

AGENDA

Board of Wildlife Resources
Wildlife and Boat Committee
7870 Villa Park Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23228

August 21, 2024
10:00 am

Committee Members: Mr. James Edmunds, Chair, Mr. Woody Woodall, Ms. Laura Walters, Mr. Will Wampler (Alternate), Mr. Brian Vincent (Alternate)

DWR Staff Liaisons: Mr. Michael Lipford, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Ms. Stacey Brown, and Ms. Amy Martin

1. Call to Order and Welcome
Mr. Edmunds
2. Approval of the May 22, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes **Final Action**
Mr. Edmunds
3. Public Comment – Non - Agenda Item
Mr. Edmunds
4. Naming of a New WMA **Final Action**
Mr. Michael Lipford
5. Biennial Wildlife Regulation Schedule **Final Action**
Mr. Michael Lipford
6. Bear Mange Update
Mr. Nelson Lafon
7. Boating Division Stakeholder Engagement
Ms. Stacey Brown
8. Wildlife Division Update
Mr. Michael Lipford

9. Fish Division Update
Dr. Mike Bednarski
10. Nongame Program Update
Ms. Amy Martin
11. Boating Division Update
Ms. Stacey Brown
12. Director's Report
Mr. Ryan Brown
13. Chair's Report
Mr. Edmunds
14. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 (to be approved)
Mr. Edmunds
15. Additional Business/Comments
Mr. Edmunds
16. Adjournment
Mr. Edmunds

Draft Meeting Minutes
Wildlife and Boat Committee
Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive – Board Room
Henrico, VA 23228

May 22, 2024
10:00 am

(Although the March 20, 2024 Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting was cancelled, the Wildlife and Boat Committee met August 17, 2023, October 26, 2023, January 18, 2024 and May 22, 2024 in accordance with its Charter)

Present: Mr. Jon Cooper, **Chair**, Mr. Leon Boyd, Mr. Will Wampler (alternate); **Absent:** Mr. Michael Formica and Mr. Brian Vincent; **Board Members** in attendance: Mr. George Terwilliger and Mr. Tom Sadler; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Deputy Directors:** Ms. Becky Gwynn and Mr. Darin Moore; **Director’s Working Group:** Dr. Mike Bednarski, Mr. Bob Smet, Ms. Stacey Brown, Mr. George Braxton, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Mr. Michael Lipford

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and noted for the record that a Quorum was present for today’s meeting.

Approval of the January 17, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes:

The Chair called for a motion to approve the January 17, 2024, Wildlife and Boat Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024, committee meeting. Mr. Wampler seconded the motion. Ayes: Cooper, Wampler, Boyd, Vincent

Public Comment - Non-Agenda Item: The Chair called for Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items.

- Mr. Gary Kimberlin (virtual) spoke concerning equitable hunting opportunity for bear.

Staff Recommendation for Regulatory Amendments – Aquatics: The Chair called on Dr. Mike Bednarski

Dr. Bednarski gave a presentation of staff recommendations for sportfishing regulations.

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Boyd made a motion, I move that the Board of Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources propose the amendments to the general regulations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler. Ayes: Cooper, Boyd, Wampler

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Dr. Bednarski for his presentation.

Staff Recommendation for Regulatory Amendments – Boating: The Chair called on Ms. Stacey Brown.

Ms. Brown gave a presentation of Staff Recommendation for Boating regulations.

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Boyd made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Board of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources propose the amendments to the general regulations as present by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Wampler. Ayes: Cooper, Boyd, Wampler

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Ms. Brown for her presentation.

Staff Recommendations for Regulatory Amendments – Nongame: The Chair called on Ms. Amy Martin.

Ms. Martin gave a presentation of Staff Recommendations for Non-Game Regulations.

The Chair called for a motion. Mr. Wampler made a motion, Mr. Chair, I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources proposing the amendments to the nongame regulations as present by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Boyd.

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Ms. Martin for her presentation.

Wildlife Disease Update – CWD/Mange: The Chair called on Dr. John Tracey.

Dr. Tracey gave an update on DWR Chronic Wasting Disease and how DWR is working with next steps to help handle control.

- Mr. Sean Clarkson spoke regarding Sarcoptic mange outbreak in black bears.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Dr. Tracey for his update.

Wildlife Division Update: The Chair called on Mr. Michael Lipford.

Mr. Lipford reported:

- The Spring Turkey Harvest for 2024 was 21,988, Hunter and interest and engagement in the spring season was high.
- Local populations are increasing in many areas of the state.
- Wildlife Division staff are in process of updating the Department Wild Turkey Management Plan
- Southeast Deer Partnership - WildTail Documentary, as a member of the Partnership Steering Committee, DWR contributed to all aspects of the development of the

documentary, Outreach Division is using our social media channel as well as promotional graphics in our newsletters and blogs to share the messages of Wild Tail.

- Wildlife Habitat Management – DWR is releasing a bid in early May to identify a contractor to enhance over 100 acres of historically ditched forested wetlands on Doe Creek WMA, a newly acquired property located on Virginia’s Eastern Shore. This wetland enhancement project will consist of plugging manmade ditches to raise the water table and restore hydrology. Through partnership between Ducks Unlimited, DWR, and Fort Walker construction began in April 2024.
- Waterfowl - DWR staff throughout the agency conducted Virginia’s portion of the 2024 Atlantic Flyway Breeding Waterfowl Surveys by airplane, boat. The primary species of waterfowl targeted during the survey were black ducks, Canada geese, mallards, and wood ducks.
- Watchable Wildlife - DWR’s Virginia Birding Classic brought together 28 teams of bird watchers across agencies and partners from all over the Commonwealth to find as many species as they could on public lands in a 24-hour period. Team members included Carol Rubinfeld (Captain), Mallory White, Jenn Allen, Steve Living, Jeff Trollinger and Michael Lipford

Fish Division Update: The Chair called on Dr. Mike Bednarski.

Mike Bednarski reported:

- In April, DWR staff removed the BBER Mill Dam on Rock Island Creek in Buckingham County Weyerhaeuser Forestry property. This removal provides access for sea lamprey – and ecosystem engineer – and James spinymussel – a species of greatest conservation need.
- Reports of largemouth and smallmouth bass with sores and lesions, which is normal this time of year. Fish are stressed spawning activity and this a common occurrence throughout Virginia.
- Welcome Mallory Whit as our Human Dimensions Program Manager and Hannah Schul as our Environmental Services Manager.

Nongame Program Update: The Chair called on Ms. Amy Martin.

Ms. Martin reported:

- Ms. Martin introduced two new staff to the Non-Game Program, Ms. Susan Watson and Mr. Tim Owen.. She gave an update on Ft Wool, 453 royal terns nests, 97 sandwich ern nests. Brown Pelican, laughing gull and snowy egret nesting is in full swing and there are snowy egrets hatching. St the Barges - common terns, laughing gulls, royal terns, American oystercatchers, clack skimmers, and gull billed terns. As of 5/16/24 there were hatched chicks.

- Our Allegheny Woodrat camera trapping project has identified a few sites where woodrats have become a “nuisance: The plan is to trap some rats from these locations and them to breeding programs at the Baltimore and Toledo Zoo.
- Peregrine Falcons - RVA 4 healthy chick, banding on Friday, May 24
- Big Sandy Crayfish release on the McClure River occurred Tuesday, May 14. Section 6 (endangered species grants) project, West Liberty University, Propagation at White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery.
- Successful chicken turtle surveys – 6 adults (5 recaptures) and 2 hatching.
- BBS surveys the 1st week of June – VDWR and partners will be surveying known Black banded Sunfish (BBS) sites within the Chowan system. The main purpose of the survey will be to collect tissue samples that will be used to determine genetics of each population. Information gathered will assist the agency to select sites that are appropriate to use as sources to reintroduce into other parts of the drainage.

Boating Division Update: The Chair called on Ms. Stacy Brown.

Ms. Brown reported:

- Recognized National Safe Boating Week! It is time what states across the country remind boaters of safe practices when on the water before the unofficial start of the boat season, Memorial Day!
- New recreational boating safety manager kicked the week off last Friday by soliciting staff to wear their life jacket to work. She also received the assistance from Meghan Marchetti in our Outreach Division to develop the slightly silly PSA on wearing your life jacket to work, Outreach is also providing great support this week to send out the boating safety messages through social media post along with law enforcement and our new Public Information Officer Shelby Crouch
- Customer service is working to ensure that we maintain the high level of service for our customers.
- 13 boating incidents including 3 fatal incidents.
- Our boating safety staff attend the International Boating and Water Safety Summit and attended on water training at this event.

Director’s Report: The Chair called on the Director’s for his report.

- Good job to everyone on their Division updates
- Closed out Spring Gobbler with a little under 2,000
- Turkey Plan Update
- Elk Hunt Update
- Thank Becky Gwynn on spearheading the 2024 Virginia Land Conservation & Greenways Conference

Chair’s Report: The Chair thanked staff for presentations and all the information on all the topics.

Next Meeting Date: The Chair announced the next meeting will be Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Additional Business/Comments: The Chair asked if there were any additional comments?

Mr. Wampler commented how much he enjoyed going on a Ride -Along with our CPO's and how busy they were and how many different things other than hunting and fishing they were called for. He thanked them for letting him ride along and for all their work.

Mr. Boyd thanked staff for attending their workday along with 117 volunteers and how much he appreciated their continued help.

Adjournment: The Chair asked for any further comments or questions, hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Boswell
/s/

**Recommended Board of Wildlife Resources Meeting Schedule
October 2024 - August 2025**

<i>Recommended Meeting Date*</i>	<i>Key Meeting Topics</i>
October 24, 2024	Agency budget FY25 mid-year update.
January 23, 2025	2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits - Proposal Stage 2025-26 Hunting and Trapping Regulations - Significant Issues Review Agency budget FY25 mid-year update
March 20, 2025	2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits - Final Action 2025-26 Hunting and Trapping Regulations - Proposal Stage Agency budget FY25 mid-year update Legislative update
May 22, 2025	2025-26 Hunting and Trapping Regulations - Final Action Agency Budget - Proposed FY26; FY25 Update
August 21, 2025	Agency Budget FY25 final report Recommended Board meeting dates October 2025 - August 2026

* Committee meetings to be held the day prior.

2025-2026 Wildlife Regulation Review and Amendment Process

Dates	Regulation Review Stage and Procedural Steps
October 7, 2024 - December 6, 2024	<p>Public Scoping Period</p> <p>In consultation with individuals and constituent groups, DWR Wildlife Division staffs assess constituent and agency regulatory concerns and ideas for changes. Public participation and feedback is solicited.</p>
October 23 - 24, 2024	<p>Wildlife and Boat Committee & DWR Board Meeting</p> <p>Wildlife staffs provide a brief summary on the status of the Public Scoping Period.</p>
January 22 - 23, 2025	<p>Wildlife and Boat Committee & DWR Board Meeting</p> <p>Wildlife staffs will review significant feedback received during the public scoping period and seek Board input on potential regulation amendment issues.</p>
December 9, 2024 - February 28, 2025	<p>Committee Recommendation Development Period</p> <p>Wildlife Division programmatic committees analyze biological and sociological data relevant to regulatory issues, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public feedback received during the public scoping period • Constituent satisfaction survey results • Meetings between DWR and individuals/constituent groups • Results of continuous, ongoing feedback from the public since previous regulation cycle <p>Programmatic committee chairs, Wildlife Division management, Law Enforcement Division management, and other appropriate DWR staffs convene in mid- to late February to review the status of current programmatic committee recommendations and finalize development of proposal-stage regulation amendments. Proposal-stage regulation amendments are submitted to the Office of the Attorney General for review.</p>
March 19 - 20, 2025	<p>Wildlife and Boat Committee & DWR Board Meeting - "Proposal-stage Recommendations"</p> <p>Wildlife staffs will present staff-generated, proposal-stage regulation amendments to the Board for its review and consideration. Board accepts public comment on staff-generated, proposal-stage regulation amendments and accepts additional regulation amendment recommendations from the public. The Board deliberates and votes to propose regulation amendments.</p>
March 31, 2025 - May 9, 2025	<p>Regulation Amendment Proposal Public Comment Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 30-day comment period will be conducted within these dates to solicit feedback on Board regulation amendment proposals. • No public meetings unless a contentious issue needs to be addressed.
May 21 - 22, 2025	<p>Wildlife and Boat Committee & DWR Board Meeting - "Final Recommendations"</p> <p>Wildlife staffs will present final proposed regulation amendment recommendations to the Board for its review and consideration. Board accepts public comment on final proposed regulation amendments. The Board deliberates and, as desired, votes to adopt regulation amendments.</p>
August 1, 2025	<p>Effective date for regulation amendments adopted by the Board.</p>

DWR Commitments to Managing Sarcoptic Mange in Bears

August 9, 2024

The Department of Wildlife Resources takes sarcoptic mange seriously and is concerned about potential population-level impacts as well as individual bear welfare. We recognize and appreciate the concerns of hunters, landowners, residents, and other agencies regarding this disease; we will continue to move forward with these stakeholder perspectives in mind. For reasons unknown, mange appears to be demonstrating a higher case rate and faster spread in Virginia than in some other areas; however, current genetic evidence suggests that the mite and the host species (bears, canids) are fundamentally the same as those in other nearby states. Long-term prospects are for the disease to likely remain endemic in areas already affected and for continued geographic expansion. With a primary goal of long-term population viability, DWR bear and health staff realize that we must manage this disease to the best of our abilities in the face of imperfect knowledge, extrapolating from knowledge about bear biology and sarcoptic mange epidemiology in other species.

However, given what we do know, we want to respond in such a way that will be more helpful than harmful over the long-term. For example, it is unknown if lethally removing mange-infested bears is more detrimental (i.e. by reducing the opportunity for natural recovery) or more beneficial in slowing disease spread (i.e. by decreasing mite transmission). Further, sarcoptic mange is not always easy to confirm by sight, therefore, care must be exercised in authorizing removal of mange-suspect bears. Additionally, transmission of the disease is thought to be more frequency than density dependent, so it is unknown whether decreasing or increasing population numbers on the “leading edge” would result in less disease transmission or simply a less resilient population. To evaluate these unknowns and guide action, the DWR plans to develop a mange management plan, with review and input from external managers and disease experts.

The DWR has been involved in mange response and monitoring since the outbreak was first documented in Frederick County in 2014. Initially, a lethal removal approach was instituted, but the response protocol was adapted several times (2020, 2022) as new information about natural recovery was made available and it became clear that the policy was not halting disease advancement. In addition to adapting its response to mange, the DWR has addressed sarcoptic mange in bears in additional ways over the last decade:

- *Research on Treatment, 2016-2019:* In collaboration with The Wildlife Center of Virginia (WCV), 10 black bears were experimentally treated for sarcoptic mange with either a 3-dose ivermectin or a 1-dose fluralaner protocol. Following treatment a subset of bears (4) were GPS collared prior to release. Within 1 year post release, 3 of these bears became re-infested with severe cases of sarcoptic mange and were humanely dispatched. (The 4th was found deceased in its den the following spring and was too decomposed to determine cause of death.) Consultation between DWR and the WCV concluded treatment was not an effective or humane option at the time due to the risk of reinfection. More recently, a study published out of Pennsylvania (Tiffin et al. 2024) demonstrated similar recovery rates with and without single dose ivermectin treatment, calling into question whether agency efforts and treatment associated risks

outweigh any additional recovery due to treatment. Since that time, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has elected to stop treating infected bears (DiSalvo, personal communication).

- *Research on population impacts planned/proposed since 2019:* Research specific to mangle and its potential effects on Virginia's bear population dynamics has been proposed as early as 2019-2020, around the time when we started seeing drops in bear harvest in the Northern Valley. Even without research specific to Virginia, we were closely following research in PA and other states before making large-scale changes in our responses. The current 3-year project with Virginia Tech, which is the largest research project on bears in Virginia in over 20 years, seeks to improve our knowledge on mangle impacts on bear populations and DWR's ability to make proactive management decisions to offset potential mangle outbreaks.
- *Leaders in collaboration:* In 2022, Virginia motivated and hosted a multi-state meeting, attended by 22 states plus universities, to discuss the current state of knowledge of mangle; this meeting initiated much of the research collaboration now occurring with other states in the region and with the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS).
- *Provided mangle bear replacement tag:* In 2022, DWR developed a process for providing a bear hunter with a replacement tag if they inadvertently took a bear that was infested with mangle and which they did not wish to keep. Tag reissuance is contingent upon the hunter submitting documentation (including photo and exact location) through a dedicated DWR mailbox. More details are provided on page 32 of the 2024-2025 Virginia hunting and trapping digest.
- *Proactive regulatory changes affecting harvest:* The DWR took the first step in making a regulatory change explicitly to address population concerns (by removing the 3-day early season) during the last regulation cycle, including the proactive step of removing the 3-day season in areas where mangle would likely spread to next. The Department is prepared to recommend additional regulatory changes, as warranted, during the upcoming cycle in the spring/summer of 2025.

Going forward, the DWR will continue to consider mangle a significant management issue, and we commit to additional emphasis in the following areas.

Improve the public mangle reporting system

- Continue to advise the public to use the Wildlife Conflict Helpline while also pursuing improvements through an alternative reporting system (as noted in bullet 2 below). Anyone can call or email the helpline Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30 to report an issue and talk to knowledgeable helpline staff; on weekends and after hours, they can leave a voicemail or email and get a call or email back the next business day, if requested. Trail camera photos and location information can be shared via the helpline's e-mail address: vawildlifeconflict@usda.gov. All data obtained from the helpline are shared daily (more frequently if necessary) with DWR staff. This system is sufficient for obtaining the basic information to inform management and research needs, as well as keeping the public informed of the geographic extent of the outbreak.
- Refine and finish development of an online platform as an alternative option for public and staff reporting of mangle cases. This project is currently in progress, with some ongoing efforts to resolve issues regarding data access and alerts to staff, and will be completed as soon as feasible. In addition to tracking mangle, this alternative reporting tool can help monitor other types of wildlife disease events. This system will not involve speaking with a person or leaving

messages, but depending on the type of reports submitted, alerts can be sent to DWR staff for direct follow-up when needed.

Enhance options for response to mange reports

- The DWR's response to individual cases will continue to be guided by the DWR internal staff bear mange response protocol and the DWR wildlife response policy, the latter of which dictates which type of situations necessitate an in-person response. This protocol is currently being reevaluated and will be updated as needed.
- The response protocol outlines situations required when authorization would be granted to dispatch a mange-infested bear for humane reasons. In general, bears that show evidence of hair loss AND either severe weight loss/emaciation, abnormal behavior (unaware of surroundings, unwilling to move, etc.), or severe, open, crusty, skin lesions are candidates for humane dispatch. Individuals that provide appropriate information to DWR Wildlife or Law Enforcement staff may be authorized, within current Virginia law, to dispatch a severely affected bear.
- The DWR will continue to provide replacement tags for mange infested bears inadvertently taken by hunters (see page 32 of the 2024-2025 Virginia hunting and trapping digest) as long as abuse of the system does not become apparent.

Expand involvement of bear hunters in sample/data collection

- As piloted during the 2023-24 hunting season, the DWR will seek the assistance of organizations with the primary focus of bear management to provide opportunities for bear hunters to collect samples, following clear and simple protocols, to support ongoing or new research/monitoring in Virginia and regionally (e.g., via SCWDS). Kits will be provided with materials and instructions for hunters to collect hair, teeth, and in some cases liver, skin, and blood.
- Develop a standardized log or journal for bear hunters in Virginia to voluntarily record bear observations, hunt metrics, etc. that can be shared with the DWR to supplement current monitoring and inform management decisions July 1, 2025.
- Investigate and expand use of citizen science through trail camera arrays. The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) has worked with citizens to deploy and monitor numerous trail cameras in the northern Shenandoah Valley for at least a decade; much data remains to be analyzed from that project that might shed light on mange dynamics, including onset of the outbreak and evidence of natural recovery. The SCBI study may be a model for collecting and analyzing data for management purposes.

Reduce hunting mortality to assist natural recovery of bear populations

- Regulatory changes to achieve population objectives can be proposed during the upcoming regulatory review and amendment cycle, which will provide all stakeholders an opportunity for input into any changes. Changes will be considered on a zone-by-zone basis. All season types will be reviewed and discussed, and an emphasis will be placed on preserving hunting opportunity while achieving harvest goals.
- The DWR continues to work to reduce issuance of kill permits for bears, although a complete prohibition is not feasible. DWR staff provide alternative recommendations and technical

assistance to landowners (e.g., fencing), and the agency's bear program is investigating additional mitigation strategies. However, some allowance for kill permits for bears needs to remain an option for agricultural producers, even in mange areas.

Increase public awareness about mange in Virginia and DWR actions toward it

- Expand outreach methods and opportunities, including updates to existing flyers and factsheets, article publications, and expansion of online information.
- Provide more frequent updates from the bear program to bear hunters and organizations with a primary focus of bear management, to include hot topics, regional news, etc.
- Work with Virginia Tech researchers to establish a public website for the ongoing study, to include an overview of the project, along with periodic updates.
- Provide a presentation on mange research or management to the Board of Wildlife Resources' Wildlife and Boat Committee semiannually, during the spring and fall committee meetings.

Develop a more comprehensive bear sarcoptic mange management plan

- This formal plan will guide decision-making and be at a stage in development where the Department can take appropriate actions during the regulatory review cycle occurring in the spring and summer of 2025.
- The plan will include goals for mange management, basic disease biology, history of mange in Virginia and the region, a communication strategy, response and recovery strategies, consideration of user conflicts, and approaches for surveillance and monitoring of mange.
- Although this plan will contain similar elements as the chronic wasting disease (CWD) management plan, management goals and strategies associated with mange will likely be different than those for CWD and other wildlife diseases.
- The plan will bring together existing guidance, such as the DWR internal staff bear mange response protocol, with any new scientific information gathered from experiences of other states and consultation with external experts on sarcoptic mange (e.g., SCWDS, Pennsylvania State University, etc.). Data collected during the current (2024-2026) Virginia Tech bear mange research project will be incorporated as it becomes available.
- Without limitation, management strategies may include additional emphasis on enforcement of bear feeding laws, changes in regulations to address impacts from mange, delineation of disease management areas (if warranted), and others. Strategies that have been used previously in Virginia and elsewhere with mixed results (e.g., treatment of bears) will be re-evaluated for efficacy and with full consideration of potential upsides and downsides. More novel strategies, such as aggressive removal of mange-infected bears in endemic or emerging areas, will also be evaluated and may be recommended if a greater consensus among practitioners and researchers in the mange field compel such a strategy.
- The DWR will seek expert review of the draft plan and, once finalized, will present the plan to the Board of Wildlife Resources.

PROPOSED PROPERTY NAMING



Michael Lipford
Wildlife Division

CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Property Naming and Designation

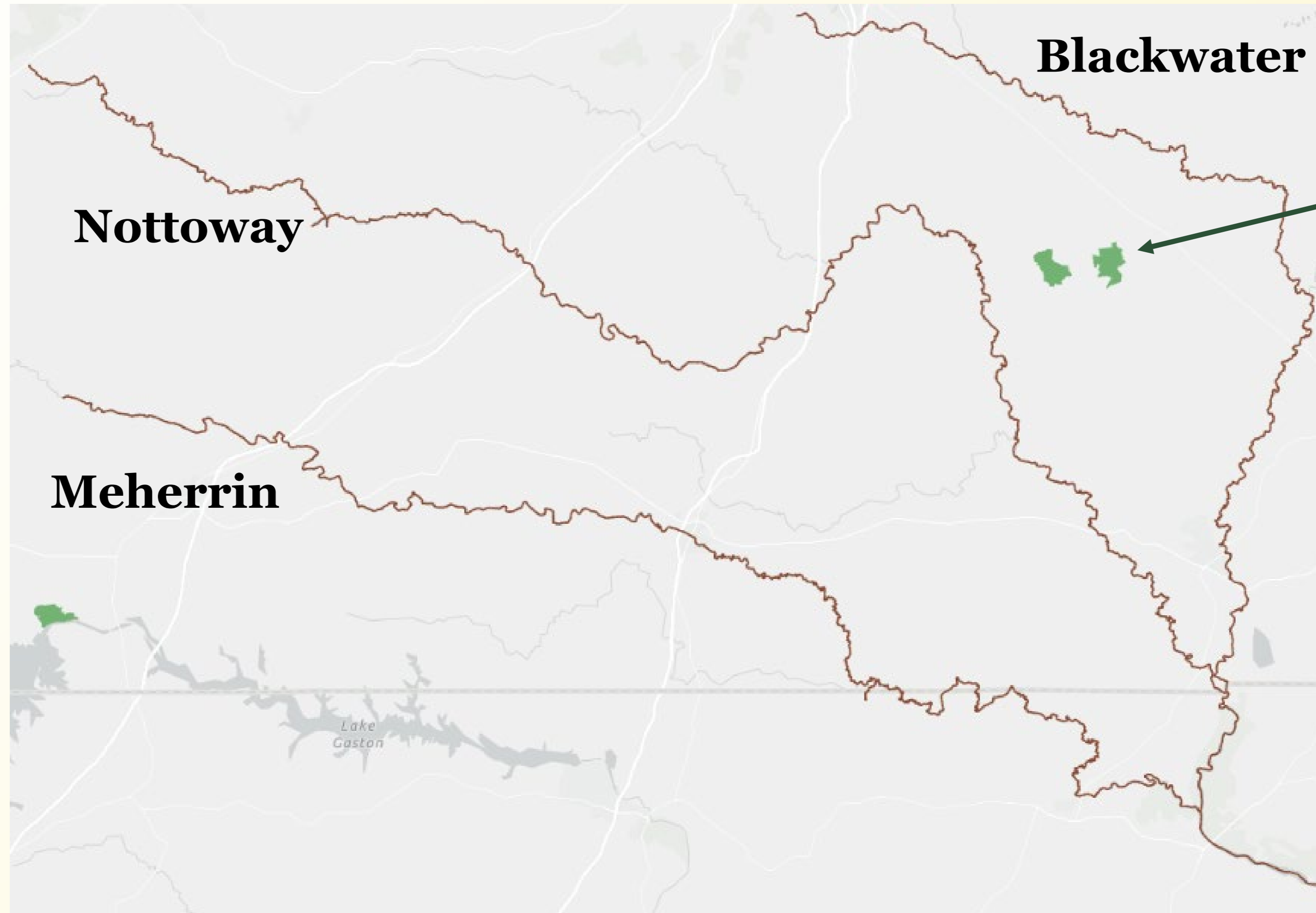
Recently acquisitions:

~1900 acres in Sussex County

~6 acres in Scott County



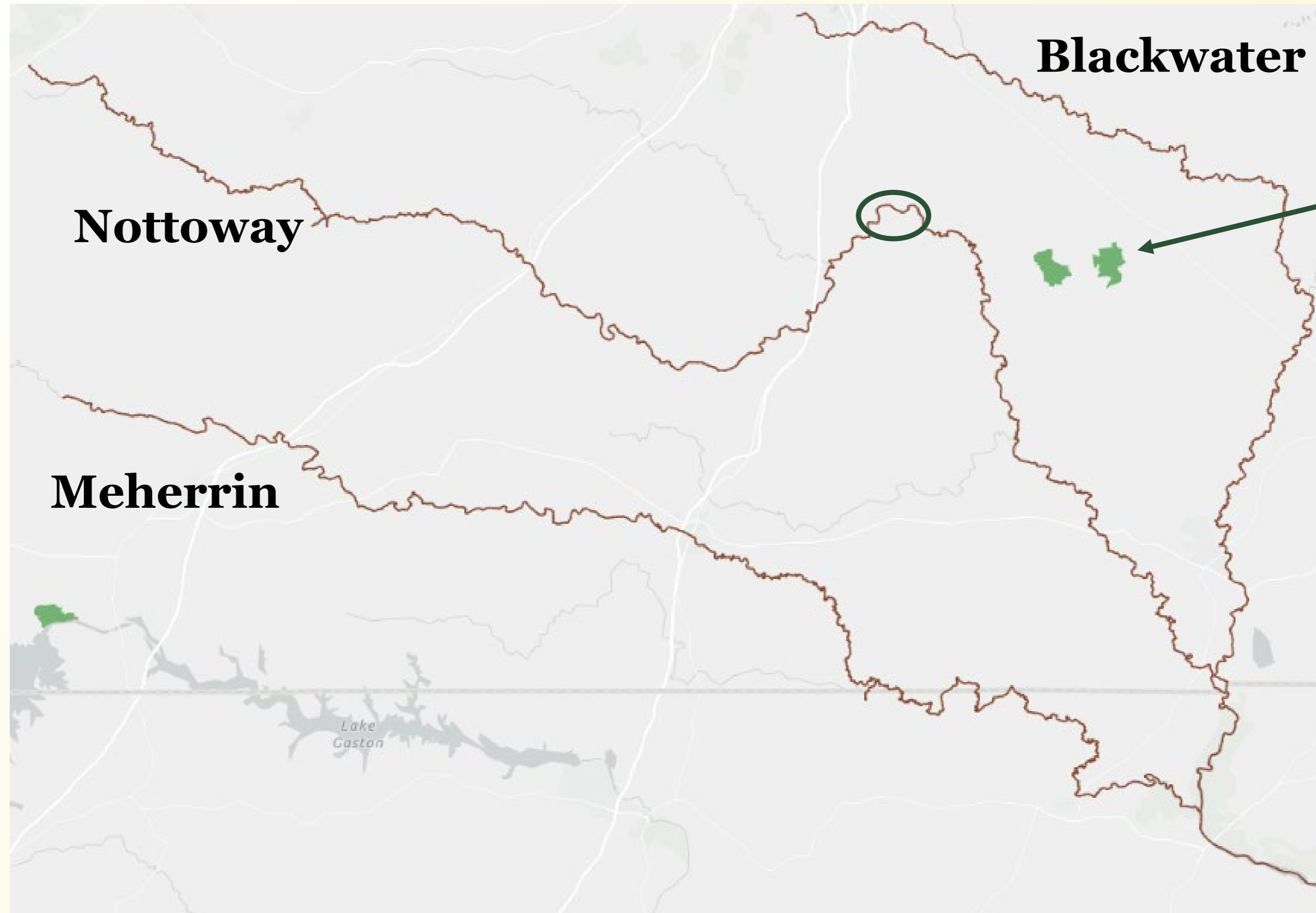
Property Naming and Designation



**Big Woods and
Flippo-Gentry WMAs**



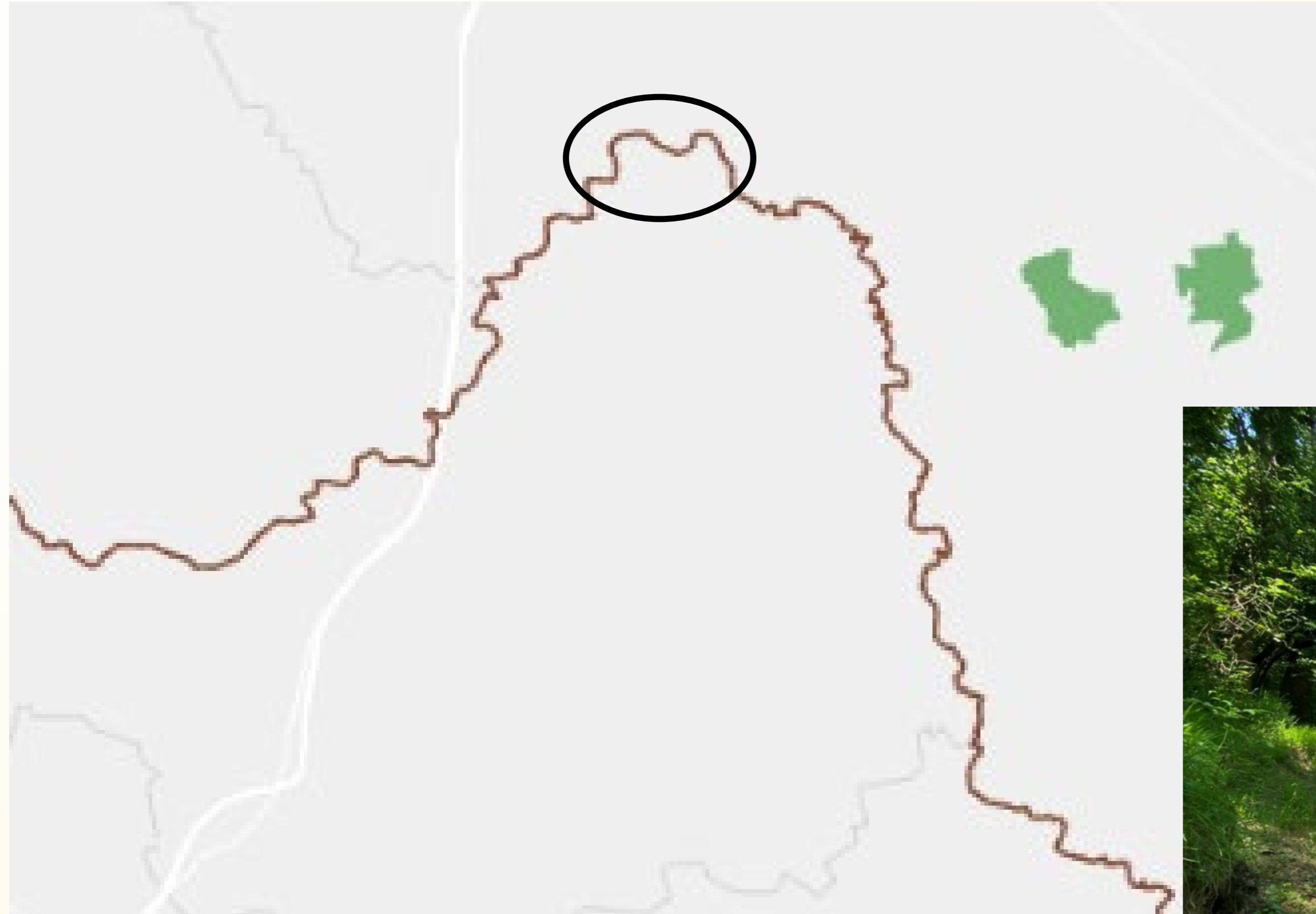
Property Naming and Designation



**Big Woods and
Flippo-Gentry WMAs**



Property Naming and Designation



Propose:

Arch of the Nottoway WMA



Property Naming and Designation



We would like acknowledge the partnership with The Conservation Fund to make this acquisition a reality.



Property Naming and Designation



Scott County

**Mouth of Copper Creek into
the Clinch River**



Property Naming and Designation



Propose:

**Copper Creek Wildlife
Conservation Site (WCS)**

- and access site



Questions?



Property Naming and Designation

Motion

I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee of the Board Wildlife Resources endorse the proposed property names and designations, as presented by staff, for consideration by the Board.



BOATING DIVISION STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Boating Division Navigating Principle (Vision):

Connecting what
our agency does
with what our
stakeholders love
to do.





STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT GOALS

Build strong relationships with boating stakeholders that is:

- **Built on trust**
- **Designed to understand their wants and needs**

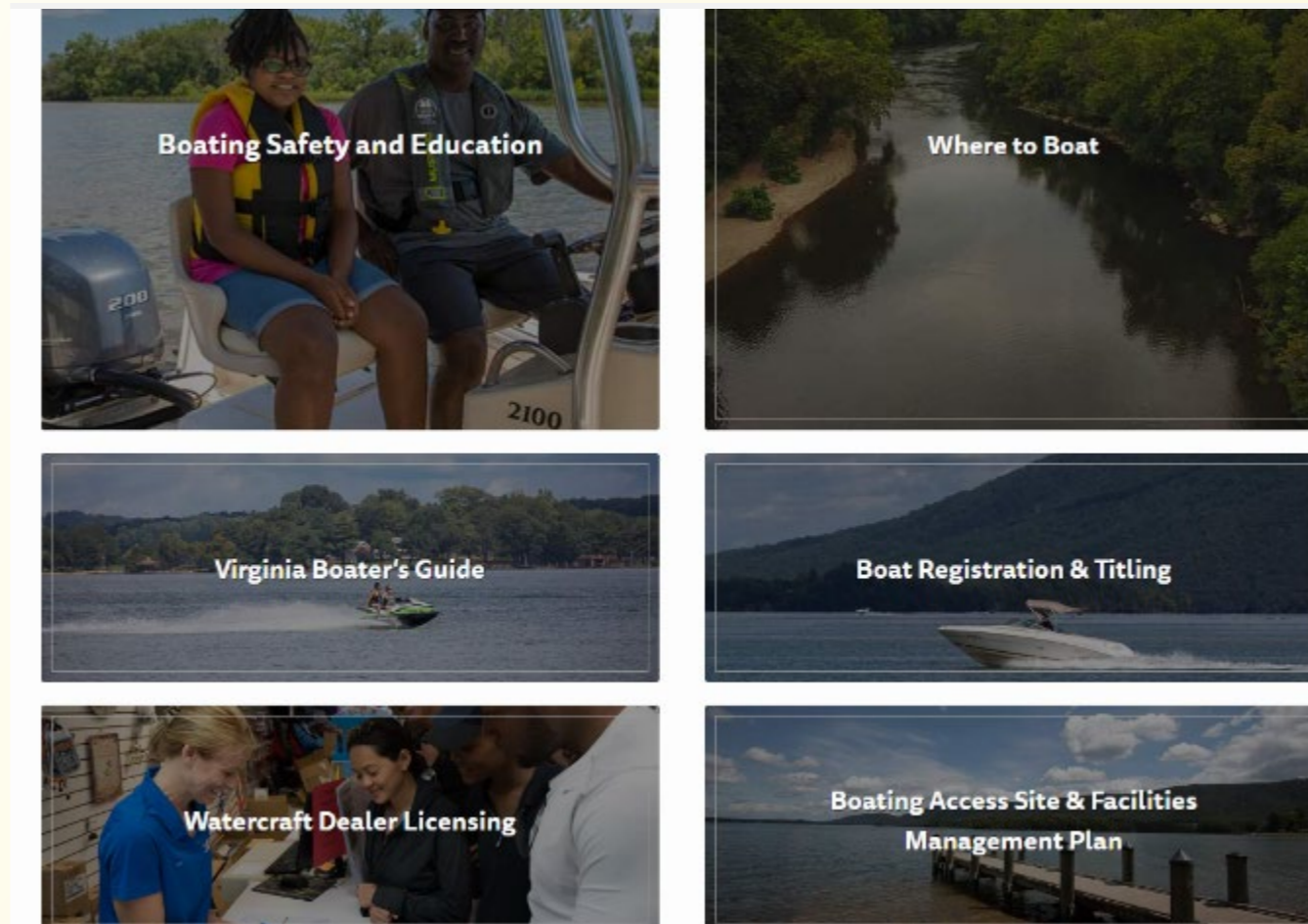
That will serve to:

- **Manage future risks**
- **Lay foundation for future partnerships**

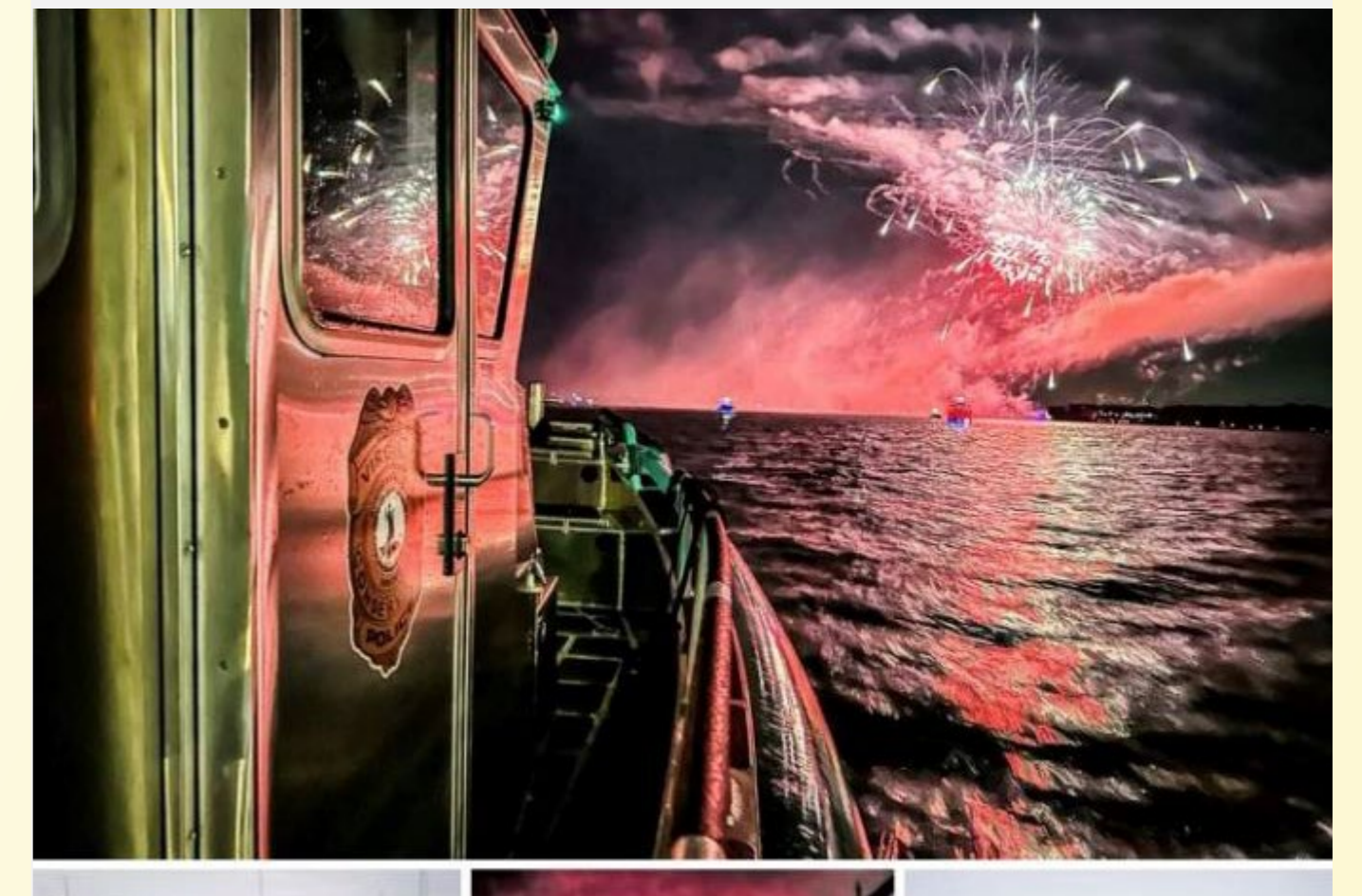
EXISTING EFFORTS



**BOATING NOTES
FROM THE FIELD**



VA DWR WEBSITE



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS





STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Virginia Safe Boating Alliance

- **Currently in hiatus**
- **Political in nature**
- **Next steps – assist in the reactivation of this organization**

Stakeholder Groups

Virginia Harbor Safety Committee

- **Active organization**
- **Primary purpose is information sharing**
- **Next steps –Mission and Objectives**



Future



Watercraft Dealers



Motorboat Rental Companies



Paddlesports Stakeholders and Organizations



Questions Or Comments?



THANK YOU!

Stacey Brown
Boating Division Director
stacey.brown@dwr.virginia.gov



CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

2025-26 WILDLIFE REGULATIONS REVIEW AND AMENDMENT PROCESS:

RECOMMENDED TIMELINE & BOARD MEETING DATES



CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

**Cale Godfrey
Assistant Director,
Wildlife Division**

2025-26 Wildlife Regulation Milestones

Oct - Dec 2024	Public Scoping Period
Oct 2024	Committee & Board Meeting – update on scoping period metrics
Jan 2025	Committee & Board Meeting – summary of scoping period feedback
Dec 2024 - Feb 2025	Species Committee Regulation Recommendation Development
Mar 2025	Committee & Board Meeting – Proposal-stage Recommendations
Mar - May 2025	Regulation Amendment Proposal Public Comment Period
May 2025	Committee & Board Meetings – Final Recommendations and Adoption
August 1, 2025	Effective date for regulation amendments adopted by the Board



Proposed Board Meeting Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Key Meeting Topics</u>
Oct 23-24, 2024	Agency Budget FY25 Update
Jan 22-23, 2025	2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits - Proposal Stage 2025-26 Hunting and Trapping Regulations - Significant Issues Review Agency Budget – FY25 Mid-Year Update
Mar 19-20, 2025	2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Seasons and Bag Limits - Final Action 2025-26 Hunting and Trapping Regulations - Proposal Stage Legislative Update Agency Budget FY25 Update
May 21-22, 2025	2025-26 Hunting and Trapping Regulations - Final Action Agency Budget – Proposed FY26; FY25 Update
Aug 20-21, 2025	FY25 Budget Final Report





Questions



Motion

Mr. Chairman,

I move that the Committee approve the recommended wildlife regulation review and amendment process timeline and recommended Board meeting dates for the coming year as presented by staff.

