



Resource Protection Recommendations

Wildlife Information and Environmental Services

804-367-4335

July 1, 2021

Step 1: Access the VA Fish and Wildlife Information Service (VAFWIS) from the DWR website at:

<https://services.dwr.virginia.gov/fwis/index.asp>

Step 2: Using the geographic search function, generate an Initial Project Assessment (IPA) report for the site using an at least 2 – mile buffer around project boundaries (action area). See the “help” section for instructions.

Step 3: Review the below guidance regarding data returned by VAFWIS and apply, as appropriate. Please see the end of the document for contacts regarding common wildlife species, the location of which may not be accurately depicted by VAFWIS which is most heavily populated by imperiled species and designated resource data.

I. Special Status Species and Designated Wildlife Resources

Species Observations (SppObs) – The Species Observation dataset includes all verified species documentations maintained by DWR. If the IPA results indicate that a *listed species* has been documented from the project area, it is possible that the species is present on the project site, if suitable habitat exists. For those species for which DWR is listed as the Responsible Agency (see following table), contact the taxa expert listed below for information and guidance regarding protection of *listed species* as it relates to the proposed project.

DWR Nongame Taxonomic Experts:

Reptiles/Amphibians:

John (JD) Kleopfer

804-829-6703

John.Kleopfer@DWR.virginia.gov

Birds:

Jeff Cooper

540-538-1021

Jeff.Cooper@DWR.virginia.gov

Sergio Harding

804-367-0143

Sergio.Harding@DWR.virginia.gov

Mollusks/Aquatic Invertebrates:

Brian Watson

434-525-7522

Brian.Watson@DWR.virginia.gov

Fishes:

Mike Pinder (except Atlantic sturgeon)

540-961-8387

Mike.Pinder@DWR.virginia.gov

Clint Morgeson (Atlantic sturgeon)

804-829-6580, cell: 804.489.6318

Clinton.Morgeson@DWR.virginia.gov

Mammals/Terrestrial Invertebrates:

Rick Reynolds

540-248-9360

Rick.Reynolds@DWR.virginia.gov

Eastern Shore: (birds, sea turtles, sea mammals)

Ruth Boettcher

757-709-0766

Ruth.Boettcher@DWR.virginia.gov

Threatened and Endangered Species Waters (TEWaters) – The Threatened and Endangered Species Waters (TEWaters) dataset includes the locations of waters from which *listed species* have been documented and which agency biologists have determined are currently occupied by such species. If work in the TEWater or its tributaries is proposed (ex: installation of crossings, soil borings, stream restoration, utility installation, etc.), we recommend coordination with DWR's Environmental Services (ES) staff as specific protection measures may be necessary to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA; federal and/or state), depending on the resource, the species that it is known to support, and the proposed work. Otherwise, we offer the below general guidance regarding protection of TEWaters:

a) If a waterbody is designated a TEWater due to the presence of listed fishes, mussels, snails, or crayfish, we recommend the following to best protect such listed aquatic species (and the resources upon which they depend) from harm that may result from nearby agriculture, silviculture, habitat management or restoration, and/or land development:

- We recommend preserving, planting, or enhancing an undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer of at least 100 ft on both sides of all intermittent tributaries to the designated water;
- We recommend preserving, planting, or enhancing an undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer of at least 200 ft on both sides of all perennial tributaries to designated waters; and/or
- We recommend preserving, planting, or enhancing an undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer of at least 300 ft on both sides of designated waters.

b) If a waterbody is designated a TE Water due to the presence of wood turtles, we recommend the following (in addition to the above), to best protect this listed semi-aquatic species (and the resources upon which it depends) from harm that may result from nearby silviculture, habitat management or restoration, and/or land development:

- Because wood turtles must have access to freshwater streams during hibernation as well as access to adjacent uplands, where they forage, mate, and nest, we recommend coordination with us not only for instream work, but also for any work in uplands adjacent to (within 900 feet of) the designated water.

Anadromous Fish Use Areas – The Anadromous Fish Use Areas (AnadFish Waters) dataset includes the locations of streams known to provide migratory and spawning habitats for anadromous fishes. We recommend coordination with DWR ES anytime work in designated AnadFish Waters and/or their tributaries is proposed. Otherwise, we offer the below general guidance regarding protection of AnadFish Waters:

- We recommend preserving, planting, or enhancing an undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer of at least 100 ft on both sides of all perennial tributaries to the designated water;
- We recommend preserving, planting, or enhancing an undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer of at least 200 ft on both sides of designated waters.

Anadromous Fishes/Fish Passage Expert:

Alan Weaver
804-367-6795 or Alan.Weaver@DWR.virginia.gov

Bat Hibernacula and Roosts (hibs and roosts) – This dataset includes documented bat hibernacula and roosts, and regulatory buffers around those features. Any land development or forestry activities within a regulatory buffer should be coordinated with DWR Environmental Services staff and/or the USFWS, depending on the status of the species documented. We support restricted activities within these buffers in compliance with state and federal regulations, and protection from development of lands within the regulatory buffers. For the species below, use the indicated applications to determine the location of hibernacula and roosts.

- Northern Long-eared Bat hibs and roosts:
<https://www.DWR.virginia.gov/wildlife/bats/northern-long-eared-bat-application/>
- Little brown and Tricolor Bat hibs and roosts:
<https://www.DWR.virginia.gov/wildlife/bats/little-brown-bat-tri-colored-bat-winter-habitat-roosts-application/>

Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches – This dataset includes stretches of beach/shoreline in Virginia known to support nesting of sea turtles, all of which are federally- and state-listed. We recommend coordination with DWR ES, the USFWS and NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service regarding any activities proposed on these designated beaches/shorelines. Otherwise, we support protection of these areas and adjacent shorelines from land development and/or incompatible activities.

Wild Trout Waters – The Cold Water Streams dataset includes the locations of waters designated as cold water habitat. Many of these streams represent wild trout streams. To best protect these waters and the species they are known to support, we recommend coordination with DWR ESS anytime work in designated Trout Waters and/or their tributaries is proposed. Otherwise, we offer the below general guidance regarding protection of Trout Waters:

- We recommend preserving, planting, and/or enhancing an undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer of at least 100 ft on both sides of all perennial tributaries to the designated water;
- We recommend preserving, planting, and/or enhancing an undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer of at least 200 ft on both sides of designated waters.

Stockable Trout Waters – The Cold Water Streams dataset also includes the locations of waters currently stocked with trout by DWR as well as those suitable for stocking, but perhaps not currently stocked. To best protect these waters and the species they are known to or capable of supporting, we recommend coordination with DWR ESS anytime work in Stocked Trout Waters is proposed. Otherwise, we offer the below general guidance regarding protection of Trout Waters:

- We recommend preserving, planting, and/or enhancing an undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer of at least 100 ft on both sides of all perennial tributaries to the designated water;
- We recommend preserving, planting, and/or enhancing an undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer of at least 200 ft on both sides of designated waters.

Trout/Trout Stream Expert: Steve Reeser
540-248-9360 or Steve.Reeser@DWR.virginia.gov

Colonial Waterbird (CWB) colonies – This DWR-maintained dataset includes documented locations of colonial waterbird colonies. To ensure protection of the colony and the species known to nest within it, we recommend coordination with DWR's ES and the USFWS for any land development or timbering activities proposed to occur within 0.5 miles of a documented colony. Otherwise, we offer the below general guidance regarding protection of colonial waterbird colonies:

- We recommend preserving, planting and/or enhancing an undisturbed naturally vegetated buffer of at least 500 ft around the waterbird colony. This provides the colony with a line of sight and habitat buffer, providing nesting activity protection as well as habitat protection to ensure suitability for future nesting seasons.

DWR Lands (boat ramps, WMA's, Fish Hatcheries, lakes) – The DWR Lands dataset includes locations of all DWR facilities. We support development of easement restrictions protective of our facilities and access to them by the public and our staff; and the watersheds/drainages upstream of our hatcheries and fishing lakes.

Bald Eagle Nests – This dataset includes the location of bald eagle nests, and their associated buffers, within Virginia. While we periodically update nest status or add new nests based on curated observations from citizens and/or our staff, we no longer update bald eagle nest data annually per flyover survey data. To ensure protection of bald eagles in compliance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Act, we recommend using the Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) [Eagle Nest Locator](#) to determine if any active eagle nests are known from the project area. If active bald eagle nests have been documented from the project area, we recommend that the project move forward in a manner consistent with [state and federal guidelines for protection of bald eagles](#); and coordination, as indicated, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding possible impacts upon bald eagles or the need for a federal bald eagle take permit.

Bald Eagle Concentration Area and Roosts (BECAR) - This dataset includes bald eagle concentration areas (defined as 660 feet landward or channelward of the shoreline) and documented roosting sites documented by VDWR and/or our partners. Significant habitat alteration, location of water-dependent facilities or other recreational and commercial activities within certain distances of eagle nests, concentration zones, or roosts may result in adverse impacts upon eagles. Therefore, we recommend that land owners comply with the Virginia [management guidelines for landowners](#); and that he or she coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding possible impacts upon bald eagles or the need for a federal bald eagle take permit associated with activities on his or her property.

** coming to VAFWIS very soon!*

II. Common Wildlife Species and Resources

Use the following table to identify the appropriate contact to answer any questions or provide information regarding common wildlife and/or wildlife-related recreation in your area. Link to DWR regional map: <https://www.DWR.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/vDWR-region-map.pdf>

DWR Region	Terrestrial Species	Aquatic Species	Lands/Facilities
I	David Norris 804-829-6580 David.Norris@DWR.virginia.gov	Clint Morgeson 804-829-6580, cell: 804.489.6318 Clinton.Morgeson@DWR.virginia.gov	Steve Living 804-829-6580 Steve.Living@DWR.virginia.gov
II	Matthew Overstreet 434-525-7522 Matthew.Overstreet@DWR.virginia.gov	Scott Smith 434-525-7522 Scott.Smith@DWR.virginia.gov	Pete Schula 434-252-7522 Pete.Schula@DWR.virginia.gov
III	Shannon Bowling 276-783-4860 Shannon.Bowling@DWR.virginia.gov	Jeff Williams 276-783-4860 Jeff.Williams@DWR.virginia.gov	Tom Hampton 276-783-4860 Tom.Hampton@DWR.virginia.gov
IV	Jaime Sajecki 540-248-9360 Jaime.Sajecki@DWR.virginia.gov	Stephen Reeser 540-248-9360 Steve.Reeser@DWR.virginia.gov	Ron Hughes 540-248-9360 Ron.Hughes@DWR.virginia.gov

Private Lands Wildlife Biologist Point of Contact:

Marc Puckett
434-392-8328
Marc.Puckett@DWR.virginia.gov

III: Species Special Status Table

Species Status and Type		Responsible Agency in Virginia
Federal Endangered (FE)	<i>Animals</i>	USFWS (or NOAA) and DWR
	<i>Plants and insects</i>	USFWS and DCR-DNH
Federal Threatened (FT)	<i>Animals</i>	USFWS (or NOAA) and DWR
	<i>Plants and insects</i>	USFWS and DCR-DNH
Federal Candidate (FC)	<i>Animals</i>	USFWS
	<i>Plants and insects</i>	USFWS and DCR-DNH
Federal Proposed (FP)		USFWS (at applicant's discretion)
Federal Species of Concern (FS)		USFWS (at applicant's discretion)
State Endangered (SE)	<i>Animals</i>	DWR
	<i>Plants and insects</i>	DCR-DNH
State Threatened (ST)	<i>Animals</i>	DWR
	<i>Plants and insects</i>	DCR-DNH
Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)^		DWR (at applicant's discretion)

Table Notes:

NOAA Fisheries Service has jurisdictional authority over protection of sea turtles in Virginia's waters (non-nesting), Atlantic sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon and marine mammals.

The VA Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) retains legal authority for the protection of all plants and listed insects. However, through a memorandum of agreement with VDCR-DNH, coordination regarding these resources should be initiated with VDCR-DNH.

See www.bewildvirginia.org for more information about the Virginia Wildlife Action Plan

More information available at the Environmental Services page of DWR's website at:
<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wies/>