

WEST VIRGINIA

DNR

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



almost heaven[®]

WEST VIRGINIA
DNR

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Websites

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Governor, State of West Virginia

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Director, Division of Natural Resources

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Chief, Administration Section

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Natural Resources Commissioners

Jeffrey S. Bowers – *Sugar Grove*
Gregory K. Burnette – *Elkview*
Byron K. Chambers – *Romney*
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Janet Hamric Hodge – *Smithville*
Jerod Harmon – *Buckhannon*
David M. Milne – *Bruceton Mills*

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Annual Report 2021-2022 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.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Governor Justice:

Transmitted herewith is the Annual Report for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources for fiscal year July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett W. McMillion". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Brett W. McMillion

BWM:kf

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Governor



WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE

Commerce Secretary

WEST VIRGINIA
DNR

Director

Deputy Directors

Office of
Land and Streams

WEST VIRGINIA
DNR

Administration

Budget and
Fiscal Services

Property and
Procurement

Fleet Management

Human Resources

Customer Relations

Information and
Technology Resources



Law Enforcement

Enforcement

Hunter Safety

Boater Safety



Parks and Recreation

Operations

Office of Planning,
Engineering
and Maintenance

Programming



Wildlife Resources

Game Management

Fish Management

Diversity Unit

Operations



Mission Statement

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

VISION STATEMENT

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

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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

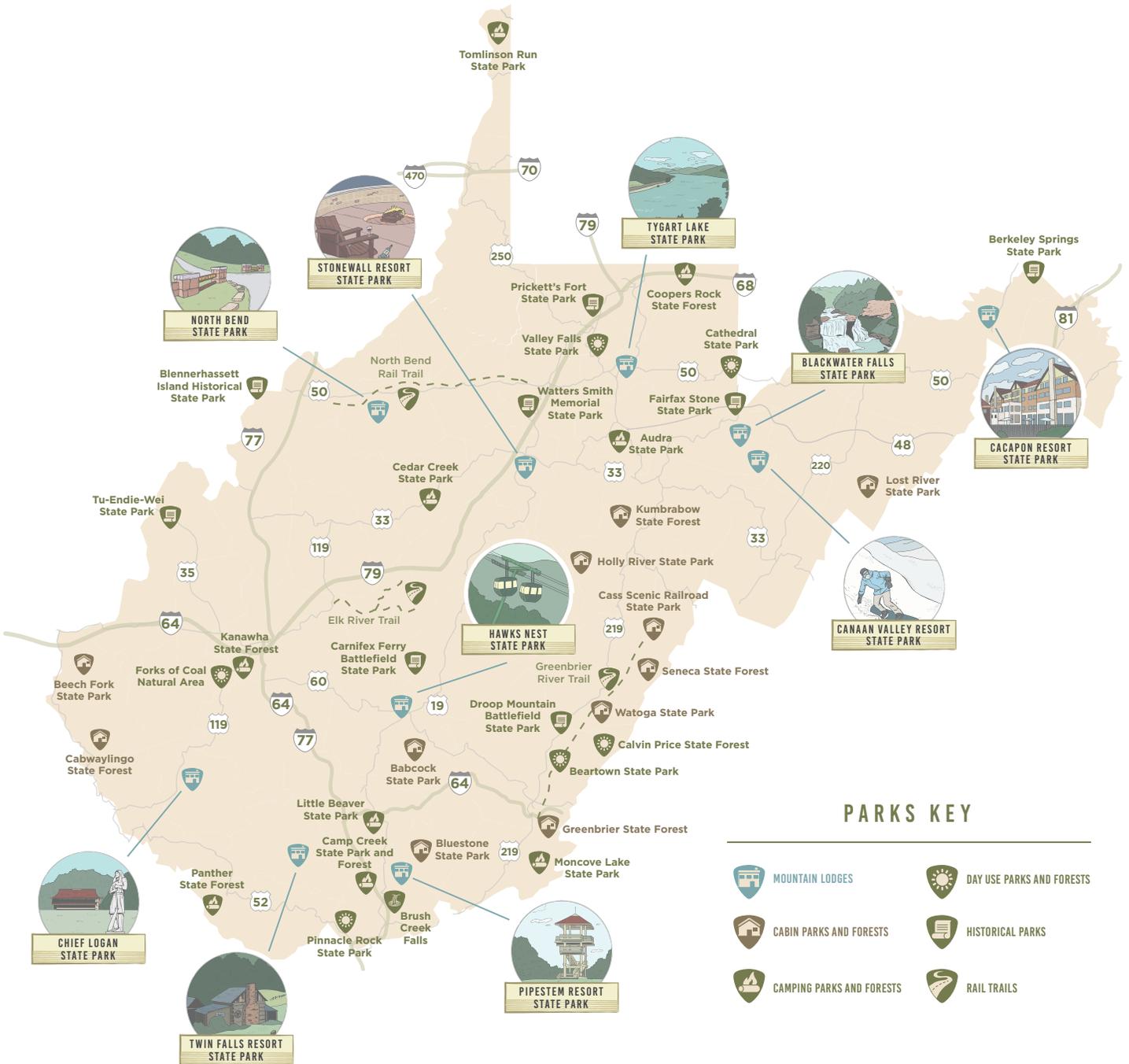
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ON WHICH THE DIRECTOR SERVES

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

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

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

STATE PARKS, FORESTS AND RECREATION AREAS



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

DISTRICT 1 (304) 825-6787

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

DISTRICT 2 (304) 822-3551

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

DISTRICT 3 (304) 924-6211

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

DISTRICT 4 (304) 256-6945

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

DISTRICT 5 (304) 756-1023

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

DISTRICT 6 (304) 420-4550

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

STATE FORESTS (304) 558-2764

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

NATIONAL FORESTS Monongahela WMAs

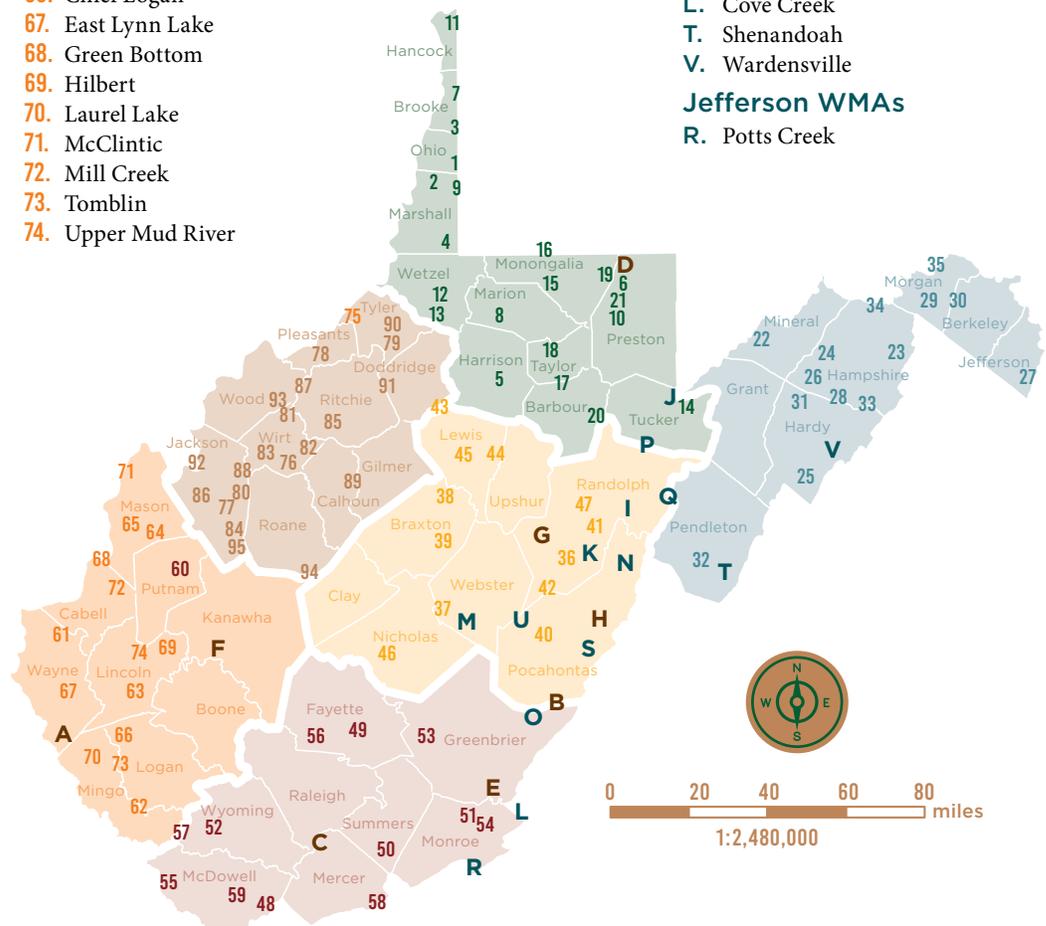
- I. Beaver Dam
- J. Blackwater
- K. Cheat
- M. Cranberry
- N. Little River
- O. Neola
- P. Otter Creek
- Q. Potomac
- S. Rimel
- U. Tea Creek

George Washington WMAs

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

Jefferson WMAs

- R. Potts Creek



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WEST VIRGINIA

DNR

ADMINISTRATION

Mark C. Collins, *Chief*



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

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



Human Resources

The Human Resources office has nine staff members working in three primary areas: Employee Relations, Workforce Development and Employment Services. During FY2022, the Human Resources’ office processed 208 job postings, 999 new hires (83 permanent and 916 temporary), 47 resignations, 44 retirements, 61 Workers’ Compensation claims and 134 Unemployment claims.

Fleet Management

The Fleet Management office is managed by the Fleet Coordinator who oversees all administrative tasks pertaining to agency-owned vehicles (cars, trucks, boats, ATVs, UTVs and utility trailers). These tasks include fuel and maintenance management, titles and registration, inventory management, insurance, reimbursements of sold vehicles and driver safety training. During FY2022, the agency purchased 60 vehicles. As of September 1, 2022, only seven of the new vehicles have been delivered. The agency received \$55,160 in reimbursements from vehicles that were sold. Under the direction of the Fleet Management office, the agency received 100 percent compliance for the 2022 Driver Safety Training program.

Property and Procurement

The Property and Procurement office comprises nine staff members, including six District Radio Operators. Property and Procurement staff are responsible for the procurement of commodities and services for the entire agency. During FY2022, the office processed:

Fixed Assets Added	373
Fixed Assets Retired	303
Agency Delivery Orders Completed	1,817
Master Agreements Awarded	14
Change Orders and Modifications Issued	387
Contracts under \$25,000 Issued	55
Contracts over \$25,000 Issued	61

Information and Technology Resources

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

SERVICE HITS PER WEBSITES:

WVdnr.gov	5,313,044
State Parks	11,080,443
Wonderful West Virginia Magazine	23,171

ADMINISTRATION

Customer Relations

Customer Relations includes the Hunting and Fishing License unit, the *Wonderful West Virginia* magazine staff and front desk operations at the South Charleston office with a total of nine staff members.

Wonderful West Virginia magazine is an official publication of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. On average, 15,410 copies were mailed to individual subscribers each month in FY2022. An additional 1,295 copies were distributed each month to paid bulk subscribers, such as government agencies, chambers of commerce, hotels, real estate firms, state park gift shops and newsstand distributors.

The Hunting and Fishing License Unit is responsible for administering the hunting and fishing license operations. In calendar year 2021, there were 894,480 license privileges sold, resulting in license revenue of \$15.55 million. A new electronic licensing system (ELS) went live January 1, 2015. In calendar year 2021, there were 10,296 lifetime license privileges sold, resulting in lifetime license revenue of \$1.42 million.



TOTAL LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Residency and Class – Calendar Year 2021

Resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	13,007	\$ 247,133
AH	Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 19.00	1,131	\$ 21,489
AHJ**	Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 11.00	1,957	\$ 21,527
B	Fishing	\$ 19.00	81,504	\$ 1,548,576
L	5-Day Fishing	\$ 8.00	1,653	\$ 13,224
N	Antlerless Deer Hunting	\$ 10.00	61,332	\$ 613,320
BG	Big Game	\$ 10.00	3,079	\$ 30,790
RG	Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 21.00	21,487	\$ 451,227
RB	Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 21.00	19,048	\$ 400,008
RM	Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 16.00	1,570	\$ 25,120
X*	Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 30.00	88,994	\$ 2,669,820
XJ**	Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 11.00	4,835	\$ 53,185
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	5,025	\$ 40,200
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	26,030	\$ 260,300
O	Trout Fishing	\$ 10.00	107,529	\$ 1,075,290
CS***	Conservation Stamp	\$ 5.00	188,952	\$ 944,760
Resident Subtotal			627,133	\$ 8,415,969

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

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

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

Non-resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
I	National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 2.00	25,998	\$ 51,996
E	Non-resident Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	26,472	\$ 3,150,168
EE	Non-resident Bear Hunting	\$ 162.00	2,359	\$ 382,158
AAH	Non-resident Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 119.00	643	\$ 76,517
AAHJ	Non-resident Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 16.00	808	\$ 12,928
F	Non-resident Fishing	\$ 37.00	19,996	\$ 739,852
H	Non-resident Small Game Hunting - 6 day	\$ 27.00	703	\$ 18,981
LL	Non-resident Fishing - 1 day	\$ 3.00	54,839	\$ 164,517
NN	Non-resident Antlerless Deer	\$ 27.00	15,836	\$ 427,572
RRG	Non-resident Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 43.00	4,286	\$ 184,298
RRB	Non-resident Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 37.00	2,943	\$ 108,891
RRM	Non-resident Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 37.00	252	\$ 9,324
UU	Non-resident Archery Deer	\$ 32.00	8,901	\$ 284,832
VV	Non-resident Muzzleloader Deer	\$ 32.00	1,713	\$ 54,816
WW	Non-resident Turkey	\$ 32.00	5,083	\$ 162,656
XXJ	Non-resident Junior Sportsman	\$ 16.00	1,489	\$ 23,824
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	1,338	\$ 10,704
DS-EE	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	2,360	\$ 23,600
OO	Trout Fishing	\$ 16.00	21,654	\$ 346,464
J	Small Game Shooting Preserve Hunting - 6 day	\$ 10.00	1,191	\$ 11,910
CS/LE	Non-resident Conservation / Law Enforcement	\$ 13.00	68,483	\$ 890,279
Non-resident Subtotal			267,347	\$ 7,136,287

Grand Total Resident + Non-resident Sales

894,480 **\$ 15,552,256**

ADMINISTRATION

ONLINE LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Residency and Class – Calendar Year 2021

Resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	6,004	\$ 114,076
AH	Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 19.00	734	\$ 13,946
AHJ**	Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 11.00	907	\$ 9,977
B	Fishing	\$ 19.00	31,927	\$ 606,613
L	5-Day Fishing	\$ 8.00	1,041	\$ 8,328
N	Antlerless Deer Hunting	\$ 10.00	33,574	\$ 335,740
BG	Big Game	\$ 10.00	1,665	\$ 16,650
RG	Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 21.00	11,026	\$ 231,546
RB	Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 21.00	11,064	\$ 232,344
RM	Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 16.00	1,036	\$ 16,576
X*	Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 30.00	45,836	\$ 1,375,080
XJ**	Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 11.00	2,480	\$ 27,280
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	2,664	\$ 21,312
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	15,592	\$ 155,920
O	Trout Fishing	\$ 10.00	49,192	\$ 491,920
CS***	Conservation Stamp	\$ 5.00	87,045	\$ 435,225
Resident Subtotal			301,787	\$ 4,092,533

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

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

Non-resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
I	National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 2.00	17,441	\$ 34,882
E	Non-resident Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	18,838	\$ 2,241,722
EE	Non-resident Bear Hunting	\$ 162.00	1,740	\$ 281,880
AAH	Non-resident Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 119.00	387	\$ 46,053
AAHJ	Non-resident Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 16.00	591	\$ 9,456
F	Non-resident Fishing	\$ 37.00	12,107	\$ 447,959
H	Non-resident Small Game Hunting - 6 day	\$ 27.00	578	\$ 15,606
LL	Non-resident Fishing - 1 day	\$ 3.00	31,110	\$ 93,330
NN	Non-resident Antlerless Deer	\$ 27.00	11,324	\$ 305,748
RRG	Non-resident Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 43.00	2,920	\$ 125,560
RRB	Non-resident Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 37.00	2,500	\$ 92,500
RRM	Non-resident Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 37.00	203	\$ 7,511
UU	Non-resident Archery Deer	\$ 32.00	6,763	\$ 216,416
VV	Non-resident Muzzleloader Deer	\$ 32.00	1,242	\$ 39,744
WW	Non-resident Turkey	\$ 32.00	3,894	\$ 124,608
XXJ	Non-resident Junior Sportsman	\$ 16.00	1,164	\$ 18,624
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	888	\$ 7,104
DS-EE	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	1,741	\$ 17,410
OO	Trout Fishing	\$ 16.00	13,041	\$ 208,656
J	Small Game Shooting Preserve Hunting - 6 day	\$ 10.00	1,165	\$ 11,650
CS/LE	Non-resident Conservation / Law Enforcement	\$ 13.00	44,629	\$ 580,177
Non-resident Subtotal			174,266	\$ 4,926,596

Grand Total Resident + Non-resident Sales			476,053	\$ 9,019,129
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AGENT LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Residency and Class – Calendar Year 2021

Resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	7,003	\$ 133,057
AH	Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 19.00	397	\$ 7,543
AHJ**	Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 11.00	1,050	\$ 11,550
B	Fishing	\$ 19.00	49,577	\$ 941,963
L	5-Day Fishing	\$ 8.00	612	\$ 4,896
N	Antlerless Deer Hunting	\$ 10.00	27,758	\$ 277,580
BG	Big Game	\$ 10.00	1,414	\$ 14,140
RG	Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 21.00	10,461	\$ 219,681
RB	Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 21.00	7,984	\$ 167,664
RM	Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 16.00	534	\$ 8,544
X*	Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 30.00	43,158	\$ 1,294,740
XJ**	Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 11.00	2,355	\$ 25,905
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	2,361	\$ 18,888
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	10,438	\$ 104,380
O	Trout Fishing	\$ 10.00	58,337	\$ 583,370
CS***	Conservation Stamp	\$ 5.00	101,907	\$ 509,535
Resident Subtotal			325,346	\$ 4,323,436

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

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

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

Non-resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
I	National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 2.00	8,557	\$ 17,114
E	Non-resident Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	7,634	\$ 908,446
EE	Non-resident Bear Hunting	\$ 162.00	619	\$ 100,278
AAH	Non-resident Apprentice Hunting & Trapping	\$ 119.00	256	\$ 30,464
AAHJ	Non-resident Apprentice Junior Hunting & Trapping	\$ 16.00	217	\$ 3,472
F	Non-resident Fishing	\$ 37.00	7,889	\$ 291,893
H	Non-resident Small Game Hunting - 6 day	\$ 27.00	125	\$ 3,375
LL	Non-resident Fishing - 1 day	\$ 3.00	23,729	\$ 71,187
NN	Non-resident Antlerless Deer	\$ 27.00	4,512	\$ 121,824
RRG	Non-resident Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 43.00	1,366	\$ 58,738
RRB	Non-resident Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 37.00	443	\$ 16,391
RRM	Non-resident Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 37.00	49	\$ 1,813
UU	Non-resident Archery Deer	\$ 32.00	2,138	\$ 68,416
VV	Non-resident Muzzleloader Deer	\$ 32.00	471	\$ 15,072
WW	Non-resident Turkey	\$ 32.00	1,189	\$ 38,048
XXJ	Non-resident Junior Sportsman	\$ 16.00	325	\$ 5,200
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	450	\$ 3,600
DS-EE	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	619	\$ 6,190
OO	Trout Fishing	\$ 16.00	8,613	\$ 137,808
J	Small Game Shooting Preserve Hunting - 6 day	\$ 10.00	26	\$ 260
CS/LE	Non-resident Conservation / Law Enforcement	\$ 13.00	23,854	\$ 310,102
Non-resident Subtotal			93,081	\$ 2,209,691

Grand Total Resident + Non-resident Sales

418,427

\$

6,533,127

ADMINISTRATION

LIFETIME LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Class – Calendar Year 2021

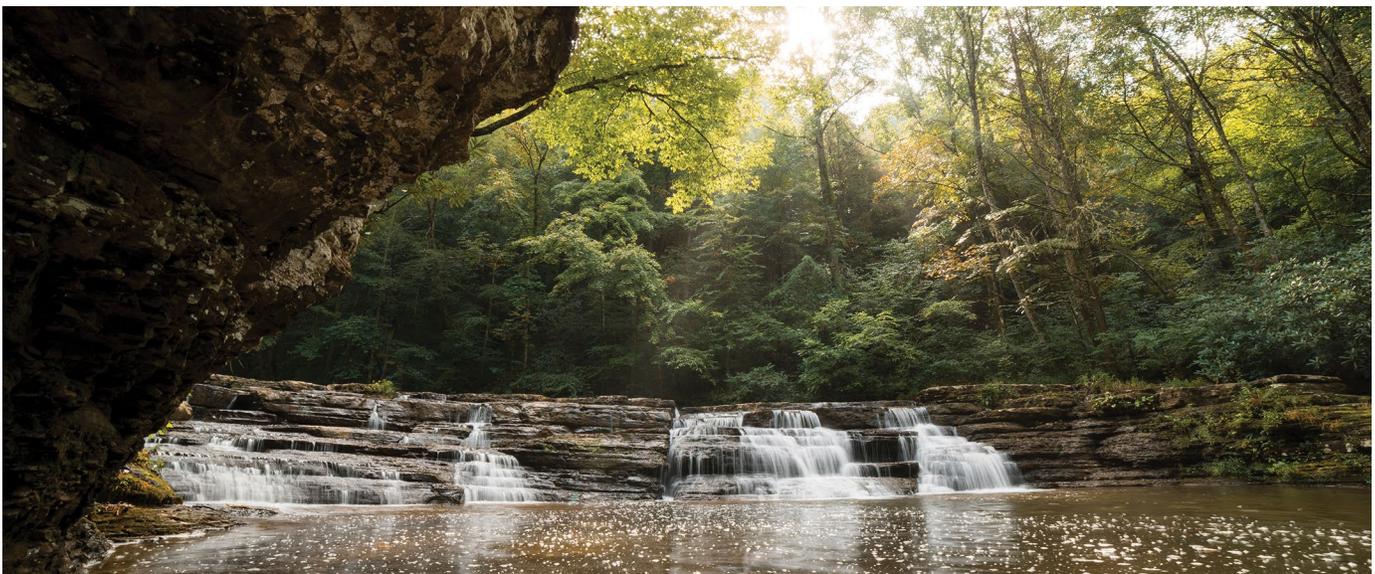
Adult				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A-L	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 594.59*	27	\$ 16,054.20
AB-L	Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing	\$ 530.78*	1,379	\$ 731,946.25
A-1-L	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 75.00	53	\$ 3,975.00
B-L	Fishing	\$ 486.18*	78	\$ 37,922.40
O-L	Trout	\$ 147.34*	666	\$ 98,129.50
Resident Subtotal			2,203	\$ 888,027.35

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

Infant				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A-L-I	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 391.00	-	\$ -
AB-L-I	Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing	\$ 402.50	793	\$ 319,182.50
B-L-I	Fishing	\$ 276.00	13	\$ 3,588.00
O-L-I	Trout	\$ 115.00	336	\$ 38,640.00
Resident Subtotal			1,142	\$ 361,410.50

Senior				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
XS	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 25.00	6,951	\$ 173,775.00
Resident Subtotal			6,951	\$ 173,775.00

Grand Total Lifetime Sales			10,296	\$ 1,423,212.85
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Budget and Fiscal Services

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

The Fiscal Services team has 11 employees who handle all the payment and revenue processes for the agency, including compliance. Fiscal Services has five sub-units: Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, P-Card Management, Financial Reporting and Internal Auditing.

ADMINISTRATION

Statement of Disbursements - Fiscal Year 2021-2022

ADMINISTRATION SECTION

BUDGET & FISCAL SERVICES

Current Expense	\$	176,539.96
Employee Benefits		258,277.03
Equipment		3,951.22
PEIA Reserve Transfer		20,360.16
Personal Services		766,088.70
Repairs and Alterations		999.80
WV OPEB Contribution		16,460.00
BUDGET & FISCAL SERVICES Total	\$	<u>1,242,676.87</u>

EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE

Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	\$	4,620.60
Current Expense		525,447.77
Employee Benefits		143,270.10
Equipment		6,630.78
Personal Services		533,659.37
Wildlife Endowment Fund Transfers		2,279,668.00
WV OPEB Contribution		9,001.31
EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE Total	\$	<u>3,502,297.93</u>

GENERAL SERVICES

Building Improvements	\$	158.68
Current Expense		380,605.15
Employee Benefits		115,266.89
Equipment		1,682.88
Personal Services		349,065.68
Repairs and Alterations		6,116.81
WV OPEB Contribution		8,054.00
GENERAL SERVICES Total	\$	<u>860,950.09</u>

STAFFING/PAYROLL

Current Expense	\$	13,297.75
Employee Benefits		139,958.35
Equipment		15.82
Personal Services		474,069.96
WV OPEB Contribution		8,098.00
STAFFING/PAYROLL Total	\$	<u>635,439.88</u>

WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA MAGAZINE

Current Expense	\$	262,925.16
Employee Benefits		24,177.41
Personal Services		64,937.74
WV OPEB Contribution		2,128.00
WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA MAGAZINE Total	\$	<u>354,168.31</u>

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	2,807,000.36
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		2,579,138.92
Special Revenue Appropriated		1,109,361.39
Federal Revenue Appropriated		100,032.41
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$	<u><u>6,595,533.08</u></u>

Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2021-2022

LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION

Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	\$	18,482.40
Current Expense		2,350,791.45
Employee Benefits		2,326,652.06
Equipment		488,698.36
PEIA Reserve Transfer		13,567.73
Personal Services		6,905,718.03
Repairs and Alterations		99,601.46
WV OPEB Contribution		105,374.00
LAW ENFORCEMENT Total	\$	<u>12,308,885.49</u>

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	4,013,098.60	
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		2,410,711.97	
Special Revenue Appropriated		4,772,406.99	
Federal Revenue Appropriated		1,112,667.93	
TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT			\$ <u><u>12,308,885.49</u></u>

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS		
Building Improvements	\$	30,809.81
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		329,619.73
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		1,919,419.91
Current Expense		97,851.21
Employee Benefits		14,990.51
Equipment		15,022.93
Land Improvements		1,188.61
Land Purchases		264,500.00
Personal Services		102,056.92
Repairs and Alterations		27,522.11
WV OPEB Contribution		1,052.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Total	\$	<u>2,804,033.74</u>

CLAUDIA WORKMAN EDUCATION CENTER		
Current Expense	\$	55.96
Employee Benefits		66.56
Personal Services		870.00
CLAUDIA WORKMAN EDUCATION CENTER Total	\$	<u>992.52</u>

COLD WATER FISH MANAGEMENT		
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	\$	25,000.00
Current Expense		1,242,287.78
Employee Benefits		506,955.83
Equipment		213,010.80
Personal Services		1,459,611.51
Repairs and Alterations		37,520.62
WV OPEB Contribution		30,102.00
COLD WATER FISH MANAGEMENT Total	\$	<u>3,514,488.54</u>

ADMINISTRATION

Statement of Disbursements - Fiscal Year 2021-2022

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

ELKINS OPERATIONS CENTER		
Current Expense	\$	278,640.70
Employee Benefits		33,570.16
Equipment		36,761.69
Personal Services		117,438.57
Repairs and Alterations		28,250.85
WV OPEB Contribution		2,296.00
ELKINS OPERATIONS CENTER Total	\$	<u>496,957.97</u>
GAME MANAGEMENT		
Building Improvements	\$	125.70
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		20,705.15
Current Expense		2,524,983.36
Employee Benefits		925,018.77
Equipment		152,383.40
Land Improvements		14,330.54
Personal Services		3,221,337.67
Repairs and Alterations		227,755.98
WV OPEB Contribution		53,108.00
GAME MANAGEMENT Total	\$	<u>7,139,748.57</u>
HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE UNIT		
Current Expense	\$	287,104.91
Employee Benefits		66,075.54
Equipment		157.99
Personal Services		162,954.52
WV OPEB Contribution		4,912.00
HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE UNIT Total	\$	<u>521,204.96</u>
SPECIAL PROJECTS		
Current Expense	\$	224,940.94
Equipment		215.21
Employee Benefits		47,924.86
Personal Services		121,663.51
Repairs and Alterations		219.21
WV OPEB Contribution		3,454.00
SPECIAL PROJECTS Total	\$	<u>398,417.73</u>
TECHNICAL SUPPORT		
Current Expense	\$	145,738.31
Employee Benefits		182,066.29
Equipment		1,635.62
Personal Services		491,964.02
WV OPEB Contribution		10,072.00
TECHNICAL SUPPORT Total	\$	<u>831,476.24</u>

Statement of Disbursements - Fiscal Year 2021-2022

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

WARM WATER FISH MANAGEMENT

Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project	\$	895,325.69
Current Expense		1,000,669.29
Employee Benefits		399,604.27
Equipment		273,994.24
Personal Services		1,330,091.89
Repairs and Alterations		30,513.48
WV OPEB Contribution		24,080.00
WARM WATER FISH MANAGEMENT Total	\$	<u>3,954,278.86</u>

WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CENTER

Current Expense	\$	95,628.10
Employee Benefits		56,770.90
Equipment		5,391.21
Personal Services		264,889.75
Repairs and Alterations		10,257.91
WV OPEB Contribution		4,208.00
WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CENTER Total	\$	<u>437,145.87</u>

WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION

Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		807,171.27
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		7,705,360.45
Current Expense		2,517,459.16
Employee Benefits		259,596.99
Equipment		35,370.76
Land Improvements		598.52
Personal Services		840,273.64
Repairs and Alterations		9,197.98
WV OPEB Contribution		15,238.00
WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION Total	\$	<u>12,190,266.77</u>

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

Current Expense	\$	439,865.32
Employee Benefits		326,935.57
Equipment		722.42
PEIA Reserve Transfer		1,735.96
Personal Services		1,263,038.33
Repairs and Alterations		5,491.20
WV OPEB Contribution		22,896.00
WILDLIFE DIVERSITY Total	\$	<u>2,060,684.80</u>

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	133,123.11
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		16,706,796.60
Special Revenue Appropriated		6,784,160.78
Federal Revenue Appropriated		10,725,616.08
TOTAL WILDLIFE RESOURCES	\$	<u><u>34,349,696.57</u></u>

ADMINISTRATION

Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2021-2022

PARKS & RECREATION SECTION

PARKS & RECREATION			
Bank Costs	\$	183,814.83	
Building Improvements		13,253.39	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		1,180,589.82	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		1,868,987.87	
Current Expense		20,192,348.59	
Employee Benefits		5,792,255.85	
Equipment		826,508.00	
Land Improvements		292.11	
PEIA Reserve Transfer		104,078.78	
Personal Services		21,936,883.97	
Remittance of Taxes		1,090,428.98	
Repairs and Alterations		1,165,998.38	
WV OPEB Contribution		322,851.89	
PARKS & RECREATION Total	\$	<u>54,678,292.46</u>	
General Revenue Appropriated	\$	16,668,657.84	
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		33,354,049.82	
Special Revenue Appropriated		4,655,584.80	
Federal Revenue Appropriated		-	
TOTAL PARKS & RECREATION	\$	<u>54,678,292.46</u>	\$

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES SECTION

OFFICE OF LAND & STREAMS			
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		89,791.50	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		502,253.82	
Current Expense		362,857.94	
Employee Benefits		68,300.58	
Equipment		1,489.14	
Land Purchases		25,002.00	
PEIA Reserve Transfer		1,476.37	
Personal Services		223,512.56	
WV OPEB Contribution		4,296.00	
OFFICE OF LAND & STREAMS Total	\$	<u>1,278,979.91</u>	
General Revenue Appropriated	\$	-	
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		119,676.50	
Special Revenue Appropriated		1,159,303.41	
Federal Revenue Appropriated		-	
TOTAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES	\$	<u>1,278,979.91</u>	\$
Grand Total General Revenue Appropriated	\$	23,621,879.91	
Grand Total Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		55,170,373.81	
Grand Total Special Revenue Appropriated		18,480,817.37	
Grand Total Federal Revenue Appropriated		11,938,316.42	
GRAND TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$	<u>109,211,387.51</u>	\$

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Appropriated Funds

GENERAL FUND (0265)

Appropriated Fund - No Cash Balance

Disbursements

Personal Services	\$	(14,274,252.61)	
Employee Benefits		(5,192,427.39)	
Current Expense		(1,141,579.31)	
Repairs and Alterations		(1,008,928.77)	
Equipment		(400,571.43)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(56,350.00)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(1,101,435.76)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer		(111,585.53)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(330,437.37)	
Building Improvements		(4,311.74)	
Total Disbursements			\$ (23,621,879.91)

SPECIAL REVENUE LICENSE FUND (3200)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021			\$ 4,320,643.56
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			9,519,005.24
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE			\$ 13,839,648.80
Receipts			
Animal Replacement Costs	\$	49,343.23	
Hunting & Fishing Licenses and Stamps		10,984,748.94	
Investment Earnings		24,027.06	
Miscellaneous Permits and License		5,637.00	
Miscellaneous Collections		23,310.46	
Surplus Property Sale		26,727.28	
Fund Transfers		1,455,460.00	
Contract Reimbursement		28,584.00	
			\$ 12,597,837.97
Disbursements			
Personal Services		(5,250,432.23)	
Employee Benefits		(1,671,676.80)	
Current Expense		(2,930,680.17)	
Repairs and Alterations		(71,774.58)	
Equipment		(190,989.47)	
Building Improvements		(29,750.57)	
Land Improvements		(1,188.61)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(1,204,441.18)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(330,192.63)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(92,309.54)	
			(11,773,435.78)
ENDING FUND BALANCE			\$ 14,664,050.99
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(13,773,907.72)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022			\$ 890,143.27

ADMINISTRATION

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Appropriated Funds

GAME, FISH AND AQUATIC LIFE FUND (3202)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	20,851.63
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			538,273.59
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>559,125.22</u>
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	999.60	
Fish Promotion & Research		<u>1,770.24</u>	
			\$ 2,769.84
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	(35,100.86)	
Equipment		<u>(3,363.79)</u>	
			(38,464.65)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>523,430.41</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			<u>(520,273.19)</u>
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>3,157.22</u></u>

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY FUND (3203)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	169,355.60
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			1,422,375.67
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>1,591,731.27</u>
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	3,024.40	
Miscellaneous Collections		(5,173.26)	
Sale of Wildlife Calendars		140,892.04	
Sale of Wildlife License Plates		479,608.99	
Special Events		2,816.80	
Animal Replacement Costs		<u>50.00</u>	
			\$ 621,218.97
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(300,160.02)	
Employee Benefits		(55,648.29)	
Current Expense		(134,736.73)	
WV OPEB Contribution		<u>(6,041.00)</u>	
			(496,586.04)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>1,716,364.20</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			<u>(1,645,400.07)</u>
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>70,964.13</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Appropriated Funds

USE & DEVELOPMENT FUND - PUBLIC LAND CORPORATION (3205)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	7,575,112.30
Receipts			
Channel Changes	\$	300.00	
Docking Facilities		8,000.00	
Low Water Fords		16,200.00	
Low Water Level Bridges		46,000.00	
Miscellaneous Collections		1,000.00	
Permits		4,500.00	
Pipeline Permits		464,847.50	
Right of Way		137,050.00	
Sand/Gravel ATE Management		2,600.00	
Oil and Gas Royalties		1,591.96	
Oil & Gas Leases		6,438.86	
Limestone Treatment		2,800.00	
Sand and Gravel Royalties		1,004.00	
Stream Restoration		3,200.00	
Structures		454,400.00	
Subterranean Cable Permit Renewal		123,725.00	
Water Intake Supply System		5,200.00	
			\$ 1,278,857.32
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(160,361.11)	
Employee Benefits		(43,691.03)	
Current Expense		(330,586.39)	
Equipment		(1,489.14)	
Contractual Services		(502,253.82)	
Land Purchases		(25,002.00)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer		(1,476.37)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(2,394.00)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(600.00)	
			(1,067,853.86)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022			\$ 7,786,115.76

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Appropriated Funds

PARKS AND RECREATION ENDOWMENT FUND (3211)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	218,758.87
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			6,465,750.60
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	6,684,509.47
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	(315,800.83)	
Royalty Payment Marcellus Gas Drilling		9,767,891.59	
Gas Royalties		1,488.56	
			\$ 9,453,579.32
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	(3.00)	
			(3.00)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	16,138,085.79
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(15,456,949.77)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u>681,136.02</u>

WHITewater STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT FUND (3253)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	9,935.80
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			116,479.61
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	126,415.41
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	219.26	
Miscellaneous Collections		13,689.20	
Study and Improvement Fees		43,408.60	
Whitewater Stocking Study Fee-Gauley River		691.25	
			\$ 58,008.31
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(28,679.22)	
Employee Benefits		(15,632.25)	
Current Expense		(14.95)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer		(283.80)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(1,052.00)	
			(45,662.22)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	138,761.50
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(116,698.87)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u>22,062.63</u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Appropriated Funds

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES LOTTERY FUND (3267)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	2,383,949.83
Receipts			
Lottery Transfers	3,443,151.00		
		\$	3,443,151.00
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$ (1,885,469.19)		
Employee Benefits	(620,890.37)		
Current Expense	(388,740.93)		
Equipment	(722.42)		
Repairs and Alterations	(3,546.24)		
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(14,751.83)		
WV OPEB Contribution	(36,370.10)		
			(2,950,491.08)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u>2,876,609.75</u>

STATE PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND (3277)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	10,081,408.62
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE			
Receipts			
Lottery Transfers	\$ 1,505,000.00		
Reimbursement	18,487.03		
Surplus Property Sale	9,077.60		
		\$	1,532,564.63
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$ (457,972.89)		
Repairs and Alterations	(47,442.70)		
Equipment	(198,764.21)		
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project	(1,329,146.88)		
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	(74,994.06)		
			(2,108,320.74)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u>9,505,652.51</u>

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL FUND (8707)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	2,087,639.04
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			4,476,342.94
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	6,563,981.98
Receipts			
Law Enforcement			
Boating Safety	\$ 714,961.00		
Duplicate Boat Safety Cards	40.00		
Hunter Safety Replacement Cards	6,825.00		
Hunter Safety	444,604.23		
Surplus Property Sale	16,708.00	\$	1,183,138.23

ADMINISTRATION

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Appropriated Funds

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL FUND (8707)

Wildlife Resources			
Aquatic Outreach Program		12,590.63	
Avian & Mammal Surveys		174,486.33	
Boating Access Administration		205,701.65	
District Wildlife Management		1,608,035.05	
Endangered Animals		107,669.83	
Enhancing Fishery Opportunity Program		534,219.77	
Elk West Virginia		173,039.37	
Conservation & Recovery Candy Darter		15,842.68	
Fish Hatchery Operations		2,449,486.30	
Fish and Wildlife Coordination		150,952.34	
Asian Carp FW Service		71,780.65	
Enhanced Hunter Education		184,726.59	
Investment Earnings		6,962.94	
CWD Data Sharing Mgmt in N America		200,000.00	
Miscellaneous Collections		2,822.97	
Mount Storm Lake		9,202.61	
NRCS Watershed at Cherry River		18,128.12	
Participation in Regional Conservation Needs		21,550.90	
State Wildlife Grant		440,149.80	
USDA Monongahela Nat. Forest Botanical Surveys		49,837.62	
USDA Monongahela Nat. Forest Schools Roads		107,950.93	
USDP AG NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive		107,372.83	
White-tailed Deer Ecology		354,028.66	
Wildlife Research		751,019.85	
		751,019.85	
			\$ 7,757,558.42
			\$ 8,940,696.65
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(4,882,442.35)	
Employee Benefits		(1,435,156.72)	
Current Expense		(4,658,005.75)	
Repairs and Alterations		(268,363.03)	
Equipment		(545,107.39)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(66,012.50)	
Building Improvements		(1,343.62)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(81,885.06)	
		(81,885.06)	
			(11,938,316.42)
ENDING FUND BALANCE			\$ 3,566,362.21
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(3,158,869.34)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022			\$ 407,492.87

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Non-appropriated Funds

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM FUND (3204)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	800,545.20
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			4,891,609.79
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	5,692,154.99
Receipts			
Boating Under Influence Grant	\$	10,000.00	
Commercial Shoot Preserve		800.00	
Ginseng Dealer Fee		69,620.00	
Hatfield McCoy Trail Patrol Reimbursement		321,817.07	
Fund Transfers		189,098.00	
Investment Earnings		9,020.51	
License Reinstatement Fee		5,500.00	
Miscellaneous Collections		8,380.30	
Miscellaneous Permits		4,810.00	
Motorboat Licenses		73,987.50	
Surplus Property Sales		7,700.00	
Tipping Fees		552,873.58	
Reimbursement for Service		63,899.04	
Whitewater Rafting Licenses		21,750.00	
Whitewater Study & Improvement Fee		6,000.00	
			<u>1,345,256.00</u>
		\$	1,345,256.00
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(558,814.66)	
Employee Benefits		(205,597.26)	
Current Expense		(368,658.28)	
Equipment		(80,514.38)	
Repairs and Alterations		(7,693.14)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(19,344.05)	
			<u>(1,240,621.77)</u>
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	5,796,789.22
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(4,585,630.30)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u>1,211,158.92</u>

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTS (3208)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	5,890.00
Receipts			
	\$	<u>-</u>	
			-
Disbursements			
Current Expenses	\$	<u>(125.10)</u>	
			(125.10)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u>5,764.90</u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Non-appropriated Funds

DISASTER FUND DNR (3210)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	-
Receipts			
FEMA Reimbursement	\$	<u>24,571.58</u>	
		\$	24,571.58
Disbursements			
		<u>-</u>	
			-
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>24,571.58</u></u>

WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND (3224)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	2.00
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			<u>75,959,927.89</u>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	75,959,929.89
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	987,473.25	
Lifetime Hunting & Fishing License		2,052,774.33	
Wildlife Mitigation		<u>719,960.00</u>	
		\$	3,760,207.58
Disbursements			
Fund Transfers		<u>(2,279,668.00)</u>	
			<u>(2,279,668.00)</u>
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>77,440,469.47</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			<u>(77,330,598.14)</u>
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>109,871.33</u></u>

WILDLIFE RESOURCES-RECREATION FUND (3227)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	384,648.30
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			<u>35,702,433.75</u>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	36,087,082.05
Receipts			
AML DEP Subgrant Wildlife	\$	25,187.50	
Campsite Rentals		27,176.44	
Co-op Agreements		25,374.51	
Dredging Mussel Mitigation		455,528.00	
Elk Tour Tickets		5,132.99	
Entrance Fees		97,690.42	
Fish Promotion and Research		200,183.99	
Fund Transfers		507,302.00	
Gas Royalties		143,618.00	
Gift Shop Sales		19,170.02	
Gifts & Bequests		42,755.38	
Gifts, Grants & Donations		8,202.33	
Go-Wild Hunting & Fishing License Issuance Fee		334,052.00	

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Non-appropriated Funds

WILDLIFE RESOURCES-RECREATION FUND (3227)

Habitat Land Inquiries		15,250.00	
Hunters Helping the Hungry		26,689.85	
Information Retrieval		23,175.00	
Insurance Payments		73,294.28	
Investment Earnings		59,941.48	
Leases		28,732.00	
Miscellaneous Collections		25,856.02	
Mitigation Wildlife		184,161.96	
Picnic Shelter Fees		1,598.00	
Refunds		51,627.43	
Right Of Way		3,871.40	
Royalty Payment Marcellus Gas Drilling		8,134,912.07	
Scientific Collection Permit		37,200.00	
Surface Damages		132,948.51	
Surplus Property Sales		77.20	
Timber Sales		677,016.56	
		<u>677,016.56</u>	
			\$ 11,367,725.34
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(1,162,291.37)	
Employee Benefits		(353,640.30)	
Current Expense		(3,225,624.54)	
Repairs and Alterations		(122,888.58)	
Equipment		(251,271.47)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(8,647,851.29)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(788,688.87)	
Land Improvements		(14,929.06)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(23,264.99)	
		<u>(23,264.99)</u>	
			(14,590,450.47)
ENDING FUND BALANCE			\$ 32,864,356.92
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(31,762,375.23)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022			<u>\$ 1,101,981.69</u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Non-appropriated Funds

BEAR DAMAGE FUND (3228)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	66,294.95
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			727,934.39
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>794,229.34</u>
Receipts			
Bear Damage Stamps	\$	267,000.00	
Investment Earnings		1,530.15	
Refunds		<u>1,044.78</u>	
			269,574.93
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	<u>(157,812.57)</u>	
			<u>(157,812.57)</u>
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>905,991.70</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(859,464.54)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>46,527.16</u></u>

CONSERVATION STAMP FUND (3232)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	446,867.99
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			3,362,806.61
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>3,809,674.60</u>
Receipts			
Conservation Stamp Sales	\$	1,282,610.00	
Investment Earnings		<u>6,744.79</u>	
			\$ 1,289,354.79
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(102,248.20)	
Employee Benefits		(10,277.30)	
Current Expense		(260,451.21)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(688,518.73)	
Equipment		(99.90)	
Land Purchases		(264,500.00)	
Repairs and Alterations		<u>(709.08)</u>	
			<u>(1,326,804.42)</u>
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>3,772,224.97</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(3,619,551.40)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>152,673.57</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Non-appropriated Funds

TROUT STAMP FUND (3233)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	132,333.89
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			682,493.49
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>814,827.38</u>
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	398.35	
Trout Stamp Sales		1,237,946.00	
Fund Transfers		<u>127,808.00</u>	
			\$ 1,366,152.35
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(918,693.74)	
Employee Benefits		(398,565.46)	
Current Expense		(42,070.39)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(25,510.00)	
Equipment		<u>(23,280.00)</u>	
			(1,408,119.59)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>772,860.14</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(482,732.24)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>290,127.90</u></u>

GIFTS, GRANTS & BEQUESTS (3237)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	64,926.12
Receipts			
Special Events	\$	<u>38,882.90</u>	
			\$ 38,882.90
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	<u>(35,802.42)</u>	
			(35,802.42)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>68,006.60</u></u>

LAND MINERALS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS (3239)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	975,981.00
Receipts			
Miscellaneous Collections	\$	1,450.00	
Land Leases		39,105.80	
Rental Leases		800.00	
Right-of-Way		<u>11,637.50</u>	
			\$ 52,993.30
Disbursements			
Current Expense		(30,485.00)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		<u>(89,191.50)</u>	
			(119,676.50)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>909,297.80</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Non-appropriated Funds

PAYROLL CLEARING ACCOUNT (3245)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	12,067.80
Receipts			
	-		
		\$	-
Disbursements			
	-		
			-
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	12,067.80

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SPORTS EDUCATION STAMPS (3247)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	104,993.26
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			247,179.44
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	352,172.70
Receipts			
Law Enforcement / Sports Ed. Stamps	\$	424,515.00	
Investment Earnings		506.55	
			\$
			425,021.55
Disbursements			
Personal Services	\$	(288,901.78)	
Employee Benefits		(100,568.30)	
Current Expense		(62.64)	
WV OPEB Contribution		(3,866.99)	
			(393,399.71)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	383,794.54
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(297,685.99)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	86,108.55

MAGAZINE SALES & SUBSCRIPTIONS (3248)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	84,941.32
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			751,030.55
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	835,971.87
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	1,497.60	
Magazine Sponsorship		18,118.67	
Magazine Bookshelf Sales		2,026.98	
Magazine Sales		23,672.09	
Magazine Subscriptions		272,373.00	
Miscellaneous Collections		127.20	
			\$
			317,815.54
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	(262,925.16)	
			(262,925.16)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	890,862.25
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(852,528.15)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	38,334.10

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Non-appropriated Funds

CLEARING ACCOUNT-EQUIPMENT (3251)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	317,823.58
Receipts			
Rental Leases	\$	<u>11,440.00</u>	
		\$	11,440.00
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	<u>(743.34)</u>	
			(743.34)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>328,520.24</u></u>

CLASS A-1 SMALL ARMS HUNTING LICENSE (3259)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	109,055.96
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			<u>895,903.87</u>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	1,004,959.83
Receipts			
Class A-1 Small Arms Hunting License	\$	46,216.00	
Lifetime Small Arms Hunting License		4,125.00	
Investment Earnings		<u>1,853.90</u>	
		\$	52,194.90
Disbursements			
Current Expenses	\$	<u>(174.94)</u>	
		\$	<u>(174.94)</u>
ENDING FUND BALANCE			1,056,979.79
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			<u>(1,037,757.77)</u>
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>19,222.02</u></u>

WATTERS SMITH MEMORIAL STATE PARK (3261)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	104,000.89
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			<u>709,024.18</u>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	813,025.07
Receipts			
Gas Royalties	\$	451,547.05	
Investment Earnings		1,335.09	
Oil & Gas Leases		746.00	
Subterranean Cable Permit Renewal		6,800.00	
Surplus Property Sales		<u>25.60</u>	
		\$	460,453.74
Disbursements			
Equipment	\$	(3,646.72)	
Current Expenses		(36,899.00)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(4,160.00)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		<u>(56,792.99)</u>	
			(101,498.71)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	1,171,980.10
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			<u>(1,160,359.26)</u>
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>11,620.84</u></u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Non-appropriated Funds

DECOY ANIMALS ASSESSMENT FEE (3264)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	1,022.44
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			5,478.55
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>6,500.99</u>
Receipts			
Miscellaneous Collections	\$	200.00	
Investment Earnings		<u>10.37</u>	
		\$	210.37
Disbursements		\$	<u>-</u>
			-
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>6,711.36</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(5,488.92)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u><u>1,222.44</u></u>

STATE PARK OPERATING FUND (3265)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	5,383,917.72
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			12,983,933.67
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>18,367,851.39</u>
Receipts			
Bath / Massages	\$	858,039.61	
Bicycle Rental		3,424.73	
Boat Rental		110,807.45	
Bonus Payment Marcellus Gas Drilling		1,351,635.72	
Cabin Advance Reservation		6,193,286.06	
Cabin Rentals		1,021,876.39	
Campsite Advance Reservation		5,214,308.65	
Campsite Rentals		412,938.21	
Coin Laundry Machines		11,638.94	
Consumers Sales Tax		(151,556.35)	
Cot & Crib Rental		1,536.48	
Driving Range		26,387.05	
Entrance Fees		98,274.76	
Equipment Rental		7,577.68	
Facility Use Rental		141,691.66	
Firewood Sales		290,462.90	
Food & Snacks		492,705.60	
Fund Transfers		587,416.00	
Games		1,986.74	
Gas & Oil Leases		944.00	
Gas Royalties		972.82	
Gift Cards		253,010.71	
Gift Shop Sales		4,221,123.60	
Greens Fees		612,685.38	
Gifts, Grants & Donations		37,250.61	
Hiking Club		735.00	
Hotel Occupancy Tax		1,072,426.28	
Insurance Payments		132,166.96	
Investment Earnings		31,032.60	
Lift Ticket Fees Parks		79,006.29	
Lodge Advance Reservation		5,191,077.55	

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Non-appropriated Funds

STATE PARK OPERATING FUND (3265)

Lodge Rooms		3,193,004.61		
Lottery Collections - Net		13,140.71		
Magazine Sales		214.63		
Miniature Golf		14,970.53		
Miscellaneous Collections		75,186.08		
Miscellaneous Non-Taxable		104,624.71		
Miscellaneous Operations		(1,257,441.07)		
Picnic Shelter Fees		271,487.95		
Pro Shop		186,380.14		
Residence Rentals		19,289.31		
Railroad Fares		27,145.99		
Restaurants		3,429,535.53		
Roman Bath		348,982.70		
Royalty Payment Marcellus Gas Drilling		1,115,744.50		
Shooting Ranges		30,534.42		
Sled Rental		346,987.43		
Spa Products		17,379.98		
Special Events		39,151.09		
Structures		31,781.60		
Surplus Property Sale		4,679.10		
Swimming Fees		438,117.74		
Tram		96,866.74		
Vending Machines		16,074.64		
Wildlife Calendar Sales		7,500.00		
Wine Tax		(25.97)	\$	36,878,183.17
Receipts - Concessions				
Boat Dock Concession	\$	2,339.54		
Golf Carts		350,686.80		
Marina		36,634.14		
Miscellaneous Concession		139,361.69		
Restaurant Concession		72,622.96		
Riding Stable		(2,303.40)		
Zip Line Ticket Sales		104,296.16	\$	703,637.89
				\$ 37,581,821.06
Disbursements				
Personal Services	\$	(10,817,379.86)		
Employee Benefits		(1,583,963.05)		
Current Expense		(18,597,941.73)		
Repairs and Alterations		(118,099.67)		
Equipment		(363,822.15)		
Remittance Of Taxes		(1,090,428.26)		
Bank Costs		(183,288.18)		
Building Improvements		(8,941.65)		
Land Improvements		(292.11)		
PEIA Reserve Transfer		(13,121.47)		
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(426,698.00)		
WV OPEB Contribution		(25,206.10)		
				(33,229,182.23)
ENDING FUND BALANCE			\$	22,720,490.22
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022				(19,514,966.27)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022			\$	3,205,523.95

ADMINISTRATION

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Non-appropriated Funds

CANAAN MAINTENANCE FUND (3274)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	10,918.84
Receipts			
Maintenance Transfer from Operating Fund	\$		-
		\$	-
Disbursements			
Building Improvements	\$	(8,120.00)	
			(8,120.00)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u>2,798.84</u>

COYOTE MANAGEMENT FUND (3292)

Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	8,396.40
Investment Balance July 1, 2021			12,230.98
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>20,627.38</u>
Receipts			
Coyote Management Donations	\$	6,848.38	
Investment Earnings		31.15	
			6,879.53
Disbursements			
Current Expense		-	
			-
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>27,506.91</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2022			(18,262.13)
Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u>9,244.78</u>

SANDY DISASTER FUND (3015)

Sandy Disaster Fund Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	170,794.02
Receipts			
	\$	-	
		\$	-
Disbursements			
Current Expenses	\$	(15,248.88)	
			(15,248.88)
Sandy Disaster Fund Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u>155,545.14</u>

FLOOD DISASTER FUND (3207)

Flood Disaster Fund Cash Balance July 1, 2021		\$	237,159.72
Receipts			
	\$	-	
		\$	-
Disbursements			
	\$	-	
		\$	-
Flood Disaster Fund Cash Balance June 30, 2022		\$	<u>237,159.72</u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Non-appropriated Funds

RECAPITULATION OF FUNDS

	Revenue	Disbursements	Investments
General Fund	\$ -	\$ (23,621,879.91)	\$ -
Consolidated Federal Funds	8,940,696.65	(11,938,316.42)	3,158,869.34
Appropriated Special Revenue Funds	28,987,987.36	(18,480,817.37)	31,513,229.62
Non-Appropriated Special Revenue Funds	58,370,555.46	(55,170,373.81)	141,527,400.34
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ 96,299,239.47	\$ (109,211,387.51)	\$ 176,199,499.30



WEST VIRGINIA

DNR

**OFFICE OF LAND
AND STREAMS**

Julia A. Morton, *Supervisor*



Overview

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

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



Lands of the Division of Natural Resources

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

Wildlife Management Areas/Public Access Sites/Natural Areas	424,752 acres
State Parks	77,452 acres and 28.7 miles leased for the Elk River Trail
State Forests	72,683 acres
Administration	69 acres
Total Lands	574,956 acres
Rivers and Streams	34,000 miles including approximately 5,000 named waterways

Land Acquisition

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

The real estate acquisition process includes communication with other sections in the Division of Natural Resources and other government agencies, negotiation with property owners, inspection of property, title searches, obtaining appraisals and surveys. This also includes preparing, executing and recording documents.

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

State Park Land Acquired in Fiscal Year 2022		
PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE
Cass Scenic Railroad	David Cain	0.07
Cass Scenic Railroad	Methodist Church	0.22
Moncove Lake	Wildlife Management Area	124.07
TOTAL		124.36

LAND ACQUISITION CONTINUED...

State Forest Land Acquired in Fiscal Year 2022

No land was acquired for State Forests in the fiscal year 2022.

Administration Land Acquired in Fiscal Year 2022

No land was acquired for Administration in the fiscal year 2022.

Wildlife Management Land Acquired in Fiscal Year 2022

PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE
Daniels Ridge	By Survey	47.882
Hughes River	Roberts Heirs	55.000
Sandy Creek	Daniel C. Jennings	144.000
Walker Creek	Phillip M. Heck	75.000
TOTAL		321.882

Cancellation of Wildlife Management Area and Natural Area Leases in Fiscal Year 2022

PROPERTY	ACREAGE
Hughes River	-278
Morris Creek	-9,874
Tug Fork	-4,508
TOTAL	-14,660

Release of Wildlife Management Area Acreage in Fiscal Year 2022

PROPERTY	ACREAGE
Laurel Lake	-20.46
TOTAL	-20.46

Conveyance of Wildlife Management Area Acreage in Fiscal Year 2022

PROPERTY	ACREAGE
Laurel Lake	-14.99
Moncove Lake	-124.07
TOTAL	-139.06

Correction of Wildlife Management Area Acreage in Fiscal Year 2022

PROPERTY	ACREAGE
Warden Lake	-63.90
TOTAL	-63.90

LAND ACQUISITION CONTINUED...

Public Access Sites Created in Fiscal Year 2022		
PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE
Black Fork River	Town of Hendricks	0.08
Star City	Town of Star City	0.53
Tygart River	Randolph County Commission	1.12
TOTAL		1.73

Oil and Gas Leasing

The Office of Land and Streams is responsible for leasing the state's mineral interests in, on and/or underlying state lands, rivers and streams. The state's mineral interests include oil, gas, coal, sand and gravel. At the end of FY2022, there were 67 oil and gas leases and one sand and gravel lease on state lands, rivers and streams.

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

Oil and Gas Leases Obtained in Fiscal Year 2022		
AREA	ACREAGE	NUMBER OF LEASES
Little Kanawha River	3.4300	1
Middle Island Creek	87.2600	2
Ohio River	950.3948	1
Underwood WMA	96.0700	1
TOTAL	1,137.1548	5

River and Stream Management

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

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

Permits Issued in Fiscal Year 2022	
PROJECT	NUMBER
Stream Activity Bed/Bank Work	384
Pipeline and Cable	813
Stream Structure	252
Loading, Docking and Mooring	12
TOTAL	1,461



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Colonel Bobby L. Cales, *Chief*



125th
ANNIVERSARY
1897-2022
NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE



The Law Enforcement Section is responsible for the prompt, orderly and effective enforcement of all Chapter 20, Code of West Virginia laws and rules promulgated under that authority and protection of the citizens of this state. A highly visible, uniformed Natural Resources Police patrol working with the support of sportsmen, DNR Wildlife and Parks and Recreation sections, federal agencies and other state agencies enables us to accomplish this mission.

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

The Section strives to operate efficiently and effectively while always considering the best interests of the state. The success of the section and division depends on the hard work of officers in the field and the office support staff. The Natural Resource Police have a proud history of carrying out its duties with pride, integrity, honor, commitment, accountability, loyalty, courage, teamwork, dependability and respect. West Virginia's Natural Resources Police celebrated 125 years of protecting the state's natural resources this year and looks forward to building upon traditions while embracing new challenges that arise in the years to come.



Law Enforcement Program

The WV DNR Law Enforcement Section normally has a staffing level of 126 Natural Resources Police officers and 11 support personnel. During FY2022, there were 117 Natural Resources Police officers actively working. Four officers retired, six separated from service and 13 new officers were hired.

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

- The public and media are following the work done by officers on the WV Natural Resources Police Officer Facebook page. The Facebook page, [facebook.com/DNRpolice](https://www.facebook.com/DNRpolice), continues to see an increase in both state and national media contacts for additional information. The reporting of wildlife law violations at [WVdnr.gov/law-enforcement](https://www.wvdnr.gov/law-enforcement) is being used by the public to help to solve cases.
- Section reporting forms have been made available electronically to allow for quick access, updates, transfers and approvals over the Internet. The Section continually utilizes technology to reduce travel and administrative costs. Cellular telephones, desktop/laptop computers, radios and the Internet are used to transmit reports, complaints and information. Conference calls are used to conduct meetings, boards or planning sessions to cut down on in-state travel.
- The Section continues to work with federal and state agencies to procure grants to assist with equipment purchases. The USFWS Hunter Education and USCG Recreational Boating Safety grants are monitored to maximize returns from the Section's expenditures of time and resources.
- During FY2022 the Section received 15 new vehicles (eight Jeep Grand Cherokee Latitude SUVs and seven Ford F-150 Pick-up trucks). To reduce vehicle expenditures, the Section keeps vehicles for five years or for the first 125,000 miles if it is operating efficiently. High-maintenance cost vehicles are traded earlier to avoid excessive repairs.
- The Section issued new smaller and brighter lightweight Fenix TK20R 2.0 flashlights and new flip-top OC Spray, switching out the old from obsolete trigger style. The Section issued new Safariland duty holsters, off-duty holsters, Spiewak spring/fall jackets (coat liners), and new Vortex 12x50 Diamondback HD binoculars.
- Some of this year's legislation that passed included:
 - ➔ **HB 4048 WV Keep, Bear, Drive with Arms Act:** Allows everyone to carry loaded and uncased weapons in motor vehicles and conveyances.
 - ➔ **HB 4065** Amends original Hunter Education bill to now require all middle schools to offer a class in the spring.
 - ➔ **SB 508** Attire for Deer Hunting clarifies blaze orange requirement for the deer muzzleloader seasons with changes made to definition of firearm exempting muzzleloaders.
 - ➔ **HB 2631** Allows Natural Resources Police officers to be able to work certain security and contract jobs while off duty.

Officer Training

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section had an extensive training year during FY2022. The Section received transition training on duty pistol weapon-mounted light and duty pistol holster, NARCAN refresher and Oleoresin Capsicum flip-top transition training and defensive tactics. During the statewide training/meeting, Natural Resources Police officers attended tree stand fall investigations, tactical turkey bait site takedown training and man-tracking training. During FY2022, the Section certified 26 new background investigators, 19 new field training officers, 16 swift water rescue technicians and three basic technical rope rescue technicians. Seven newly sworn Natural Resources Police officers attended the mandatory eight-hour Seated Battery Transition Course for BUI enforcement. A total of seven Natural Resources Police officers were certified in Reid Interview and Interrogation Techniques and seven officers attended Motorola APX radio programming training. During FY2022, a wildland search and rescue instructor was certified, four Natural Resources Police officers attended the Institute of Police Technology and Management Internal Affairs investigation training and one sergeant attended the FBI Instructor Development course. Supervisory In-Service in FY2022 consisted of a Leadership and Mentoring the Law Enforcement Employee training for all district sergeants, lieutenants and captains. Headquarters command staff attended as well.

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



Hunter Education Program

West Virginia's Hunter Education Program continues to grow as more middle and high schools are participating. All persons born on or after January 1, 1975, must first successfully complete a certified hunter education course before purchasing a base hunting license. During FY2022, 5,871 students graduated from 489 statewide hunter education classes. The Law Enforcement Section offers public and in-school courses throughout the year.

Volunteer Hunter Education instructors continue to provide a great service to the Hunter Education Program. More than 181 volunteer instructors drove 22,553 miles and donated 5,491.5 hours to the mandatory program. Natural Resources Police officers logged 12,673 hours and drove 122,347 miles.

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

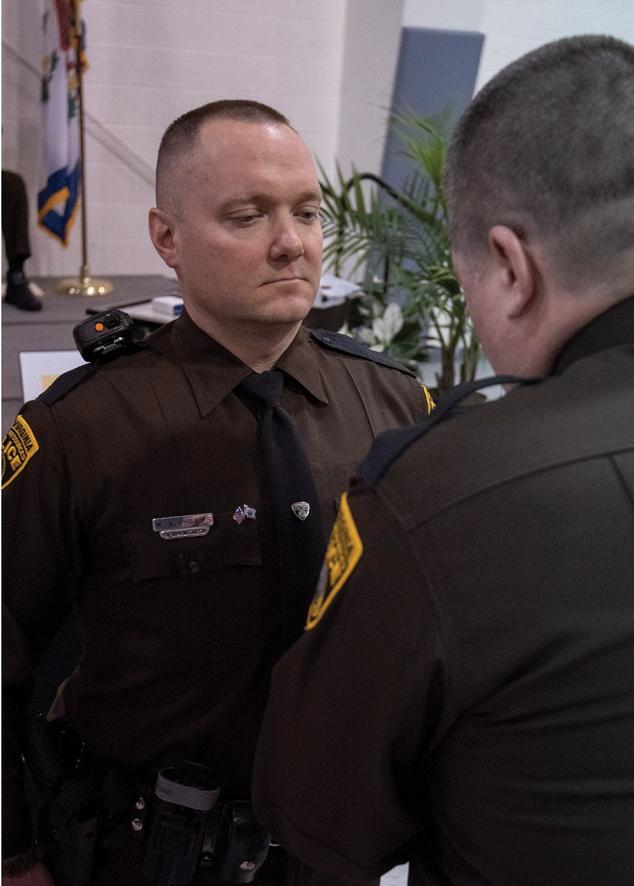
The Law Enforcement Section maintains Hunter Education class information and registration services on [register-ed.com](https://www.register-ed.com). International Hunter Education Association-USA and State of West Virginia approved online courses are designed to eliminate the classroom portion of the program. Students who go this route will not receive their certification until they pass the hands-on practicum and final exam at the nearest district office. Traditional in-seat courses are still taught throughout the state.

During calendar year 2021, there were five Class A hunting incidents (an injury caused by the discharge of a bow or firearm while hunting) resulting in two fatalities. There were four Class B hunting incidents (falls from a tree stand) resulting in zero fatalities. There were two Class C hunting incidents (injuries sustained while hunting that are not from a firearm or bow) resulting in one fatality (a heart attack that occurred while squirrel hunting). There was one Class D hunting incident, which is defined as property damage reports.

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

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

“Safe Hunting is No Accident.”



Boating Safety Program

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

A grant from the Governor's Commission on Drunk Driving Prevention provided the Law Enforcement Section additional funding for enhanced BUI patrols on West Virginia waters from July 1, 2021, to September 29, 2021. These patrols resulted in 10 BUI arrests and 603 other citations/warnings.

To reduce alcohol-related boating incidents, Natural Resources Police officers participated in the nationwide awareness campaign *Operation Dry Water* from July 2-4, 2021. This operation resulted in 212 citations/warnings and five BUIs. The Section has renewed its efforts toward water safety and increased lifejacket usage by the public through our *Wear It Campaign* on Facebook and general boat patrols.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Whitewater Enforcement Program

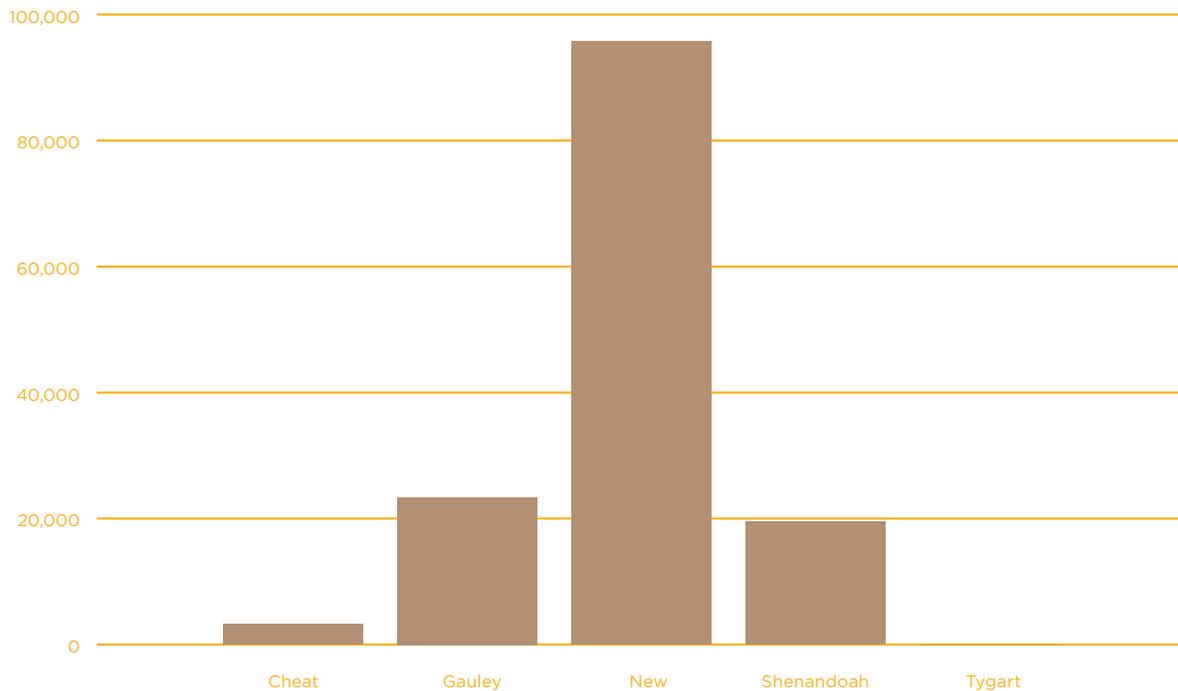
The Law Enforcement Section has the responsibility of regulating the commercial whitewater industry in West Virginia. Twenty commercial whitewater outfitter and guides were licensed for calendar year 2021. Twenty-four general outfitter and guides are licensed to conduct business in designated whitewater zones for calendar year 2021.

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

In West Virginia, whitewater zones are located on the Cheat, Gauley, New, Shenandoah and Tygart rivers. In the calendar year 2021, approximately 141,760 people were reported users in whitewater by commercial whitewater and general outfitters.

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

2021 WEST VIRGINIA WHITEWATER USER NUMBERS

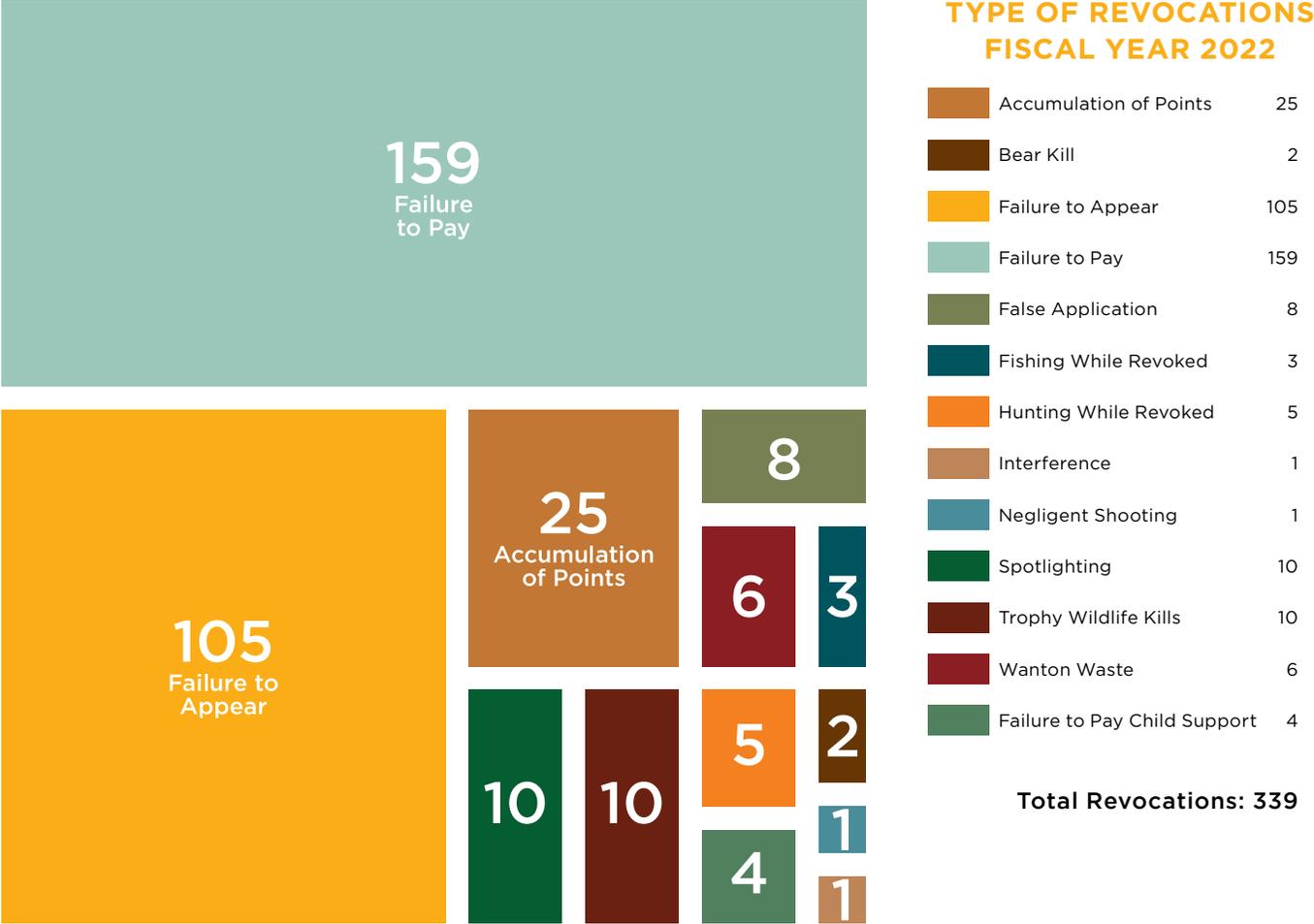


The License/Privilege Revocation System

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

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

More than 7,717 revocation notices have been sent to individuals convicted of hunting, trapping and/or fishing violations since the commencement of the electronic revocation system in the early 1990s. During FY2022, 339 revocation letters were processed. In addition, 127 revocations were ratified by the WVDNR on the IWVC.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Activity

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY BY DISTRICT - JULY 4, 2021, THRU JULY 2, 2022

DISTRICT	ARRESTS					WARNINGS				COMPLAINTS					
	Chapter 20 Arrests	Chapter 22 Arrests	Arrest Warrants	Other Arrests	TOTAL ARRESTS	Chapter 20 Warnings	Chapter 22 Warnings	Warnings Other	WARNINGS TOTAL	Complaints Received	Complaints Investigated	Wildlife Damage Complaints Received	Wildlife Damage Complaints Investigated	Other Complaints	COMPLAINTS TOTAL
1	425	113	63	93	694	590	500	186	1,276	837	750	170	168	174	2,099
2	601	90	199	93	983	183	93	54	330	591	592	278	271	467	2,199
3	356	69	10	24	459	738	196	78	1,012	708	649	224	225	457	2,263
4	342	78	22	168	610	673	194	354	1,221	809	907	154	161	73	2,104
5	557	50	1	23	631	724	254	25	1,003	796	705	44	36	7	1,588
6	484	59	29	37	609	435	255	70	760	414	413	68	80	7	982
TOTALS*	2,901	506	325	462	4,194	3,548	1,606	804	5,958	4,420	4,255	979	974	1,192	11,820

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

Definitions

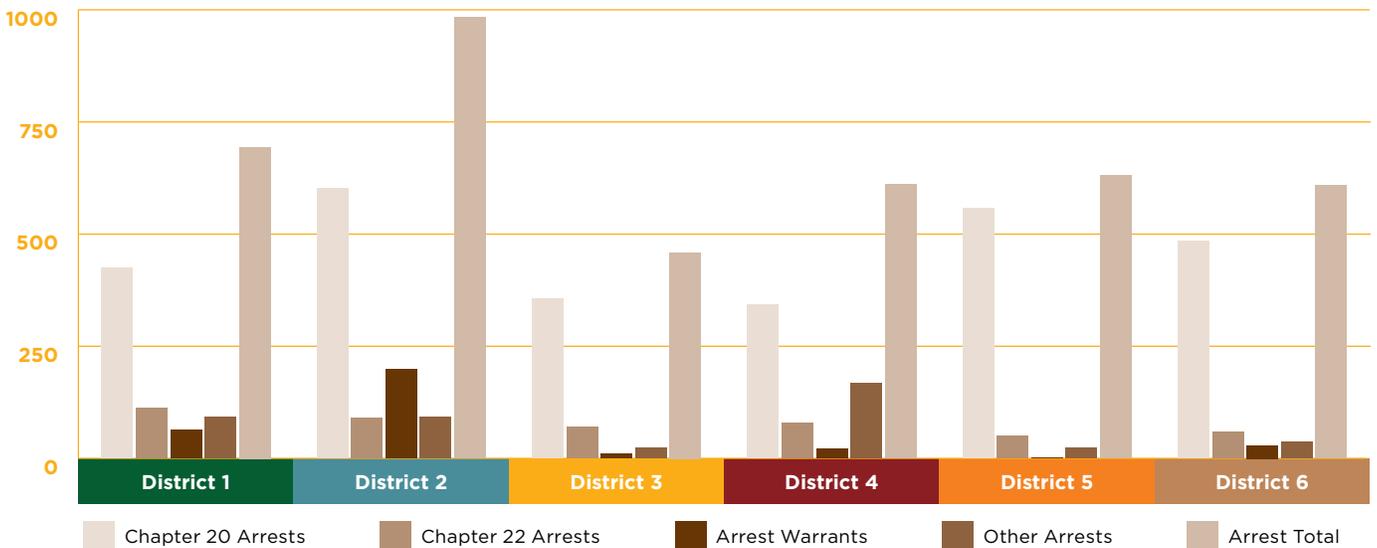
Chapter 20: Citations/Arrests for natural resources violations, including Forestry.

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

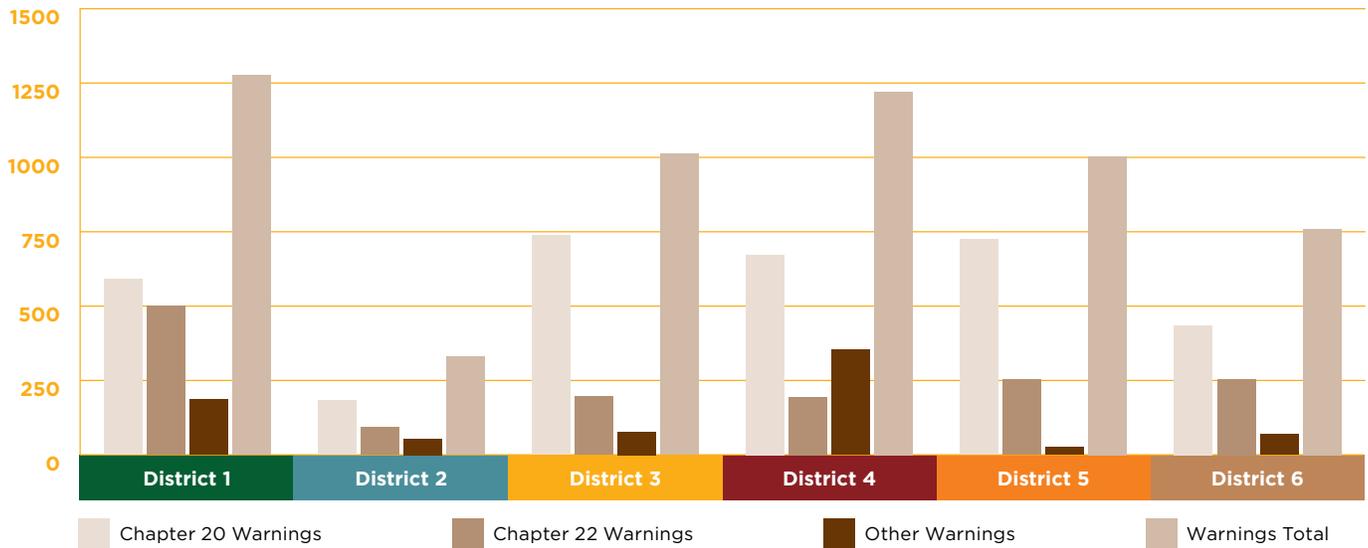
Warrants: Arrest warrants for violations that occur outside the officer's assigned county/area.

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

ARRESTS BY TYPE AND DISTRICT - JULY 4, 2021, THRU JULY 2, 2022



WARNINGS BY TYPE AND DISTRICT - JULY 4, 2021, THRU JULY 2, 2022

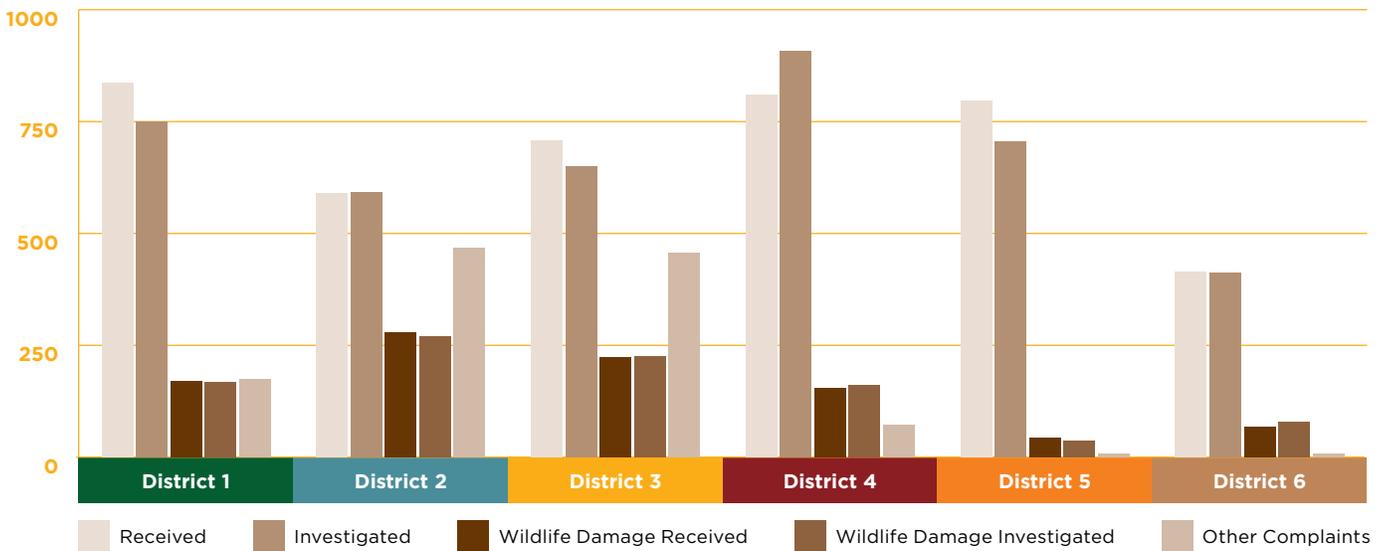


Definitions

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

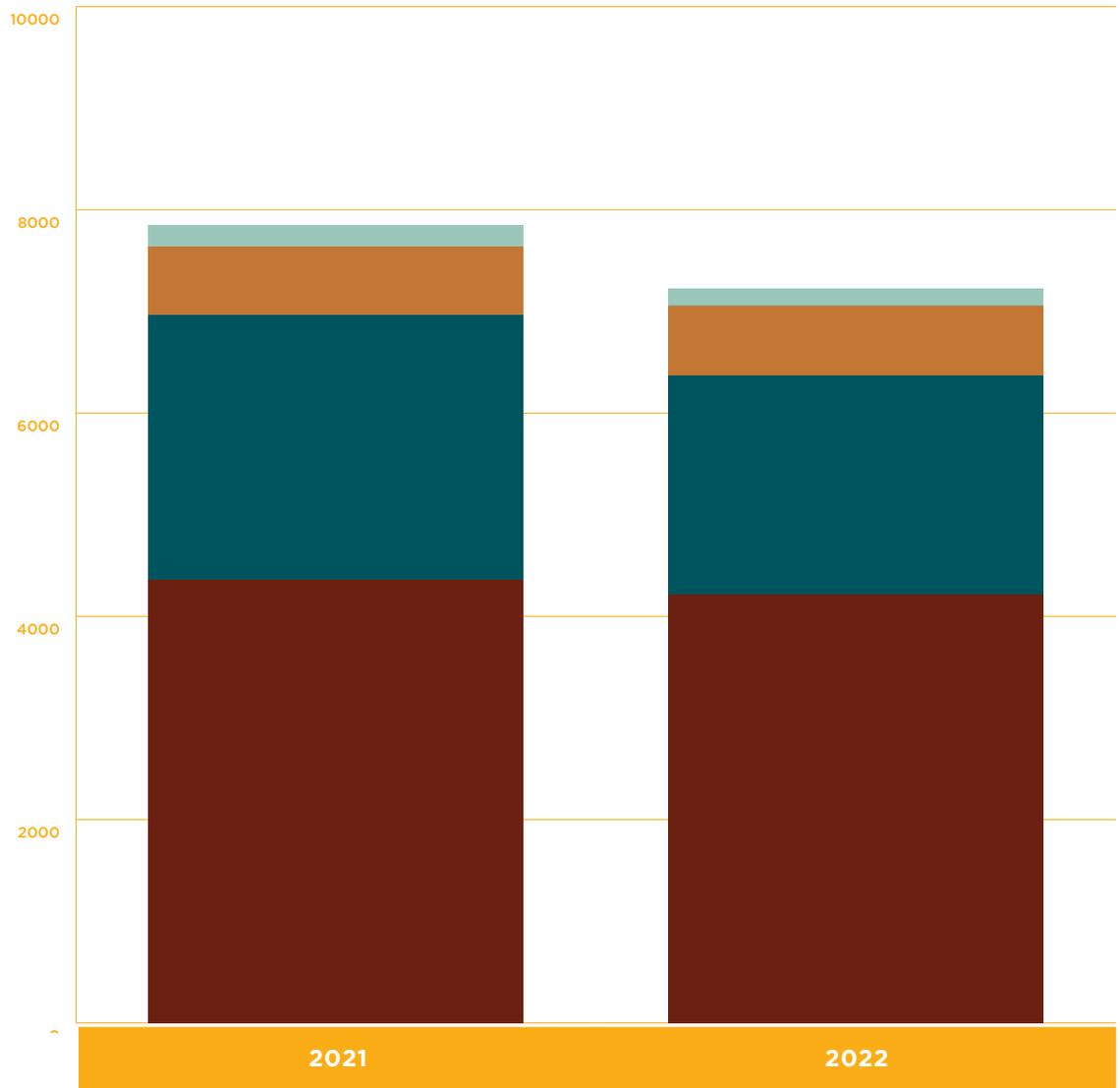
Chapter 22: Citations/Arrests for environmental violations such as outside burning, air pollution, open dumps, etc.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND INVESTIGATED BY DISTRICT - JULY 4, 2021, THRU JULY 2, 2022



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Prosecution Comparison - FY 2021 vs. FY 2022



	2021	2022
Number of Prosecutions	4,358	4,214
Convicted	2,613	2,156
Dismissed	666	685
Acquitted	5	0
Failed to Appear	209	165
Pre-Trial Diversion	2	0

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2022

HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Littering	
Litter, Highway	9
Litter, Public/Private Road or Property in waters of State or w/in 100ft waters	15
Litter, Private Property	11
Litter, Greater than 500 lbs.	3
Litter, 100-500 lbs.	6
Litter, Less than 100 lbs.	38
Litter, No Record of Mandatory Disposal	87
TOTAL Littering	169
License	
Fishing Paraphernalia in Possession without License	60
Hunting Paraphernalia in Possession without License	3
Residents Fishing without License	277
Residents Hunting without License	100
Non-Residents Fishing without License	69
Non-Residents Hunting without License	40
Hunt/Trap without license in possession	2
Hunt/Trap/Fish without Photo ID in Possession	19
Fishing without License in possession	3
Fishing without Trout Stamp	6
Hunting Bear without Bear Damage Stamp	3
Hunting Additional Deer without RB/RRB Stamp	6
Hunting Additional Deer without RG/RRG Stamp	4
Hunting Antlerless Deer without Class N/NN Stamp	13
Hunting without Class Y Permit	3
Fishing while License Revoked	4
Hunting while License Revoked	16
Improper Fishing License	1
Improper Hunting License	2
Making False Application - Fishing License	0
Making False Application - Hunting License	4
Making False Application - Hunting and Fishing License	2
Making False Application - Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License	1
Hunting without Hunter Education Card	5
Trapping without a license	2
TOTAL License	645

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2022

HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Hunting	
Bear, Failure to Check	2
Bear, Failure to Submit Bear Tooth	11
Feed Bear or Hunt Bear Using Bait/Poison/Trap/Explosives	18
Possess/Harvest/Sell/Buy Bear Parts from Illegal Bear Kill	2
Blaze Orange, None or Insufficient	41
Closed Season	102
Exceed Bag Limit (daily)	9
Failure to Check Game	123
Failure to Field Tag Game	34
Illegal Killing or Taking of Deer, Turkey, Boar	9
Illegal Possession of Wildlife or Parts Thereof	258
Hunt Deer with Illegal Firearms/Ammo	17
Loaded/Uncased Firearm or Nocked Crossbow, Land Conveyance	150
Uncased gun, Closed Season	1
Hunt, Shoot Across or in Public Road	9
Hunt from vehicle without Class Q Permit	1
Shoot Within 25 yards of Vehicle	9
Shoot/Hunt From Motor Vehicle/ATV/Land Conveyance	114
Shoot at Game Not Plainly Visible	1
Negligent Shooting - Person	2
Negligent Shooting- Person, Serious Injury or Death	3
Negligent Shooting - Livestock/Property	1
Illegal Shooting Distance of Dwelling	15
Spotlighting/Night Vision	61
Sunday Hunting on Private Land without Permission	3
Trapping Using Exposed Bait	3
Uncased Firearm in vehicle at night	8
Unlawful Entry of Unenclosed/Posted Property Hunt/Trap/Fish	2
Hunt without Permission - Lands of Another	87
Wanton Waste Big Game	11
Hunt After Killing Legal Deer	5
Hunt Turkey after obtaining season limit	2
Hunt/Take/Kill by Bait/Trap/Snare: Bear, Turkey, Grouse, Pheasant, Quail	32
Hunt Bear/Boar/Mig Bird/Prot Bird or Mammal w/Bait/Trap/Net Snare	7
Hunt Deer half hour Before Sunrise - half hour After Sunset	31
Hunt, Deer, Fail to Comply with Limited Antlerless Permit Procedures	1
Hunt, Illegal Kill, Additional Antlered Deer or Exceed Three Deer limit	9
Hunt, Illegal Kill, Additional Antlered Deer prior to Antlerless	1
Deer Enhanced Antlered Penalty	1
Hunt, Taking Antlered deer with less than 14" outside spread	2
Hunt Deer with Electronic Call	1
Hunt Turkey with Electronic Call	1
Hunt Under the Influence	5
Hunt - Apprentice Licensee hunting without an Adult	1
Underage Hunter without Adult	5
Interference with Hunter/Trapper	3
Hunt/Possession of Untagged Wildlife killed by another	2
Hunt/Bear Firearms/No dog season using dogs	2
Hunt/Possession Firearm while training dogs	2
Dogs Chasing Deer	2
Failure to Tag Traps	3
Failure to Tend Traps Daily	2
Trapping with illegal body gripping snares	1

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2022

HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Hunting continued	
Hunt/Trap/Kill Fur-Bearing Animal out of season	3
Hunt/Trap/Lands of Another without written permisson	2
TOTAL Hunting	1,233
Fishing	
Fishing without Permission	6
Fishing in Restricted Area	17
Fishing, Illegal Possession of Wildlife or Parts Thereof	7
Taking Fish by Illegal Methods	1
Fish, Taking Frogs during closed season	2
Using Prohibited Bait in Restricted Areas	8
Access Site Violation, Alcohol	28
Access Site Violation, Possession/Use Controlled Substances	4
Access Site Violation, Unauthorized Use of	7
Access Site Violation, Litter	1
Exceed Daily Creel Limit	2
Exceed Two Pole Limit/Trout	4
Exceed Possession Limit	2
Exceed Daily Creel Limit/Trout	13
TOTAL Fishing	102
Boating	
Create Wake in No-Wake Zone	7
Boat, Failure to Report Boating Accident	1
None or Insufficient, Fire Extinguisher, MB	7
None or Insufficient Lights	8
None or Insufficient Number of PFDs for Children Under 12	23
None or Insufficient Number of PFDs	136
Improper Location or Spacing of Numbers	2
Operation of PWC during Illegal Hours	6
Reckless Operation	15
Operating Boat without Required Boater Safety Card	16
Tow/Pulling Skier without Observer/Mirror	10
Boat, Unregistered Watercraft	8
Boat without Registration Card	4
Overload Boat, Passengers	3
Operate Watercraft while Under the Influence	1
Boat Under the Influence (BUI)	19
Tow or Operate Boat without PFDs	6
Boat, Jumping wake of another vessel with PWC	2
Boat, Operate/Permit to operate not properly equipped	3
WHITEWATER	
Outfitter Employ Guide Trainee without Trainee Guide Sheet	1
Outfitter/Guide without License	3
TOTAL Boating	278

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2022

HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Solid Waste	
Open Burning, Air Pollution	8
Open Burning of Refuse/Solid Waste	92
Open Dump, Creating or Contributing to	114
Unauthorized Use of Dumpster	4
Failure to remove doors from abandoned refrigerator/freezer	1
Waste Endangerment	106
Burning of Waste Tires	2
Unlawful Disposal of Waste Tires	9
TOTAL Solid Waste	336
Forestry	
Failure to Safety Strip Around Fire	13
Failure to Attend To or Extinguish Fire	7
Illegal Burning	2
Permitting a Fire to Escape	3
Throw Lighted Material on Road or Forest Lands	15
Starting Fire on Lands of Another	6
Burning During Fire Season without Permit	30
GINSENG	
Dig Out of Season	5
Without Certification	3
Dig without Permission	9
TIMBERING	
Theft	1
Peel Trees/Timber without Permission	2
Possess/Haul on Public Road without Owners Permission	1
Timber/ Trespassing to Cut/Take/Damage Trees	1
TOTAL Forestry	98
General	
Conspiracy - Hunting	116
Conspiracy - Fishing	9
Conspiracy - Non-Hunting or Fishing	2
General Obstruction/Withhold Information	40
Unlawful Postings of Land	1
STATE PARK VIOLATIONS	
Prohibited Discharge of Firearm in Park	1
Destruction of Property	4
Failure to Obey Public Shoot Range Rules	6
Skiing Impaired (Alcohol)	1
National Forest Use MV in Closed Area	11
WMA VIOLATIONS	
Alcohol	20
Camping Violations	4
Destruction of Property	3
Hunting - ATV in Restricted area of WMA	9
Improper Disposal of Refuse	4
Motor Vehicle Violations	23
Fire in Undesignated Area	1
Removal of Prohibited Objects	4
Uncased Firearm/Bow/Arrow in WMA	3
Use During Prohibited Hours (10 p.m. - 6 a.m.)	1
Bait/Feed Wildlife	27
Possess/Use Controlled Substance on WMA	2

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2022

HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
General continued	
OUTSIDE CHAPTER 20	
Alcohol	7
Animal Cruelty	53
Assault/Police Officer	1
ATV Violations on Roadways	4
Motor Vehicle Violations	77
Driving Revoked/DUI	3
DUI	5
Driving Revoked/Suspended	31
No Operators/Permits - DL	8
Defective Equipment/Operate in Unsafe Conditions	2
Fleeing from Officer	13
Fleeing from Officer while DUI	1
Forgery	1
Illegal Possession of Controlled Substances	34
Possession of Marijuana	15
Illegal Possession of Firearms (Prohibited Person)	14
Insurance/No Insurance	26
Registration Violations	34
Larceny (Petit)	6
Trespassing	47
Fraud Schemes	1
Harrasment	2
Child support/Non Payment/Felony	1
Child Support/Non Payment/Misdemeanor	3
Possession of Stolen Property	2
HATFIELD-MCCOY RECREATIONAL AREA	
Alcohol Possess/Consume	98
No Glass Containers While Riding a Motor Vehicle within HMRA	1
Riding/Remain on Designated/Marked Trails	5
Riding without Helmets	55
Riding without Permits	20
On Trail half hour After Sunset to half hour Before Sunrise	4
Failure to Follow ATV/UTV Manufacture Specs on Age/Size	4
Obey all Traffic Laws/Devices/Signs	2
TOTAL General	872



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Reports of Prosecutions for FY2022

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

1	694	1,276	Barbour	66	55	0	0	1	10
			Brooke	43	31	6	0	5	1
			Hancock	36	35	0	0	0	1
			Harrison	91	54	4	0	5	28
			Marion	87	66	2	0	0	19
			Marshall	24	17	6	0	0	1
			Monongalia	63	52	0	0	2	9
			Ohio	21	12	6	0	3	0
			Preston	67	58	4	0	2	3
			Taylor	28	12	3	0	4	9
			Tucker	26	17	3	0	0	6
		Wetzel	15	14	1	0	0	0	
		TOTAL		567	423	35	0	22	87

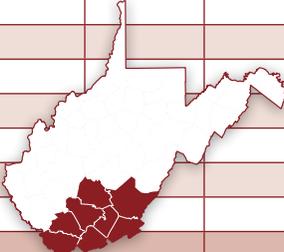
2	983	330	Berkeley	58	40	3	0	1	14
			Grant	96	75	14	0	0	7
			Hampshire	110	82	12	0	2	14
			Hardy	84	55	8	0	3	18
			Jefferson	82	51	1	0	8	22
			Mineral	232	116	88	0	1	27
			Morgan	41	16	5	0	0	20
			Pendleton	46	46	0	0	0	0
			TOTAL		749	481	131	0	15

3	459	1,012	Braxton	20	16	3	0	0	1
			Clay	43	32	3	0	3	5
			Lewis	63	52	3	0	2	6
			Nicholas	142	82	25	0	26	9
			Pocahontas	55	44	5	0	4	2
			Randolph	67	60	0	0	5	2
			Upshur	28	20	3	0	2	3
			Webster	76	54	7	0	1	14
			TOTAL		494	360	49	0	43

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Reports of Prosecutions for FY2022

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

4	610	1,221	Fayette	74	35	9	0	15	15
			Greenbrier	77	42	11	0	5	19
			McDowell	38	9	12	0	0	17
			Mercer	56	16	7	0	5	28
			Monroe	61	36	5	0	11	9
			Raleigh	98	44	8	0	12	34
			Summers	49	29	2	0	5	13
			Wyoming	164	61	17	0	2	84
			TOTAL	617	272	71	0	55	219

5	631	1,003	Boone	113	44	34	0	0	35
			Cabell	34	6	13	0	4	11
			Kanawha	110	32	37	0	2	39
			Lincoln	49	23	14	0	0	12
			Logan	167	53	64	0	0	50
			Mason	67	39	28	0	0	0
			Mingo	90	49	25	0	0	16
			Putnam	45	11	21	0	3	10
			Wayne	54	12	25	0	6	11
			TOTAL	729	269	261	0	15	184

6	609	760	Calhoun	36	32	4	0	0	0
			Doddridge	15	7	2	0	0	6
			Gilmer	40	31	5	0	0	4
			Jackson	96	49	36	0	4	7
			Pleasants	14	10	3	0	0	1
			Ritchie	33	25	3	0	0	5
			Roane	111	52	52	0	0	7
			Tyler	30	21	5	0	0	4
			Wirt	60	26	12	0	2	20
			Wood	147	98	16	0	9	24
			TOTAL	582	351	138	0	15	78

STATE TOTAL	4,006	5,602		3,738	2,156	685	0	165	732
	4,214	5,958	THIS STATE TOTAL INCLUDES RETIREES AND RESIGNATIONS THAT OCCURRED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2022						



PARKS AND RECREATION

Bradley R. Reed, Sr., *Chief*



Introduction

This report provides a review of major programs, policies, actions and challenges addressed during the 2022 fiscal year.

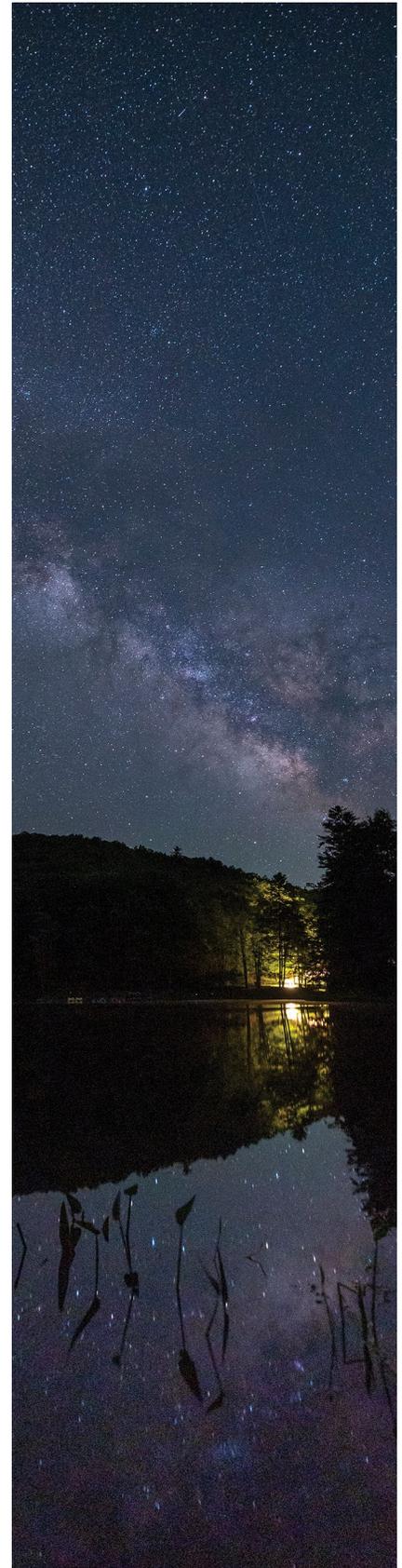
Overview

The story of State Parks is one of the greatest successes in the history of West Virginia. Conceived out of a nationwide conservation and park construction movement in the late 1920s and early 1930s, the development of our state parks promoted preservation and conservation principles as a way to spur tourism and development in economically depressed areas of our state. This impact of park development on local communities is particularly evident in the Davis/Canaan Valley area where the construction of Blackwater Falls and Canaan Valley Resort state parks created a catalyst for similar private development that now makes that area of the state one of our leading tourist attractions. Now, 94 years later our park system continues that legacy by being one of the cornerstones of our state's robust tourism industry hosting nearly 10 million visitors annually. The acquisition of state park land and subsequent facility development has brought commerce and tourism to counties and localities all around the state. It has dramatically increased local property values, helped to create new businesses, created jobs where few to none existed and dramatically improved the health and wellness of West Virginia citizens living nearby.

Additionally, the development of a state park system in West Virginia has proven to be a great investment for the taxpayers. In 2016, the WVDNR commissioned a study to renew the understanding of the economic impact of West Virginia State Parks and Forests on the state and its citizens. A key finding of this study was that the total economic impact of the system annually ranges between \$160.5 million and \$189.5 million. Economic impact is a measure of fresh money infused into the state's economy that likely would not have been generated in the absence of the Park System. The study showed that for every \$1 of general tax revenue provided to State Parks, \$13.15 on average was generated in fresh money that would not be present without state parks and forests. It is important to note, however, that according to [USInflationCalculator.com](https://www.usinflationcalculator.com), the national inflation rate has increased from 1.4% in 2016 to 7.5% in 2022. Park revenue collections and attendance have grown significantly in the same timeframe. It is time for the Section to commission a new study to update numbers noted in the 2016 report, which will even further demonstrate the value of the park system to the State of West Virginia.

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

The Parks and Recreation Section has very successfully met the mandates of this legislated mission throughout its 94-year history with its protection and preservation of over 164,000 acres of easily accessible public land. The Parks and Recreation Section (Park System) promotes conservation with its mere existence. Fifteen state park areas feature primary or secondary old growth forest. The system comprises 35 state parks, nine state forests and three state rail trails. West Virginia citizens enjoying state parks and forests normally represent 63% of its visitation, while 37% are guests traveling from outside the state.



PARKS AND RECREATION

Overview continued

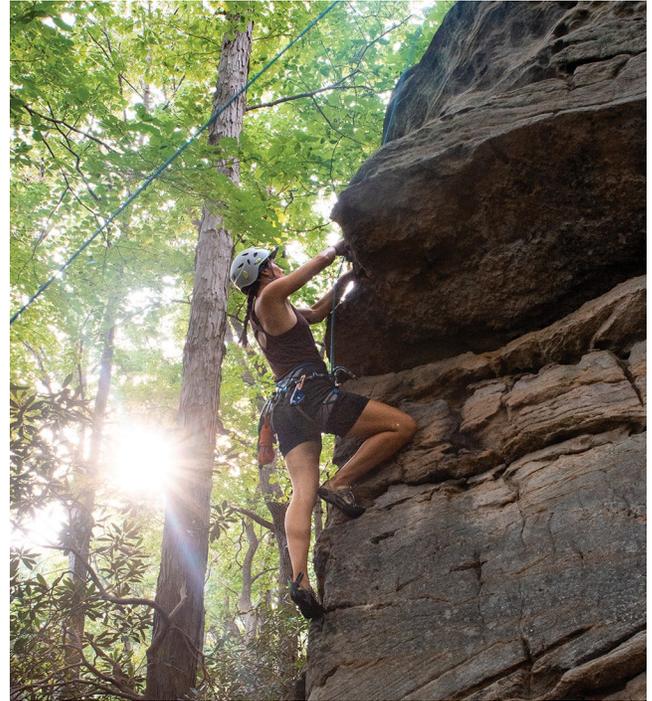
The protection of these wildland green spaces and largely undisturbed ecosystems is vitally important to the state and nation. State Park lands are set aside in their most natural condition for the benefit of the public now and for generations to come. This preservation has enormous ecological, scientific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

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

As stated previously, recreational opportunities provided by these areas are significant to the tourism industry in West Virginia. The Park System is an economic stabilizer for overall state tourism by offsetting economic fluctuations. The Parks System protects and maintains a steady base of tourism during tough economic times when entrepreneurial and private tourism activity downtrends and serves to buffer the negative consequences of lost tourist activity.

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

Every state park and forest area contributes to the value of the state and the excellence and complexity of the system. Unique West Virginia treasures such as Blackwater Falls, the Babcock Glade Creek Grist Mill, Twin Falls Resort Pioneer Farm and the Droop Mountain Battlefield Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era Lookout Tower are iconic representations of West Virginia. Exceptional scenic overlooks are on display at areas such as Hawks Nest, Cacapon Resort, Pipestem Resort, Babcock, Lost



River, Coopers Rock and Carnifex Ferry. The preservation of the impressive virgin forest at Cathedral State Park and representation of 18th century life at Prickett's Fort State Park, while at the same time the Park System's operation of Stonewall, Canaan Valley and Pipestem resorts further represents the diversity of the system and its management challenges.

General Information

GUEST SAFETY AND SATISFACTION

Guests visiting the Park System have an overwhelmingly safe and satisfying experience. The agency is constantly ensuring the appropriate operation of complex facilities such as trams, excursion boats, elevators, marinas, historic structures, pools, lakes, dams, water systems, sewage systems and other similar important facilities offered for the care and use of the public. The system provided recreation to the public this past year with minimal incidents or safety concerns. The Park System affords the traveling public a safe outdoor recreation experience. Fundamental for marketing is the awareness that all overnight facilities and park grounds are considered free from danger by the traveling public. A significant gauge of this success is the minimal number of incidents occurring in parks or forests which escalate to the level of arrests or citations. Comment card reports show a 96% Excellent or Good rating of our parks and forests. A major management emphasis in park operations is placed on hospitality and providing excellent guest services.

IMPROVEMENTS

Fiscal year 2022 saw majority completion of all projects financed with over \$88 million in bond and special funding provided to the Park System since 2018.

Although some new construction was completed, this funding program was specifically created for repairs and upgrades throughout the system including lodge and cabin updates and redecoration, improved accessibility, water and wastewater treatment upgrades, recreational projects, technology upgrades, infrastructure repairs, bathhouse improvements and other similar improvements. This investment will provide immediate and long-term positive returns including higher guest satisfaction, greater guest safety, enhanced revenue production and improved regulatory compliance.

A brief listing of significant projects brought to a close during 2022 includes:

- Renovation of the 1950s era lodge at Cacapon Resort State Park, which along with recent new lodge and amenity construction, completes that park's transformation to true resort status.
- Completion of the lodge and facility renovation project at Blackwater Falls State Park, which included a sleeping room, front desk, gift shop and common area modernization.
- Completion of the lodge renovation at Pipestem Resort State Park, which included conference room and common area modernization as well as the creation of a new full-service resort spa.
- Completion of the lodge renovation at North Bend State Park, which included guest room, front desk, gift shop and common area modernization.
- Completion of the lodge renovation at Hawks Nest State Park, which included guest room and common area modernization, as well as the addition of new HVAC.
- Completion of the lodge renovation at Tygart Lake State Park, which included guest room, front desk and common area modernization, as well as new outdoor pool construction.
- Completion of a second tube run area at Canaan Valley Resort State Park to capitalize on the tremendous success and revenue generating potential of that facility. Our partners in the operation of Canaan Valley Resort also purchased and installed a new RFID ticket ski lift ticket sales and security system.
- Five of the bridges on the North Bend Rail Trail were completely renovated using volunteer labor and funding from a grant and other donated funds.
- A major stream mitigation project was completed at Tomlinson Run State Park, including the replacement of a very popular footbridge, the removal of some old overgrown ponds and the construction of several new fishing and observation decks along the creek.
- The campground bathhouse at Camp Creek State Park was renovated in-house, which included all new tile in the showers and dressing areas along with all new fixtures.
- New signage was designed and created for the front desks of all lodge parks in partnership with the Department of Tourism.
- Foundation partners at Coopers Rock State Forest designed and installed a new gateway entrance sign identical to the original forest sign from the 1930s.
- A new gift shop camp store was built and opened by the park staff at Holly River State Park. This rustic addition has added an attractive feature to the park as well as an excellent revenue source.
- Waterline replacement was completed on the Pine Run, Bush Place and Beaver Creek water systems in Watoga State Park.
- The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection completed a dam removal and stream improvement project in Kanawha State Forest. This project removed a dam that created sediment while stabilizing stream banks and providing additional aquatic habitat and fishing opportunities. The project maintains and expands the area's Class Q fishery status.



Fiscal year 2022 also saw significant progress toward leases and purchases necessary for land acquisition for the Elk River Rail Trail as well as paved the way for significant expansion plans for the same. The Natural Area Program created in 2021 expanded this year with the designation of two new natural areas at Twin Falls Resort and Carnifex Ferry Battlefield state parks. And, as always, the Parks System kept its close partnership with the Department of Tourism participating in a wide variety of packages, discounts and opportunities.



WORKFORCE

The Park System directly employs more than 380 full-time staff and approximately 1,500 seasonal and summer staff. Onsite private concession operations additionally provide jobs numbering in the hundreds. The employees are a consistent and dedicated workforce, motivated by their understanding of the value of parks and forests plus the mission of the Parks System. This focus by the staff is integral to its success.

Approximately one-third of seasonal and summer staff are high school and college-age students gaining first-time work experience serving in hospitality and maintenance capacities at pools, campgrounds, restaurants, lodges and as summer naturalists. At these jobs, important life skills are gained while the student learns the importance of West Virginia's natural resources and the state's tourism industry. At the same time, young employees gain understanding of the importance of staying and investing in the state and often develop a deep connection to West Virginia. Many citizens, who have remained within our borders to make a difference as community leaders and to invest a lifetime of commitment to betterment for the state, began their work experience as park or forest student employees. Seasonal staff often return for employment annually to aid building and grounds maintenance, housekeeping, front desk operation and as office staff. Our mixture of full-time, seasonal and summer employees greatly contributes to the efficient and effective operation of the system.

In addition to the staff working directly for the Park System, the aforementioned 2016 Economic Impact Study revealed the economic activity stimulated by visitation to state parks and forests supported approximately 3,209 off-site, full-time equivalent private sector jobs across the state. These jobs are a result of private businesses profiting because of the existence of a park or forest in their area of the state. Examples of such businesses might include an adventure outfitter which utilizes a state park or forest, local purveyors of groceries or fuel, retail establishments, restaurants, etc. In terms of wages and income, the economic activity created by visitation to state parks and forests was responsible for roughly \$91.6 million in salary income in FY2016, according to the same Economic Impact Study. This number would be increased in FY2022 based on inflation.

VACANCIES

As with many private sector businesses, the Parks System is currently struggling with workforce recruitment and retention issues. As of this writing, the Section has approximately 77 full-time and 168 seasonal position vacancies.

EDUCATION

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

The system continues to improve on the quality of programming concentrating largely, but not exclusively, on interpretation of state flora, fauna, natural history and the mission of the Park System. A major emphasis is placed on programming geared toward youth.

Education continued

Programmers and naturalists are charged with implementing programs, which include interpretive hikes, wildlife observation, water study, etc. They also are tasked with engaging visitors in discovering and understanding the outdoors through interpretative interaction. Energizing and encouraging families to get outside is a priority.

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

Finances

REVENUE GENERATION

With the support of governors and legislators, WVDNR leaders have invested money into developing high-quality, revenue-generating facilities, which helps defray the cost of operating a statewide parks and recreation system and provides jobs in 35 counties.

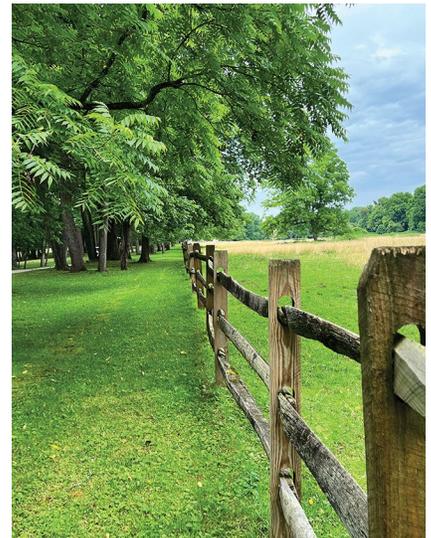
As it pertains to self-generated revenue, FY2022 was an incredible one for the Park System. It was a year that saw a variety of financial reporting metrics at all-time record highs. A few examples are:

- Gross Operating Revenues at more than \$32.8 million, which outperformed the FY2021 record year by more than 18%. This number is \$9.3 million ahead of revenue collections in FY2019.
- Gross Operating Revenues from Cabin rentals at more than \$7.2 million, which outperformed the FY2021 record year by more than 10%.
- Gross Operating Revenues from Retail sales at more than \$4.2 million, which outperformed the FY2021 record year by more than 42%.

The system employs a “User Pay-Public Benefit” model for operations. User fees for services and products generate revenue supporting the many public benefits provided by the system.

EXPENDITURES

Revenue collections from user fees and rentals last fiscal year accounted for 73.57% of park and forest expenditures (an all-time high). The balance of funds for system operation are provided by General Revenue, Lottery Account 3267 and Lottery Account 3277. The success of the Park System sometimes can be reduced to strictly internal fiscal matters by those without a full understanding of what the system fully provides to the citizenry. There are multiple factors to consider when those thoughts are presented. To begin, consideration of the total economic impact of the Park System as noted above must be given. Like the tourism industry, the Park System provides an excellent annual financial return to taxpayers by bringing commerce-related activity into the state. Additionally, the Park System often serves as community or county parks to local governments and citizenry by providing free recreation and quality of life enrichment. Many parks only possess revenue centers at minimal levels.



PARKS AND RECREATION

FUNDING

The greatest challenge facing the Park System has long been a lack of funding for operations and deferred maintenance. A 2018 Legislative Performance Review Audit recommended an additional \$3 million to be budgeted annually to the Section for major repairs and equipment replacement to address deferred maintenance. Since then, due to the support of the Governor and Legislature, the Park System has received approximately \$130 million in supplemental financial support through bond sales and other avenues. This funding has worked wonders for the system in terms of renovating aging facilities, replacing infrastructure and adding revenue centers. Approximately \$42 million of this funding remains to be spent and will be detailed later in this report.

Outstanding needs for the Park System remain present for continued infrastructure replacement, renovations, equipment purchase and the enhancement of high-use revenue centers. A recent estimate of that need created by Parks management exceeded \$147 million.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

As stated above, funding has been made available by the Governor and Legislature for a continuation of major projects and concepts begun over the past few years. These projects include:

- Additional cabin development at Beech Fork State Park
- Cabin development at Coopers Rock State Forest
- Tram replacement at Pipestem Resort State Park
- Tram replacement at Hawks Nest State Park
- Additional campground development at Coopers Rock State Forest
- Campground development at Cass Scenic Railroad State Park
- Campground development at Lost River State Park
- Elk River Trail land acquisition
- Elk River Trail building(s) construction
- Systemwide public restroom renovation



DIVERSITY

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

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE

Critical to the mission of providing recreation to the public, the Park System must provide services, facilities and programs to all people in a safe and accepting environment. Most of the items identified in the original systemwide ADA assessment are complete while additional and ever evolving needs remain and require funding.

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES

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

Individual Area and Section Activity Reports

AUDRA STATE PARK

The park saw completion of important infrastructure projects this past fiscal year. The first included a waterline repair near the superintendent's residence. The second project was related to a sewer line near the campground. Fifteen feet of sewer line running from the dump station to the septic tank was replaced. The Alum Cave Boardwalk right-of-way was contracted in January. This will allow the West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) to start work on the trail where it is slipping. Dangerous trees were also cut in the campground. Several trees were found to be leaning towards buildings and needed to be removed. This work was completed on time and prior to the start of the camping season.

BABCOCK STATE PARK

The park maintenance staff made concrete repairs to the Boley Lake outflow diversion structure after last year's inspection of the dam. Renovations were made to the restroom at Boley Lake along with a new ADA access ramp. Upgrades to this facility include installing new divider walls, new accessible lavatories, painting of the interior and exterior of the building, the installation of new plumbing and the construction of two accessible parking spaces. New engineered wood mulch was distributed to all three of the park's playgrounds. Both overlooks were trimmed back to allow for improved sightlines. New window curtains, drapes, rods and shades were installed in all cabins. Renovations were made to Cabins 1-13, which included electric service upgrades, new cabinets, installation of new quartz countertops, new tile and new plumbing in the kitchens and bathrooms. New vinyl flooring was installed in cabin 23. New porcelain tile was added to the floor and ceiling, base and walls of the shower stalls at the campground bathhouse. ADA necessities and new plumbing were installed as well. The basketball and tennis courts were resurfaced. The WVDOT continued to work on road repairs and upgrades on the old roadway leading from the park near the Grist Mill down to the New River. This trail is nearly five miles long and will allow for hiking and mountain biking opportunities to many park guests as well as good fishing access. WVDOT employees have done a remarkable job on this project and it is expected to be complete by fall 2022. New refrigerators and ranges were installed in the cabins. A new swing and West Virginia sign were installed near the Grist Mill to allow for photo opportunities of visitors and guests with the historic mill in the background.

BEARTOWN STATE PARK

Repairs were made to the boardwalk. A new kiosk sign was installed that includes a park map and interpretive information. A new traffic counter was installed in the roadway to the park.

BEECH FORK STATE PARK

The operating season was extended in Moxley Branch Campground thanks to recent bond project upgrades of 30- and 50-amp electric with water hookups. An additional bond project included purchasing new furniture from West Virginia Correctional Industries for all rental cabins. A total of 25 trees were planted throughout the campground and a retaining wall with steps was constructed in cooperation with the Lincoln County Schools Simulated Workplace Program. The Camper's Corner Store was remodeled to accommodate a new hand-dipped ice cream counter. Part of the park naturalist's office was utilized to create a space for gift shop storage. A \$148,047 Recreation Trail grant was received for the repaving of the Franklin Wooten Day-use Fitness Trail.

BERKELEY SPRINGS STATE PARK

New men's and women's restroom partitions were installed in the pool bathhouse. The No. 1 whirlpool bathtub in the east side of the main bathhouse was removed and replaced due to a major water leak. A six-inch main waterline was replaced going to the main bathhouse. Park staff participated in the first annual Spa Renewal Festival at the Berkeley Springs Ice House. Special events hosted at the park this year included the Summer Concert series, several Art in the Park events, monthly Mountain State Cruisers car shows, Morgan County Master Gardener Plant Fair and the Morgan County Expo.



PARKS AND RECREATION



BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Sled run popularity continued to grow into one of the most popular outdoor activities in the park. Sled run building renovations include new floors, windows, doors, additional retail space and restrooms. A new kitchen area was added to the snack bar. These renovations have helped increase overall revenue of the sled run area. Blackwater Lodge renovations were completed and the lodge reopened in April. Renovations were made to the lobby, restaurant, front desk, gift shop, lodge rooms and lodge room corridors. New suites were added to the lodge room inventory, the generator for the lodge was upgraded and new kitchen equipment was installed at the Smokehouse Restaurant. A new campground check-station and camp store was constructed. Overall, park retail revenue continued to grow with a significant increase in retail revenue largely fueled by the recently renovated and reopened Trading Company Shop located near the falls.

BLENNERHASSETT ISLAND HISTORICAL STATE PARK

Despite the lingering concerns of COVID, park attendance continued to grow from the previous fiscal years. The park is now operating the island's gift shop, which has increased revenue from the added retail sales. The reporting period saw the return of the Mansion by Candlelight event. October weekend events continue to be some of the park's most popular and signature events. The Island Belle received a new coat of paint and a mechanized gangway that is remote controlled from the pilot house.

BLUESTONE STATE PARK

In FY2022, Bluestone State Park completed the cabin renovation project on 25 of 26 cabins. Cabins now have new kitchens with all new appliances, freshly updated bathrooms and solid infrastructure that should last for many years to come. Bluestone also completed major repairs and renovations to the wastewater treatment plants, a necessity that is perhaps not as apparent as cabin renovations but no less important.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continued work on Phase 5 of the Bluestone Dam Safety Assurance project. This has continued to impact the park with unpredictable water levels, with much of the lower park subject to flooding. Despite that, Bluestone has managed successful camping and swimming seasons with minimal impact.

A total of 12 scenic vistas now exist along the lake. Park employees worked alongside students from the Work Exploration Program to cut out trees and brush that had overgrown the sites. The park continued to utilize the Work Exploration Program to great benefit for both the park and the students. Five students were hired for the summer program this fiscal year, giving them practical work experience.

CABWAYLINGO STATE FOREST

The Cabwaylingo State Forest Trail System Two Year Pilot Project permitting ATVs and ORVs successfully continued into its second year with 80 miles of trails in the forest and four newly added horseback riding trails. This trail system was developed and is operated by the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority. Cabin renovations continue with new tankless water heaters, kitchen cabinets, bathroom remodeling and installation of pedestal grills and outside fire rings that should be fully completed by the end of 2022. Several areas have been cleared to allow for greater fishing access while other scenic vistas have been cleared to provide enhanced stream viewing. Hiking trails were cleared of brush and are under a constant routine maintenance schedule. A new gentle hiking loop has been added to the trail system for use by individuals that may have difficulties with other trails.

The forest experienced a greater than average amount of rain during the reporting period that caused flooding of the Spruce Creek Campground and brought down numerous trees. Several bridges that were lost in the flooding have been repaired and/or replaced.



CACAPON RESORT STATE PARK

Drainage upgrades, irrigation repairs and upgrades and overall preventative maintenance on the golf course were completed. Various buildings and shelters were repaired and painted throughout the park. Solar panels were installed at the Wobble Course range, replacing a gas generator. The Foundation sponsored the installation of a new three-plus mile signature mountain bike trail from the Cacapon Mountain Overlook to the Batt Shelter. They also installed 35 new park benches and sponsored the planting of 230 trees throughout the park. A swing was installed at the Cacapon Mountain Overlook, which was sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Tourism. New services at Healing Waters Spa were introduced including dermaplaning, deep tissue massage and moving cupping. Special Events hosted at the park this year included July 4th Celebration, Irish Road Bowling, Envirothon, 4th Annual Morgan County Sheriff's Department & Cacapon State Park Day Camp, Homecoming, Ironwood Wolves, Christmas at Cacapon with Santa and caroling with the Morgan County Concert Band, New Year's Eve Celebration, First Day Hike, Valentine's Package, Annual Girl Scouts Love State Park Weekend, Pollinator Weekend, Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Earth Day celebration and an Invasive Plant Volunteer Removal Weekends. In April 2022, the original lodge (South Lodge) was reopened to the public after extensive renovations. The original lodge includes 46 remodeled rooms, a new gift shop and an expanded public lounge area. With construction complete, the lodge complex now offers 120 rooms, indoor/outdoor dining, a full-service spa, expanded conference accommodations, indoor pool and hot tub, outdoor fire pit with a large patio and many more amenities.

CAMP CREEK STATE PARK

During FY2022, employees of Camp Creek completed several projects including updating the shower stalls at the Mash Fork Campground shower house. During the winter months, a main sewer line blockage was discovered and after several attempts to clear the blockage failed, employees replaced a 30-foot section of the line and installed a new clean-out. A new gift shop overstock storage building was constructed. Employees cleaned up several downed trees after storms this year. The Park and Foundation hosted several events including the Fall Lumberjack Festival and the Spring Ramp Festival and Jeep Show with an estimated attendance of 800. Other events included the Birds of Prey show with Three Rivers Avian Center and the Peak of the Bloom event with the Grass Roots District located in Princeton, W.Va.

CANAAN VALLEY RESORT STATE PARK

Canaan completed several projects during the reporting period. Construction began on the new campground and bathhouse which is expected to be completed during the fall 2022 season. A bike wash and repair station was installed at the Balsam Overlook parking lot. A deck was built on the ski area's Bearpaw Lodge. RFID gates were installed on two of the ski lifts to help keep better accounting of skier numbers.

PARKS AND RECREATION

CARNIFEX FERRY BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

Park staff replaced the breast works, used by actors during battle reenactments, with a split rail fence that incorporates a unique design feature of a livestock deterrent fence break. This upgrade will add visual interest and allow for additional interpretative talking points during battlefield tours. Park staff also continued to improve and upgrade the park's trail system with proper trail maintenance and water breaks. The trail system is a very popular park attraction as it leads to three different overlooks with spectacular views of the Gauley River. The Patterson House Museum and gift shop continued to be improved with more displays, artifacts, and souvenir items. The Carnifex Ferry Sign Shop produced a total of 1,607 signs for various WVDNR facilities during FY2022.

CASS SCENIC RAILROAD STATE PARK

Renovations to house 241 were nearly complete at the end of the reporting period. Staff completed all finishing work, built a new staircase, reconstructed historically correct windows from salvaged windows in the park, as well as installed a dishwasher, oven and hot water heater. Many park facilities were painted, including 10 company houses, the Company Store, Masonic Building and Maintenance Shop (formerly the Mountain Inn). The Greenbrier River Trail sign and parking lot were finished. A small pavilion was erected at the trailhead that has seating for trail users and houses Cass's Bicentennial Trout (one of eight in the county). An apartment was finished under house 121. This apartment will be used to house the park naturalist and/or AmeriCorps members. WVDNR partnered with Curtis Fleming of Fly Rod Chronicles this year and completed a two-part special on Cass Scenic Railroad State Park. The show featured an excursion on the Bald Knob Train, the Cass Company Houses, Cass Company Store, Restaurant, Greenbrier River Trail, Horse Excursions to the Bald Knob Fire Tower and Wilderness Cabin, Music from Augusta, Cass Candy Train and fishing for native and rainbow trout.



CATHEDRAL STATE PARK

Cathedral State Park saw some notable improvements and hosted regular public events with continuing growth in attendance and participation. Some improvements included re-graveling the handicap parking lot, reconstruction of the park entrance, adding a park information kiosk at the main parking lot and replacing the park's main sign. The newly added gift shop proved popular with park guests. The gift shop was open weekends through the summer and fall months. Cathedral hosted several school field trips, guided hikes and was a designated site for the Wildflower Pilgrimage Tour hosted by Blackwater Falls State Park.

CEDAR CREEK STATE PARK

The smaller of the two septic systems was installed and brought online. Several campsites had water hydrants replaced. The ceiling at the outdoor pool bathhouse was extended in the snack bar area. Bathhouse floors were repainted. Touchless automatic hand dryers were installed at all three bathhouses in the campground. Electric heaters were placed inside the park office bathrooms so they can remain open in the winter for fishermen/hikers. Ongoing invasive vegetation removal projects continued along the stream in the campground. Several hazardous trees were removed throughout the park. The park's Foundation hosted several large events, including Fall Fest, trunk or treat, Christmas lights display, Easter egg hunt and a stream cleanup. Gravel was placed at several sites in the campground to improve site quality. Two new coin-operated washing machines were installed at the campground laundry facility. A new waterline was installed at the park office due to flooding damaging the existing line, and a new water line was installed in the pool area to support the water slide.

CHIEF LOGAN STATE PARK

Numerous improvements were completed at Chief Logan State Park in FY2022. Youthworks volunteered at the park and painted shelters and cleared brush. The Wildlife Center received a fresh new look from the cutting brush and clearing debris, adding benches, plants, new signs and 40 tons of pea gravel. Our state park Adopt-a-Trail was initiated and all trails were adopted. An archery range was constructed across from the recreation center. The diving boards were removed from the outdoor pool and several outdated pieces of playground equipment were removed from the park, including several metal slides. The 28th annual Christmas in the Park was held from Thanksgiving night through December 31, 2022.

COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST

A new log gateway spanning the road at the entrance to the forest was installed. The design of the structure is a reproduction of the one that once stood nearby. Development began on the expansion of McCollum Campground and future cabin sites, which are expected to have a significant impact in both attendance and revenue. Many upgrades were made this year in infrastructure, with extensive work going into replacing or upgrading sewer lines. A gravel path was added at the Trout Pond for improved accessibility for users. The new path links the two sides of the pond and the fishing areas in between stretching nearly 700 feet. The Summer Activity Series saw an increase in the number of participants over the reporting period, and staff offered guided hikes and presentations several nights each week through the summer. A private group campsite for up to 10 tents that is separate from the existing camping area was developed. Staff completed installing tent pads in Rhododendron Campground at all sites that did not have a suitable flat spot to set up a tent. This upgrade proved very popular with campers.

DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

Repairs continued on park buildings including new roofs on the shop, well house and pump house and one additional building having wood siding installed. Two wooden gates were replaced with new metal gates. Dangerous trees were removed from both picnic areas.

ELK RIVER TRAIL

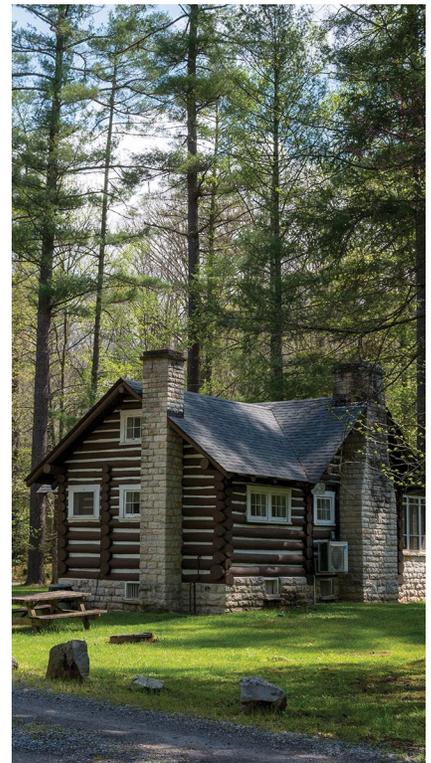
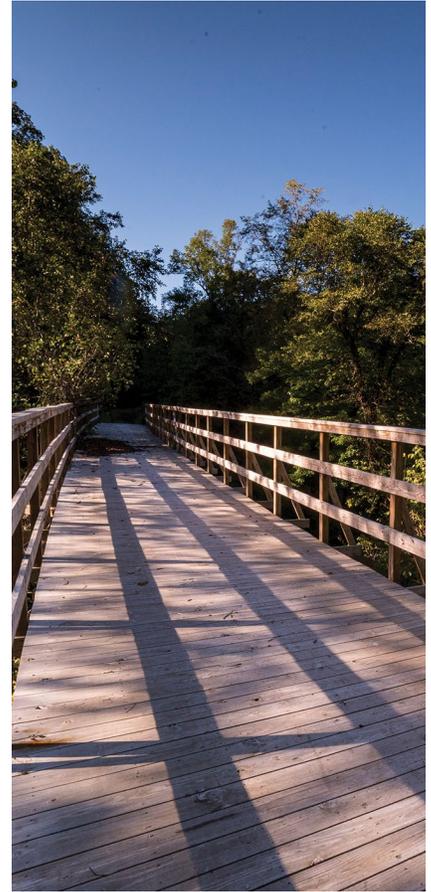
The first trail superintendent for the trail was hired in April 2022. Current operations center on the 26-mile leased section of trail, from Hartland Bridge to Duck. The superintendent and two part-time employees installed signage at all crossings and trail heads to establish the boundaries of the new trail for the public. A mower and backhoe were provided to the trail by the superintendent of Stonewall Resort State Park. Staff was able to begin routine maintenance and mowing with the equipment and the trail hosted its first event, a 5K race, in September 2022.

GREENBRIER RIVER TRAIL

Two new bear-proof trash cans were installed and roofs were replaced at two overnight shelters. The trail was cleared of numerous fallen trees and slips throughout the year.

GREENBRIER STATE FOREST

New cabin furniture was purchased and installed in all 14 cabins. The old woodsheds were removed from the cabin yards and the areas naturalized. Two dozen sweet gum tree saplings were planted in the cabin area to increase guest privacy. Trees were removed from the campground and cabins 2-4 due to safety concerns and/or storm damage. Office porch decking was replaced. Modern sinks, faucets and plumbing were installed in the men's side of the pool bathhouse. The wading pool pump and motor were replaced. Events at the forest included the 2022 Civil War reenactment of the Battle of Dry Creek and Professional Disc Golf Association-sanctioned tournaments in fall 2021 and spring 2022.



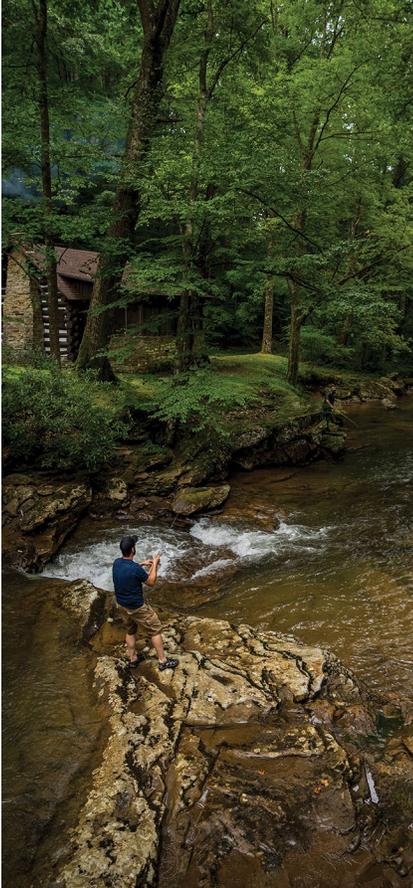


HAWKS NEST STATE PARK

The lodge reopened after extensive renovations to all areas. New ADA walkways were installed at the main entrance to the lodge and loading/unloading zones. Professional landscaping and a brick patio were added at the entrance. The front desk area was redesigned with an accessible reservation desk area, new ceilings and energy efficient lighting. New flooring and furniture were added to the main lobby, business center and corridors. Two additional unisex restrooms were added in the lower lobby to better accommodate large groups. Lodge rooms were renovated with new carpet, tile, bedding, curtains, balcony furniture and a complete upgrade of guest room facilities including walk-in showers and LED mirrors. Electronic card key locks were installed on all doors to enhance security throughout the lodge. All outside entrance rooms on the ground floor were enclosed with brick and tinted windows to match the existing design. New vending areas and ice machines were added on the third and fourth floors for ease of access at either end of the facility. A guest laundry area with coin-operated machines was added. A new guest-only pool with an added children's splash pad feature and chemical treatment building were built with state-of-the-art filtration and chemical treatment pumps. New windows were installed in the conference room and the Gorge Restaurant to provide stunning views of the New River Gorge.

HOLLY RIVER STATE PARK

Park staff built a new camp store as an added amenity for guests. Wireless Internet was added to the campground and service began over Labor Day Weekend. A chain link fence was purchased by the park's Foundation and installed around the campground water reservoir. All cabin fireplace grates were replaced. Bond project work on the Old Pavilion Sidewalk was completed in August 2021. Park staff put the finishing touches on the renovations of the patrol cabin and installed a new porch. A deck was built on the trout rearing pond.



KANAWHA STATE FOREST

A major project involving the removal of the CCC-built dam and converting a 1,100-foot portion of Davis Creek from a swimming pond to a Class Q trout fishing area was completed. The work was completed by Appalachian Stream Restoration and involved the removal of the dam, rebuilding of the stream bed, stream course layout, fishing pier construction and planting of several hundred trees along the banks for erosion control and aesthetics. Trout stocking by the state could begin as early as next year. A major Earth Day project was undertaken by the trail coordinator, along with 35 members of Diversified Energy and the Kanawha State Forest Foundation. The project included the planting of 52 trees, laying mulch in three playground areas and repainting six of the mini picnic shelters. Work continued on the Nature Center and Museum portion of the old pool bathhouse building, with plans to fully open the Nature Center and Museum in mid-FY2023.

KUMBRABOW STATE FOREST

Renovations in the residence were completed and included mold remediation, leaky water heater exhaust line replacement, furnace exhaust replacement and drainage improvements on the exterior to prevent basement flooding. Downed trees and limbs were cleared along eight miles of road from the office to the cabins. Multiple trees were removed from creeks to prevent snags and flooding. Work began on removing sediment from behind the dam. Multiple retired items such as vehicles, power equipment, tractor and push mowers have been sent to Surplus Property.

LITTLE BEAVER STATE PARK

In FY2022, Little Beaver State Park completed several projects, including grading and drainage improvements to the residence to prevent water infiltration, construction and installation of new gates for Redden Cemetery Road, replacement of a septic tank at the campground check-in building and installing a new 18-hole disc golf course that opened to the public this year. New shelves and displays were built for the main office gift shop. Lighting along Lake Trail was upgraded with new modern LED dusk to dawn lights. Hazardous trees were removed throughout the park, new electric service was run to shelter 2 and a new deck was built onto shelter 5 to give guests more usable space outside of the shelter. Gutters were also installed on shelter 5. Special events this year included the annual Migration Day Celebration, the 31st Annual Kids Fishing Derby, a car show with the Shade Tree Car Club, the park's first Christmas light display and first trunk or treat event at the campground.

LOST RIVER STATE PARK

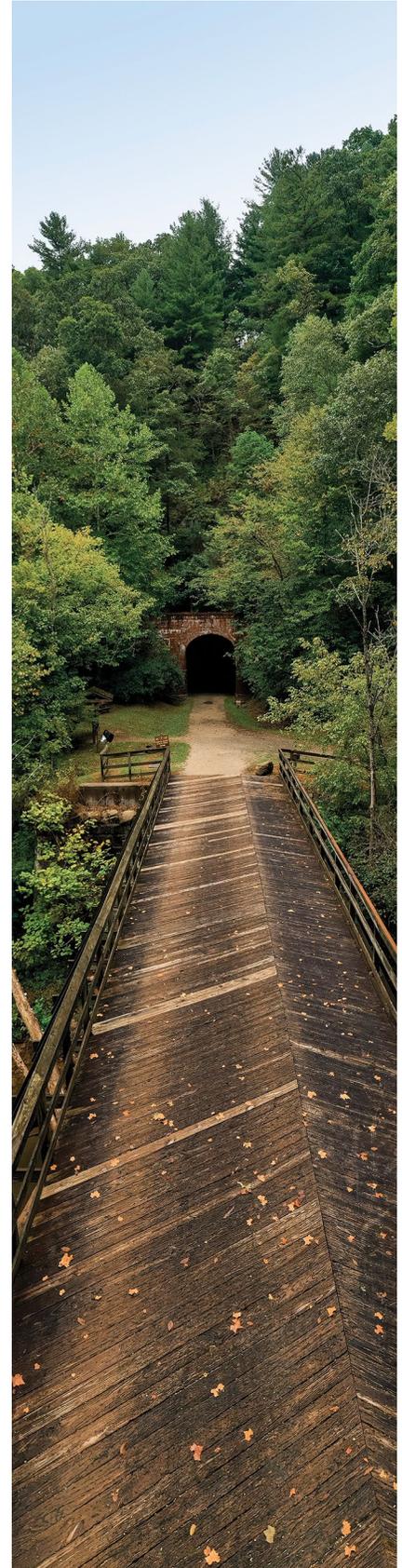
Renovations and upgrades to kitchens and bathrooms were completed for all cabins. All classic cabins received new living room furniture and some bedroom furniture. The storage garage at the main office received a new garage door and side door upgrading the area for firewood storage. A new pipe gate created by the Simulated Workplace Program was installed at the upper shelter area. Many hazardous trees were removed from the cabin and shelter areas of the park. The Boy Scouts completed trail upgrades and cleared the fitness trail. Initial meetings and site visits were held as part of the planning process for the upcoming RV campground construction. Preliminary drawings and engineering plans were completed for this project. The park continued to see revenue increases throughout the year in retail sales.

MONCOVE LAKE STATE PARK

Grounds maintenance throughout the park included removing several tree stumps and several improvements to all recreation areas. Downed trees were removed and trail repairs were completed by park staff and volunteers on Devil Creek, Grouse Knoll and Diamond Hollow to address damage caused by storms and inclement weather. Dead and damaged trees were removed by park staff and several park roads were repaired and upgraded. The wastewater treatment plant pumps were repaired and park bathhouses were improved. The Mountain View/Peterstown Summer School Day Camp and Monroe County 31st Circuit Drug Court Rehabilitation Program graduation ceremonies were held in the park.

NORTH BEND RAIL TRAIL

Using funding from grants, five wooden bridges were re-decked. The Ritchie County Commission provided an additional \$55,000 to re-deck the remaining bridges in Ritchie County. Resurfacing of the trail was nearly complete at the end of the reporting period. When finished, approximately 55 miles of the total 72-mile trail will have a new crushed limestone surface.





NORTH BEND STATE PARK

North Bend State Park's year was highlighted by the completion of lodge renovations, which included upgrades to the guest rooms, restaurant dining room, public areas, conference rooms and exterior of the lodge as well as a new electrical grid for the entire lodge. Opening of the lodge and restaurant in the spring welcomed back many of longtime guests, as well as many beloved groups who were glad to settle into their home at North Bend. Other notable upgrades included electrical upgrades to two cabins and the cabin linen storage building. Additional electrical upgrades were made in River Run Campground with improvements to the check-in station, bathhouse and lift station. North Bend saw dramatic improvements to the trails, including another extension of the Nature Trail, as well as rerouting several sections to accommodate more equestrian-friendly trails.

PANTHER STATE FOREST

Staff removed all incandescent lighting and installed new energy saving LED lighting in most fixtures throughout the forest. Repairs were made to the group camp kitchen ceiling. Ceiling repairs and fresh painting of the men's bunkhouse were completed. Two new water heaters were installed at the group camp and a new water system was installed for the residence. The forest hosted two 4-H camps in summer 2022.

PINNACLE ROCK STATE PARK

Pinnacle Rock State Park employees replaced the handrails at the observation deck at the overlook and painted the metal handrails up to the observation deck. With the completion of the trail around Jimmy Lewis Lake, bond project work at the park was finished. The Park Foundation held the annual Kids Fishing Derby.

PIPESTEM RESORT STATE PARK

Last year saw a major transition for Pipestem Resort State Park. Several bond-funded improvements were completed while others are ongoing, major activities and events were held after being curtailed or reduced during the pandemic and guest visitation continued to rebound in facility use and activities. Renovations to the McKeever Lodge lobbies, restrooms, HVAC, conference center, Bluestone Restaurant and guest rooms on the first and seventh floors were completed. The new Mountain Serenity Spa was constructed, a new lounge was added to the restaurant and both opened to guests. New furniture and artwork were installed in several of these areas.

Renovations at the Canyon Rim Center continue and include constructing an ADA-accessible walkway to the tram, adding accessible parking and making the entrance, elevators and restrooms accessible. Work also included new roofing on the Canyon Rim building.

Mountain Creek Lodge received new individual split pack (HVAC) units for each of the 30 guest rooms. At the end of the reporting period, an ADA-accessible ramp was being constructed and one guest room was being converted to comply with ADA standards.

Construction of a new wastewater treatment plant serving the lodge, cottage Area C and the golf club started and will be completed this winter. Three wastewater tanks were installed to replace the old treatment plant that served park headquarters,

Canyon Rim Center and the recreational center. The campground received upgrades to 32 sites with water and sewage hook-ups and got a new pump station.

Other work projects that were completed by Pipestem staff include: concreting eight horse stall floors, removing the abandoned water plant located at Long Branch Lake in preparation for a new ADA parking area, removing several dead or dangerous trees from the cabin and McKeever Lodge areas, installing a vending machine area for guests at McKeever Lodge, expanding the call center by adding six work stations, replacing decaying wood at the observation tower, conversion of a locker room in the 18-hole golf shop to a bunkhouse for seasonal workers and renovation of a park residence to serve as an additional rental cabin. The Blue and Gold Room was successfully converted to a Christmas shop from October through December.

The 21st Annual Car Show, 52nd Invitational Golf Tournament, Sixth International Bowhunter Organization Triple Crown Championship, an Easter egg hunt and Halloween trick or treat were just some of the events held in the park this year. The amphitheater hosted six concerts, the monthly seafood buffet was reinstated in the Bluestone Dining Room and a monthly flea market/craft sale was held. Laser tag, skeet shooting, ax throwing and remote-control cars and drone flying were added to the Ace Adventures program.



PARKS AND RECREATION

PRICKETT'S FORT STATE PARK

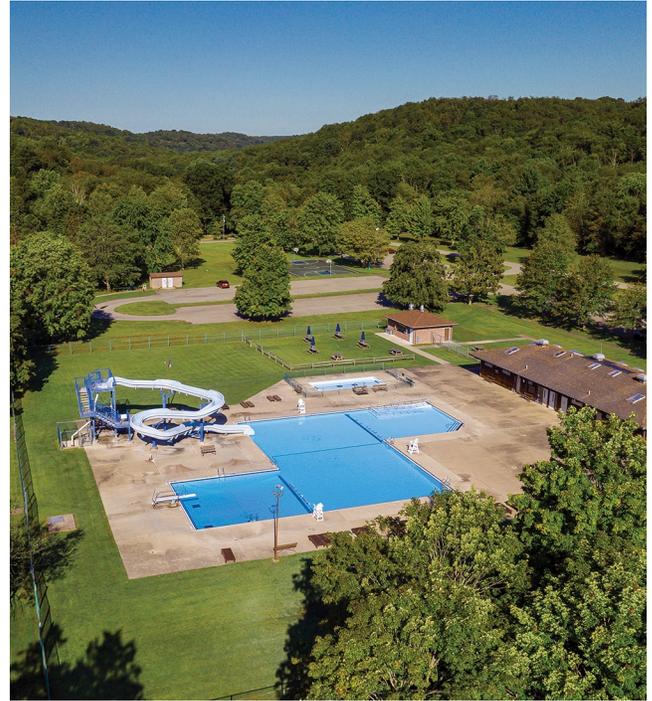
Programming was back in full swing with five free concerts and three artist in residence programs. School tours also returned to the area during fall 2021 and spring 2022. Parking barriers were repaired at the old boat launch. The boat launch restroom received a new hot water tank, plumbing repairs and the exterior was painted. The visitor center was pressure washed and stained. Work continued with the conversion of the old visitor center to a food service establishment with an anticipated opening of spring 2023. The wastewater treatment plant received significant attention with a more regimented maintenance effort.

SENECA STATE FOREST

New gas light fixtures were installed in four cabins and propane kitchen ranges were installed in six cabins, giving guests an option to cook on the wood burning cook stoves or modern ranges. New window treatments were installed in all eight cabins. Volunteers assisted with trail maintenance, grounds maintenance and processing and stocking firewood for the cabin and campground. Hazardous trees were removed from the picnic area, cabin areas and campground. The picnic shelter received a fresh coat of stain. Deteriorated trim was replaced around windows in the fire tower.

STONEWALL RESORT STATE PARK

Three additional deluxe cottages were built and put into the rental rotation again this year and plans are in motion to add an additional five to seven deluxe cottages in fall 2022. The park entered into a concession agreement with Fat Tire Cycle to provide bicycle rentals, sales and repairs in the lobby of the WVDNR building as part of a much larger mountain biking project. An agreement was also entered into with McFly's Outdoors to provide outfitter guide services to guests. During the reporting period, Stonewall Resort hosted the West Virginia Open Golf Tournament. This weeklong extravaganza highlighted both amateur and professional West Virginia golfers. An upgraded highspeed wireless internet system was installed at the campground.



TOMLINSON RUN STATE PARK

A major stream mitigation project was completed during the reporting period and included removing four old ponds and the reconstruction of the main channel of the north fork of Tomlinson Run to reduce erosion. Several off-channel wetlands were established to create habitat diversity designed to entice a wide array of wildlife to the area. As part of the stream restoration project, additional work was done including trail upgrades. Wildlife viewing areas were added in the newly reconstructed tributary. The project also provided a new trail along the stream that provides access to four handicapped accessible fishing piers/viewing platforms. A new pedestrian bridge was also added to provide improved access to both sides of the stream for fishing, recreational opportunities, and disc golf. The mini-golf course had new bumper rails installed on all 18 holes. The Tomlinson Run State Park Foundation purchased four new kayaks for the boat rental facility.

TU-ENDIE-WEI STATE PARK

Improvements at the park in FY2022 included electrical upgrades, such as the installation of overhead lights around the porch. Flagpole lights will be installed at the start of the next school year. The gift shop was opened and has been successful. Many display cases and exhibits have been rearranged for proper viewing and better interpretation. Plans were underway for the rebuilding of the Panther Stone Building as well as new tree plantings.

TWIN FALLS RESORT STATE PARK

During FY2022, Twin Falls Resort State Park received improvements to the lodge, cottages, golf course, recreation areas and Pioneer Farm. Significant bond project improvements included demolishing the pool and pro shop complex and constructing a new pro shop and splash pad to replace it. The 2,700-square-foot pro shop is constructed on nearly the same site as the original, while the 6,500-square-foot splash pad area and bathhouse is located in the recreation area within walking distance from the lodge. The project was nearly completed at the end of the fiscal year.

The lodge complex at Twin Falls was improved by many projects that focused on the exterior and interior of both the Cardinal and Monarch Lodges. New carpeting was installed throughout the entire first floor of the lodge, including both the Azalea and Dogwood Conference Rooms, the front desk and office area, elevator, hallways, restaurant and conference room waiting areas. The restaurant was updated with new tables and chairs, new lounge chairs were added to the restaurant and conference room waiting areas and new oak baseboard trim was installed throughout the dining room. The wait station was upgraded with a new epoxy floor and improved drainage. The pool area, located in the Cardinal Lodge, was renovated this year. The pool and spa was cleaned and repainted, the restrooms were updated with new non-metallic grab bars and hardware, extensive patching was completed and the existing epoxy deck flooring was replaced. Exterior landscaping was refreshed, the front flower planter was replanted and existing planters in the lodge courtyards were improved.

ADA improvements were made to cottage 14 with a project that renovated the existing full bathroom, increasing the size of the space significantly and allowing for the installation of an accessible shower stall, large vanity and privacy enclosed toilet. Additionally, a new bathroom was constructed and joined to the rear bedroom that included a stand-up shower, jacuzzi tub, large vanity and privacy enclosed toilet.

The golf course was upgraded with new drainage on holes 2 and 5, along with a large new catch basin for runoff and water control features at the practice green. Recreation area improvements this fiscal year included the installation of a new playground in the family picnic area of Twin Falls, along with increased trail signage and the establishment of the statewide Waterfall Trail Project. The Fire Trail was cleared and bulldozed to allow for emergency vehicle travel and access in the event of wildfires or other emergencies. Additionally, concrete ramps were constructed on the three new public restrooms in the recreation and picnic shelter areas to improve accessibility. An addition to the Pioneer Farm was constructed to give current and future residents more space so they are not limited by the main cabin's two bedrooms. The period-correct addition utilized rough cut lumber that was stained to present appropriate age, with proper historical techniques that would have been used when the cabin was first constructed in the 1800s.



PARKS AND RECREATION



TYGART LAKE STATE PARK

Fiscal year 2022 saw many improvements to Tygart Lake State Park. A project was completed replacing nine A/C units that service the lodge lobby, dining room and front desk area. The project was successful and provided a more comfortable environment for park guests during the heat of the summer season. A new wastewater treatment plant and three new pump stations were brought online in July. This facility took the place of two older existing plants and serves the entire park. A remodel of the lodge rooms that began during the previous reporting period was completed. This included new carpet, the addition of sliding doors and private decks on the rooms and new HVAC systems in each room. Guest room bathrooms were remodeled, including showers, toilets, vanities and lighting. The room interiors were painted and new blinds installed for the sliding doors. A new observation deck overlooking the lake was completed at the lodge. Several improvements were completed in the lodge gift shop, including a tongue and groove accent wall and new overhead lighting including can lights.

Work continued during FY2022 to remove dead Ash trees throughout the park. Six of the 11 cabins were kept open over the winter and plans have been made for all 11 cabins to be available to rent for the upcoming winter. The adventure lake operated by Ace Adventures began its second season of operation at Tygart Lake. Visitation and retail sales increased compared to the inaugural season. A weekend shuttle service to the adventure from the overflow parking area lake was started.

VALLEY FALLS STATE PARK

Major improvements to the playground area included removing old mulch and weed barriers, installing new drainage lines, replacing the fall area border, adding new weed barriers and spreading new mulch on top of the barrier. The weed barrier and mulch were provided by the park's Foundation. The park installed new trail blazes on all bike trails. As part of an Eagle Scout project, the wooden foot bridge that goes over the old grist mill raceway was upgraded. All the top deck boards were replaced, new support beams were added to the handrails and the handrails themselves were replaced. The park hosted many weddings and gatherings throughout the year. The park also hosted special events during the year including a car show, Enduro mountain bike race, trail running race, an ultra-marathon, kayak training event and saw-whet owl banding.

WATOGA STATE PARK (includes Calvin Price State Forest)

Watoga State Park received the first Dark Sky designation in the state from the International Dark Sky Association. Dead and dangerous trees were removed from around the Riverside Campground, Boat Dock, Park Office and cabin areas. Twenty additional composite park benches were donated and installed throughout the park, bringing the total to 60 benches. Park staff made numerous repairs to park infrastructure including new sewer pumps installed at cabin 2, cabin 3 and Riverside Campground lift stations. Pump and reservoir repairs to the Pine Run, Bush Place and Riverside drinking water systems were made. Contractors replaced the underground waterlines in the Pine Run and Bush Place water systems including approximately three miles of new waterlines. Floors were stripped and varnished in six legacy cabins and the bathrooms in six classic cabins were painted. Improvements to the Beaver Creek bathhouse included sewer line replacement, two new concrete walkways and new exterior doors. The swimming pool required extensive repairs prior to opening for the 2022 season. This included plumbing and electrical work in the pump room as well as large areas of concrete decking being replaced.

WATTERS SMITH MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Mon Power volunteers and park staff cleared most of a one-mile-long strip mine bench of the non-native autumn olive. In this area 1,000 trees and shrubs were planted. Environmental remediation of Duck Creek began and is scheduled to be complete by early 2023. Construction of the 200-seat event shelter began and will allow the park to have larger gatherings. Park staff constructed more than 50 picnic tables for the shelter and the project should be complete by fall of 2022. BH&T gas company assisted with brush and weed trimming of all 15 miles of the park trails. Mon Power re-benched and raked the 3.75-mile-long Barn Burner trail that is heavily used by park visitors. Benching, berm work, the construction of a boardwalk and other trail enhancements were conducted across the parks trail system.



WEST VIRGINIA

DNR

**PLANNING,
ENGINEERING AND
MAINTENANCE**

Barrow A. Koslosky, AIA, *Chief*



Overview

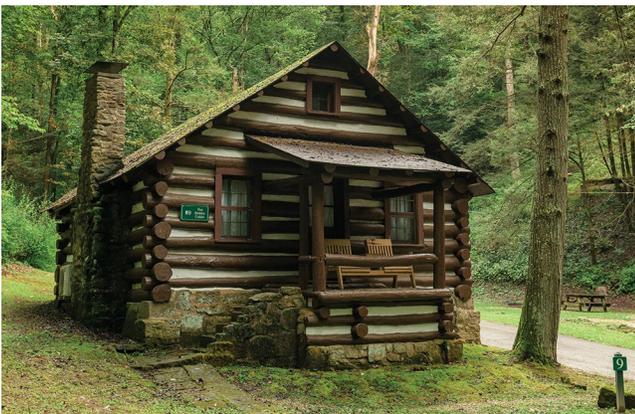
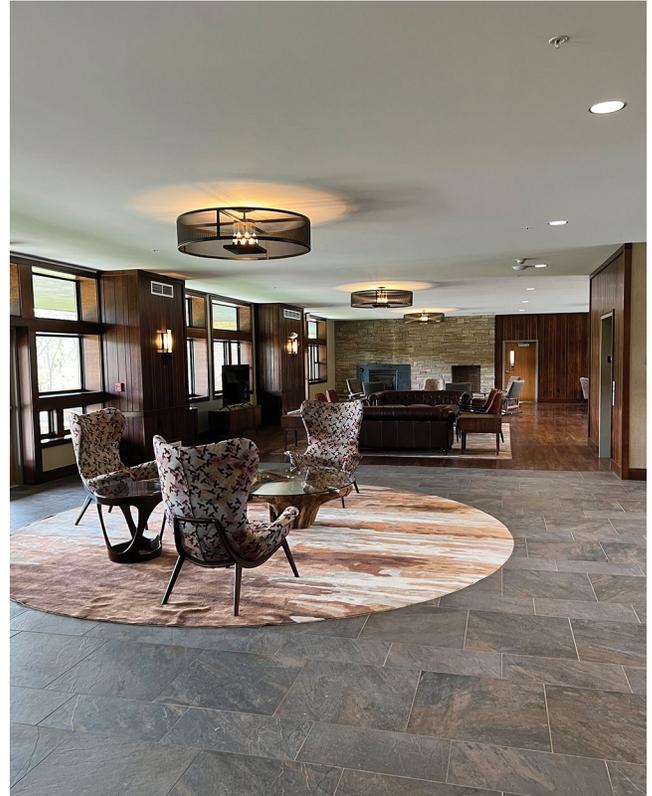
The Planning, Engineering, and Maintenance Section (PEM) serves the Division of Natural Resources through many functions. PEM is responsible for the proper planning of all significant capital improvement projects as well as major maintenance projects. The Section also oversees construction or consulting related to bidding documents and oversees their ultimate proper disposition through the Division of Purchasing and represents the agency as the owner for all significant construction and architectural/engineering projects by providing administration for these contracts.

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

PEM provides technical support primarily to the Parks and Wildlife Sections, but helps Administration and Law Enforcement as well. This support includes technical advice for building maintenance and improvements, environmental compliance, water and wastewater treatment and infrastructure repairs and improvements.

The PEM office is responsible for monitoring and maintaining certain systems as they relate to public safety. Proper inspection, maintenance and repairs are required to maintain public safety for the agency's dams, ski lifts, aerial tramways, surface lifts and nautical vessels. This very important function of PEM is accomplished by striving to ensure compliance with codes and standards more stringent than state code in many instances.

PEM also works with FEMA and the state Division of Homeland Security following the occurrence of a state disaster to submit reports of damages and to see that the damages are repaired and the state is properly reimbursed.



PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE

SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE PROJECTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2022, INCLUDING 23 PROJECTS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION SECTION AND 17 FOR WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

(completed between June 2021 and June 2022)

- Babcock State Park
 - Cabin Area Electrical System Renovation
- Bear Rocks Lake
 - Dam Monitoring and Improvements
- Berkeley Springs State Park
 - Roman Bathhouse Renovation
- Blackwater Falls State Park
 - Lodge Renovation
 - Cabin Sewer Line Upgrades
 - Sled Run Building Addition
- Bowden Hatchery
 - Raceway Renovation Project Contract 2
 - Recirculation and Wastewater Contract 3
- Cacapon Resort State Park
 - Lodge Renovation
 - Wastewater Treatment Collection System Rehab
- Canaan Valley Resort State Park
 - Campground Addition
 - Tube Park Lift Addition
- Capon Bridge Public Boating Access Site
 - Renovation
- Chief Logan State Park
 - Campground Wastewater Improvements
- Clendenin Public Boating Access Site
 - Renovation
- Coopers Rock State Forest
 - Entry Sign
- District 6 Office
 - Construction
- Elk River Public Boating Access Sites
 - Renovation of Four Sites
- Guyandotte Public Boating Access Site
 - Renovation
- Hawks Nest State Park
 - Lodge Structural Repairs
- Kanawha State Forest
 - Stream Enhancement
- McClintic WMA
 - Pond 23 Repair
- Mt. Storm Lake Public Boating Access Site
 - Renovation
- North Bend State Park
 - Cokeley Branch Well Plugging
 - Lodge Renovation
- Pipestem Resort State Park
 - Upper and Lower Tram Structural Repairs and ADA Improvements
 - Lodge Wastewater Treatment and Collection System Repairs
 - Campground Dump Station
 - Multiple Septic System Replacements
 - Lodge Renovation
- Reeds Creek
 - Septic Replacement
- Summersville Lake WMA
 - Headquarters and Shop/Storage Buildings
- Twin Falls Resort State Park
 - Golf Pro Shop and Outdoor Spray Ground Replacement
- Tygart Lake State Park
 - Lodge Renovation
- Watoga State Park
 - Water Line Replacement
- White Horse WMA
 - Office & Storage Building
- Winfield Public Boating Access Site
 - Renovation



PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE

CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN PROJECTS IN PROGRESS AS OF JUNE 30, 2022, INCLUDING 83 PROJECTS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION SECTION AND 32 FOR WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

- Audra State Park
 - Campground ADA Bathroom Renovation
 - Alum Cave Trail Shoring
 - Shelter Comfort Station Improvements
 - River Comfort Station Improvements
 - Upper Picnic Area Comfort Station Improvements
- Babcock State Park
 - Campground Bathhouse Renovation
 - Sugar Creek Bathhouse Renovation
 - Narrow Gauge Trail Pedestrian Bridge Replacement
- Beech Fork State Park
 - Cabins & Roadway Improvements
 - Campground Bathhouses and Comfort Stations ADA Improvements
 - Superintendent Residence Septic System Replacement
- Belleville WMA
 - Residence Roof Replacement
- Berkeley Springs State Park
 - Pool House Bathroom Renovation
- Blackwater Falls State Park
 - Dam Spillway Repair
 - Trading Post Parking & Sewer System Improvements
- Blennerhassett Island State Park
 - Electrical and Water Upgrades
- Bluestone State Park
 - Headquarters ADA Accessible and Restroom Improvements
- Buffalo Public Boating Access Site
 - Renovation
- Cabwaylingo State Forest
 - Spruce Campground Bathhouse Renovations
 - Group Campground Vault Toilet
 - Five Picnic Area Toilet Renovations
- Cacapon Resort State Park
 - Mountain Bike Path Trail Additions and Improvements
 - Bat Shelter Parking Lot and Vault Toilet Improvements
 - Pro Shop Restroom Renovations
- Camp Creek State Park & Forest
 - Marsh Fork Campground Bathhouse Renovation
 - Ballfield Comfort Station Renovation
- Canaan Valley Resort State Park
 - Phase I, II, & III Wastewater Improvements
- Cass Scenic Railroad State Park
 - Bald Knob Vault Toilet Renovations
 - Campground, Dump Station, & Roadway Improvements
- Cathedral State Park
 - Restroom Renovation
- Cedar Creek State Park
 - Pool House Bathroom Renovation
- Chief Logan State Park
 - Campground Bathhouse Renovation
 - Shelter 1 Comfort Station Renovation
 - Shelter 2 Comfort Station Renovation
 - Shelter 4 Comfort Station Renovation
- Coopers Rock State Forest
 - Cabins & Roadway Improvements
 - Water and Wastewater Improvements
 - Campground Bathhouse ADA Improvements
 - Overlook Comfort Station Renovations
 - Overlook Bridge Replacement
 - Rhododendron Campground Pump Station
- District 2 & District 3 Offices
 - Renovations
- District 4 Office
 - Construction
- Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park
 - Tower Vault Toilet
 - Shelter Vault Toilet
- Elk River Trail
 - Headquarter and Maintenance Buildings
- Elkins Operation Center
 - HVAC Renovation
- Forks of Coal
 - Master Plan
- Greenbrier State Forest
 - Campground Bathhouse Renovation
 - Stone Picnic Area Comfort Station Renovation
 - Headquarters Building and Public Restroom
 - Pool Restroom Renovation
- Guyandotte Salt Rock Public Boating Access Site
 - Repair
- Hawks Nest State Park
 - CCC Pavilion Renovations
 - CCC Comfort Station Improvements
 - Lake Comfort Station Improvements
 - Tram Replacement
 - Lift Station Replacement
- Holly River State Park
 - Connection to Public Water
 - Campground Unisex Washhouse
- Kanawha River South Charleston Public Boat Access Site
 - Renovation
- Kanawha River St. Albans Public Boating Access Site
 - Renovation

PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE

- Kanawha State Forest
 - Campground Existing Washhouse ADA Improvements
 - Campground Unisex Washhouse & ADA Improvements
 - Dunlop Hollow Unisex Washhouse
 - Campground Electric Improvements
 - Headquarter Sidewalk and Restroom Improvements
 - Shelter 1 Comfort Station Improvements
 - Shelter 2 Comfort Station Improvements
 - Rattlesnake Comfort Station Improvements
- Leon Public Boating Access Site
 - Renovation
- Little Beaver State Park
 - Campground Unisex Bathhouse
- Little Kanawha River Parkersburg
 - Law Enforcement Boat Dock
- Lost River State Park
 - Campground, Dump Station, & Roadway Improvements
- Meadow River WMA
 - Wetlands
- Moncove Lake State Park
 - Bathhouse Renovations
- North Bend State Park
 - Cokeley Campground Equestrian Campground Addition
 - River Run Campground Washhouse ADA Improvements
- Panther State Forest
 - Superintendent Residence Roof Replacement
- Palestine Mussel Hatchery
 - Renovation, Construction, and Wastewater
- Pipestem Resort State Park
 - Tram Replacement
 - Campground Unisex Washhouse
- Plum Orchard WMA
 - Headquarters, Shop/Storage Building
- Ridge Hatchery
 - Raceway, Recirculation, and Wastewater Project
- Sleepy Creek WMA
 - Shooting Range Renovation
- Statewide
 - Dam Assessments Inspections and Monitoring
- Statewide
 - Shooting Range Lead Management Plan and Range Improvements
- Statewide
 - Wastewater Treatment Facilities Monitoring and Improvements
- Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park
 - Wastewater Treatment Improvements
- Tomblin WMA
 - Headquarters and Shop/Storage Buildings and Elk Observation Tower
- Tomlinson Run State Park
 - Washhouse ADA Improvements
 - Assistant Superintendent Master Bathroom Addition
- Tu-Endie-Wei State Park
 - Comfort Station Improvements
 - Maintenance Building Upgrade
- Turkey Run WMA
 - Dam Repairs
- Tygart River Grafton Public Boating Access Site
 - Marina Comfort Station Renovation
- Watoga State Park
 - Lift Station Upgrades
 - Beaver Creek Bathhouse Renovation
 - Air Strip Bathhouse
- Watters Smith State Park
 - Stream Enhancement
 - Event Shelter and Restrooms
 - Event Shelter Septic System
- West Fork River Public Boating Access Sites
 - Renovation for 10 Sites





WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Paul R. Johansen, *Chief*



WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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.

Operations Unit

INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

Traditional in-person public meetings to present proposed regulation changes to hunters, anglers and other interested individuals resumed this year after two years of being canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns. Public open house format meetings were held in Buckhannon, Grafton, Lewisburg, Logan, Martinsburg, Milton, Moorefield, Mullens, Spencer, Summersville, Triadelphia and Vienna where 258 people attended. Comments on the proposed regulations for the upcoming seasons were solicited through submission of written responses to questionnaires. Seventeen clubs, with 3,146 members, and 229 individuals submitted completed questionnaires.

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

The West Virginia State Wildlife Center continued to provide an excellent opportunity to observe and learn about the Mountain State’s abundant wildlife, both past and present. In 2021, the facility was visited by 47,614 people, generating \$101,114 in total admissions. The Wildlife Center celebrated several

events, including a remote celebration of Groundhog Day, the Rendezvous, and the first Tails, Trails and Treats Halloween event. The Wildlife Center established a new partnership with the Upshur County Board of Education to provide a family pass for each family with a registered student in Upshur County. The main attraction of 2021 was the three wolf pups acquired in May 2021. They were presented to the public for the first time in July 2021 and proved to be a highlight of the year.

In FY2022, more than 245 hunters had a deer scored by an official WVDNR scorer or affiliated scorer, certified through the Boone and Crockett Club and/or Pope and Young Club. During the 2021-22 hunting season, 120 bucks were harvested with a gun, muzzleloader, bow or crossbow that met the requirements of the WV Big Buck Certification Program.

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

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



INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM CONTINUED...

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

The WVDNR continued its efforts to recruit, retain, and reactivate hunters, anglers, boaters, shooting sports enthusiasts and wildlife viewers. The WVDNR's Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) strategic plan began in 2018 and was finalized in May of 2020, but due to COVID-19 the execution has rolled out slowly. The WVDNR continued with the R3 plan throughout the pandemic with marketing specifically targeting licenses and outdoor activities that could be done while following all safety guidelines.

As COVID-19 safety guidelines were lifted, the WVDNR was able to begin planning for the implementation of new programs to help in our R3 plan and restart existing events and programs that were used to help in the recruitment, retention and reactivation of our customers. Those programs included the return of in-person competitions like the Archery in the Schools State Tournament that saw thousands of students and community members come out to the event.

Other programs in the R3 strategic plan include Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Project Wild and our Outdoor Classroom program. The Outdoor Classroom program was presented in more than 50 schools in FY2022 to teach more than 2,600 students about conservation and wildlife with hands-on demonstrations and interactions with live animals native to West Virginia. The R3 plan incorporated a great addition with the opening of the Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center. This new wildlife education center has had several events since its opening in June 2022 and has been praised by members of the surrounding communities.



Archery in the Schools

In the 17th year of operation, this program reached more than 300 schools and hosted more than 16,000 participating students in the 2021-2022 school year. During FY2022, WVDNR hosted five Basic Archery Instructor Training courses adding an additional 48 instructors to the program.

This year the 17th Annual WV Archery in the Schools State Tournament was held in person at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. More than 1,300 students representing 76 schools participated in the state qualifier. The top seven qualifying teams and the top 15 boys and girls from elementary, middle and high school went on to the WVDNR Archery in the Schools State Tournament. In total, 563 archers from 54 schools participated in the State Tournament.

The National Archery in the Schools program was able to hold the Eastern National Tournament in person in Louisville, Ky. West Virginia had 17 schools participate in the event, with one elementary division team placing in the top 10 and several individual archers placing in the top tier of their age group.

Hunters Helping the Hungry

The Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) program is a cooperative effort that involves the WVDNR, the hunting community, meat processors, Mountaineer Food Bank, Facing Hunger Foodbank, and a statewide network of more than 600 food pantries, shelters, churches, children's homes, and similar groups. Since its inception in 1992, HHH has provided 1,070,504 pounds of venison to those in need. In 2021, hunters donated a total of 579 deer (23,807 pounds of venison) that contributed to approximately 31,743 meals. In 2021, program costs (e.g., processing and transport) were \$45,233.84. Many of these costs were offset by donations from the annual "Share the Harvest Sunday," the "Governor's One Shot" fundraiser, and the generosity of private individuals. The WVDNR is prohibited from using license revenue to fund HHH and must rely upon these generous funding sources to successfully operate the program.





INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM CONTINUED...

National Hunting and Fishing Days – Summit Bechtel Reserve

West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days returned this year, after being canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19. The event was held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean on Sept. 10-12, 2021. The event is the largest outdoor hunting and fishing show in the state.

The event provides the public with many hands-on learning opportunities with demonstrations of deer and squirrel field dressing, taxidermy and casting. Due to the event moving to a new location, attendance was lower than normal, but those in attendance were able to try their skill in many of our activities including shotgun shooting, archery and bow fishing. The WVDNR partnered with the West Virginia Wildlife Federation and the Summit Bechtel Reserve to promote and coordinate this event.

Outdoor Youth Challenge

The annual Outdoor Youth Challenge is held in conjunction with West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days. During the Challenge, youths 18 and under participated in multiple events and activities, from muzzleloader and shotgun shooting to casting for accuracy and archery. The hands-on activities and displays encouraged youths to gain knowledge and experience about wildlife, hunting, fishing, firearms safety and outdoor recreation. A lifetime hunting and fishing license and other hunting and fishing-related items were just some of the prizes awarded. Youths 11-18 years could also win conservation camp scholarships. WVDNR Law Enforcement personnel coordinate the Challenge with the assistance of WRS personnel. This year, there were 120 participants in the event.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

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

The year's major projects were:

- Completion and opening of the Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center in Kanawha County.
- Rehabilitation and expansion of Bowden State Fish Hatchery in Randolph County.
- Renovation of the fishing pier at Big Ditch Lake in Webster County.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

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

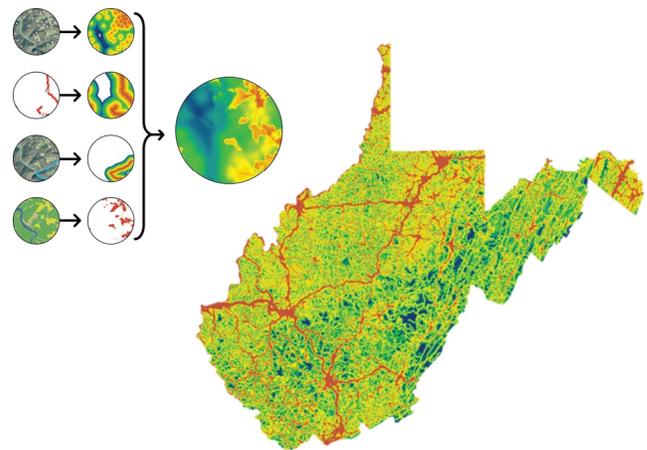
A data systems assessment was completed to find the best path forward for meeting current and future information management and reporting needs for WRS and key partners. Based on assessment findings, a request for proposal is in development for a custom cloud database application. Operating in a vendor hosted environment, the custom platform will offer one system for WRS users to learn, increased collaboration and easy integration with other tools (e.g., GIS, statistical, business intelligence and data visualization).

Support of annual projects included summarizing game harvests, processing antlerless deer eligibility notices and summarizing results and responses from the spring gobbler survey, bowhunter survey and statewide mast survey and hunting outlook. Staff are gradually transitioning several public and internal surveys to electronic format using ESRI ArcGIS Survey123. The annual deer hunter survey will remain a mailed survey for the time being to keep track of the random sample of deer hunters it is sent to and encourage participation through direct mailing and follow-up.

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

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

Analysis projects included a Property Acquisition Prioritization, Landscape Integrity Index update (pictured), Stream Condition and Integrity Index, Historical Bison Trail analysis and Natural Areas Journal article. Staff consulted with WRS biologists on



Landscape Integrity Index

habitat suitability models and developed water shrew, box turtle, and listed bat species models. A WV land cover classification updated to 2020 National Agriculture Imagery Program data is underway in partnership with the West Virginia University Natural Resource Analysis Center. Butterfly Atlas, Appalachian grizzled skipper site selection and internal field validation of models were also supported.

Staff maintained several GIS-based tools and applications, providing data updates and support. The use of ArcGIS Online is growing for reporting needs, including several accessible StoryMaps featuring the box turtle, firefly, historical bison trails and grouse projects. Development is underway to use the ESRI Experience Builder to provide more interactive online reporting for many of our general information hunting survey reports.

The Hunting, Trapping and Fishing interactive online map continued to be hosted by the WV GIS Technical Center (WVGISTC). This tool provides the public with increased access to WRS facilities, including wildlife management areas, stream access sites, float trips, license agents, opportunities for hunters and anglers who are physically challenged, district office contact information and links to online resources for license purchases and regulations. Staff collected, processed and added to the lake depth data as part of a Sport Fish Restoration Project.

The Interagency Coordination Tool was maintained in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and WVGISTC to analyze project areas for threatened and endangered species. The online tool generated appropriate conservation practices to assist NRCS personnel in protecting species during project planning.

GIS staff continued to develop the Watershed Resources Registry and assist WRS staff in its use. A West Virginia-specific environmental review tool is currently in development with the help of NatureServe.



ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION PROGRAM

Hydropower

Staff coordinated with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), project applicants and licensees for hydropower projects and developments in state waters. There are currently 14 licensed and operating hydropower projects in the state. Another four projects have been licensed and are awaiting construction.

Three applications for new projects were received for New Cumberland, Pike Island and R.C. Byrd. The R.C. Byrd project had previously surrendered its license in early 2022, allowing for a separate company to apply for a permit. The relicensing phase continues for the Racine and Lake Lynn Hydroelectric Projects. Ownership of the Racine Project was transferred to Eagle Creek Renewable, which also owns and manages Lake Lynn, Millville and Dams 4 and 5. A downstream eel passage plan was finalized for the Millville Project with an expected implementation plan for September of 2022. Through this plan, downstream passage of American eel and other fish species will be protected from September to May of each year. Compensatory mitigation for loss of fish continued for five of the hydropower projects.

Oil and Gas

Staff provided coordination with the natural gas industry to attempt to mitigate impacts to our charge resources. Staff reviewed various applications for oil and gas related activities, including well locations, pipeline activities and fractionation plant development. Assistance was provided to the WVDNR Office of Land and Streams for review of lease agreements for oil and gas under the Ohio River. Technical support was provided to WVDEP Offices of Oil and Gas and Waste and Water, concerning impacts to fish and wildlife associated with oil and gas production and transmission.

Staff continued cooperative efforts with The Conservation Fund and industry to provide conservation measures and habitat replacement projects for impacts resulting from natural gas pipeline construction. Staff also provided technical assistance for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's National Transmission Planning Study.

Technical assistance concerning stream impacts from construction of transmission lines, gas fractionation facilities and the associated stream restoration projects required as mitigation continued with WVDEP assistance. Staff aided WVDEP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in reviewing the Clean Water Act Section 404 violations at numerous oil and gas construction sites and related wetland, stream mitigation and restoration activities. Assistance was also provided to industry, state and federal regulatory agencies related to development of best management practices for stream crossing activities. Support was provided for training in the application and use of trenchless methods of pipeline crossings of streams and wetlands. Staff provided continued support to the USFWS in protecting their charge resources potentially impacted by the oil and gas industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Clean Water Act 404/401 and Section 10

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

Staff reviewed and submitted comments to WVDEP on 23 Individual 401 Water Quality Certifications this reporting period. The Coordination Program secured Permittee Responsible Section 10 Mitigation, which provided improvements to Green Bottom WMA fishing access point and improvements to three other access points.

Staff reviewed 45 stream management plans submitted by the West Virginia Conservation Agency on behalf of individual landowners to accomplish relatively minor bank stabilization and channel improvement projects.

Staff coordinated with WVDEP, NUCOR Corporation and other staff in the WVDNR to identify areas of concern and coordinate a significant mitigation proposal associated with the development of the NUCOR project.

Highways

Staff continued to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act process for several West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) projects such as the Coalfields Expressway and Corridor H. Fishing access was requested from WVDOH on several bridge projects and will be added into the plans for Bunker Hill Bridge Mill Creek (Berkeley County), Osborne Mills Bridge Big Sandy Creek (Roane County) and the Left Fork Holly (Braxton County).

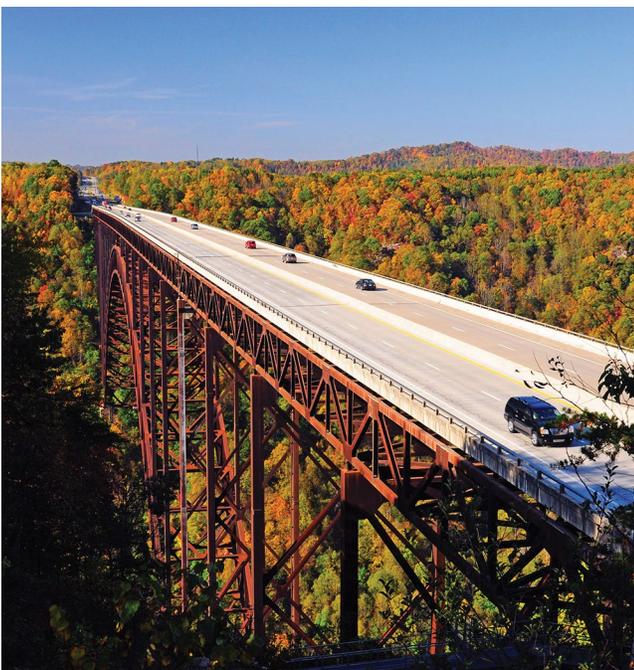
Staff reviewed numerous smaller transportation improvement projects, such as 74 bridges, 80 culverts, 10 bank stabilizations and 12 roadway repairs.

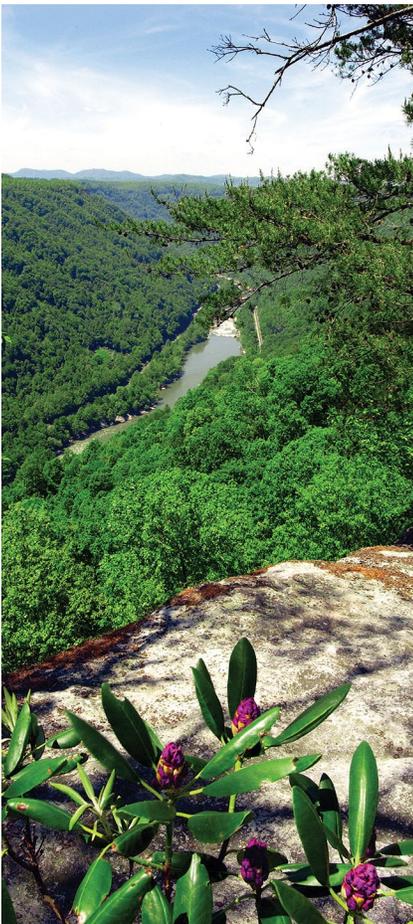
Staff responded to requests from WVDOH, local officials, state officials and numerous watershed groups for information on permitting issues relating to wetland/stream disturbance, mitigation obligations, permit compliance, Natural Stream Design, flooding and other related topics. Staff provided review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

The federal infrastructure bill (Infrastructure and Jobs Act HR 3684) has federal funds available to install signage and crossing structures to reduce wildlife vehicle collisions, so staff summarized the literature on wildlife interactions with vehicles and roads in three white papers on deer and large game, amphibian and reptiles and small and medium sized mammals. These papers were condensed into one paper and presented to WVDOH.

Mitigation Banking and In-Lieu Fee

Staff served on the Interagency Review Team to review, comment and approve mitigation banks and in-lieu fee projects throughout the state. Staff attended five field reviews for five proposed banks to provide design input and specific, measurable, attainable, relative and timely performance criteria. Staff verified yearly monitoring reports and conducted field reviews at 20 existing mitigation banks and in-lieu fee projects. Duck Creek and Horseshoe Hills mitigation banks were approved this year. Larkin Hollow, Sandy Creek, Tomlinson Run and Howdershelt Run mitigation banks were constructed during FY2022. Three new in-lieu fee projects were built in the reporting period at Mill Creek WMA, Kanawha State Forest and Frozen Camp WMA. Staff continued coordinating with the WVDEP to develop a rapid functional assessment for wetlands, which will be utilized to determine credit and debits for wetland impacts and aid in the monitoring of our state wetlands.





RENEWABLES/NRDA/COLLECTION PERMITS

Renewable Energy

The Catamount Wind Farm project in Grant and Tucker counties is once again being proposed. This facility has formerly been called Cherry Ridge and Mount Storm II. Coordination continues for Black Rock, Beech Ridge I and Beech Ridge II facilities, which are both in operation and conducting post-construction monitoring. Pre-construction diligence and surveys are underway for the Short Mountain facility, which is planning the start of construction in 2023. The Mount Storm, Laurel Mountain and Pinnacle facilities are repowering. Several solar projects are proposed for West Virginia, but the only WVDNR coordination so far involves rare, threatened and endangered species occurrence data requests.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Staff served as lead contact for a trustee council associated with the Union Carbide Corporation Natural Resource Damage Assessment. This task required coordination with multiple WVDNR employees, WVDEP, USFWS and the parties responsible for the damage. This project may result in compensation or habitat restoration for long term industrial impacts that occurred in the Kanawha River at Blaine Island.

Collection Permits and Data Base Review Requests

A total of 349 Scientific Collecting Permit applications were reviewed and permits issued to researchers, consultants, government agencies and educators. Most permits were issued to consultants conducting presence/absence surveys or performing biomonitoring required by other agencies. Six permit applications were denied. More than 700 projects were reviewed for the occurrence of rare, threatened and endangered species. These included flood-relief projects, USACE permit applications, infrastructure development and improvements, highway projects, solar facilities, and coal, oil and gas activities.

Game Management Unit

PUBLIC LANDS PROGRAM

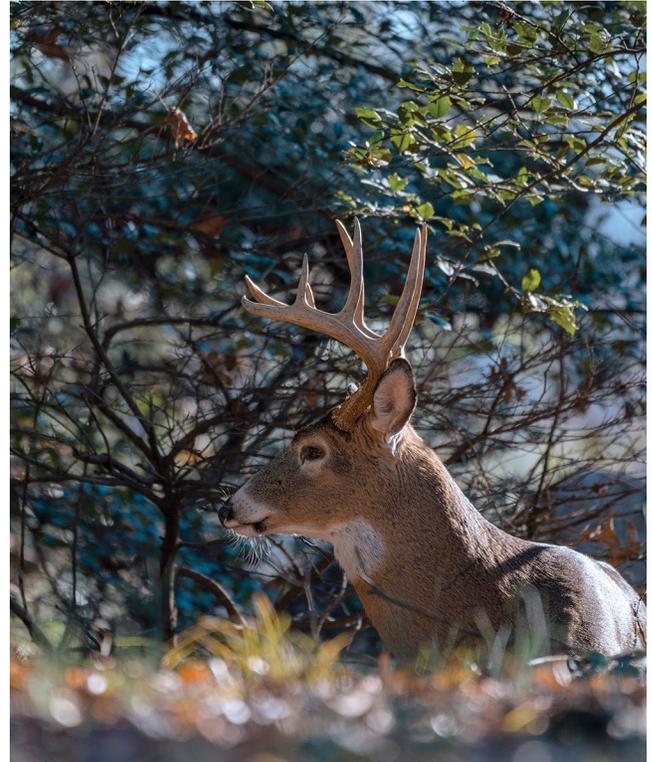
The WRS Game Management Unit conducted habitat management and law enforcement activities on 99 wildlife management areas and eight state forests totaling 502,415 acres. Acquisition of public lands and unique habitats continues to be a priority, especially in targeted regions of the state. Fee acquisitions were made to the Hughes River WMA (55 acres), Sandy Creek WMA (144 acres) and Walker Creek WMA (75 acres). Land reviews and associated due diligence were conducted during the fiscal year on numerous properties which will be closed in FY2023.

An extensive wildlife management program was conducted on nearly 1.1 million acres of national forest land (comprising 14 WMA units) located in West Virginia through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the WVDNR. State wildlife biologists and managers devoted a significant portion of their time reviewing national forest scoping notices, timber sales and providing technical input in the development of national forest plans. Management issues were closely reviewed to ensure that our fish and wildlife resources receive the maximum possible benefit. Because of continued COVID-19 pandemic impacts, annual joint meetings with the USFS, West Virginia Division of Forestry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and numerous working groups or symposia were either canceled or held virtually, with some in-person meetings beginning to start back up.

Management on our WMAs and national forest lands was directed toward improving forest age structure and stand composition, which created more living space for a variety of species. Much of the forest is of similar age, making it more susceptible to disease and disturbance, therefore reducing resiliency. Commercial forest management activities, which create young forest and structurally complex habitat, were delayed in most cases due to the anticipated up-listing of potentially two bat species by the USFWS to endangered species status. A total of 134 acres were placed under contract or in the administrative stage for harvest. Approximately 54 acres of field-border cuts were created and approximately 200 acres of forest mulching was conducted.

Management activities by personnel on state and national forest lands included releasing and/or grafting existing trees and planting additional trees and shrubs for food and cover on 90 acres.

A total of 2,500 acres of wildlife clearings were mowed and 46 acres of new clearings were established. Lime was applied to 281 acres and fertilizer applied to another 551 acres. A total of 660 acres were seeded to create food plots and dove fields. Prescribed



fire was applied to 267 acres to improve the diversity and abundance of desired plants. Herbicide was used on 800 acres to control undesirable and invasive vegetation. Sharecropping agreements were executed on 989 acres to maintain open land habitat and 55 waterholes were maintained to provide a year-round water supply for wildlife.

The water level on 207 acres of wetlands was manipulated to encourage waterfowl utilization. One hundred fifty-three wood duck boxes and 62 other species nest structures were maintained.

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

Nine hundred eighty-two information and regulation signs were erected or maintained and 125 miles of boundary was posted. Three hundred sixty-five campsites, six boat ramps, 23 shooting ranges, 199 parking areas and 23 access sites for anglers and hunters with disabilities were maintained for public use.

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



WILDLIFE DAMAGE AND NUISANCE WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The Wildlife Damage Control agent program allows for businesses to be licensed with the WVDNR to take and dispose of nuisance wildlife. Twenty-nine businesses were licensed by WVDNR during 2021-2022 as agents. The WVDNR is assisted by the USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services staff on a feral swine control program in West Virginia.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION PROGRAM

Many of the challenges and issues faced by the Game Management Unit are shared by other state and federal agencies. COVID-19 pandemic in-person meeting restrictions began relaxing for organizations and events in 2021-2022, with virtual, hybrid and in-person meeting attendance occurring. Notable organizations included the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, The Wildlife Society, Atlantic Flyway Council, Southeast Deer Study Group, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, Eastern Management Unit Dove Technical Committee, Northeast Habitat Technical Committee, Northeast Gamebird Technical Committee, Northern Bobwhite Conservation Committee, Southeast Wild Turkey Working Group, Ruffed Grouse Committee and Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture.

WILDLIFE POPULATION SURVEY AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Activities

Fifty-one nuisance bears were killed because of crop damage or nuisance activity. Hundreds of other bear complaints were resolved with harassment measures and/or removal of edible attractions. Ninety-seven bear damage claims were processed.

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

Wildlife Population Surveys and Research

Eighteen woodcock singing ground survey routes were conducted in cooperation with states in the Eastern Management Region and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A ring-necked pheasant survey was carried out on the Hillcrest WMA. Canada geese and mourning doves were banded in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlantic flyway states and states in the Eastern Dove Management Unit to monitor populations and establish harvest regulations. Four hundred ninety-five Canada geese were banded statewide during FY2022 as a part of this effort. In addition, 240 mourning doves were banded. For the past three years, West Virginia participated in a region-wide dove reward band study, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey Bird Banding Lab to determine band reporting rates of new style bands. Thirty-eight ducks were banded during the 2021-2022 post-hunting season. During this time, one hen mallard was fitted with a GPS global system for mobile communications transmitter as part of a flyway wide eastern mallard study. Nineteen of those ducks were tested as part of avian influenza surveillance in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services.

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



WILDLIFE POPULATION SURVEY AND RESEARCH PROGRAM CONTINUED...

White-tailed Deer

During FY2022, deer hunters harvested 105,278 deer. This was a decrease of 1.5% from the 2020 and January 2021 harvest of 106,861 and 6% below the previous five-year harvest average of 113,444. The combined deer season harvest for fall 2021 and January 2022 is the 35th largest total deer harvest on record for West Virginia. The total deer harvest represents one deer killed for every 139 acres of deer habitat in the state and a 59% harvest decrease from the record harvest of 255,356 deer in 2002. From 1945 to January 2022, a total of 6,773,512 deer harvests have been recorded in West Virginia. Forty-one percent (2,788,226) of the total recorded deer harvest from the past 77 years occurred in the last 20 years.

Special controlled deer hunts were held in 2021 at seven West Virginia state parks. A total of 161 deer (129 antlerless and 32 antlered deer) were harvested. Twenty-one deer were taken at Beech Fork State Park, seven deer at Blennerhassett State Park, 34 deer at Cacapon State Park, 11 deer at Canaan Valley State Park, 21 deer at North Bend State Park, 53 deer at Stonewall Resort State Park and 14 deer at Twin Falls State Park. This was the sixth year for such a hunt at Cacapon State Park and the fifth year for controlled deer hunt at North Bend State Park. All state park-controlled deer hunts are by application only.

Efforts to monitor and control the spread of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in free-ranging deer in West Virginia by WVDNR, landowners and hunters are ongoing. A sample collection for Hardy County and published in the 2021-2022 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary was conducted during the first two days of the buck firearms season. WVDNR staff collected and submitted samples from 277 hunter-harvested deer. Fifty of these samples were found to have the abnormal protein associated with CWD. The disease has now been detected in 456 deer in Hampshire County, 14 deer in Hardy County, 25 deer in Berkeley County, 10 deer in Mineral County and nine deer in Morgan 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.



Elk

With the release of 24 elk from the Land Between the Lakes Recreation Area in western Kentucky in late December 2016, wild elk have been roaming the mountains of West Virginia for the first time in more than 140 years. Subsequent releases with elk from Kentucky and Arizona were made in 2018. Although the effort suffered a setback in the summer of 2019 from an unexpectedly high mortality rate caused by a known parasite, calving over the past five summers has produced approximately 80 known calves. This has stabilized the population with 100-110 elk currently roaming the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area. All released elk were marked and equipped with GPS telemetry collars so movements could be tracked. In addition to this, efforts continue each winter to capture, mark and collar calves and other un-collared elk so data can be collected. Data analysis is currently underway in a cooperative effort with WVU to examine early home range size and habitat use characteristics. Efforts also continue to identify a source herd from which additional elk can be transferred to West Virginia to supplement the herd, but no new relocations are set at this time.

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

Several presentations regarding the program's status were given to public and government groups, including the West Virginia Legislature. The eastern elk workshop was virtually attended to monitor the development of scientific advancements regarding elk and to network with other elk researchers. Maintenance and upkeep of the elk pen is ongoing and a squeeze chute was erected. No elk were imported into West Virginia during FY2022.



WILDLIFE POPULATION SURVEY AND RESEARCH PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Black Bear

West Virginia hunters harvested 2,756 black bears during the combined 2021 archery and firearms seasons. The 2021 harvest was 22% below the 3,541 bears killed in 2020. The black bear harvest of 2021 is the sixth highest kill ever recorded.

Age data from the 2020 tooth samples have been received and hunters have been notified of their bear's age. Hunters submitted 2,373 usable teeth for age consideration. One percent of the teeth came from cubs (24), 28% (675) came from yearlings, 24% (569) came from 2-year-olds, 14% (322) came from 3-year-olds and the remaining 33% (783) were 4 years or older. Biologists use age data from hunter-harvested bear teeth to calculate population estimates and mortality rates for black bears in West Virginia. The 2,373 usable teeth submitted in 2020 represent 67% of the total black bear harvest. This rate is very similar to that of 2019 and has gradually improved each year since 2016 (the first-year tooth submission was mandatory). Hunters submitted 49% of the harvest in 2016, 53% of the harvest in 2017, 63% in 2018 and 68% in 2019. This rate should improve in the years to come, which will allow for more precise estimates of population size.

Wild Turkey

Spring gobbler season began in 1966 on our wildlife management areas and went statewide in 1968. Hunters harvested 9,366 bearded turkeys during the 2022 spring gobbler season. This harvest is 7.6% below the 2021 harvest and 11.3% below the 10-year average. Hunters harvested 694 fall turkeys in 2021, down 33.1% from 2020 and 30.7% below the five-year average.

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

Wild Boar

Hunters killed 145 boars during the fall 2021 and February 2022 seasons. This tied with 2020 as the second highest harvest ever. Hunters once again had the opportunity to hunt in early February 2022 in addition to archery season and the firearms season which occurred the last week of October. The February season produced great results with a harvest of 59 boars. Fifty-one boars were harvested in Boone County and 94 in Logan County.

Firearms hunters took 78 boars (23 in Boone County and 55 in Logan County) and archers killed 39 (13 in Boone County and 26 in Logan County). Crossbow hunters accounted for 28 kills (15 in Boone County and 13 in Logan County). Raleigh and Wyoming counties had no reported kills.

Annual Mast Survey

WVDNR staff rate the abundance of mast produced by selected tree and shrub species each year in August. 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.

All mast species combined were 8% above the long-term average statewide. All oak species were below the long-term average. Beech, walnut, black cherry and hickory were above the long-term average.



Fish Management Unit

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

FISH HATCHERY PROGRAM

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

Trout Hatcheries

In 2021, staff stocked 911,724 catchable trout weighing 681,608 pounds (Table 1). The 2021 trout stocking year was down from the annual hatchery production goal of 750,000 pounds. These trout were distributed to 74 impoundments, nine reservoir tailwaters and numerous locations on 128 streams.

The average size of catchable trout stocked into put-and-take managed waters in 2021 was 12.5 inches and 0.75 pounds, similar to 2020. This large average trout size is a result of adequate hatchery water supplies over the stocking period. The White Sulphur Springs Federal Hatchery provided 3,739 surplus trout that were stocked during the fall stocking season.

Trout stocking also occurred in 11 Class Q waters, which provided fishing opportunities for anglers with disabilities and children 10 and under. These special regulation waters were stocked the first week of March. Thirty-six waters across the state also received two stockings each during a two-week period in October 2021.

Wild trout management continued to receive special attention in West Virginia. The program is focused on protecting and enhancing native brook trout populations and stocking fingerling trout to maintain wild trout populations. In 2021, more than 222,033 fingerling trout were stocked in 31 waters throughout the state (Table 2). Assistance from various conservation groups and citizen volunteers was an essential part of the fingerling trout stocking program.

Table 1.

Total number and weight of catchable and brood trout distributed to more than 200 waters statewide during 2021.

Distribution Hatchery	Brook		Brown		Golden		Rainbow		Tiger		All Trout Species	
	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT
Bowden	31,255	18,772	17,476	11,654	26,855	15,187	128,135	94,305	8,434	5,517	212,155	145,437
Edray	22,570	15,945	15	50	11,871	10,053	140,518	99,605	2,355	5,513	177,329	131,166
Petersburg	8,948	5,877	2,737	2,435	6,453	5,717	45,444	40,522	2,194	1,829	65,776	56,380
Reeds Creek	11,707	8,907	6,012	4,702	9,293	6,425	86,788	66,023	5,395	6,053	119,195	92,110
Ridge	15,712	9,913	5,295	3,695	5,788	4,467	37,179	32,200	1,962	1,861	65,936	52,136
Spring Run	33,969	20,930	4,592	3,866	16,214	12,656	73,421	69,375	12,942	9,136	141,138	115,963
Tate Lohr	23,136	15,552	0	0	6,881	5,505	96,505	64,669	3,673	2,690	130,195	88,416
TOTALS	147,297	95,896	36,127	26,402	83,355	60,010	607,990	466,699	36,955	32,599	911,724	681,608

WILDLIFE RESOURCES



FISH HATCHERY PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Table 2.

Total number and weight of fingerling trout distributed in 26 waters statewide during 2021.

Distribution Hatchery	Brook		Brown		Golden		Rainbow		All Trout Species	
	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT
Bowden	0	0	41,897	509	44	1	124,802	1,337	166,743	1,847
Edray	0	0	16,451	107	0	0	0	0	16,451	107
Spring Run	0	0	0	0	9,070	394	29,769	3,178	38,839	3,572
TOTAL	0	0	58,348	616	9,114	395	154,571	4,515	222,033	5,526

Table 3.

Total number of warmwater fingerling and advanced fingerling fish distributed in 90 waters statewide during 2021.

SPECIES	CLASS	State Warmwater Hatchery		State Warmwater Rearing Facility			Total NUMBER
		APPLE GROVE	PALESTINE	BEE RUN	BOWDEN	FALLS MILL	
Blue Catfish	Advanced Fingerling	25,286					25,286
Channel Catfish	Advanced Fingerling	48,624			19,249		67,873
	Adult	2,548			1,077		3,625
Hybrid Striped Bass	Fingerling	183,006					183,006
Muskellunge	Advanced Fingerling	28,064					28,064
	Advanced Fingerling	93	557	393	498	300	1,841
Walleye	Fry		8,000				8,000
	Advanced Fingerling	912	172				1,084
	Fingerling	70,328	48,000				118,328
	Fry	1,064,000					1,064,000
TOTAL		1,422,861	56,729	393	20,824	300	1,501,107

FISH HATCHERY PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Warmwater Hatcheries

Warmwater hatcheries produced blue catfish, channel catfish, muskellunge, hybrid striped bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, tiger musky and walleye during 2021. A total of 1,501,107 fish were produced and stocked in 81 waters throughout the state (Table 3). Warmwater hatcheries produced and stocked both fingerlings and advanced fingerlings.

Hatchery Improvements

Hatchery renovation continued at Bowden Hatchery, which includes expansion of fish rearing units, installing a modern water recirculating system and numerous other improvements and upgrades. Once complete, the trout production at Bowden Hatchery is expected to increase by 100,000 pounds annually.

Blue Catfish

A total of 25,286 blue catfish were stocked in R.D. Bailey Reservoir and the Pike Island Pool of the Ohio River (Table 3). The stocking of blue catfish in the lower Ohio River has demonstrated successful restoration efforts of this previously extirpated species and was not stocked in 2021 to evaluate the current population. Blue catfish stocking has also been successfully achieved in the R.D. Bailey Reservoir and now provides a fishing destination for this species.

Channel Catfish

A total 3,625 catchable-sized adult channel catfish were stocked in 45 waters in June 2021 to provide enhanced recreational fishing opportunities at city and state park lakes (Table 3). Adult channel catfish are stocked annually prior to the annual free fishing weekend. This stocking also provides anglers with more catchable fishing opportunities throughout the summer season.

Muskellunge

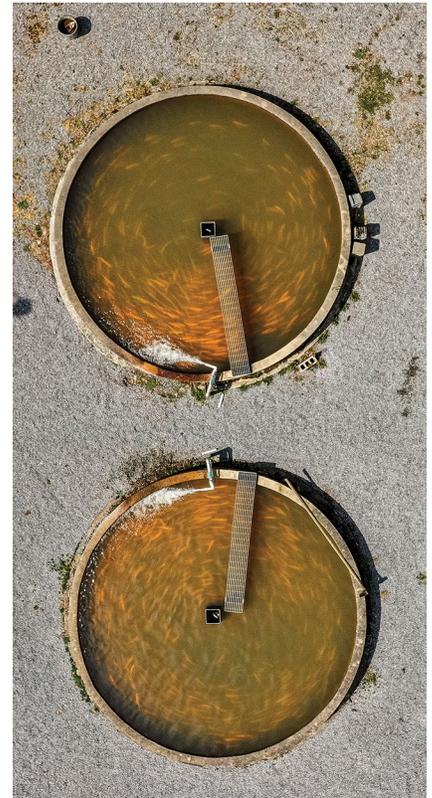
A total 1,841 advanced fingerling muskellunge were stocked (Table 3) in Burnsville Reservoir, East Lynn Reservoir, Monongahela River, Mud River, North Bend Lake, Stonecoal Reservoir, Tug Fork River, Tygart River Backwaters, Upper Mud Lake, West Fork River and Woodrum Lake. In addition, 8,000 muskellunge fry were also stocked in the Monongahela River. Staff typically collect brood stock for hatchery production from Elk River, Little Kanawha River, Middle Island Creek, Monongahela River and North Bend Lake.

Hybrid Striped Bass

A total of 211,070 hybrid striped bass were stocked in Beech Fork, Bluestone and R.D. Bailey Reservoirs as well as the Ohio, Kanawha and Monongahela rivers (Table 3). Hybrid striped bass do not reproduce, so supplemental stocking was necessary to sustain a fishable population.

Walleye

An estimated 118,328 fingerlings, 1,084 advanced fingerlings and 1,064,000 fry walleye were stocked in 2021. The number of stocked walleye fingerlings has been increasing annually for the past several years due to good production and improved culture techniques. In 2021, walleye were stocked in Cheat Lake, Dog Run Lake, Elk River, Gauley River, Kanawha River, New River, Ohio River, Stephens and Stonecoal Reservoir.

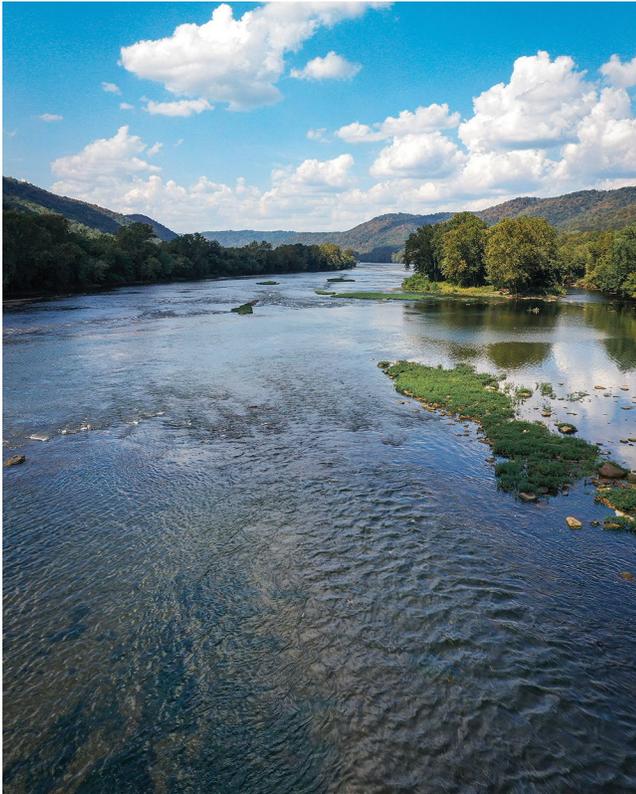


WILDLIFE RESOURCES

FISHERIES AND HABITAT SURVEY PROGRAM

Reservoirs

Black bass electrofishing surveys were conducted on 10 large reservoirs in the state including Bluestone, Burnsville, Cheat, Mount Storm, R. D. Bailey, Stonecoal, Stonewall Jackson, Summersville, Sutton and Tygart lakes. Surveys conducted on Cheat, Mount Storm and Tygart lakes monitored population characteristics of largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass. These monitoring surveys are used to inform management needs and help guide future management recommendations for these important recreational species. Additional surveys conducted on Bluestone, Burnsville, Cheat, R. D. Bailey, Stonecoal, Stonewall Jackson, Summersville, Sutton and Tygart lakes were part of an ongoing statewide black bass genetics assessment in cooperation with West Virginia University. Electrofishing and gill-netting surveys were conducted for striped bass on Mount Storm Lake to evaluate stocking success of this species. Walleye surveys were conducted on Summersville and Sutton lakes to monitor population characteristics and assess recent stocking efforts. Electrofishing surveys were conducted for muskellunge on Stonewall Jackson Lake as part of an ongoing population assessment project in cooperation with West Virginia University to estimate population abundance, fishing mortality and other population characteristics. A blue catfish electrofishing survey was conducted on R. D. Bailey Lake.



Rivers and Streams

River and stream fisheries surveys were conducted to assess population characteristics for a range of species. Key projects included:

- Trout populations surveys and genetic material collection (native brook trout) with a focus in the Ohio River watershed.
- Southern Coalfields Wild Trout occupancy surveys cooperative project with the WVDEP for management and permitting needs.
- Evaluation of smallmouth bass population demographics and angler use on the South Branch of the Potomac River.
- Smallmouth bass population assessments in Tygart and Cheat rivers to evaluate potential effects of harvest regulations.
- Brook trout population assessment surveys on Bullskin Run, Dillons Run, Meadow Run, Rocky Marsh Run and Spring Run.
- Brook trout surveys to monitor reestablishment efforts on Edwards Run and Roaring Run.
- Fish community surveys in West Fork River to document and monitor changes following dam removals.
- Muskellunge surveys on Little Kanawha River, Middle Island Creek, Mill Creek, Monongahela River, Potomac River and Sandy Creek to evaluate size structure, collect brood stock for hatchery purposes and take fin clips for genetic analysis.
- Fish community monitoring surveys in Buffalo Creek (Brooke County), Wheeling Creek, and Fish Creek in cooperation with the EPA and WVDEP.
- Collected smallmouth bass on the Potomac River with the USGS for fish health study.
- Population characteristics and movement of blue and flathead catfish in the Ohio and lower Kanawha rivers.
- Sportfish monitoring and community surveys on Monongahela River in cooperation with the WVDEP.
- Walleye population assessment on Elk and Gauley rivers.
- Collected genetic samples on New River for Alabama bass testing.
- Sauger population assessment on the Ohio River.

FISHERIES AND HABITAT SURVEY PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Small Impoundments

Small Impoundment fisheries surveys were conducted to assess population characteristics for a range of species, including largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge and walleye. Fairfax Pond, Hinkle Lake, Deegan Lake, Dog Run, Parker Hollow Lake, Sleepy Creek Lake, New Creek Lake, South Mill Creek Lake, Kimsey Run Lake, Big Ditch Lake, Plum Orchard Lake, Little Beaver Lake, Conway Run Lake, Elk Fork Lake and North Bend Lake were surveyed by fisheries staff in 2021.

Fish Health Surveys

Annual fish health surveys, as part of the USFWS Wild Fish Health Survey, were conducted on brood stock walleye from the Ohio River and brood stock muskellunge from Middle Island Creek and North Bend Lake. Surveys were also conducted on sauger and walleye from the Ohio River. All samples were found to be negative of fish pathogens.

Trout species from our cold-water hatcheries were also tested for annual fish health inspections. Samples tested positive for *Aeromonas* spp. and Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus most commonly. *Listeria* was also detected. *Myxolbilis cerebralis* (Whirling Disease) was not detected in any samples in 2021. Brook and golden rainbow trout were tested from Bowden and Spring Run hatcheries in response to observations of sick fish to facilitate proper treatment. Samples tested positive for *Staphylococcus* sp. and additional gill and skin parasites. All pathogens identified were treated and fish recovered at their respective hatcheries.

INTERSTATE FISHERIES COORDINATION PROGRAM

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

A cooperative effort continued with Ohio River basin states and federal partners monitoring populations of invasive carp species. Activities included surveys targeted to monitor population expansion, physical removal of fish, fish community surveys and tracking movements through acoustic telemetry. Bighead carp are more regularly sampled in the lower Ohio River in low numbers, while silver carp are still rare, yet some specimens have been reported.

HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Fisheries Management staff continued habitat enhancement projects in FY2022. Staff deployed 791 habitat structures across 11 impoundments. Habitat structures deployed included 595 Christmas trees, 15 catfish spawning boxes, 100 woody structures and 82 fallen trees. Habitat structures were placed in locations (coves, points, drop offs, littoral areas and shoreline fishing areas lacking in habitat) to improve habitat for existing fish populations and enhance recreational fishing opportunities. Recycled Christmas trees were placed at Cheat (85), Chief Logan Pond (44), Dents Run (42), Laurel Lake (82), Moncove (20), Mount Storm (60), Stonecoal (25) and Tygart (236) lakes. Many of these installations were in cooperation with local fishing organizations and the WVDEP Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan and USACE.

Other forms of habitat enhancements were created by fisheries management staff to improve lentic lake habitat. Fifteen catfish boxes were deployed at Beech Fork Lake. Larger woody and wreath structure were installed at Stonecoal (18), Stonewall Jackson (6), Summersville (35), and Tygart (41) lakes. Large trees were dropped and anchored at Moncove (7), Mount Storm (17), Stonecoal (6), Stonewall Jackson (10), Summersville (30) and Tygart (12) lakes.

The acidified streams program applied over 4,200 tons of limestone sand to improve water quality for native brook trout and other game species, making quality fisheries in more than 300 miles of impaired streams and 250 acres of small impoundments.

A cooperative project was initiated with the Monongahela National Forest and Game Management unit to restore native brook trout habitat to a one-mile section of West Fork Gladly Fork. The project had aquatic, riparian and upland habitat components cooperatively implemented by an interdisciplinary and interagency team.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATION AND TROPHY FISH CITATION PROGRAM

Seven hundred and fifty-two fishing tournaments were held with a species breakdown of 644 bass tournaments, 68 catfishing tournaments, 29 musky tournaments, five crappie/panfish tournaments, three bowfishing tournaments, two trout tournaments and one youth tournament. Fishing tournaments were held on 31 waters, including 13 reservoirs (greater than 500 acres), nine small impoundments (less than 500 acres), six small rivers and three large rivers. In addition to traditional fishing tournaments that conduct events and weigh-ins at a single location, 28 tournaments requiring lengths only and immediate releases for species such as muskellunge and black bass across multiple waters were reported in 2021.

The Trophy Fish Citation program recognized anglers who caught 926 fish, representing 23 species that qualified as trophies. Of 12 waters (private lakes are counted as one water) yielding 10 or more fish citations, 75% were from streams and rivers, 8% from private lakes and ponds and 17% from public lakes. The trophy citation program was started in 1976 and has recognized more than 60,000 anglers for their outstanding catches. The year 2004 marked the first year of issuing length-only citations in addition to the certified weight citation. In 2020, the weight certification was removed, and the program went strictly to using length to determine citation fish.



Wildlife Diversity Unit

ORNITHOLOGY PROGRAM

Staff conducted field reviews of citizen science reports of rare bird occurrences for confirmation. Coordinated several monitoring efforts with several state birding groups which included breeding bird survey routes and the Christmas Bird Count. Staff monitored several state priority bird species, including loggerhead shrike, bald eagles and a variety of marsh birds. Staff represented the agency on several national councils, technical committees and working groups. Staff provided technical assistance to state residents, agencies and other organizations. Staff assisted private landowners in the implementation of farm bill programs targeting cerulean and golden-winged warbler. Staff provided review and comments on various energy development activities, including wind facilities and shale gas and developed a draft outline for agency renewable energy guidance.

MUSSEL PROGRAM

Mussel coordination activities included reviewing and providing comments on mussel issues for more than 54 stream activity requests and contractor surveys. Several private landowner project clearance surveys were completed. The West Virginia Mussel Survey Protocols were finalized and posted to the WVDNR website in June 2022. Construction planning for the mussel hatchery at Palestine State Fish Hatchery using mitigation funds from commercial sand and gravel dredging within the New Cumberland Pool of the Ohio River is still underway.

Mussel monitoring events were conducted at the Cacapon River (Bradfield's and Great Cacapon), Little Kanawha River (Burning Springs), Monongahela River (Hildebrand) and North Fork Hughes River (Sears Road). General mussel surveys were conducted on Patterson Creek, Meathouse Fork, Buckhannon River and Charley's Creek. One mussel kill investigation was conducted on the Greenbrier River (Summers County) due to a slurry spill, but no mussels were affected. We concluded our silo study in Dunkard Creek 2021. Cage propagation efforts continued in FY2022. In 2021, staff began a new method of attempting to increase yields in our lake cages and 4,000 newly transformed juveniles were seeded into the cages in May of 2021. A preliminary check of some cages indicates each cage should contain 300-400 individuals in 2022.

POLLINATOR PROGRAM

Writing continued on the *Atlas of the Butterflies of West Virginia*. The agency will begin seeking a publishing contract by the end of 2022. Wildlife Diversity staff, assisted by U.S. Forest Service personnel, participated in annual monitoring and a regional genetic assessment of the Appalachian grizzled skipper. The northern West Virginia Natural Resources Conservation Service partner biologist (pollinator specialist) conducted outreach activities and implemented Farm Bill programs to create or enhance pollinator habitat on private lands.

ECOLOGY PROGRAM

Staff sampled seven vegetation plots and added 124 new occurrences of vegetation associations to the Biotics database. An updated vegetation classification for West Virginia, consisting of 184 Associations of the U.S. National Vegetation Classification, was compiled and shared with agency partners. Staff attended and presented Conservation Status Ranks for Vegetation Associations in West Virginia at the Biodiversity without Boundaries Conference (NatureServe/National Heritage) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Partnership activities included coauthoring papers on bryophytes and riverscours vegetation, reviewing and commenting on proposals submitted by the U.S. Forest Service and hiring and co-supervising two Good Neighbor partner botanists for the Monongahela National Forests.

NATURAL AREA PROGRAM

Staff assisted with delineation and drafting nomination forms for two natural areas (Carnifex Forest, Twin Forest), which were designated by WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. Outreach for the Natural Areas Program included public tours of the two new natural areas in Canaan Valley State Park, a recorded presentation to the Natural Areas Association, a presentation to the state park superintendents and an article for the 2023 West Virginia Wildlife Calendar. Field work and GIS mapping were conducted to support nomination of additional Natural Areas in Watoga, Holly River and Audra state parks.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

In the effort to inventory and document the state's rare plants, animals and communities, a total of 514 new ecological occurrences were added to Biotics consisting of 41 vertebrate animals, 240 invertebrate animals, 124 communities and 109 plants. In addition, a total of 1,735 records were improved and updated in Biotics consisting of 168 vertebrate animals, 307 invertebrate animals, 288 communities and 972 plants. Staff responded to 140 data requests from cooperating agencies and researchers needing element occurrence data for a variety of research projects within the state.

RARE, THREATENED, AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

General

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

Surveys and Monitoring

Bat populations were monitored at 15 hibernacula, four abandoned railway tunnels, 11 Virginia big-eared bat maternity colonies and on approximately 54 acoustic monitoring routes. Reports summarizing bat population trends were developed. New bat monitoring methods were successfully tested, found to be effective and will be fully implemented in subsequent years to improve and streamline monitoring efforts. Surveys for Cheat Mountain salamanders were performed in six historical populations and monitoring was performed in three benchmark populations. Staff worked with a taxa expert to host a rusty patched bumble bee training session for state and federal wildlife biologists tasked with working on recovery of the species. Subsequent surveys for rusty patched bumble bees resulted in 72 individual encounters representing many new occurrence locations in West Virginia. Sixteen miles of the Ohio River, representing 46.3 riverbank miles (riverbank miles include both banks and perimeter of river islands), were surveyed for cobblestone tiger beetles and resulted in documentation of one new occurrence location, five high quality habitat sites, 13 moderate quality habitat sites and 23 low quality habitat sites. Northern flying squirrel monitoring was conducted at eight known population sites using a combination of acoustic and next box survey methods. Guyandotte River crayfish habitat quality surveys in the Upper Guyandotte River watershed were performed (and are ongoing) to support ongoing conservation planning for that species.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE PROGRAM

The Amphibian and Reptile Program focused on field validating habitat suitability models that have been developed for several species of greatest conservation need, including the endemic Cheat Mountain salamander, Cow Knob salamander, timber rattlesnake and spotted turtle. These models will assist in targeting restoration and survey efforts in the future. Staff conducted monitoring programs for the Cheat Mountain salamander, wood turtle and eastern box turtle.

In partnership with Marshall University, program staff completed a research project to develop best practices for use of translocation of timber rattlesnakes at high use recreation areas to reduce negative human-timber rattlesnake snake interactions.

Program staff conducted research on the use of repatriation for eastern box turtles and released eight box turtles that were previously collected illegally from the state. Program staff continue to work with the Law Enforcement Section to implement and enforce the agency's Amphibian and Reptile Regulations (58CSR73) to reduce overcollection and exploitation of West Virginia's wildlife resources.

CAVE AND KARST PROGRAM

Planning

Staff engaged with the West Virginia Cave Conservancy, the West Virginia Speleological Survey, the West Virginia Association for Cave Studies, the Cave Conservancy of the Virginias and the National Speleological Society to promote cave and karst conservation and advance objectives identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Conservation

Program staff contributed to the protections of a biologically significant cave in Monroe County. A planned purchase of the tract will lead to the transfer of a four plus mile long biologically significant cave to a long-term resource protection partner. Several cave protection signs were distributed to grottos in the northern, southern and eastern part of the state for placement at biologically or recreationally significant caves.

Research

Program staff assisted a West Liberty graduate student investigating the Greenbrier cave crayfish (*Cambarus nerterius*) by facilitating access to 14 caves in Greenbrier County.

ZOOLOGY PROGRAM

Citizen Science

Rare firefly surveys were conducted as a follow up to a citizen science survey in 2020 that documented firefly and glow worm species diversity. More populations of synchronous fireflies (*Photinus carolinus*) were discovered where West Virginia now has 31 documented Element Occurrences, including low-elevation sites outside of typical high-elevation cove forest habitat. A weather station was installed at Watoga State Park as part of a synchronous firefly conservation management plan that will allow us to study and predict the species' phenology.

Motus Project

A radio telemetry station was co-located in April 2022 at Pipestem Resort State Park's lookout tower as part of the international Motus wildlife tracking network. The station successfully documented migratory animals, verifying a migratory corridor at Pipestem and the Motus tower at Hanging Rock.

Rare Fireflies

A historical firefly species called the Potomac firefly (*Photuris potomaca*) found only in the Potomac drainage was rediscovered in the state after several decades of no documentation. They are a habitat specialist that occupy river scour areas, a sensitive habitat type staff will survey further in 2023 to determine its full distribution. Additionally, snappy syncs (*Photuris frontalis*) were discovered for the first time in the eastern panhandle, only one of two synchronous firefly species in North America. West Virginia has now documented both species.

West Virginia Water Shrew

New water shrew locations were confirmed in 2022 using a Habitat Suitability Model (HSM) and non-lethal bucket camera trap surveys where the HSM may be able to guide future survey efforts.

Allegheny Woodrat

An Allegheny woodrat historical population was confirmed in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park after surveys were last conducted more than 20 years ago. This was the result of coordinated research efforts between the National Park Service, WVDNR, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and Radford University. Data will be used for ongoing research efforts to determine the current statewide conservation status for this species.

BOTANY PROGRAM

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

Federally Protected Plants

Significant staff effort was devoted to drafting a management plan for running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) for the Monongahela National Forest. Additionally, post-delisting monitoring occurred for seven running buffalo clover occurrences in the Monongahela National Forest and adjacent private lands. Monitoring efforts occurred for federally endangered harperella, (*Ptilimnium nodosum*) in Morgan and Berkeley counties on Sleepy Creek, Back Creek and the Cacapon River. Staff provided comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to inform the five-year review process for harperella. Staff monitored federally endangered shale barren rock cress, (*Arabis serotina*) in Pendleton County and began using and assessing a Habitat Suitability Model for this species which could aid in finding new populations and potentially be used in environmental review. Finally, staff collaborated with researchers from the Smithsonian Institution to monitor federally threatened small whorled pogonia sites.

Natural Heritage Botany

Surveys were focused on spring ephemerals that resulted in identifying a new native wildflower to West Virginia, *Cardamine dissecta* or forked toothwort, in Cabell County. Program staff observed the second and third state records for *Viola walteri* in limestone glades of Pendleton County. Monitoring occurred at multiple sites hosting the rare plant and candidate for federal listing *Paxistima canbyi*, Canby's mountain lover. A new survey for the globally rare and narrow endemic *Corallorhiza bentleyi*, Bentley's coralroot, discovered a new population for the state. Incidental to other field work, *Pycnanthemum clinopoides*, basil-leaf mountainmint, an extremely rare species that was considered historical to the state was rediscovered. Staff provided technical assistance to National Park Service employees in conducting vegetation monitoring in the New River and Bluestone National Park units. Staff also helped the WVDOH with proposed work on the Brush Creek Falls trail in Mercer County and with planning on the State Wildlife Action by ranking and prioritizing plant species for conservation actions.

Outreach

Outreach efforts included participation in the West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage, where staff planned and led two days of field trips and taught a class about wildflowers and weeds for the Tygart Valley Master Naturalist program. Staff began planning for a native seed collection and production program for use in habitat restoration.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

Presentations were given to the general public, school children, state park naturalists, scouting groups, Wilderness Rangers, elementary, middle, high school and college students along with church groups, arboretums, nature centers, botanical gardens, home school organizations and various summer day-camps. Locations included West Virginia University, Davis & Elkins College, West Virginia state parks, city parks and schools. In 2021, presentations took place at county fairs and along with several major festivals and events including Science Technology Engineering and Math, Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, National Hunting and Fishing Days and the opening of the Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center. In addition, educational interactive displays were loaned to schools, state, federal and to local organizations.

Wild Yards Program

Concerted multi-media marketing efforts generated increased participation in the Wild Yards Program. Forty-four wild yards applications were reviewed and approved for certification. A new sign was created with the help of a certified master naturalist and revision of the original application and manual are in development.

Master Naturalist Program

Staff instructed several master naturalist classes for multiple state chapters and helped coordinate local chapters and the annual conference. A new master naturalist chapter, Greenbrier, was formed. There are now 10 chapters located throughout the state.



AQUATIC COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

General

During the 2021-2022 field seasons, a total of 96 fish surveys were conducted statewide to continue documenting the distribution and status of West Virginia fish species. Of the 96 fish surveys, 92 were wadeable and four were non-wadeable. Wadeable surveys consisted of 64 backpack electrofishing surveys, nine seining surveys, seven parallel-wire fish community monitoring surveys and six nocturnal surveys. Non-wadeable surveys were completed using raft electrofishing (n=1) and benthic trawling (n = 3) and proved useful in collecting large river benthic fishes. Additionally, distributional information, meristic specimens and genetic samples were collected for bluestone sculpin (*Cottus* sp. 1) to address data gaps associated with this species' distribution and regional congeners (e.g., banded and broadband sculpin groups). As a result, 136 *Cottus* spp. fin clips were acquired and its known distribution was expanded by approximately 9.36 river kilometers in the Upper Bluestone River Drainage.

Rare, Threatened or Endangered Fishes

Staff participated in collaborative efforts involving two federally listed fish species, the candy darter and the diamond darter. Joined by staff from the WVDNR Endangered Species Program, USGS-WVU Coop Unit, the USFWS Ecological Services and White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery, staff conducted nocturnal spotlight surveys in the Elk River to update the known occupancy and abundance data for the diamond darter. During six surveys, a minimum of 39 individuals were detected among the four sites sampled. Staff also conducted restoration efforts targeting the candy darter that included monitoring two reintroduced populations (stocked in 2018-2019), genetic monitoring of all known existing populations and additional translocation/propagation efforts. Staff collaborated with White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery (WSSNFH) in investigating the effects of collection methods on propagation efforts. In total, 313 fish were collected and genotyped by WVU, of which 48 pure fish were retained for propagation at WSSNFH. Hatchery efforts resulted in 22 fish being reared to the benthic juvenile life stage. These fish will be tagged and stocked later this year. Adapted collection methodologies and altering hatchery conditions likely contributed to the overall success of this year's candy darter propagation efforts.





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