

WEST VIRGINIA

DNR

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



almost heaven

WEST VIRGINIA
DNR

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Charleston, WV 25305

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Websites

WVdnr.gov
WVstateparks.com
wonderfulWV.com



Patrick Morrissey
Governor, State of West Virginia

Matt Herridge
Secretary, Department of Commerce

Brett W. McMillion
Director, Division of Natural Resources

Wendy L. Greene
Deputy Director

Brian R. Bolyard
Chief of Staff

Amy J. Smith
Chief Financial Officer

Mark C. Collins
Chief, Property and Energy Section

Col. Bobby L. Cales
Chief, Law Enforcement Section

Dillard J. Price
Acting Chief, Parks and Recreation Section

Matt J. Yeager
Chief, Office of Planning, Engineering and Maintenance

Paul R. Johansen
Chief, Wildlife Resources Section

Andrea Fout Tinsley
Manager, Human Resources

Natural Resources Commissioners

David M. Milne – *District 1*

Jeffrey S. Bowers – *District 2*

Jerod A. Harman – *District 3*

Vacant – *District 4*

Gregory K. Burnette – *District 5*

Janet Hamric Hodge – *District 6*

Tennis F. Cook – *At Large*

The WVDNR provides 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.

WVDNR programs receive federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you need more information, please write to:

Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Governor Morrisey:

Transmitted herewith is the annual report for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources for fiscal year July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett W. McMillion', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brett W. McMillion

BWM:lw





MISSION STATEMENT

Provide and administer a long-range comprehensive program for the exploration, conservation, development, protection, enjoyment and use of West Virginia's natural resources.

VISION STATEMENT

Clean, healthy and abundant natural resources that are responsibly managed, providing economic and recreational opportunities for all to experience and enjoy.

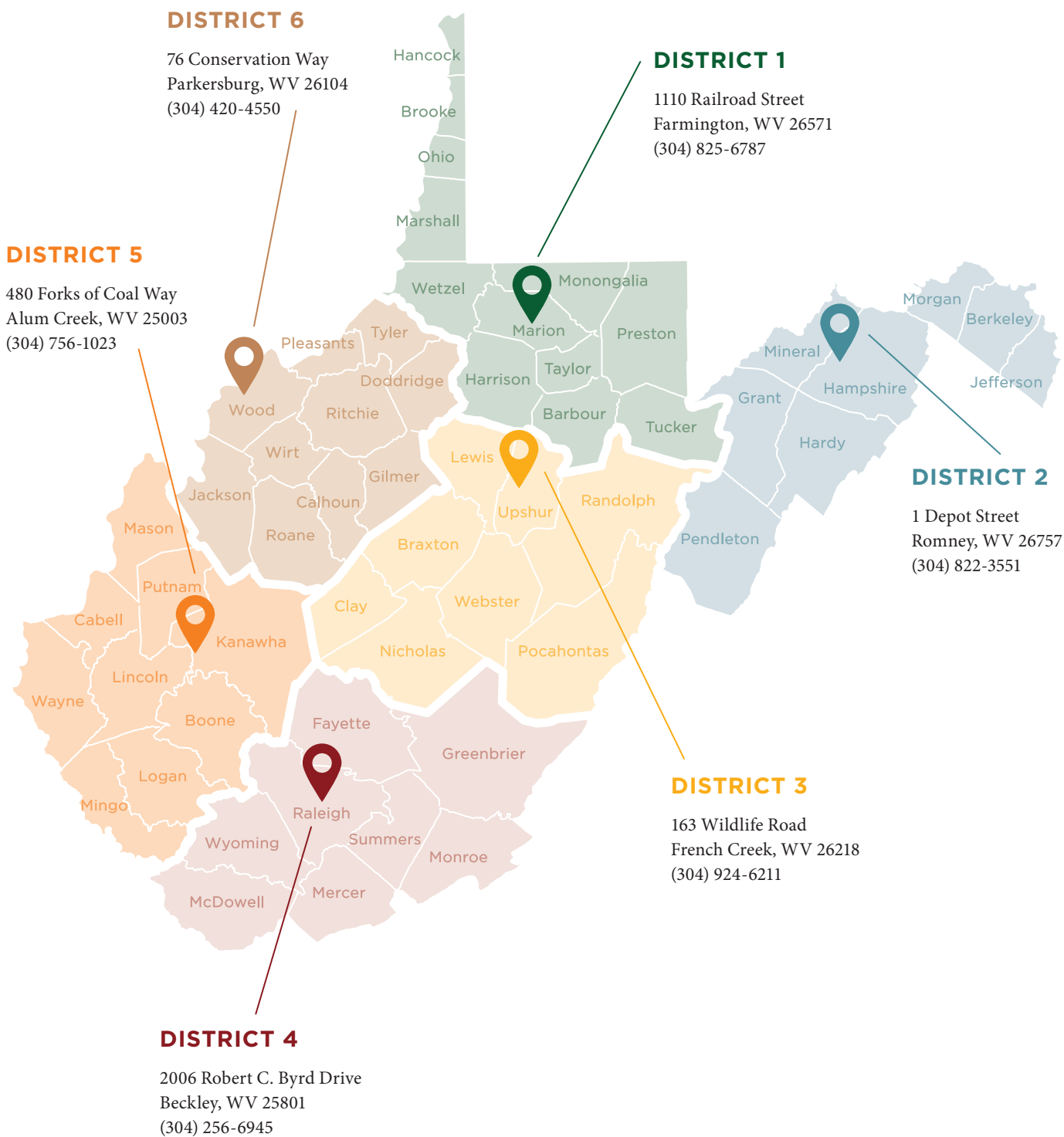
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Accountability:** We are transparent and accountable to maintain public trust.
- **Stewardship:** We protect West Virginia's natural resources for present and future generations.
- **Partnership:** We build strong public and private partnerships that serve West Virginians.
- **Service:** We provide excellent service to all.
- **Diversity:** We promote healthy ecosystems and inclusive workplaces.
- **Excellence:** We invest in our staff and help and promote collaboration and innovation.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS SERVED

- 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)

DISTRICT OFFICES



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. Little Coal River
72. McClintic
73. Mill Creek
74. Tomblin
75. Upper Mud River

DISTRICT 6 (304) 420-4550

76. Buffalo Run
77. Burning Springs
78. Conaway Run Lake
79. Elk Fork Lake
80. Federal Ridge
81. Frozen Camp
82. Hughes River
83. Little Kanawha River
84. Lynn Camp
85. O'Brien Lake
86. Ritchie Mines
87. Rollins Lake
88. Sand Hill
89. Sandy Creek
90. Stumptown
91. The Jug
92. Toll Gate
93. Turkey Run
94. Walker Creek
95. Wallback
96. 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

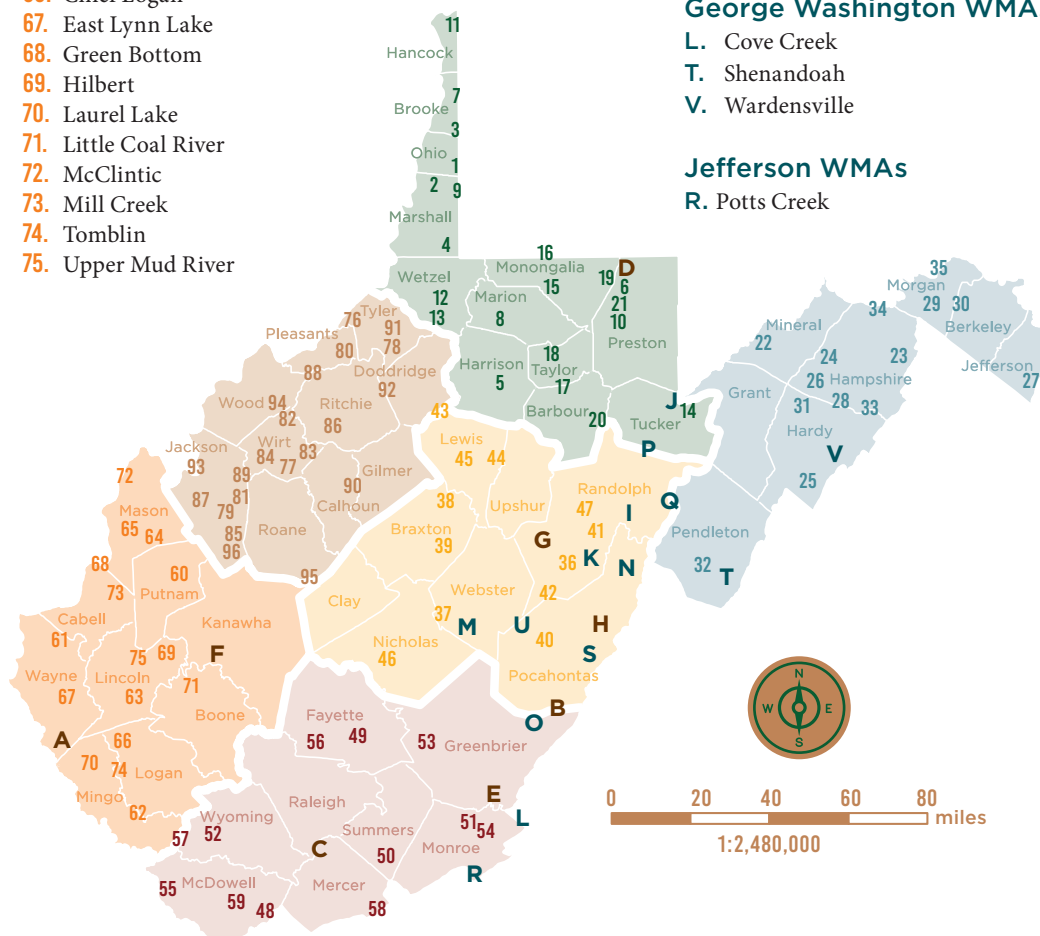


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WEST VIRGINIA
DNR
ADMINISTRATION
Mark C. Collins, *Chief*



The Administration Section supports all WVDNR offices with budgeting, accounting, staffing, payroll, benefits, workforce development, procurement, property and fleet management, IT, customer relations and license sales.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Office has 10 staff who oversee employee relations, workforce development and employment services. In FY 2025, the office processed:

- **Job Postings:** 153
- **Public Service Announcements:** 117
- **Hires and Transfers:** 913 (96 permanent, 817 temporary)
- **Resignations:** 31
- **Retirements:** 17
- **Transfers:** 14
- **Dismissals:** 4
- **Workers' Compensation Claims:** 148
- **Unemployment Claims:** 138

Fleet Management

The Fleet Management Office has a staff of one who manages the WVDNR's vehicles, including cars, trucks, boats, ATVs, UTVs and trailers. Staff track fuel and maintenance, titles and registration, inventory, insurance, surplus sales and driver safety training. In FY 2025, the office processed:

- **Vehicle Purchases:** 23 (1 Used)
- **Vehicle Sales:** \$87,492
- **Driver Safety Training:** 100% Compliance

Property and Procurement

The Procurement Office has 10 staff members who are responsible for procuring commodities and services. During FY 2025, the office processed:

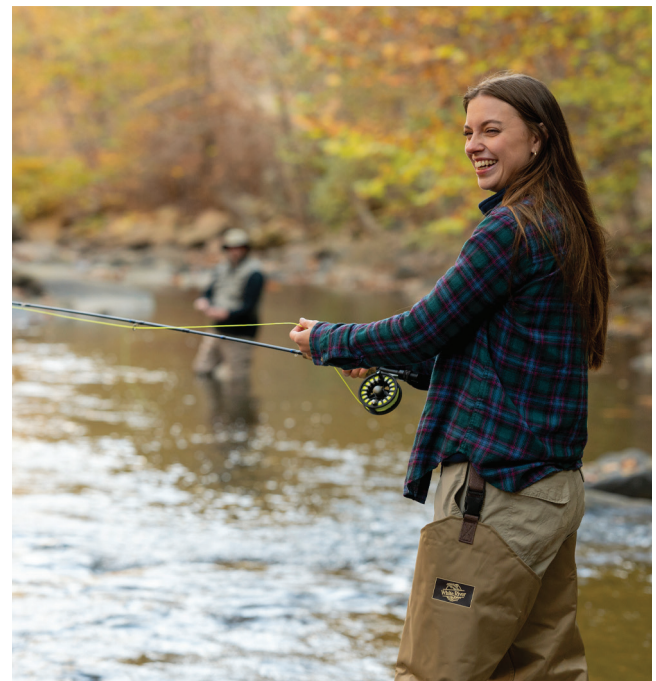
- **Fixed Assets Added:** 814
- **Fixed Assets Retired:** 280
- **Agency Delivery Orders Completed:** 4,173
- **Master Agreements Awarded:** 8
- **Change Orders and Modifications Issued:** 283
- **Contracts under \$25,000 Issued:** 240
- **Contracts over \$25,000 Issued:** 60

Information and Technology Resources

The Information and Technology Resources Office has one full-time staff member who performs IT support services, database and document services, technology planning and project management.

SERVICE HITS PER WEBSITE

- **WVdnr.gov:** 10,607,717
- **WVstateparks.com:** 14,080,800
- **wonderfulWV.com:** 16,331



Customer Relations

The Customer Relations Office has nine staff who oversee the Hunting and Fishing License Unit, manage front desk and mail room operations at WVDNR headquarters in Charleston and publish the Wonderful West Virginia Magazine, which had 12,886 monthly subscribers and 1,251 paid bulk subscribers during FY 2025.

Serving as the WVDNR's front line for the public, the Customer Relations Office assists with hunting, trapping and fishing license sales. Information for 2024 sales is detailed in the following tables.

ADMINISTRATION

TOTAL LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Residency and Class – Calendar Year 2024

Resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	13,075	\$ 248,425.00
AH	Apprentice Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	2,001	\$ 38,019.00
AHJ**	Apprentice Junior Hunting and Trapping	\$ 11.00	6,922	\$ 76,142.00
B	Fishing	\$ 19.00	74,043	\$ 1,406,817.00
L	5-Day Fishing	\$ 8.00	2,987	\$ 23,896.00
N	Antlerless Deer Hunting	\$ 10.00	59,341	\$ 593,410.00
BG	Big Game	\$ 10.00	3,365	\$ 33,650.00
RG	Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 21.00	17,217	\$ 361,557.00
RB	Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 21.00	17,303	\$ 363,363.00
RM	Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 16.00	1,215	\$ 19,440.00
X*	Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 30.00	77,794	\$ 2,333,820.00
XJ**	Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 11.00	3,825	\$ 42,075.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	4,290	\$ 34,320.00
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	23,194	\$ 231,940.00
O	Trout Fishing	\$ 10.00	96,697	\$ 966,970.00
CS***	Conservation Stamp	\$ 5.00	171,432	\$ 857,160.00
Resident Subtotal			574,701	\$ 7,631,004.00

*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	24,573	\$ 49,146.00
E	Non-resident Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	27,693	\$ 3,295,467.00
EE	Non-resident Bear Hunting	\$ 162.00	2,428	\$ 393,336.00
AAH	Non-resident Apprentice Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	1,743	\$ 207,417.00
AAHJ	Non-resident Apprentice Junior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 16.00	1,318	\$ 21,088.00
F	Non-resident Fishing	\$ 37.00	19,079	\$ 705,923.00
H	Non-resident Small Game Hunting - 6 day	\$ 27.00	649	\$ 17,523.00
LL	Non-resident Fishing - 1 day	\$ 3.00	50,095	\$ 150,285.00
NN	Non-resident Antlerless Deer	\$ 27.00	18,088	\$ 488,376.00
RRG	Non-resident Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 43.00	4,428	\$ 190,404.00
RRB	Non-resident Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 37.00	3,166	\$ 117,142.00
RRM	Non-resident Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 37.00	254	\$ 9,398.00
UU	Non-resident Archery Deer	\$ 32.00	9,747	\$ 311,904.00
VV	Non-resident Muzzleloader Deer	\$ 32.00	1,644	\$ 52,608.00
WW	Non-resident Turkey	\$ 32.00	5,885	\$ 188,320.00
XXJ	Non-resident Junior Sportsman	\$ 16.00	1,302	\$ 20,832.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	1,430	\$ 11,440.00
DS-EE	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	2,428	\$ 24,280.00
OO	Trout Fishing	\$ 16.00	20,812	\$ 332,992.00
J	Small Game Shooting Preserve Hunting - 6 day	\$ 10.00	1,062	\$ 10,620.00
CS/LE	Non-resident Conservation / Law Enforcement	\$ 13.00	93,920	\$ 1,220,960.00
Non-resident Subtotal			291,744	\$ 7,819,461.00

Grand Total Resident + Non-resident Sales	866,445	\$ 15,450,465.00
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ONLINE LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Residency and Class – Calendar Year 2024

Resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	6,954	\$ 132,126.00
AH	Apprentice Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	1,323	\$ 25,137.00
AHJ**	Apprentice Junior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 11.00	3,310	\$ 36,410.00
B	Fishing	\$ 19.00	35,140	\$ 667,660.00
L	5-Day Fishing	\$ 8.00	2,046	\$ 16,368.00
N	Antlerless Deer Hunting	\$ 10.00	36,383	\$ 363,830.00
BG	Big Game	\$ 10.00	2,202	\$ 22,020.00
RG	Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 21.00	9,791	\$ 205,611.00
RB	Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 21.00	11,105	\$ 233,205.00
RM	Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 16.00	817	\$ 13,072.00
X*	Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 30.00	45,597	\$ 1,367,910.00
XJ**	Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 11.00	2,187	\$ 24,057.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	2,721	\$ 21,768.00
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	15,472	\$ 154,720.00
O	Trout Fishing	\$ 10.00	52,447	\$ 524,470.00
CS***	Conservation Stamp	\$ 5.00	85,716	\$ 428,580.00
Resident Subtotal			313,211	\$ 4,236,944.00

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

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***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	18,313	\$ 36,626.00
E	Non-resident Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	21,044	\$ 2,504,236.00
EE	Non-resident Bear Hunting	\$ 162.00	1,941	\$ 314,442.00
AAH	Non-resident Apprentice Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	1,393	\$ 165,767.00
AAHJ	Non-resident Apprentice Junior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 16.00	1,070	\$ 17,120.00
F	Non-resident Fishing	\$ 37.00	12,940	\$ 478,780.00
H	Non-resident Small Game Hunting - 6 day	\$ 27.00	565	\$ 15,255.00
LL	Non-resident Fishing - 1 day	\$ 3.00	32,148	\$ 96,444.00
NN	Non-resident Antlerless Deer	\$ 27.00	14,368	\$ 387,936.00
RRG	Non-resident Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 43.00	3,304	\$ 142,072.00
RRB	Non-resident Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 37.00	2,757	\$ 102,009.00
RRM	Non-resident Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 37.00	217	\$ 8,029.00
UU	Non-resident Archery Deer	\$ 32.00	7,725	\$ 247,200.00
VV	Non-resident Muzzleloader Deer	\$ 32.00	1,266	\$ 40,512.00
WW	Non-resident Turkey	\$ 32.00	4,677	\$ 149,664.00
XXJ	Non-resident Junior Sportsman	\$ 16.00	1,083	\$ 17,328.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	907	\$ 7,256.00
DS-EE	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	1,941	\$ 19,410.00
OO	Trout Fishing	\$ 16.00	14,402	\$ 230,432.00
J	Small Game Shooting Preserve Hunting - 6 day	\$ 10.00	1,037	\$ 10,370.00
CS/LE	Non-resident Conservation / Law Enforcement	\$ 13.00	49,610	\$ 644,930.00
Non-resident Subtotal			192,708	\$ 5,635,818.00

Grand Total Resident + Non-resident Sales	505,919	\$ 9,872,762.00
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ADMINISTRATION

AGENT LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Residency and Class – Calendar Year 2024

Resident				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	6,121	\$ 116,299.00
AH	Apprentice Hunting and Trapping	\$ 19.00	678	\$ 12,882.00
AHJ**	Apprentice Junior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 11.00	3,612	\$ 39,732.00
B	Fishing	\$ 19.00	38,903	\$ 739,157.00
L	5-Day Fishing	\$ 8.00	941	\$ 7,528.00
N	Antlerless Deer Hunting	\$ 10.00	22,958	\$ 229,580.00
BG	Big Game	\$ 10.00	1,163	\$ 11,630.00
RG	Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 21.00	7,426	\$ 155,946.00
RB	Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 21.00	6,198	\$ 130,158.00
RM	Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 16.00	398	\$ 6,368.00
X*	Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 30.00	32,197	\$ 965,910.00
XJ**	Junior Sportsman Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 11.00	1,638	\$ 18,018.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	1,569	\$ 12,552.00
DS	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	7,722	\$ 77,220.00
O	Trout Fishing	\$ 10.00	44,250	\$ 442,500.00
CS***	Conservation Stamp	\$ 5.00	85,716	\$ 428,580.00
Resident Subtotal			261,490	\$ 3,394,060.00

*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	6,260	\$ 12,520.00
E	Non-resident Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	6,649	\$ 791,231.00
EE	Non-resident Bear Hunting	\$ 162.00	487	\$ 78,894.00
AAH	Non-resident Apprentice Hunting/Trapping	\$ 119.00	350	\$ 41,650.00
AAHJ	Non-resident Apprentice Junior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing	\$ 16.00	248	\$ 3,968.00
F	Non-resident Fishing	\$ 37.00	6,139	\$ 227,143.00
H	Non-resident Small Game Hunting - 6 day	\$ 27.00	84	\$ 2,268.00
LL	Non-resident Fishing - 1 day	\$ 3.00	17,947	\$ 53,841.00
NN	Non-resident Antlerless Deer	\$ 27.00	3,720	\$ 100,440.00
RRG	Non-resident Additional Deer - Firearms	\$ 43.00	1,124	\$ 48,332.00
RRB	Non-resident Additional Deer - Archery	\$ 37.00	409	\$ 15,133.00
RRM	Non-resident Additional Deer - Muzzleloader	\$ 37.00	37	\$ 1,369.00
UU	Non-resident Archery Deer	\$ 32.00	2,022	\$ 64,704.00
VV	Non-resident Muzzleloader Deer	\$ 32.00	378	\$ 12,096.00
WW	Non-resident Turkey	\$ 32.00	1,208	\$ 38,656.00
XXJ	Non-resident Junior Sportsman	\$ 16.00	219	\$ 3,504.00
A-1	Small Arms Hunting	\$ 8.00	523	\$ 4,184.00
DS-EE	Bear Damage Stamp	\$ 10.00	487	\$ 4,870.00
OO	Trout Fishing	\$ 16.00	6,410	\$ 102,560.00
J	Small Game Shooting Preserve Hunting - 6 day	\$ 10.00	25	\$ 250.00
CS/LE	Non-resident Conservation / Law Enforcement	\$ 13.00	44,310	\$ 576,030.00
Non-resident Subtotal			99,036	\$ 2,183,643.00

Grand Total Resident + Non-resident Sales	360,526	\$ 5,577,703.00
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LIFETIME LICENSE SALES

Hunting and Fishing License Sales by Class – Calendar Year 2024

Resident Adult/Child				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
A-L	Hunting and Trapping*	\$ 1,146.73	13	\$ 7,898.20
AB-L	Hunting, Trapping and Fishing*	\$ 360.74	2,482	\$ 1,128,891.75
A-1-L	Small Arms Hunting (Residential and Non-residential)	\$ 75.00	139	\$ 10,425.00
B-L	Fishing*	\$ 592.53	89	\$ 39,688.80
O-L	Trout*	\$ 99.32	1,253	\$ 163,852.00
Resident Adult/Child Subtotal			3,976	\$ 1,350,755.75

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

Resident Senior				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
XS	Hunting and Trapping	\$ 25.00	7,122	\$ 178,050.00
Resident Senior Subtotal			7,122	\$ 178,050.00

Non-Resident Adult/Child				
CLASS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	NUMBER	AMOUNT
E-L	Non-Resident Combination Hunting & Trapping License*	\$ 2,385.92	16	\$ 36,735.60
EE-L	Non-Resident Bear Hunting and Bear Damage Stamp*	\$ 3,063.60	1	\$ 4,255.00
F-L	Non-Resident Fishing License*	\$ 828.00	16	\$ 14,605.00
OO-L	Non-Resident Trout Stamp*	\$ 264.96	13	\$ 4,011.20
UU-L	Non-Resident Archery Hunting *	\$ 529.92	8	\$ 4,232.00
VV-L	Non-Resident Muzzleloader Hunting*	\$ 529.92	3	\$ 1,766.00
WW-L	Non-Resident Turkey Hunting*	\$ 529.92	4	\$ 2,502.40
I-L	Non-Resident National Forest Stamp*	\$ 33.12	15	\$ 586.50
Non-Resident Subtotal			76	\$ 68,693.70

*Price is the average due to staggered scale for Child Lifetime Licenses.

Grand Total Resident + Non-resident Sales	11,174	\$ 1,597,499.45
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ADMINISTRATION

Budget and Fiscal Services

The Budget Office employees prepare all appropriation requests, develop expenditure schedules and amendments to the fiscal year budget, monitor all budgets, manage the automated clearing house payment system for federal programs and prepare the WVDNR's indirect cost allocation plan. During legislative sessions, the budget office coordinates and processes all legislative fiscal notes. The Fiscal Services Office has 13 employees who oversee the WVDNR's accounts, manage P-cards and oversee financial reporting and internal auditing.

Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2024-2025

ADMINISTRATION SECTION

BUDGET & FISCAL SERVICES

Books & Periodicals	\$	510.75
Current Expense		431,444.14
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		300,031.33
PEIA Reserve Transfer		26,182.00
Personal Services		803,665.17

BUDGET & FISCAL SERVICES Total	\$	1,561,833.39
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EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE

Books & Periodicals	\$	10,127.27
Computer Equipment		-
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		16,680.00
Current Expense		1,260,890.55
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		203,012.48
Personal Services		684,874.20
Vehicles		-
Wildlife Endowment Fund Transfers		6,720,152.00

EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE Total	\$	8,895,736.50
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GENERAL SERVICES

Current Expense	\$	386,386.84
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		143,035.97
Equipment		884.27
Personal Services		417,607.65
Repairs and Alterations		21,565.04

GENERAL SERVICES Total	\$	969,479.77
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STAFFING/PAYROLL

Current Expense	\$	21,249.76
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		138,493.79
Personal Services		549,908.90

STAFFING/PAYROLL Total	\$	709,652.45
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WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA MAGAZINE

Current Expense	\$	386,893.32
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		30,626.12
Personal Services		84,465.73

WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA MAGAZINE Total	\$	501,985.17
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General Revenue Appropriated	\$	3,772,441.15
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		7,122,936.41
Special Revenue Appropriated		1,709,329.60
Federal Revenue Appropriated		33,980.12

TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$	12,638,687.28
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Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Books & Periodicals	\$	8,478.75
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		66,720.00
Current Expense		4,326,735.13
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		3,266,590.14
Equipment		1,372,110.18
PEIA Reserve Transfer		20,285.72
Personal Services		9,381,395.47
Repairs and Alterations		260,706.36
LAW ENFORCEMENT Total	\$	18,703,021.75

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	4,048,764.04	
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		4,224,711.41	
Special Revenue Appropriated		9,423,030.01	
Federal Revenue Appropriated		1,006,516.29	
TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT			\$ 18,703,021.75

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Building Improvements	\$	55,615.05
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		373,220.00
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		1,190,577.37
Current Expense		148,839.92
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		24,663.95
Equipment		454,536.40
Land Improvements		20,742.88
Land Purchases		37,000.00
Personal Services		103,499.82
Repairs and Alterations		333,418.37
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Total	\$	2,742,113.76

CLAUDIA WORKMAN EDUCATION CENTER

Current Expense	\$	81,799.46
Equipment		1,235.00
Repairs and Alterations		19,624.14
CLAUDIA WORKMAN EDUCATION CENTER Total	\$	102,658.60

COLD WATER FISH MANAGEMENT

Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		20,720.00
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		198,200.00
Current Expense	\$	2,194,486.92
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		772,864.81
Equipment		30,234.40
Land Improvements		19,422.63
Personal Services		2,179,563.85
Repairs and Alterations		217,828.81
COLD WATER FISH MANAGEMENT Total	\$	5,633,321.42

Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2024-2025

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

ELKINS OPERATIONS CENTER

Current Expense	\$	345,301.41
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		59,874.22
Equipment		20,950.00
Personal Services		130,705.59
Repairs and Alterations		43,181.20
ELKINS OPERATIONS CENTER Total	\$	600,012.42

GAME MANAGEMENT

Books & Periodicals	\$	5,958.75
Building Improvements		4,806.03
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		7,500.00
Current Expense		2,891,396.62
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		1,405,235.20
Equipment		378,891.03
Land Improvements		22,121.34
PEIA Reserve Transfer		675.71
Personal Services		4,814,628.12
Repairs and Alterations		634,208.15
GAME MANAGEMENT Total	\$	10,165,420.95

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE UNIT

Current Expense	\$	303,530.27
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		88,831.27
Personal Services		274,023.52
HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE UNIT Total	\$	666,385.06

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Current Expense	\$	23,951.18
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		62,206.93
Equipment		9,099.00
Personal Services		142,430.12
Repairs and Alterations		151,038.45
SPECIAL PROJECTS Total	\$	388,725.68

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Current Expense	\$	141,426.60
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		229,193.82
Equipment		6,188.35
Personal Services		548,803.57
Repairs and Alterations		316.00
TECHNICAL SUPPORT Total	\$	925,928.34

Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2024-2025

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

WARM WATER FISH MANAGEMENT

Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project	-
Current Expense	617,843.82
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions	368,159.61
Equipment	458,092.96
Land Improvements	13,189.88
Personal Services	1,193,142.45
Repairs and Alterations	231,540.05
WARM WATER FISH MANAGEMENT Total	\$ 2,881,968.77

WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CENTER

Current Expense	\$ 107,859.44
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions	74,547.62
Equipment	-
Personal Services	286,518.61
Repairs and Alterations	63,263.34
WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CENTER Total	\$ 532,189.01

WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION

Building Construction	\$ 3,877,042.96
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	121,030.00
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project	282,535.46
Current Expense	3,098,610.03
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions	393,485.32
Equipment	27,836.00
Land Improvements	2,284,800.00
Personal Services	1,194,853.02
Repairs and Alterations	6,128.10
WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION Total	\$ 11,286,320.89

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

Books & Periodicals	\$ -
Current Expense	742,613.86
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions	521,399.40
Equipment	840.00
Personal Services	1,969,040.76
Repairs and Alterations	1,211.50
WILDLIFE DIVERSITY Total	\$ 3,235,105.52

General Revenue Appropriated	\$ 173,550.49
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated	13,802,977.79
Special Revenue Appropriated	12,305,488.58
Federal Revenue Appropriated	12,878,133.56
TOTAL WILDLIFE RESOURCES	\$ 39,160,150.42

Statement of Disbursements – Fiscal Year 2024-2025

PARKS & RECREATION SECTION

PARKS & RECREATION

Bank Costs	\$	1,709,316.57
Books & Periodicals		3,376.83
Building Purchases & Improvements		54,076.62
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		2,096,069.89
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		26,365,321.31
Current Expense		27,506,033.55
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		7,705,583.07
Equipment		3,539,458.78
Land Purchases & Improvements		40,897.77
PEIA Reserve Transfer		145,827.49
Personal Services		30,934,405.51
Remittance of Taxes		1,168,024.15
Repairs and Alterations		3,076,161.35
PARKS & RECREATION Total	\$	104,344,552.89

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	46,892,455.04	
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		53,088,868.93	
Special Revenue Appropriated		\$ 4,363,228.92	
Federal Revenue Appropriated		-	
TOTAL PARKS & RECREATION			\$ 104,344,552.89

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES SECTION

OFFICE OF LAND & STREAMS

Books & Periodicals	\$	1,851.84
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		150,000.00
Current Expense		300,836.15
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		78,079.35
Equipment		920,227.04
Land Purchases		190,000.00
PEIA Reserve Transfer		2,037.08
Personal Services		327,058.96
OFFICE OF LAND & STREAMS Total	\$	1,970,090.42

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	-	
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		6,184.47	
Special Revenue Appropriated		1,963,905.95	
Federal Revenue Appropriated		-	
TOTAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES			\$ 1,970,090.42

GRAND TOTAL

Grand Total General Revenue Appropriated	\$	54,887,210.72	
Grand Total Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		78,245,679.01	
Grand Total Special Revenue Appropriated		29,764,983.06	
Grand Total Federal Revenue Appropriated		13,918,629.97	
GRAND TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			\$ 176,816,502.76

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Appropriated Funds

GENERAL FUND (0265)

Appropriated Fund - No Cash Balance

Disbursements

Books & Periodicals	(397.25)	
Building Improvements	\$ (38,010.63)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	(1,359,105.24)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project	(20,882,333.33)	
Current Expense	(2,003,229.55)	
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions	(6,173,720.32)	
Equipment	(3,365,835.44)	
Land Improvements	(20,400.66)	
Land Purchases	-	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	-	
Personal Services	(18,266,522.15)	
Repairs and Alterations	(2,777,656.15)	
Total Disbursements		\$ (54,887,210.72)

SPECIAL REVENUE LICENSE FUND (3200)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$ 1,436,843.55
Investment Balance July 1, 2024		15,249,721.29
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$ 16,686,564.84
Receipts		
Animal Replacement Costs	\$ 45,129.60	
Contract Reimbursement	-	
Fund Transfers	4,640,840.00	
Hunting & Fishing Licenses and Stamps	11,421,073.80	
Investment Earnings	687,645.08	
Miscellaneous Collections	21,469.68	
Miscellaneous Permits and License	77,484.15	
Surplus Property Sale	-	
		\$ 16,893,642.31
Disbursements		
Books & Periodicals	\$ (24,678.27)	
Building Improvements	(62,628.96)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	(446,925.00)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project	(1,190,577.37)	
Current Expense	\$ (7,937,060.63)	
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions	(2,460,686.63)	
Equipment	(1,257,429.52)	
Land Improvements	(42,864.22)	
Personal Services	(7,504,726.41)	
Repairs and Alterations	(868,593.04)	
		(21,796,170.05)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$ 11,784,037.10
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025		(11,167,976.50)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$ 616,060.60

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Appropriated Funds

GAME, FISH AND AQUATIC LIFE FUND (3202)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	5,012.28
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			517,534.81
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	522,547.09
Receipts			
Fish Kill Reimbursement	\$	3,604.52	
Investment Earnings		26,150.80	
		\$	29,755.32
Disbursements			
Current Expense		(373.07)	
			(373.07)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	551,929.34
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(551,785.61)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	143.73

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY FUND (3203)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	97,502.54
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			1,618,550.79
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	1,716,053.33
Receipts			
Animal Replacement Costs	\$	-	
Investment Earnings		84,141.66	
Miscellaneous Collections		5,748.96	
Sale of Wildlife Calendars		138,868.20	
Sale of Wildlife License Plates		475,178.50	
Special Events		-	
		\$	703,937.32
Disbursements			
Current Expense		(11,101.55)	
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		(164,039.18)	
Personal Services		(499,232.27)	
			(674,373.00)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	1,745,617.65
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(1,662,692.45)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	82,925.20

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Appropriated Funds

USE & DEVELOPMENT FUND - PUBLIC LAND CORPORATION (3205)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	8,305,421.96
Receipts			
Channel Changes	\$	200.00	
Docking Facilities		7,900.00	
Low Water Fords		14,100.00	
Low Water Level Bridges		49,100.00	
Miscellaneous Collections		2,998.00	
Oil and Gas Leases		200.00	
Oil and Gas Royalties		-	
Pipeline Permits		566,146.98	
Right of Way		255,035.00	
Sand and Gravel Royalties		126,909.00	
Sand/Gravel ATE Management		2,800.00	
Stream Restoration		1,800.00	
Structures		354,610.00	
Subterranean Cable Permit Renewal		92,425.00	
Water Intake Supply System		4,600.00	
			\$ 1,478,823.98
Disbursements			
Books & Periodicals		-	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(150,000.00)	
Current Expense		(45,648.97)	
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		(920,227.04)	
Equipment		(190,000.00)	
Land Purchases		(120,000.00)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer		-	
Personal Services		(208,449.74)	
			(1,812,316.35)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	<u>7,971,929.59</u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Appropriated Funds

PARKS AND RECREATION ENDOWMENT FUND (3211)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	3,440,172.43
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			46,692,787.23
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	50,132,959.66
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	4,184,793.74	
Royalty Payment Marcellus Gas Drilling		9,858,400.72	
			\$ 14,043,194.46
Disbursements			
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(236,590.50)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(442,612.19)	
Current Expense	\$	(9,846.70)	
			(689,049.39)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	63,487,104.73
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(59,803,580.97)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	3,683,523.76

WHITEWATER STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT FUND (3253)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	3,227.13
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			125,333.88
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	128,561.01
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	6,243.21	
Miscellaneous Collections		6,367.55	
Study and Improvement Fees		36,981.20	
Whitewater Stocking Study Fee-Gauley River		-	
			\$ 49,591.96
Disbursements			
Current Expense		(726.11)	
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		(23,447.90)	
Personal Services		(40,829.40)	
			(65,003.41)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	113,149.56
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(109,577.09)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	3,572.47

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Appropriated Funds

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES LOTTERY FUND (3267)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	3,110,888.49
Receipts			
Lottery Transfers	\$	3,902,830.00	
Surplus Property Sales		-	
			\$ 3,902,830.00
Disbursements			
Current Expense		(1,118,204.90)	
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		(752,440.45)	
Equipment		(840.00)	
Personal Services		(2,116,257.68)	
Repairs and Alterations		(756.00)	
			(3,988,499.03)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	3,025,219.46

STATE PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND (3277)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	4,286,510.37
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE			
Receipts			
Lottery Transfers	\$	1,505,000.00	
Surplus Property Sale		11,939.20	
			\$ 1,516,939.20
Disbursements			
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(117,397.60)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(491,449.20)	
Current Expense		(37,857.67)	
Equipment		(21,800.00)	
Repairs and Alterations		(70,694.29)	
			(739,198.76)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	5,064,250.81

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL FUND (8707)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	1,101,628.88
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			5,427,378.23
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	6,529,007.11
Receipts			
Law Enforcement			
Boating Safety	\$	317,365.00	
Duplicate Boat Safety Cards		50.00	
Hunter Safety Replacement Cards		7,110.00	
Hunter Safety		132,614.36	
15JCOPSPS		50,116.86	
FBI Payment		13,253.49	
Surplus Property Sale		136,910.35	
			\$ 657,420.06

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Appropriated Funds

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL FUND (8707)

Wildlife Resources				
AML DEP Subgrant Wildlife	1,527,365.33			
Aquatic Outreach Program	12,066.23			
Asian Carp FW Service	56,746.81			
Avian & Mammal Surveys	154,822.78			
Bat Conservation	159,762.47			
Boating Access Administration	321,616.65			
District Wildlife Management	2,173,628.05			
Elk West Virginia	110,811.33			
Endangered Animals	100,012.40			
Enhanced Hunter Education	105,943.65			
Enhancing Fishery Opportunity Program	1,014,007.39			
Fish and Wildlife Coordination	286,064.10			
Fish Hatchery Operations	3,262,518.11			
Investment Earnings	257,621.05			
Miscellaneous Collections	260,703.96			
Motus Wildlife Tracking System	107,091.96			
River Otter Analysis & Population Dynamics	235,257.57			
State Wildlife Grant	414,580.11			
Surplus Property Sale	13,085.58			
Turkey Ecology	582,439.73			
Upland Bird Management Program	170,788.37			
USDA Monongahela Nat Forest Botanical Surveys	29,598.58			
White Tailed Deer Ecology	71,591.58			
Wildlife Research	804,068.43			
WV Woodcock Project	155,734.93	\$	12,387,927.15	
				\$ 13,045,347.21
Disbursements				
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project	\$ (23,875.00)			
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project	(198,200.00)			
Current Expense	(5,232,025.18)			
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions	(1,767,413.53)			
Equipment	(379,538.96)			
Personal Services	(5,995,255.32)			
Repairs and Alterations	(322,321.98)			
				(13,918,629.97)
ENDING FUND BALANCE			\$	5,655,724.35
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025				(3,834,999.28)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025			\$	1,820,725.07

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM FUND (3204)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	212,905.62
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			15,701,976.44
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	15,914,882.06
Receipts			
Commercial Shoot Preserve	\$	375.00	
Fund Transfers		237,224.00	
Gas Royalties		36,901.07	
Hatfield McCoy Trail Patrol Reimbursement		419,535.88	
Investment Earnings		789,357.90	
License Reinstatement Fee		4,200.00	
Marcellus Gas Drilling Payment		2,608,708.47	
Miscellaneous Collections		17,605.36	
Motorboat Licenses		68,145.50	
Reimbursement for Service		85,150.59	
Surplus Property Sales		-	
Tipping Fees		567,533.82	
Whitewater Rafting Licenses		30,000.00	
			\$ 4,864,737.59
Disbursements			
Current Expense		(158,185.08)	
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		(723,225.68)	
Equipment		(495,716.80)	
Personal Services		(2,080,086.59)	
Repairs and Alterations		(119,651.23)	
			(3,576,865.38)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	17,202,754.27
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(17,146,334.34)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	56,419.93

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTS (3208)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	5,619.25
Receipts			
	\$	-	
			\$ -
Disbursements			
Repairs and Alterations	\$	(475.80)	
			(475.80)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	5,143.45

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

DISASTER FUND DNR (3210)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	24,571.58
Receipts			
	\$	-	
		\$	-
Disbursements			
	\$	-	
			-
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	<u>24,571.58</u>

LAW-ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATION FUND (3212)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	5,314.50
Receipts			
Sale of Confiscated Goods	\$	28,526.94	
		\$	28,526.94
Disbursements			
	\$	-	
			-
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	<u>33,841.44</u>

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY RIFLE TEAM PROGRAM FUND (3213)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	7,200.57
Receipts			
WVU Rifle Team Donations	\$	7,036.91	
		\$	7,036.91
Disbursements			
FY 24 Donations Transfer to WVU		(6,840.55)	
DNR Admin Fee	\$	(360.02)	
			(7,200.57)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	<u>7,036.91</u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances
Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND (3224)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	117,516.41
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			73,990,625.24
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	74,108,141.65
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	6,120,144.71	
Lifetime Hunting & Fishing License		2,170,742.30	
Settlement & Mitigation Payments		1,051,118.51	
			\$ 9,342,005.52
Disbursements			
Fund Transfers	\$	(6,720,152.00)	
			(6,720,152.00)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	76,729,995.17
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(76,607,152.15)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	122,843.02



Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

WILDLIFE RESOURCES-RECREATION FUND (3227)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	942,849.69
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			26,263,578.39
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	27,206,428.08
Receipts			
Campsite/Cabin Rentals	\$	26,617.92	
AML DEP Subgrant		308,233.07	
Dredging Mussel Mitigation		419,526.64	
Elk Viewing Tower		1,587,633.09	
Entrance Fees		62,536.84	
Fish Promotion and Research		68,231.74	
Fund Transfers		1,672,240.00	
Gas Royalties		58,583.63	
Gift Shop Sales		19,260.44	
Gifts & Bequests		1,051.03	
Gifts, Grants & Donations		22,431.66	
Go-Wild Hunting & Fishing License Issuance Fee		390,380.00	
Habitat Land Inquiries		31,500.00	
Hunters Helping the Hungry		37,726.38	
Information Retrieval		58,512.50	
Insurance Payments		36,062.38	
Investment Earnings		1,302,727.26	
Leases		68,781.82	
Miscellaneous Collections		(28,105.92)	
Mitigation Wildlife		204,571.24	
Picnic Shelter Fees		1,342.75	
Right Of Way		12,865.40	
Royalty Payment Marcellus Gas Drilling		3,913,178.91	
Scientific Collection Permit		33,150.00	
Surface Damages		72,673.56	
Surplus Property Sales		550.00	
Timber Sales		576,945.05	
			\$ 10,959,207.39
Disbursements			
Building Improvements	\$	(3,881,565.91)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(135,070.00)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(218,637.90)	
Current Expense		(1,905,276.23)	
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		(514,209.58)	
Equipment		(521,533.96)	
Land Improvements		(2,317,412.51)	
Personal Services		(1,456,854.47)	
Repairs and Alterations		(492,641.92)	
			(11,443,202.48)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	26,722,432.99
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(26,007,799.88)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	714,633.11

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

BEAR DAMAGE FUND (3228)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	21,455.90
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			903,687.57
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	925,143.47
Receipts			
Bear Damage Stamps	\$	251,700.00	
Investment Earnings		46,154.79	
			297,854.79
Disbursements			
Payment of Claims	\$	(201,682.02)	
			(201,682.02)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	1,021,316.24
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(1,001,968.38)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	19,347.86

CONSERVATION STAMP FUND (3232)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	152,350.53
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			3,322,207.83
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	3,474,558.36
Receipts			
Conservation Stamp Sales	\$	1,325,350.50	
Investment Earnings		178,748.69	
			\$ 1,504,099.19
Disbursements			
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project	\$	-	
Current Expense		(40,757.27)	
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		(4,836.65)	
Land Purchases		(37,000.00)	
Personal Services		(56,416.40)	
Repairs and Alterations		(132,100.00)	
			(271,110.32)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	4,707,547.23
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(4,630,680.61)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	76,866.62

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

TROUT STAMP FUND (3233)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	198,724.49
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			1,732,479.31
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	1,931,203.80
Receipts			
Fund Transfers	\$	169,848.00	
Investment Earnings		62,064.37	
Trout Stamp Sales		1,303,780.00	
			\$ 1,535,692.37
Disbursements			
Contractor Payment Capital Asset Project	\$	(63,897.56)	
Current Expense		(21,950.28)	
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		(518,431.50)	
Personal Services		(1,296,171.00)	
Repairs & Alterations		(35,700.24)	
			(1,936,150.58)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	1,530,745.59
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(1,433,315.68)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	97,429.91

GIFTS, GRANTS & BEQUESTS (3237)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	55,060.35
Receipts			
Special Events		52,878.00	
			\$ 52,878.00
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	(17,091.09)	
			(17,091.09)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	90,847.26

LAND MINERALS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS (3239)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	723,928.62
Receipts			
Land Leases	\$	44,401.36	
Parks Construction Reimbursement		4,464,847.78	
Right-of-Way		17,330.50	
			\$ 4,526,579.64
Disbursements			
Books & Periodicals	\$	(1,851.84)	
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(119,000.00)	
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(4,234,518.31)	
Current Expenses		(4,332.63)	
			(4,359,702.78)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	890,805.48

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

PAYROLL CLEARING ACCOUNT (3245)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	12,067.80
Receipts			
	\$	-	
Disbursements		\$	-
	\$	-	
			-
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	<u>12,067.80</u>

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SPORTS EDUCATION STAMPS (3247)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	90,523.17
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			<u>523,379.63</u>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	613,902.80
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	25,087.40	
Law Enforcement / Sports Ed. Stamps		<u>456,280.50</u>	
			\$ 481,367.90
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	(1,674.75)	
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		(133,823.07)	
Personal Services		<u>(356,381.80)</u>	
			(491,879.62)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>603,391.08</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			<u>(553,467.03)</u>
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	<u>49,924.05</u>

MAGAZINE SALES & SUBSCRIPTIONS (3248)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	33,135.34
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			<u>706,074.59</u>
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	739,209.93
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	33,038.15	
Magazine Sponsorship		30,098.00	
Magazine Bookshelf Sales		4,294.22	
Magazine Sales		17,554.70	
Magazine Subscriptions		226,044.84	
Miscellaneous Collections		<u>7,441.90</u>	
			\$ 318,471.81
Disbursements			
Current Expense	\$	<u>(385,393.32)</u>	
			(385,393.32)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	<u>672,288.42</u>
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			<u>(659,612.74)</u>
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	<u>12,675.68</u>

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

CLEARING ACCOUNT-EQUIPMENT (3251)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	312,971.37
Receipts			
Rental Leases	\$	6,046.00	
			\$ 6,046.00
Disbursements			
Books & Periodicals	\$	-	
Current Expense		(300.00)	
Repairs & Alterations		-	
			(300.00)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	318,717.37

CLASS A-1 SMALL ARMS HUNTING LICENSE (3259)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	2,628.82
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			1,267,559.57
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	1,270,188.39
Receipts			
Class A-1 Small Arms Hunting License	\$	39,448.00	
Investment Earnings		61,192.75	
Lifetime Small Arms Hunting License		7,425.00	
			\$ 108,065.75
Disbursements			
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		(31,589.88)	
Personal Services	\$	(74,733.12)	
			(106,323.00)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	1,271,931.14
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(1,271,831.14)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	100.00

IMPROVEMENTS TO DEPARTMENT FACILITIES FUND (3260)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	10,000,000.00
Receipts			
Broadband Project	\$	62,500.00	
			\$ 62,500.00
Disbursements			
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(288,756.48)	
Current Expenses		(686,477.28)	
Repairs & Alterations	\$	(77.78)	
			(975,311.54)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	9,087,188.46

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

WATTERS SMITH MEMORIAL STATE PARK (3261)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	12,071.41
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			4,280,365.10
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	4,292,436.51
Receipts			
Gas Royalties	\$	603,720.22	
Investment Earnings		224,532.70	
Miscellaneous Collections		150.00	
			\$ 828,402.92
Disbursements			
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project	\$	(22,600.00)	
Current Expenses		(878.39)	
Equipment		(16,628.95)	
Repairs & Alterations		(119.02)	
			(40,226.36)
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	5,080,613.07
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(5,078,397.80)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	2,215.27

DECOY ANIMALS ASSESSMENT FEE (3264)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	622.44
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			7,078.22
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	7,700.66
Receipts			
Investment Earnings	\$	355.54	
Miscellaneous Collections		200.00	
			\$ 555.54
Disbursements			
	\$	-	
			-
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	8,256.20
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(8,156.20)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	100.00

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

STATE PARK OPERATING FUND (3265)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	1,079,496.94
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			23,505,893.65
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	24,585,390.59
Receipts			
Alcoholic Beverages	\$	369,532.08	
Baths, Massages, Roman Bath		1,712,521.67	
Boat Rental		53,689.75	
Bonus Payment Marcellus Gas Drilling		630,493.60	
Cabin Advance Reservation		4,936,571.83	
Cabin Rentals		1,899,255.85	
Campsite Advance Reservation		4,499,966.12	
Campsite Rentals		964,510.76	
Coin Laundry Machines		13,042.76	
Consumers Sales Tax		60,003.55	
Cot & Crib Rental		2,120.00	
County EMS Fee-Tucker County		15,576.82	
Driving Range		31,344.23	
Entrance Fees		255,574.01	
Equipment Rental		21,828.31	
Facility Use Rental		323,709.64	
Firewood Sales		280,405.76	
Food & Snacks		381,222.60	
Fund Transfers		718,660.47	
Games		28,415.68	
Gas & Oil Leases		3,024.37	
Gift Cards		(69,649.16)	
Gift Shop Sales		5,099,605.54	
Gifts, Grants & Donations		2,774.97	
Greens Fees		739,399.69	
Hiking Club		750.00	
Hotel Occupancy Tax		1,241,188.90	
Insurance Payments		358,891.11	
Investment Earnings		985,496.03	
Lift Ticket Fees Parks		35,840.60	
Lodge Advance Reservation		7,339,920.82	
Lodge Rooms		3,848,410.37	
Lottery Collections - Net		9,508.00	
Miscellaneous Collections		27,603.37	
Miscellaneous Non-Taxable		192,749.10	
Miscellaneous Operations		-	
Nature Center		-	
Picnic Shelter Fees		279,006.53	
Pro Shop		252,455.43	
Residence Rentals		17,229.98	
Restaurants		4,188,413.28	
Shooting Ranges		43,499.46	

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

STATE PARK OPERATING FUND (3265)

Sled Run		381,823.08		
Spa Products		27,526.80		
Special Events		358,077.96		
Surplus Property Sale		5,028.03		
Swimming Fees		396,930.28		
Tram		-		
Vending Machines		35,276.52	\$	42,999,226.55
Receipts - Concessions				
Golf Carts	\$	230,935.91		
Marina		-		
Miscellaneous Concession		(80,216.68)		
Restaurant Concession		1,809.63		
Riding Stable		6,438.12		
Adventure Ticket Sales		32,601.03	\$	191,568.01
				\$ 43,190,794.56
Disbursements				
Bank Costs	\$	(1,703,217.74)		
Books & Periodicals		(3,376.83)		
Building Improvements & Purchases		(16,065.99)		
Consultant Payments for Capital Asset Project		(263,976.55)		
Contractor Payments for Capital Asset Project		(3,051.80)		
Current Expense		(25,424,667.43)		
Employee Benefits/OPEB Contributions		(2,552,401.06)		
Equipment		(234,844.39)		
Land Improvements		(20,497.11)		
PEIA Reserve Transfer		(23,172.20)		
Personal Services		(16,068,674.67)		
Remittance Of Taxes		(1,167,780.75)		
Repairs and Alterations		(238,086.20)		
				(47,719,812.72)
ENDING FUND BALANCE			\$	20,056,372.43
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025				(23,505,893.65)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025			\$	(3,449,521.22)

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Non-appropriated Funds

CANAAN MAINTENANCE FUND (3274)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	2,798.84
Receipts	\$	-	
		\$	-
Disbursements			
Building Improvements	\$	-	
			-
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	2,798.84

COYOTE MANAGEMENT FUND (3292)

Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	1,683.90
Investment Balance July 1, 2024			37,146.71
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		\$	38,830.61
Receipts			
Coyote Management Donations	\$	3,638.87	
Investment Earnings		1,977.27	
			5,616.14
Disbursements	\$	-	
			-
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$	44,446.75
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2025			(44,426.75)
Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	20.00

SANDY DISASTER FUND (3015)

Fund 3015 (OCT '12 SANDY DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	130,751.58
Receipts	\$	-	
		\$	-
Disbursements			
	\$	-	
			-
Sandy Disaster Fund Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	130,751.58

Combining Statement of Revenues, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Balances Fiscal Year 2024-2025

FLOOD DISASTER FUND (3207)

Fund 3207 (JUN '16 FLOOD DISASTER) Cash Balance July 1, 2024		\$	237,159.72
Receipts			
FEMA Reimbursements	\$	<u>113,805.39</u>	
		\$	113,805.39
Disbursements			
	\$	<u>-</u>	
			-
Flood Disaster Fund Cash Balance June 30, 2025		\$	<u><u>350,965.11</u></u>

RECAPITULATION OF FUNDS

	Revenue	Disbursements	Investments
General Fund	\$ -	\$ (54,887,210.72)	\$ -
Consolidated Federal Funds	13,045,347.21	(13,918,629.97)	3,834,999.28
Appropriated Special Revenue Funds	38,618,714.55	(29,764,983.06)	73,295,612.62
Non-Appropriated Special Revenue Funds	<u>78,227,043.78</u>	<u>(78,245,679.01)</u>	<u>157,949,036.35</u>
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$ <u><u>129,891,105.54</u></u>	\$ <u><u>(176,816,502.76)</u></u>	\$ <u><u>235,079,648.25</u></u>



ADMINISTRATION

Land and Streams

The Land and Streams Office has seven staff who manage WVDNR-owned facilities and public land and waters, including state parks, wildlife management areas, natural areas and preserves, wetlands, state forests, rail trails, administrative facilities and public access sites. Staff oversee real estate administration, records management, acquisitions, leases and permits that ensure these resources are conserved, developed, protected and enjoyed by the public.

Lands and Waters Managed by the WVDNR

LANDS		WATERS	
Wildlife Management Areas/ Public Access Sites/Natural Areas	436,461 acres	Rivers and Streams	34,000 miles
State Parks	77,690 acres		
Elk River Trail 61 miles (37.40 miles leased)			
State Forests	72,683 acres		
Administration	36 acres		
Total Lands	586,870 acres		

LAND ACQUISITION

The Land and Streams Office acquires land through purchases, leases, donations or exchanges. Staff handle all real estate transactions, including negotiations, inspections, title searches, appraisals, surveys and document preparation. Properties may be secured by deed, right-of-way, easement, lease, license or agreement.

Administration Land Acquired in FY 2025

No land acquired.

State Forest Land Acquired in FY 2025

No land acquired.

State Park Land Acquired in FY 2025

PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE
Cass Scenic Railroad	Roger Cubby	0.275
Total		0.275

Wildlife Management Area Land Acquired in FY 2025

PROPERTY	ACQUIRED FROM	ACREAGE
Hughes River	Thorn Roberts	27
Shenandoah	Robert Borror	4.52
Total		31.52

LAND ACQUISITION CONTINUED ...

Correction of Wildlife Management Area acreage in FY 2025		
PROPERTY		ACREAGE
Rudolph Conservation Easement		-22.5
Total		-22.5

Public Access Sites Land Leased in FY 2025		
PROPERTY	LEASED FROM	ACREAGE
Burnsville Lake	Department of Transportation	0.13
Fitzpatrick Lake	Raleigh County Parks and Recreation	5.5
Guyandotte River	Rural Appalachian Improvement League, Inc.	0.17
Tug Fork River	City of Welch	1
Tug Fork River	City of Williamson	.66
Tug Fork River	City of Williamson	.25
Tug Fork River	City of Williamson	.57
Total		8.28

Public Access Sites Lease Renewed in FY 2025		
PROPERTY	LEASED FROM	ACREAGE
Airport Lake	Logan County Authority	6.9
Cheat Lake	Lake Lynn Generation LLC	0.48
Little Coal River North	Department of Transportation	1.86
Little Coal River Road	Department of Transportation	2.32
Little Coal River South	Department of Transportation	2.07
Patterson Creek	Department of Transportation	0.16
South Mill Creek Lake	Grant County Parks and Recreation	1
Tygart River	Department of Transportation	0.22
Total		15.01

Public Access Sites Lease Not Renewed in FY 2025		
PROPERTY	LEASED FROM	ACREAGE
Bellington	Laurel Mountain VFW	0.5
Total		0.5

ADMINISTRATION

MINERAL LEASING

Land and Streams staff manage mineral leasing for oil, gas, coal, sand, gravel and salt brine on public land. At the end of FY 2025, state lands, rivers and streams held 78 oil and gas leases, one sand and gravel lease, nine pore space leases for carbon dioxide storage and one salt brine lease. All leases follow a statutory competitive bid process, which includes receiving nominations, obtaining approval from the Governor’s office, preparing a prospectus, accepting bids and executing and recording lease agreements.

Oil and Gas Leases Obtained in FY 2025		
AREA	LEASES	ACREAGE
Buffalo Creek	2	36.2584
Middle Island Creek	1	105.38
Ohio River	1	48.76
West Fork River	1	8.93
Total	5	199.3284

RIVER AND STREAM MANAGEMENT

The Land and Streams Office also issues right-of-entry permits for work along rivers and streams, including pipelines, habitat enhancement, bank stabilization, culverts, utility lines, dredging, docking and mooring projects. Permit applications are required to be reviewed by a wildlife biologist.

Permits Issued in FY 2025	
PROJECT	PERMITS
Loading, Docking and Mooring	17
Pipeline and Cable	1,120
Stream Activity Bed/Bank Work	530
Stream Structure	211
Total	1,878





LAW ENFORCEMENT

Colonel Bobby L. Cales, *Chief*



LAW ENFORCEMENT

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) Law Enforcement Section is responsible for enforcing West Virginia's natural resource laws and protecting citizens. This responsibility is vested in the WVDNR Natural Police Officers (NRPOs) under Chapter 20 of the West Virginia State Code. Accomplishing this mission is made possible by having a visible, uniformed WVDNR Police patrol and the support of sportsmen, other WVDNR sections, federal partners and state agencies.

The section goes beyond traditional law enforcement. Officers patrol land and water, investigate environmental crimes and complaints, enforce ATV and boating safety and educate the public on hunting and boating. They also respond to emergencies, assist other agencies and mentor the next generation of conservationists.

The Law Enforcement Section operates with efficiency and is committed to the state's best interests. Its continued success depends on dedicated officers and support staff who are accountable and dependable who serve with integrity, honor, courage, loyalty, teamwork and respect.



Law Enforcement Program

The Law Enforcement Section is authorized for 126 NRPOs and 10 support staff. Currently, 118 NRPOs are on duty. In FY 2025, one officer retired after 29 years, six separated from service, 11 new officers were hired and 10 were promoted. One new civilian support staff member was also hired.

The following are some highlights of FY2025:

- **Uniforms:** New Class A uniforms were purchased and distributed statewide.
- **Emergency Response:** Added swift water rafts and trailers for rescue operations.
- **Drones:** Acquired two larger drones capable of delivering water, life jackets and ropes to remote areas.
- **Fleet:** Added 10 new Ford Police Package trucks with cages, gun racks, radios, lighting and safety upgrades.
- **Firearms Security:** Installed gun racks in all vehicles for quicker access and improved theft prevention.
- **Equipment:** Issued handheld thermal monoculars to enhance safety in low-light conditions and detect hunters in blinds.
- **Evidence Management:** Improved district evidence handling with new lockers, freezers, and secure double-lock systems as part of NAWLEA accreditation.
- **Public Engagement:** The Law Enforcement Section's Facebook page (facebook.com/DNRpolice) continues to grow, attracting media interest, and online poaching reports remain a valuable tool for solving cases.
- **Technology:** Launched a modernization plan, including body cameras, new cruisers with automatic video uploads and SmartCop digital evidence management. A digital records system will soon enable field reporting, real-time checks and officer location tracking for safer, faster responses.

Legislation Passed in FY 2025

- **HB 2043:** Added UAVs (drones) to §20-2-5j for tracking mortally wounded wildlife. Allows one leashed dog with one handler for tracking. Requires UAV operators for profit to be licensed.
 - **SB 844:** Exempts nonnative quail and partridges raised for agriculture from game farm licensing.
 - **HB 2836:** Created Article 2D, establishing a permitting system for the care, rehabilitation and release of orphaned wildlife. Rules are being prepared for the next session.
 - **HB 2387:** Repealed the pistol stamp requirement (§20-2-47L) for hunting. Funds originally went to law enforcement purposes.
 - **HB 2331:** This rules bundle reapproved several sunseting rules.
- **CSR 58-47:** Removed restrictions on firearm calibers for night hunting (expanded beyond coyotes to all night hunting).
- **CSR 58-49:** Clarified that an adult may assist youth with safe firearm handling during youth seasons.

Officer Training

The Law Enforcement Section completed an extensive year of officer training in FY 2025, ensuring readiness across a wide range of public safety and conservation missions.

Quarterly Training

- **Q1:** Swift Water Rescue (16 hours for all NRPOs)
- **Q2:** Firearms Tactical Movement (Exterior Response to Active Shooter Events)
- **Q3:** Defensive Tactics (Handcuffing and ground control)
- **Q4:** Threat Neutralization (Exterior Response to Active Shooter Events)

Specialized Training and Certifications

- 17 NRPOs certified as Exterior Response to Active Shooter (ALERT) and Simunitions Scenario Instructors
- Swift Water Team (10 NRPOs) completed Submerged Vehicle Training
- Four new NRPOs completed Seated Battery Transition Course for BUI enforcement
- Seven NRPOs completed Mountain Trackers Association Forensic Man-Tracking Course
- Two NRPOs became certified as man-tracker instructors

Conferences and Leadership Development

- International Wildlife Crime Stoppers Conference (Two NRPO District Captains)
- FBI National Academy (One NRPO Lieutenant)
- National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Leadership Academy (One NRPO Captain)
- Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) and NASBLA conferences, West Virginia Law Enforcement Training Subcommittee courses

K9 Program

- Seven NRPO K9 handlers attended West Virginia State Police K9 Association and Certification Conference
- Two NRPO K9 handlers attended the 2025 K9 Memorial Service in Washington, D.C. where one WVDNR K9 was honored

Dive Team

- Two new members received basic scuba certification
- Dive Team (12 members statewide) completed advanced training in ROV ops, full-face mask comms, lift-bag recovery, search patterns
- Two NRPO divers attended the Search and Rescue Forum and Midwest Public Safety Diver Conference
- Assignments and calls for service continue to increase

Other Training and Instruction

- West Virginia Fusion Center capabilities, sovereign citizens, cell phone investigations, sudden custody death, gang investigations



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Hunter Education Program

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1975, must complete a certified hunter education course before purchasing a base hunting license in West Virginia. The Law Enforcement Section administers the WVDNR's Hunter Education Program, which is managed by six Regional Training Sergeants, one Office Assistant and one State Administrator.

Hunter Education courses are offered year-round, both in-person and online. In-person courses are led by NRPOs and volunteer instructors and provided free of charge, while IHEA-USA and WVDNR-approved online classes are offered by third-party vendors for a fee. Online courses eliminate classroom time, but still require students to complete a hands-on test at a WVDNR District Office. Approved online courses are listed at WVdnr.gov/programs-publications/hunter-education.

Hunter Education Program Highlights FY 2025

- 6,076 Graduates
- 445 Classes
- 181 Volunteer Instructors
- 5,602 Volunteer Instruction Hours
- 16,750 NRPO Instruction Hours

Reported Hunting Incidents

In 2024, the following incidents were reported in West Virginia:

- Five Class A incidents (firearm/bow discharge injuries) – no fatalities
- Eight Class B incidents (tree stand falls) – two fatalities
- Five Class C incidents (other hunting injuries, including two fatal heart attacks)

NRPOs also promoted safety at hunting shows, conservation camps, JAKES Days, Boys State, the Archery in the Schools State Tournament and trained new NASP coaches. The Section also conducted numerous media interviews to highlight hunting and boating safety.

Boating Safety Program

Anyone born on or after Dec. 31, 1986, must complete a NASBLA-approved boating safety course before operating a motorboat. The Law Enforcement Section administers the WVDNR's Boating Safety program and provides in-seat classes in every West Virginia county. Courses are also taught by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadron. NASBLA- and state-approved online courses are listed at WVdnr.gov/boater-education.

A grant from the Governor's Commission on Drunk Driving Prevention funded enhanced BUI patrols conducted between July 1 and Sept. 29, 2024, which resulted in five arrests and 537 citations/warnings.

During Operation Dry Water (July 4-6, 2024), NRPOs issued 176 citations/warnings and made three BUI arrests. The Section also promoted water safety and life jacket use through the Wear It! Campaign on Facebook and increased boat patrols statewide.





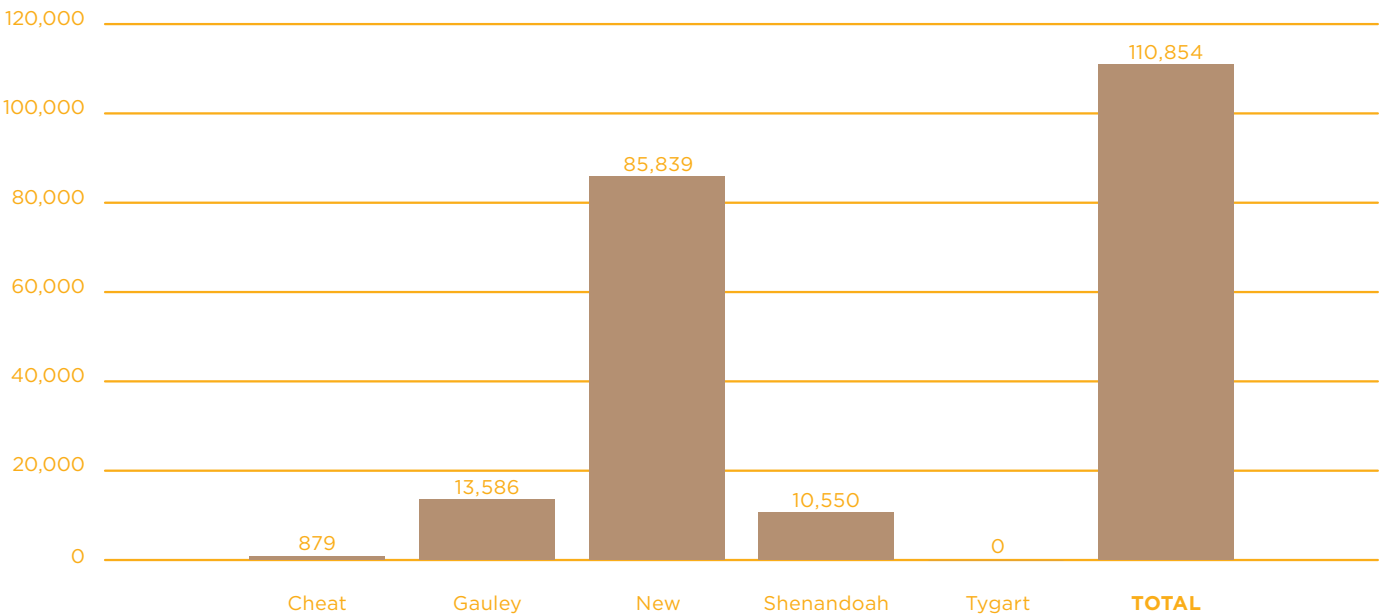
Whitewater Enforcement Program

The Law Enforcement Section regulates West Virginia’s commercial whitewater industry, which encompasses the whitewater zones located on the Cheat, Gauley, New, Shenandoah and Tygart rivers. Duties include issuing licenses to outfitters and guides, reviewing applications and ensuring compliance through patrols, conducting compliance checks and investigating whitewater accidents.

Highlights for Calendar Year 2024

- Licensed Outfitters/Guides: 19 Commercial, 25 General
- Whitewater User Reports: 110,854 Participants

2024 WEST VIRGINIA WHITEWATER USER NUMBERS



LAW ENFORCEMENT

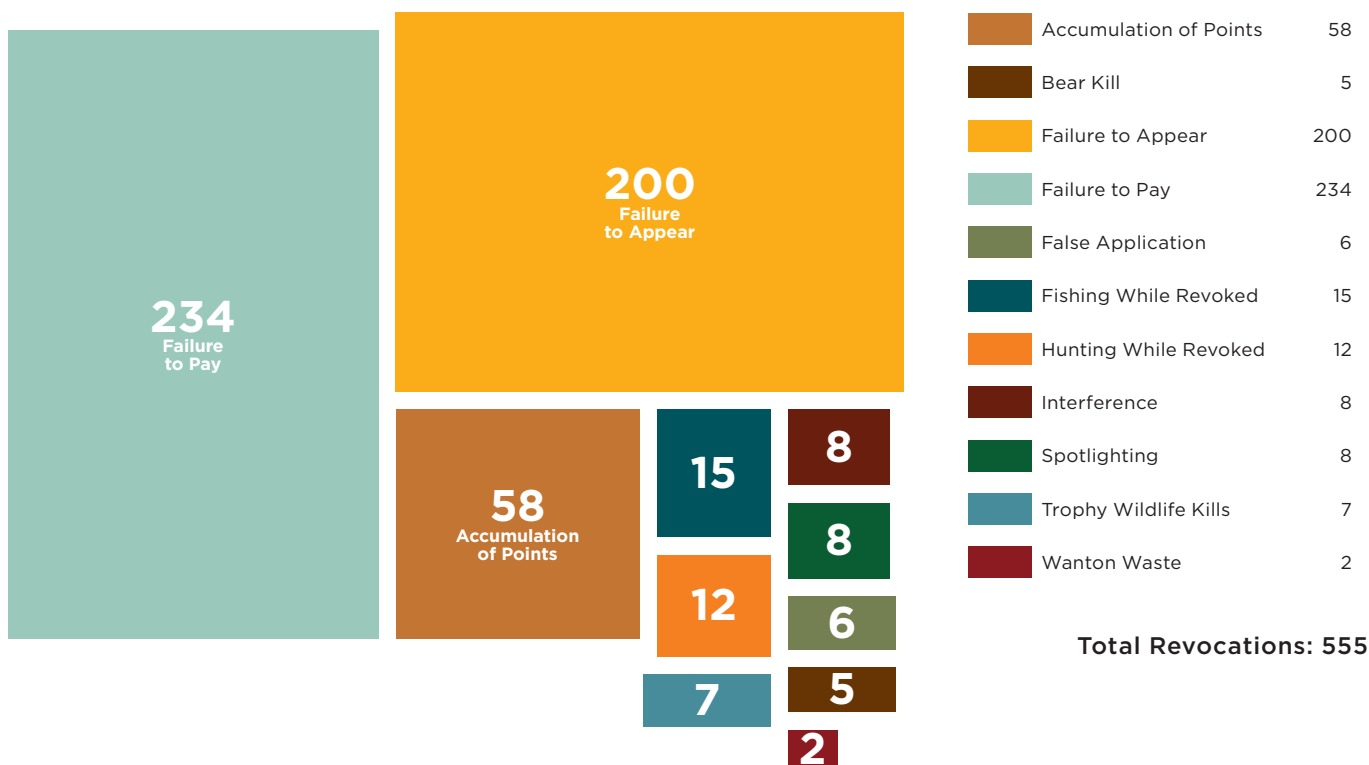
The License/Privilege Revocation System

The Law Enforcement Section enforces hunting, trapping and fishing license suspensions under Legislative Rule 58CSR23. Through the Interstate Wildlife Violator's Compact (IWVC), suspensions in one member state apply in all participating states, serving as a strong deterrent to poaching.

During FY 2025, 555 license revocation letters were processed, 125 of which were ratified by the WVDNR on the IWVCC. More than 8,980 notices have been sent to individuals convicted of hunting, trapping, and/or fishing violations since the creation of the electronic revocation system in the early 1990s.



TYPE OF REVOCATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025



Law Enforcement Activity

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY BY DISTRICT - JULY 1, 2024, THRU JUNE 30, 2025

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	244	61	48	41	394	471	316	86	873	522	479	181	188	76	1,446
2	313	42	32	42	429	214	101	43	358	881	860	257	257	21	2,276
3	311	113	20	46	490	918	356	235	1,509	626	599	156	156	50	1,587
4	547	62	19	86	714	986	317	219	1,522	510	489	177	198	71	1,445
5	696	90	33	25	844	1131	309	17	1,457	595	540	54	37	4	1,230
6	638	112	94	71	915	389	437	171	997	312	308	81	77	12	790
DISTRICT TOTALS	2,749	480	246	317	3,786	4,109	1,836	771	6,716	3,446	3,275	906	913	234	8,774
STATEWIDE TOTALS*	2,839	519	250	338	3,946	4,264	1,923	891	7,078	3,665	3,513	998	1,004	260	9,440

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

Definitions

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

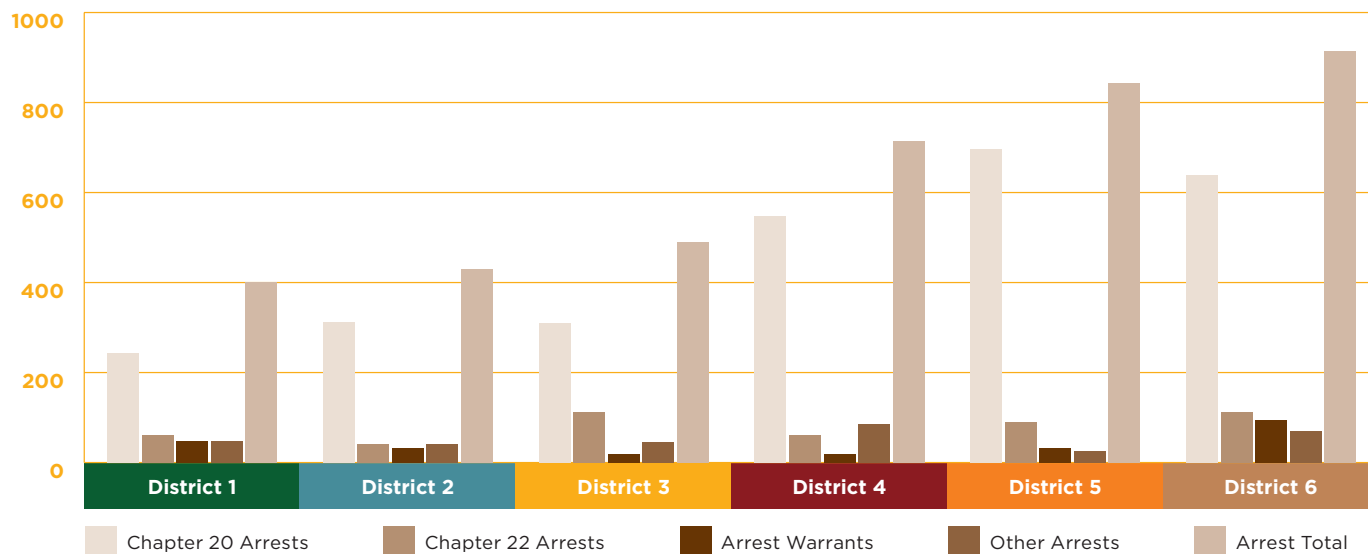
Chapter 22: Citations/Arrests for environmental violations such as outside burning, air pollution, open dumps, etc.

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

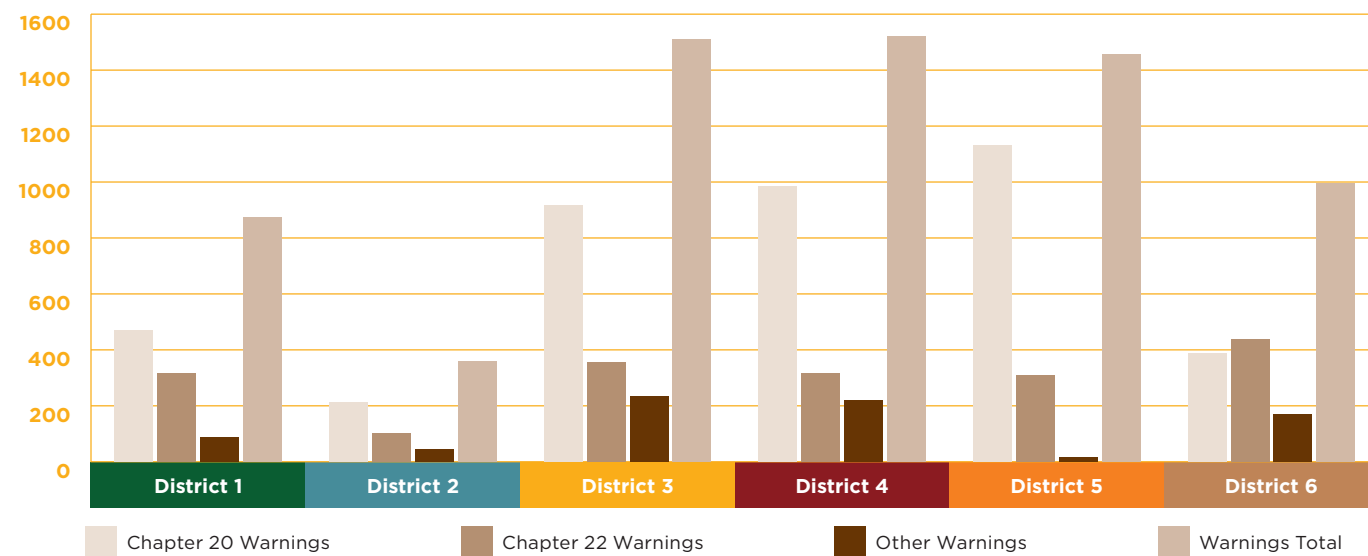
Other: Citations issued for violations that occur on the Hatfield-McCoy Recreation Area, State Forest, State Parks, and Wildlife Management Areas. Also included in "Other" are arrest for motor vehicle violations, possession of controlled substances, etc., that occur in the officer's presence.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

ARRESTS BY TYPE AND DISTRICT - JULY 1, 2024, THRU JUNE 30, 2025



WARNINGS BY TYPE AND DISTRICT - JULY 1, 2024, THRU JUNE 30, 2025



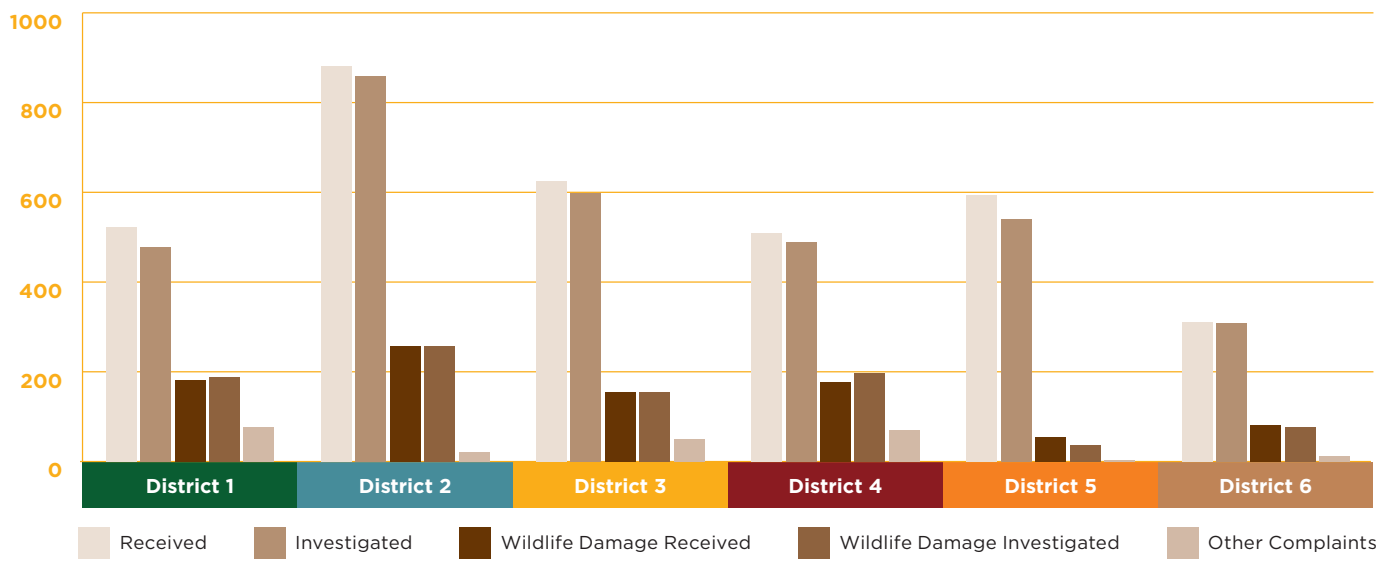
Definitions

Chapter 20: Warnings for natural resources violations, including Forestry.

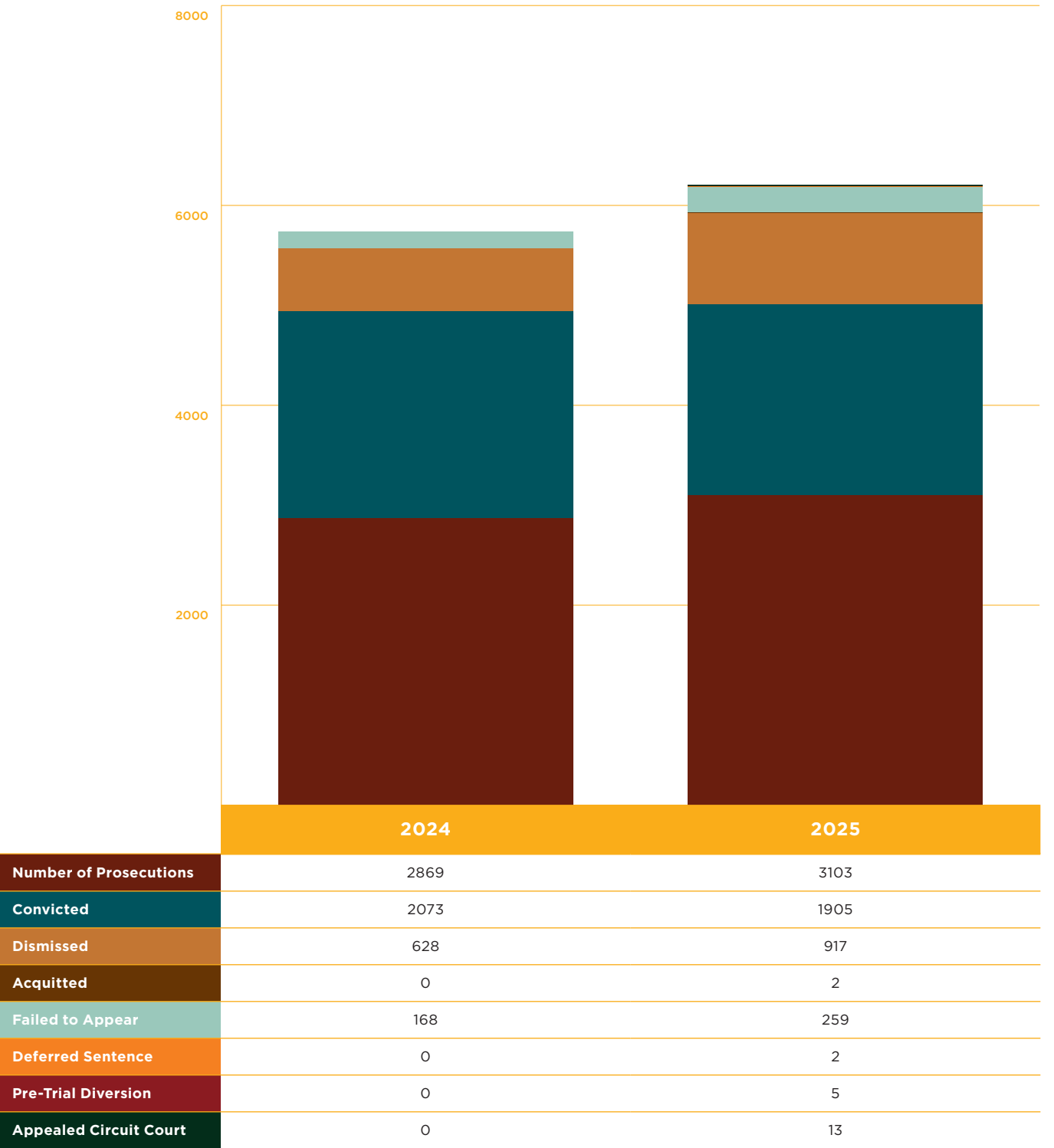
Chapter 22: Warnings for environmental violations such as outside burning, air pollution, open dumps, etc.

Other: Warnings for motor vehicle violations, possession of controlled substances, and other non Chapter 20 and non Chapter 22 violations.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND INVESTIGATED BY DISTRICT -
JULY 1, 2024, THRU JUNE 30, 2025



Prosecution Comparison - FY 2024 vs. FY 2025



Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2025	
HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Littering	
Litter, Highway	4
Litter, Public/Private Road or Property in waters of State or within 100ft waters	15
Litter, Private Property	2
Litter, Greater than 500 lbs.	8
Litter, 100-500 lbs.	11
Litter, Less than 100 lbs.	44
Litter, No Record of Mandatory Disposal	68
TOTAL Littering	152
License	
Fishing Paraphernalia in Possession without License	65
Hunting Paraphernalia in Possession without License	3
Residents Fishing without License	379
Residents Hunting without License	97
Non-Residents Fishing without License	118
Non-Residents Hunting without License	38
Hunt/Trap without License in Possession	4
Hunt/Trap/Fish without Photo ID in Possession	6
Fishing without Photo ID in Possession	50
Fishing without License in Possession	2
Fishing without Trout Stamp	25
Hunting Bear without Bear Damage Stamp	7
Hunting Additional Deer without RB/RRB Stamp	4
Hunting Additional Deer without RG/RRG Stamp	4
Hunting Antlerless Deer without Class N/NN Stamp	18
Hunting without RM/RRM	2
Hunting without Class UU	1
License, No CS/LE Stamp	1
Hunting without Class Y Permit	4
Hunting without Class Q Permit	1
Outfitter/Guide without License	18
Fishing while License Revoked	10
Hunting while License Revoked	7
Improper Fishing License	2
Hunting without Hunter Education Card	7
CFP Stocked from Non- Commercial Dealer	1
CFP, Failure to Obtain Bill of Sale	1
Failure to Maintain Records of Facility Wildlife	1
License, Making False Application - Lifetime Hunting and Fishing	3
Trapping without a License	2
TOTAL License	881
Hunting	
Bear, Failure to Submit Bear Tooth	16
Possess/Harvest/Sell/Buy Bear Parts from Illegal Bear Kill	1
Hunt/Kill/Possess Bear/Bear Parts Closed Season	2
Feed Bear or Hunt Bear using Bait/ Poison/Trap/ Explosives	7
Blaze Orange, None or Insufficient	39
Hunt/Closed Season	70
Exceed Bag Limit (daily)	4
Electronic Registration-Deer/Turkey (72 hours of Kill/24 hrs of season closed)	16
Electronic Registration Requirement(Deer/Bear/Turkey/Boar/Bobcat/Beaver/Otter/Fisher)	85

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2025	
HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Hunting	
Failure to Field Tag Game	50
Hunt, Improper Game Check	12
Hunt, Failure to Game Check	11
Hunt/Illegal Possession of Wildlife or Parts Thereof	272
Hunt Deer fail to comply with Limited Antlerless Permit	7
Hunt Deer with Illegal Firearms/Ammo	6
Hunt Turkey Between 1pm and 1/2 Hour before sunrise- Spring season	1
Hunt/Shoot Across or in Public Road	22
Shoot Within 25 yards of Vehicle	4
Hunt/Shoot From Motor Vehicle/ATV/Land Conveyance	74
HUNT, Possession of Illegal Hunting Paraphernalia	4
Shoot at Game Not Plainly Visible	1
Negligent Shooting - Person, Serious Injury or Death	1
Negligent Shooting - Livestock/Property	2
Illegal Shooting Distance of Dwelling	12
Spotlighting/Night Vision	13
Hunt without Permission - Lands of Another	115
Wanton Waste Big Game	14
Hunt After Killing Legal Deer	3
Hunt/Take/Kill by Bait/Trap/Snare: Bear, Turkey, Grouse, Pheasant, Quail	20
Hunt Bear/Boar/Mig Bird/Prot Bird or Mammal w/Bait/Trap/Net Snare	3
Hunt Deer half hour Before Sunrise - half hour After Sunset	12
Hunt, Illegal Kill, Additional Antlered Deer or exceed Three Deer limit	3
Kill additional Deer (archery) without Rb/RRB (antlerless requirement)	1
Hunt, Illegal Kill, Additional Antlered Deer prior to Antlerless	3
Hunt Under the Influence	5
Interference with Hunter/Trapper	8
Hunt, Illegal Method, Dig, Cut, Smoke out Wild Animal/Bird	2
Hunt/Migratory Birds with Unplugged Gun	1
Dogs Chasing Deer	3
Failure to Tag Traps	4
Failure to Tend Traps Daily	1
Hunt, Use Unleashed Dog to Track Injured Deer	2
Illegal Transport of Wildlife (Sale/Purchase) In State	7
Illegal Transport of Wildlife Out of State	3
Illegal sale of Wildlife - including bear	2
Hunt/Bows/Arrows & Gun in Woods/Field same time	2
Unlawful Entry of Unenclosed/Posted Property to Hunt/Trap/ Fish	3
Hunt Turkey with Electronic Call	2
Hunter <15 in Youth Hunt without Adult	1
Hunt, Possess Firearm while Training Dogs	1
Hunt with Small Arms 1/2 Hour After Sunset to 1/2 Hour Before Sunrise	1
Trap, Illegal Use of Body Gripping Traps	1
Hunt/Trap/Lands of Another without written permission	94
TOTAL Hunting	955

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2025	
HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Fishing	
Fishing, Lands of Another W/O Permission	10
Fishing in Restricted Area Class Q/Children Area	37
Fishing, Illegal Possession of Wildlife or Parts Thereof	20
Fishing in Restricted Area	6
Taking Fish by Illegal Methods	4
Using Prohibited Bait in Restricted Areas	4
Fish, Prohibited Use of Live Minnows	2
Fish, W/I 200 Ft of DNR Personnel Stocking Fish	1
Fish, Illegal Stocking of Public Waters	1
Access Site Violation, Alcohol	5
Access Site Violation, Possession/Use Controlled Substances	28
Access Site Violation, Unauthorized Use of	15
Access Site Violation, Litter	1
Fish, Exceed Daily Creel Limit	1
Exceed Two Pole Limit/Trout	3
Exceed Daily Creel Limit/Trout	15
TOTAL Fishing	153
Boating	
Create Wake in No-Wake Zone	3
None or Insufficient, Fire Extinguisher, MB	3
None or Insufficient Lights	3
None or Insufficient Number of PFDs for Children Under 12 while underway	30
None or Insufficient Number of PFDs	91
Improper Location or Spacing of Numbers	5
None or Insufficient Sound Device	2
Reckless Operation	9
Operating Boat without Required Boater Safety Card	6
Tow/Pulling Skier without Observer/Mirror	2
Boat, Unregistered Watercraft	13
Boat without Registration Card	3
Operate Watercraft while Under the Influence	1
Boat Under the Influence (BUI)	5
Tow or Operate Boat without PFDs	9
Exceed 10HP Motor Limit	1
Boat, Operating in Restricted Area	2
Boat, PWC Operation Under Age of 15	1
Boat, Operate/Permit to operate not properly equipped	4
TOTAL Boating	193
Solid Waste	
Open Burning of Refuse/Solid Waste	114
Open Dump, Creating or Contributing to	113
Unauthorized Use of Dumpster	5
Unpermitted Sewage/Septic System	1
Unlawful Disposal Method of Solid Waste	2
Endangerment by Waste Disposal	104
Deposit Dead Animals/Offensive Substances in/near waters/roadways	4
Burning of Waste Tires	2
Transport Waste Tires to Non-Permitted Place	7
Unlawful Disposal of Waste Tires	20
TOTAL Solid Waste	372

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2025	
HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
Forestry	
Failure to Safety Strip Around Fire	32
Failure to Attend To or Extinguish Fire	16
Illegal Burning	16
Permitting a Fire to Escape	3
Throw Lighted Material on Road or Forest Lands	8
Forestry, Burning without Permit During Fire Season	23
Failure or Refusing to Fight Fire	2
Burning During Fire Season without Permit	
GINSENG	
Dig Out of Season	18
Without Certification	14
Buy without required license	4
Ginseng dig without written permission	3
Ginseng, No Activity on WV Public Lands	1
TIMBERING	
Failure to obtain timbering license	2
Timber Operation without Certified Logger	2
Theft	2
Burn during Burn Ban	2
Failure to File Timbering Operation Notification	1
TOTAL Forestry	149
General	
Conspiracy - Hunting	109
Conspiracy - Fishing	9
Conspiracy - Non-Hunting or Fishing	5
Conspiracy - Commit Felon/Misdemeanor	5
General Obstruction/Withhold Information	73
General Obstructing an Officer	4
General, Air Pollution, Burning- Private Property	8
General, Snakes Exceed Possession Limit	2
Possess Native Wildlife/Parts for Commercial Purpose	1
STATE PARK VIOLATIONS	
No Hunting on SP/Wildlife Refuges	1
Destruction of Property/SP	2
Uncased Firearm/Bow/Arrow in WMA/SP/SF	1
National Forest Use MV in Closed Area	3
WMA VIOLATIONS	
Alcohol	21
Camping Violations	5
Destruction of Property	2
Removal of Prohibited Objects/ WMA	3
Hunting - ATV in Restricted Area of WMA	5
Improper Disposal of Refuse	5
WMA/Operate Vehicle Off Designated Roads/Trails	27
Operate Motor Vehicle in Unauthorized Area of DNR(WMA/SF/SP)	15
Motor Vehicle Violations	21
Fire in Undesignated Area	1
WMA, Abandoned Property	1
Use During Prohibited Hours (10 p.m. - 6 a.m.)	1
Bait/Feed Cervids/Wildlife in Containment Area	17
Bait/Feed Wildlife on Public Lands Sept.1-Dec.31 & Spring Gobbler Season	34
Possess/Use Controlled Substance on WMA	9

Report of Prosecutions by Charge FY2025	
HEADING AND CHARGE	TOTAL
General continued ...	
OUTSIDE CHAPTER 20	
Alcohol	3
Animal Cruelty	2
Motor Vehicle Violations	46
DUI	2
OL - Driving on Revoked OL/DUI	7
Driving Revoked/Suspended	20
No Operators/Permits - DL	11
Weapon/Branding Assault/with other Firearm	1
Weapons/Other Weapons/Illegal Sale/Display	2
Fleeing from Officer in Vehicle	6
Fleeing from Officer on Foot	2
Weapon/Handgun/Possession Other Prohibited Person	13
Larceny- Grand/All Other Thefts	1
Larceny-Petit/All Other Thefts	4
Illegal Possession of Controlled Substances	13
Possession of Marijuana	25
Insurance/No Insurance	14
Registration Violations	25
Disorderly Conduct	5
Speeding	10
ATV - Operate without Helmet under 18	3
Trespassing	27
False Pretenses/Obtain Goods by under \$1000	2
Destruction of Property <\$500	3
Destruction of Property>\$500	2
Assault	1
Battery/Domestic	1
Child Neglect/Create Risk of Injury	2
HATFIELD-MCCOY RECREATIONAL AREA	
Alcohol Possess/Consume within HMRA	46
Riding without Helmets	37
Riding without Permits	71
No Children Under Age of 6	3
On Trail half hour After Sunset to half hour Before Sunrise	1
Failure to Follow ATV/UTV Manufacture Specs on Age/Size	1
TOTAL General	802

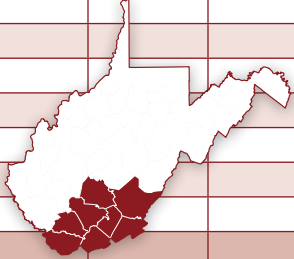
LAW ENFORCEMENT

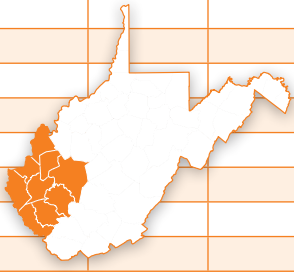
Reports of Prosecutions for FY2025

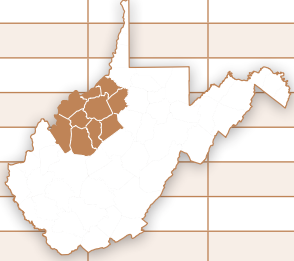
DISTRICT	TOTAL ARRESTS	TOTAL WARNINGS	COUNTY	NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS	DISPOSITIONS OF PROSECUTIONS			FAILED TO APPEAR	PENDING COURT
					CONVICTED	DISMISSED	ACQUITTED/ DEFERRED SENTENCE		
1	400	873	Barbour	27	22	3	0	0	2
			Brooke	44	35	1	0	8	0
			Hancock	17	14	2	0	1	0
			Harrison	49	32	5	8	1	3
			Marion	52	29	11	1	1	10
			Marshall	34	22	2	2	1	7
			Monongalia	49	41	4	0	1	3
			Ohio	10	3	0	0	2	
			Preston	82	60	6	1	7	8
			Taylor	15	14	0	0	0	1
			Tucker	15	12	3	0	0	0
			Wetzel	29	22	7	0	0	0
			TOTAL	423	306	44	12	22	34
2	429	358	Berkeley	45	31	61	0	1	2
			Grant	94	79	11	0	2	2
			Hampshire	48	44	0	2	2	0
			Hardy	36	26	3	0	4	3
			Jefferson	75	49	4	0	17	5
			Mineral	33	30	1	0	2	0
			Morgan	56	14	35	0	3	4
			Pendleton	71	59	8	0	0	4
			TOTAL	458	332	123	2	31	20
3	490	1509	Braxton	26	22	4	0	0	0
			Clay	16	8	0	0	6	2
			Lewis	69	57	1	0	8	3
			Nicholas	135	93	29	2	6	5
			Pocahontas	26	25	0	0	1	0
			Randolph	90	79	4	0	5	2
			Upshur	41	37	2	0	1	1
			Webster	62	57	3	0	2	0
			TOTAL	465	378	43	2	29	13

Reports of Prosecutions for FY2025

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

4	714	1522	Fayette	102	45	1	0	19	37
			Greenbrier	144	99	11	0	21	13
			McDowell	36	30	0	0	0	6
			Mercer	103	29	34	0	5	35
			Monroe	38	24	6	0	1	7
			Raleigh	78	17	21	0	7	33
			Summers	54	32	3	0	6	13
			Wyoming	170	97	51	0	2	20
			TOTAL	725	373	127	0	61	164

5	844	1457	Boone	53	23	12	0	0	18
			Cabell	28	6	14	0	4	4
			Kanawha	269	43	123	0	67	36
			Lincoln	22	7	9	0	0	6
			Logan	172	56	70	0	9	37
			Mason	64	17	33	0	7	7
			Mingo	35	17	13	0	1	4
			Putnam	67	13	41	1	7	5
			Wayne	91	5	66	0	6	14
			TOTAL	801	187	381	1	101	131

6	915	997	Calhoun	72	38	18	0	0	16
			Doddridge	71	42	25	0	4	0
			Gilmer	15	13	2	0	0	0
			Jackson	118	29	50	0	3	36
			Pleasants	26	16	7	0	2	1
			Ritchie	78	13	15	0	0	50
			Roane	74	23	37	0	0	14
			Tyler	18	9	2	0	1	6
			Wirt	34	26	5	0	0	3
			Wood	279	116	88	5	5	65
			TOTAL	785	325	249	5	15	191

DISTRICT TOTAL	3,792	6,716		3,657	1,901	967	22	259	553
STATE TOTAL	3,946	7,078	THIS STATE TOTAL INCLUDES RETIREES AND RESIGNATIONS THAT OCCURRED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2024						



PARKS AND RECREATION

Dillard J. Price, Acting Chief



Overview

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Section 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.

Since the creation of Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park in 1928, West Virginia's State Park system has grown to include 36 state parks, nine state forests and three state rail trails spanning across 161,000 acres of public land in 35 of West Virginia's 55 counties. Today, West Virginia State Parks welcome nearly 10 million visitors annually, serving as a cornerstone of tourism and outdoor recreation and an economic driver for the state's economy.

West Virginia's State Parks system consists of all-season lodge resort parks with conference centers, vacation parks with cabins and campgrounds and camping state parks, as well as day-use and historical state parks. Unique park features include a ski area and tube-run at Canaan Valley, a sled-run at Blackwater Falls, an island with its own sternwheeler at Blennerhassett Island, an old logging town and steam driven locomotives at Cass Scenic Railroad, a world-class zipline at Pipestem Resort, full-service spa facilities at Cacapon Resort and championship golf courses. Although a few of these specialty services are operated by concessionaires, most of these facilities are operated, managed and staffed by state employees.

In terms of inventory, the West Virginia State Park system maintains 10 lodges with 837 total rooms, 358 cabins, 1,546 campsites, 152 picnic shelters and 559 playground units. This number will increase in FY 2026 with the construction of additional camping sites at Cass Scenic Railroad and Lost River State Park and additional cabins at Coopers Rock State Forest. The parks system also manages more than 700 miles of hiking trails and nearly 1,500 buildings with more than 2.5 million square feet of space.

General Information

GUEST SAFETY AND SATISFACTION

Parks and Recreation Section staff manage utilities infrastructure, multi-level lodges, restaurants, spas, cabins, campgrounds, golf courses, pools, lakes, marinas, dams and historic structures. Maintaining these facilities to the highest standards ensures public safety and satisfaction.

When it comes to safety, many park superintendents hold law enforcement authority as Special Natural Resources Police Officers. While policing is not their primary duty, this authority allows them to respond effectively to safety incidents. Superintendents receive ongoing law enforcement training while embracing the "Ranger First" concept, which prioritizes public engagement and education.

Guest satisfaction is equally important. Park visitors consistently rate their experiences with staff as excellent, highlighting courteous service, knowledgeable personnel, accurate reservations and clean facilities.

To reinforce hospitality, Parks and Recreation staff have developed a hospitality training program called West Virginia Style, which emphasizes pride in the state and state parks, and ensures all employees provide genuine, high-quality customer service. This training has been completed by all current staff and is required for all new employees.

WORKFORCE

The Parks and Recreation Section made progress in recruiting staff this year, though challenges remain. With help from the WVDNR's Workforce Development Manager, the Parks and Recreation Section has recruited and retained new employees, including highly skilled candidates with strong experience and education who are earning competitive wages. The Section also benefits from a tenured staff, whose loyalty and commitment support continued success. Despite staffing gains and stability, the Section still has 62 full-time and 214 seasonal vacancies at the time of this report.

PARKS AND RECREATION

General Information continued ...

EDUCATION

The Parks and Recreation Section continues to expand its focus on education and interpretation. The Chief Naturalist oversees statewide programming, guiding park activities coordinators and about 10 year-round seasonal naturalists. These naturalists operate nature centers, lead daily and weekly programs and organize special events throughout the year.

In FY 2025, awareness of the program grew significantly. A dedicated Naturalist Program webpage was launched and all parks with year-round naturalists began posting bi-weekly activity schedules online. Programming also increased, highlighted by Pipestem Resort's Homegrown Music Series, which marked the park's 55th anniversary with 55 concerts.

Across the system, naturalists continue to elevate programming quality, with a focus on native plants, wildlife, natural history and the park mission. They also lead system-wide events such as first day hikes, fall hikes and seasonal programs that connect visitors to West Virginia's natural heritage.

NON-NATIVE INVASIVES

Controlling the spread of non-native invasives continues to be a challenge for park staff. The spread of species such as Japanese stiltgrass, Japanese barberry, garlic mustard, bush honeysuckle and autumn olive are creating monocultures in several natural areas and forcing out native species. A plan to address problem areas and protect non-affected areas needs to be developed, funded and implemented.



Finances

REVENUE GENERATION

The State Parks System delivers significant financial benefits to taxpayers by attracting tourism and supporting local economies, especially in rural areas. Many parks serve as community hubs, providing economic opportunity and quality recreational spaces. While some parks generate little revenue, larger lodge and resort parks, cabin rentals and revenue from campgrounds, restaurants, golf courses and other amenities help balance system-wide operations and sustain this high level of self-sufficiency.

Marketing efforts and sound fiscal management continue to strengthen revenue for West Virginia's State Parks system. In FY 2025, revenue exceeded \$39.4M, up \$444K from last year. Total retail sales for FY 2025, which include gift shop sales, exceeded \$5 million. Full-service restaurant sales increased more than \$306,000 and brought in more than \$4.7 million. Golf revenue increased nearly \$63,000, with total golf revenue from greens fees, pro-shop retail sales, driving range and equipment rentals exceeding \$1 million.

Due to strong revenue growth, 65% of the State Parks system is now self-sustaining. Parks that are now fully or nearly self-sustaining include Babcock State Park, Berkeley Springs State Park, Blackwater Falls State Park, Cacapon Resort State Park, Little Beaver State Park, and Watoga State Park.

EXPENDITURES

While revenue has grown, so have the costs of operating and maintaining West Virginia's State Parks system. Rising costs in utilities, supplies, equipment repairs and general maintenance require close fiscal oversight. Recruiting, retaining and paying competitive wages to qualified seasonal and year-round employees also remain a challenge.

Careful procurement practices, monitoring discretionary spending, careful scheduling and prioritizing expenditures are helping keep costs under control without diminishing guest experiences or reducing services, hours or access.

Finances continued ...

FUNDING

Maintaining and improving West Virginia's state parks requires ongoing investment. As facilities, equipment, and infrastructure age, adequate capital funding is essential to ensure safety, accessibility and a high-quality visitor experience. Outstanding funding needs include:

- Replacement of aging infrastructure across the park system
- Upgrades to golf irrigation systems and cart paths
- Accessibility projects to expand inclusive recreation opportunities
- Replacement of fleet vehicles exceeding retirement criteria
- Replacement of turf and groundskeeping equipment



Individual Area and Section Activity Reports

AUDRA STATE PARK

Audra State Park experienced a year of growth, record visitation, and major improvements to facilities and programming. Highlights include:

- Record number of campers
- Seasonal naturalist hired and weekend programs offered for kids and adults
- A pollinator garden, new park benches, picnic tables, 12 fire pits and three picnic grills were added to the park
- A new park administration office was built
- Alum Cave boardwalk improvements were completed
- Wastewater sewage plant was updated

BABCOCK STATE PARK

Staff at Babcock State Park made extensive upgrades to facilities, trails and infrastructure, while also improving guest amenities and safety. Highlights include:

- Gravel was added to multiple parking areas
- Downed conifer trees were repurposed for cabin board replacements
- Multiple signposts were replaced and painted
- Planning for new footbridge on Narrow Gauge Trail
- New "Waterfall Trail" markers were installed
- Island-in-the-Sky Trail steps were repaired
- The campground check-in station was painted and the bathhouse was upgraded with tankless propane water heaters, heaters and backup power
- Storage area for gift shop was reorganized
- Trees and brush were cleared at campground and main overlooks
- Two major water line breaches were repaired
- New swing was added at visitor photo station by the Grist Mill
- Replacement boards were installed at ADA dock on Boley Lake
- Fiber optic internet was installed at administration building

PARKS AND RECREATION

BEARTOWN STATE PARK

Staff at Beartown State Park installed signage for the Governor's Mountaineer Mile challenge and maintained the boardwalk, replacing boardwalk treads in certain areas.

BEECH FORK STATE PARK

Staff at Beech Fork State Park completed major upgrades to facilities, improved guest amenities. Highlights include:

- New ADA bathhouses were added in all four campgrounds
- Fiber optic internet was installed in campground and cabin areas
- Major waterline repairs in Old Orchard, Moxley Branch and Four Coves
- Heron Fest 2024 filled the campground and 2025 reservations sold out immediately
- Fishing pond was cleared for easier guest access
- New playground equipment was installed in Day Use, Moxley Branch and Lake View
- New picnic area was cleared near boat dock
- A Governor's Mountaineer Mile trail was created around day-use area

Staff also managed multiple severe weather events. A windstorm in September 2024 brought down multiple trees with no major damage in the park. Floods in February and April 2025 damaged campgrounds, disc golf course, shelters, and a flood in April caused a six-day closure at the park.



BERKELEY SPRINGS STATE PARK

Staff at Berkeley Springs State Park hosted community events, improved visitor amenities, and partnered with local organizations for ongoing restoration projects.

Highlights include:

- Hosted summer concert series every Saturday from July 4 to Labor Day in partnership with the Morgan County Arts Council
- Hosted Art in the Park, Morgan County Jeepers and Mountain State Cruiser shows
- Annual tent sale during Apple Butter Festival raised more than \$2,600
- Historical Foundation completed herringbone brick replacement in front of Old Roman Bathhouse and Gentlemen's Spring
- Two custom donation boxes were installed in Main and Old Roman bathhouses
- Park Foundation projects were continued, including updating the museum access staircase, adding a concrete pad for the Summer Concert Series and restoring the George Washington bathtub replica

BLACKWATER FALLS STATE PARK

Staff at Blackwater Falls State Park completed multiple facility upgrades, improved visitor amenities, and enhanced natural areas. Highlights include:

- New signage was installed at Fairfax Stone State Park
- Memorial benches were added throughout the park
- Cabins painted and decks were replaced
- Sled Run warming hut and lift buildings were repainted
- Monarch waystation was constructed at Harold Walters Nature Center
- New EV chargers were installed at Blackwater Lodge
- Harr Conference Center was upgraded with sound system, projectors, screens and carpet
- Campground water filling station was installed near check-in
- Trail surface improvements on Elakala Trail and Lindy Point Trail

BLANNERHASSETT ISLAND HISTORICAL STATE PARK

Blennerhassett Island State Park hosted important meetings and staff improved operations and upgraded facilities.

Highlights include:

- Hosted a reception BBQ dinner for West Virginia legislators who met in Parkersburg for interim meetings
- The Island Belle was dry-docked for hull painting and steering system alignment per U.S. Coast Guard requirements
- The Snack Shack was reopened as a self-operated venue
- Seasonal staff hired to assist with tour bookings, event planning, and implementation
- Hosted an Ohio Village Muffins baseball game with 1860s rules
- Museum security was upgraded with a new camera system
- Additional outboard motor for backup pontoon transport was purchased

BLUESTONE STATE PARK

Staff at Bluestone State Park made accessibility upgrades, expanded educational partnerships and endured several natural disasters, focusing much of the year on recovery efforts.

Highlights include:

- Began construction of a new ADA ramp at the park office, with plans to retrofit bathrooms for ADA access
- Improved the Work Exploration Program with Summers County Schools and the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services; three graduates (one full-time and two part-time) are now employed at the park
- First Energy volunteers planted native trees and staff are exploring a new pollinator plot
- Invasive species removal projects targeting Autumn Olive and Tree of Heaven
- Endured two generational floods and a major ice storm in FY 2025, which caused widespread damage
- Recovery efforts included repainting the bathhouses, pool house and shelter, replacing transformers and control panels and clearing debris
- Trail work is underway as cleanup continues, with steady progress toward full recovery

CABWAYLINGO STATE FOREST

Cabwaylingo State Forest faced multiple floods, but staff completed key restoration and facility improvements.

Highlights include:

- Endured three 50-year floods during winter and spring
- Restored the walking bridge on Long Branch Trail with rebuilt stone pillars and a new bridge
- Removed fallen trees from trails, roads and structures
- Installed a new roof and rafters at Spaulding Shelter
- Repainted two CCC shelters on Long Branch and Indian Trail
- Constructed and installed new entrance and directional signs using original CCC stonework

CACAPON RESORT STATE PARK

Cacapon hosted major events and made progress on significant facility and trail projects. Highlights include:

- Hosted two sold out dinners: Farm to Table in August 2024 and Cellar to Table in April 2025
- Hosted 1,300 competitors and more than 3,000 spectators for the International Bow Organization event in August 2024
- Installed modern new entrance signs
- Redesigned Getty's Snack Bar to match lodge aesthetics
- Held third annual Rise to the Occasion Vendor Show, attracting 28 vendors and raising more than \$500 for the park foundation
- Gov. Patrick Morrisey signed legislation at Wobble Clay Range and later dedicated Rock and Roll Trail as a Mountaineer Mile
- Dedicated a gazebo in the picnic area as the James R. Michael Gazebo
- Completed Phase I of a \$3.5M EDA grant with five miles of new trails with 30 more miles estimated to be constructed by 2027
- Hosted Pet-a-palooza, Girl Scouts Love State Parks, Christmas at the Old Inn, a New Year's Eve Party, the "One Man Grand Ole' Opry" experience and a dinner theater experience called "Who Killed the Earl of Grey?"
- Welcomed state naturalists for the annual Naturalist Workshop in June 2025

PARKS AND RECREATION

CAMP CREEK STATE PARK

Camp Creek completed significant repairs and improvements while hosting several community events. Highlights include:

- Repaired and replaced broken rafters and installed a new roof on the Pack-In Shelter
- Replaced skylights with a new metal roof and remodeled Ballfield Restroom, including LED lighting upgrades
- Cleared more than 350 trees after Hurricane Helene and a January ice storm
- Repaired Mashfork Falls Road and cleaned mud and gravel debris post-flooding
- Cleaned and repaired the check-in building and campsites at the Mashfork Campground
- Upgraded eight electrical pedestals and built or replaced nine picnic tables in the Mashfork Campground
- Installed a low-water crossing on Bear Wallow Trail to prevent future washouts
- Completed a Governor's Mountaineer Mile Trail at Camp Creek and Brush Creek Falls with new signage
- Extended Brush Creek Falls Trail to White Oak Falls with DOH grant funding and hosted a reopening
- Installed a new kiosk at Brush Creek Falls Shelter and repaired the parking lot after flood damage
- Hosted the Ramp Festival/Lumberjack Competition, Jeep n' at the Creek, Fall Festival/Craft Show, Birds of Prey program and Peak of the Bloom events

CANAAN VALLEY RESORT STATE PARK

Canaan Valley completed infrastructure upgrades and facility maintenance and hosted key events. Highlights include:

- Completed wastewater system upgrades, installed new lift stations at the ski area and removed two package plants at campground
- Replaced three cottage roofs and stained all cabin decks
- Removed downed and dead trees caused by windstorm damage
- Installed new park signage where needed
- Built a new picnic pavilion with funding from the park foundation and the WVDNR
- Completed landscaping, painting and general building maintenance projects
- Made progress on new snowmaking pump house project, with expected completion by September 2025
- Repaired multiple water leaks throughout the park
- Maintained trails, including upgrades to the Promised Land bike trail with funds from the park foundation
- Planted 5,000 red spruce seedlings with the Nature Conservancy
- Hosted the West Virginia Tourism Conference and West Virginia State Parks superintendents meeting



CARNIFEX FERRY BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

Carnifex Ferry focused on park beautification, trail improvements and visitor experience enhancements.

Highlights include:

- Park staff and the sign shop filled orders for new park entrance signs and Mountaineer Mile signs for the Governor's new hiking initiative
- Constructed a new wooden picket fence at the main overlook in the picnic area
- Maintained and enhanced park grounds for aesthetics and visitor enjoyment
- Updated the Patterson House museum with new donated display items
- Restocked the gift shop with new merchandise and souvenirs
- Improved and upgraded the trail system with more visible and properly-sized markers
- Maintained and improved steps throughout the park to prevent erosion

CASS SCENIC RAILROAD STATE PARK

Staff at Cass Scenic Railroad State Park focused on historic preservation, infrastructure upgrades and new guest amenities.

Highlights include:

- Acquired the historic house at 219 North Main Street, which was built in 1910
- Completed initial clearing, grubbing and site layout for the Cass Campground despite delays caused by significant flooding in February
- Designated a 0.5-mile out-and-back Mountaineer Mile track along the Greenbrier River Trail for visitors of all abilities
- Purchased two high-efficiency water heaters and a new commercial washer and dryer for the Cass Laundry, which will benefit guests at Cass and also support guests at Babcock, Greenbrier, Holly River, Kumbrabow, Seneca and Watoga

CATHEDRAL STATE PARK

Staff at Cathedral State Park removed potentially hazardous trees from the playground area and damaged trees near and on hiking trails. They also repaired damaged bridge railings on Cathedral Trail and the walk bridge at the parking lot.

CEDAR CREEK STATE PARK

Staff at Cedar Creek State Park focused on campground infrastructure upgrades, accessibility improvements and facility maintenance. Highlights include:

- Installed a new electrical meter to support multiple campsites and upgraded Site 9 to a 50-amp site
- Replaced shower mats and curtains in all bathhouses, and used park foundation funds to add a new epoxy floor in Bathhouse 1
- Created a concrete ADA-accessible walkway to the one-room schoolhouse and memorial, which led to the discovery of an old stone pathway that staff plan to recover for future use
- Added ADA-compliant railings to the log cabin (check-in station) and placed two memorial benches purchased by the park foundation in the playgrounds
- Repainted standard and ADA parking lines at facilities around the park
- Acquired a new side-by-side vehicle, which will be used to enhance trail maintenance
- Installed new camera systems and time clocks at most facilities

CHIEF LOGAN STATE PARK

Staff at Chief Logan State Park focused on facility renovations and infrastructure improvements. Highlights include:

- Opened the Hatfield McCoy Trails Connection Road to the public
- Fully renovated restrooms at Shelter 1 and Shelter 5
- Rebuilt the retaining wall at the superintendent's residence
- Constructed a new walk-bridge to the museum
- The Ralph R. Willis Vocational and Technical Center installed a new Route 10 entrance sign

PARKS AND RECREATION

COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST

Staff at Coopers Rock State Forest focused on facility and trail improvements. Highlights include:

- Installed a new water tower and insulated the water intake for year-round service
- Installed a new dump station at McCollum Campground and a sewage plant nearby to service the campground bathrooms and bathhouse and the park's cabins
- Opened 25 new campground sites and a bathhouse after Memorial Day
- Completed a new restroom at the overlook, replacing pit toilets for year-round access
- Made progress on building new stargazing cabins, five of which will fill reservations starting in the fall 2025
- Removed numerous dead and hazard trees from construction areas
- Completed the Lonesome Boulder Trail along Clay Road, adding three miles of trail and roadside picnic areas

DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK

Staff at Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park focused on routine maintenance and facility improvements. Highlights include:

- Replaced old siding on the garage, office and workshop
- Maintained trails and replaced stair treads at the lookout tower
- Removed dangerous, rotted trees from high-traffic areas
- Added signage to the Cranberry Boggs Trail for the Governor's Mountaineer Mile
- Cleaned and organized the workshop, making it fully functional for maintenance staff



ELK RIVER TRAIL

Staff at the Elk River Trail made progress on infrastructure and trail improvements. Highlights include:

- Broke ground on the headquarters building in Dundon, which is expected to be completed in spring 2026
- Established Mountaineer Mile trails from Buffalo Bridge to the Clay County Courthouse and in Gassaway
- Removed trees and repaired approximately 300 yards of trail damaged by winter storms
- The Elk River Trail Foundation received an AARP grant to place benches along the trail

GREENBRIER RIVER TRAIL

Staff at the Greenbrier River Trail continued maintenance and improvement projects. Highlights include:

- Added new interpretive signage at multiple locations
- Installed a bike repair aid station at Renick Trailhead with tools and an air pump
- Cleared a small rock slide on the northern end of the trail
- The Greenbrier River Trail Foundation continues to pursue funding to re-deck all 37 bridges along the trail
 - ➔ The foundation has secured a \$1.2 million Transportation Alternative grant and is raising \$305,000 in matching funds for this project
 - ➔ J.B. Turman Engineering finished a design study and a contract award is expected soon
- The foundation plans to resurface trail from mile marker 16 South in upcoming project

GREENBRIER STATE FOREST

Staff at Greenbrier State Forest completed several cabin and recreational upgrades. Highlights include:

- Repainted the exteriors of Cabins 6 and 11 and replaced a weather-damaged log on Cabin 5
- Resurfaced the decks on Cabins 8 and 11 and modified the Cabin 11 deck for bench seating
- Installed a firebox near the fire pit at Cabin 13
- Designed and sold a custom disc golf disc featuring Oakey, the forest's legendary Bigfoot
- Hosted Greenbrier County Scout Day Camp and Civil War Reenactment of the Battle of White Sulphur Springs

HAWKS NEST STATE PARK

Staff at Hawks Nest State Park focused on recovery from severe weather and facility upgrades. Highlights include:

- Cleaned up fallen trees and debris after windstorms and a tornado
- Replaced CCC-era handrails on the Main Overlook Trail
- Installed a memorial bench at the ADA-accessible binocular-viewing area
- Renovated the CCC-era stone restroom with new ceramic tile and plumbing
- Built a new storm drain manhole near the playground
- Upgraded the superintendent's residence kitchen with new cabinets and countertops
- Installed safer concrete walkways and upgraded picnic area grills
- Replaced 150 feet of terra cotta waste line with commercial PVC
- Renovated pet-friendly lodge rooms with wood plank vinyl flooring
- Completed the first phase of the aerial tramway construction

HOLLY RIVER STATE PARK

Staff at Holly River State Park completed significant infrastructure and recreational upgrades. Highlights include:

- Rebuilt the old Laurel Fork Bridge connecting Laurel Fork Trail, Salt Lick and Tramontane trails
- Installed two new sand filters for the pool
- Opened a new 18-hole disc golf course
- Added a dog park at the tennis courts
- Began construction on a new main waterline
- Repaved all roads and graveled all but one parking lot
- Installed new interpretive signage on Laurel Fork Trail
- Purchased a new mini-excavator
- Installed a new entrance sign
- Repaired and patched the pool
- Repainted exteriors of all campground bathhouses and pit toilets, installed new siding on the Campstore and added gravel to campsites
- Refinished all cabin and restaurant floors



PARKS AND RECREATION

KANAWHA STATE FOREST

Staff at Kanawha State Forest completed major facility improvements and expanded programming to enhance visitor experiences. Highlights include:

- Used \$25,000 from the West Virginia Horse Coalition for structural and landscaping improvements at the Horse Stables
- Demolished and rebuilt the upper campground bathhouse and renovated the forest headquarters bathroom
- Completed hardscape and landscape improvements at the headquarters front entrance, including the installation of a flagpole with memorial bricks from the Kanawha State Forest Foundation's Buy-a-Brick program, which has raised more than \$15,000
- Expanded and leveled multiple campsites
- Renovated bathroom servicing Picnic Shelters 5-9
- Installed a new forest entrance sign
- Expanded the Nature Center programming and hosted nearly 350,000 visitors at various events throughout the year

KUMBRABOW STATE FOREST

Staff at Kumbrabow State Forest focused on facility upgrades and essential maintenance. Highlights include:

- Began rewiring the superintendent's house and installed new lights and ceiling fans
- Installed a new handpump at Cabin 1
- Painted the linen and firewood building and all outhouses throughout the forest
- Added new mulch to the playground
- Rebuilt and shingled a CCC-era woodshed destroyed by a fallen tree
- Installed two security lights at the woodshop to illuminate equipment bays and fuel tank
- Ditches throughout the park were cleared by the West Virginia Division of Highways
- Installed a french drain system across from the superintendent's house

LITTLE BEAVER STATE PARK

Staff at Little Beaver State Park focused on infrastructure improvements, trail restoration and event hosting. Highlights include:

- Serviced every air conditioning unit in the park for efficiency
- Completed the Black Oak Campground bathhouse
- Cleared trees and completed major trail overhauls to reopen trails for mountain biking
- Repaired a failed underground electrical line powering three picnic shelters and the bathhouse
- Repaired the campground store bathrooms after water line damage
- Removed a large dead tree along the lake
- Hosted the park's 34th annual Fishing Derby and a Trunk-or-Treat event
- The Little Beaver State Park Foundation has begun to grow and explore more ways to help the park

LOST RIVER STATE PARK

Staff at Lost River State Park made major infrastructure improvements and cleanup efforts. Highlights include:

- Oversaw the start of construction on a 36-site campground, expected to be completed in calendar year 2025.
- Restored the historic Cranny Crow Overlook and completed extensive cleanup from last year's forest fire, which burned nearly 1,000 acres of the park
- Added a new carport for park vehicles

MONCOVE LAKE STATE PARK

Staff at Moncove Lake focused on grounds maintenance, repairs and community engagement. Highlights include:

- Removed tree stumps and downed trees and repaired trails on Devil's Creek, Grouse Knoll, Diamond Hollow and Roxalia Springs
- Converted the sewer plant to a septic system
- Repainted the swimming pool, wading pool and superintendent's residence
- Hosted educational events, including a field day for Monroe County second graders and a fishing day for kids

NORTH BEND RAIL TRAIL

Staff at the North Bend Rail Trail continued infrastructure upgrades and maintenance. Highlights include:

- Ongoing fiber optic installation in the area continues to impact trail use as staff continues to repair damage to bridges and drainage caused by the project
- Installed a new shelter at mile marker 14 with tables, a fire ring, an animal-resistant trash can and a horse tie-out
- Continued work with the North Bend Rail Trail Foundation to use U.S. Department of Highways grants to address drainage issues in tunnels 2 and 21

NORTH BEND STATE PARK

Staff at North Bend State Park oversaw significant infrastructure, programming and event improvements this year. Highlights include:

- The lodge and park's main entrance received landscaping upgrades
- A new concrete walkway from the lodge to Shelter 4 was poured and the culvert crossing at Shelter 3 was improved by the West Virginia Division of Highways
- Initiated and expanded Stilt Grass Solarization plots
- Collaborated with the WVDNR's Wildlife Resources Section and WVU for invasive species removal at the Cokeley Recreation Area
- Assisted Blennerhassett Island in hosting the West Virginia state Legislature's interim meetings and supported statewide events, such as the Taste of West Virginia State Parks at the WVDNR's National Hunting and Fishing Day
- Hosted sold-out Farm to Table and Cellar to Table events and the 2025 Restaurant Operators Meeting
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service began construction on the North Bend Dam Boom installation
- Streamlined park aesthetics by converting all building to "lodge brown"
- Revamped the group sales system and hosted weddings, reunions and other gatherings
- Hired an assistant superintendent and improved their residence
- Added the Cornwallis Trail for equestrian use

PANTHER STATE FOREST

Staff at Panther State Forest made facility upgrades, hosted community events and devoted major efforts to flood recovery. Highlights include:

- Installed two AEDs at the group camp and pool
- Extended well casing for the forest office and pool water pump system
- Built and installed new restroom countertops and flooring at the group camp and replaced a countertop at the snack shack
- Painted bunkhouse exterior and replaced fluorescent fixtures with LED lighting
- Replaced the office deck and added an ADA-accessible ramp
- Hosted a car cruise-in, trunk or treat and Christmas parade events
- Responded to catastrophic flooding in February that caused damage to the campground, bridges, the wastewater system and other forest facilities
- The Sandy Bottom bathroom interior was redone and campsites 1-4 were rewired with new pedestals and an RV hookup at Site 1



PARKS AND RECREATION

PINNACLE ROCK STATE PARK

Staff at Pinnacle Rock State Park completed trail, facility and amenity upgrades while also hosting community events.

Highlights include:

- Removed more than 30 trees from hiking trails
- Upgraded restroom sinks with motion-sensor faucets
- Added Mountaineer Mile trail to the park and installed signage
- Installed fiber optic internet at the park shelter
- Hosted the annual Kids Fishing Derby and Picnic in the Park, which were sponsored by the Pinnacle Rock State Park Foundation



PIPESTEM RESORT STATE PARK

Staff at Pipestem Resort State Park focused on completing major projects and enhancing guest experiences. Highlights include:

- Created the Den Trail as part of the Governor's Mountaineer Mile Challenge and built a new Waterfall Trail
- Installed new entrance signs to promote the Mountain Serenity Spa
- Added picnic tables in the new campground section
- Removed or pruned hazardous trees after January 2025 ice storms
- Installed a new ADA-accessible dock at Long Branch Lake
- Renovated the Canyon Rim Center gift shop and Tramway Sweets and Treats and rebranded them as Canyon Rim Coffee and Creamery
- Reopened Mulligan's with an expanded menu with 18 specialty hot dogs
- Continued construction on the Aerial Tramway and completed various projects to assist with its reopening

PRICKETT'S FORT STATE PARK

Staff at Prickett's Fort State Park completed several facility and infrastructure improvements in 2025 to enhance accessibility and preserve historic features. Highlights include:

- Replaced pumps, nozzles and timers at the wastewater treatment plant
- Replaced two porches and repaired another at the visitor center
- Repaired the Job Prickett House porch with period-correct materials
- Painted new ADA-compliant striping at The Junction Café boat launch parking area
- Repaired and repainted the visitor center restrooms
- Repaired the amphitheater dressing room wall and restained the amphitheater stage
- Installed fiber optic internet at the visitor center

SENECA STATE FOREST

Staff at Seneca State Forest oversaw a variety of cabin upgrades, trail work and infrastructure improvements. Volunteers, staff and partner agencies also played a key role in enhancing visitor experiences. Highlights include:

- Installed new paneling in Cabin 6 bedrooms and replaced the back porch roof at Cabin 1
- Repaired water damage to the Cabin 4 roof and ceiling
- Installed new grills at nine campsites
- Stained and maintained the fire tower shelter and added new grounding rods
- Replaced the gutter on the headquarters building and removed hazardous trees in visitor areas
- Refinished and repurposed shelving from Pipestem Resort State Park for expanded gift shop displays and storage
- Rebuilt four campground fireplaces and added or replaced trail blaze markers with volunteer help
- The West Virginia Scenic Trails Association refurbished the CCC-era Loop Road shelter and cleared an overlook
- Staff from the Wildlife Resources Section started work on two pollinator plots near the fire tower and Michael Mountain Road
- The West Virginia Division of Highways repaired creek bank erosion at three locations along the cabin road
- Installed fiber optic internet at headquarters
- Hosted the second annual West Virginia Trail Fest 100K in May 9-10

STONEWALL RESORT STATE PARK

- The new maintenance building/area has been completed and is in use resulting a noticeable increase in efficiency of this department.
- West Virginia's celebration of National Hunting & Fishing Days event returned to Stonewall Resort in big fashion with nearly 1500 people attending the one-day event.
- Agreements with the USACE & Hope Gas provided for two additional natural gas service connections which are complete and in use.
- Three new private investor lake houses are under construction with plans to put into the rental pool by August 2025.
- A collapsed culvert under the Carrion Bay causeway resulted in renting a temporary bridge, until the waterway & roadway can be repaired.
- Rebuilt the volleyball court and added a new horseshoe court.

SUMMERSVILLE LAKE STATE PARK

Staff at Summersville Lake State Park focused on major infrastructure, trail development and camping facilities. Highlights include:

- Continued developing several miles of water and electrical line infrastructure
- Constructed a maintenance building
- Added playgrounds at the Hughes Ferry picnic area, Deer Run camping area and the Overlook campground and added picnic tables and grills to the Hughes Ferry and climbers parking day-use areas
- Opened three campgrounds (Overlook, Deer Run, Joe Branch) with 47 RV sites and 16 primitive sites
- Installed fuel tanks, a 1,000-gallon propane filling station, and a temporary welcome center with gift shop
- Planted 3/4 of an acre of native wildflowers for pollinator gardens with plans to plant an additional four acres next spring
- Submitted design plans for a custom timber-framed amphitheater and reviewed plans from Bonsai to create ziplines, a challenge course, via ferrata and adventure playground
- Installed most park signage and continued planning to open a permanent welcome center

TOMLINSON RUN STATE PARK

Staff at Tomlinson Run State Park focused on modernizing camping facilities and guest amenities. Highlights include:

- Added five new full-hookup campsites with 50-amp electric service, water and sewage connections, three of which were created by removing outdated rental yurts and the other two by upgrading existing sites
- Installed Wi-Fi throughout the campground, with full implementation expected by fall 2025
- Remodeled one campground bathhouse, replacing original 1980 fixtures, with plans to renovate the second bathhouse in winter 2026

PARKS AND RECREATION

TU-ENDIE-WEI STATE PARK

Staff at Tu-Endie-Wei State Park continued to provide an excellent guest experience and preserved its unique historical and natural features. Highlights include:

- Maintained the French oak trees at the park, which were grown from acorns gifted from France after World War II; the park is the last state-run facility doing so
- Sold nearly \$10,400 in gift shop merchandise
- Increased spending to support projects and preparations for the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Point Pleasant
- Reported no guest injuries or accidents

TWIN FALLS RESORT STATE PARK

Staff at Twin Falls Resort State Park made major facility upgrades and expanded recreational opportunities. Highlights include:

- Renovated and relocated the nature center using funds from the West Virginia State Parks Foundation
- Upgraded lodge rooms and cabins and renovated the Oak Room and Chinquapin Room
- Completed furniture reupholstering in five of 14 units
- Installed a professional-grade golf simulator at the Twin Falls Pro Shop for public and group use
- Built a new playground at Bear Wallow Campground
- Completed the Falls Trail Improvement Project with an RTP grant
- Added an indoor climbing wall and party room and completed other lodge and trail facility enhancements



TYGART LAKE STATE PARK

Staff at Tygart Lake State Park focused on infrastructure upgrades and maintenance. Despite low water levels that closed marina operations at the end of July, the Tygart Adventure Lake remained open through Labor Day weekend. Highlights include:

- Replaced HVAC system in the ADA-accessible cabin and upgraded air conditioning in the park office
- Repaired and upgraded hydraulic lifts in the lodge elevator
- Installed a new ice machine and filtered water bottle filling station in the lodge
- Purchased a new Polaris UTV with a snowplow for efficient road maintenance
- Replaced hot water tanks in the campground bathhouse and roof on picnic area restrooms
- Remodeled marina bathrooms with new plumbing, electrical service, fixtures and ADA improvements
- Installed new fire rings at campground tent sites
- Replaced a 100-foot section of damaged sewer line near cabins
- Planned replacement of sidewalks at the park office and playground area

VALLEY FALLS STATE PARK

Staff at Valley Falls State Park focused on visitor amenities and trail improvements. Highlights include:

- Installed Frontier internet and public Wi-Fi in the main park area
- Added new security cameras around the gift shop and restrooms
- Installed an Almost Heaven swing and three memorial benches near the falls
- Installed a new water line regulator to improve water pressure and added baby changing stations to restrooms
- Repaired a bridge on Deer Trail and installed new signs on bike trails
- Constructed a small flower bed and began herbicide treatment to control invasive Japanese Barberry bushes
- Purchased a new UTV to assist with park operations
- Hosted a car show, mountain bike race, trail running race, ultra-marathon, kayak training and float events and saw-whet owl banding

WATOGA STATE PARK

Staff at Watoga State Park focused on infrastructure upgrades and guest amenities. Highlights include:

- Added new signs at the main and secondary park entrances
- Replaced most older wooden informational signs with more durable signs
- Installed tankless water heaters in the lower bathhouse, updated signage, installed Starlink Wi-Fi systems and upgraded six campsites at the Riverside Campground
- Repurposed the old recreation activity building into a new nature center with wildlife displays, hands-on interpretive stations and plenty of seating
- Repaired a large stone wall and two sets of stone steps at the game court area to improve safety and appearance

WATTERS SMITH MEMORIAL STATE PARK

Staff at Watters Smith Memorial State Park focused on maintenance, historic preservation and new recreational opportunities. Highlights include:

- Painted the exterior of the multi-generational Historic Smith home
- Planted and maintained pollinator areas with native flowering seeds
- Maintained museum operations and historic areas and hosted guided tours
- Opened a new area for young mountain bikers to practice in a controlled environment
- Repaired a significant water main line leak that occurred in December 2024
- Continued high use of shelter rentals with positive guest feedback



WEST VIRGINIA
DNR
PLANNING,
ENGINEERING
AND MAINTENANCE

Matt J. Yeager, *Chief*

Top: Tomblin Wildlife Management Area
finished elk viewing platform

Bottom: Coopers Rock State Forest
finished stargazing cabin



Overview

The Planning, Engineering and Maintenance Section oversees all major capital improvement and maintenance projects for the WVDNR. Staff are responsible for administering the WVDNR's architectural and engineering contracts, managing construction and consulting bid documents and ensuring these projects comply with West Virginia Division of Purchasing requirements.

Staff support the WVDNR with compliance, recordkeeping and reporting by making sure federal and state environmental regulations are followed and maintaining National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. They also provide technical advice on building maintenance, improvements, environmental compliance and water/wastewater infrastructure. Additional responsibilities include monitoring and maintaining public safety systems, including dams, ski lifts, aerial tramways, surface lifts and vessels.

Following disasters, staff also work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and West Virginia Division of Homeland Security to report damages, coordinate repairs and make sure the state is properly reimbursed.



Elk River Trail headquarters

Watoga State Park Seebert entrance welcome sign



Parks and Recreation Section

SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE PROJECTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

- [Audra State Park](#)
 - Wastewater Plant Repairs
- [Beech Fork State Park](#)
 - ADA Restroom Renovation
- [Bluestone State Park](#)
 - Headquarters Restroom and ADA access
- [Cacapon Resort State Park](#)
 - Mountain Bike Trails – Phase I
- [Coopers Rock State Forest](#)
 - Wastewater and Water Tank Construction
 - New Campground Restroom
 - New Overlook Area Restroom
- [Kanawha State Forest](#)
 - Campground ADA Restroom Replacement
 - Headquarters Sidewalk and Restroom Improvements
- [Tu-Endie-Wei State Park](#)
 - New ADA Restroom



North Bend State Park sewer line river crossing

Parks and Recreation Section continued ...

CONSTRUCTION OR COMPLIANCE PROJECTS IN PROGRESS OR OUT TO BID AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

- Blackwater Falls State Park
 - Lodge Exterior Stairs Replacement
 - Emergency Pendleton Lake WWTP Repair
- Blennerhassett Island Historical Park
 - Mansion Repair and Painting
 - HVAC Repairs
- Cacapon Resort State Park
 - Mountain Bike Trails Construction - Phase II
- Canaan Valley Resort
 - Snowmaking Improvements
 - Wastewater Improvements
 - Lodge Roof Repair
- Cass Scenic Railroad State Park
 - New 100-site Campground
- Chief Logan State Park
 - New ADA Playground
- Coopers Rock State Forest
 - 5 New Cabins and Campground Addition
 - 7 Additional Cabins
 - Wood and Linen Storage Buildings
 - Superintendent's Residence
 - Pedestrian Bridge Repair
- Elk River Trail
 - Headquarters and Visitor's Center
- Hawks Nest State Park
 - New Tram and Terminals
- Holly River State Park
 - Water Line Main Connection to PSD
- Lost River State Park
 - New 36-site Campground
- North Bend State Park
 - New Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer Lines
- Pipestem Resort State Park
 - New Tram and Terminals
 - Fire Alarm System at Mountain Creek Lodge and Upper and Lower Tram Terminals
- Twin Falls State Park
 - Golf Cart Path Improvement
- Watoga State Park
 - New ADA Restrooms and Renovations

PROJECTS IN DESIGN OR PLANNING AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

- Statewide Park and Forest Entrance Sign Project
- Blackwater Falls State Park
 - Sled Run Tree Removal
- Blennerhassett Island State Park
 - Boat Dock Electrical Repair
 - Mansion Roof Replacement
- Cacapon Resort State Park
 - Lodge Roof Replacement
- Canaan Valley Resort State Park
 - New ADA Accessible Trail and Connector Trails
- Cedar Creek State Park
 - Outdoor Game Court Resurfacing
- Chief Logan State Park
 - Lodge HVAC Replacement
- Coopers Rock State Forest
 - High Voltage Power Line Replacement
- Little Beaver State Park
 - Black Oak Campground Design
- North Bend State Park
 - ADA Trail Repair and Paving
 - Lodge Restaurant HVAC Replacement
- Panther State Forest
 - Wastewater System Replacement (Flood Damage)
- Pipestem Resort State Park
 - Zipline Cable Replacement
 - Headquarters Roof Replacement
- Stonewall Resort State Park
 - Wastewater Metals Removal Pilot Project

Wildlife Resources Section

SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE PROJECTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

- Belleville WMA
 - Residence Roof Replacement
- Clendenin
 - Public River Access Site and Boat Dock
- Palestine Fish Hatchery Improvements



West Fork Middle Run boating public access site

CONSTRUCTION OR COMPLIANCE PROJECTS IN PROGRESS OR OUT TO BID AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

- Plum Orchard Lake WMA
 - New Maintenance Facility
- Tomblin WMA
 - New Visitors Center and Elk Viewing Platform
- Grafton
 - Boating Public Access Site
- Bear Rocks WMA
 - Dam Repairs
- West Fork River
 - Boating Public Access Site and Boat Dock at Middle Run Road Bridge
- West Fork River
 - Boating Public Access Site at Good Hope Road

PROJECTS IN DESIGN OR PLANNING AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

- District 4
 - New Headquarters
- Greenbrier River
 - Public Access Site at Willow Wood
 - Public Access Site at Rennick
 - Public Access Site at Hopper
- Meadow River WMA
 - Wetlands Project
- Little Kanawha River
 - Leon/Buffalo Public Access Site Renovation
 - Parkersburg Law Enforcement Boat Dock
- Blackwater Falls State Park
 - Pendleton Lake Dam Renovations
- Reeds Creek Hatchery
 - Water Box Repair
- Ridge Fish Hatchery
 - Facilities Renovation – Phase II
- Sleepy Creek WMA
 - New Shooting Range
- Kanawha River
 - South Charleston New Boat Launch Facilities
- Turkey Run Lake
 - Dam Safety Compliance
- Tomlinson Run Dam Repairs
- West Fork River
 - Boating Public Access Site South
 - Boating Public Access Site at Spelter Road
 - Boating Public Access Site at Two Licks Road
- West Virginia State Wildlife Center
 - Secondary Fence

Regulatory and Compliance Work

The Section oversees more than 100 WVG55s, WVG64s and individual permits, including maintaining renewals and records for each. The Section ensures NPDES wastewater permit compliance by designing and constructing facilities, monitoring lab samples and eDMRs and maintaining and repairing more than 60 wastewater treatment plants of varying complexity.

KEY COMPLIANCE PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Administration
Administrative Consent Order
→ CWA-03-2025-0019DN (Spring Run Fish Hatchery)
- West Virginia Department of Environmental
Protection Consent Order
→ 9940 (Canaan Valley Resort State Park)
→ 9873 (Stonewall Jackson Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility)
→ 8471 (Systemwide Wastewater Treatment)
→ Tomlinson Run Dam (ID#02902) Proposed Plan of Corrective Action
- 2025 Compliance and Training
→ Canaan Valley Resort Ski Lift
→ Blackwater Falls Sled Run Lift
→ Aerial Tramway at Hawks Nest and Pipestem State Parks
- WV DEP dam safety inspections for WVDNR impoundments and resulting compliance work design or coordination with WVDNR sections
- Ensuring that Monitoring and Action Plans for all WVDNR dams are current
- 2025 Systemwide Wastewater Inspections – Contractual assessment and monitoring of all wastewater treatment plants and lift stations.



Clendenin Public Access Site



WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Paul R. Johansen, *Chief*



WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The Wildlife Resources Section manages West Virginia's wildlife resources with the goal of sustaining healthy wildlife and fish populations at levels compatible with available habitat, while maximizing opportunities for recreation, research and education.

Operations Unit

INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

The WVDNR hosted public meetings to present proposed regulation changes to hunters, anglers and members of the public. More than 165 people attended the meetings in Beckley, Buckhannon, Cairo, Farmington, Lewisburg, Logan, Martinsburg, Milton, Moorefield, Parkersburg, Summersville and Triadelphia. Feedback on the proposed regulations was submitted by 1,365 people and 32 clubs representing 10,143 members.

Wildlife Resources staff supported schools, clubs and community groups with programs and events, including Boy Scouts, 4-H, Envirothon, outdoor shows, fairs, nature tours and university lectures.

The West Virginia State Wildlife Center welcomed 25,535 visitors in FY 2025 and generated \$58,584 in admission revenue and \$18,146 in gift shop sales. Key events included Groundhog Day, the Rendezvous, and Tails, Trails and Treats.

The Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center hosted about 3,800 guests in FY 2025, including 1,050 students from 30 schools. Featured programs included a honeybee presentation, elk talk, World Salamander Day and a controlled burn demonstration.

More than 200 hunters had deer scored by official WVDNR or affiliated scorers certified through the Boone and Crockett Club and Pope and Young Club, with 34 bucks qualifying for the West Virginia Big Buck Certification Program.

Staff participated in fishing education events at National Hunting and Fishing Day, Conservation Camp, the Charleston Hunting and Fishing Show, Gold Rush, Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, Kids' Fishing Derby and multiple outdoor classrooms.

The weekly West Virginia Outdoors and WVDNR Report radio programs aired on 25 Metro News-affiliated stations statewide.

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

The WVDNR continued efforts to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters, anglers, boaters, shooting sports enthusiasts and wildlife viewers as part of the agency's R3 Strategic Plan. Along with in-person outreach, staff have focused more on marketing and communications to reach more people. These efforts include social media, press releases, blogs and videos that share information, highlight opportunities and inspire participation in outdoor recreation and conservation. Marketing efforts also showcase the work of staff and how their efforts benefit all West Virginians by protecting wildlife and creating more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

West Virginia Relevancy Program

The WVDNR remains committed to serving the public and conserving the state's fish and wildlife resources. While decades of investment in infrastructure, staff and programs have provided lasting benefits, changes in demographics and public interest require the agency to adapt.

To meet this challenge, the WVDNR launched its Relevancy Plan, which is focused on understanding the needs of West Virginians, strengthening trust and demonstrating reliable stewardship of wildlife and habitat. A Relevancy Project Team was formed to identify strategies that increase participation in fish and wildlife activities.

The team's initial focus is on engaging families who have strong potential for long-term involvement in conservation. Their strategies are aligned with the R3 Plan and include strengthening relationships, improving program accessibility and creating more opportunities for shared outdoor experiences. By combining this outreach with internal efforts to improve organizational readiness, staff hope to broaden the WVDNR's constituency, sustain public trust and secure the future of conservation in West Virginia.

INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM CONTINUED ...

Outdoor Classroom Program/Project Wild

Staff expanded the reach of the WVDNR's Outdoor Classroom/Project Wild program in FY 2025 through hands-on demonstrations and live animal interactions featuring species native to West Virginia. Staff engaged more than 9,100 students at 118 schools and events in 30 of the state's 55 counties.

Becoming an Outdoors Woman

In FY 2025, the Section continued hosting Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) workshops, which are designed to help women develop outdoor skills, connect with nature and build lifelong interests in hunting, fishing and other outdoor pursuits. The Section hosted a Fall 2024 workshop at Canaan Valley Resort State Park with 59 participants. A second workshop in Spring 2025 at Pipestem Resort State Park drew 40 participants.

The Section also hosted single-day and weekend-long events as part of its Beyond BOW program. These events are designed to provide more focused outdoor experiences. Events hosted in FY 2025 include a Bowden Fish Hatchery tour with 15 participants, where attendees learned hatchery operations before practicing fly fishing, and a fishing float trip on the South Branch of the Potomac River with six participants.

Archery in the Schools

More than 22,000 students participated in West Virginia's Archery in the Schools program during FY 2025. Ten new schools joined, bringing total participation to more than 350. To support growth, the WVDNR hosted 13 basic archery instructor training courses and certified 81 new instructors.

About 1,400 students from 94 schools competed in the state qualifier. The top eight teams and the top 15 boys and girls in each division (elementary, middle, high school) advanced to the state tournament, which featured 630 archers from 64 schools.

Student archers from 34 schools then went on to the National Archery in the Schools Eastern National Tournament in Louisville, Ky. Two elementary teams placed in the Top 10, including one first-place finish. At the NASP World Championship in Myrtle Beach, S.C., 25 schools competed, with three elementary teams finishing in the top 10. Several individual archers also placed in the top 10, including a high school female from Wheeling Park High School who earned first place.

Hunters Helping the Hungry

The Hunters Helping the Hungry is a cooperative program between the WVDNR, hunters, meat processors, food banks and a network of more than 600 food pantries, shelters, churches and children's homes that provide venisons to people in need.

In 2024, hunters donated 591 deer (20,954 pounds), providing roughly 27,938 meals. Because the WVDNR cannot use license revenue for the program, FY 2025 program costs of \$73,342 were largely offset by donations from events like Share the Harvest Sunday and the Governor's One Shot fundraiser. Since 1992, hunters have donated more than 1.1 million pounds of venison through this program.

National Hunting and Fishing Day - Stonewall Resort State Park

The WVDNR hosted National Hunting and Fishing Day at Stonewall Resort State Park on September 21, 2024. Guests enjoyed hands-on activities including deer and squirrel field dressing, taxidermy and casting demonstrations, and farm-to-table food at The Taste of West Virginia State Parks event. The WVDNR partnered with the West Virginia Wildlife Federation to organize and promote the event, which was attended by more than 1,500 people.

Outdoor Youth Challenge

The Outdoor Youth Challenge, which is part of West Virginia's National Hunting and Fishing Day, drew 500 participants this year. The event is designed to provide hands-on activities for youths 18 and younger. Participants learned about wildlife, hunting, fishing, firearms safety and outdoor recreation and were able to win prizes such as lifetime hunting and fishing licenses, hunting and fishing gear and conservation camp scholarships.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

The Section continued its capital improvements program, which is funded by hunting and fishing license revenue and conservation stamp sales. Major projects in FY 2025 included:

- Rehabilitating the Palestine State Fish Hatchery Ponds (Wirt County)
- Creating a new access site to the Elk River in Clendenin (Kanawha County)
- Upgrading fishing and boating facilities at Plum Orchard Lake (Fayette County)
- Installing a courtesy dock at O'Brien Lake (Jackson County)

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

GIS Data Management and Technical Assistance

GIS and Technical Support staff supported agency operations and public information services by updating natural resource base mapping information, including aerial imagery, soils, geology, elevation, public lands, streams, wetlands, lake depths, fishing access sites and demographics. Staff also provided technical assistance, training, mobile data collection, spatial analysis, mapping and large-format printing.

Public Tools and Outreach

With support from the WV GIS Technical Center, staff upgraded the online Hunting and Fishing Map, improving mobile accessibility and user experience. The tool helps the public find wildlife management areas, fishing and boating access and Class Q facilities, while linking to licenses and regulations. Staff also updated print and digital maps, which are available at the Elkins Operations Center, district offices, the Avenza Maps app and the WVDNR website.

Data Tools and Application Development

GIS and Technical Support staff enhanced dashboards and StoryMaps for interactive hunting survey reporting and expanded data collection and reporting through ArcGIS Online. Staff also developed scripts to automate data updates for various data processes and created a new Python-based big buck scoring app for offline use at district offices and hunting shows.

Survey Support and Data Analysis

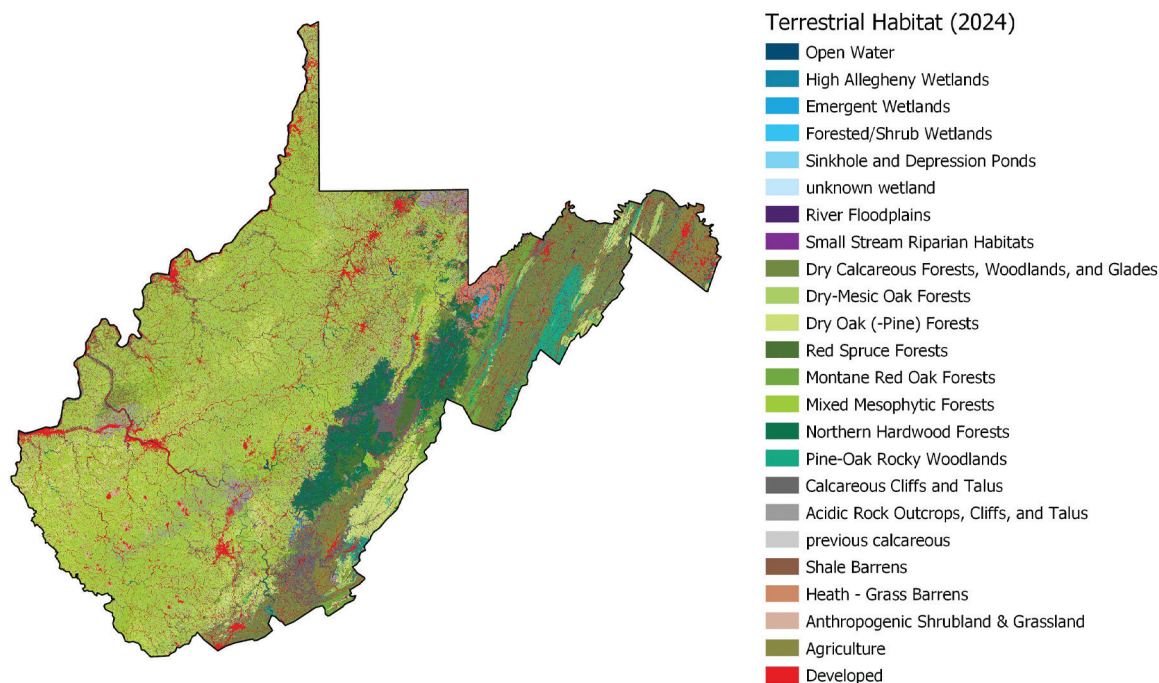
GIS and Technical Support staff analyzed and summarized key surveys and fulfilled data requests from the public and partners. Staff also began working on an agency-wide custom database project, prepared new surveys, supported fiscal notes for legislation and updated the Wildlife Endowment Fund Plan.

Conservation Planning and Habitat Analysis

GIS and Technical Support staff completed the West Virginia Terrestrial Habitat Map for integration into the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan (see below). This map links habitats to species of greatest conservation need. Staff also updated tools like the Core Forest Impact and Land Acquisition Prioritization Tool to guide strategic conservation planning.

System Improvements and Enterprise Upgrades

GIS and Technical Support staff continued to streamline operations and improve access to spatial data and tools across the agency. The Elkins Operations Center joined the West Virginia Office of Technology Executive Domain, improving security and support. Enterprise GIS and desktop software upgrades continue, including ArcGIS Enterprise Portal implementation to streamline operations and expand internal access to spatial data and tools.



Terrestrial Habitats of West Virginia (2024) predicted from a random forest model, with developed classes burned-in (30m resolution).

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION PROGRAM

Hydropower

Staff consulted with the WV Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), applicants, and operators on hydropower projects in West Virginia. Actions were taken on 14 licensed and active hydropower projects ensuring compliance with Clean Water Act conditions and FERC license articles.

Staff coordinated with Wildlife Resources, WVDNR Law Enforcement, and dam operators to improve public safety measures below Hawks Nest Dam. Lake Lynn Hydroelectric WVDNR continues to coordinate with FERC on the relicensing of the Lake Lynn project, including assistance with environmental assessments pursuant to relicensing. Coordination staff continued efforts to improve passage of American Eel at the Millville Hydroelectric Dam in collaboration with PE Hydro, these efforts include the installation of new upstream exclusion structures and repairs to the downstream fish ladder during the 2024-2025 American Eel passage season.

Oil and Gas

Staff reviewed applications for oil and gas related activities, including well locations, pipeline activities and fractionation plant development. Technical support was provided to DEP Offices of Oil and Gas and Waste and Water, concerning impacts to fish and wildlife associated with oil and gas production and transmission. Support was also provided to Fish and Game Management Units for oil and gas activities impacting Wildlife Management Areas.

Technical assistance continued with DEP concerning stream impacts from construction of transmission lines, gas fractionation facilities, and the associated stream restoration projects required as mitigation. Staff aided DEP, USACE and United States 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 monitoring Permittee Responsible Mitigation projects. Staff provided continued support to the USFWS in protecting their charge resources potentially impacted by the oil and gas industry. National Environmental Policy Act review, as a cooperating agency, was provided to FERC.

Clean Water Act 404/401 and Section 10

The Coordination Unit continued to provide technical support for Clean Water Act Section 404/401, and River and Harbors Act Section 10 certifications, to WVDEP 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. Staff submitted comments to the DEP on approximately 38 404/401/Section 10 permit applications.

Staff reviewed 15 Stream Management Plans submitted by the West Virginia Conservation Agency on behalf of individual landowners to accomplish bank stabilization and channel improvement projects.

Highways

Staff continued to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act process for several West Virginia Division of Highways (DOH) projects. Coordination continued on two large unfinished sections of Corridor H, Parsons to Davis and Wardensville to Virginia Line. Staff secured wood turtle crossings for Corridor H Wardensville to Virginia Line.

Staff reviewed numerous smaller transportation improvement projects, including 183 bridges, 126 culverts, 37 bank stabilizations, six low water crossings, 40 miscellaneous projects such as sidewalk and rail trail repairs and 14 Tier 1 northern long-eared bat 0.5-mile cave buffer data requests.



WILDLIFE RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION PROGRAM CONTINUED ...

Mitigation Banking and In-Lieu Fee

Staff served on the Interagency Review Team to review, comment, and recommend approval for mitigation banks and in-lieu fee projects. Staff attended 15 field reviews and provided design input for the development of several newly proposed mitigation banks and in-lieu fee projects. Staff verified yearly monitoring reports and conducted field reviews at existing mitigation banks. The first for profit mitigation bank finished construction on Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area and will enter the monitoring stage of banking, windrows and several linear feet of guiderail were installed to help prevent ATV/UTV trespassing on portions of the WMA. Two new mitigation banks were approved and one in-lieu fee project in Service Area 3 is pending. There are currently three proposed banks to be reviewed by the Interagency Review Team. There were 64 projects administered by the Interagency Review Team during this reporting period, of which 45 were mitigation banks and 19 were in-lieu fee projects.

Spawning Waivers

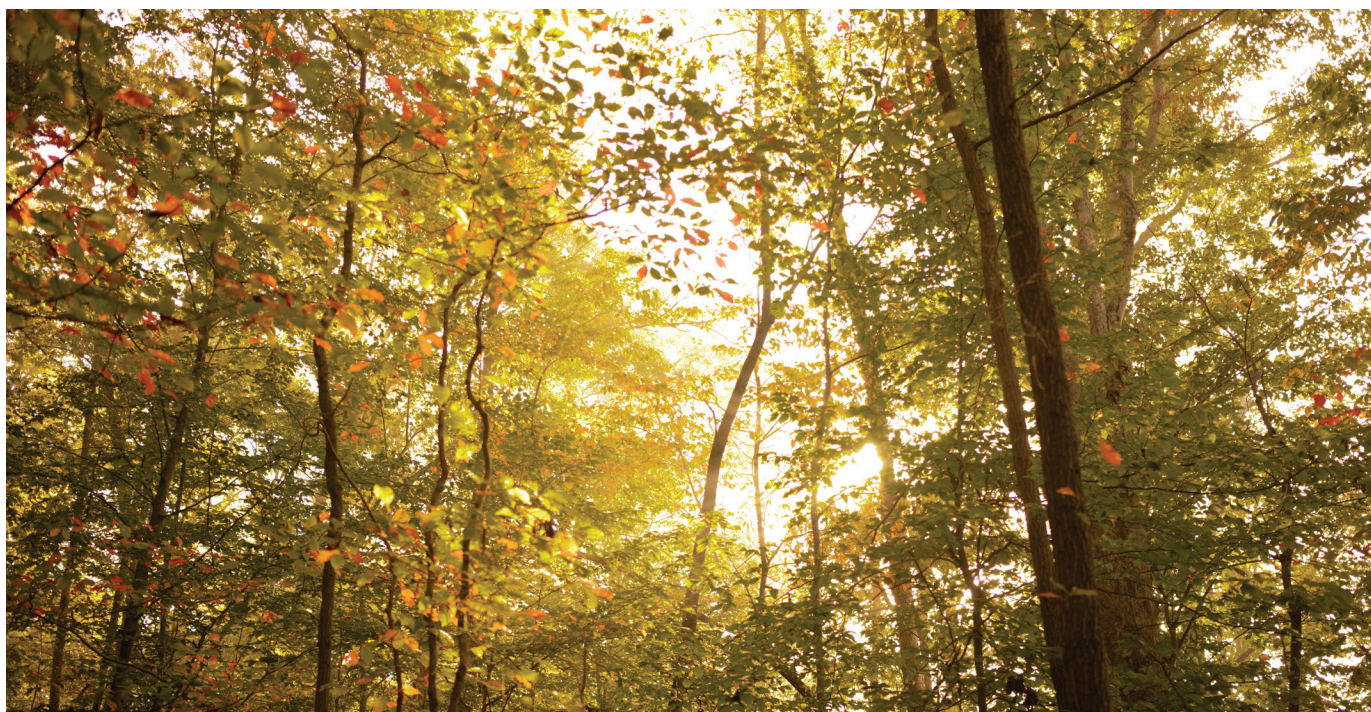
Staff received, reviewed, coordinated, and documented the issuance of fish spawning season restriction waivers, as required by DEP's 401 Water Quality Certification Standard Condition No. 12. Approximately 137 waiver requests were received and reviewed during the reporting period. Waiver requests received were (32) DOH, (96) pipelines, (4) water withdrawal, (2) mining, (9) stream restoration and (8) other miscellaneous projects.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

Staff served as lead contact for a Trustee Council associated with the Hanlin-Allied-Olin NRDA. This task required coordination with multiple WRS employees, DEP, USFWS, as well as the responsible parties for the damage. This project may result in compensation for long-term industrial impacts that occurred in the Hannibal Pool of the Ohio River. Coordination represented WRS as a Trustee Council member for the Union Carbide NRDA project. Time was expended this reporting period in discussions concerning field studies with the Trustee Council membership and the responsible party. Coordination staff assisted wildlife diversity staff with data analysis for the Union Carbide NRDA Benthic Fishes Study.

Collection Permits and Database Review Requests

Two hundred seventy-eight 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. More than 1,100 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 and mining activities (quarry and mining).



Game Management Unit

PUBLIC LANDS PROGRAM

The Wildlife Resources Section Game Management Unit conducted habitat management and law enforcement activities on 96 wildlife management areas (WMA) and eight state forests, totaling 511,815 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 Shenandoah WMA (4.5 acres) and Hughes River WMA (27 acres). Land reviews and associated due diligence were conducted during the fiscal year on numerous properties for potential acquisition.

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 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. Annual joint meetings with the U.S. Forest Service, West Virginia Division of Forestry, USFWS, USACE and numerous working groups or symposia occurred in various capacities.

Management of 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 listing of bat species by the USFWS to endangered species status. Approximately 18 acres of field border cuts were created and approximately 117 acres of forest mulching was conducted.

Management activities by personnel on state and national forest lands included releasing and/or grafting existing trees (417) and planting 1,600 additional trees and shrubs for food and cover.

A total of 2,296 acres of wildlife clearings were mowed and 27 acres of new clearings were established. Lime was applied to 230 acres and fertilizer applied to another 687 acres. A total of 913 acres were seeded to create food plots and dove fields.

Prescribed fire was applied to 107 acres to improve the diversity and abundance of desired plants. Herbicide was used on 888 acres to control undesirable and invasive vegetation. Sharecropping agreements were executed on 565 acres to maintain open land habitat and 41 waterholes were maintained to provide a year-round water supply for wildlife.

The water level on 87 acres of wetlands was manipulated to encourage waterfowl utilization, while 114 wood duck boxes and 54 other species nest structures were maintained.

A total of 594 miles of roads/trails and 13 vehicle and foot bridges were maintained. Road closures (gates) were installed and/or maintained at 687 locations.

A total of 401 information and regulation signs were erected or maintained, and 111 miles of WMA boundary was marked. A total of 365 campsites, six boat ramps, 23 shooting ranges, 201 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.

As part of Gov. Jim Justice's Upland Game Bird Initiative, 27,000 flight-pen reared bobwhite quail were released over a 14-week period in the summer and fall of 2024. These releases occurred on the following public lands: Burnsville Lake WMA, Cross Creek WMA, Frozen Camp WMA, Huttonsville State Farm WMA, Laurel Lake WMA, Pleasant Creek WMA, Camp Creek State Forest and Greenbrier State Forest. Release stations, or refugia stations, were established on these public lands to provide protection to the birds in each release, as well as to be able to form a covey and to assimilate to the area. A box of 25 quail were released at each station during seven separate release dates. A goal of this initiative was for outdoor enthusiasts to have the opportunity to see and hear bobwhite quail.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

WILDLIFE DAMAGE AND NUISANCE WILDLIFE PROGRAM

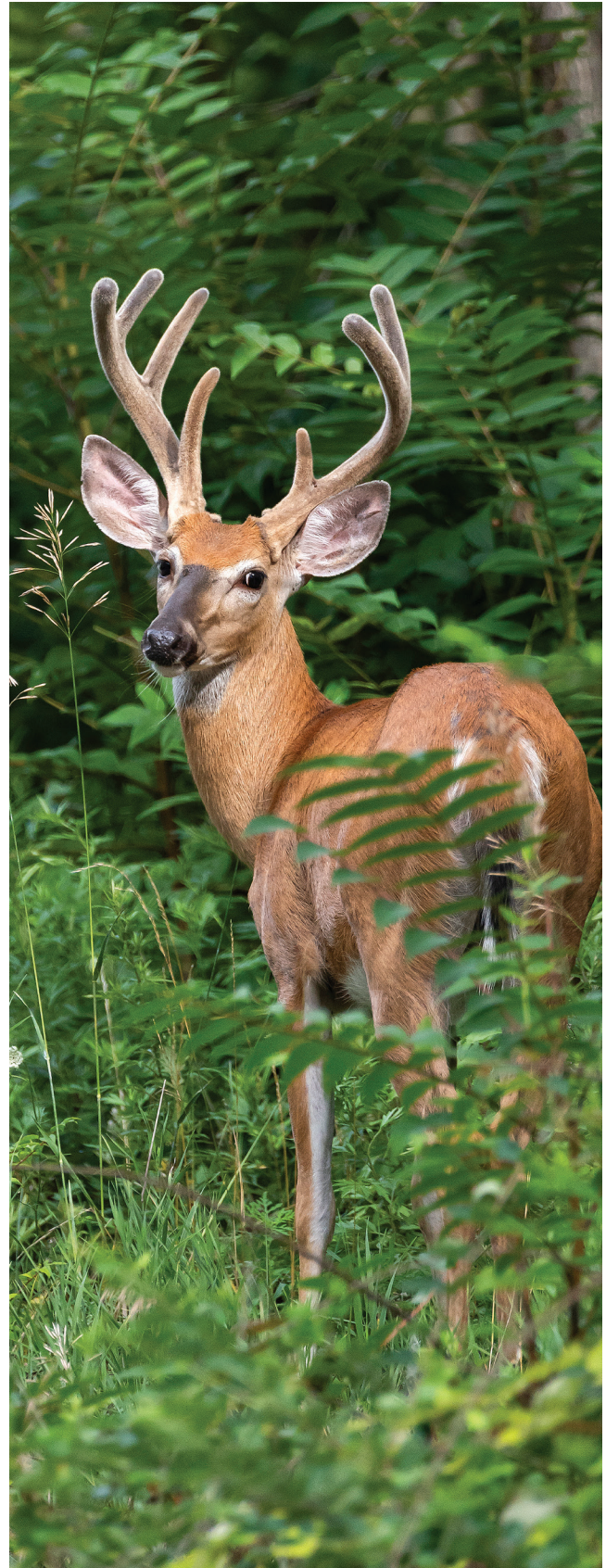
The Wildlife Damage Control agent program allows businesses to be licensed with the WVDNR to take and dispose of nuisance wildlife. The WVDNR licensed 31 businesses as agents during 2024-2025. The WVDNR is assisted by staff from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on a feral swine control program in West Virginia.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Technical assistance provided 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 actions. A total of 345 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. Coordination with numerous state, federal, tribal and non-governmental organizations is important to address issues facing wildlife management across state and federal boundaries. 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, Northeast Fur Resources Technical Committee, Northeast Black Bear Technical Committee, Southeast Cervid Working Group, Southeast Large Carnivore Working Group and Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture.



WILDLIFE POPULATION SURVEY AND RESEARCH PROGRAM

Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Activities

Last year, 54 nuisance bears were killed due to crop damage or nuisance activity. Hundreds of other bear complaints were resolved with harassment measures and/or removal of edible attractions. The WVDNR processed 84 bear damage claims.

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 animal.

Wildlife Population Surveys and Research

The WVDNR conducted 17 woodcock singing ground survey routes in cooperation with the USFWS and states in the Eastern Management Region. A total of 85 woodcock were captured, banded and equipped with transmitters as part of a cooperative woodcock research project with the University of Maine. 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. As a part of this effort, 597 Canada geese and 443 mourning doves were banded across the state. During the 2024-2025 post-hunting season, 60 ducks were banded.

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).

White-tailed Deer

During the combined deer seasons in 2024 and January 2025, deer hunters harvested 111,646. This was an increase of two percent from the 2023 and January 2024 harvest of 109,246 and was one percent above the previous five-year harvest average of 110,296. The total deer harvest represents one deer killed for every 132 acres of deer habitat in the state. From 1945 to January 2025, a total of 7,112,903 deer harvests have been recorded in West Virginia.

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 100 known calves. 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 uncollared elk so data can be collected. A cooperative effort with West Virginia University was initiated to examine the genetics of the new elk herd. Efforts also continue to identify a source herd from which additional elk can be transferred to West Virginia to supplement the herd. An agreement with Land Between the Lakes was reached in November 2023 to capture an additional 40 elk (20 bulls and 20 cows) in early 2024 and transfer them to the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area. Capture efforts resulted in the release of 38 elk. Two cows were lost during the capture and transfer process.

A salt block and 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.

A total of 42 hands-on captures took place during the winter of FY25. Nineteen were 2024 calves (the highest number to date), four captures previously untagged 2023 calves and one capture was to examine an injured previously caught calf to examine and administer antibiotics. The remaining 18 elk were adult collar additions, replacements, or adjustments. Currently there are 100 active GPS collars. A PhD student will begin to analyze all telemetry data since the project onset in the fall of 2025.

Several presentations regarding the program's status were given to public and government groups, including the West Virginia Legislature. Maintenance and upkeep of the elk pen is ongoing, and a squeeze chute was erected. The elk WVDNR study was completed at West Virginia University.

WILDLIFE POPULATION SURVEY AND RESEARCH PROGRAM CONTINUED...

Black Bear

West Virginia hunters harvested 2,479 black bears during the combined 2024 archery and firearms seasons. The 2024 harvest was 12 percent below the 830 bears killed in 2023. The black bear harvest of 2024 is the 12th highest recorded harvest.

Age data from the 2023 tooth samples have been received and hunters have been notified of their bear's age. Hunters submitted 1,919 usable teeth (correct tooth, tooth not broken, etc.) for age consideration. There were 29 cubs (2 percent), 31 percent (602) came from yearlings, 27 percent (512) came from 2-year-olds, 13 percent (245) came from 3-year-olds and the remaining 27 percent (531) 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.

Wild Turkey

Hunters harvested 10,694 bearded turkeys during the 2025 spring gobbler season. While hunters harvested fewer birds compared to last year's harvest of 11,650, the 2025 harvest was only 1.1 percent 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.

The Game Management Unit initiated a large-scale project with the West Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at West Virginia University to examine the population dynamics of wild turkey. Winter trapping took place between late January and early April 2024 and 2025. Across the five study regions, a total of 178 hens were fitted with a leg band and of those, 98 were fitted with GPS transmitters this year. There were 25 known mortalities of birds with transmitters trapped in 2025. A total of 55 nesting attempts were made, 10 of which were successful in hatching at least one egg. There were nine hens that attempted to re-nest. Predation was the leading cause of nest failure. Incubation activity across the state started within the last two weeks of April and continued through June.

Approximately 8,000 postcards were mailed immediately following the 2025 spring gobbler turkey season to invite hunters to participate in an online turkey hunter survey, with four reminder emails sent to nonrespondents over the subsequent month. The response rate was approximately 18 percent with 1,331 hunters participating in the survey to date (a nonresponse survey is currently being sent out). Of those hunters who responded to the survey, 79 percent were residents. A similar survey will be conducted following the 2025 fall turkey season.

Wild Boar

Hunters harvested 91 wild boars during the 2024 season, representing the lowest reported harvest during the past five seasons. Hunters once again had the opportunity to hunt in early February, which produced great results with a harvest of 41 wild boar. During the winter season, 23 wild boar were harvested in Logan County and 18 in Boone County. The February harvest was down from the five-year average of (i.e., 54) of the previous February seasons. Heavy rainfall during this three-day season reduced hunter effort, contributing to the lower harvest.

Annual Mast Survey

Since 1970, the WVDNR, in conjunction with the West Virginia Division of Forestry, has conducted annual surveys around the state to determine relative abundance of soft and hard mast produced by 18 trees and shrubs of importance to wildlife populations. Mast surveys were completed at 286 locations, covering all regions of West Virginia in 2024.

The statewide mast index for all species combined in 2024 was down seven percent compared to 2023. Relative to the 54-year long-term survey average, all hard mast producers except for Red Oak/Black Oak and Chestnut Oak were substantially down.

River Otter

Staff initiated a river otter home range and population dynamics study in conjunction with the West Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at West Virginia University. Staff radio-tagged 36 river otters and recorded six mortalities. The project added U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services as a trapping partner to increase the number of study animals. With this new partnership, the study area has also expanded from the Greenbrier River system in Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties to include Monroe, Nicholas, Randolph, Summers, Upshur and Webster counties. This expanded study area includes a variety of water systems, habitats, and potential stressors affecting otter survival. A WVU student is working on spatial and survival data analysis at this time and will be completing a thesis in December 2025.

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.

Major renovations to the Palestine Hatchery rearing ponds in Elizabeth, West Virginia began in 2024 and were completed in 2025. The renovations to the existing ponds will provide increased warmwater species production. Renovations to the Bowden Hatchery near Elkins, West Virginia were completed in 2022. Those additional rearing units have increased trout production by approximately 100,000 fish annually. Hatchery renovations are also scheduled to begin at Ridge Hatchery in Berkeley Springs beginning in 2025-2026. Ridge Hatchery renovations will include updating infrastructure and the addition of modern fish rearing units.



Trout Hatcheries

In 2024, staff stocked 800,131 catchable trout weighing 658,593 pounds (Table 1). The 2024 trout stocking year was below the annual hatchery production goal of 750,000 pounds. However, there was an increase of 101,918 pounds of trout stocked in 2024 compared to 2023. These trout were distributed to 74 impoundments, nine reservoir tailwaters and numerous locations on 127 streams.

The average size of catchable trout stocked into put-and-take managed waters in 2024 was 12.5 inches and 0.77 pounds, similar to 2023. This large average trout size is a result of adequate hatchery water supplies over the stocking period. The White Sulphur Springs Federal Hatchery provided a total of 3,828 surplus trout that were stocked during the spring and fall stocking season.

Trout stocking also occurred in 10 Class Q waters, which provided fishing opportunities for anglers with disabilities and children 14 and younger. These special regulation waters were stocked the first week of March. Thirty-seven waters across the state also received two stockings each during a two-week period in October 2024.

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 2024, approximately 56,464 fingerling trout were stocked in 21 waters throughout the state (Table 2). Assistance from various conservation groups and volunteers was an essential part of the fingerling trout stocking program.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

FISH HATCHERY PROGRAM CONTINUED ...

Table 1

Total number and weight of catchable and brood trout distributed to more than 200 waters statewide during 2024.

Distribution Hatchery	Brook		Brown		Golden		Rainbow		Tiger		All Trout Species	
	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT
Bowden	39,098	21,684	34,188	22,239	17,565	15,369	91,266	86,529	1,791	1,569	183,908	147,390
Edray	1,204	847	0	0	20,322	15,980	130,524	107,234	895	950	152,945	125,011
Petersburg	8,536	6,292	5,454	3,717	6,715	7,993	28,183	34,014	556	807	49,444	52,823
Reeds Creek	40,672	22,906	13,323	8,417	17,364	10,596	55,731	39,208	3,076	2,338	130,166	83,465
Ridge	11,345	9,141	4,990	3,735	6,918	7,647	37,172	36,440	251	362	60,676	57,325
Spring Run	22,634	15,762	15,372	10,970	15,038	15,835	57,331	59,319	1,174	1,897	111,549	103,783
Tate Lohr	16,913	9,965	8,406	5,163	15,687	14,900	69,185	57,755	1,252	1,013	111,443	88,796
TOTALS	140,402	86,597	81,733	54,241	99,609	88,320	469,392	420,499	8,995	8,936	800,131	658,593

Table 2

Total number and weight of fingerling trout distributed in 21 waters statewide during 2024.

Distribution Hatchery	Brook		Brown		Golden		Rainbow		All Trout Species	
	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT	NUMBER	WEIGHT
Bowden			15,778	347	100	13	124	5	16,002	356
Edray	500	13	25,997	270	0	0			26,497	283
Tate Lohr			4,946	54	0	0			4,946	54
Other*							9,019	1,168	9,019	1,168
TOTAL	500	13	46,721	671	100	13	9,143	1,174	56,464	1,860



FISH HATCHERY PROGRAM CONTINUED ...

Table 3

Total number of warmwater fish distributed in 46 waters statewide during 2024.

SPECIES	CLASS	State Warmwater Hatchery		State Warmwater Rearing Facility				Total NUMBER
		APPLE GROVE	PALESTINE	BEE RUN	BOWDEN	FALLS MILL	OTHER*	
Blue Catfish	Fingerling	26,287	0	0	0	0	0	26,287
Channel Catfish	Advanced Fingerling	26,579	0	0	0	0	0	26,579
	Catchables	0	0	0	0	0	6,041	6,041
Hybrid Striped Bass	Advanced Fingerling	6,784	0	0	0	0	0	6,784
	Fingerling	37,098	0	0	0	0	138,273	175,371
Largemouth Bass	Advanced Fingerling	0	0	0	0	0	1,350	1,350
	Catchables	0	0	0	0	0	25	25
	Brood	0	0	0	0	0	30	30
Muskellunge	Fingerling	0	275	0	0	0	0	275
	Advanced Fingerling	0	0	204	0	515	0	719
Striped Bass	Fingerling	0	0	0	0	0	10,000	10,000
Tiger Musky	Advanced Fingerling	0	0	0	0	0	221	221
Walleye	Advanced Fingerling	0	270	0	0	0	0	270
	Fingerling	0	40,000	0	0	0	0	40,000
	Fry	255,000	0	0	0	0	0	255,000
TOTAL		351,748	40,545	204	0	515	155,940	548,952

Warmwater Hatcheries

Warmwater hatcheries produced channel catfish, muskellunge, hybrid striped bass, striped bass, and walleye during 2024. A total of 548,952 fish were produced and stocked in 46 waters throughout the state (Table 3). Warmwater hatcheries produced and stocked both fingerlings and advanced fingerlings.

Channel Catfish

A total of 6,041 catchable-sized adult channel catfish were stocked in 46 waters in June 2024 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. Additionally, 26,579 advanced fingerling channel catfish were stocked in 35 waters to supplement recreational angling opportunities.

Muskellunge

A total of 719 advanced fingerling muskellunge were stocked (Table 3) in Burnsville Reservoir, North Bend Lake, Stonecoal Reservoir, Stonewall Jackson Reservoir, and Woodrum Lake. 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 175,371 fingerlings and 6,784 advanced fingerling hybrid striped bass were stocked in Beech Fork, Bluestone and R.D. Bailey Reservoirs, Dunkard Fork and Rollins lakes, 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.

FISH HATCHERY PROGRAM CONTINUED ...

Striped Bass

A total of 10,000 fingerling striped bass were stocked in Bluestone and Mount Storm Reservoirs (Table 3). Striped bass are received in cooperation with the State of Maryland. This cooperative program helped to create a destination striped bass fishery in West Virginia for anglers choosing to target this species.

Walleye

Approximately 255,000 fry, 40,000 fingerlings and 270 advanced fingerlings were stocked in 2024. Walleye were stocked in Cheat Reservoir, Charles Fork Lake, Elk River, Gauley River, Greenbrier River and Kanawha River.

Reservoirs

Black bass electrofishing surveys were conducted on six large reservoirs in the state including Beech Fork, Bluestone, Cheat, East Lynn, Mount Storm, and R.D. Bailey lakes. Black bass surveys monitor population characteristics of largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass. These monitoring surveys are used to inform management needs and help guide management recommendations for these important recreational species.

Electrofishing surveys on Cheat and Mount Storm lakes also assessed other fish species present within these reservoirs including sportfish populations (crappie, striped bass, walleye, yellow perch, etc.). Additionally, electrofishing surveys were conducted on Summersville, Sutton and Stonewall lakes to assess walleye populations within those waterbodies.

Gill net surveys targeting striped bass were conducted on Mount Storm Lake. Additionally, hoop net surveys were conducted on Mount Storm Lake targeting channel catfish. These surveys assess current fishery conditions and monitor for any changes in populations to help inform management decisions.

Small Impoundments

Fisheries surveys were conducted on small impoundments (less than 500 surface acres) to assess sportfish population characteristics for bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, muskellunge, largemouth bass, redear sunfish, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, tiger musky, and walleye. Surveys were conducted at Big Ditch, Charles Fork, Dog Run, Dunkard Fork, Kimsey Run, North Bend, Parker Hollow, Plum Orchard, Sleepy Creek, Stephens, South Mill Creek, and Warden lakes between July 2024 and June 2025.

Rivers and Streams

River and stream fisheries surveys were conducted to assess genetic diversity or population characteristics for fish communities or a range of target species, including largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge, trout, catfish, sauger and walleye.

Streams targeted by fisheries staff include the Buffalo Creek, Cacapon River, Fish Creek, Greenbrier River, Kanawha River, Middle Island Creek, Monongahela River, New River, Ohio River, Shenandoah River, South Branch of Potomac River and Wheeling Creek. Additionally, 50 surveys were conducted in coldwater streams for assessment of native brook trout and other wild trout populations across the Cheat, Potomac, and Tygart Valley watersheds. Continuous water temperature data was collected in 57 streams to track cold-water status or determine suitability for restoring or improving native brook trout occupancy and range. Paired air and water temperature loggers were deployed at 19 sites in the Cheat and Tygart Valley watersheds to collect data for partners interested in climate modeling and monitoring.

Fish Health Surveys

Annual fish health surveys, as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Wild Fish Health Survey, were conducted on sauger from the Ohio River. All samples were found to be negative of fish pathogens.

Trout species from cold-water hatcheries were also tested for annual fish health inspections. A total of 750 trout which included rainbow, golden rainbow, brook (two genetic strains), brown (two genetic strains), and tiger trout were tested from our cold-water hatcheries in June 2025. Laboratory results indicated all hatchery facilities were negative for whirling disease. All hatcheries were also negative for national reportable aquatic animal pathogens including hematopoietic necrosis virus, viral hemorrhagic septicemia, infectious salmon anemia virus and spring viremia carp virus. Multiple bacterial pathogens were observed across species and all facilities. These bacterial pathogens are widespread and typically present in the natural spring water sources that sustain the hatcheries. The presence of these bacterial pathogens is not usually a concern to natural systems.

HABITAT AND WATER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Fisheries management staff continued habitat enhancement projects in FY 2025. Staff deployed 1,341 habitat structures across eight impoundments. Habitat structures deployed included 1,131 Christmas trees, 81 woody structures and 60 fallen trees. Habitat structures were placed in locations (coves, points, drop offs, littoral areas and shoreline fishing areas lacking habitat) to improve habitat for existing fish populations and enhance recreational fishing opportunities. Recycled Christmas trees were placed at Beech Fork (250), Burnsville (75), East Lynn (250), Mount Storm (141), Summersville (75 plus the Capitol Christmas tree) and Tygart (340) lakes. Many of these installations were in cooperation with local fishing organizations and the WVDEP Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Other forms of habitat enhancements were created by fisheries management staff to improve lake habitat. Larger woody and wreath structures were installed at Burnsville (30), Laurel (12), Mount Storm (23), Stonecoal (15) and Summserville (1) lakes. Large trees were dropped and anchored at O'Brien (10) and Plum Orchard (50) lakes. Spider blocks (6) were installed at North Bend Lake.

The acidified streams program applied more than 3,122 tons of limestone sand to improve water quality for native brook trout and other species, making quality fisheries in more than 350 miles of impaired streams across the Tygart, Cheat, Gauley, and Elk watersheds and 456 acres of small impoundments in the Cacapon, Potomac, Greenbrier, Gauley and lower New river watersheds.

A cooperative project was initiated with West Virginia University to restore native Brook Trout habitat to a two-mile section of Shavers Run, a tributary to the Tygart Valley River on the Monongahela National Forest. The project treated the section of stream with large woody habitat structures to improve native brook trout habitat as well as enhance productivity for all aquatic life.



INTERSTATE FISHERIES COORDINATION PROGRAM

Fish management staff coordinated with state and federal agencies on several research and management activities on the Ohio River. These efforts included population assessments of sauger and data analyses of flathead catfish age and growth. Much of this work was guided by the interstate Ohio River Fisheries Management Team. Fish management staff continue to coordinate with West Virginia University on a paddlefish population assessment to evaluate the seasonal movements of paddlefish in the Ohio River. Fisheries biologists participated in the Mississippi River Basin and Mid-Atlantic agency panels on 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 (bighead and silver carp). Activities included population monitoring, physical removal of fish, fish community surveys, larval fish surveys, and tracking movements through acoustic telemetry all intended to monitor population expansion in the Ohio River. While still considered low in abundance, more bighead and silver carp were collected and removed in 2025 than in previous years and carp were collected from an additional pool upstream (Racine) from previous years.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATION AND TROPHY FISH CITATION PROGRAM

A total of 1,150 bass, catfish, musky, crappie/panfish, trout and carp tournaments were registered on 40 waterbodies in 2024. These results came from 13 reservoirs (greater than 500 acres), 11 small impoundments, six small rivers, and three larger rivers. In addition to traditional fishing tournaments that conduct events/ weigh-ins at a single location, nine tournaments requiring length only and immediate release for species such as black bass and musky across multiple waters were reported in 2024.

The Trophy Fish Citation program, which recognizes anglers who catch trophy-sized fish, was restructured so anglers received one certificate for each species for which they caught at least one trophy-sized fish for that species. Multiple trophies for a species are recorded on one certificate. In 2024, 960 trophy certificates were awarded, representing 28 species. Trophy citations were reported from 89 different public waterbodies across the state. 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 reviews of citizen reports of rare bird occurrences for confirmation. Staff coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service to deploy automated recording units at historical northern goshawk sites. Staff coordinated with multi-state partners to survey for American goshawk in six sampling units in Allegheny Mountains and deployed automated recording units at historical peregrine falcon nest sites. Staff completed surveys for wintering rusty blackbirds at Meadow River Wildlife Management Area.

Staff coordinated or conducted breeding bird survey routes statewide and compiled Christmas bird counts. Staff monitored several state priority species including loggerhead shrike, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and marsh birds. Staff coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor bank swallow colonies and compiled reports of tracked species of greatest conservation need (SGCN).

As part of ongoing research, staff banded and collected feather samples from six loggerhead shrikes in the Greater Greenbrier Conservation Focus Area and completed deployment of 30 Motus tags on wood thrushes statewide.

In partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), staff implemented farm bill programs targeting cerulean warbler, golden-winged warbler, and other SGCN on private lands statewide. Staff hosted coordination meetings in support of private lands work and participated in a workshop with industrial forest landowners.

Staff provided regulatory oversight and permitting of falconry activities. Staff completed a review draft of the Guide to Forest Management for Birds in West Virginia, taught Master Naturalist classes, and answered inquiries from state residents pertaining to birds and bird conservation.

RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

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 conservation of rare, threatened, and endangered species and their habitat statewide.

Surveys and Monitoring

Bat populations were monitored at 13 hibernacula, 6 Virginia big-eared bat maternity colonies and on approximately 23 acoustic monitoring routes. Technical assistance for bat conservation was provided to seven government agencies, two professional organizations, three non-governmental organizations, and 41 members of the public.

Surveys for Cheat Mountain salamanders were performed in 10 benchmark populations and a population genetics project assessing hybridization with congeners completed. Rusty patched bumble bee surveys were conducted. A monitoring plan for Guyandotte River crayfish was implemented, with surveys conducted in all streams currently known to be occupied.

Surveys for Diamond Darters were conducted at select known occurrence points, and new surveys were performed outside the known occurrence area on the Elk River. These new surveys led to documentation of several new occurrence sites and an expansion of the occurrence area upstream by approximately 15 miles.

CAVES AND KARST

The WVDNR cave and karst program continued to work with the caving community. The West Virginia Speleological Survey, the West Virginia Association for Cave Studies (WVACS), the National Speleological Society (NSS), the Cave Conservancy of the Virginias (CCV) and the West Virginia Cave Conservancy (WVCC) are all strong partners to the WVDNR for cave protection. Several WVACS project weekends were attended, as well as the NSS annual meeting, a CCV sinkhole cleanout project and the WVCC Banquet.

Habitat improvements continued at Greenville Saltpeter cave in partnership with the West Virginia Land Trust and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Replacement of a non-bat friendly gate at Organ Cave with a modern bat-friendly gate is underway and anticipated to be completed by August 2025.

Staff continued to support the mapping project at Cornwell cave and provided technical conservation assistance to private cave owners and nongovernmental organizations, including evaluating conservation potential of privately owned caves.

AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE PROGRAM

The amphibian and reptile program continued to implement monitoring programs for wood turtles, box turtles and Cheat Mountain salamanders. Data collected from these monitoring initiatives allow biologists to better implement management and conservation actions to protect and enhance populations. Staff also continue to provide technical assistance to citizens and land managers as well as conduct targeted surveys for amphibian and reptile species of greatest conservation need.

Additionally, program biologists worked with WVDNR Law Enforcement and West Liberty University to establish a memorandum of understanding to allow for the holding and placement of amphibians and reptiles confiscated by, and/or surrendered to the Agency. Program biologists have been working with West Liberty University staff, WVDNR State Parks, the Oglebay Good Zoo and other partners to develop a strategy for repatriating confiscated and collected animals.

ENTOMOLOGY PROGRAM

The entomology program continued to monitor high-priority pollinators and other terrestrial invertebrates. In 2024, the first mark-recapture surveys for bog copper butterflies and Appalachian tiger beetles were conducted. In 2025, staff conducted a mark-recapture survey on the known population of Appalachian grizzled skippers. West Virginia possesses small, disjunct populations of these insects, which are vulnerable to even small-scale environmental changes. These more detailed estimates of population sizes allow for more responsive management decisions. An additional survey for Appalachian grizzled skipper caterpillars was conducted at night, using an ultraviolet light.

Staff continued sampling wild bee communities across the state and began to identify the numerous species collected. A comprehensive inventory of pollinator species will aid in prioritizing species for conservation action and will support the development of a reference collection to facilitate future bee identification. Two sites, Lewis Wetzel Wildlife Management Area and Twin Falls State Park, were surveyed six times each. A novel radio telemetry study was conducted on bumble bees in Putnam County. Little is known about the nesting habits of bumble bee species. Recent advances in transmitter technology make it possible for bees to carry transmitters with receiving ranges of more than 100 meters. The study tested the feasibility of using these transmitters to track bumble bees to their nests.

Surveys for other rare insects were conducted across the state. In 2023, a single russet-tipped clubtail was observed on Buckley Island, Wood County, a species formerly considered historical in the state. A follow-up survey in 2024 documented two additional individuals, confirming the species' presence. Surveys for northern metalmark, Olympia marble and frosted elfin were also conducted, but no individuals were located.



ENTOMOLOGY PROGRAM CONTINUED ...

Rare Fireflies

Surveys for rare fireflies were conducted as a continued effort to determine firefly species composition and distribution in West Virginia. Surveys yielded new observations of the Synchronous firefly (*Photinus carolinus*) and other state-tracked species, including the Potomac firefly (*Photuris potomaca*), Mr. Mac (*Photinus macdermotti*), Cattail Flash-train firefly (*Photinus consimilis*), and Tiny Lucy (*Lucidota punctata*). A manuscript authored by Zoology program staff on the rediscovery of the Potomac firefly was published in the *Coleopterists Bulletin* in September. Observations from the 2024 community science initiative called Light Up West Virginia were analyzed but yielded little new information. In 2025, the community science initiative was put on hiatus with plans to revise and revitalize the initiative in 2026. Staff engaged in multiple press opportunities for fireflies including interviews with the *Hampshire Review*, *Highland Outdoors* and *Washington Post*. In 2025, a monitoring program was piloted to establish baseline habitat and population data for rare firefly populations in the state.



AQUATIC COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

During the 2024–2025 field seasons, a total of 83 fish surveys were conducted statewide to continue documenting the distribution and status of West Virginia fish species. Of the 83 fish surveys, most ($n = 81$) were wadeable and two were non-wadeable. Wadeable surveys consisted of backpack electrofishing surveys, seining surveys, parallel-wire fish community monitoring surveys, snorkeling and nocturnal surveys. Non-wadeable surveys were completed by gill netting, raft electrofishing. Benthic trawling was conducted in the Monongahela, Kanawha and Ohio rivers. Genetic samples were collected to better elucidate population genetics for various West Virginia fishes. Sampled species included spotted darter (*Nothonotus maculatus*) and reidside dace (*Clinostomus elongatus*). State conservation ranks for all 195 fishes that have been documented within the state were reevaluated for the 2025 revision of the State Wildlife Action Plan. In addition, the spatial aquatic habitats were revised to better reflect the differences between the streams and rivers of the state in terms of their gradient, modeled stream temperature and drainage area.

Staff collaborated with state and federal agencies to conduct surveys investigating two federally listed fish species: the candy darter (*Etheostoma osburni*) and the diamond darter (*Crystallaria cincotta*). One hundred thirty-four diamond darters were observed across 11 surveys on the Elk River. Throughout the 2024–2025 field season, fin clips ($n = 44$) were collected to monitor the prevalence of variegated darter (*Etheostoma variegatum*) hybridization within the two candy darter metapopulations (i.e., Ridge and Valley, and Appalachian plateau). Forty-three candy darters were transported from the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery and stocked into a previously repatriated stream during the 2024–2025 field season. Other collaborations included the review of a draft manuscript of “A Distributional Atlas and Identification Guide to West Virginia Fishes.” Two publications were resultant of the information collected from this program including a monograph in *Northeastern Naturalist* titled “An Update of the Ichthyofauna of West Virginia with Notes of Historic Sportfish Stockings” and a research paper in the journal *Water* titled “Endemics and Invasives: A History of Distributional Trends in the Fish and Fauna of the Lower New River Drainage.”

MUSSEL PROGRAM

The freshwater mussel program completed three private landowner surveys and five long-term monitoring sites across the state. Mussel propagation efforts included releasing 6,000 plain pocketbook mussels (*Lampsilis siliquoidea*) into grow-out cages at Burnsville Lake. Staff collected broodstock for the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery and assisted the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources in procuring broodstock for reintroduction efforts. Staff also participated in a range-wide project to collect genetic swabs from salamander mussels coordinated by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Program staff contributed extensively to the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan revisions, rewrites, and Species of Greatest Conservation Need assessments. Staff also provided technical expertise to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on several projects, including two Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Response cases, a sheepsnose species status review, and biological assessments for restoration projects at Muskingum Island and South Fork Potts Creek.

Additional program activities included equipment salvage for the diversity fish program, retrieving a lost ponar sampler, and participation in multiple working groups. These included bi-monthly species groups for brook floater and yellow lampmussel, project-specific groups such as dredge partnering and Section 7 consultation with the USFWS at Canaan, Wells Lock and Dam removal meetings, and aquatic connectivity planning. Staff also represented the program in WVDNR working groups for the Palestine Hatchery project and the proposed Elkins Operations Center boathouse.

Outreach activities included a mussel class at North Bend State Park, participation in the Forest Festival, and attendance at the sectional meeting in Summersville. The program hosted a contractor mussel identification test and consulted on 98 mussel project reviews.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

In the effort to inventory and document the state's rare plants, animals and communities, a total of 270 new element occurrences were added to Biotics consisting of 27 vertebrate animals, 9 invertebrate animals, 29 communities and 191 plants and 14 mosses and lichens. In addition, a total of 1,919 records were improved and updated in Biotics consisting of 193 vertebrate animals, 366 invertebrate animals, 123 communities and 1,216 plants and 21 mosses and lichens. Staff responded to 237 data requests from cooperating agencies and researchers needing element occurrence data for a variety of research projects within the state.

BOTANY PROGRAM

The botany program contributed a narrative addressing plant conservation to the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan, and to prepare for this the conservation status of 500 plant species and their habitat affiliations were assessed. A key finding was that special habitats, including wetlands, riparian areas, and geologically distinctive areas such as glades, cliffs, and rock outcrops, are critical for the conservation of the state's flora. Staff also observed that many records of rare plant species are outdated and that these populations need to be revisited to assess their status. Staff is working on an updated "Tracked Species List" to be released in fall and winter 2025. This list identifies priority plant species of the Natural Heritage Program and is shared broadly with agencies, professionals, and the public to encourage interest in and exchange of information on the state's rare flora.

Staff focused on completing the final year of monitoring and reporting for (*Trifolium stoloniferum*), Running buffalo clover, a plant that was delisted from the Endangered Species Act in 2021. An ongoing monitoring program for the federally endangered plant (*Harperella nodosa*), harperella, was continued and the results reported. 2025 field work focused on monitoring known populations of the candidate for federal listing (*Marshallia pulchra*), Appalachian Barbara's buttons, and continuing monitoring on (*Potamogeton tennesseensis*), Tennessee pondweed. A project was initiated to better characterize the distribution and habitat of the globally rare regional endemic (*Phlox buckleyi*), swordleaf phlox, with the goal of creating a habitat suitability model to guide surveys and to be used in environmental review processes.

Staff participated in numerous outreach activities, including working at the National Hunting and Fishing Day at Stonewall Jackson, leading classes for Master Naturalist chapters in Canaan and Tygart Valley, leading a class on ferns for the statewide Master Naturalist conference at Blackwater Falls, leading workshops on gardening with native plants for local Garden Club chapters, and leading classes and serving on the planning committee for the West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

NATURAL AREA PROGRAM

One proposed Natural Area at Short Mountain Wildlife Management Area was refined and submitted for an official nomination. Three other potential Natural Areas were visited at one state park and two Wildlife Management Areas. A meeting with State Park leadership was held in September to discuss current and future Natural Areas on State Parks. Similarly, a meeting with Game Management leadership was held to discuss the possibility and logistics of Natural Areas on WMAs. Presentations about the Natural Area Program and its utility were given at the National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Programs Conference, Northeast Federal Aid Coordinators Meeting, West Virginia State Parks Annual Meeting, and the Master Naturalist Conference.

ZOOLOGY PROGRAM

Motus Project

Six Motus Wildlife Tracking System stations were installed on private and public lands as part of the WVDNR Motus Initiative. Two stations at East Lynn Lake and Burnsville Lake are partnerships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). One installation was on private land in Aurora managed under a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plan for wildlife. Three installations were at academic institutions: one elementary school (Peterstown PK8), one high school (Mount View), and one university (West Liberty) that will create new opportunities for Motus to be used in the classroom to learn about wildlife and their movements. Eight wildlife detections have been made so far with more expected this upcoming fall migration.

Allegheny Woodrat

Zoology staff completed a radio telemetry study on Allegheny Woodrats (*Neotoma magister*) that ran from 2023-2024 at Coopers Rock State Forest. Over 49 individuals were captured and radio collared 19 with experimental brass radio collars without an external antenna. Monthly nighttime radio telemetry sessions yielded information about movements that corresponded to different times of the breeding season. Collar retention on average was 172 days, with the longest retention over 334 days.

ECOLOGY PROGRAM

Staff sampled six vegetation classification plots as a continued effort to classify the state's natural communities. In 2025, the ecology program embarked on a monitoring project to revisit former classification plot locations to assess changes to community and community health. Thus far, four permanent plots were established in two of eighteen natural habitat types as defined by the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP); staff will continue to establish permanent plots for the sixteen remaining SWAP habitat types in 2025–26. As part of the effort to monitor changes to natural communities and community health, staff revisited G1S1 wetland communities and will continue to do so in 2025–2026. G1S1 communities are considered the most critically imperiled habitats in our state and globally.

Additionally, staff answered data requests, collected habitat data for the firefly project in conjunction with the Entomology program, aided in the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan revision, and participated and helped lead the Biotics workshop in April.

West Virginia Water Shrew

The Eastern Water Shrew (*Sorex albibarbis*) is a rare species of taxonomic uncertainty in West Virginia where there may be cryptic speciation or genetically isolated populations. Six specimens were collected for a total of 21 available that will be used for a future genetic assessment. Non-lethal detection techniques such as bucket camera traps and eDNA were verified as an effective means of detection, with water shrews being detected all months of the year and all times of day. Radio-tagged individuals (n=3) exhibited localized movements and sex-specific interactions but notably documented off-stream use and use of multiple den locations. Summary data suggests water shrews hold small territorial home ranges.

Lagomorph

In coordination with West Virginia University, fecal pellet transect surveys were conducted in historic ranges of Appalachian Cottontails (*Sylvilagus obscurus*) and Snowshoe Hares (*Lepus americanus*). Fifty-nine transects were completed in 2023 and 55 transects were completed in 2024, each visited six times for a total of 684 surveys. DNA extraction was completed on all fecal pellets and swabs collected. Sanger sequencing of a mitochondrial DNA amplicon was completed on all DNA extractions for preliminary species identification, and a total of 324 samples that were able to be identified to species. Next, microsatellite markers will be utilized to generate population genetic information and unique genotypes needed for spatially explicit capture recapture models. Game camera data from 2023-2024 from camera trap array sites are currently being analyzed with over a million images collected.

STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN REVISION

The Wildlife Diversity Unit initiated a comprehensive revision of the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan. Staff evaluated the conservation status of more than 1,200 native animal and plant species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). It conducted stress analyses for SGCN and habitats and determined actions necessary to address threats and stresses. External taxa experts were consulted. The plan will align with both state and regional priorities aimed at conserving native species and habitats and preventing the need for listing species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Twenty-four outreach events were held to engage the public and solicit comments. A citizen survey was distributed through social media and flyers which generated more than 300 online responses. Two stakeholder meetings were held with agency and non-governmental partners that produced strategies for implementing the plan. A draft plan will be available for public review and comment in the fall of 2025. The final draft will be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by December 31, 2025. Once approved, the 2025 West Virginia State Wildlife Action Plan will be the guiding document for the WVDNR Wildlife Diversity Unit.



PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION

As identified in West Virginia's State Wildlife Action Plan, conservation efforts on private land (approximately 90 percent of West Virginia) remain a priority of the agency. A private lands specialist oversaw conservation and management activities through coordination with other state and federal agencies. Staff provided outreach and technical assistance to a wide range of landowners, from small family landowners to representatives of industrial forestry companies, promoting best management practices for wildlife conservation. Staff processed 68 Wild Yards applications during the reporting period and have certified more than 500 Wild Yards statewide since the program's inception.

Invasive Species Program

Staff represented the agency at several state and national committees, working groups, and workshops, and provided technical assistance to more than 20 state residents, agencies, and other organizations on invasive species identification and management. Staff partnered with state parks to initiate a mapping and monitoring program for invasive plants on select state parks and wildlife management areas and collaborated to develop invasive species management plans to support habitat restoration for wildlife species of greatest conservation need. In collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service pollinator partner biologist, staff continued a research project on the use of solarization as a method for controlling Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). Staff also revised the state list of priority invasive species to guide future management and outreach efforts.

West Virginia Master Naturalist Program

Staff instructed several master naturalist classes for multiple state chapters and conducted outreach to chapters statewide. Educational and display materials were loaned to several chapters and used at a variety of events, including Earth Day celebrations, Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs and many other presentations to local groups.



WEST VIRGINIA

DNR

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