

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

**Will Meet at 10:30 AM
On Wed., August 17, 2022
Department of Natural Resources
Google Meet**

Meeting Agenda:

Introductions:

Annual Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair (Group Discussion)

Approval for August 17, 2022, Meeting Agenda

Approval for Minutes from June 15, 2022 Meeting

Natural Heritage Program Update (Associate Director Jonathan McKnight)

Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee Update (Associate Director Jonathan McKnight)

Information and Education (I&E) Program Update (I&E Program Manager Chris Markin)

Break

Natural Resources Police Update (Captain Shawn Garren or Lieutenant Charles Fawley)

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Colby Ferguson)

Old Business:

New Business:

Public Comment:

Adjourn

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

**The Proposed Schedule for the 2022 meetings
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

January 19th	Google Meet
February 16th	Google Meet
March 16th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
April 20th	Google Meet
May 18th	No Meeting
June 15th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
July 20th	No Meeting
August 17th	Google Meet
September 21st	TBD - Google Meet or No Meeting or Field Day
October 19th	Google Meet
November 16th	Google Meet
December 22nd	No Meeting

***PLEASE NOTE THAT MEETING DATES ARE HELD
ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH***

Note: Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be held via Google Meeting. When meeting in person, the meetings will be held in the C-1 Conference Room Department of Natural Resources - Tawes State Office Building beginning at 10:30 am. Available parking is located at the Navy Stadium Parking Lot.

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
AUGUST 17, 2022

Director Paul Peditto called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Director Peditto had to call the meeting to order in the absence of a Chair and Vice Chair (they were recently replaced as members of the Commission). This meeting was held virtually. Director Paul Peditto asked for a roll call of individuals on the “call.” Because of the anonymity of Google Meet callers, it was impossible to determine the identity of every participant.

Director Peditto asked for introductions and then provided an overview of the Wildlife Advisory Commission (WAC); and offered a few slides to show the programmatic and organizational structure of the Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS).

Annual Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair – Group Discussion

- Motion to Elect Chair and Vice-Chair:
 1. Commissioner Keithley moved to nominate Carl Wagner as Chair and Joe Schroyer as Vice-Chair.
 2. Commissioner Jenkins seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for August 17, 2022, Meeting Agenda

- Motion to Approve the Agenda:
 1. Commissioner Showalter moved to accept the August 17, 2022, Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda.
 2. Commissioner Keithley seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from June 15, 2022, Meeting

- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to accept June 15, 2022, Meeting Minutes.
 2. Commissioner Keithley seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Natural Heritage Program Update – Associate Director Jonathan McKnight gave the presentation.

- Associate Director McKnight pointed out that Director Paul Peditto is the longest-serving wildlife director in the United States.
- Associate Director McKnight expressed that he is honored to present to the Commission. Associate Director McKnight recognized that the WAC members are volunteers and give their time beyond the time spent at the meetings. This Commission’s support for wildlife, habitats, and the WHS is much appreciated.
- Associate Director McKnight gave an update on the Natural Heritage Service. **[ATTACHMENT A]**
- The Maryland Natural Heritage Program is responsible for the non-hunting wildlife species, including plants and invertebrates, to ensure that these species are sustainable and available for future generations.
- The Maryland Natural Heritage Program (NHP) has 26 employees divided into three programs: Science Program, Habitat Conservation Program, and Conservation Technology Program.
 1. Conservation Technology Program – Staff maintain a database of all the living things and their habitats in Maryland. The Natural Heritage Program is connected to a national database that reflects the same techniques and matrix, along with measurement and inventory determinations of all 50 states, 7 oversea territories, and 17 north and southern nations. Also, this team provides

technical support to our field staff and educational support on non-game species.

2. Habitat Conservation Program – Field staff manage the habitat using burning, restoring, and reintroducing species to maintain Maryland’s full suite of habitats and species. These individuals assist landowners who want to accomplish something on the landscape. This team finds the solutions so that progress continues without endangered species being negatively impacted.
 3. Science Program – Technical Experts on various species in the habitats where the species occurred. There is a State Zoologist, State Invertebrate Ecologist, State Botanist, State Community Ecologist, State Restoration Ecologist, Wildlife Ecologist, and other staff who oversee the science, research, and inventory, along with determining what needs to be done on the landscape, what needs to be done in regulation, and how things in regulations need to be adapted in a changing environment.
- The Commission will be involved in the next Maryland State Wildlife Action Plan, so Associate Director McKnight will keep the Commission informed.
 - The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA) is currently in Congress. It is an amendment to the Pitman-Robertson (PR) Fund, which would add money to PR for non-game species in the states, including plants, wildlife, and other habitat conservation. RAWA would allocate around \$1.3 billion dollars nationally to the states for conservation to help species on the edge of extinction and prevent species from becoming rare, endangered, or threatened.
 1. If RAWA moves forward as currently drafted, Maryland would receive \$13-18M in new federal matching funds.
 2. RAWA will be federally reimbursable, just like PR, requiring a 25/75 match (Every \$1 in federal funds requires 25 cents in the state-side match).
 3. Maryland is in a unique position in that Maryland can utilize Program Open Space, conservation easements, and donated conservation easements as match.
 - Q &A Section:
 1. Mr. Compton asked how Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would be funded.
 - a. Currently, the hope is it would be funded through all fines associated with bad environmental violations on state and federal lands on a national level.
 - b. The Senate is still discussing the funding source.
 - c. The way the RAWA bill is written, it is not taking money from the current PR model. It is an addition to - not a substitute for PR monies.
 - Barrier Islands and Tern Raft Update:
 1. Maryland has a very cool barrier islands system. For the most part, Maryland has done a good job managing the barrier islands system.
 2. The barrier islands are not wild enough for some of our species. Maryland’s barrier islands are well used. It is difficult for many barrier island species due to people and other species, such as predators and horses.
 3. The colonial nesting birds need barrier islands. Even in Maryland, where we have done a good job with barrier islands, these colonial nesting birds are endangered species, and some are not breeding in Maryland.
 4. Skimmer Island in Maryland has had colonial nesting birds bred in the past. The islands are disappearing faster than people can shore them back up with the changes. Maryland is losing Skimmer Island, one of our last barrier islands with colonial nest birds. NHP is trying to work with the Corp of Engineers so that these islands can be built back up, or Maryland will lose these birds (four to five species).
 5. Staff found out last year that the colonial nesting birds were not using Skimmer Island.
 6. Ecologist David Brinker developed a concept for the colonial nesting birds. Mr. Brinker has been working on the Coastal Bays for more than 30 years. Mr. Brinker came up with the idea that NHP could build an artificial island for the colonial nesting birds. With assistance from volunteers and partners and obtaining permits, Mr. Brinker made the floating (island) raft.
 7. The floating island is behind Assateague Island, about a mile offshore, so predators cannot reach

it. The floating island was created to see if the colonial waterbirds would nest on it. On the floating raft, there are shelters for the chicks from the sun and predators. Decoys are on the raft to convince the birds that the raft is a good place to go.

8. Staff launched it last year, and terns returned and nested on it this year. There were 23 nests in 2021 and 153 nests in 2022. Staff banded the birds.
 9. Staff decided to improve the raft with technology. The floating raft is twice the size of last year. The picture of the improved floating raft was in the presentation.
 10. The young have fledged and no longer depend on their adult species. Staff have been able to learn more about the species with the technology on the floating raft. Staff recognized that the floating raft was not a long-term solution for the colonial nesting waterbirds.
 11. A team must take the floating raft down every year.
 12. The floating raft is an example of what a permanent habitat for colonial nesting waterbirds could do for these species.
- Commissioner Keithley commended Mr. McKnight on his presentation and the staff's work.
 - Chair Wagner mentioned that he had read different articles about this project. Staff should get this project out there and others. It is fantastic work.
 - Q&A Section:
 1. Chair Wagner asked if staff could publish more articles like this project to the public.
 - a. Staff would like to see it on Outdoors Maryland and a national level.
 - b. The success it has generated, the staff hoped for more public outreach.

Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee Update – Associate Director Jonathan McKnight gave an update.

- The Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee (WDAC) is a subcommittee of the Wildlife Advisory Commission. WDAC Update is usually presented to WAC annually.
- The WDAC has not met since COVID.
- The last item WDAC brought to WAC was asking for the Commission support on RAWA, which was done.

Information and Education (I&E) Program Update – Information and Education Program Manager

Chris Markin gave the presentation.

- Program Manager Markin gave an overview of the Information and Education Program.
[ATTACHMENT B]
- NASP is the National Archery in the Schools Program. NASP is to promote archery to school-age children in schools. It engages students that may not necessarily be involved in traditional sporting events. Also, it allows students to participate in tournaments and championships. Additionally, NASP offers scholarships and academic programs.
- R3 is Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation. Staff are looking for new hunters and keep the hunters that Maryland historically licensed. Staff are focused on R3 because there has been a decline in hunters, starting in the 80s. With fewer hunters, that means fewer PR monies coming in; so far, Maryland has not had an issue with reducing PR monies.
- Mr. Markin agreed to provide the Maryland R3 Strategic Plan to the Commission electronically.
- Commissioner Jenkins has been a mentor in the mentored hunt programs – staff thanked Commissioner Jenkins for his efforts.
- There are several upcoming events: First Shot Mentored Deer Hunt at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Mentored Upland Bird Hunt at Schrader's Outdoors, and Special Pheasant Hunt.
- Commissioner Jenkins added that every hunter should get involved with mentoring.

Natural Resources Police Update – Lieutenant Charles Fawley gave a presentation.

- Lieutenant Fawley outlined the NRP activity for July of 2022. The total of NRP statewide violations in July was 3,595, broken down into citations of 1,038 and warnings of 2,557. There were 5% wildlife violations, 35% boating, 17% public lands, 28% fisheries, and 15% traffic violations.

- The most common violation was the failure to have boat registration.
- Deep Creek Lake had the highest enforcement action in July.
- Q&A Section:
 1. Commissioner Keithley asked if NRP had recruitment issues like other law enforcement agencies.
 - a. Lt. Fawley responded, yes, but it is not as dire as other agencies because NRP is a popular career. Most people apply to be NRP officers because of conservation law enforcement.
 - b. There are currently 14 NRP positions available.
- Captain Garren or his alternate should be available for the next WAC meeting.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – No Report.

Old Business

- Director Peditto indicated that on September 21, 2022, the WAC meeting was scheduled for a field day. However, it may be better to have WHS Leadership Team give an overview since we have many new members on the Commission.
 1. Chair Wagner agreed with Director Peditto's recommendation.
- Chair Wagner requested a motion to have a September 21, 2022, WAC meeting.
- Motion:
 1. Vice Chair Schroyer moved to have a September 21, 2022, WAC meeting.
 2. Commissioner Keithley seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.
- The Commission agreed to have an in-person September 21, 2022, WAC meeting. Commissioner Keithley will not be available to attend an in-person meeting on September 21, 2022.
- The WAC in-person meeting is typically held at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland, 21401, in the C-1 Conference Room.
- Chair Wagner requested that the new WAC members' contact list be sent out again with the meeting minutes.
- Vice Chair Schroyer asked about H.R.8167 – Return Act of 2022 to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal certain excise taxes relating to firearms and other purposes. Vice Chair Schroyer pointed out that it eliminates PR funding.
 1. Without PR funding, there will be no wildlife management in the United States.
 2. Maryland is part of the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency and the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency. These Associations and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) are taking an opposition stance related to this Return Act.
 3. Vice Chair Schroyer mentioned that he was at a meeting, and H.R. 8167 was discussed. Vice Chair Schroyer was surprised that it had 53 sponsors.
- Director Peditto outlined that some of the presentation and other documents that Ms. Spencer will share with the Commission are moved to a Cloud-based shared Google drive for the Commission. The Commission viewed and approved these documents before being placed on the DNR website. Director Peditto suggested that not every member of the Commission would have access to that tool without a Gmail account. Staff are looking at options.
- Director Peditto explained that the WAC meeting is a public meeting. With that in mind, there are some restrictions on having these meetings at different locations. There is value in having a set location and the virtual model available as an option.

New Business

- Mr. Compton congratulated Chair Wagner and Vice Chair Schroyer on their appointment and the new appointees. Mr. Compton expressed that the WHS is a capable and accommodating group. Mr. Compton added that the WHS knows how to get things done under the leadership of Director Peditto. Mr. Compton noted that he is proud of had the opportunity to be a part of the most effective Commissions in my 12 years of history of serving on the Commission. The Commission members who served with me were able to advocate and get 26 hiring positions for the WHS. Mr. Compton

thanked the Commission members that he served alongside him. The four former members are willing to help the Commission continue its work due to their decades of experience. Mr. Compton will attend the Commission meeting as much as possible.

- Chair Wagner thanked Mr. Compton for his words and his excellent work. Chair Wagner added that Mr. Compton and the former members had been an inspiration to him. Chair Wagner hoped the current Commission would continue to grow and do great things with the WHS.

Public Comment

Final Comment

- Chair Wagner thanked the Commission for supporting him in his new role as Chair and urged the Commission's new members to contact him with any questions or additions to the agenda.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at Tawes State Office Building, C-1, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland, 2140.

Attendance

Members:	B. Alder, M. Cole, S. Keithley, TJ. Jenkins, J. Parks, K. Rossignuolo, J. Schroyer, R. Showalter, and C. Wagner
Absent:	
Guest:	L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen,
Staff:	C. Fawley, T. Larney, C. Markin, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, and H. Spiker, K. Stonesifer, and T. Vayer

DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service

Maryland Natural Heritage Program

What we do:

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

Monitor, manage and restore rare and
unique habitats

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

Three Programs:

Science Program

Habitat Conservation Program

Conservation Technology Program

Conservation Technology Program



Habitat Conservation Program



Science Program



Maryland State Wildlife Action Plan 2016



State Wildlife Action Plan

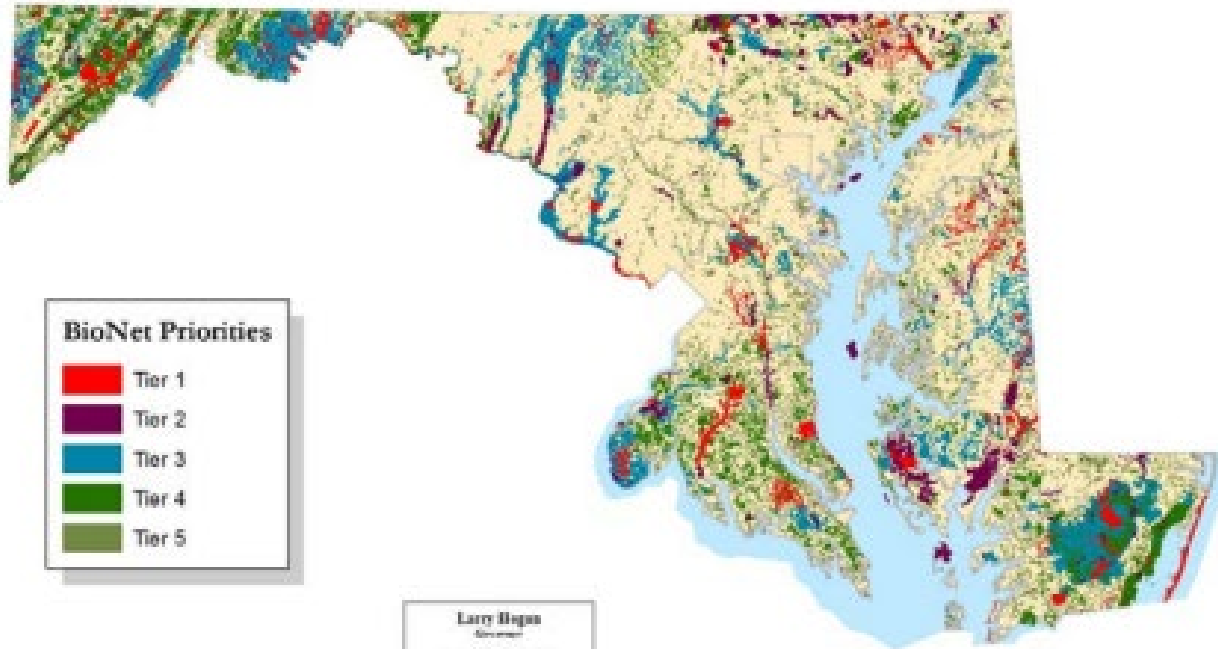
Required from each state as part of
State Wildlife Grants Program

All 50 States and five U.S. territories
developed a State Wildlife Action Plan
(SWAP) in 2005.

Updates are required in 2025

Maryland Natural Areas Inventory

Maryland's Biodiversity Conservation Network (BioNet)



BioNet Priorities

- Tier 1
- Tier 2
- Tier 3
- Tier 4
- Tier 5



Larry Hogan
Governor

Ray E. Kalbarter
Lt. Governor

Mark Belton
Secretary

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Sources of funds

State Wildlife Grants

Maryland Tax Checkoff

Other Federal Funds

Wildlife Management and
Protection Funds

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act



Recovering America's Wildlife Act

- 1.3 Billion Nationally – 17 Million to Maryland
- Dedicated to implementing State Wildlife Plans
- Applicable to a broad range of wildlife
- Passed in the House – 32 Senate sponsors

Barrier Islands: Before



Barrier Islands: After





Skimmer Island



Skimmer Island



David Brinker











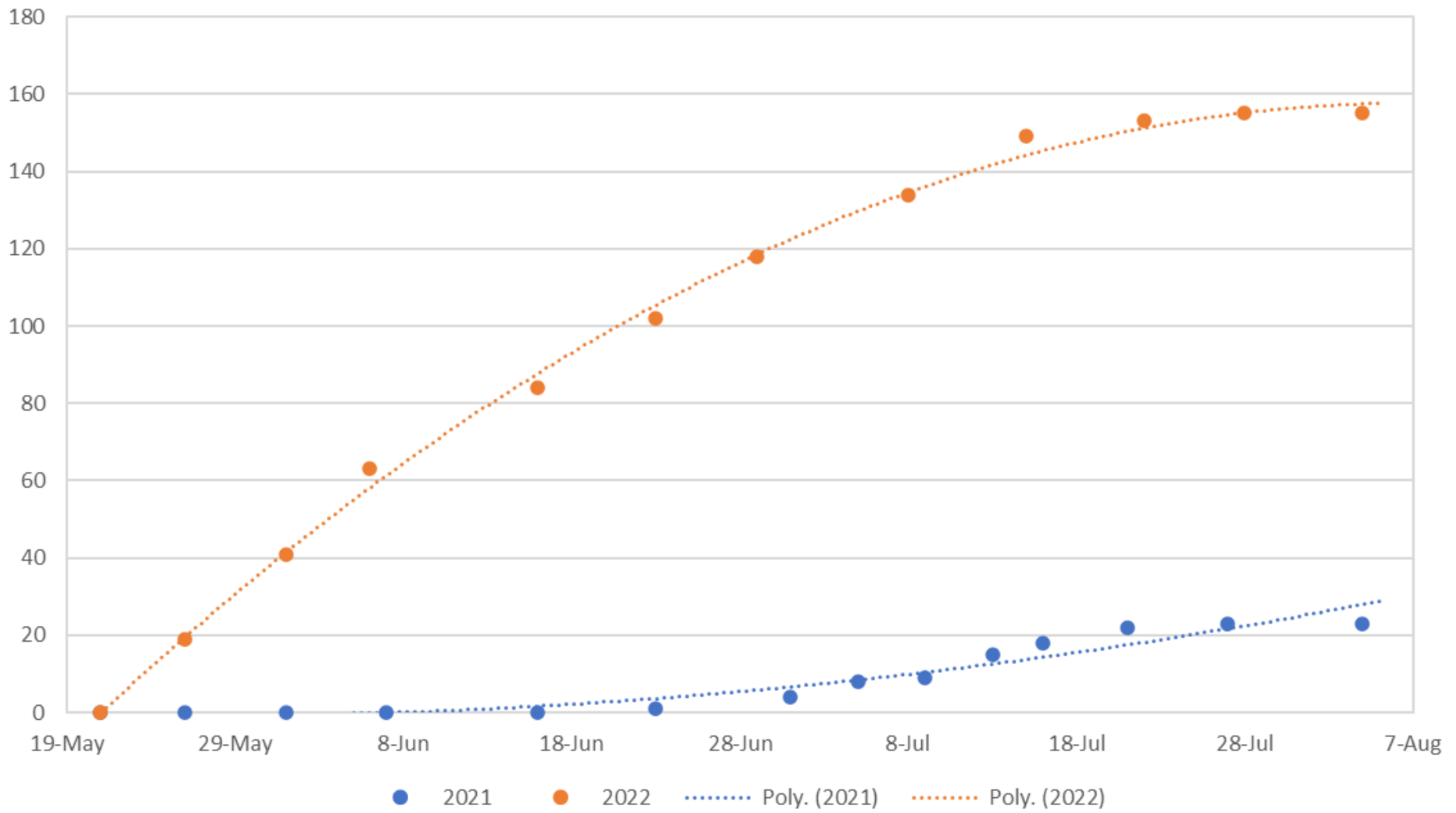




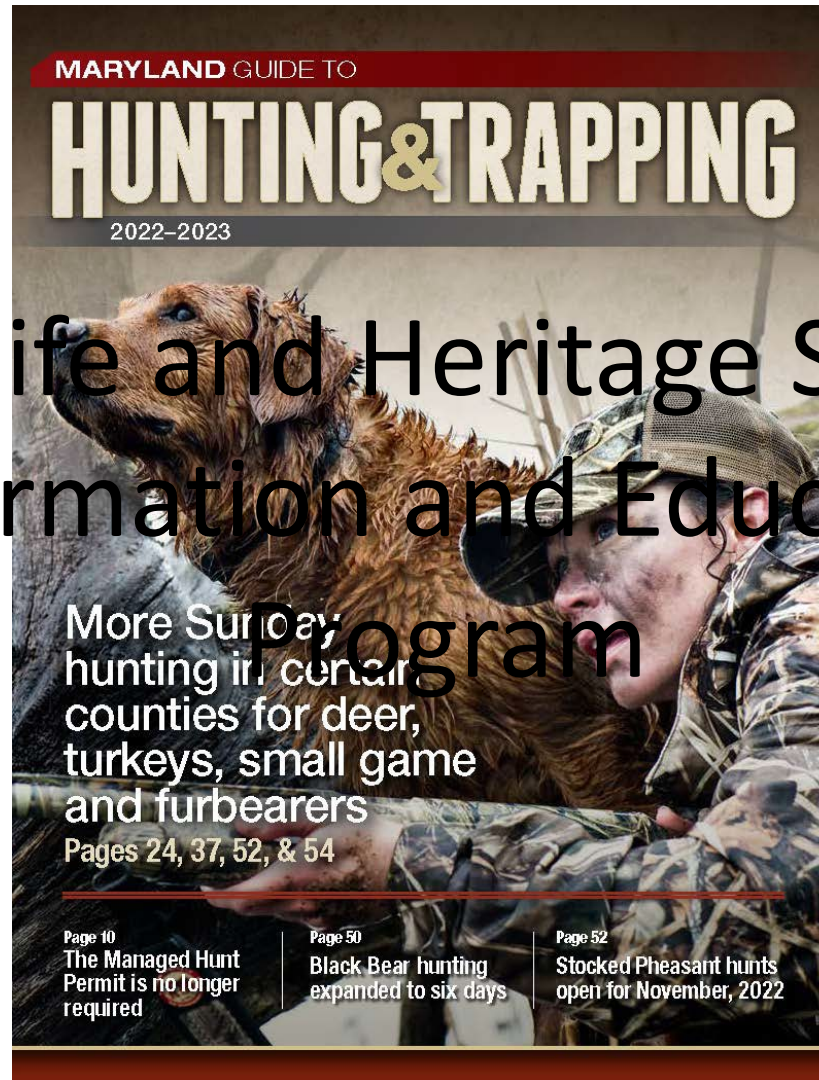




Tern Raft Nest Accumulation





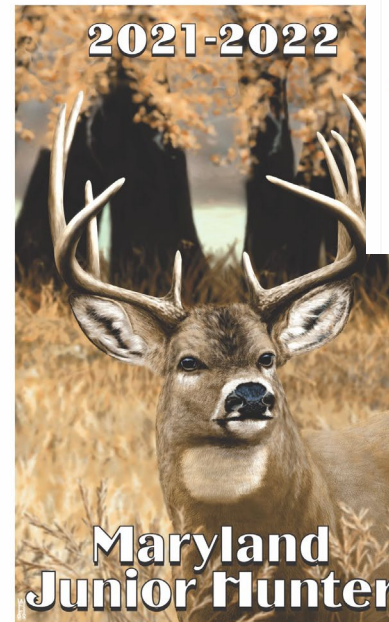


Wildlife and Heritage Service Information and Education Program

Staff



- Chris Markin – Program Manager
- Wade Henry – Graphics and Design Specialist
- Torey Vayer – R3 Coordinator
- Coming Soon – NASP Coordinator



What is R3?



- **RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND REACTIVATION**, “R3” is a nationwide movement focusing on strategically increasing and diversifying participation in and support for shooting sports, hunting, and angling. On the hunting and shooting sports side, this movement started as a result of a noticeable decline in hunting and shooting sports participation starting in the 1980s.

Maryland R3 Strategic Plan

A collage of four photographs: top-left shows hunters in orange gear in a field; top-right shows a smiling man in camouflage wearing a DNR cap; bottom-left shows a woman in camouflage holding a water bottle; bottom-right shows two people in camouflage looking at a laptop. A large, semi-transparent "R3" is overlaid on the bottom half of the collage.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE SERVICE

**Strategic Plan for the
Recruitment, Retention,
and Reactivation of
Hunters in Maryland**

2022

Mentored Hunting



Maryland Mentored Hunt Program








 **MARYLAND**
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

**WANT TO
HUNT?**
**BUT DON'T KNOW
WHERE TO START?**

DNR.MARYLAND.GOV

Wildlife and Heritage Service
580 Taylor Ave, E-1 Annapolis, MD 21401 | 410-260-8540 | 7/2022



 **MARYLAND**
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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AMBASSADOR**

WITH MD MENTORED HUNT
OPPORTUNITIES

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JOIN MARYLAND DNR

**MENTORED
HUNT EVENTS**

DNR.MARYLAND.GOV



 **MARYLAND**
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Special Events



Special Event Pheasant Hunt

This special hunt will be taking place in this section of Indian Springs Wildlife Management Area on December 15 and 16, 2018.

No other upland game bird hunting will be permitted in this section during this special hunt. Hunting for all other game will be permitted.

The area will reopen to all hunting on December 17, 2018.

For more information about this hunt, please contact:
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife and Heritage Service
301-777-2136



Wildlife and Heritage Service
580 Taylor Avenue, E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-260-8540 dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife



National Archery in the Schools



Maryland Statistics

- Over 10,000 kids
- 264 schools



Social Media and Newsletters



Over 36K followers

- 58% Women
- 42% Men
- Ages 25-64

Recent post reached nearly 150K with over 20K engagement

- Hunting and Shooting Sports Newsletter – Nearly 12K subscribers
- Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Newsletter – Nearly 8K subscribers