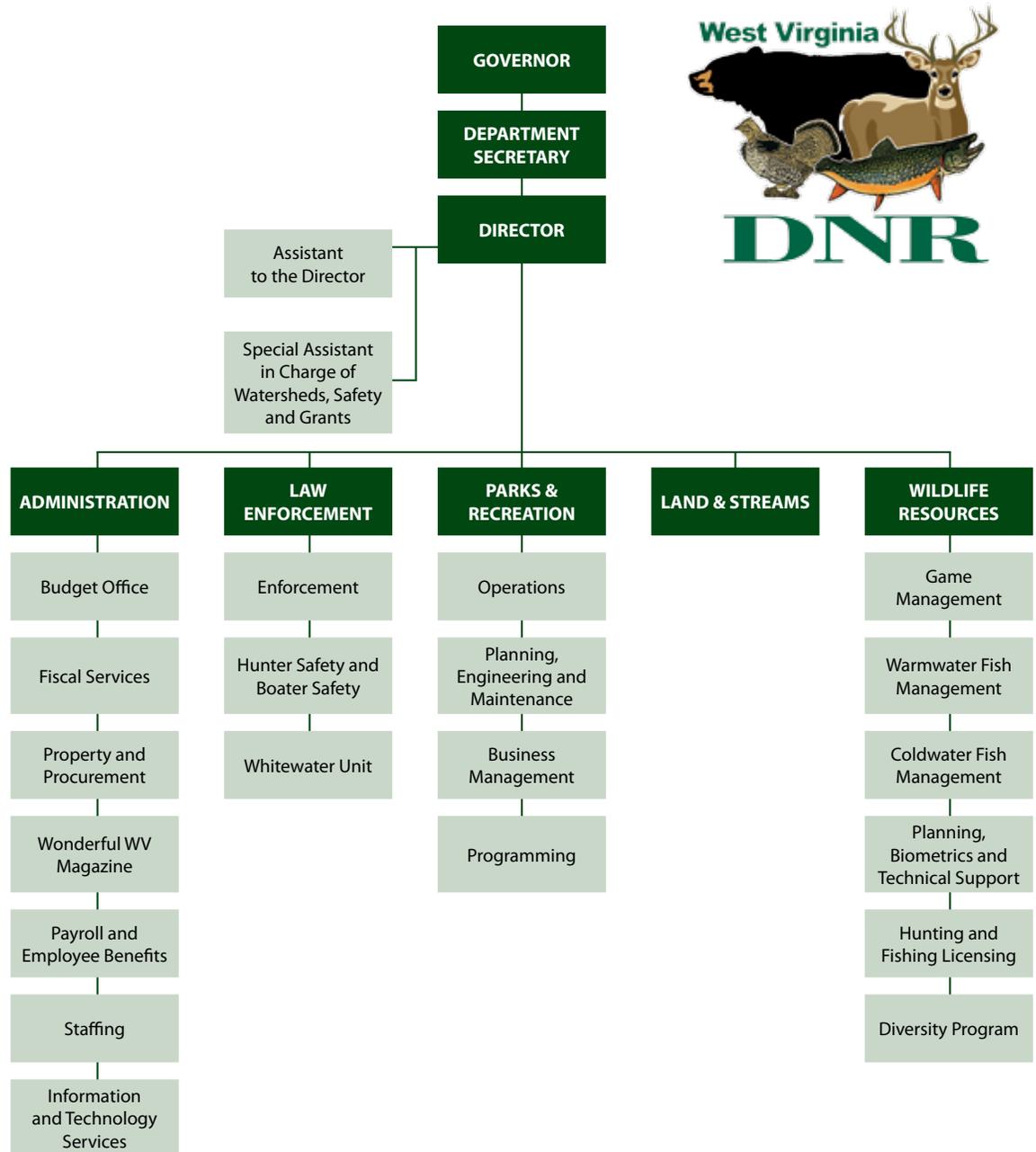
A detailed accounting of receipts and expenditures as prescribed by Chapter 20, Code of West Virginia, is also respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Jezioro".

Frank Jezioro
Director

DNR 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.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ON WHICH THE DIRECTOR SERVES

- West Virginia Natural Resources Commission
- Wildlife Endowment Fund Board of Trustees
- Ohio River Management Fund Advisory Board
- West Virginia Public Land Corporation
- West Virginia Whitewater Commission
- West Virginia Tourism Commission
- West Virginia Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund
- Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority
- National Coal Heritage Area Authority

EEOC 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, or ancestry, disability, or other protected group status. — *September 2005*

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources District Map

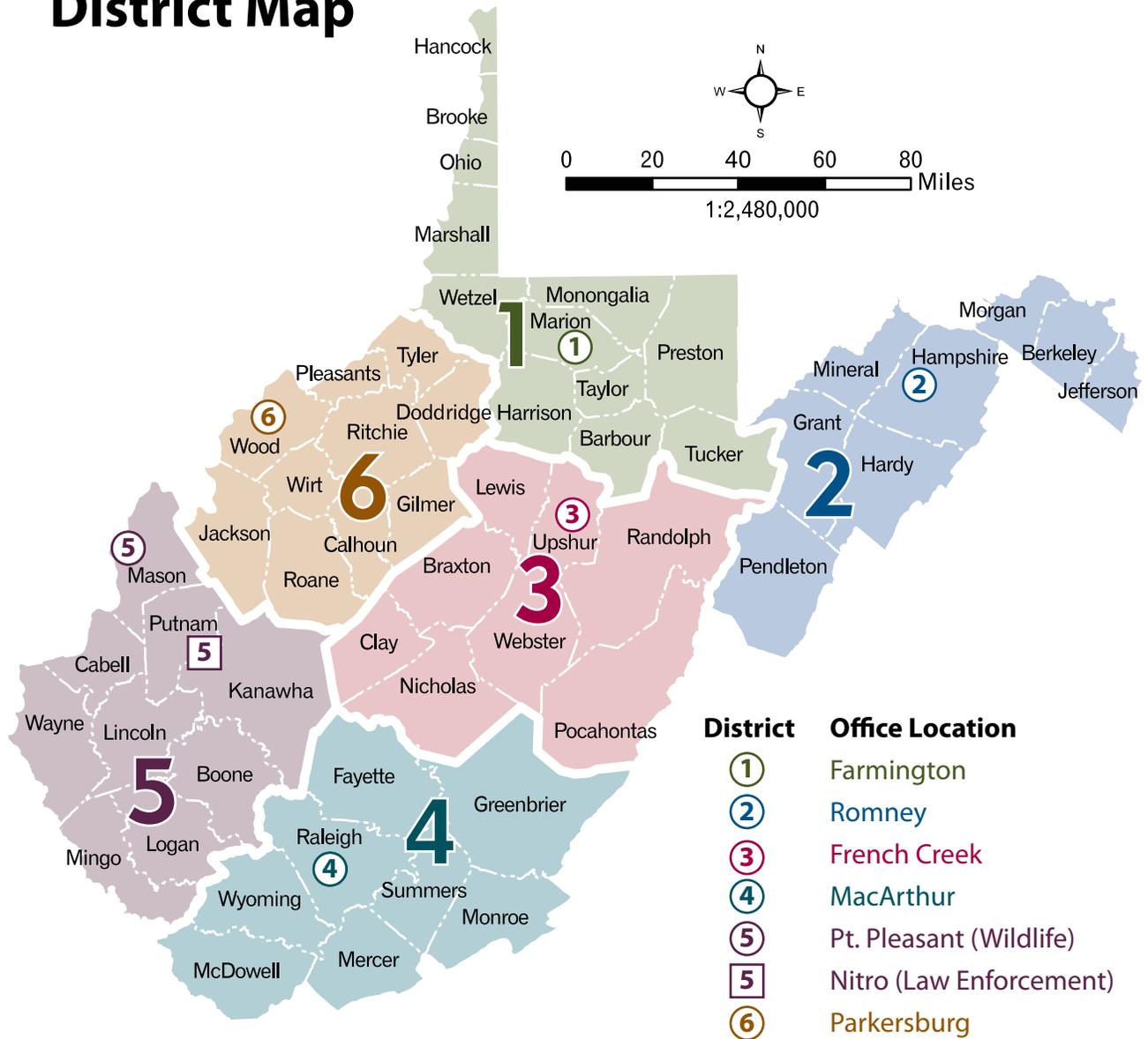


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Administration

The administrative offices provide services to all sections and offices of the Division of Natural Resources in the areas of budgeting, accounting, investments, staffing, payroll, employee benefits, procurement, property management and control, general services, computer application development and maintenance, and publishing *Wonderful West Virginia* magazine.

**Administration
Section**
Bryan Hoffman,
Executive Secretary

Sectional responsibilities include developing and maintaining sound fiscal and personnel policies; coordinating purchasing procedures; maintaining active inventory and records management programs; managing a statewide radio communication system; publishing the state's premier magazine; coordinating, developing, and maintaining mainframe and local network program applications; and developing administrative procedures required for the orderly correlation of divisional activities and the overall operation of the division. The services are provided by employees working in seven major branches: staffing, payroll and employee benefits, procurement and property management, fiscal services, budget, information technology, and *Wonderful West Virginia* magazine.

WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA MAGAZINE

Wonderful West Virginia is an official publication of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and is the state's premier publication. Published monthly, there are about 34,000 copies printed of each issue.

In FY 2012 the average number of copies mailed each month to paid individual subscribers was 29,650. In addition, some 2,434 copies were distributed each month to paid bulk subscribers such as government agencies, chambers of commerce, motels, real estate firms, newsstands on state parks, and other newsstand distributors.

STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS

The following report is limited to a presentation of the fiscal operations of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources for the year ending June 30, 2012. Itemization of summarized financial data contained in this report is public and on file.

Statement of Disbursements

ADMINISTRATION SECTION

EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE

Personal Services	\$	347,445.65
Employee Benefits		98,068.01
Current Expenses		348,321.82
Repairs & Alterations		15,044.42
Equipment		3,750.00
Fund Transfer		1,263,000.00
TOTAL	\$	2,075,629.90

FISCAL SERVICES

Personal Services	\$	624,771.83
Employee Benefits		224,785.64
Current Expenses		613,772.02
Repairs & Alterations		25,831.56
PEIA Transfer		12,873.02
TOTAL	\$	1,502,034.07

STAFFING/PAYROLL

Personal Services	\$	262,998.10
Employee Benefits		84,596.94
Current Expenses		27,114.46
Repairs & Alterations		10,020.00
TOTAL	\$	384,729.50

GENERAL SERVICES

Personal Services	\$	389,449.35
Employee Benefits		132,090.72
Current Expenses		241,470.63
Repairs & Alterations		50,430.83
Equipment		15,203.24
Building Improvements		2,874.68
Land Improvements		3,580.00
TOTAL	\$	835,099.45

WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA MAGAZINE

Personal Services	\$	34,956.00
Employee Benefits		15,322.41
Current Expenses		547,663.39
Repairs & Alterations		2,004.00
TOTAL	\$	599,945.80

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	2,282,668.94
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		1,887,367.93
Special Revenue Appropriated		1,164,326.24
Federal Revenue Appropriated		63,075.61
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$	5,397,438.72

LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Personal Services	\$ 5,347,149.64
Employee Benefits	2,072,584.70
Current Expenses	1,813,389.16
Repairs & Alterations	308,687.61
Equipment	1,530,582.92
PEIA Transfer	20,703.37
Medical Service Payments	17,037.00
TOTAL	\$ 11,110,134.40

General Revenue Appropriated	\$ 3,110,591.00
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated	1,006,349.48
Special Revenue Appropriated	5,968,544.14
Federal Revenue Appropriated	1,024,649.78
TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT	\$ 11,110,134.40

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

GAME MANAGEMENT

Personal Services	\$ 2,629,617.79
Employee Benefits	980,925.32
Current Expenses	1,270,104.29
Repairs & Alterations	288,254.10
Equipment	285,347.26
Payment of Claims	362,703.55
Capital Improvements/Land Purchases	72,856.04
PEIA Transfer	538.20
Building Improvements	54,811.55
Land Improvements	18,730.53
Land Purchases	79,550.00
Medical Service Payments	297.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,043,735.63

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Personal Services	\$ 179,816.60
Employee Benefits	37,473.27
Current Expenses	510,547.71
Repairs & Alterations	105,144.07
Equipment	1,953.90
Capital Improvements/Land Purchases	51,430.11
Building Improvements	29,771.51
Land Improvements	48,934.79
Land Purchases	1,127,017.00
Leasehold Improvements	317,298.42
TOTAL	\$ 2,409,387.38

Statement of Disbursements

COLD WATER FISH MANAGEMENT

Personal Services	\$	1,088,045.15
Employee Benefits		470,978.92
Current Expenses		1,045,937.96
Repairs & Alterations		107,423.37
Equipment		69,069.00
Medical Service Payments		20.00
TOTAL	\$	2,781,474.40

WILDLIFE - ADMINISTRATION

Personal Services	\$	519,029.30
Employee Benefits		193,005.53
Current Expenses		1,122,349.22
Repairs & Alterations		29,068.60
Equipment		2,310.00
TOTAL	\$	1,865,762.65

WARM WATER FISH MANAGEMENT

Personal Services	\$	1,069,716.28
Employee Benefits		403,652.40
Current Expenses		554,269.43
Repairs & Alterations		128,038.54
Equipment		109,963.00
Medical Service Payments		33.91
TOTAL	\$	2,265,673.56

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Personal Services	\$	506,603.15
Employee Benefits		200,054.23
Current Expenses		189,761.48
Repairs & Alterations		23,198.99
Equipment		17,235.00
TOTAL	\$	936,852.85

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Personal Services	\$	306,872.25
Employee Benefits		112,857.06
Current Expenses		633,197.14
Repairs & Alterations		20,393.89
Equipment		19,390.21
Land Purchases		2,000,000.00
TOTAL	\$	3,092,710.55

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

Personal Services	\$	674,371.34
Employee Benefits		268,987.69
Current Expenses		1,520,754.29
Repairs & Alterations		39,186.58
Equipment		125.77
PEIA Transfer		1,381.32
Medical Service Payments		80.00
TOTAL	\$	2,504,886.99

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE UNIT

Personal Services	\$	155,822.15
Employee Benefits		55,962.44
Current Expenses		285,040.67
Repairs & Alterations		8,183.00
TOTAL	\$	505,008.26

ELKINS OPERATIONS CENTER

Personal Services	\$	102,094.62
Employee Benefits		45,378.74
Current Expenses		144,177.11
Repairs & Alterations		28,192.13
Equipment		8,170.00
Building Improvements		470.78
Land Improvements		22,535.29
TOTAL	\$	351,018.67

WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CENTER

Personal Services	\$	224,635.75
Employee Benefits		79,782.93
Current Expenses		65,959.05
Repairs & Alterations		26,629.95
Building Improvements		11,155.70
TOTAL	\$	408,163.38

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	186,464.62
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		7,220,944.89
Special Revenue Appropriated		7,531,309.21
Federal Revenue Appropriated		8,225,955.60
TOTAL WILDLIFE RESOURCES	\$	23,164,674.32

PARKS & RECREATION SECTION

PARKS & RECREATION

Personal Services	\$ 18,069,837.16
Employee Benefits	6,095,711.84
Current Expenses	13,912,480.32
Repairs & Alterations	5,621,806.30
Equipment	1,235,986.06
Grants and Awards	16,667.43
PEIA Transfer	103,299.43
Building Improvements	130,917.35
Land Improvements	49,553.80
Consultant Pmts for Capital Asset Proj	270,145.60
Medical Service Payments	1,967.00
TOTAL	\$ 45,508,372.29

General Revenue Appropriated	\$ 12,193,264.74
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated	24,623,119.77
Special Revenue Appropriated	8,691,987.78
TOTAL PARKS & RECREATION	\$ 45,508,372.29

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES SECTION

OFFICE OF LAND & STREAMS

Personal Services	\$ 227,511.18
Employee Benefits	67,890.55
Current Expenses	70,141.34
Repairs & Alterations	10,201.20
Equipment	82.50
PEIA Transfer	1,316.04
Land Purchases	12,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 389,142.81

Special Revenue Non-Appropriated	\$ 118,952.97
Special Revenue Appropriated	270,189.84
TOTAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES	\$ 389,142.81

Grand Total General Revenue Appropriated	\$ 17,772,989.30
Grand Total Special Revenue Non-Appropriated	34,856,735.04
Grand Total Special Revenue Appropriated	23,626,357.21
Grand Total Federal Revenue Appropriated	9,313,680.99

GRAND TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **\$ 85,569,762.54**

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012

APPROPRIATED FUNDS

GENERAL FUND (0265)

Appropriated Fund - No Cash Balance

DISBURSEMENTS

Personal Services	(11,669,331.57)	
Employee Benefits	(4,584,364.97)	
Current Expense	(648,439.06)	
Repairs and Alterations	(10,684.41)	
Equipment	(133,658.61)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(98,599.63)	
WV OPEB Contribution	(627,911.05)	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(17,772,989.30)

SPECIAL REVENUE LICENSE FUND (3200)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011	2,836,508.27
Investment Balance July 1, 2011	3,228,443.32
Beginning Fund Balance	6,064,951.59

RECEIPTS

Animal Replacement Costs	46,510.75	
Hunting & Fishing Licenses and Stamps	12,332,979.00	
Insurance Payments	22,091.41	
Investment Earnings	6,505.88	
Miscellaneous Permits and License	8,216.00	
Miscellaneous Collections	3,172.43	
Surplus Property Sale	23,870.00	
Transfer from Wildlife Endowment Fund	1,263,000.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		13,706,345.47

DISBURSEMENTS

Personal Services	(5,103,870.05)	
Employee Benefits	(2,105,053.32)	
Current Expense	(3,421,188.38)	
Repairs and Alterations	(336,166.12)	
Equipment	(933,414.61)	
Medical Service Payments	(17,135.91)	
Building Improvements	(4,668.59)	
Land Improvements	(22,535.29)	
2009 Capital Improvements	(392,735.26)	
2010 Capital Improvements	(307,671.35)	
2011 Capital Improvements	(10,040.18)	
2012 Capital Improvements	(248,268.98)	
WV OPEB Contribution	(220,821.09)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(13,123,569.13)

Ending Fund Balance	6,647,727.93
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012	(4,779,775.49)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012	1,867,952.44

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

GAME, FISH AND AQUATIC LIFE FUND (3202)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		43,010.50
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		199,764.64
Beginning Fund Balance		242,775.14
RECEIPTS		
Fish Kill Reimbursement	500,976.43	
Investment Earnings	710.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		501,686.43
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(28,716.22)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(28,716.22)
Ending Fund Balance		715,745.35
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(668,682.91)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		47,062.44

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY FUND (3203)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		179,726.81
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		507,618.77
Beginning Fund Balance		687,345.58
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	465.04	
Miscellaneous Collections	183.02	
Sale of Booklets	1,167.91	
Sale of Wildlife Calendars	100,606.73	
Sale of Wildlife License Plates	333,757.50	
Special Events	4,790.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		440,970.20
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(587,972.09)	
Employee Benefits	(233,972.95)	
Current Expense	(127,783.12)	
Repairs and Alterations	(3,703.22)	
Bank Costs	(788.54)	
WV OPEB Contribution	(28,056.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(982,275.92)
Ending Fund Balance		146,039.86
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(12,883.81)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		133,156.05

USE & DEVELOPMENT FUND - PUBLIC LAND CORPORATION (3205)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		2,515,952.62
RECEIPTS		
Coal Annual Fees	200.00	
Channel Changes	600.00	
Docking Facilities	12,100.00	
Gas & Oil Leases	15,908.22	
Low Water Fords	14,500.00	
Low Water Level Bridges	113,300.00	
Permits	89,400.00	

Pipeline Permits	343,497.50	
Right of Way	2,500.00	
Sand/Gravel ATE Management	4,900.00	
Sand and Gravel Royalties	139,265.75	
Stream Restoration	7,200.00	
Structures	137,080.00	
Subterranean Cable Permit Renewal	3,175.00	
Water Intake Supply System	5,800.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		889,426.47
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(81,213.38)	
Employee Benefits	(28,710.05)	
Current Expense	(37,270.93)	
Repairs and Alterations	(2,335.50)	
Equipment	(82.50)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(797.64)	
Bank Costs	(748.71)	
WV OPEB Contribution	(2,020.70)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(153,179.41)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		3,252,199.68

WHITewater STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT FUND (3253)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		75,927.01
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		36,053.29
Beginning Fund Balance		111,980.30
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	136.42	
Study and Improvement Fees	59,684.85	
Whitewater Stocking Study Fee-Gauley River	11,527.25	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		71,348.52
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(36,352.97)	
Employee Benefits	(16,620.89)	
Current Expense	(19,949.01)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(348.81)	
WV OPEB Contribution	(1,992.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(75,263.68)
Ending Fund Balance		108,065.14
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(41,659.99)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		66,405.15

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES LOTTERY FUND (3267)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011 6,043,144.65

RECEIPTS

Lottery Transfers 3,388,135.00

PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS 3,388,135.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Personal Services (1,550,493.81)

Employee Benefits (664,369.06)

Current Expense (680,487.56)

Repairs and Alterations (13,235.08)

Equipment (177,257.94)

PEIA Reserve Transfer (15,059.16)

Medical Service Payments (80.00)

Building Improvements (50,917.35)

Land Improvements (56,700.00)

Contractor Pmts for Capital Asset Proj (1,095,546.70)

Consultant Pmts for Capital Asset Proj (85,634.80)

WV OPEB Contribution (100,200.00)

LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (4,489,981.46)

CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012 4,941,298.19

STATE PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND (3277)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011 9,309,938.85

Beginning Fund Balance

RECEIPTS

Lottery Transfers 5,000,000.00

PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS 5,000,000.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Current Expense (1,157,309.95)

Repairs and Alterations (1,951,505.07)

Equipment (1,066,340.51)

Contractor Pmts for Capital Asset Proj (499,586.47)

Consultant Pmts for Capital Asset Proj (25,637.80)

Building Improvements (80,000.00)

Land Improvements 7,146.20

Medical Service Payments (306.00)

Debt Service Leases - Interest 168.21

LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS (4,773,371.39)

CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012 9,536,567.46

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL FUND (8707)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011 5,227,516.72

Investment Balance July 1, 2011 3,548,684.58

Beginning Fund Balance 8,776,201.30

RECEIPTS

Law Enforcement

Boating Safety 639,882.00

Duplicate Boat Safety Cards 40.00

Hunter Safety Replacement Cards 17,260.00

Hunter Safety	550,974.58	
Law Homeland Security	0.00	1,208,156.58
Wildlife Resources		
Acid Water Studies	20,419.16	
Aquatic Restoration	9,601.04	
Archery Education in Schools	38,046.39	
Bat White Nose Syndrome Study	101,949.29	
Biometrics	142,380.29	
Boating Access Administration	286,453.63	
Boating Access Grant	281,907.07	
Commercial Navigable Rivers	50,522.65	
Chronic Wasting Disease Research-USDA	229,829.75	
Council for the Advancement of Hunting & Shooting	30,000.00	
District Wildlife Management	954,204.98	
Endangered Plants Grant	18,500.00	
Endangered Species	50,471.71	
EPA State Wetlands Development	187,946.00	
Fish & Wildlife Coordination	115,697.60	
Interagency Coordination	157,006.60	
Investment Earnings	8,709.85	
Landowner Incentive Program	32,431.62	
Miscellaneous	1,076.10	
NOAA Habitat Conservation Program	985,951.24	
Reservoir Investigations	105,725.25	
Rivers and Streams Assessment	112,500.00	
Small Impoundment Assessment	63,673.42	
State Wildlife Grants	408,695.23	
Surplus Property Sale	3,350.00	
Trout Hatchery Operations	951,727.28	
USDP AG NRCS Wildlife Habt Inc	159,375.00	
Warmwater Fish Hatcheries Grant	337,500.00	
Wildlife Research	319,357.08	6,165,008.23
Parks		
Cass Club House National Park Service	0.00	0.00
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		7,373,164.81
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(2,879,118.28)	
Employee Benefits	(1,076,078.55)	
Current Expense	(4,530,529.00)	
Repairs and Alterations	(115,518.68)	
Equipment	(523,894.83)	
Building Improvements	(12,470.78)	
Building Purchase or Construction	(14,943.60)	
Contractor Pmts for Capital Asset Proj	(24,999.00)	
Land Improvements	(14,203.99)	
WV OPEB Contribution	(121,924.28)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(9,313,680.99)
Ending Fund Balance		6,835,685.12
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(4,122,407.91)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		2,713,277.21

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

NON-APPROPRIATED FUNDS

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM FUND (3204)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011	150,183.73
Investment Balance July 1, 2011	2,475,332.07
Beginning Fund Balance	2,625,515.80

RECEIPTS

Captive Cervid Facility License	4,750.00
Investment Earnings	2,580.68
Miscellaneous Collections	16,343.58
Miscellaneous Permits	4,840.00
Motorboat Licenses	196,336.25
Tipping Fees	523,053.13
Transfers	4,967.92
Whitewater Rafting Licenses	33,774.85
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS	786,646.41

DISBURSEMENTS

Personal Services	(202,453.38)
Employee Benefits	(79,468.44)
Current Expense	(24,469.02)
Repairs and Alterations	17,917.72
Equipment	(294,748.19)
WV OPEB Contribution	(8,350.00)
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	(591,571.31)
Ending Fund Balance	2,820,590.90
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012	(2,575,412.75)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012	245,178.15

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTS (3208)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011	5,185.06
---------------------------	----------

RECEIPTS

Contracts	0.00
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS	0.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Equipment	0.00
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	0.00

CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012	5,185.06
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WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND (3224)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011	9,584.00
Investment Balance July 1, 2011	40,671,590.14
Beginning Fund Balance	40,681,174.14

RECEIPTS

Investment Earnings	(938,881.55)
Lifetime Hunting & Fishing License	592,189.00
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS	(346,692.55)

DISBURSEMENTS

Fund Transfer	(1,263,000.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(1,263,000.00)
Ending Fund Balance		39,071,481.59
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(39,068,434.09)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		3,047.50

WILDLIFE RESOURCES-RECREATION FUND (3227)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		24,817.30
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		7,341,348.38
Beginning Fund Balance		7,366,165.68

RECEIPTS

Acid Impacted Stream Studies	16,928.83	
Allegheny Power	164,703.00	
Cabin Rentals	2,054.74	
Campsite Rentals	24,550.97	
Canaan Valley Deer Research	15,000.00	
Captive Cervid Facility License	4,750.00	
Chesapeake Operating Inc	159,075.57	
Coal Royalties	542,162.62	
Donation for Stream Treatment with Limestone	26,712.55	
Entrance Fees	63,938.55	
Fish Promotion and Research	109,501.93	
Gas Royalties	336,709.62	
Gift Shop Sales	16,030.98	
Gifts & Bequests	89,521.06	
Go-Wild Hunting & Fishing License Issuance Fee	186,813.50	
Habitat Land Inquiries	23,100.00	
Hunters Helping the Hungry	21,056.00	
Hunters Helping the Hungry DHHR Grant	75,000.00	
Information Retrieval	37,724.59	
Insurance Payments	41,405.00	
Investment Earnings	8,582.20	
Leases	400.00	
Miscellaneous Collections	2,822.19	
Mitigation Wildlife	38,910.00	
Oil Royalties	206,167.47	
Picnic Shelter Fees	2,545.34	
Real Estate License Fees	978,765.95	
Residence Rentals	1,000.00	
Scientific Collection Permit	33,200.00	
Surface Damages	254,964.85	
Timber Sales	209,530.94	
Toyota Donation for National Hunting & Fishing Day	10,000.00	
Transfer From Wildlife Endowment Fund	1,000,000.00	
Trophy Fish Citations	3,360.00	
Wildlife Contract Reimbursement	50,000.00	
Wildlife Special Events	23,665.70	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		4,780,654.15

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

DISBURSEMENTS

Personal Services	(470,691.25)	
Employee Benefits	(158,647.32)	
Current Expense	(772,776.90)	
Repairs and Alterations	(61,874.00)	
Equipment	(138,781.60)	
Bank Costs	(118,081.71)	
Land Improvements	(4,526.54)	
Land Purchases	(2,000,000.00)	
Building Purchase or Construction	(67,787.98)	
Building Improvements	(53,967.25)	
Payment of Claims	(6,444.27)	
WV OPEB Contribution	(17,869.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(3,871,447.82)
Ending Fund Balance		8,275,372.01
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(7,926,430.58)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		348,941.43

BEAR DAMAGE FUND (3228)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011	15,995.61
Investment Balance July 1, 2011	358,176.26
Beginning Fund Balance	374,171.87

RECEIPTS

Bear Damage Stamps	256,974.00	
Investment Earnings	319.72	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		257,293.72

DISBURSEMENTS

Current Expense	(76,191.40)	
Repairs and Alterations	(2,546.33)	
Payment of Claims	(356,259.28)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(434,997.01)
Ending Fund Balance		196,468.58
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(188,495.98)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		7,972.60

WILDLIFE RESOURCES CONTRACTS FUND (3229)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011	561.21
Investment Balance July 1, 2011	690,429.82
Beginning Fund Balance	690,991.03

RECEIPTS

Eramet Project - Ohio River	55,272.00	
Investment Earnings	755.54	
Miscellaneous Collections	22.02	
Mussell Restoration	15,000.00	
Special Agreements	25,694.10	
WetLands Program	6,000.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		102,743.66

DISBURSEMENTS

Current Expense	(1,744.13)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(1,744.13)
Ending Fund Balance		791,990.56
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(591,735.36)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		200,255.20

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL STAMP FUND (3231)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		75.22
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		197,135.71
Beginning Fund Balance		197,210.93
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	189.94	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		189.94
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(19,635.26)	
Land Purchases	(79,550.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(99,185.26)
Ending Fund Balance		98,215.61
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(96,925.65)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		1,289.96

CONSERVATION STAMP FUND (3232)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		153,531.93
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		1,487,648.67
Beginning Fund Balance		1,641,180.60
RECEIPTS		
Conservation Stamp Sales	1,557,538.00	
Investment Earnings	2,018.49	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		1,559,556.49
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(109,312.60)	
Employee Benefits	(13,001.57)	
Current Expense	(179,275.58)	
Repairs and Alterations	(826.60)	
Land Purchases	(1,127,017.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(1,429,433.35)
Ending Fund Balance		1,771,303.74
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(1,623,167.16)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		148,136.58

TROUT STAMP FUND (3233)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		125,623.80
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		2,509,778.48
Beginning Fund Balance		2,635,402.28
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	2,376.25	
Trout Stamp Sales	1,321,827.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		1,324,203.25

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

DISBURSEMENTS

Personal Services	(928,169.02)	
Employee Benefits	(397,195.06)	
Current Expense	(500.00)	
WV OPEB Contribution	(55,773.24)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(1,381,637.32)
Ending Fund Balance		2,577,968.21
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(2,460,154.73)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		117,813.48

GIFTS, GRANTS & BEQUESTS (3237)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		31,889.95
RECEIPTS		
Special Events	49,055.60	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		49,055.60
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(50,379.27)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(50,379.27)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		30,566.28

LAND MINERALS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS (3239)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		198,059.91
RECEIPTS		
Land Leases	23,303.00	
Miscellaneous Collections	128.95	
Real Estate Taxes	2,156.68	
Right-of-Way	15,013.50	
Royalties	108,000.00	
Transfers	1,200.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		149,802.13
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(54,725.80)	
Employee Benefits	(17,971.80)	
Current Expense	(28,710.15)	
WV OPEB Contribution	(3,841.00)	
Remittance of Taxes	(1,185.82)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(518.40)	
Land Purchases	(12,000.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(118,952.97)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		228,909.07

PAYROLL CLEARING ACCOUNT (3245)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		3,652.25
RECEIPTS		
Law Enforcement / Sports Ed. Stamps	0.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		0.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Employee Benefits	(232.23)	

LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	(232.23)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012	3,420.02

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SPORTS EDUCATION STAMPS (3247)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		33,883.63
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		697,828.46
Beginning Fund Balance		731,712.09
RECEIPTS		
Law Enforcement / Sports Ed. Stamps	384,466.00	
Investment Earnings	716.40	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		385,182.40
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(287,864.62)	
Employee Benefits	(114,330.84)	
WV OPEB Contribution	(12,358.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(414,553.46)
Ending Fund Balance		702,341.03
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(672,044.86)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		30,296.17

MAGAZINE SALES & SUBSCRIPTIONS (3248)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		7,094.50
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		397,412.72
Beginning Fund Balance		404,507.22
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	459.80	
Magazine Sponsorship	1,000.00	
Magazine Bookshelf Sales	6,564.89	
Magazine Sales	37,416.16	
Magazine Subscriptions	523,443.58	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		568,884.43
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(541,274.59)	
Bank Costs	(2,026.05)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(543,300.64)
Ending Fund Balance		430,091.01
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(409,172.52)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		20,918.49

CLEARING ACCOUNT-EQUIPMENT (3251)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		172,844.46
RECEIPTS		
Rental Leases	17,566.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		17,566.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(30,455.79)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(30,455.79)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		159,954.67

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

CLASS A-1 SMALL ARMS HUNTING LICENSE (3259)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		3,629.82
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		347,873.96
Beginning Fund Balance		351,503.78
RECEIPTS		
Class A-1 Small Arms Hunting License	86,932.00	
Lifetime Small Arms Hunting License	4,050.00	
Investment Earnings	404.37	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		91,386.37
DISBURSEMENTS		
Employee Benefits	0.00	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		0.00
Ending Fund Balance		442,890.15
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(438,978.33)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		3,911.82

PARKS IMPROVEMENT TO FACILITIES (3260)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		24,929.00
RECEIPTS		
Interagency Federal Payments	1,410,000.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		1,410,000.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Contractor Pmts for Capital Asset Proj	(1,251,127.00)	
Consultant Pmts for Capital Asset Proj	(158,873.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(1,410,000.00)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		24,929.00

WATTERS SMITH MEMORIAL STATE PARK (3261)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		4.49
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		86,454.55
Beginning Fund Balance		86,459.04
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	91.56	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		91.56
DISBURSEMENTS		
Equipment	0.00	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		0.00
Ending Fund Balance		86,550.60
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(86,546.11)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		4.49

DECOY ANIMALS ASSESSMENT FEE (3264)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		141.73
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		2,607.49
Beginning Fund Balance		2,749.22
RECEIPTS		
Decoy Animal Assessment Fee	800.00	
Investment Earnings	3.28	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		803.28

DISBURSEMENTS

Current Expense	(224.71)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(224.71)
Ending Fund Balance		3,327.79
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(2,810.77)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		517.02

STATE PARK OPERATING FUND (3265)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		1,378,838.76
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		3,235,150.22
Beginning Fund Balance		4,613,988.98

RECEIPTS

Arts and Crafts	12,255.46
Bath / Massages	374,678.89
Bicycle Rental	7,321.59
Boat Charters	14,146.90
Boat Rental	66,590.27
Cabin Advance Reservation	3,980,142.14
Cabin Rentals	984,638.74
Campsite Advance Reservation	439,260.58
Campsite Rentals	1,491,652.17
Cass Advance Fares	352,208.16
Coin Laundry Machines	7,641.14
Consumers Sales Tax	1,027.13
Cot & Crib Rental	22,810.67
Dinner Train Advance	67,908.24
Driving Range	19,391.28
Entrance Fees	202,569.39
Equipment Rental	(91,725.14)
Facility Use Rental	147,255.46
Firewood Sales	136,247.15
Food & Snacks	218,787.95
Games	2,711.20
Gas Royalties	18,196.39
Gift Cards	33,882.13
Gift Shop Sales	1,812,066.42
Greens Fees	812,118.61
Group Camps	36,693.38
Hotel Occupancy Tax	581,830.13
Investment Earnings	3,229.00
Lodge Advance Reservation	2,726,770.21
Lodge Rooms	3,371,986.98
Lottery Collections - Net	9,780.50
Magazine Sales	307.58
Miniature Golf	22,083.25
Miscellaneous Collections	(18,470.43)
Miscellaneous Non-Taxable	66,609.82
Miscellaneous Taxable	64,494.28
Picnic Shelter Fees	200,659.76

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

Pro Shop	159,925.91	
Railfan Weekend Tickets	(1,616.97)	
Railroad Charters	23,215.23	
Railroad Fares	501,096.54	
Residence Rentals	14,073.09	
Restaurants	1,982,187.73	
Roman Bath	119,632.70	
Shooting Ranges	27,948.83	
Special Events	77,768.08	
Swimming Fees	436,659.29	
Tram	142,965.87	
Vending Machines	49,879.76	21,733,493.44
RECEIPTS - CONCESSIONS		
Boat Dock Concession	20,437.78	
Coin Machine Concession	11,182.88	
Food and Snacks Concession	4,741.49	
Golf Carts	294,288.34	
Marina	7,546.77	
Miscellaneous Concession	99,450.56	
Restaurant Concession	104,257.60	
Riding Stable	15,544.16	557,449.58
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		22,290,943.02
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(8,683,122.37)	
Employee Benefits	(2,109,846.07)	
Current Expense	(11,279,015.07)	
Repairs and Alterations	(15,109.44)	
Equipment	7,486.62	
Remittance Of Taxes	(585,380.15)	
Grants and Awards	(16,667.43)	
Bank Costs	(267,842.56)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(24,787.74)	
Medical Service Pmts	(1,661.00)	
WV OPEB Contribution	(146,926.25)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(23,122,871.46)
Ending Fund Balance		3,782,060.54
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(3,357,379.22)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		424,681.32
CANAAN MAINTENANCE FUND (3274)		
Cash Balance July 1, 2011		18,597.86
RECEIPTS		
Maintenance Transfer from Operating Fund	0.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		0.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	0.00	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		0.00
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		18,597.86

COYOTE MANAGEMENT FUND (3292)

Cash Balance July 1, 2011		118.18
Investment Balance July 1, 2011		2,599.75
Beginning Fund Balance		2,717.93
RECEIPTS		
Coyote Management Donations	1,130.00	
Investment Earnings	3.28	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		1,133.28
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(2,500.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(2,500.00)
Ending Fund Balance		1,351.21
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2012		(603.03)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		748.18

ALL FLOOD DISASTER FUNDS (3280, 3281, 3282, 3284, 3293, 3294, 3295, 3296)

Fund 3280 (MAY '02 FLOOD DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2011		49,740.77
Fund 3281 (JUN '03 FLOOD DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2011		4,515.88
Fund 3282 (NOV '03 FLOOD DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2011		54,485.68
Fund 3284 (MAY '04 FLOOD DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2011		3,212.22
Fund 3293 (JUN '08 FLOOD DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2011		7,209.38
Fund 3294 (MAY '09 FLOOD DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2011		637.30
Fund 3295 (MAR '10 FLOOD DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2011		225,821.02
Fund 3296 (DEC '09 FLOOD DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2011		3,240.00
RECEIPTS		
Fund 3295 Transfers In	25,475.66	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		25,475.66
DISBURSEMENTS		
Fund 3294 Repairs and Alterations	(637.30)	
Fund 3295 Current Expense	(20,610.33)	
Fund 3295 Repairs and Alterations	(46,000.68)	
Fund 3295 Contractor Pmts for Capital Asset Proj	(23,000.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(90,248.31)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012		284,089.60

RECAPITULATION OF FUNDS

	Revenue	Disbursements	Investments
General Fund	0.00	(17,772,989.30)	0.00
Consolidated Federal Funds	7,373,164.81	(9,313,680.99)	4,122,407.91
Appropriated Special Revenue Funds	23,997,912.09	(23,626,357.21)	5,503,002.20
Non-Appropriated Special Revenue Funds	33,454,918.80	(34,856,735.04)	59,498,291.14
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	64,825,995.70	(85,569,762.54)	69,123,701.25

Office of Land and Streams

**Office of Land
and Streams**
Joe T. Scarberry,
Supervisor

The Office of Land and Streams serves the Division in many capacities. Two primary responsibilities are the supervision and administration of the Division's land acquisition and real estate title documents program and the administration of the State's rivers and streams. These main functions involve the acquisition, exchange, and leasing of land. This office is also in charge of improvements and exercising control over the various activities in the State's rivers and streams. They include organizing and archiving the real estate title documents for the Division, the everyday administration of the real estate title once lands are acquired, and various rights-of-entry and license agreements on the State's rivers and streams.

LAND ACQUISITION

The acquisition function is accomplished by purchase, lease, condemnation, donations, bequests, and exchanges. It involves various procedures such as the collection of legal data from county courthouse records, negotiations with property owners to obtain leases and/or options to purchase, detailed physical inspections of all types of real estate, obtaining appraisal reports of fair market value, and the preparation of various real estate title documents and real estate quantitative and status reports.

The Office of Land and Streams is responsible for procedures dealing with the preparation, execution, and recordation of legal documents such as deeds, leases, license agreements, rights-of-way, joint interagency agreements, easements, and land purchase invoices. It also prepares numerous other types of documents for state and federal agencies including permits, applications, agreements, and contracts.

This Office maintains a close liaison with the attorneys assigned by the State Attorney General's Office to projects such as land acquisitions, court cases, and other required real estate legal work. This Section also handles all contract boundary survey work and contracts consultants for engineering services relating to oil, gas, and coal resources owned or leased by the Division of Natural Resources.

The primary land acquisition program and the real estate related activities are conducted on behalf of the West Virginia Department of Commerce, the Parks and Recreation and Wildlife Resources sections of the Division of Natural Resources, and for the Division of Forestry.

RIVERS AND STREAM MANAGEMENT

The Division of Natural Resources holds for the State the title to the beds of the State's rivers, creeks and streams totaling some 34,000 miles or some 5,000 named waterways in the state. In the past year, 350 right-of-entry letters were granted to governmental agencies, companies, and/or individuals to conduct construction activities in the State's rivers, creeks, and streams; 614 right-of-way licenses were granted for pipelines, underground or underwater cables, and overhead power and telephone lines crossing the State's waterways. Additionally, 190 large stream structure agreements were granted for bridges and culverts in the State's streams.

OTHER FUNCTIONS

This Office is also responsible for the up-to-date inventory of all lands owned or leased by the Department of Commerce, Division of Natural Resources. The Division of Natural Resources lands are broken down as follows: Administration 14 acres, State Forests 71,392 acres, State Parks 76,960 acres, and Wildlife Management Areas/Public Access Sites 371,021 acres, for a total of 519,387 acres of land with partial mineral rights. The Division of Natural Resources holds title to 34,000 miles of the State's river and creek beds. This acreage encompasses some 347 separate areas such as wildlife management areas, public access sites, wetlands, state parks, trails, and forest lands. These lands provide recreation, are of great natural and/or historical significance, and are managed for the use and benefit of the citizens of West Virginia and its visitors.

PROPERTIES ACQUIRED

AREA	ACREAGE
Bluestone State Park Elizabeth Bare Roberts	2.38
Cass Scenic Railroad State Park Michael Jones	13
Frozen Camp Wildlife Management Area Facemyer Lumber Company	285.00
Little Canaan Wildlife Management Area Canaan Valley Institute	700.29
Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area Sennett Triplett Coal, Inc.	10.00
Meadow River Wetland Wildlife Management Area Carter-Fishburn and Purkiss Dreamland Acres, LLC.	74.00 .918
Sideling Hill Wildlife Management Area The Conservation Fund	2507.55
Wallback Wildlife Management Area Dorma Marvis Sutton Anna L. Patterson	6.75 9.00

LAND LICENSED OR LEASED TO DNR

AREA	ACREAGE
Bullskin Run Streambank Protection Area Avon Wood Inc.	1.08*
Chapmanville Public Access Site WV Division of Highways	1.06*
Dents Run Wildlife Management Area WV State Conservation Committee	54.60
Elk Fork Wildlife Management Area WV Soil Conservation Committee	1530.11
Elk River Wildlife Management Area U.S.A.	11739.00*
Fork Creek Wildlife Management Area Armco Steel Corporation	280.30
French Creek Embayment Public Access Site Riverview Rental Hal C. Williamson	.1* .0584*
Hanging Rock Public Access Site Charles R. Herriott	1.00*
Old Fields Public Access Site WV Division of Highways	1.00*
Paw Paw Bridge Public Access Site WV Division of Highways	.23*
Rock House Fork Public Access Site W.M. McDonald Land	1.00*
Romney Bridge Public Access Site WV Division of Highways	3.68
Sand Hill Wildlife Management Area Wood County Parks and Recreation Commission	472.71
Second Creek Fly Fishing Area Tieche Angus Farms Fred D. Rodgers Rockwell P. Ward Meredith K. Rice	1.00* 1.670* .21* .712*
Shepherdstown Public Access Site Town of Shepherdstown	1.256*
Tracy Lake Rifle Range Pennsboro Board of Park Commissioners	80.00

*Renewals not included in summary of new acreages

	ACREAGE
10 parcels acquired	3596.02
20 parcels licensed or leased	2421.40
Net increase for FY 2011-2012	+6017.42

OPTIONS TO PURCHASE OBTAINED

AREA	ACREAGE
Amherst/Plymouth Wildlife Management Area Dennis P. Farrell/D. Perfect LLC	550.41
Cass Scenic Railroad State Park Michael Jones E.J. and Rita Marcum	.13 .50
Frozen Camp Wildlife Management Area Facemyer Lumber Company	285.00
Meadow River Wetland Wildlife Management Area Carter-Fishburn and Purkiss	74.00
South Branch Wildlife Management Area R & T Packing	100.00
Wallback Wildlife Management Area Anna L. Patterson Dorma Sutton	9.00 6.75

PARCELS IN PROCESS OF ACQUISITION

AREA	ACREAGE
Amherst/Plymouth Wildlife Management Area Dennis P. Farrell/D. Perfect LLC	6.75
Cass Scenic Railroad State Park E.J. and Rita Marcum	.50
South Branch Wildlife Management Area R & T Packing	100.00
Wirt County Rifle Range Wirt County Self Study, Self-Help Development Authority	80.00
PARCELS IN PROCESS OF ACQUISITION:	4
TOTAL ACREAGE	730.91

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Land and Streams prepared and processed, through various stages of completion, 95 documents relating to the use of the Division of Natural Resources' real estate holdings. These documents included lease agreements, license agreements, easements, mitigation agreements, and amendments and supplements to other existing agreements. Land rights covered by these agreements included road rights-of-way, power line, cable line, water line, sewage line, and gas and oil line rights-of-way.

The processing of these agreements required close communication with various field and central office personnel with various other sections of the Division of Natural Resources and with the Department of Commerce; Division of Forestry; and other state, county, and local governmental offices.

RIVERS AND STREAM MANAGEMENT

Another function of the Division of Natural Resources is to hold title to the beds of the streams within the state of West Virginia. The Office of Land and Streams exercises control over the following activities involving these real estate resources:

- Dredging and/or pumping of sand, gravel, and derelict coal from the beds of the streams in the state.
- Leasing areas of the beds and under the beds of the streams for the purpose of exploring for oil, gas, and other minerals.
- Utilizing the beds of the streams for the purpose of crossing or placing pipelines, fords, submarine cables, culverts, bridges, low water bridges, dams, dikes, commercial docking, loading and mooring facilities, recreational marinas, and other structures.

During FY 2011-2012, 540 rights-of-entry were issued for various types of in-stream construction activities that were approved. These included channel changes, bridge construction, culvert construction, gravel removal, ford preparation, stream bank protection, water impoundments, fills, and pipeline construction.

During FY 2011-2012, 614 rights-of-way or license agreements were issued for gas; water and sewer pipelines; underground and overhead telephone; power and fiber optic cables; and loading, docking, and mooring agreements.

Licensed commercial sand, gravel and coal dredging, and/or pumping operations produced 616,163 tons of sand and gravel from the beds of the streams in 2011-2012, as reflected below:

2011-2012 COMMERCIAL DREDGERS REPORT

Total Tonnage Used

COMPANY	RIVER/CREEK	TYPE	TONS
Tri-State River Products	Ohio River	Sand & Gravel	616,163



Law Enforcement Section



Law Enforcement Section

David E. Murphy, *Chief*

The Law Enforcement Section is responsible for the prompt, orderly, and effective enforcement of all laws of Chapter 20, Code of West Virginia, and rules promulgated under that authority. Of primary importance is the protection of West Virginia's wildlife to the degree that they are not endangered by unlawful activities. A highly visible, uniformed Natural Resources Police Officer patrol is the only viable way to accomplish this mission. Prevention and apprehension are crucial to the enforcement goal and the Natural Resources Police Officer is meeting that goal. In West Virginia, no species of wildlife is jeopardized because of illegal taking.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The Law Enforcement Section normally has a staffing level of 124 Natural Resources Police Officers and 12 support personnel. The Section currently has 115 Natural Resources Police Officers. Seven Natural Resources Police Officers and one civilian retired, six officers and four civilians resigned, and 21 new officers and five civilians were employed during FY 2012.

The Law Enforcement Section has been actively seeking new and innovative methods for the accomplishment of our overall mission. The following are just some of the highlights of this past fiscal year:

- Participated in numerous public meetings to provide for a better understanding of the Law Enforcement Section's goals and objectives.
- Monitored various trout stockings to ensure compliance.
- Utilized deer, turkey, and bear decoys in an effort to curtail "road hunting" violations.
- Increased boating and fishing patrols on all major Corps of Engineer lakes.
- Provided watercraft support to various regattas and other major river events.
- Participated in the overall planning and coordination of the National Hunting and Fishing Day Expo at Stonewall Resort State Park.
- Increased ATV patrols on wildlife management areas in an effort to deter unlawful entry.
- West Virginia participated in a nationwide program, Operation Dry Water, in an effort to reduce alcohol-related boating incidents.
- Conducted training to enable officers to better detect boaters operating under the influence of alcohol (BUI).
- Purchased boats, weapons, vehicles, uniforms, and other equipment totaling more than \$2 million dollars.

OFFICER TRAINING

The Law Enforcement Section takes pride in the amount and quality of training provided to natural resources police officers. Officers log thousands of hours each year sharpening their skills and preparing for the worst.

In a continuing effort to be prepared for the worst, officers received training on various Homeland Security topics, including joint disaster drills with the National Transportation Safety Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, and multiple in- and out-of-state law enforcement agencies.

West Virginia has become one of the first states to train and certify all officers on the new U.S. Coast Guard and North American State Boating Law Administrators Association (NASBLA) Seated Battery of Tests for determination of blood alcohol (BAC) used in Boating Under The Influence arrests. We not only hosted a national course here for basic training but also sent two officers to Iowa for an instructor course so that all present and future natural resources police officers can be trained and certified.

Law enforcement officers in West Virginia must complete a minimum of 16 hours training annually in order to meet the Law Enforcement Training Committee Standards. In addition, all six districts conduct four regional training sessions annually, consisting of one unit of Defensive Tactics and three units of Firearm instruction, making the DNR Law Enforcement Section one of the state leaders in firearms training.

The Section continues to provide instructors to other law enforcement agencies to assist them in meeting their Law Enforcement Training Committee standards. Some courses conducted include, Defensive Tactics, Firearms, Law Enforcement Boating, and Tracking.

Four officers attended the National Marine Patrol Officer Course conducted at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Charleston, South Carolina.

Officers attended training sessions provided by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the International Hunter Education Association to keep current with national and international issues.

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The mandatory Hunter Education Program in West Virginia continues to be a success. During fiscal year 2011-2012, more than 7,300 students graduated from 668 statewide classes. Volunteer instructors continue to provide a great service to the Hunter Education Program. In FY 2011-2012, more than 150 instructors drove 11,000 miles and donated more than 3,300 hours to the program. Natural Resources Police Officers logged 2,100 hours and drove 18,200 miles.

The Law Enforcement Section dedicates six regional training sergeants and one state coordinator to this program.

WHITewater ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The Law Enforcement Section has the responsibility of regulating the commercial whitewater industry in West Virginia. Twenty-two commercial whitewater outfitters and guides were licensed for 2012.

The Law Enforcement Section issues all licenses, collects all fees, maintains all records of outfitters, and investigates new license applications and license transfers. Natural Resources Police Officers patrol rivers, conduct compliance checks on guides and equipment, and investigate whitewater accidents.

The Whitewater Commission and the Division continue to work together to make commercial operation as efficient as possible. Currently, the Commission and Division are working to update the whitewater website. The website will contain valuable information for licensed outfitters and guides and for the public. The site will also streamline all reporting required of commercial whitewater operations. The completed renovations are anticipated for the 2013 whitewater season.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

JUNE 25, 2011 – JUNE 29, 2012

DISTRICT	CLASSIFICATION OF HOURS			LEAVE			ARRESTS			WARNINGS			PUBLIC MEETINGS		COMPLAINTS		
	SPECIAL DETAIL HOURS	REGULAR WORK HOURS	TOTAL HOURS	ANNUAL	SICK	OTHER	CHAPTER 20 ARRESTS	CHAPTER 22 ARRESTS	OTHER ARRESTS	CHAPTER 20 WARNINGS	CHAPTER 22 WARNINGS	OTHER WARNINGS	NUMBER	CONTACTS	RECEIVED	WILDLIFE DAMAGE INVEST.	OTHERS INVESTIGATED
ONE	0	36092	36092	1434	313	1960	762	112	160	617	180	160	38	875	1368	253	1078
TWO	27	28036	28063	2574	507	2272	766	195	46	339	233	39	37	44	1253	536	729
THREE	90	28415	28505	2945	401	2428	898	186	141	683	194	118	33	47	1849	592	1182
FOUR	364	34126	34490	2697	720	2551	770	91	219	1220	358	451	20	39	1393	340	113
FIVE	280	30238	30518	2130	298	1761	1004	140	82	537	222	98	20	53	1294	140	1124
SIX	56	25187	25243	2774	220	1636	680	156	146	720	430	176	47	15	1014	121	863
TOTALS:	817	182094	182911	14554	2459	12608	4880	880	794	4116	1617	1042	195	1073	8171	1982	5089

REPORT OF PROSECUTIONS BY CHARGE

FY 2011–2012

HEADING AND CHARGE	DISTRICT						TOTAL
	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	
LITTERING							
LITTERING, HIGHWAY	35	61	15	12	29	31	183
LITTERING, STREAM	8	5	9	1	12	7	42
LITTERING, PRIVATE PROPERTY	5	5	20	3	3	4	40
LITTERING, PARK OR PUBLIC PROPERTY	6	1	2	1	2	0	12
MANDATORY DISPOSAL OF LITTER	0	19	0	8	2	3	32
OTHER LITTERING VIOLATIONS	5	3	21	4	4	2	39
TOTAL LITTERING	59	94	67	29	52	47	348
LICENSE							
RESIDENT HUNTING WITHOUT LICENSE	22	14	20	29	38	20	143
RESIDENT FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE	63	70	34	55	168	51	441
MAKING FALSE APPLICATION - HUNTING LICENSE	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
HUNTING WITHOUT CLASS A-1 LICENSE	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
HUNTING DEER WITHOUT CLASS N LICENSE	7	7	3	1	8	2	28
FISHING PARAPHERNALIA IN POSSESSION WITHOUT LICENSE	10	16	3	1	10	4	44
HUNTING PARAPHERNALIA IN POSSESSION WITHOUT LICENSE	2	3	4	0	2	2	13
HUNTING BEAR WITHOUT BEAR DAMAGE STAMP	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
HUNTING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
FISHING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
HUNTING WATERFOWL WITHOUT STATE STAMP	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TRAPPING WITHOUT LICENSE	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
NON-RESIDENT HUNTING WITHOUT LICENSE	4	9	5	6	8	4	36
NON-RESIDENT FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE	20	97	10	6	34	3	170
OTHER LICENSE VIOLATIONS	8	6	2	22	10	4	52
TOTAL LICENSE	139	224	81	122	281	91	938

HEADING AND CHARGE	DISTRICT						TOTAL
	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	
HUNTING							
LOADED GUN IN VEHICLE	30	24	54	36	30	22	196
UNCASED GUN IN VEHICLE AT NIGHT	2	4	15	4	3	2	30
SPOTLIGHTING	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
SPOTLIGHTING WITH FIREARM OR IMPLEMENT IN POSSESSION	6	7	0	6	3	2	24
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF WILDLIFE OR PARTS THEREOF - GAME	55	39	113	41	71	54	373
HUNTING CLOSED SEASON	19	23	29	28	35	13	147
EXCEEDING DAILY BAG LIMIT	4	2	2	4	2	2	16
UNCASED GUN ON SUNDAY	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
FAILURE TO FIELD TAG GAME	11	20	13	17	15	8	84
FAILURE TO CHECK GAME	16	7	25	30	11	7	96
NEGLIGENT SHOOTING	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
SHOOTING FROM OR ACROSS HIGHWAY	12	1	8	4	1	5	31
SHOOTING WITHIN 500 FEET OF DWELLING; 400 CHURCH/SCHOOL	15	5	15	4	6	5	50
HUNTING WITHOUT PERMISSION	28	22	42	38	42	11	183
POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL HUNTING PARAPHERNALIA	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
ILLEGAL TRAPPING	1	2	3	1	0	5	12
HUNTING MIGRATORY BIRDS WITH ILLEGAL WEAPON	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
ILLEGAL METHOD OF HUNTING - (MUST BE IN 20-2-5)	1	0	3	0	6	1	11
HUNTING AFTER KILLING LEGAL DEER	3	4	6	0	2	3	18
ILLEGALLY CARRYING A PISTOL OR REVOLVER	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
KILLING PROTECTED BIRD	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
FAILURE TO STOP FOR GAME CHECK	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
ILLEGAL SALE OF WILDLIFE - INCLUDING BEAR	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF WILDLIFE	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
VIOLATION OF BEAR LAW OR RULES	2	0	2	0	1	2	7
ILLEGAL KILLING OR TAKING OF DEER, TURKEY OR BOAR	13	14	21	35	21	12	116
INSUFFICIENT OR NO BLAZE ORANGE	8	15	19	9	6	6	63
HUNTING ON SUNDAY	2	5	4	5	8	3	27
HUNTING DEER 1/2 HR AFTER SUNSET OR BEFORE SUNRISE	3	5	10	22	12	5	57
SHOOTING AT GAME NOT PLAINLY VISIBLE	2	0	1	0	0	0	3
SHOOTING/HUNTING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	22	14	60	16	34	13	159
ILLEGAL KILLING OR TAKING OF BEAR	1	0	2	0	1	0	4
HUNTING WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE	4	2	2	0	0	6	14
ATV IN RESTRICTED AREA	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
HUNT WITH CROSSBOW WITHOUT CLASS Y PERMIT	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
HUNT IN VEHICLE WITHOUT CLASS Q PERMIT	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
HUNTING WITHOUT REQUIRED HUNTER EDUCATION CARD	2	0	0	0	7	0	9

HEADING AND CHARGE	DISTRICT						TOTAL
	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	
<u>ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF BEAR</u>	2	1	0	0	3	0	6
<u>HUNTING BEAR CLOSED SEASON</u>	0	0	2	0	1	0	3
<u>FAILURE TO CHECK BEAR</u>	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
<u>VIOLATION OF BEAR LAW</u>	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
<u>SHOOTING/HUNTING FROM AN ATV</u>	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
<u>OTHER GAME LAW VIOLATIONS</u>	6	25	26	8	13	4	82
TOTAL HUNTING	279	245	484	314	337	194	1853

FISHING

TAKING FISH BY ILLEGAL METHOD	0	5	1	0	0	1	7
EXCEEDING DAILY CREEL LIMIT	2	5	2	9	9	1	28
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FISH, MINNOWS AND AQUATIC LIFE	0	1	1	0	1	2	5
USING PROHIBITED BAIT IN RESTRICTED AREA	0	9	14	4	0	0	27
FISHING WITHOUT PERMISSION	2	3	0	3	2	0	10
FISHING IN RESTRICTED AREA	0	0	0	2	12	0	14
OTHER FISHING VIOLATIONS	3	0	9	1	12	1	26
TOTAL FISHING	7	23	27	19	36	5	117

HEADING AND CHARGE	DISTRICT						TOTAL
	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	
BOATING							
OPERATING UNREGISTERED WATERCRAFT	8	4	7	3	18	1	41
OPERATING WATERCRAFT WITHOUT PROPER EQUIPMENT	6	0	5	1	8	3	23
INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF LIFE PRESERVERS	19	42	42	10	20	14	147
OVERLOADING A WATERCRAFT	1	0	7	1	2	3	14
IMPROPER LOCATION OR SPACING OF NUMBERS ON WATERCRAFT	1	0	2	0	1	0	4
RECKLESS OPERATION OF WATERCRAFT	6	1	3	0	0	0	10
CREATING A WAKE IN A NO-WAKE ZONE	8	0	17	1	0	0	26
PULLING SKIER WITHOUT OBSERVER OR MIRROR	8	0	10	1	2	0	21
SKIING WITHOUT A LIFE PRESERVER	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
NONE OR NO APPROVED EQUIPMENT	7	0	4	0	2	2	15
OPERATING A WATERCRAFT IN RESTRICTED AREA	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
OPERATING WATERCRAFT WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE	1	0	3	0	0	3	7
BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<u>OPERATING WITHOUT REQUIRED BOATER SAFETY CARD</u>	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<u>PASSENGER UNDER 12 WITHOUT PFD WHILE IN OPERATION</u>	5	1	0	0	0	2	8
<u>OTHER BOATING VIOLATIONS</u>	8	5	33	5	12	2	65
TOTAL BOATING	81	53	134	22	67	30	387

WASTE MANAGEMENT

TRANSPORTING HAZ. WASTE TO UNPERMITTED FACILITY	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
OTHER HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
CONTRIBUTING TO AN OPEN DUMP	5	6	29	3	21	9	73
ENDANGERMENT BY WASTE DISPOSAL	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
WASTE TIRE VIOLATION 22-15-21	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
UNAUTHORIZED USE OF DUMPSTER 61-3-53	1	0	0	3	2	0	6
OPEN BURNING OF REFUSE	13	25	0	6	14	19	77
<u>FAILURE TO SHOW PROOF OF PROPER DISPOSAL</u>	0	25	0	0	2	3	30
<u>OTHER SOLID WASTE VIOLATIONS</u>	7	33	50	20	27	9	146
TOTAL WASTE MANAGEMENT	28	89	80	33	66	43	339

HEADING AND CHARGE	DISTRICT						TOTAL
	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	
POLLUTION							
STREAM POLLUTION	0	0	2	0	3	0	5
OTHER POLLUTION VIOLATIONS	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL POLLUTION	0	0	3	0	3	0	6
FORESTRY							
ILLEGAL BURNING	9	14	14	8	10	8	63
ABANDONING A FIRE	4	0	2	0	2	5	13
PERMITTING A FIRE TO ESCAPE	1	1	0	1	0	0	3
VIOLATING STATE FOREST REGULATIONS	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
VIOLATIONS OF GINSENG REGULATIONS	1	0	1	12	6	0	20
OTHER FORESTRY VIOLATIONS	3	4	6	6	4	1	24
TOTAL FORESTRY	18	19	23	27	26	14	127
GENERAL							
VIOLATION OF PARK REGULATIONS	25	70	5	26	40	0	166
WITHHOLDING INFORMATION	3	4	7	5	10	0	29
OBSTRUCTING, HINDERING, OR INTERFERING WITH OFFICER	7	3	11	3	1	3	28
CONSPIRING IN A VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 20	39	23	37	20	26	12	157
OFFENSE OUTSIDE CHAPTER 20	37	29	59	62	28	49	264
VIOLATION OF FUR DEALERS REGULATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
DRUG RELATED VIOLATION	25	4	8	11	1	8	57
CAPTIVE CERVID VIOLATIONS	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
WMA VIOLATIONS	0	16	0	12	2	1	31
CONSPIRING IN A FISHING VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 20	1	0	1	0	1	0	3
MISCELLANEOUS VIOLATIONS	32	29	18	14	10	2	105
TOTAL GENERAL	139	146	188	146	95	86	800
TOTAL ALL PROSECUTIONS	780	925	1045	720	987	500	4957

PROSECUTION PROGRAM

FY 2011–2012

COUNTY	NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS	Amounts Assessed		Dispositions of Prosecutions			
		FINES	COSTS	CONVICTED	DISMISSED	ACQUITTED	FAILED TO APPEAR
Barbour	86	\$2,875.20	\$13,190.60	83	3	0	0
Berkeley	133	\$4,690.20	\$18,712.80	116	1	0	16
Boone	95	\$3,752.20	\$11,261.97	71	24	0	0
Braxton	88	\$2,952.00	\$11,705.20	64	18	0	6
Brooke	51	\$2,531.00	\$7,796.60	47	3	0	1
Cabell	132	\$5,925.65	\$11,506.34	64	46	0	22
Calhoun	60	\$1,700.00	\$4,340.00	25	35	0	0
Clay	56	\$1,919.20	\$6,276.20	39	16	1	0
Doddridge	12	\$240.00	\$1,447.20	9	2	0	1
Fayette	68	\$1,800.00	\$8,216.80	51	10	0	7
Gilmer	9	\$85.00	\$964.80	6	3	0	0
Grant	106	\$6,530.40	\$15,216.00	95	6	0	5
Greenbrier	108	\$8,280.00	\$15,436.80	95	10	0	3
Hampshire	164	\$7,860.00	\$25,242.90	151	10	0	3
Hancock	43	\$1,625.40	\$6,592.90	41	2	0	0
Hardy	99	\$5,374.20	\$13,733.00	85	12	0	2
Harrison	141	\$6,275.00	\$18,008.40	124	17	0	0
Jackson	97	\$3,920.00	\$11,639.60	67	26	0	4
Jefferson	229	\$7,832.06	\$29,284.80	181	6	0	42
Kanawha	113	\$3,740.30	\$5,595.83	39	55	0	19
Lewis	124	\$4,110.00	\$19,266.07	119	5	0	0
Lincoln	90	\$1,774.00	\$12,400.40	68	20	0	2
Logan	137	\$1,998.23	\$10,324.47	69	62	4	2
McDowell	84	\$2,764.20	\$11,472.80	66	18	0	0
Marion	38	\$720.00	\$4,501.60	28	10	0	0
Marshall	136	\$4,085.60	\$16,555.83	102	20	0	14
Mason	118	\$2,422.00	\$13,356.40	85	27	0	6
Mercer	176	\$2,566.00	\$18,548.48	110	35	0	31
Mineral	58	\$2,311.40	\$7,606.70	52	4	0	2
Mingo	109	\$2,556.80	\$9,175.25	63	46	0	0
Monongalia	89	\$2,599.90	\$13,408.10	81	8	0	0
Monroe	41	\$1,510.00	\$6,449.60	37	0	0	4
Morgan	48	\$1,522.10	\$5,788.00	35	11	0	2

COUNTY	NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS	Amounts Assessed		Dispositions of Prosecutions			
		FINES	COSTS	CONVICTED	DISMISSED	ACQUITTED	FAILED TO APPEAR
Nicholas	240	\$15,499.53	\$30,407.20	191	43	0	6
Ohio	51	\$970.00	\$6,426.20	40	10	0	1
Pendleton	85	\$3,230.00	\$12,381.30	77	5	0	3
Pleasants	25	\$705.00	\$3,816.00	21	4	0	0
Pocahontas	81	\$2,890.00	\$11,928.10	75	6	0	0
Preston	92	\$9,930.20	\$13,555.60	85	7	0	0
Putnam	91	\$1,253.24	\$7,081.81	47	24	0	20
Raleigh	63	\$1,527.99	\$8,638.46	53	9	0	1
Randolph	115	\$6,690.04	\$17,244.80	108	6	0	1
Ritchie	34	\$1,150.00	\$4,663.20	29	3	0	2
Roane	89	\$2,800.00	\$11,252.80	67	19	0	3
Summers	87	\$3,440.20	\$11,809.62	71	14	0	2
Taylor	77	\$4,510.00	\$11,075.40	69	8	0	0
Tucker	8	\$118.40	\$1,326.40	8	0	0	0
Tyler	2	\$70.00	\$326.60	2	0	0	0
Upshur	156	\$8,230.00	\$25,283.70	154	2	0	0
Wayne	87	\$789.20	\$3,102.10	18	62	0	7
Webster	175	\$20,294.21	\$29,578.81	164	9	1	1
Wetzel	27	\$1,895.00	\$4,290.80	26	1	0	0
Wirt	56	\$1,760.00	\$7,557.60	47	9	0	0
Wood	122	\$4,409.20	\$17,158.30	106	8	0	8
Wyoming	56	\$1,860.00	\$5,306.40	35	14	0	7
TOTALS	4,957	\$204,870.25	\$629,233.64	3,861	834	6	256

Parks and Recreation Section



Parks and Recreation Section

Kenneth Caplinger,
Chief

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a review of the major programs, policy actions, and challenges being addressed as of June 30, 2012.

OVERVIEW

The mission of the DNR Parks and Recreation Section as described in state code 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 system also serves as a major tourist attraction which bolsters the image and economy of the state.

The system is composed of 35 state parks, seven state forests, five wildlife management areas, the Greenbrier River Trail, and the North Bend Rail Trail. From relatively undeveloped natural areas to multi-faceted resort parks, the system offers tremendous variety and fills a number of roles. They are sources of employment and recreation that might not otherwise be available in rural areas. West Virginians find them a source of high-quality reasonably priced vacation and outdoor recreational experiences. Tourists find them to be among the nation’s finest state park vacation destinations. The system promotes family values by giving the chance to re-create the body and spirit that comes with quality time spent together in an outdoor environment. Environmental values are modeled within and encouraged by the park system. State parks and state forests protect watersheds and wildlife habitat and provide hunting, fishing and natural education opportunities and numerous other environmental and cultural benefits.

SYSTEM-WIDE GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

Self-sufficiency

Park managers endeavor to make the system as fiscally self sufficient as possible while at the same time protecting the overall mission and resources associated with the system. Indeed, the West Virginia state park system continues to be one of the more operationally self sufficient in the nation even though it is one of the few not charging entry fees.

With this said, operational self sufficiency figures have decreased from 57 percent in FY10 to 55 percent in FY11 to 54 percent in FY12. This is seemingly due to the effect of the national economy on tourist travel as well as construction impact on business at a few major parks, most notably Twin Falls, Berkeley Springs and Canaan Valley. In addition, administrative fees paid to other state agencies have grown tremendously in recent years. Likewise, employee benefit and utility costs have increased a great deal. Governmental group conference business has also suffered throughout the lodging industry as governments at all levels make cutbacks.

FY12 revenues totaled \$21,708,177 compared to \$20,921,790 in FY11. New Twin Falls revenue-producing facilities, 13 new Blackwater Falls cabins, and a major new campground opened at Little Beaver, are all still building towards maximum revenue production. A major and long-needed \$36 million dollar rehabilitation of Canaan Valley Resort State Park funded by a lottery revenue bond is underway and will re-energize business at that park when completed in August 2013. All of these things together bode well for returning to or perhaps exceeding customary self-sufficiency results. In addition, construction of \$23.5 million in Cacapon improvements that are projected to be very

profitable should begin in 2013 and there is even funding in place for a new 75 room lodge at Beech Fork within a few years if the necessary Army Corps of Engineers land lease can be obtained.

Of course, direct revenues do not measure the full economic benefit of the park system.

Lodge Sales

Related to self-sufficiency goals, managers work to maximize occupancy in all state park lodges, especially in the off-season. A group sales staffer working from Pipestem Resort State Park markets that park in particular as well as the system at large to various organizations throughout the state and country. Efforts include sales and telemarketing calls to corporations, state and federal government agencies, travel agencies, tour groups, and the like. Direct mailings and travel shows are also used frequently. The challenge is to attract off-season, mid-week business to supplement typically brisk business at other times. The system's Chief Naturalist/Activity Programmer, who works from South Charleston, is also heavily involved in sales and promotions.

Infrastructure Improvements

Projects completed or substantially completed in the reporting time frame included Bluestone pool renovations, Canaan golf course drainage and cabin wastewater facility improvements, Coopers Rock dam spillway, Greenbrier pool renovations, Hawks Nest lodge HVAC replacement and lodge structural repairs, Pipestem Long Branch Lake dam modifications, Stonewall pedestrian bridge, Tomlinson Run concession stand, and Twin Falls lodge HVAC renovations. Projects under construction included Berwind Lake dam modifications, Blackwater Falls sled run, Canaan lodge construction, and Canaan ski area improvements. Design projects completed and awaiting construction included Cacapon golf improvements, Cacapon lodge expansion, Cacapon dam modifications, Stonewall pedestrian pathways, and Twin Falls kitchen structural repairs. Design projects in progress included Cabwaylingo group camp dining hall, Cacapon Old Inn exterior renovation, Hawks Nest museum renovations, Hawks Nest lodge structural repairs, Twin Falls lodge structural repairs, and Tygart Lake beach and bathhouse renovations.

One of the challenges facing Parks for many years has been the lack of adequate funding for major repairs and equipment replacement. This has been offset by irregular major capital funding, but routine infusion of some \$3 million more is needed annually for major repair and equipment replacement. This was also identified as a priority in 2009 by a Legislative Performance Audit. Occasional special appropriations help immensely with the current backlog of needs, but there needs to be a more routine, recurring investment. On another note, the 2013 legislative session saw approval of a lottery bond sale to provide \$52.5 million for the major and aforementioned Cacapon Lodge expansion and also a new Beech Fork lodge if a lease of the needed Corps of Engineers property can be obtained.

Administrative Management

To support the 49 units that comprised the system in FY12, there were 433 full-time employees, approximately 950 hourly employees at the peak of seasonal employment, and several major park concessionaires. To meet administrative demands, Parks used five statewide general administrative personnel. These are a Chief, a Business Manager, and three District Administrators. In addition, there are two technical program administrators in the form of an Assistant Chief in charge of Planning, Engineering, and Maintenance (PEM) and a Coordinator in charge of Programming, Interpretive Services, Special Events, Gift Certificate Sales, Youth Programs, and various other special functions.

Field-based park superintendents direct natural resources, business personnel, public relations, law enforcement, maintenance, guest and employee safety, and other programs essential to their areas of assignment. These individuals are the key factor to success of the systems overall mission.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

Most of the items identified in the original system-wide assessment are complete while smaller additional and ever-evolving needs remain. Cacapon lodge expansion will incorporate many ADA modifications. The same is true of the current rebuild of Canaan Lodge.

Minority Employment

Parks desires to increase the representation of minority groups in the work force. There is a commitment to add employment minorities within the Division of Personnel framework that governs the selections for the classified service.

Hazardous Dams

The Dam Control Office of the Department of Environmental Protection has declared dams on several areas—including Blackwater Falls, Cacapon Resort, and Tomlinson Run State Parks—as being potentially hazardous structures. Most will be remedied as part of \$54 million in lottery “East” bond funded projects that are now ongoing. As a state statutory requirement, a monitoring and evacuation plan is kept current for each major dam.

Storm Damage

Just as the FY2012 period drew to a close, a devastating high wind event struck the state causing widespread damage and power outages. The park system was not spared as most facilities were without power for a time, some for as long as two weeks, and thousands of trees were downed system-wide. Clean up began immediately and was expected in some areas to last long into the fall and winter.

Resource Management

State park and forest superintendents are commissioned as special natural resource police officers and possess full law enforcement authority on the areas they manage. Consequently, game and fish law enforcement, littering violations, and enforcement of other environmental laws are routinely conducted. All superintendents and key supervisory personnel are required to attend the West Virginia Division of Forestry’s annual Wildfire Control Training school, and suppression action is taken on any forest fires which occur on or threaten state lands. The Parks Section cooperates with the State Department of Agriculture and the Division of Forestry in controlling gypsy moths, hemlock wooly adelgid, and other insects and diseases. Routine trail and boundary maintenance is carried on throughout the year.

Programs

Park and forest programming focuses on the natural environment and history of the specific areas and West Virginia in general, providing events that attract visitors for both day-travel and overnight use, and ridership/admission to unique settings found within the park system.

Summer activities and events concentrate largely, but not exclusively, on interpretation of flora, fauna and natural history. Programmers and naturalists are charged with implementing summer programs to include hikes, water study, and to engage visitors in discovering and understanding the outdoors through interpretative interaction. Energizing families to get outside continues to be a priority. Year-round programmers are on-site at six state parks with year-round lodges and include nature-based activities through hikes, nature center visitation and special weekends. Special summer programs also include entertainers or presenters. Seventeen parks or forests employ a summer naturalist. These are front-line ambassadors with vacationing guests and often introduce visitors to West Virginia and the natural heritage and character of the state.

Special event and entertainment examples include Mansion by Candlelight and Island Frolic Evening Cruises at Blennerhassett Island; Murder Mystery Trains at Cass Scenic Railroad, eagle surveys at

Pipestem area, Hawks Nest dinner theaters, 18th century encampments, Civil War reenactments, and others. Special events generally include an overnight lodging component. Most are scheduled on weekends and in the shoulder seasons or winter months to attract visitation and support revenue production.

INDIVIDUAL AREA AND SECTION ACTIVITY REPORTS

West Virginia parks, forests, and wildlife management areas differ from those in most other states because of their added role in filling a local recreational niche occupied elsewhere by local government. Local communities in West Virginia often cannot afford to provide the recreational opportunities such as tennis courts, swimming pools, picnic areas and similar items that are a primary responsibility of city and county government in other states; over the years this function has come to be expected from local state parks.

Because of this and other factors, requirements for maintaining the individual parks, forests, and wildlife management areas are quite varied. Facilities range from the modern development at parks like Canaan, Pipestem and Stonewall to historical structures dating from the CCC days. Replacement and upkeep of aging infrastructure at various areas is a constant challenge. This section of the annual report will focus mainly on repair and improvement items since the common themes of self-sufficiency, compliance programs, and similar management challenges are described elsewhere.

Audra State Park

Major renovations were done to the area surrounding the campground bathhouse. New metal roofing was installed on the bathhouse, woodshed and the covered vending/ice machine area. The power service to the woodshed was upgraded inside and new electrical lines were run from the bathhouse to the woodshed. Seven new concrete fire pit pads were poured in the campground. A motor pump had to be replaced in the septic system at the river bathhouse. The chain link fence on the opposite side of the river from the swimming area was removed.

Babcock State Park

A new playground structure complete with swings, retaining walls, safe fall surface, rules and safety recommendation signs, and a new ADA accessible walkway was installed in-house at the Manns Creek Picnic Area. Babcock received two new sewage treatment plants this year. These plants, located at the campground and administration building, were installed by a contractor to replace existing facilities that were in very poor condition. The Glade Creek Grist Mill had a badly weathered stone step replaced that was giving our guests some problems with access to this facility. The second level floor of the storage shed part of the Grist Mill was replaced with tongue-and-groove cedar boards, making it look more like it did during original construction of this facility. The campground bathhouse was renovated. This included construction of a wooden drop ceiling complete with new lighting, mold and mildew proof paint, and new electrical wiring. Shower facilities were replaced with new shower receptors, PVC lined concrete walls, new plumbing, faucets and pipes, new corner trim protectors, and new shower curtains and rods. Walls were repainted around the showers and a new coat of epoxy paint was applied to the floor. Several areas of the park were trimmed back of brush that was obstructing views. The area around the falls near the administration building was also trimmed back and cleaned up for photography opportunities and overall aesthetics. A new PSD-connected waterline was installed in-house to provide water service to the campground and horse riding stable facilities. This new tap allowed the park to abandon a major section of waterline that has been in poor repair and has been leaking for many years. Babcock State Park was host to the 8th Annual Grist Mill Grinder half-marathon foot race again this year. This race takes place on Babcock's trail system and once again, a new record number of participants were in attendance and enjoyed this annual event.

Beartown State Park

The park was temporarily closed for several months for a major renovation and repair project. Many hemlock trees, including the two largest in the park, were removed after being killed by the wooly adelgid. An additional 60 trees were removed due to their poor health or hazardous nature. Four hundred feet of deteriorated oak boardwalk was removed and replaced with new pressure-treated pine. Some interpretive signs were replaced, the road and entry path were reworked to control a serious erosion problem and graffiti was removed from rocks.

Beech Fork State Park

Christmas trees and installation supplies from the Wildlife Resources Section were installed at the accessible fishing pier to provide fish habitat. New heat pumps were installed in two cabins. Considerable amount of progress has been made to ongoing park maintenance problems and new maintenance issues with the hiring of a new maintenance supervisor and new building maintenance mechanics. The Wastewater Treatment Operator Contract was not renewed as this operation is now performed by park staff. More than 60 dump truck loads of dirt were donated by the water company from their operation and the dirt was used to level certain campsites that had issues with standing water. Civil Tech Engineering was awarded the contract to perform the consulting work for a Recreational Trails Grant. A new golf cart policy for limited golf cart use became effective April 1, 2012, for Beech Fork State Park. Renovation of the campground registration control station and the registration system were completed to operate all campsite registration from software with a live occupancy campground map. Annual spring clean-up volunteers picked up more than 5,000 pounds of garbage along with 56 tires being removed from throughout the park. A bill funding a 75 room lodge with restaurant at Beech Fork State Park was approved this legislative session. The proposed site in Stower's Branch is awaiting Corps approval and a conceptual plan has been developed.

Berkeley Springs State Park

The newly renovated Main Bathhouse was celebrated with a grand reopening and ribbon cutting on September 19, 2011. The 38th Annual Apple Butter Festival in October 2011 drew around 50,000 visitors over the two-day period of the event.

Berwind Lake Wildlife Management Area

A new amphitheater was built and all restrooms and buildings were given a fresh coat of paint this spring. Berwind also hosted its 8th Annual Kids Fishing Day in May and it was once again a great success with plans already in the works for next year. The renovation project for the new dam is under way and plans have been approved for a small renovation to the pool during the off season prior to 2013.

Blackwater Falls State Park

A new 12X12 deck was built on the back of Cabin 12. Planning and Engineering Maintenance completed rebuilding fireboxes in the remaining cabins. New carpet was installed in the conference rooms, gift shop, restaurant, lobby, and guest rooms of the lodge. Also, new furniture and TVs were installed in the lobby and guest rooms. October 1, 2012, 13 new eight-person deluxe cabins were opened for guest use. The dining and living room furniture was re-upholstered in 25 cabins. Special events hosted at the park this year included Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage, Septemberfest, Astronomy Weekend, Halloween Party, Breakfast with Santa, New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance, Easter Egg Hunt, Irish Road Bowling, and Mountain Biodiversity Weekend.

Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park

After lacking shutters for several years, Blennerhassett Mansion received new historically accurate shutters built by the staff at the sign shop at Carnifex Ferry State Park. New awnings were installed on the Blennerhassett Museum through funds provided by the Blennerhassett Historical Foundation and the Friends of Blennerhassett. Both projects have gone a long way to beautify the park facilities. Blennerhassett Island was the site for the 2011 annual VIPP Picnic in which 200 guests were in attendance. May 2012 marked the return of the park's sternwheeler Island Belle to Point Park in Parkersburg. Parkersburg's Point Park had been under construction for the past three years and during that time guests had to drive to Belpre, Ohio, to board. Now that the construction is complete, the Island Belle is again ferrying passengers from Parkersburg. The restoration of an oil portrait of Miss Lily Irene Jackson (1848-1928) is underway. Miss Jackson was one of Parkersburg's most famous residents and most famous artist. The spring deer count on the island was 126 and plans are underway for a controlled deer hunt in fall 2012.

Bluestone State Park

The swimming pool replacement project was completed and opened Memorial Day Weekend 2012. Preparations are under way to make houseboats available to rent through the Marina, including installation of a launch ramp and dock. The APBA Boat Hydro Boat Races returned to Bluestone Lake in June 2012. A few culverts were installed in Old Mill Campground. All of the brush on the Route 20 overlooks was cleared.

Bluestone Wildlife Management Area

Most of the year was spent on routine maintenance on all area campgrounds and roads. A new toilet was built to replace one that was destroyed by vandals and new playground equipment was installed.

Cabwalingo State Forest

The remainder of the new playground equipment was installed. Three of the CCC-era cabins had new floors installed and were re-plumbed during the process. The residence was re-roofed and rewired. Cabins 13 and 14 became victims of copper thieves and were rewired by electricians from Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. A federal grant for a new water system was awarded and the park was to be connected to the local PSD water lines. The WVDOH initiated plans for two bridge replacements in the forest. Final design was approved for a new Group Camp dining hall to replace the original 1930s structure.

Cacapon Resort State Park

Staff began a renovation of the Old Inn that involves removing the existing siding to reveal the original log structure. The park headquarters building was re-roofed and rip-rap was installed around the golf course pond to prevent erosion. New furniture and flat screen televisions were purchased and installed in the lodge and Old Inn and the lodge patio received new furniture. Four cabins had their decks and porches rebuilt and the lodge decks were restored. Other lodge improvements included a coffee station, refinishing walls, and painting the restaurant and lounge ceilings. A project to install new trail signage was completed. The Nature Center and picnic shelters were re-stained.

Camp Creek State Park

The WVDOH paved and re-stripped the main road through the park, cleaned the ditches and graveled the roadways entering the forest and replaced four culverts. Park staff completed several upgrades to the Mash Fork Campground. Five of the sites got 50 amp electrical upgrades, Wi-Fi services were added, high risk trees and limbs were removed, and several shower house upgrades were completed. The 26 sites in the Mash Fork campground also were paved and were made longer and wider. A new playground was installed across from the Farley Branch shelter. The park office was re-roofed and the amphitheater meeting and kitchen area were completed and opened for rental.

Canaan Valley Resort State Park

Canaan Valley Resort is in the second year of a major renovation project. The park received more than \$35 million in bond appropriations for the renovations that include the addition of two 50 room units on the north and south side of the conference center, a facelift for the exterior of the conference center, and improvements to the main lobby and portico. Other work will include a new and improved tube run which will be the largest in the east and will include a “magic carpet” system to transport guests to the top of the run, upgraded snow making capability, upgrades to A, B and C buildings, a wobble clay range, and infrastructure improvements including new water and sewer lines and communications system. Renovations to the main lodge are expected to be complete in August 2013. The new tube run and wobble clay range are expected to be complete in the fall of 2012.

Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park

The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Carnifex Ferry was commemorated on the weekend of September 10-11, 2011. Nearly 200 re-enactors and more than 3,000 spectators came to participate in the activities. Park staff designed and constructed 20 memorial park benches that were purchased by local residents in memory of loved ones. Several different types of steel-framed picnic tables were designed and constructed to compare with the standard picnic tables. Two tiers were cut out of a gentle slope to level the area and eight additional picnic tables were placed in front of Shelter 2 to accommodate larger groups. Staff built a new overlook deck that extends into the Gauley River Canyon 24 feet beyond the old overlook. The new overlook offers a much better view of the river canyon and is easily the most visited attraction. Sign shop staff made a total of 2,246 signs in FY12.

Cass Scenic Railroad State Park

A cosmetic restoration of Shay #3 locomotive began and when complete, the locomotive will be placed on display near the depot with log cars hooked to it, simulating a log train. Revenue was up about 10 percent due to an increase in house rentals. Seven box cars were being restored to represent C&O railroad operations on the main line in Cass; the box cars are utilized for storage at the shop. The locomotives, with the exception of Shay #11, remained in good operating condition. Shay #11 suffered from multiple breakdowns this past year and required extensive work during the winter. The Greenbrier River Trail extension connecting the trail to the Front Street area of the park was opened for use. An in-house laundry serving Cass and several nearby parks was developed and opened.

Cathedral State Park

Staff continued replacing and repairing footbridges and traction aids on the trails. The residence fireplace and chimney were upgraded for safety reasons. The picnic area shelter was painted and landscaping around the office and park entrance was upgraded to improve park appearance.

Cedar Creek State Park

Upgrades continued at the campground. Four sites were constructed with electrical service and water was made available on two of them. Water also was added to four additional existing sites where electricity previously was available. New floor tile and trim were installed in the campground check-in-station restrooms. Two oak cabinets with heat resistant ceramic tile were constructed; one was placed in the recreation building and the other in the campground check-in-station. The cabinet in the recreation building will be able to accommodate buffet meals. Staff is also in the process of completing phase one installation of fascia, soffit, gutters, and downspouts on the swimming pool bathhouse.

Chief Logan State Park

On March 15, 2012, the park suffered from a flash flood event that left significant damage and debris behind. The West Virginia National Guard assisted in storm cleanup and the area was without electricity and phone service for several days. Numerous water line leaks were repaired this year, a result of the aging infrastructure. All new playground units were finished off with wood chip safety surfaces

underneath. A new water fountain donated by the Women's Clubs of West Virginia was constructed near the office. The park hosted the annual Sue Browning Wildflower Hike, Aracoma Story productions, Aunt Jenny Wilson Music Festival, Civil War reenactment and Christmas in the Park.

Chief Logan Lodge

In its sixth year of operations, the facility reached an average occupancy rate of 62 percent, generated peak revenue of \$2,466,565 and profit of more than \$633,127. With steadily increased business and revenue, a full-time assistant general manager position was added. This position was filled along with vacancies from departing staff of a full-time maintenance supervisor and a full-time accounting position. Obtaining adequate seasonal staff to maintain facilities and provide expected upper-scale guest services grew more difficult this year. The newer recreation center beside the lodge continues to provide lodge, park guests and the community with activities. This year a nine-hole disc golf course was completed and work on three soccer fields, a t-ball court, and a health trail was begun. Much preliminary work, including public commentary, began on a road to the park from the recreational center, wildlife management area, and lodge. The WMA's shooting range, archery, and 3D archery continue to grow in popularity and contribute to lodge occupancy. Package rates are still successfully providing lodge room discounts with area attractions such as bikers in the park, Hatfield and McCoy Trail riders, the park's amphitheater tickets, and other events and packages. The cell phone tower still provides only AT&T service to which other providers are reluctant to add their services. The first Chief Logan Hunting & Fishing Expo was held this year and is expected to provide increased revenue through this annual event.

Coopers Rock State Forest

All signs along the roads were replaced except for the entrance sign. Plans for a new entrance sign were drawn up and approved. A Smokey Bear fire danger sign was installed. Volunteers assisted in painting many of the buildings on the area. Six sections of the original CCC railing on the overlook were replaced due to rot. The new railing sections replicated the original design. A self-serve firewood station was installed in the campground, resulting in increased sales. New culverts were installed on five campsites with stone culvert heads. The Division of Forestry began a logging project in the forest with no major impact on operations.

Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park

Public relations included countless individual and group tours. The park hosted numerous family reunions, weddings, bus tours, and paranormal groups. Several off-area historical presentations were given to Civil War Roundtable groups, schools, and other gatherings. Hiking trails and roads were cleared of fallen trees and several dead trees were removed from public areas. Difficulties with the water system continued, but an adequate supply was maintained throughout the year with all required tests performed.

Greenbrier River Trail

Trail employees installed three animal-proof trash receptacles and three composite park benches along the trail. Hazardous trees were removed around all campsites. Staff replaced the wood siding, pipe vents, and roof turbines on two outdoor toilets. Old rails were removed and trail was extended a half mile into the town of Cass. Out of 17,000 rail trails in the U.S., the GRT was 26th trail to be inducted in to the Rail Trail Hall of Fame. A total of five miles of trail was resurfaced with limestone crusher run near Cass and Seebert.

Greenbrier State Forest

Phase 2 of the swimming pool renovation was completed with the renovation of the main pool and wading pool. Three pieces of playground equipment were installed in the cabin area and a site in the picnic area was prepared for new play equipment. A campfire circle was built adjacent to the cabin area for use by cabin guests. Three new gates were constructed to replace aging gates at the swimming pool and campground. Repairs were made to both the cabin and pool area drinking water systems. Water shut-off valves at five cabins and kitchen sink faucets in six cabins were replaced. Six hazardous trees were removed from the cabin area. The 48th Annual Show-Me Hike (spring wildflower hike), Greenbrier County Boy Scout/Girl Scout Day Camp, and the Civil War reenactment of the Battle of White Sulphur Springs took place on the forest.

Hawks Nest State Park

Hawks Nest Lodge was closed November 2011 through late February 2012 for renovations to the lodge facilities. Federal grant money funded a major part of the renovations: a new state-of-the-art, high energy efficient HVAC system for individual climate control in the lodge rooms. East Bond funds provided new Thomasville made-in-the-USA furniture and large LG flat-screen TVs for the rooms and lobby areas. The lodge rooms also received upgraded queen mattress and box spring sets manufactured in Huntington, W.Va., and new bedding. During the closure, HNPS staff members were busy cleaning, painting and installing new fixtures throughout the facility. It was a huge task and took a major effort to organize the renovations and clean up after all the work had been completed. This was accomplished with a concentrated effort among HNPS staff, Paul Redford (district administrator), and the assistance of Twin Falls Resort State Park and Pipestem Resort State Park lending a helping hand. After three years, the HNPS Overlook Trail has been completed and made ADA accessible through grants received from WV Division of Transportation. The improvements to the trail are very impressive due to the widening of the trail and the new paving. Work was completed by WV Department of Highways employees in conjunction with Mount Olive Correctional custodial inmates. The lease with Brookfield Power for the property at HNPS Golf Course was renewed for one year for the 2012 season. The season started early this year, March 31, 2012. We have increased season pass holders to 38 in 2012 from 25 in 2011. Revenue at the golf course was up more than \$15,000 in the first two months from last year's season opening. Minimal staffing and repairs instead of equipment replacement have helped minimize cost. HNPS Golf Course is in better shape this year than the past 15 years. Golfers have nothing but praise when commenting on the greens, and walk-on play has increased this year.

Holly River State Park

Repairs were made to the boardwalk at the Upper Falls after a 50-foot section was destroyed by an earthen slide. Several tons of rock and soil were removed and the boardwalk structure was rebuilt. The Windy Gap one-room schoolhouse was re-roofed. A new swimming pool heater was installed at the pool. Window air conditioners were installed at the Activities Building and the kitchen was stocked with enough utensils and place settings to accommodate 200 people. The Holly River State Park Foundation provided matching funding for many of these projects.

Kanawha State Forest

New roofs were installed on Shelters 4 and 6. The restroom at Johnson Hollow Picnic Area was struck by a falling tree which caused considerable damage to the facility. The entire roof and some of the siding had to be replaced. Due to DEP standards, staff was required to install a 2000 gallon tank and tablet feeder to de-chlorinate the backwash at the swimming pool. Many other small improvements were made to the appearance of the grounds and facilities at the forest. Doors were painted, signs were replaced, and brush was cleared throughout the forest..

Kumbrabow State Forest

The office and maintenance building were re-roofed with new metal roofs, air conditioning was added to the office, and the storage room was converted to a new gift shop. A new front porch with gable roof was built on the office to protect the front of the building from heavy snows. Two new campsites were constructed to replace two unusable sites. A new animal-proof trash storage building was constructed from block and chain link fence. The office and bathhouse were wired to run off a generator during power outages and the maintenance break room was plumbed to accommodate the ice machine.

Laurel Lake Wildlife Management Area

The park staff completed several projects over the past year. Basketball court renovations were completed in early June with all new equipment and resurfacing. New plastic park entrance signs were added last fall to begin changing from wood to plastic. All major structures throughout the park were cleaned and painted. In addition to the new paint on the outside, the interior of the public restroom was also renovated later in the year. A new foot bridge was built to Shelter 1 when the original became a safety concern and had to be removed. The picnic and pool area received two new information boards, new trash cans, and gravel for the parking lot donated by Tri-State Pipeline. The creek stabilizing project is currently ongoing as resources become available.

Little Beaver State Park

The new campground opened at Little Beaver State Park on July 1, 2012. Staff removed many trees and limbs that imposed safety concerns in both electric and water-only loops. The pavement of the road up to the campground check-in area was completed in November 2011. Installation of a new multi-station playground unit was completed in the spring of 2012. Due to vehicle damage to the park entrance gate, a new gate had to be constructed in June 2012. The new gate system was also relocated to allow a wider entrance for campers entering the park.

Lost River State Park

Work centered on the Lee House included removing several trees to daylight the structure, replacing the wooden shake roof and repairing the bridge leading to the house. New steps were built to Cabin 2, ceiling fans were installed and windows in several cabins were re-glazed. The water reservoir that serves the maintenance shop, stables, residence and some cabins was drained and cleaned out. Several decks and the CCC-built stone structures throughout the park were pressure washed. Various park structures were repainted inside and out. The WVDOH replaced the bridge leading to the office and cabin area.

Moncove Lake State Park

Construction of a new 48-foot boat dock and ramp was completed and the old boat dock was removed. A new footbridge was constructed linking the picnic area with an open field to make it more accessible to the public. Painting projects included the exterior of the campground office and the shower floors in two of the bathhouses. Ten new campfire rings were installed in the campground and a new pedestal grill was installed in the picnic area. A program to suppress spread of aquatic vegetation was begun that included the stocking of 200 grass carp as well as chemical spraying of the water shield lilies. Major removal of brush continued this year with the focus being several hundred yards of roadside and public use areas. The Union Lion's Club hosted their 1st Kid's Fishing Derby in April with more than 100 children in attendance.

North Bend Rail Trail

The ongoing drainage improvement project continued along the entire length of the trail. Approximately 20 miles of trail was resurfaced in Ritchie County thanks to a grant from Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department's health initiative.

North Bend State Park

Park business was up compared to last year and the five year average. Revenue was up by 10 percent compared to last year and 14 percent compared to the five year average. Lodge occupancy was up by 4 percent compared to last year and 6 percent compared to our five year average. Cabin occupancy was up by 7 percent compared to last year and 3 percent compared to our five year average. The majority of guest comments were positive.

This year substantial upgrades were made to the lodge's sprinkler system and the park's television system. These represented the biggest safety and guest complaint issues, respectively.

Routine maintenance and smaller or ongoing projects included remodeling lodge guest rooms and repairing or replacing roofs on various buildings. The programming office continued to offer a schedule of special events, summer performer series, and recreation and nature interpretive programs. The park continued to partner and work with local tourism promoters and organizations in order to deliver a variety of appropriate quality programs to the public and promote North Bend State Park.

With the assistance of The Telecom Pioneers, General Federation of Women's Club, and North Bend State Park Foundation, staff was able to bring together five projects to make a noticeable improvement to the park. A long-dilapidated foot bridge, sidewalk, and water fountain were all replaced, game courts were resurfaced, and the bathhouse was remodeled and painted.

Panther Wildlife Management Area

The Group Camp was upgraded with furniture and air conditioner units from Pipestem Resort State Park. Tree removal and daylighting at the bunkhouse was done to further advance the ongoing repairs to the windows and siding. An area formerly used to store flood debris was cleared and planted with grass and pine trees. A major water line project required more than 1,500 feet of ditching and both road and creek crossings. The office was re-plumbed and rewired along with the garage area and a new breaker panel was installed. The entrance road to the office was re-graveled and a new culvert was installed.

Pinnacle Rock State Park

New gutters were installed around the office and picnic shelter. Some of the playground equipment received preventive maintenance and repairs. Maintaining the water level in Jimmy Lewis Lake continued to be difficult due to the fissure in the bedrock under the lake which is allowing water to seep out. During summer dry spells the lake can drop many feet below optimum levels. Fresh coats of paint were put on the two pit toilets and touch ups were done on the office and shelter.

Pipestem Resort State Park

New furnishings and televisions were placed in McKeever Lodge guest rooms, lobbies, and corridors. This included upgrading from two doubles to one queen and one double in the standard rooms. A permanent "Famous West Virginians" display of 20 individual photos and biographies was placed along the bridgeway walls. A longstanding sewer line failure underneath McKeever Lodge was repaired by removing a 20-foot section of interior corridor concrete flooring. The resulting sludge was pumped out, the sewer line was repaired, and the floor reconstructed. A small, but costly, fire broke out in the third floor mechanical room due to a water leak over the main electrical panels.

Projects to improve the appearance of the park's grounds by installation of brown plastic animal proof trash cans as well as new fence railings were completed. The park boundary on the west slope of the Bluestone Gorge was freshly marked. The park's game courts and surrounding fences were given a facelift, with fresh coats of paint and repairs to a number of items. Significant grants for enhancing the park's trail system and recycling efforts have been awarded and are awaiting implementation once the funding can be used.

A management plan for the park's two golf courses was developed and put into place. Initial efforts are focusing on tree pruning, removal and planting, with historic overlooks being restored on the Championship Course. Additional projects envisioned for the future include moving several ladies' tees forward, changing methods and timing of aerification, scalloping some fairways, and improving the appearance of the ponds.

An 18-hole disc golf course was constructed near the Recreation Center, utilizing the old sled run and some additional property. Also near the Recreation Center, the old and deteriorating skating rink was refurbished with new railings and benches in preparation for developing it into a radio-controlled race track facility. The poolside snack bar at the Recreation Center was given a minor remodeling and reopened for the first time in seven years, under the new name of The Cannonball. Gaga and Murbles, both of which are outdoor family and group games, were added to our list of such activities for this season.

A new roof system was installed on Mountain Creek Lodge by our contractor. This was followed up with a difficult in-house project to plumb in new roof drains and carry the water across the lawns and away from the building. The nearby pump house also had a new roof structure constructed by park staff. A shed roof addition to the stables concession barn was completed, and tiling of the campground bathhouses progressed as well. New roofs were installed on the amphitheater concession building and the lake restrooms.

Long Branch Lake Dam was brought into full compliance through contracted work to raise the crest and harden the dam against major flood events. A major effort by park staff to clear encroaching trees along the tram right-of-way was carried out. The tram's counterweight system required rebuilding in the spring, postponing opening of the tram and Mountain Creek facilities until after Memorial Day. Audiophone, helium, and dye testing were completed on the outdoor pool by a contractor in an effort to locate leaks. Following this testing, the rubber membrane protecting the concrete deck had to be re-glued. Some leaks were found and water loss was stemmed significantly. High speed wireless Internet service was installed at Mountain Creek Lodge.

The park's lookout tower was renamed and dedicated in honor of former superintendent and Distinguished West Virginian Steve Bolar. A brochure for Brush Creek Falls was completed and printed. Pipestem planned and hosted the first State Park Superintendent's Training Academy, a five week program to familiarize other superintendents with the many facilities, operations, procedures and scenarios they may encounter during their careers.

Plum Orchard Wildlife Management Area

The dam was cleared of vegetation for safety and compliance purposes. The power line to the dam was cleared, a broken pole was replaced and two dusk-to-dawn lights were replaced. The main road was widened in sharp curves. A drainage ditch in the campground was cleaned and widened and an old culvert was replaced with a footbridge. A water line and hydrant were installed in the campground to provide potable water. New screens were installed on the bathhouse vents and new screen doors were installed.

Prickett's Fort State Park

A new water fountain funded by the General Foundation of Women's Clubs of West Virginia was installed. Renovations to the amphitheater dressing rooms included new flooring, countertops, and heaters. Other amphitheater improvements included new handrails and additional permanent seating. In March, the Prickett's Creek area flooded. Although the park received minimal damage, the County Commission requested use of the park's parking lot as a debris collection site. The debris was brought in for nine days and was removed about two weeks later and the lot was cleaned by the local VFD. Later in the year, the Commission arranged to have the lot sealed and new lines painted on the lot. The flooding also caused woody debris and sand to settle in the boat launch, rendering it unusable. Through efforts of WVDOH, DNR and local bass fishermen, a contractor was brought in who removed the debris, clearing the launch for use in fishing tournaments.

Seneca State Forest

The Thorny Creek Mountain Fire Tower was restored to a condition permitting rentals as a two-person cabin starting next operating year. Work involved removing hazardous trees, replacing the entire decking around the cabin area, replacing the pit toilet, replacing the steps to the cabin, and other minor repairs. This western-style fire tower has living quarters on top and is the only one of its kind open to the public in the state. The ADA playground installation was completed with an access road to the playground and wheel chair or automobile access to the playground. All other routine maintenance and repairs were performed with no significant problems to note.

Stonewall Resort State Park

The resort continues to be operated with a high level of guest satisfaction. The resort has once again been awarded the prestigious American Automobile Association Four Diamond Award for service excellence, quality facilities, and memorable guest experiences. Guest comments continue to reveal satisfaction with quality experiences in lodging, camping, dining, and other recreational amenities. Unfortunately, project revenues continue to be insufficient to cover bond debt repayment and the project is in technical bond default.

Construction of a boardwalk from the campground/day use area to the lodge was funded from a Transportation Enhancement Grant. The grant total was for \$448,400 with the 20 percent matching funds coming from private donations to the Stonewall Resort State Park Foundation. A second Transportation Enhancement Grant for \$271,020 will complete a pedestrian and bicycle pathway from the park day use area, along the road past the lodge, and ending at the cottage area. Plans and specification have been reviewed and approved. A notice to proceed for construction is expected any time.

The park entered into an agreement for the construction of a cell phone tower on park land which will significantly increase the cell phone coverage throughout the park, portions of the Wildlife Management Area and the local area. The tower is complete and installation of transmission equipment is pending.

The resort replaced carpeting and furniture throughout Stillwaters Restaurant and other needed areas in the lodge. The developer has submitted proposals for additional cottage construction. The proposals have been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for review and comment.

Tomlinson Run State Park

The new swimming pool concession stand was completed and it opened Memorial Day weekend. The main park two-inch water line was replaced with a new six-inch water line that included three new fire hydrants. A master meter vault and a new PRV valve vault were also installed as well a new check valve for the main water line feeding the campground. A new playground was installed at the Group Camp, and a new swing set and slide were installed at Shelter #3. The Group Camp dining hall's roof was replaced, the counselor's cabin bathrooms were remodeled, and the dining hall kitchen faucets were replaced. A new set of stairs was constructed at the boat dock rental building. The mineral spring's picnic area bathroom was reopened. The basketball court at the swimming pool area was repaired and repaved, and two new basketball goals were installed. The basketball court repairs were funded by the Tomlinson Run State Park Volunteer Foundation. A new 18-hole disc golf course, also purchased by the park foundation, was installed around the swimming pool and mineral spring's picnic area. A new trail was constructed, connecting the Fern Trail with the Dynamite Shack and Beech Trails.

Tu-Endie-Wei State Park (Point Pleasant Battle Monument)

To the delight of many of Tu-Endie-Wei State Park's guests, a small gift shop was opened with the beginning of the 2012 season. Items such as T-shirts, hats, mugs, replica arrowheads, bottled water, and patches have been a huge hit with the guests. Remodeling work was mostly completed on the old rock path/sidewalk in the park. Plans are still being formulated for the replacement of the Mansion House roof.

Twin Falls Resort State Park

Starting October 16, 2011, the Monarch (original) wing of the lodge was shut down to start both remodeling and a HVAC upgrade. This was a major undertaking for staff. Rooms reopened for guest use on March 1, 2012.

Guest rooms: Maintenance staff worked with the HVAC contractors to begin prep work by removing ceilings in entries to guest rooms and bathrooms, removing closet doors, and previous HVAC equipment. Once the contractor had completed work in each room, staff would follow behind them by renovating the closet spaces. Previously, the guest rooms in this wing had sliding closet doors and were poorly lit. Following the remodel, the closets were fitted with a modern-style clothing shelf/rack, allowing better visibility of a guest's belongings and making the room appear more spacious. Electrical upgrades also were done to allow the rooms to be equipped with microwaves and refrigerators. Our staff also readied the rooms by prepping walls for drop ceiling installation. Another major aspect of this project was to cut 32 holes in the rubber roofing to allow anchoring of the new units for HVAC system; these also required repairs after the units were installed.

Hallways: Removed six old wall heating units that were no longer in use with the new system, repaired dry wall, and painted. In an effort to make the hallways brighter and feel less cramped, the dark wood that lined the hallways was painted white to allow better light reflection. Drop ceiling matching the new ceilings in the guest rooms was installed along with additional florescent lighting.

Mechanical Room: Removed expansion tanks, valves, breaker boxes, electrical cables, piping, circulation pumps, the boiler, and disconnected the chiller.

Other projects at Twin Falls include turning the former front desk area into our group sales office, a waitress station was built in the restaurant that expanded workable space for our kitchen staff, floors were refinished in Cabin 8, an additional washer and dryer were purchased and installed for the in house laundry, additional landscaping was done around the entrance to the lodge, and additional furniture was purchased for the common areas in the Monarch wing.

Tygart Lake State Park

Tygart Lake State Park was open throughout the winter this year for the first time. The response was very positive, exceeding all expectations and predictions throughout the winter. The Boston Beanery (lodge restaurant) continued to exceed sales expectations and growth was obvious. The restaurant enjoyed more than 800 diners for Mother's Day this year.

The lodge received a new grease trap to better manage the restaurant discharge into the sewage system. New sidewalks were poured and the parking area re-paved in the area of the construction site. In addition, the restaurant received new furniture for the dining room, a new walk-in cooler, dishwasher, grill, a two door refrigerator, and a high volume ice maker. Pizza ovens were upgraded and relocated.

The lobby area received new furniture, desks and lamps. A sitting area, reading area, and computer area were arranged with the new furniture and desks. The lodge received a new flat screen television for the lobby area for guests to enjoy. Outdoor furniture was treated with teak oil and was placed for the guests to enjoy the spectacular views of the lake. Air conditioners were repaired on the lodge roof. All 20 rooms at the lodge received new bedroom furniture, lamps and televisions. Some of the "old" furniture was shared with other parks and some of it was used in our cabins. New computers were placed at the lodge and park office.

Numerous signs throughout the park, lodge and surrounding approaches received an upgrade. The grills at the cabins were all replaced with new grills from Prison Industries. The bathroom floor in cabin #9 was replaced due to rot. Two of our lift stations had motors rebuilt.

Extensive work was completed creating a residential spot for the assistant superintendent. Sewer and water lines of approximately 500 feet were dug and laid from existing lines to the site. Grading and road work was completed and a gravel base was laid down. A well pump and house was installed to increase the pressure up the hill to the site. Electrical box, pole, meter, and lines were installed.

Meetings were held with engineers and COE to discuss the renovation of our beach and concession/bath house. The plan offers hope that the work will begin sometime in the near future. Three foot bridges were completed by a BSA Eagle Scout this summer. One bridge was at least 12 foot long and more than 300 yards from the road.

The special events and programming events included the annual New Year's Eve party, knitting and scrapbooking classes, and the St. Patrick's Day celebration. The Beanery routinely schedules live entertainment that has been well received by guests.

Valley Falls State Park

The stone walls at the railroad bridge and by the rest room were rebuilt. The triangle by the rest room was also rebuilt and a new 25-foot flagpole was installed. Six new benches were built and installed at the playground. New steps to the group camp site were constructed. The residence and other buildings were painted. The WVDOH repaired a mile of flood-damaged roadside ditch and staff repaired trails damaged in the same flooding. The park service road and two parking lots were re-graded.

Watoga State Park (includes Calvin Price State Forest)

Staff completed extensive interior improvements in three standard cabins, refinished floors in five modern and eight standard cabins, replaced the deteriorated stone walkway to Cabin 14 with a pressure treated wooden staircase, re-plumbed Cabin 11, and completed a major log replacement project at Cabin 25. New directional signs were installed in the Brooks Arboretum at all trail intersections and at the trail head. An old unused chimney was removed from the rear of the Administration Building and extensive repairs were done to the roof and exterior walls surrounding the chimney to correct water damage. The park restaurant was closed permanently after a failed search for a concessionaire to operate the facility. Plans were made to convert the former restaurant/kitchen area into a new gift shop and park office. In Cal Price, timber cutting began on the Bond Place timber sale and construction began on the road to the top of Spice Ridge.

Watters Smith Memorial State Park

Work on the Activity Building including painting, installing three ceiling fans and a new gas stove and refrigerator. A great deal of work was accomplished on the Oak Ridge Shelter facility, including removing wooden siding and applying textured concrete surface to the cinder block. The facility was repainted, the men's restroom was renovated, and new playground was installed. Several of the parks trails were repaired and contoured to control erosion. Signage was placed at trail heads and junctions and colored diamonds and glow-in-the-dark tacks were placed along the trails. An updated map of the park and trails was completed. A large amount of dead trees and brush was removed from various locations across the park and along Duck Creek Road.

PLANNING/ENGINEERING/MAINTENANCE SECTION

Substantially Complete Projects as of June 30, 2012

- Bluestone Pool Renovations
- Cacapon Well No.1 Pipe Replacement
- Canaan Valley Golf Course Drainage Phase 2
- Canaan Valley RSP Cabin Area Waste Water Facilities Improvements
- Canaan Valley RSP Cabin Area Waste Water Facilities Improvements
- Canaan Valley RSP Pool Dehumidification Unit Replacement
- Cass Scenic Railroad Slip Evaluation (On-going observations)
- Coopers Rock Dam Spillway Repairs
- Greenbrier Pool Renovations
- Hawks Nest Lodge HVAC Renovations
- Hawks Nest Lodge Structural Repairs
- Lost River Residences Radon Mitigation
- North Bend Rail Trail Culvert Evaluation
- Pipestem Resort SP Long Branch Lake Dam Modifications
- Stonewall Resort Pedestrian Timber Bridge
- Tomlinson Run Concession Stand Replacement
- Tomlinson Run Water System Improvements
- Twin Falls Lodge HVAC Renovations
- Tygart Lake Kitchen Grease Trap

Construction Projects in progress by June 30, 2012

- Berwind Lake WMA Dam Modifications
- Blackwater Falls Sled Run Phase 1
- Canaan Valley RSP Ski Area Parking Lot Storm Drainage Improvements
- Canaan Valley RSP Ski Area Tube Park and Beginners Ski Area
- Canaan Valley RSP Ski Area Lift Renovations
- Canaan Valley RSP Ski Area Snowmaking Improvements
- Canaan Valley RSP Ski Area General Building Renovations
- Canaan Valley RSP Ski Area Snowmaking Raw Waterline Construction
- Cacapon Resort SP Well Construction
- Canaan Valley Resort SP Lodge Renovation and Guest Room Replacement

Design Projects completed as of June 30, 2012, pending construction

- Cacapon Golf Course Improvements
- Cacapon Lodge Expansion
- Cacapon Lower Dam Modifications
- Cacapon Upper Dam Modifications
- Cacapon Water System Improvements
- Stonewall Pedestrian Pathways
- Twin Falls Kitchen Floor Structural Repair

Design Projects in progress by June 30, 2012

- Blackwater Falls SP West Exterior Staircase Renovation
- Cabwaylingo Dining Hall
- Cacapon Old Inn Exterior Restoration
- Coopers Rock ADA Fishing Pier
- Hawks Nest CCC Museum Renovation
- Hawks Nest Lodge Structural Repairs
- Twin Falls Lodge Structural Repairs
- Tygart Lake SP Beach and Bathhouse Renovation

Community Work Experience Program (CWEP)

In calendar year 2010, this program provided the following benefits:

- Eight participants for five state recreation areas;
- 1,383.96 hours of maintenance, crafts, and general service work;
- \$10,033.71 of federal funds.



Wildlife Resources Section



**Wildlife Resources
Section**
Curtis I. Taylor, *Chief*

The Wildlife Resources Section (WRS) is responsible for the management of the state's wildlife resources for the use and enjoyment of its citizens. The primary objective of the 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.

ADMINISTRATION

Outreach

Wildlife Resources staff devoted considerable time assisting conservation and civic clubs, schools and communities with various wildlife related inquiries and informational needs. These activities included working with the following organizations and events: Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs, sportsmen's clubs, outdoor classrooms, nature tours, fairs, local sports shows, training schools, and the National Hunting and Fishing Days Celebration. Cooperation was given to universities and colleges by serving as guest lecturers. Numerous interviews were given to the TV, radio, and print media.

"Sectional" meetings were conducted at 12 sites around the state in March 2012 to present proposed regulation changes to hunters and anglers. These meetings also provide the general public an opportunity to make recommendations and ask questions relating to our regulation proposals and our agency's programs.

Game Management staff presented more than 150 classes and lectures and attended more than 100 sportsmen's groups meetings. Special youth hunting opportunities were conducted for waterfowl, squirrel, turkey, and white-tailed deer. The special youth hunts provide an excellent opportunity to introduce young people to the outdoors and the hunting tradition.

The WV State Wildlife Center continues to excel as an outdoor educational facility. More than 62,464 visitors and 192 group tours used the area's facilities and enjoyed viewing West Virginia wildlife.

Fisheries management staff conducted or assisted in 14 fishing education events involving more than 1,500 participants. These events included National Fishing and Boating Week, Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, and Becoming an Outdoors-Woman. Additionally, the agency participated in the Cabela's "Wanna Go Fishing for Millions" event by tagging fish in Burnsville, R.D. Bailey, and Tygart lakes as part of contest designed to promote fishing in West Virginia.

Information and Education staff gave 35 presentations to approximately 1,895 people. Staff also worked at Junior Conservation Camp, wrote and administered the Wildlife Exam for the West Virginia Envirothon, and conducted wildlife training for 33 teachers participating in the Envirothon. Staff presented at the annual WV Environmental Education Association Conference and WV Science Teachers Association Conference. Personnel edited, proofed, and updated the hunting and fishing regulations in printed format and on the Web. Staff reviewed and coordinated web updates for the Wildlife Resources Section. They helped with writing, editing, and proofing the West Virginia Wildlife Calendar and legislative rules. Staff edited, approved, and coordinated with Department of Commerce Marketing and Communications for the publication of various brochures. Hundreds of hours were spent hosting the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference.

Lottery proceeds were used to publish and distribute the West Virginia Wildlife magazine. The 28-page publication is mailed to 40,000 subscribers with the remaining 2,000 copies distributed to district

offices, fairs, and schools. The articles are written by DNR employees about the state's wildlife and plants, and the programs used to manage them wisely. Lottery proceeds were also used to place advertisements in both electronic media (TV and radio) and print media (magazines and newspapers). The ads promoted hunting, fishing, special events, and the State Wildlife Center.



The WRS sponsored and provided ideas, technical assistance, and interviews for West Virginia Wildlife, a weekly, 90-second TV segment shown on six newscasts on two stations in the Charleston-Huntington-Beckley market. The West Virginia Outdoors and DNR Report radio programs were broadcast over 17 MetroNews affiliated stations located throughout the state.

Project WILD provides training for formal and nonformal educators across the state. In the past year, 714 educators attended 29 workshops for Project WILD, Aquatic Project WILD, Growing Up WILD, and Flying WILD.

The West Virginia Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program is continuing to introduce women to outdoor activities. The spring workshop is always well-attended with more than 70 participants, and the fall workshop had more than 50 participants. The women attended hands-on classes in hunting, fishing, backpacking, canoeing, and other outdoor-related skills.

Wildlife Diversity staff conducted a number of education programs related to plants in West Virginia, including Master Naturalist Program workshops on trees, shrubs, and woody vines; wildflowers and weeds; recording, sharing, and preserving natural history data; and nature interpretation and teaching with a focus on plants, invasive plants, nature in winter, and classification. Other presentations completed in 2012 included poisonous plants, federally threatened and endangered plants, and collecting and documenting vascular plants.

Staff hosted three Diversified Cooperative Training workshops for high school students, providing them an opportunity to learn about the kinds of work done by our program in a mentoring and internship program coordinated by the Randolph County School system.

Other program participation included the Wildflower Pilgrimage and National Hunting and Fishing Days.

West Virginia Wildlife Endowment Fund

The total market value of the fund at the close of FY 2012 was \$39,071,481.59. During Calendar Year 2011, there were 203 Adult Lifetime Licenses sold and 809 Infant Lifetime Licenses sold for a total dollar amount of \$530,982.00.

Hunting and Fishing License Unit

The Hunting and Fishing License Unit is responsible for administering all aspects of the hunting and fishing license operations. In 2011, there were 879,678 license sales resulting in license revenue of \$15,084,381.

The goWILD! online license sales and the agent electronic point of sale system continue to grow in popularity and the two systems together accounted for more than 74 percent of license revenues for the 2011 license year. This is an increase of more than 30 percent from the license revenues generated by the two systems in 2007.

Hunting and Fishing License Sales By Residency and Class—Calendar Year 2011
Total License Sales

RESIDENT				
Class	Description	Price	Number	Amount
A	Hunting and Trapping	\$19.00	27,312	\$518,928.00
B	Fishing	19.00	79,019	\$1,501,361.00
N	Antlerless Deer Hunting	10.00	64,018	\$640,180.00
BG	Big Game	10.00	3,814	\$38,140.00
RG	Additional Deer - Firearms	21.00	25,961	\$545,181.00
RB	Additional Deer - Archery	21.00	19,396	\$407,316.00
RM	Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	16.00	3,178	\$50,848.00
X*	Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	30.00	101,037	\$3,031,110.00
XJ**	Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/ Fishing	11.00	7,724	\$84,964.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	8.00	8,834	\$70,672.00
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	10.00	23,863	\$238,630.00
O	Trout Fishing	10.00	94,558	\$945,580.00
CS***	Conservation Stamp	5.00	211,863	\$1,059,315.00
	Resident Subtotal		670,577	\$9,132,225.00

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

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

NON-RESIDENT

Class	Description	Price	Number	Amount
I	National Forest Hunting/Trapping/ Fishing	\$2.00	14,509	\$29,018.00
E	Non-resident Hunting/Trapping	119.00	26,265	\$3,125,535.00
EE	Non-resident Bear Hunting	162.00	1,076	\$174,312.00
F	Non-resident Fishing	37.00	10,940	\$404,780.00
H	Non-resident Small Game Hunting - 6 day	27.00	809	\$21,843.00
LL	Non-resident Fishing - 1 day	3.00	47,058	\$141,174.00
NN	Non-resident Antlerless Deer	27.00	13,070	\$352,890.00
RRG	Non-resident Additional Deer - Firearms	43.00	4,839	\$208,077.00
RRB	Non-resident Additional Deer - Archery	37.00	1,889	\$69,893.00
RRM	Non-resident Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	37.00	411	\$15,207.00
UU	Non-resident Archery Deer	32.00	6,062	\$193,984.00
VV	Non-resident Muzzleloader Deer	32.00	2,467	\$78,944.00
WW	Non-resident Turkey	32.00	3,462	\$110,784.00
XXJ	Non-resident Junior Sportsman	16.00	2,280	\$36,480.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	8.00	1,288	\$10,304.00
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	10.00	1,138	\$11,380.00
OO	Trout Fishing	16.00	13,428	\$214,848.00
J *****	Small Game Shooting Preserve Hunting - 6 day	10.00	909	\$9,090.00
CS/LE	Non-resident Conservation / Law Enforcement	13.00	57,201	\$743,613.00
	Non-resident Subtotal		209,101	\$5,952,156.00

***** Available through goWILD! Online only

Grand Total Resident + Non-resident Sales

879,678

\$15,084,381.00

Hunting and Fishing License Sales By Class — Calendar Year 2011

Lifetime Agent License Sales

ADULT				
Class	Description	Price	Number	Amount
	Adult			
A-L	Hunting and Trapping	\$782.00	-	-
AB-L	Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing	\$805.00	187	\$150,535.00
A-1-L	Small Arms Hunting	\$75.00	16	\$1,200.00
B-L	Fishing	\$552.00	12	\$6,624.00
O-L	Trout	\$230.00	61	\$14,030.00
	Adult Subtotal		276	\$172,389.00

INFANT				
Class	Description	Price	Number	Amount
	Infant			
A-L-I	Hunting and Trapping	\$391.00	2	\$782.00
AB-L-I	Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing	\$402.50	796	\$320,390.00
B-L-I	Fishing	\$276.00	11	\$3,036.00
O-L-I	Trout	\$115.00	299	\$34,385.00
	Infant Subtotal		1,108	\$358,593.00

SENIOR				
Class	Description	Price	Number	Amount
	Senior			
XS	Hunting and Trapping	\$25.00	71	\$1,775.00
	Senior Subtotal		71	\$1,775.00

	Grand Total Lifetime Sales		1,384	\$532,757.00
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Capital Improvements

The Wildlife Resources Section continued its successful capital improvements program in FY 2011 to enhance opportunities for hunters, anglers, and other wildlife recreationists. Funds for capital improvements are 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 is one of the most visible efforts of the agency providing facilities such as wildlife management areas, shooting ranges, fishing and boating access sites, physically challenged accessible hunting and fishing facilities, and fish hatchery and dam improvements.

During the fiscal year, more than \$1.5 million was spent on capital improvements. Land acquisition for wildlife management areas and boating access accounted for more than \$715,000.

The year's major projects were:

1. Purchase of 63 acres to increase the size of Lewis Wetzel Wildlife Management Area in Wetzel County.
2. Purchase of 129 acres to increase the size of Stumptown Wildlife Management Area in Calhoun County.
3. Completed construction of public shooting ranges at Kumbrabow State Forest in Randolph County and Chief Logan Wildlife Management Area in Logan County.
4. Completed construction of a new public boating access facility on the Kanawha River at Nitro in Kanawha County.

West Virginia's Archery in the Schools Program

When the school year begins in the fall of 2012, students from 260 schools around the state will be participating in the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) West Virginia Archery in the Schools (AIS) Program. The DNR began the pilot program in the fall of 2004 with 19 schools and in the eight years has exceeded all expectations. In fact, this interest has allowed DNR to host trainings in every region of the state, reaching more than 500 physical education teachers. The WRS has received an increasing demand of certifying additional instructors so we have developed a one-day training specifically designed for college physical education majors. Training has been held at Concord University and arrangements have been made to hold a similar training at West Liberty University in October 2012. Because of the program's success, the DNR has hosted seven annual state archery tournaments. In fact, this year's archery tournament which was held in March at the Charleston Civic Center, hosted more than 650 participants, making it by far the largest youth archery tournament ever held in WV.

The AIS Program has become the DNR's largest and fastest growing educational program, reaching an estimated 70,000 students in the past eight years. The DNR, along with the Department of Education, wildlife organizations, and teachers, has been able to introduce students grades 4-12 (no matter size or ability) a life skill of archery.

West Virginia is one of 46 states participating in this national program, with similar success being experienced by state wildlife agencies throughout the country. West Virginia's DNR received national attention when the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (WVSDB) became the first school in the nation for the hearing and vision impaired to participate in this program.

A lot of work has gone into reaching this point, and a lot of credit needs to be given to the teachers and volunteers who believe in the AIS Program. Special thanks go to organizations such as: Appalachian Bowhunters Association, West Virginia Bowhunters Association, West Virginia Trophy Hunters Association, West Virginia Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation, West Virginia Hunter Education Association, and Beyond the Backyard. Without these organizations, the DNR wouldn't have been able to reach as many schools.

Hunters Helping the Hungry

The Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) Program is a cooperative effort involving the DNR, the Mountaineer and Huntington Area Food Banks, and a network of local food pantries, shelters, churches, and children's homes. Since its inception in 1992, the HHH Program has provided more than a million family-style meals to the state's hungry. In 2011, generous hunters donated a total of 1051 deer (40,673 pounds of nutritious meat providing more than 61,000 family-style meals). Deer processing and transport costs for the HHH Program in 2010 was \$68,197.00, which was offset largely in part with donations from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Share the Harvest Sunday fundraiser, Governor's One Shot Deer Hunt fundraiser, wildlife organizations, and the generosity of private individuals. Federal and State Laws prohibit the use of license revenue to fund this program and the DNR must rely upon the generosity of others through donations to continue.

National Hunting and Fishing Days — Stonewall Resort State Park

West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days is like no other event held in West Virginia, with hands-on learning opportunities for youngsters and families in the area of wildlife and outdoor recreation. In fact, the objective of the event is to educate the non-hunting/fishing public on the benefits of these recreational activities and how they support the DNR's efforts in wildlife conservation. The DNR teams with the West Virginia Wildlife Federation to promote this important event. Nearly 20,000 wildlife enthusiasts are in attendance to try their hand at everything from archery, shooting, fly-fishing, and the kids' fishing derby, to list only a few. In addition, attendees also have the opportunities to sit in on several wildlife demonstrations or visit one of the hundred-plus vendors on hand.

West Virginia's 2012 Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days will be held September 22nd and 23rd at Stonewall Resort State Park.

Outdoor Youth Challenge

The Outdoor Youth Challenge (OYC) is one of, and arguably the most important, event held annually at West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days (NH&FD). The OYC is both a youth expo and competition. Young people are exposed to a multitude of activities and displays with real hands-on learning and instructional opportunities that encourage them to gain important knowledge and experience about wildlife, hunting, fishing, firearms safety, and outdoor recreation. Young folks can choose only to participate or they can compete. For some youngsters, this may be the only opportunity they will have to be exposed to these fun and exciting outdoor activities.

Any youth between six and 18 years can participate in the OYC by simply showing up at National Hunting and Fishing Days (NH&FD) and quickly registering at the OYC tent. All children participating in the event will be eligible to win prizes – including two lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. In addition, many other quality prizes dealing with hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation activities will also be given away each day. Also, those youths 11-18 years of age who would like to compete will be able to do so, with five scored competitive events including casting for accuracy, archery, .22 rifle, muzzleloader, and shotgun (skeet) shooting. Youths winning the junior group (ages 11-14) or senior group (ages 15-18) will win conservation camp scholarships each day and be recognized at the Sunday afternoon awards ceremony.

GAME MANAGEMENT

The Wildlife Resources Section, Game Management Unit, conducts management activities on 81 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and eight state forests totaling 427,520 acres. Acquisition of public land and wetlands is a high priority of the Section. Additions were made to three WMAs totaling 377 acres and one new WMA, Elk Fork–1,530 acres–was established in 2011-2012.

An extensive wildlife management program is conducted on nearly 1.1 million acres of national forest land located in West Virginia through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. State wildlife biologists and managers devote a significant portion of their time reviewing national forest opportunity areas, timber sales, and providing technical input in the development of national forest plans. Management issues are closely reviewed to ensure that our fish and wildlife resources receive the maximum possible benefit.

Management on the 81 WMAs is directed toward improving wildlife habitat. Timber management was conducted on 511 acres with additional timber sales in the planning stage. Mitigation for oil and gas exploration on WMAs consumed a large amount of personnel time.

Management activities on state and national forest lands included planting 7,693 trees and shrubs for food and cover and pruning, releasing, and/or grafting more than 478 individual trees and shrubs.

More than 2,721 acres of wildlife clearings were mowed and 17 acres of new clearings were established. Lime and/or fertilizer were applied to 439 acres, and 451 acres were seeded to herbaceous vegetation including dove fields. Prescribed burning was used to retard vegetation succession and improve the diversity and abundance of desirable plants on 2,122 acres. Herbicide was used on 40 acres to control undesirable/invasive vegetation. Sharecropping agreements with local farmers were executed on 1,562 acres to maintain open land habitat. Seventy-three waterholes were maintained to provide a year-round water supply for wildlife.

Water levels on 215 acres of wetlands were manipulated to encourage waterfowl utilization. Three hundred and twenty-five waterfowl nest structures were maintained. Thirty-nine nest structures were maintained for other wildlife species.

More than 835 miles of roads and trails and 15 bridges were maintained. Road closures were installed or maintained at 532 sites to prevent disturbance to wildlife and to protect wildlife habitat.

Numerous information and regulation signs were erected or maintained. Four hundred and forty-three campsites, 22 boat ramps, 26 shooting ranges, 23 physically-challenged hunter access roads, seven angler access sites, and 159 parking areas were maintained.

The highly successful controlled waterfowl hunting program at McClintic WMA continued to provide quality waterfowl hunting for West Virginia hunters. Approximately 41 waterfowl ponds and 22 shooting stations are maintained on the area, including two shooting stations for the physically challenged.

Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Activities

Seventy-two nuisance bears had to be destroyed, 16 were relocated and two were trapped and released on site. Hundreds of other bear complaints were resolved with harassment measures and/or removal of edible attractions.

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

Environmental Reviews

Wildlife biologists reviewed numerous projects that potentially impact wildlife and its respective habitat. Primary concerns are road construction, stream alteration, hydropower projects, power line rights-of-way, gas line construction, oil/gas well sites, surface mines, and other construction projects. In numerous cases, recommendations have been made to alter projects, thus reducing detrimental impacts on wildlife.

Wildlife Population Surveys and Research

Waterfowl surveys (7) and census routes for woodcock (20) and mourning doves (10) were conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Surveys were also conducted for bald eagles (7) and song birds. Three hundred and three doves (303) and 439 Canada geese were trapped, banded, and released.

Harvest and biological data were compiled for hunter-killed turkey, beaver, bobcat, fisher, deer, bear, and wild boar.

Technical Assistance

Interest in managing private lands for wildlife continues to increase, and biologists are frequently contacted for technical assistance. Assistance ranges from general advice over the telephone, to providing specific management recommendations, to actually completing detailed site specific management plans. Approximately 1,500 staffdays were spent providing technical assistance to private individuals and landowners in 2011-2012.

Regional, National and International Coordination

Many of the challenges and issues facing the Wildlife Resources Section's Game Management Unit are shared by other states and agencies. A number of regional, national and international organizations exist to promote information exchange and multi-jurisdictional coordination. The Wildlife Resources Section is an active member/participant in many of these organizations and their various committees. Notable organizations include: Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, The Wildlife Society, Atlantic Flyway Council and Technical Sections, Southeast Deer Study Group, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, and Eastern Management Unit Dove Technical Committee.

White-tailed Deer

West Virginia continues to be one of the favorite deer hunting grounds in the eastern United States. In 2011, deer hunters harvested a total of 135,696 deer in the combined deer seasons. This is a 27 percent increase from the 2010 harvest and 4 percent less than the previous five-year harvest average of 141,775. The combined deer season harvest for 2011 is the 21st largest total deer harvest on record for West Virginia. The 2011 total deer harvest represents one deer killed for every 108 acres of deer habitat in the state, and a 38 percent harvest decrease from that of 10 years ago. From 1945 through 2011, a total of 5,607,892 deer have been recorded as harvested in West Virginia. Sixty-four percent (3,606,825) of the total recorded deer harvest of the past 66 years has occurred in the past 20 years.

Hunters took 443 deer in the special urban deer season in 2011. This special archery deer hunting season is available to incorporated cities and homeowner associations, which may open 14 days prior to the opening of archery season and close December 31. In 2011, nine cities (Barboursville, Bethlehem, Bridgeport, Charleston, Parkersburg, Morgantown, Ronceverte, Weirton, and Wheeling) reported

harvesting 337 deer. In addition, 106 deer were harvested during urban deer archery hunts conducted by seven homeowner associations.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy of cervids, was discovered in Hampshire County in September 2005. Efforts to control the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in free-ranging deer in Hampshire County by DNR, landowners, and hunters are ongoing. During this report period the abnormal prion associated with CWD was detected in 17 additional deer in Hampshire County, nine of 1,134 hunter harvested deer tested positive, seven deer collected in the spring of 2012 by WVDNR sharpshooters tested positive, and one road kill deer tested positive. The abnormal prion associated with CWD has now been found in 117 deer within West Virginia: three road-killed deer, four deer collected by the DNR in 2005, five deer collected by the DNR in 2006, one hunter-harvested deer during the 2006 deer season, three deer collected by the DNR in 2007, six hunter-harvested deer during the 2007 deer season, 11 deer collected by the DNR in 2008, six hunter-harvested deer during the 2008 deer season, nine deer collected by the DNR in 2009, 15 hunter-harvested deer during the 2009 deer season, 12 deer collected by WVDNR in 2010, 10 hunter-harvested deer during the 2010 deer season, 16 deer collected by the WV DNR in 2011, nine hunter-harvested deer during the 2011 deer season, and seven deer collected by the WVDNR in 2012. One of the positive hunter-harvested deer from 2010 deer season was from northern Hardy County. As of June 30, 2012, the prevalence of CWD in a 39-square mile intensively monitored area in central Hampshire County falls within a 95 percent confidence interval of nine to 22 percent. All tissue samples during this report period were tested for the abnormal prion associated with CWD at the SCWDS, College of Veterinary Medicine, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. Efforts to control the spread of CWD in free-ranging deer in Hampshire and Hardy counties by WVDNR, landowners, and hunters are ongoing and the containment area currently includes all of Hampshire County, northern Hardy County north of Corridor H and WV Route 55, and west of US Route 522 in Morgan County. More than 4,400 samples collected by the DNR since 2002 from principally road-killed deer in the remainder of the state have not exhibited the abnormal prion of CWD in any county other than Hampshire and northern Hardy County.

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. The wild turkey fall harvest has been measured accurately by the survey.

Elk

An elk management plan was implemented and an active elk population monitoring plan was developed using salt blocks and trail cameras. Monitoring stations in the elk management area were randomly selected from the best elk habitat available. Best available habitat was determined through GIS analysis based in part on Kentucky elk habitat use.

Black Bear

West Virginia hunters harvested 2,009 black bears during the combined 2011 archery and firearms seasons. This is the third time the kill has topped 2,000 in the past five years. The harvest of 2011 is the third highest of all time, and is 16 below below the record harvest of 2,392 set in 2010.

Two-hundred six bears were killed on highways, died as a result of illegal or marauder activities, or succumbed from other non-hunting causes (electrocution, accidental poisoning, etc.). This is up 84 percent from the 112 non-hunting mortalities recorded in 2010. The combined seasonal and non-seasonal deaths (2,215) are the second largest recorded in West Virginia.

A new black bear research project was initiated in 2011. West Virginia is participating in a study with Pennsylvania and New Jersey to examine movements, home range, survival and harvest vulnerability of bears that live in and around urban areas. There are currently 14 GPS collars deployed in West Virginia. Twelve of the 14 collars are regularly sending text messages with location data. There are six collars in Beckley, two in Charleston, and six in Morgantown. One collar that stopped working in 2011 has been recovered, but will not be able to be refurbished before hunting season begins. The data collected by all three states will be analyzed by a student at West Virginia University to complete a doctoral dissertation (Ph.D).

Wild Turkey

The 2011 spring gobbler harvest was 9,190. The total was 10 percent lower than the kill in 2010 (10,209). Turkey broods observed in 2009 were also 10 percent below the five-year average. There is a direct correlation between turkey brood observations and the spring turkey harvest two years later.

The survey of wild turkey broods is an important aid in forecasting the statewide harvests and changes in the wild turkey population. Brood reports in 2011 were 22 percent higher than counts in 2010.

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. During 2011, results were compiled from 168 hunters. Cooperators took 1,446 hunting trips and heard 2,382 gobblers. The gobbling rate (52 gobblers heard per 100 hours) was 9 percent higher than 2010 (47 per 100 hours) and down 21 percent from the 29-year average (63).

Wild Boar

Boars were introduced in 1971 to supplement big game populations and did well enough to accommodate a hunting season in 1979. Harvests have ranged from three that year to 158 in 1995. The decline in the population since the late 1990s led to the removal of the December season in 2003. The October firearms season is designed to reduce the harvest and allow numbers to improve and move into unoccupied habitats. Traditionally, hunters have been less successful during October when weather conditions are warm and dry and leaf fall makes boar sign more difficult to find.

Hunters killed 37 boars during the 2011 season. This is up from the harvest of 16 in 2010 and is the highest harvest since the late December season was removed in 2003. Great mast production in the boar area during 2010 likely increased reproduction and the number of young of the year available for harvest. In addition, the spotty acorn crop of 2011 made it easier for hunters to locate and pattern these unique animals.

Ruffed Grouse

A total of 30 cooperators sent in envelopes for the 2010-2011 grouse season. They reported on 392 hunting trips, which is up 59 percent from the 246 hunts recorded in 2009-2010. Effort per hunt (3.48 hours per hunt) was similar to the 3.40 hours per hunt in 2009-2010.

The number of birds bagged per shot at (28 percent) in 2010-2011 was similar to the 29 percent recorded in 2009-2010. Flushing rates were highest in the Mountain Region, with 1.30 flushes per hour; the Southern Region had 0.93 flushes per hour and the Western Region had a similar 0.91 flushes per hour. Flush rates increased 78 percent in the Western Region, were up 19 percent in the Mountain Region and decreased 15 percent in the Southern Region. We did not include the Eastern Region in comparing regional results because of few hunts and hours hunted. The statewide flushing average was 1.07 per hour in 2010-2011, up almost 3 percent from the 1.04 flushes per hour in 2009-2010.

River Otter

The river otter surveys have been completed and a trapping season was set by the Natural Resources Commission. The successful reintroduction of the river otter should supply trappers with a tremendous resource. The first modern river otter season happened from November 5, 2011, to February 28, 2012, and 206 river otters were trapped.

Annual Mast Survey

Annually during August, cooperating personnel in the Division of Natural Resources rate the abundance of mast produced by selected tree and shrub species. Mast indices are then formulated for each species on a statewide and ecological region basis. This survey has been conducted annually since 1970 and is important information often requested by hunters. Mast abundance is also an important tool to forecast the annual big game harvests.

Compared to the 2010 survey, the 2011 mast crop decreased considerably. All hard mast species except walnut and beech decreased from 2010's estimate. Indices for chestnut oak and white oak decreased 80 and 73 percent, respectively. Apple index decreased only slightly (4 percent). Although black cherry was a heavy producer last year, cherry's index decreased by 90 percent. This is the second year walnuts have increased from the previous year. Walnut abundance increased 78 percent from 2010 levels. Unfortunately, hickory did not fare as well. Hickory decreased by 22 percent. Several soft mast species were also monitored. Greenbrier decreased by one percent from last year. Of the soft mast species, dogwood increased the most from 2010 (31 percent).

WARMWATER FISH MANAGEMENT

The Warmwater Fish Management Unit is responsible for providing maximum fishing opportunity to meet increasing recreational demand and for protecting and managing approximately 98,000 acres of warmwater streams and more than 22,000 acres of public impoundments.

To meet this challenge, the warmwater program is divided into five areas:

- 1) surveys and inventories of existing fishery resources, providing essential data to assess and develop management programs;
- 2) protection of fish habitat, placing intensive efforts toward review and comment on various state and federal permits for proposed activities that could possibly impact public fishing waters;
- 3) enhancement and development of fisheries, increasing production and use of fisheries through stream and lake improvements, and providing additional opportunities by stocking desirable fish species;
- 4) development of public access to fishery resources, ensuring adequate public access to existing streams and lakes, and acquisition and/or development of new lakes; and
- 5) outreach and information development, providing the public with material concerning fishing and fish management programs.

2011–2012 Warmwater Stocking

Muskellunge

Personnel stocked more than 200 fingerling muskies in one lake. More than 2,800 advanced fingerling muskies were stocked in three streams and eleven lakes. West Virginia's musky fishery is primarily sustained by this annual stocking program. More than 60 percent of the reported musky catches and those qualifying for trophy citations were caught from stocked streams or lakes in 2011.

Walleye

More than 148,000 walleye fingerlings were stocked in five lakes and two rivers. The walleye stocking program is designed to establish reproducing populations of this fine sport species in suitable waters throughout the state. Approximately 40 percent of all trophy catches since 1976 are from stocked waters. Cooperative research efforts continue with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and Ohio Department of Natural Resources to enhance native walleye populations, especially in the New and Ohio rivers.

Channel Catfish

More than 137,000 channel catfish fingerlings reared at Palestine and Apple Grove hatcheries were stocked in 44 waters. Twenty-seven small impoundments were stocked with more than 9,000 catchable-size channel catfish in 2012 to provide enhanced family recreational fishing opportunities at many community and state park and wildlife management area lakes. Fishable populations are established in the majority of these waters with excellent catfishing found in Anawalt, Barboursville, Berwind, Cacapon, Cedar Creek, Chief Logan, Conaway Run, Coopers Rock, County, Edwards Run, Fort Ashby, French Creek, Handley, Hurricane, Indian Rock, Krodel, Laurel, Little Beaver, Mason, Mountwood, North Bend, Pendleton, Pipestem, Tomlinson Run, Turkey Run, Wallback, and Wirt County lakes.

Hybrid Striped Bass

More than 114,500 hybrid striped bass fingerlings were released in the Monongahela and Ohio rivers. More than 41,500 hybrid striped bass fingerlings were stocked in eight lakes. Hybrids over five pounds are regularly being caught from stocked waters. The New and Kanawha rivers also are providing excellent opportunities to land trophy hybrids.

Striped Bass

More than 34,500 striped bass fingerlings were stocked into Bluestone and Mount Storm lakes. Additionally, the Ohio River received more than 48,500 striped bass

Paddlefish

Efforts to restore the paddlefish in West Virginia continued in 2011 and more than 3,300 paddlefish fingerlings were stocked in the Ohio River.

Black Bass

More than 25,000 largemouth bass fingerlings were stocked in the Belleville and Racine pools of the Ohio River. These stockings represented one component of a fisheries management plan for the Ohio River. More than 9,000 largemouth bass were stocked into three small impoundments.

Blue Catfish

More than 130,600 blue catfish were stocked in the Kanawha and Ohio rivers as part of restoration efforts of this native species and approximately 14,900 were stocked into R.D. Bailey Lake.

Hatchery Improvements

Planning continues for the water supply pump replacement project at Palestine Hatchery and for improvements at several trout hatcheries. These improvements are needed to maintain fish production levels. These improvement plans are the result of priority recommendations through a statewide hatchery study completed in 2009.

WARMWATER PROJECTS

Reservoir Management

Fishery surveys were conducted on large reservoirs in the state. Surveys focused on black bass, walleye, and crappie. These inventories provide the basis for determining management needs and evaluating management measures.

Annual operational changes by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and owners of other large reservoirs require coordination between the WRS and agencies responsible for these reservoir projects to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife and recreational opportunities during such operational changes. Information upon which to base these fish and wildlife considerations is available as a result of the section's reservoir monitoring program.

River, Stream and Lake Research and Surveys

Stream and lake fisheries management activities continued in 2011. Fish population assessments were conducted on a number of rivers and small impoundments. Highlights include: muskellunge movement research on the Elk River and North Bend Lake; walleye population assessments on the New and Ohio rivers and several small impoundments used for broodstock sources; catfish research continued on the Ohio River to assess age and growth; and fish community health assessments continued on the South Branch of the Potomac and Cheat rivers.

Fisheries management staff is coordinating fisheries research and management activities on the Ohio River. These efforts include habitat and fish population assessments through the interstate Ohio River Fish Management Team. Fisheries biologists are also participating in the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association's aquatic nuisance species planning efforts to minimize impacts upon West Virginia's aquatic resources.

Cooperative efforts among Ohio River states began to assess and monitor the movement of Asian carp species in the Ohio River. States are working to develop a strategic plan for possible management and control measures for silver and bighead carp.

Habitat Enhancement

Fisheries management staff continued habitat enhancement projects in 2011. The agency continued the long-running and successful fish attractor project in large lakes. Recycled Christmas trees were placed as attractor structures in Beech Fork, Burnsville, East Lynn, Mount Storm, Summersville, Sutton and Stonewall lakes.

Additional fish attractor and habitat structures were installed at Burnsville and Sutton lakes with support and cooperation from the West Virginia Bass Federation Nation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Catfish spawning boxes were installed at Burnsville, East Lynn and Tygart lakes. Spawning boxes were evaluated for use by catfish and occupancy rate was approximately 30 percent. Maintenance of native aquatic vegetation planting sites was conducted at Beech Fork, Burnsville, East Lynn, Stonewall Jackson and Sutton lakes. Staff members are also conducting assessments of fish spawning and nursery habitat structures in selected small impoundments.

Fishing Tournament Coordination

Data on 2011 catch rates and fishing effort during 576 organized fishing tournaments were collected from 24 bass clubs and 89 open tournament sponsors. Tournaments were held at 32 West Virginia access sites, including 410 on lakes, 44 on the Kanawha River, 31 on the Monongahela River, and 88 on the Ohio River. Tournament fishing pressure at 120,125 hours decreased by four percent from 2010. When comparing 2011 results to 2010, average tournament catch rate increased from 0.18 to 0.20 fish per angler hour in lakes and from 0.14 to 0.21 fish per angler hour in rivers. The combined catch rate, 0.20 bass per hour, was the highest in 37 years of tournament record keeping.

Trophy Fish Citation Program

The Trophy Fish Citation program recognized anglers who caught 588 fish, representing 25 species that qualified as trophies in 2011. Of 14 waters (private lakes are counted as one) yielding 10 or more fish citations, 77 percent were from streams and rivers, two percent from small public fishing lakes, 14 percent from private lakes and ponds, and seven percent from large public lakes. The trophy citation program began in 1976 and has recognized 57,092 anglers for their outstanding catches. The 2004 trophy citation program marked the first year of issuing length only citations in addition to the certified weight citation. This allows anglers to practice catch-and-release and still receive a trophy citation. In 2011, 269 length only citations were issued.

The First Fish Certificate program was established in 2008 to recognize young anglers' first catches. The online certificate is a colorful, tangible way to record a youngster's first fish. The certificate can be completed with the angler's name, species of fish, and date and place of catch. The certificate can then be printed at home at no cost. The First Fish Certificate can be found online at www.wvdnr.gov/Fishing/First_Fish.shtm.

2011–2012 Warmwater Stockings

Species and Hatchery/Source	Number	Size	Location
Blue Catfish	145,572	fg	R.D. Bailey Lake; Kanawha and Ohio rivers
Muskellunge	216	fg	Mill Creek Lake
Muskellunge	2,849	af	Burnsville, East Lynn, Mason, Mountwood, North Bend, Stonecoal, Stonewall Jackson, Teter Creek, Upper Mud and Woodrum lakes; Meadow, Monongahela and West Fork rivers
Channel Catfish	9,994	ad	Anawalt, Barboursville, Berwind, Cacapon S.P., Cedar Creek, Chief Logan, Conaway Run, Coopers Rock, Fort Ashby, Handley, Hurricane, Indian Rock, Krodel, Laurel, Little Beaver, Mason, Mountwood, Pendleton, Pipestem, Tomlinson Run, Turkey Run and Wallback lakes; County, Edwards Run, Fort Ashby, French Creek, North Bend and Wirt Co. ponds
Channel Catfish	137,420	fg	Plum Orchard, Stephens, Stonecoal, Upper Mud and Woodrum lakes; Ohio River
Channel Catfish	132,322	af	Berwind, Big Ditch, Big Run, Burnsville, Chief Cornstalk, Chief Logan, Curtisville, Dog Run, East Lynn, Elk Fork, Elk Two Mile 12, Elk Two Mile 13, Elk Two Mile 14, Horse Creek, Huey Run, Indian Rock, Laurel, Lick Creek, Mason, Meadowood, Millers Fork, Mineral County Tech Center, Newburg, O'Brien, Pennsboro, Rockhouse, Seneca, Stephens, Stonewall Jackson, Teter Creek, Turkey Run, Upper Mud and Woodrum lakes; Airport, Coonskin, Fitzpatrick, Jennings Randolph and McClintic ponds
Paddlefish	3,355	af	Ohio River
Walleye	3,244	af	Charles Fork and Moncove lakes; New and Ohio rivers
Walleye	145,322	fg	Beech Fork, Cheat and East Lynn lakes
Hybrid Striped Bass	152,786	fg	Beech Fork, Bluestone and R. D. Bailey lakes; Monongahela and Ohio rivers
Hybrid Striped Bass	3,328	af	Big Run, Curtisville, Dixon, Mason and Rollins lakes
Largemouth Bass	34,628	fg	Berwind Lake; County and Fitzpatrick ponds; Ohio River
Striped Bass	4,547	af	Mount Storm Lake
Striped Bass	78,780	fg	Bluestone Lake; Ohio River

ad = adult
 af = advanced fingerling
 fg = fingerling
 fy = fry

COLDWATER FISH MANAGEMENT

In 2011-2012, selected waters in West Virginia were stocked with 1,112,676 trout weighing 815,529 pounds, which was one of the trout program's highest production years. Adequate rainfall during fall 2010 allowed normal transfers to occur from Reeds Creek and Spring Run Hatcheries to other state hatcheries, resulting in good growth rates at all hatcheries. Mild winter weather also contributed to the good growth. As a result the overall size of trout stocked in 2011-12 was 1.4 fish per pound. A breakdown of trout production by facility follows.

The seven state-owned hatcheries produced 805,244 pounds of trout in 2011-2012. Except in years when production is affected by conditions such as drought and disease outbreaks, normal production averages 750,000 pounds per year. Given the present state of hatchery facilities available, this level of production is considered near capacity. Production greater or lesser than this reflects unusual situations, such as the very mild 2011-2012 winter.

The federal hatchery at White Sulphur Springs provided 10,285 pounds of trout during 2011-2012. This is the only federal hatchery remaining in West Virginia. The poundage of trout currently being provided is less than has been provided historically from this facility, but is representative of expected trout poundage because of changes in hatchery operations at White Sulphur Springs. Other anticipated operational changes at the hatchery may further reduce the poundage available for stocking.

The 2011 fall stocking totaled 34,240 pounds. This is within the targeted poundage range of normal fall stockings. Thirty-five waters received two stockings each during a two-week period in October. The fall trout stockings are very popular and provide fishing opportunities through the fall and winter months until the regular spring stocking schedule begins.

Wild trout management continues to receive special attention in West Virginia. The two major parts of this program involve protecting and enhancing native brook trout populations and stocking fingerling trout to establish and maintain wild trout populations in streams that will not support stream reproduction. In 2011-2012, personnel stocked a total of 401,485 trout fingerling in 57 waters. Of these, 201,800 were rainbow trout stocked into Stephens Lake in Raleigh County to establish a two-story fishery. This program has resulted in considerable expansion of wild trout populations in West Virginia, particularly in southern West Virginia waters, where traditional trout waters are not present. Many of these southern trout fisheries are dependent on cold, unpolluted discharges from abandoned mines. Additionally, nearly 235,000 surplus rainbow fingerlings were stocked in Stephens Lake of Raleigh County in an attempt to establish a two-story fishery. The wild trout program provides thousands of anglers with year-round recreational opportunities in areas of West Virginia previously lacking such angling opportunities.

2011-12 Year Trout Stocking

Time Period & Hatchery	Rainbow Trout		Golden Trout		Brook Trout		Brown Trout		Total	
	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number
Fall 2011										
Spring Run	12,718	26,136	132	393					12,850	26,529
Petersburg	3,830	1,153	210	66					4,040	1,219
Bowden	8,105	4,334	645	346					8,750	4,680
Reeds Creek	6,165	4,656	35	9			200	62	6,400	4,727
*White Sulphur	2,200	880							2,200	880
Sub-Total	33,018	37,159	1,022	814			200	62	34,240	38,035
Spring 2012										
Spring Run	136,260	187,188	8,014	11,178	28,440	35,088			172,714	233,454
Petersburg	24,990	27,018	2,799	2,689					27,789	29,707
Edray	44,668	75,159	12,352	17,845	7,648	14,636	3,564	6,223	68,232	113,863
Ridge	24,467	35,504	3,043	4,544	33,039	44,372	200	360	60,749	84,780
Tate Lohr	21,978	43,763	1,215	2,394					23,193	46,157
Reeds Creek	142,053	197,556	6,629	10,006	28,214	41,996	8,350	13,750	185,246	263,308
Bowden	188,360	236,764	5,270	7,338	24,279	30,626	17,194	23,927	235,103	298,655
*White Sulphur	8,085	3,306							8,085	3,306
Sub-Total	590,842	805,758	39,879	55,905	121,620	166,718	29,308	44,260	781,289	1,074,641
TOTAL	623,500	843,917	40,901	57,719	121,620	166,718	29,508	44,322	815,529	1,112,676

*Federal Hatchery

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PROGRAM

Endangered Species Program

Peregrine Falcon

WVDNR staff monitored a single site, Chimney Top, near Cabins, W.Va., in 2012 and could not document peregrine falcon activity. Staff and volunteers from Three Rivers Avian Conservancy monitored sites in and near the New River Gorge and documented a peregrine nesting attempt but could not confirm nesting success.

Three Rivers Avian Conservancy staff and volunteers also conducted a New River Gorge falcon survey on 3/17/12 and counted five birds total at Lansing/Fayetteville, Grandview and the mouth of the Bluestone River.

Volunteers confirmed peregrine falcon nesting activity near Parkersburg, but nesting success was not confirmed. Single birds were noted during the breeding season near New Martinsville in Wetzel County and in Greenbrier County near Spring Creek Station. Observations outside of the breeding season were recorded for Winfield in Kanawha County, Huntington in Cabell County, and Mount Storm Lake in Grant County.

WVDNR and WVU staff members are working on a plan to mount peregrine falcon nest boxes at the WVU campus in Morgantown for completion by the beginning of the 2013 breeding season.

West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel

West Virginia northern flying squirrel nest boxes were monitored by Program biologists at 15 sites to obtain data on the distribution and population trends of this rare mammal. During this fiscal year, 12 northern flying squirrels were captured at two sites in fall 2011 and an additional three squirrels were captured at a third site in spring 2012. Tissue samples for genetic analyses (blood samples preserved on FTA cards) were collected from several of the animals handled this year. Genetic analyses of blood samples collected are currently being conducted by the University of North Carolina (UNC) and the results of this work should be published soon. All capture data on this species, including captures by other state and federal agencies and other researchers, were entered into the Program's database and map files. During this fiscal year, a total of nine northern flying squirrels were captured by consultants working on the Corridor H project for the WV Division of Highways.

Although the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) removed this squirrel from the federal list of threatened and endangered species, this decision was challenged in court and overturned. This resulted in the squirrel being once again placed on the endangered species list. This court decision was appealed by the USFWS, and the judge ruled in the Service's favor. No further action has been taken to remove the squirrel from the list, and, at the end of this fiscal year, this squirrel is still considered a federally endangered species.

Endangered Bats

White-nose Syndrome (WNS), a condition that has killed more than 5,000,000 cave bats in the Northeast, was first observed in West Virginia in January 2009. By the end of winter 2009-2010, WNS was documented in six counties: Greenbrier, Hardy, Jefferson, Mercer, Monroe, and Pocahontas. By the end of winter 2011-2012 when winter bat surveys were completed, WNS had been observed in 14 counties in West Virginia, including nearly all counties with significant cave resources. WNS has also been confirmed in Hellhole, Pendleton County, the state's most important bat hibernaculum. Program personnel assisted researchers from several institutions with White-nose Syndrome studies by collecting samples needed for their research projects; during winter 2011-2012, assistance was provided on 14 research projects addressing WNS. Because WNS can possibly be spread by people

visiting caves, biologists conducting bat surveys followed disinfection protocols for gear and clothing between cave trips. Winter cave entrance surveys were conducted in early 2011 to look for unusual bat activity associated with WNS (i.e., bats exiting caves during daylight hours in winter). Because WNS was quite widespread in the state by early 2012, fewer surveys were conducted this year and these focused mainly on areas where there was little information about the presence of WNS. Program personnel participated in numerous conference calls dealing with WNS and attended the 2012 White-nose Syndrome symposium via webinar.

In June 2012, female Virginia big-eared bats were monitored at the 10 known maternity colonies. Night vision equipment was used to count these cave-dwelling bats as they left their roost to feed in the evening. The number of bats counted this June (7,531 individuals) was up 0.9% over the 2011 count and the highest count on record. To date, no Virginia big-eared bats have been observed exhibiting the signs of WNS, and the summer data also suggest this species is not being impacted by White-nose Syndrome.

To gather data on the distribution and abundance of bats across the state and to document mortalities caused by WNS, the WVDNR and USFS began establishing bat monitoring routes across the state in 2009. In summer 2010, a total of 85 routes were run, most of these multiple times to determine variability and support statistical analyses. Routes covered a total of approximately 5,425 miles. In summer 2011, 81 of these routes were selected to be run again, some routes were run more times than in 2010 resulting in 5,990 miles of surveys in 2011. Effort in 2012 was similar to that in 2011. Assistance in conducting acoustic surveys has been provided by USFWS, WV Division of Highways, Oglebay Institute, The Freshwater Institute, National Park Service, the caving community, and other volunteers. In early 2012, analyses of the first three years of data began and are ongoing. Data gathered from this project will allow biologists to track changes in bat populations as WNS progresses.

WVDNR and USFWS personnel worked with Greer Limestone, Inc. to establish a monitoring plan to insure that quarry expansion in Germany Valley will not negatively impact important bat caves. Temperature and barometric pressure monitors were placed in Hellhole and Schoolhouse Cave, and a weekly report of the results of the monitoring is sent to the WVDNR and USFWS. A meeting was held in early 2012 to review data collected and to revise reporting criteria.

In summer 2011, a bachelor roost (all males) of Indiana bats was found under a bridge on the West Virginia Turnpike. This is the largest summer colony of this bat known in the state. These bats were monitored to determine seasonal activity patterns at this site to assist with planning bridge maintenance.

Program biologists continued to work with wind power developers to reduce bird and bat mortalities at wind farms. The program project leader currently serves on three technical advisory committees established by the Public Service Commission for projects in Greenbrier, Mineral, and Randolph counties.

Cheat Mountain Salamander

In late summer 2011, under a contract with the WVDNR, Dr. Thomas Pauley, Marshall University, conducted field investigations into the connectivity of known populations of this rare salamander found only in West Virginia. These data will be used to map potential Cheat Mountain salamander conservation areas. Additional studies were conducted in summer 2012, and the report on these efforts will be submitted to the WVDNR in fall 2012. Pauley has been monitoring a Cheat Mountain salamander population at Timberline Four Seasons Resort to look at impacts of ski slopes passing through a population of this salamander; data from this study were shared with the WVDNR. The WVDNR plans to fund a study of the genetics of this species in preparation for this work, WVDNR biologists collected tissue samples (tail clips) to increase the sample size for this study.

Flat-spired Three-toothed Land Snail

Biologists assisted the WV Division of Forestry in developing a timber sale on Coopers Rock State Forest that would protect the threatened flat-spired three-toothed land snail which occurs in the area (i.e., buffer zones around known and potential habitat). Data loggers were placed in the proposed timber sale area to collect pre-treatment data to evaluate the impacts of timber harvest buffer zones on the snail's habitat. Logging was conducted in early 2012 and temperature loggers were again deployed in May 2012 to gather temperature data following the timber harvest. A grant to assess genetic variability in populations of this snail was awarded and is ongoing. A consulting firm was hired, using a grant from the USFWS, to map potential habitat for this snail on Coopers Rock State Forest. This work was begun during this fiscal year and will be completed in fall 2012.

Allegheny Woodrats

Allegheny woodrats were monitored by WVDNR personnel at two long-term monitoring sites in summer 2011. Two woodrats were captured at one site; five were captured at the second site. An additional area of potential woodrat habitat was surveyed, but no woodrats were captured. In addition, woodrats and woodrat sign were noted during bat surveys conducted in caves. In 2011, a grant was awarded to survey woodrats at additional long-term monitoring sites during summer and fall. Six sites were monitored which resulted in the capture of 20 woodrats at four of the six sites. Genetic analysis of the West Virginia woodrat population was continued under a grant to UNC.

Miscellaneous

Numerous information requests from the public were answered, and popular articles were written on the state's threatened and endangered animal species. Program personnel reviewed WVDNR projects to assure compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act. Private landowners were assisted with the management and conservation of rare species on their lands. Television spots, newsletter articles, and other outreach projects were undertaken to promote awareness of the state's rare, threatened, and endangered species and of White Nose Syndrome.

Ornithology

Bald Eagle

Staff and volunteers monitored 38 bald eagle nest sites in 2012 in Grant, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Jackson, Jefferson, Mineral, Monongalia, Morgan, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Taylor, Tucker, and Tyler counties. Eighteen nests fledged at least one young, with an additional eight nests with possible/probable success. Twelve nest sites were not active or failed. Three new nests were located in 2012 in Jackson, Pendleton and Pocahontas counties. This species appears to be continuing a trend of increasing abundance and distribution in West Virginia.

There were numerous reports in 2012 of non-breeding birds in the state.

Christmas Bird Counts

Staff coordinated and supported three counts and participated in local counts statewide.

Golden Eagle

Personnel representing the WVDNR Wildlife Diversity and Game Management Units, WV State Parks, WV State Forests, the Monongahela National Forest, the U.S Army, West Virginia University, and private citizens maintained 32 trail camera locations established to assess the wintering golden eagle population in West Virginia (Figure 1). More than 100,000 trail camera images were recorded in the 2012 field season.

Image analysis is ongoing in cooperation with West Virginia University. Golden eagles were recorded at 30 trail camera locations. Trail cameras recorded 17 additional avian species and 15 mammal

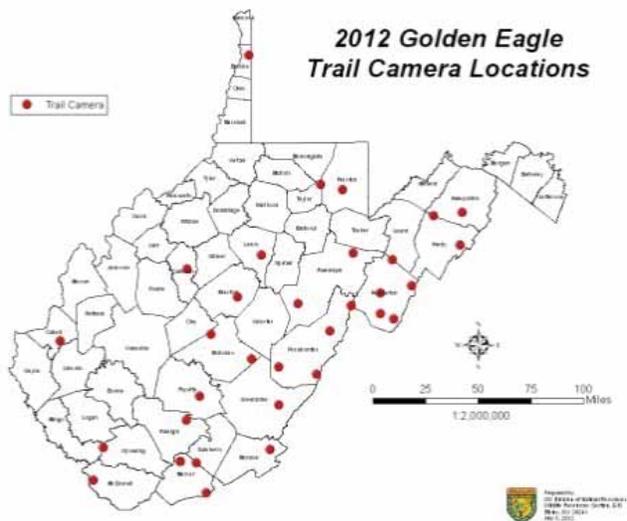


Figure 1: Golden eagle trail camera locations in West Virginia.

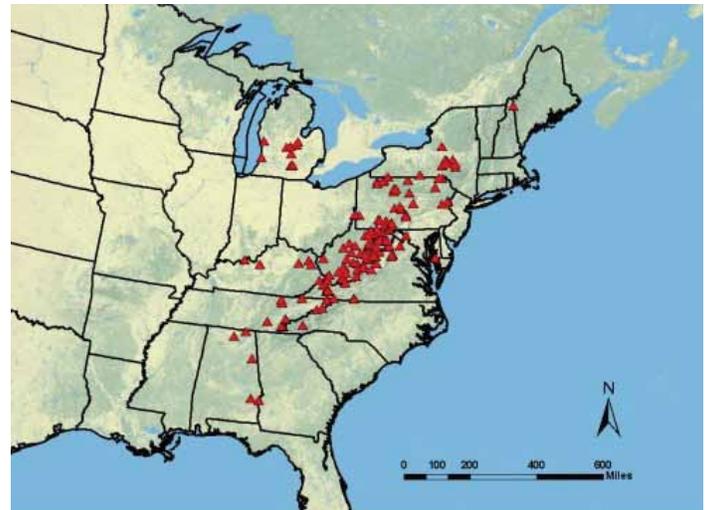


Figure 2: Golden eagle trail camera locations in the eastern U.S.

species. This project contributed information that expanded the known distribution of spotted skunks (*Spilogale putorius*) in West Virginia.

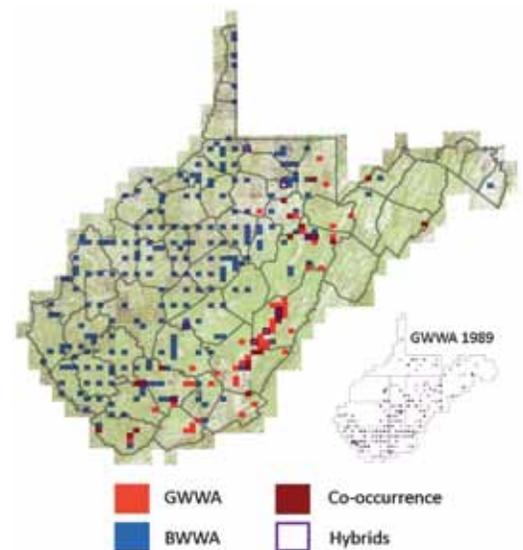
The ultimate goal is to conduct a non-invasive mark-recapture (using digital imagery analysis) study to determine the population size, density, and distribution in West Virginia. This project also provides the opportunity to estimate golden eagle population age structure and density. Information developed from this project will contribute to a larger trail camera assessment involving 10 states in the eastern U.S. and two Canadian provinces (Figure 2).

The WVDNR Wildlife Diversity Unit is a founding member of the Eastern Golden Eagle Working Group. This is an interstate, international, and interagency effort dedicated to 1) identifying, prioritizing, coordinating, and supporting research and research efforts that address conservation needs for eastern golden eagles, 2) to effectively conserve the eastern golden eagle population on breeding and wintering grounds and on its migratory pathways, and 3) raise conservation awareness about the golden eagle population in eastern North America. In 2011 the group published a manuscript in *The Auk* on the status and conservation of eastern golden eagles. The group is currently preparing a manuscript on the threats to avian scavengers for publication.

Golden-winged Warbler

Staff and volunteers coordinated and conducted point-count surveys for this species as part of a contract with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. In 2012, 115 points were surveyed. These and breeding bird atlas results continue to confirm a steep decline in distribution and abundance for this species in West Virginia.

Doctoral work by a WVU student working on management studies on the species was supported by a Cooperative Research Grant. 2012 was the final year of this project.



Golden-winged warbler, blue-winged warbler and their hybrids in West Virginia as of Fall 2012.

WVDNR/NRCS staff conducted 12 property visits and site assessments in Pocahontas County as part of the new USDA-sponsored "Working Lands for Wildlife" initiative. Out of 12 landowners contacted, eight have initiated contracts to manage for golden-winged warbler on their properties. Habitat management activities are currently under way on two of these properties. The contracts extend for five to six years.

Loggerhead Shrike

Staff monitored 13 historic/recently-active and four new loggerhead shrike sites in 2012 in Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Jefferson, Monroe, and Pocahontas counties. Shrikes were observed at seven of these sites. Successful breeding was only confirmed at a single site in southern Pocahontas County. An additional two sites in Monroe and Greenbrier counties had likely breeding attempts with unconfirmed results. There were three confirmed incidental shrike observations in Pendleton and Pocahontas counties during the breeding season. One of these three sites will be monitored in 2013.

In addition, personnel conducted a loggerhead shrike-specific point-count survey of southern Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties. A total of 459 points were completed, and yielded birds at only two new sites (included in the total above). This survey helps to corroborate our assessment that loggerhead shrikes are an extremely scarce and declining component of eastern and southeastern West Virginia's grassland habitats.

Upland Sandpiper

Staff identified a site near Cabins, W.Va., in Grant County with a pair of upland sandpipers. Subsequent reports suggest that breeding was successful. The site will be monitored by WVDNR staff in 2013.

WV Breeding Bird Atlas II

The fourth field season of the six-year atlas project was successfully completed. Staff coordinated agency activities, volunteer efforts, and contracts and grants to assist the project and completed numerous days of field work to gather atlas data for breeding confirmations and abundance counts.

2012 highlights:

- Abundance point-count surveys completed on 108 priority blocks
- 24,699 individual bird observations submitted in 2012 to-date, exceeding 2011 totals by 64 percent
- A targeted atlas effort in coalfield counties resulted in 41 completed priority blocks
- Blockbusting events were held at North Bend State Park and McClintic WMA

WV Bird Records Committee

Staff represented WVDNR on the committee.

Winter Backyard Bird Survey

The survey was continued, and Fall 2012 marks the beginning of the 24th year of the count. Staff will prepare a report and press release in spring 2014 to mark the 25th anniversary of the program.



Talus Communities like these provide a home for a variety of rare plants and animals.

ECOLOGY PROGRAM

The Ecology group continued work to characterize, classify, map, and protect the natural terrestrial communities in West Virginia. During the fiscal year, DNR ecologists sampled 84 vegetation plots across the state, concentrating on specialized community types including lithomorphic habitats and marl wetlands.

Ecology staff also made significant contributions to our knowledge of rare plant species in West Virginia. Numerous rare plant species were documented in and on route to vegetation plots; information on these occurrences is regularly screened and added to the Biotics database maintained by the Natural Heritage Program. The snow lichen (*Stereocaulon glaucescens*) was collected for the first time in West Virginia from a vegetation plot at Judy Rocks in Pendleton County. The globally rare Roan Mountain sedge (*Carex roanensis*) was located for the first time on the Monongahela National Forest and the species was subsequently designated as a USFS Region 9 Sensitive Species. Ecology staff managed a contract with Pennsylvania Natural Heritage botanists to survey rare plants in West Virginia and entered all the results in the Biotics database. The Pennsylvania botanists and WVDNR ecologists independently discovered populations of screw stem (*Bartonia paniculata*) at Sleepy Creek WMA; this inconspicuous native plant species was not previously known in West Virginia, but has probably been at the site, undetected, for millennia. Ecologists traveled to herbaria at WVU, Morgantown and the New York Botanical Gardens, Bronx, NY, to work on taxonomic problems of difficult plant groups in West Virginia, including the large genus *Carex* (sedges). In addition, ecology staff supervised volunteers who contributed substantially to GIS mapping, data entry, and field inventory of rare plants.



Ecology staff participated in numerous cooperative projects with partners. All contract requirements for the National Wetland Condition Assessment, begun in fiscal 2010-2011, were completed. A DNR ecologist participated in a working group of the Save Our Seeds network to discuss the establishment of a Mid-Atlantic Regional Seedbank for germplasm conservation and plant materials development for restoration and land management. Ecologists reviewed descriptions of Groups, a new middle level in the hierarchy of the U.S. National Vegetation Classification. Ecologists assisted partners with NatureServe and USGS to map the vegetation along the portions of the Appalachian Trail in West Virginia. Ecologists sampled and classified vegetation at the National Conservation Training Center in a cooperative agreement. WVDNR continues to be an important partner in the Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative (CASRI).

Studies continue statewide to identify our rarest wetland communities.

Ecology staff participated in a NEAFWA expert group to assess climate change impacts on wildlife habitats, and contributed to the Northeast Regional National Climate Assessment. Data sharing with federal, state, and private partners such as The Nature Conservancy is a regular and critical part of the connection between ecological work at WVDNR and on-the-ground conservation.

Ecology staff participated in numerous outreach events including leading field trips for the Wildflower Pilgrimage, West Virginia Native Plant Society, and the Brooks Bird Club; teaching Master Naturalist classes on wetlands, non-native invasive species, and plant identification; giving a presentation on marl marshes to a watershed group in the Eastern panhandle; representing WVDNR at the state government session of the 2012 WV GIS conference; and staffing booths at the Mountain State Forest Festival.

Ecology staff attended ArcGIS 2 & 3 training and R Programming for Statistical Analysis training at WVU, Morgantown; Advanced GPS Methods training at the National Conservation Training Center; a meeting of the Fire Learning Network at the Mountain Institute on Spruce Knob; the Biodiversity Without Boundaries Conference in Portland, OR; and the 2012 West Virginia GIS Conference at WVU, Morgantown.

Scientific Collecting Permits, Environmental Review and Data Management

Scientific Collecting Permits

Staff issued 309 Scientific Collecting Permits for a variety of projects including T&E species monitoring/surveys, graduate student research, stream monitoring, and falconry. One Scientific Collecting Permit was denied. Fees for collecting permits during the fiscal year totaled \$32,050.

Data Requests

Staff responded in writing to 727 requests (table following) and many other requests by e-mail and telephone.

Type of request	Number
Coal Mining Lands inquiries	155
Abandoned Mine Land reviews	79
Wind turbine projects	2
Natural gas projects	173
Division of Highways	140
Other	178
Total	727

Staff attended several meetings and conducted site visits with private consultants and state agencies regarding gas pipelines, transmission lines, and highway projects.

Rare Species Database

Rare species and plant community data continue to be entered into the Biotics database, with records for threatened and endangered species being the priority.

Miscellaneous

Staff attended the NatureServe Conservation Conference in Portland, Oregon in April 2012. In addition, staff attended the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Conference in April 2012.

Botany

Endangered Plants

Throughout the 2012 growing season, monitoring surveys were conducted for four federally listed endangered and two federally listed threatened plant species with partial financial support from the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act, Section 6.

Running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*)

Wildlife Diversity Unit (WDU) personnel worked closely with U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to better define the most likely locations for suitable habitat for this endangered species using a Maximum Entropy technique. This model was used to guide surveys by consulting botanists working for clients seeking permits for construction projects such as pipelines, power lines, and drilling operations. Staff participated in the Running Buffalo Clover (RBC) Recovery Team conference calls and email communications to coordinate the continued recovery of the species. In 2012, three known, extant RBC sites (Cotton Hill, Franklin, and McGee Run) were monitored to document the status of those populations of RBC, and two new populations were discovered and surveyed on private property. Significant, healthy populations of RBC were found at all five sites. Training was provided for consulting botanists to learn how to identify and effectively survey for RBC. We also consulted with USFWS personnel of the West Virginia field office regarding suitable survey periods for RBC and all the other T&E plant species found in West Virginia.

Shale Barren Rockcress (*Arabis serotina*)

Shale barren rockcress (SBR) continues to be threatened by the consequences of climate change and the invasion of non-native invasive plant species, such as spotted knap weed, Japanese stilt grass, and garlic mustard. Four populations (Brushy Run, Broad Run, Swamp Run, and Sugar Run) were surveyed for SBR, and the boundaries of those populations were delineated. Coordination continued with US Navy Information Operations Command personnel regarding the management of the largest population in West Virginia of SBR, located on the Little Fork Shale Barren. We continue to assist their personnel in developing a plan for the control of the invasive species Japanese stiltgrass on and near the barren.

Harperella (*Ptilimnium nodosum*)

Over the past ten years, harperella declines on three streams in Morgan County (Cacapon River, Sleepy Creek, and Back Creek) were documented. Recent data indicates that sometimes dramatic changes in the structure of the streams, likely due to changes in the “flashiness” and intensity of floods, and perhaps the effects of freeze-thaw production of ice jams in winter months is altering or removing the habitat in those streams, silt/sand/cobble bars. Fortunately, harperella also thrives on cracks in bedrock, silt accumulations between boulders along the stream, and sometimes even clay banks along the streams. Staff assisted George Washington University in monitoring sites where harperella was planted to restore the species. Limited success was observed with plants surviving at one site on the Cacapon River, and at five sites on Sleepy Creek. Monitoring surveys were completed in 2012 on Cacapon River and Back Creek. Staff continued consultation with researchers from across the range of harperella to coordinate efforts and exchange data.

Small Whorled Pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*)

The small whorled pogonia (SWP), an orchid species, was added to the U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants in 1982 as an endangered species. In 1994 it was reclassified to threatened status. It had not been located for more than a decade, but was re-discovered again in August 2012, when a consulting botanist discovered a new population of SWP in Randolph County, on the Monongahela National Forest, and within the path of a segment of a planned federal highway. Eight new plants were documented and confirmed. We are consulting with the USFWS, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the staff of the Monongahela National Forest to better define potential habitat for SWP.

Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*)

Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*), a federally threatened species, is found on four rivers in West Virginia: Bluestone, Gauley, Greenbrier, and Meadow. There is also one site in a wet meadow along Dingess Branch in the town of Glen Daniel. Another site is in the town of Eccles along Millers Camp Branch of the Marsh Fork of the Coal River. We believe it has been extirpated on the Buckhannon, New and Monongahela Rivers.

Staff agreed more than 10 years ago to employ a monitoring methodology employed by all states where the species occurs. In light of monitoring protocol changes by other states, we decided we would suspend monitoring *S. virginiana* and reevaluate our monitoring methodology.

We also began evaluating whether *S. virginiana* could be surveyed in winter.

Documented sites where all the other native or non-native *Spiraea* could be found in West Virginia were visited. Winter specimens of all species of *Spiraea* were collected and identification keys were written. Those same sites will be visited in November, and a final report on results will be completed.

Rare Plant Surveys

Botanists from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy were contracted to search for selected rare plants in West Virginia in 2012 and 2013. In 2012, we asked them to revisit known extant occurrences of Canby's mountain lover, also known as rat stripper (*Paxistima canbyi*), an evergreen sub-shrub that usually occurs naturally on calcareous sandstone and limestone. It has recently been threatened by an insect, the euonymous scale. They assessed the status of known populations in West Virginia to determine whether there was evidence of the scale insect on those plants. The field research and compilation of their data is still on-going. Additional rare plant species will be selected for field surveys in 2013.

Coordination and Cooperation with State Botanists

In an essential partnership that keeps critical data flowing into our Natural Heritage databases, personnel continued work with curators of herbaria throughout the state. Curators of plant collections at West Virginia University, Marshall University, West Virginia Wesleyan University, and Davis and Elkins College continue to work closely with our staff in updating, correcting, and cooperatively distributing botanical voucher specimen data and distribution data as requested. We continue to work closely with them in updating the Curatorial Database System.

Zoology Program

Ten cooperative research grants totaling \$63,780 were awarded this year. These grants included new projects, planned extensions and continuations, and solicited analyses. Projects included in-depth study of the ecology of high-elevation grazing allotments on the Monongahela National Forest to establish management guidelines benefitting the golden-winged warbler, intensive surveys for the loggerhead shrike in two mountain counties where historical populations existed, and botanical surveys to document rare plants in high-quality habitats throughout the state. Other research focusing on life history and distribution information included surveys for Allegheny woodrats in areas of historical population significance and near blanket coverage of breeding bird assemblages in southwestern counties for inclusion in the ongoing West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas. Project extensions were also funded to complete the statewide crayfish survey, to opportunistically study the dynamics of an invasive crayfish species on a known population of native species, and to aid the development of a translocation program for Eastern Hellbenders using captive-reared animals. Additionally, one cooperative education grant totaling \$6,995 was awarded this year to support a project establishing a Junior Naturalist program for youth of the Eastern Panhandle.

Staff completed review, prioritization and revision of the West Virginia conservation ranks for all species of mammals within the state. These new ranks will eventually be included in the revision of the West Virginia Wildlife Conservation Action Plan.

Staff participated in and provided comments on Competitive State Wildlife Grant proposal development for a Northeast Region timber rattlesnake health assessment project.

Staff hosted seminars at the Elkins Operations Center providing updates on the development of statewide conservation focus areas by personnel from the Freshwater Institute, and on the status of a statewide survey to document the status and distribution of all West Virginia crayfish species.

Staff engaged in surveys for Cheat Mountain salamanders on USFWS property, green salamanders on West Virginia State Forests, and salamander assemblages at selected cave entrances. Staff provided assistance in other program projects including summer bat acoustic surveys, bird species surveys in conjunction with Cornell University (golden-winged warbler) and the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (NA Breeding Bird Survey), and collection of data for the ongoing West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas.

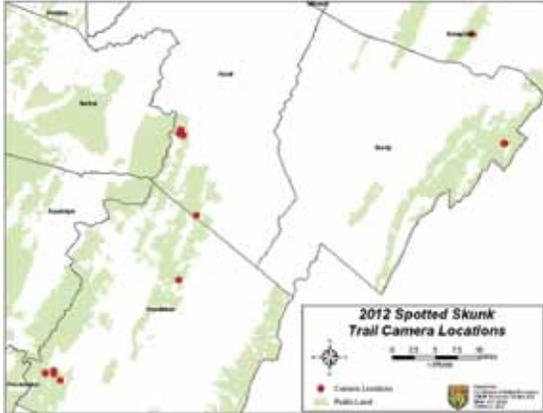


Figure 1. Locations of spotted skunk trail camera surveys in 2012.

Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*)

In 2012 Wildlife Diversity staff used trail cameras and live traps to survey for spotted skunks. Trail cameras were operated at 11 locations for a total of 274 camera trap nights (Figure 1). No spotted skunks were recorded but seven mammal species were recorded including two new Allegheny woodrat occurrences. Live traps were used in conjunction with trail cameras at two locations for a total effort of 144 live trap nights. No spotted skunks were captured but three other mammal species were captured including an Allegheny woodrat at a previously unknown location.

WV Butterfly Atlas

Work on planning the atlas began in September 2011. Tasks completed include: volunteer materials (handbook, data sheets, and resource handouts), research and purchase of field gear, research on gypsy moth spraying on MNF, and volunteer training presentation and materials. Due to logistical and personnel considerations, planned efforts to perform

detailed statistical surveys on the Monongahela National Forest were altered to a simpler and more time efficient model. A lepidopteran monitoring workshop was attended in Toledo, Ohio. Historic lepidopteran records from West Virginia Natural Heritage were reviewed; taxonomy was revised and geographic coordinates were corrected or generated. Some other historic records were collected from private sources.

The first training workshop was held in April 2012, with an additional one in June resulting in 27 trained volunteers. Vouchers were received from several volunteers in June.

Several surveys at historic sites for rare lepidopterans were conducted in Monongahela National Forest counties. Light trapping for moths was conducted in Monongalia County.

Specimen identification and data entry will take place during fall and winter. Regional lepidopteran experts will confirm identifications on approximately 10 percent of the vouchers (difficult IDs, state, and county records).

Aquatic Community Assessment and Restoration Program

Fishes

Small stream work continued to be de-emphasized during the period as work focused on developing protocols and sampling strategies for large non-commercial rivers. An initiative to target potential Marcellus Shale extraction sites was also continued; surveys to collect baseline fish, mussel and water quality data were conducted, and conductivity loggers were deployed in four streams in the Middle Island Creek drainage to monitor possible effects of this gas development. A working classification of fish communities was further refined from data collected on small streams; this work was presented at the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies held in Charleston.

Sixty-seven stream surveys were completed in 17 subwatersheds fulfilling the needs for monitoring and assessment. Among those surveys, assistance was provided to the Environmental Coordination, Coldwater Fisheries, Warmwater Management units (District 5) of the Division, the Morris Creek Watershed Association, Trout Unlimited, West Virginia Wesleyan College, and West Virginia University. In addition, four boat surveys were completed to help establish a protocol for non-wadeable stream assessments and a monitoring plan to be implemented in succeeding years.

Mussels

A long-term monitoring site was established on Meathouse Fork of Middle Island Creek in Doddridge County. Only 277 live individuals of 11 species were observed with very limited recruitment. The landowner expressed concerns over illegal dumping by Marcellus Gas operations as evidenced by “slugs of thick dark water coming down the creek on weekends”.

A long-term monitoring site was established on the Little Kanawha River at Burning Springs, Wirt County. Quantitative sampling resulted in 13 species and an estimated mussel density of 6/m². Qualitative sampling resulted in 16 species and 1006 mussels observed. A total of 17 species were observed at this site. The snuffbox, a federally endangered species, had a population estimate of 1400 individuals.

In September, 2010, 201 federally endangered fanshells, *Cyprogenia stegaria*, were stocked into the Kanawha River at Kanawha Falls and at Muskingum Island on the Ohio River in Wood County. All mussels were uniquely tagged on both valves using shellfish tags and measured (average 43.7 mm, range 21.3 to 75.5 mm) prior to being “planted” within a permanent mark/recapture site. The mussels were from the Licking River in Kentucky. In September 2011 these populations were assessed and appeared to be doing well. Only one dead tagged individual was observed at each location. Mussels at both locations appeared to be in good condition and good growth was noted. Additional tagging effort was also conducted at the Kanawha Falls long-term monitoring site with an additional 112 individuals of 21 species being tagged.

The Ohio River Restoration Project for mussels continued. This project is funded from a settlement for the 1999 mussel and fish kill allegedly caused by the Eramet/Elkem chemical spill near Parkersburg. In cooperation with the USFWS, much time was spent collecting mussel broodstock for propagation. The Wildlife Diversity Unit propagates mussels by inoculating host fish with larval mussels and holding them in cages until the juvenile mussels detach and can be harvested from the bottoms of the cages. This year, 118 juvenile mussels were tagged and stocked at the head of Neal Island. The mapleleaf mussels produced in 2011 were held over-winter at the Belleville Complex. This spring, the surviving mussels were moved to a cage placed into the French Creek Embayment of the Ohio River for further grow-out. Juvenile butterfly and pink heelsplitter mussels were received from Genoa National Fish Hatchery and also placed into cages at the French Creek Embayment location for continued grow-out. This year, propagation of seven mussel species was attempted. With the success observed with the mapleleaf mussels last year at the French Creek Embayment, most of the 2012 cage culture was conducted here. Only four cages were placed at the Stonewall Resort State Park Marina location. In July 2011, mussel salvage was conducted on the Allegheny River in PA. Resulting from this salvage, a total of 989 mussels of 10 species were stocked into the restoration area on the Ohio River. Elephant ear mussels were collected from the Greenup Pool of the Ohio River for use as broodstock with additional animals being placed next to the fanshell restoration area near Muskingum Island, adding valuable broodstock to the Belleville Pool.

The Dunkard Creek Restoration Project was initiated. This project resulted from settlement of the fish and mussel kill by Consol Energy in Monongalia County. By August 2011, four of the six planned long-term monitoring sites were established. No live native mussels were found. The exotic Asiatic clam was found to be recovering along with a few native fingernail clams. Broodstock for 2012 mussel restoration work was collected during the fall of 2011 and held over-winter at the WVDNR Belleville Complex. This broodstock was used during the spring of 2012 to inoculate host fish which were subsequently stocked into Dunkard Creek. Bluegill were used to host larvae of fat mucket and creeper mussels and were stocked at two locations on Dunkard Creek. Freshwater drum were electro-fished from the Monongahela River and used to host larvae of pink heelsplitter mussels and were subsequently stocked at two additional locations on Dunkard Creek.

In 2006 and 2007, mussels salvaged from the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania were used to re-establish mussel populations at two locations in the Monongahela River, which were historically heavily damaged by acid mine drainage. In August 2011, a quantitative assessment was conducted at these two locations.

Staff continued to deal with issues, including landowner complaints on Middle Island Creek, where potential exists for mussels to be stranded out of water due to water withdrawal by gas well drillers. Coordination continued with WVDEP to address these issues.

A contract with WVDOH was entered into such that the Diversity Unit would monitor endangered species relocated from the Gassaway Bridge demolition site. This resulted in two clubshell mussels being placed into the Sutton long-term monitoring site on the Elk River which will be monitored over the next three years.

Additional mussel surveys were conducted on the following streams: Little Kanawha, Little Kanawha tributaries (Cedar Creek, Saltlick, Oil Creek, Sand Fork, Reedy Creek, North Fork Hughes River), Middle Island Creek, Middle Island tributaries (Meathouse Fork, McElroy Creek, Buffalo Creek, Bluestone Creek), West Fork River tributaries (Leading Creek, Stonecoal Creek, Salem Fork, Tenmile Creek), Tygart Valley River, North Fork West Virginia Fork, Fish Creek, and Strange Creek of Elk River.

Staff attended the Ohio River Valley Mollusk Group and annual COE maintenance dredging meetings. Staff assisted White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery's Freshwater Folk Festival. Staff attended the bi-annual workshop of the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society. A professional development course, Freshwater Mussels of West Virginia: Life History and Identification, was taught through the West Virginia University Environmental Research Center. A workshop on mussel survey techniques and identification was provided to new Diversity Unit employees. Staff attended a "Structured Decision Making Workshop", at supervisor training, the Mid-Atlantic Aquatic Biologist Meeting at Cacapon State Park, and the Marcellus Shale Session of the NEFWA Meeting in Charleston.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT

West Virginia Stream Restoration and Enhancement Program Physical Habitat Restoration

Personnel from the Technical Support Unit were very active during the year coordinating and participating in efforts to assess and restore aquatic habitats in the state. Staff participated in the field reconnaissance of degraded streams, developed and submitted grant applications for inventory and research projects, and coordinated the implementation of such projects. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) has continued with the cooperative agreement with the Natural Resources Analysis Center at West Virginia University to assist in the development and implementation of the West Virginia Stream Restoration Program. The program has selected two watersheds, Upper Shavers Fork of Cheat and Beaver Creek of Blackwater, for initial project development. A major construction project was completed on Beaver Creek of Shavers Fork, removing a 25-year old passage barrier for brook trout and other aquatic species. Staff has taken several field visits to monitor this project. Pre-construction planning and coordination continued to establish new fish habitat on Beaver Creek of Blackwater. Construction on this project will occur in the next fiscal year. Other streams were assessed as potential sites for additional future work. Staff has coordinated another fish passage project on Upper Shavers on Oats Run. We will utilize an innovative baffled culvert insert and some relatively minor habitat alteration of the channel to reconnect a significant reach of spawning habitat. Construction will begin in September of 2012.

Acid Stream Restoration Program

Management of the Division's Acid Stream Restoration Program continued. This nationally recognized, publicly visible and highly popular program has restored, and now annually maintains, water quality and sport fisheries in over 392 miles of 85 streams and five lakes impacted by acid precipitation. Restoration has been accomplished through annual, direct application of limestone sand to acid-impacted streams and through the operation of two, self-feeding limestone drum stations. The total program budget is approximately \$350,000 annually. Seventy-five percent of program support accrues from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The remaining 25 percent accrues from nonfederal sources including investment income from the West Virginia Wildlife Endowment Fund administered by the WVDNR and additional financial support from Trout Unlimited, Plum Creek Timber Company, and MeadWestvaco Corporation. Without the Acid Stream Restoration Program, sport fisheries would be lost in these waters. Public fisheries in these restored waters sustain an additional 341,000 days of sportfishing and \$24 million of associated economic impact annually.

Planning Program

The fish and wildlife planner coordinated with the other members of the Division's budget team to monitor the status of the Hunting and Fishing License Fund and the Wildlife Endowment Fund. Assistance was provided in developing the Division's annual Budget Narrative. Fiscal notes were prepared and submitted on legislation during the 2012 legislative session.

Coordination Program

Field and/or office coordination continued on the US Army Corps of Engineers' (COE) Bluestone Dam Hydropower Development Study.

Continued action (e.g., compliance coordination with currently licensed hydropower projects; impact analysis, development of mitigation plans and document review associated with relicensing activities) was taken on each of the following proposed or licensed hydropower projects at reservoirs or river locks and dams: R. C. Byrd, Willow Island, and locks and dams on the Ohio River; Summersville Dam on the Gauley River; Sutton Dam on the Elk River; Dam Sites 4 and 5 and Jennings Randolph Dam on the North Branch of the Potomac River; Millville Dam on the Shenandoah River; Hawks Nest Dam and Claytor Lake Dam on the New River; Lake Lynn Dam on the Cheat River; R. D. Bailey Dam on the Guyandotte River; Opekiska, Hildebrand, and Morgantown lock and dams on the Monongahela River; and Tygart Dam on the Tygart Valley River. An unused, existing hydro-generator installed at Stonewall Jackson Dam has been proposed for commercial use. A preliminary permit was issued for that project. A pump-storage hydropower project has been proposed for an unnamed tributary of the North Fork of Patterson Creek in Grant County near Mount Storm, and a preliminary permit has been issued for the proposed project. The Cass Hydroelectric Project proposed for Deer Creek of the Greenbrier River is currently on hold after the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission refused to accept the applicant's Draft License Application due to numerous deficiencies. The Jennings Randolph Project was licensed and construction is anticipated to begin in 2013.

West Virginia continues to receive wind project inquiries. One new inquiry has been made within the past fiscal year. We have been contacted and initiated coordination with the Laurel Mountain Wind Project to assist with post-construction surveys and the development of an adaptive management plan for the facility. We are participating in the Technical Advisory Committee on three projects. Two new projects are completed and/or operating. Several other projects are in the final stages of permit completion but on hold likely because tax incentives are due to expire this year. Presently, there are five functioning wind projects operating in West Virginia. These projects generate 580 megawatts of power.

The Coordination Program continued participation in the National Environmental Policy Act mitigation process for several major highway projects and numerous smaller highway, bridge and culvert improvement projects. Adoption of more environmentally sound design standards for culvert sizing and installation will significantly reduce the impacts of road crossings on West Virginia streams. As a result of continuing mitigation resulting from the U.S. Route 35 upgrade, wetlands were developed on Chief Cornstalk Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and on adjacent land that will come under agency management. The second stream mitigation portion of this upgrade was implemented. A field visit was completed to identify areas of concern at both the wetland sites and the stream sites. Coordination continues on repairing the wetland mitigation construction sites. Field reviews were conducted to evaluate the monitoring reports for the constructed wetland mitigation site for the U.S. Route 10 upgrade in Logan County.

State Clean Water Act (CWA) certifications continue to be reviewed under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). Additional reviews were conducted and comments provided relative to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Considerable mitigation in the form of avoidance, reduction, re-creation, enhancement, and compensation has been secured as a result of these efforts. Individual CWA, Section 404/10 permit actions were reviewed and coordinated. They include highway reviews, wetland and stream permit reviews, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and WV Conservancy Agency (WVCA) project reviews. Of considerable interest has been the Summit Bechtel Family National Boy Scout Reserve being constructed in Raleigh and Fayette Counties. The development of this National Jamboree and High Adventure camp has impacted significant wetland acreage which is being mitigated through on-site creation, banks, and a potentially significant educational program. Several restoration projects were reviewed under Nationwide Permit #27 which are not included in the aforementioned number. The Tygart Valley Conservation District, with the cooperation of NRCS, began a significant compensatory mitigation habitat improvement project on Upper Shavers Fork in the Summer of 2011. The project is scheduled to be completed in the Fall of 2012. Staff has dedicated considerable time and effort in office and field reviews to this compensatory mitigation project. Staff is working closely with West Virginia University and the Conservation District to implement a comprehensive science based monitoring and evaluation study for this project.

Significant time continues to be spent working with the WVDEP and the COE developing a science-based assessment protocol for stream and wetland disturbance activities and a CWA In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program for the state. The In-Lieu program agreement was signed by the COE in the spring of 2006 and is currently a viable mitigation option. Staff serves on the Interagency Review Team (IRT). The IRT reviews and evaluates mitigation banking proposals and mitigation projects submitted by the In-Lieu Fee program. Staff were involved in field testing and review of a "Functional Assessment Approach for High Gradient Streams" developed by the COE. This assessment tool is currently being field validated by staff from COE.

Staff responded to requests from the WV Division of Highways (WVDOH) and numerous watershed groups for information on permitting issues relating to wetland disturbance, mitigation obligations, permit compliance, Natural Stream Design and other issues. Staff continued to assist the Williamstown Woman's Club with their wetland enhancement and boardwalk project in downtown Williamstown. The was completed and the project will be dedicated in the Summer of 2012. Working with WVDOH, staff negotiated a new mitigation plan for Corridor H, which included acceptance of 132 acres of pre-existing wetlands as credit, the establishment of truck pull-offs for limestone fines placement for treatment of tributaries of acid impacted Beaver Creek, creation of public access and parking areas, as well as fee simple purchase of the west bank which will streamline future facilitate enhancement projects.

Staff attended field reviews and provided design input for the development of a mitigation enhancement project on Edwards Run WMA. The goal of the enhancement is to create additional spotted turtle (state species of concern) habitat and stabilize stream banks. Work continues with NRCS on Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program Plans for private farms as requested by district staff. The NRCS' Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is much reduced. Staff assisted NRCS in the development of their "conservation practice" sheets and review of WRP projects across the state. Coordination continued on proposed flood control/water supply impoundments in Hardy County.

Significant time continues to be spent implementing the CWA Regional Permit to assist landowners with small stream restoration and management activities. Approximately 77 landowner stream plans have been received and reviewed during this reporting period.

Significant time was spent reviewing Nationwide Permits (NWP) and submitting comments, when appropriate. Staff has committed significant resources reviewing and commenting on their re-issuance. Several meetings were held to discuss proposed modifications to the NWP and suggestions were made to the COE, EPA and WVDEP for proposed regional conditions to protect aquatic resources.

Staff worked with the NRCS on three dam removals on the West Fork River. It is the goal to return approximately 25 miles of the river to a free-flowing state.

Staff coordinated with the WVCA on a Natural Stream Restoration project for the Island Creek watershed in Logan County. The first phase of this project involving partial flood plain restoration was completed. Environmental assessment continues on waste disposal sites for a COE flood protection project for the lower Island Creek drainage.

Technical assistance relative to fish and wildlife continues to be provided to the WVDEP's mitigation development program and biologists continue to review surface mine permit applications; approximately 260 mine pre-plans were reviewed.

Significant time was spent working on stream restoration plans and coordinating mitigation plans for mine impacts to aquatic ecosystems. Assistance was provided to WVDEP in identifying potential aquatic improvement projects that could be completed by mining companies in-lieu of administrative penalties for violations. Staff participated in field reviews and provided comments for the Regional Permit for Abandoned Mine Lands.

Significant time was spent working on wetland mitigation banking. The state currently has three operational banks with several others in various stages of development.

Work continued to increase the agency's capacity to protect the state's wetland resources. USEPA grants are directed toward refining wetland distribution information, assessing wetland ecological integrity and functional value and planning for long-term wetland monitoring and mitigation. As a result of EPA wetland development grant funding, we have developed a Level II rapid assessment tool called the WV Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure (WVWRAP) as well as a wetland database. With the continuation of grant funding, we have two survey teams in the field performing the WVWRAP on a probabilistic sample of 300 additional wetlands across the state. We have completed the re-registration of the National Wetland Inventory wetlands and are working to facilitate access to it. We are continuing work on developing a wetland functional assessment model. In cooperation with WVDEP we developed a WV Wetland Program Plan to offer strategic guidance to the state's wetland program over the next five years.

Project personnel continue participating in various USFWS projects. Work has begun on resurrecting the Ohio River Islands Land Protection Plan and providing input on the Canaan Valley Habitat Management Plan. Coordination continues with minor projects requiring NEPA review for the USFS, Monongahela National Forest (FS).

Staff served on steering committees for several conferences on habitat restoration and water quality. Staff serves on several inter-agency committees including the Inter-agency Review Team (mitigation banking, in-lieu fee), the Water Gaging Council, West Virginia Water Research Institute and the NRCS State Technical Committee for Farm Bill programs. Staff served on the deer committee which was established to revise the five-year deer management plan.

Beginning this year, staff responsibilities have expanded to provide coordination with the Marcellus Shale Gas industry in an attempt to mitigate impacts to our charge resources. Staff reviewed various applications for oil and gas related activities, including well locations, pipeline activities and midstream plant construction. Technical support was provided to DEP Office of Oil and Gas and to Waste and Water concerning impacts to fish and wildlife associated with oil and gas production and transmission.

Technical assistance was provided to DEP concerning stream impacts at a midstream gas processing facility at Mobley, Wetzel County.

Staff offers assistance to other sections and participates in numerous game and fish management activities including but not limited to National Hunting and Fishing Day, chronic wasting disease check stations, fish surveys, and deer counts.

Biometrics/Geographic Information System (GIS) Program

Technical Support Unit staff provided routine installation, maintenance and support of computer hardware, software, and peripherals for the WRS funded by traditional sources including grants and contracts (USFWS and USEPA).

Staff continued assisting with new and ongoing WRS projects and activities. Activities included performing data processing; project design and analysis consulting; conducting data analysis; preparing paper and electronic map products; technical training; computer maintenance; and support for WRS budgeting, personnel and inventory.

Annual routine projects supported included managing the WRS's work report system, producing game harvest and trout stocking summaries, summarizing spring gobbler survey results, summarizing responses from the grouse cooperator survey, summarizing bow hunter survey results, processing antlerless deer applications for eligibility, summarizing statewide hunter prospects and mast surveys, summarizing accomplishments for the Game Management Unit, and preparing federal aid vouchers and monthly summaries for all projects. Maintaining and managing hunter and boater databases and providing time and cost reporting services to the Law Enforcement Section were continued.

A Web-based tool was deployed in cooperation with NRCS and USFWS to develop a Web-based tool to provide rare species data to assist District Conservationists in protecting these species as they install NRCS conservation practices.

GIS staff provided training and technical assistance to WRS staff on GIS and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) data acquisition and dataset development, GPS data management, GIS application use, cartography, large-format printing, and spatial data analysis. Existing GPS collection, processing, and organization procedures were further refined to help streamline the tracking of GPS data collection activities. These geospatial services were provided for WRS projects operating statewide to ensure the collection of well-documented and accurate locations of field survey data. GIS staff members have deployed GIS capabilities in district offices and with cooperating agencies and provided ongoing staff instruction as requested.

GIS staff is maintaining and managing over three terabytes of natural resource base mapping information ranging from statewide aerial photography, satellite imagery, topographic maps, soil surveys, geology, elevation models for visualization and watershed modeling, streams, wetlands, public fishing lakes, demographics, political boundaries, land use/land cover, and other miscellaneous natural resource datasets. Use of these GIS datasets by agency staff continues to grow and become incorporated into the daily workflow and basic analysis of project data for management of state lands.

All of this natural resource GIS data is maintained in a central database server used to store and share data and project management information throughout the agency. This secure central database server is available to agency staff and cooperating agencies across the Internet, enabling data processing, spatial analysis, and cartographic expertise at a central office to be available cost-effectively throughout the agency. Database management and application development progressed in a continually evolving GIS program.

Significant projects include:

Game Management Plan Revisions

Biometrics staff continued to provide assistance to Game Management staff with data development, spatial analysis, and cartography as part of a series of ongoing Game Management plans.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Data analysis and mapping services supported the ongoing Chronic Wasting Disease monitoring efforts.

Wildlife Management Area Mapping

GIS staff continued development of spatial databases for mapping WMA boundaries and facilities. These data are used for natural resource planning and producing maps for the public. Many of these maps were provided to the public in September 2012.

White-Nose Syndrome

Biometrics staff assisted Wildlife Diversity staff with the implementation of an expanded fourth year of a statewide bat road surveys. Laptop computers fitted with ultrasonic acoustic receivers and GPS units were used by staff and volunteers to increase statewide acoustic route coverage. Acoustic bat call recordings were analyzed to help determine changes in bat populations and habitat use.

National Hunting and Fishing Days

GIS staff helped develop Stonewall Resort State Park maps, brochures, and displays for National Hunting and Fishing Days.

Rare Species Distribution Models

Work continued to expand the number of species and validate species distribution models to estimate the statewide distribution of 250 species and 25 habitats in the WV Wildlife Conservation Action Plan.

Recreational Resources Mapping

Staff initiated work to develop/enhance a web tool to provide the public increased access to Wildlife Resources Section facilities including WMAs, stream access, and float trips.

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