

Wildlife Crime Watch (WCW)

Presented by Major Frank Spuchesi



Wildlife Crime Watch is a committee that was formed by members of the Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund and the Department of Wildlife Resources.



Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund

- Established in 1986 in an effort to support the Wildlife Crime Line
- Supported by stakeholder groups such as NWTF, VADHA, Ducks Unlimited and others.
- The committee consisted of individuals from the stakeholder groups as well as employees from DWR.
- Monetary rewards were given to callers who utilized the Virginia Wildlife Crime Line.
- Due to several factors, the committee became inactive.



- In 2021 the Office of Professional Standards Advisory Council approved an employee suggestion program project by a CPO for the agency to start an Outdoor Watch Program.
- Meetings took place between the VSRF and DWR.
- A joint committee was formed to revitalize the program.



Wildlife Crime Watch

- In 2024, an agreement was made between the Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund and the Department of Wildlife Resources to form a committee known as Wildlife Crime Watch.
- The committee consists of representatives from the VSRF and DWR.
- DWR CPOs present cases to the WCW.
- WCW reviews the cases and recommends whether or not to approve an award for the caller.
- If awarded, the Virginia Sportsman Reward Fund agrees on the amount of the award.



- So far in 2025, 7 cases have been reviewed by the Wildlife Crime Watch.
- 6 cases were recommended for rewards.
- A total of \$2,500 has been awarded.
- The investigating CPO hand-delivers the reward to the recipient.



Purpose of the WCW

Promote the enforcement of hunting, fishing and boating laws

Educate and encourage the public to help protect Virginia's wildlife resources by reporting violations.

- Virginia Wildlife Crime Line: 800-237-5712
- Email: Wildcrime@dwr.virginia.gov
- TEXT: DWRTIP + your tip to 847411







Questions?

