

**Appendix L. Summaries of Community Meetings Facilitated by VCU's
Center for Public Policy**

Virginia Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Summary of Stakeholder Input Sessions

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The VCU Center for Public Policy**

**for:
The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
and
CWCS External Steering Committee**

February 2005

**This effort was funded through a grant provided by the
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
State Wildlife Grants Program (VA-T-1)**

Virginia's Comprehensive

Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Summary of Stakeholder Input Sessions

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Overview of the Stakeholder Input Process

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) contracted with the Center for Public Policy at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) to design, conduct and document fourteen stakeholder input sessions across the Commonwealth. These sessions gathered critical input in preparation of Virginia's first Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). This information was reviewed by the External Steering Committee (a group of individuals representing key state, federal and nonprofit partners assembled to guide the planning process) to assist them in determining statewide conservation priorities and strategies.

External Steering Committee members provided input on the type of information that would be most beneficial to gather from stakeholders. VCU and DGIF staff used this information to design an interactive process that would permit each session attendee to share their ideas, opinions and perspectives regarding wildlife and habitat conservation issues.

DGIF identified more than 400 stakeholder groups. These groups represented a broad variety of state and federal government agencies, nonprofit conservation groups, hunting and fishing organizations, naturalist organizations, and other interested parties. Invitations and background information were mailed to stakeholders asking them to attend one of fourteen scheduled sessions.

Sessions were conducted during November and December 2004. Eleven sessions were held during normal business hours and three sessions were conducted during evening hours to maximize opportunities for participation. Both day and evening sessions were held in the urban regions of Central Virginia, Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. The locations and dates of sessions were:

Abingdon – November 30	Richmond – November 8
Accomac – December 8	Richmond (evening) – November 18
Alexandria (evening) – November 15	Roanoke – November 30
Annandale – November 5	South Boston – November 10
Hampton – December 10	Virginia Beach – December 9
Harrisonburg – November 4	Virginia Beach (evening) – December 9
Lynchburg – November 3	Warsaw – November 9

Each input session followed a similar format. DGIF personnel opened each session with a short presentation describing: the goals and objectives of the CWCS, the planning process, progress to date and the importance and use of stakeholder input.

Participants then worked in both small and large groups to address the following questions:

1. What is working well now in Virginia with regard to species and habitat conservation? Why is this working well?
2. What needs improvement in Virginia with regard to species and habitat conservation? How could we improve it?
3. What are the most critical issues that need to be addressed during the next ten years regarding species and habitat conservation?
4. What are the highest priority needs for conservation action?

Small groups were formed to generate responses to the first two questions. After reviewing this information, participants next worked to identify critical conservation issues to be addressed. Individual responses were grouped into similar categories and labeled. Participants were then given colored dots that were used to indicate the issues they considered to be the highest priorities for action.

Summary of Results

A total of 147 people attended the input sessions. Ninety-six different stakeholder organizations were represented covering a wide range of interests, activities and geographic boundaries (Appendix L1).

A summary of each input session was prepared for review and analysis. The Hampton session contained only one participant who stayed for the opening presentation but declined to provide additional information. The following discussion reflects the comments received during the other thirteen meetings (detailed summaries of each meeting are provided in Appendices L2 through L14).

What is Working Well and Keys to Success

Participants provided more than 200 separate examples of programs, activities and organizations that, in their opinion, are helping to conserve wildlife and habitat in Virginia. These comments were collated across all sessions and sorted into similar thematic categories. A total of ten themes emerged from this data. These themes are described below and are prioritized according to the number of sessions (in parentheses) in which a comment was provided that fell within the particular theme.

Public Education Programs (13)

Public education and outreach efforts offered through schools, local and state parks, nature camps and conservation organizations are beneficial in raising awareness of and appreciation for conservation issues. Hunter and angler education programs, *Virginia Wildlife* magazine and the *Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail Guides* are examples of effective educational approaches.

Habitat Protection and Restoration (13)

Local, state and national groups improve habitats and biodiversity through such efforts as dam removal, wetlands creation and improvement or creation of freshwater impoundments. Management of existing habitats, such as National Forests and State Parks, is also important through such methods as prescribed burnings and creating connections among greenways.

Collaboration and Partnerships (11)

Cooperative efforts between state and federal government conservation agencies, nonprofit organizations, citizen groups and private industries to identify and protect critical habitats and species are an important contributing factor for successful conservation efforts.

Financial Incentives (11)

State and federal programs that provide cost-sharing mechanisms for buffer strips and tax incentives for conservation easements and land donations were viewed as valuable tools for preserving habitat. Land use value taxation, Agriculture and Forest Districts and programs to purchase development rights helps keep land in fields and forest.

Research and Knowledge (11)

Inventorying and mapping of species and habitats continues to increase knowledge of resources and improves the ability to develop threat assessments. The general public and decision-makers have greater access to data and information regarding conservation needs.

Keys to Success

- Bringing children and adults into contact with and building their understanding of nature
- Connecting conservation efforts with economic benefits
- Increasing public interest and support for conservation efforts
- Informing future decision-makers

Keys to Success

- Expanding cooperative efforts between the various conservation agencies and organizations
- Funding to support efforts
- Increasing biodiversity
- Replanting and growth of forests

Keys to Success

- Dedicated, quality staff
- Improving communication among a range of conservation groups
- Improving program effectiveness and achieving higher quality results
- Increasing the knowledge base across organizations by sharing information
- Leveraging funds and expertise

Keys to Success

- Cooperative, voluntary incentive programs that encourage landowners to participate
- Protecting very sensitive, fragile areas, such as stream banks
- Reducing financial pressure on landowners to develop land

Keys to Success

- Communicating and sharing information
- Development of management plans using improved information
- Disseminating information to the public and decision-makers
- Gathering new data and information

Conservation Organizations (10)

National, state and regional conservation organizations play an important role in identifying and protecting habitats and species. Land purchases, acquisition of easements and public education and involvement programs are examples of effective activities.

Keys to Success

- Being politically active to gain support from decision-makers
- Identifying and protecting critical habitats
- Offering ways for local people to get involved in effective conservation projects
- Passionate, dedicated staff and volunteers

Game Management (10)

Restrictions on catch and bag limits have helped restore a variety of game species and sportfish. Control of deer populations and other species helps thin herds to healthy and manageable levels and reduce conflicts between animals and humans.

Keys to Success

- Improving biodiversity
- Keeping hunters and anglers honest
- Increasing game populations

Laws and Regulations (10)

State and federal programs such as the National Environmental Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, and tidal and non-tidal wetlands regulations help to preserve critical habitat. Local watershed plans and development standards requiring buffer zones, catch basins and other water quality protection measures are beneficial.

Keys to Success

- Limiting development near fragile riparian areas
- Mandating actions and compliance
- Protecting of small, threatened species populations
- Reducing pollutant and sedimentation loads on waterways

Public Access and Use (6)

Local and state parks, aquariums, boat ramps and fishing access sites provide public access for passive and active outdoor recreational opportunities. Actively using these natural resources helps build understanding and appreciation for their value.

Keys to Success

- Offering hands-on educational programs and opportunities
- Providing direct contact with habitats and wildlife
- Readily available resources for use

Funding to Support Programs (5)

Revenues from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and collection of fines provides income for DGIF programs as does a portion of sales tax collected from the sale of outdoor recreation equipment. Membership fees for conservation organizations provide funding for regional and local conservation initiatives.

Keys to Success

- Providing baseline funding for conservation efforts
- Funding for land acquisition and site specific habitat improvement

What Needs Improvement and How to Improve It

Nearly 200 comments were provided on conservation efforts that could be improved. These comments were collated across all sessions and sorted into similar thematic categories. A total of nine themes emerged from this data. These themes are described below and are prioritized according to the number of sessions (in parentheses) in which a comment was provided that fell within the particular theme.

Coordination and Working Partnerships (12)

Suggestions for Improvement

- Coordinate conservation plans
- Coordinate work efforts between state and federal agencies and nonprofits groups
- Create “one-stop shop” to assist landowners with conservation efforts and decrease response time when information or assistance is requested
- Enact interagency agreements among land managers to coordinate efforts
- Hire more multidisciplinary personnel

- Host forums to bring agencies, organizations and interested citizens together to discuss and address issues
- Increase industry partnerships
- Integrate data resources
- Link terrestrial and marine conservation efforts
- Partner with local governments and provide technical assistance

**Local and Regional Land Use
Planning and Development
Standards
(12)**

Suggestions for Improvement

- Develop and implement riparian best management practices
- Develop local tree preservation ordinances
- Educate local decision-makers on best practices
- Hire a natural resource planner within each Planning District Commission
- Incorporate habitat and species protection into local and regional land use plans
- Minimize the addition of new roadways which destroy and/or fragment habitat and encourage sprawl
- Provide incentives for voluntary easements and preservation of unfragmented open space
- Reduce fragmentation of habitat
- Reduce sprawl and destruction of habitat through redevelopment and “smart growth” techniques

**Public Education and
Awareness
(11)**

Suggestions for Improvement

- Conduct educational workshops for youth and adults to improve environmental understanding
- Create an Education Coordinator at the state level to coordinate outreach activities
- Create statewide multi-media marketing campaigns to make it “cool” to conserve and communicate the value and benefits of conservation efforts
- Increase wildlife education curriculum in schools and tie to the Standards of Learning
- Inform the public about how they can get involved in their community with land development decision-making and conservation efforts
- Inform the public about the economic and health benefits of conservation
- Prepare educational materials for political decision-makers
- Prepare publications for the general public to increase understanding about how to protect and improve water quality, habitat and wildlife diversity
- Produce a resource directory listing conservation-related agencies, programs and local contact information and distribute it to the public and post it on the Internet
- Utilize outdoor recreation providers as conservation educators

**Habitat Improvement
(10)**

Suggestions for Improvement

- Create additional freshwater wetlands
- Develop a statewide land acquisition program to join fragmented habitats and wildlife corridors
- Expand stream clean-up and restoration activities
- Improve coordination of coastal impoundments and water draw downs
- Improve management of forest hardwoods, not just softwoods, on public lands
- Improve the management of public land vegetation and grasslands to maximize benefit to wildlife
- Increase technical assistance to private landowners on methods to manage and improve wildlife habitat
- Place more emphasis on preservation of existing resources versus mitigation efforts
- Promote the use of native landscaping materials through local nurseries

**Control of Invasive Species,
Plants and Predators
(9)**

Suggestions for Improvement

- Control imports and educate the public on what to look for at nurseries and pet stores
- Create cost share programs and educational materials for landowners to reduce invasive plants
- Improve pet control programs to reduce feral dog and cat populations
- Manage game populations to reduce conflicts between animals and people
- Use Virginia Wildlife Magazine to educate the public about invasive plants and species

**Enforcement of Existing Laws
and Regulations
(8)**

Suggestions for Improvement

- Expand regulation of pesticides that are harmful to wildlife
- Improve enforcement of local erosion and sediment control ordinances
- Increase enforcement of air, water and wetland laws
- Increase the number of Game Wardens
- Provide Wardens for all wildlife sanctuaries
- Require all hunters to buy a license
- Strengthen NEPA enforcement
- Use game check-in stations to ensure accurate game counts

**Funding for Conservation
(8)**

Suggestions for Improvement

- Create a dedicated state level source of funding to support land acquisition programs
- Create new funding sources, such as check off boxes for voluntary contributions, on hunting and fishing license applications
- Increase funding for Chesapeake Bay programs
- Increase public lobbying efforts to increase governmental funding

**Incentive Programs
(8)**

Suggestions for Improvement

- Expand land use tax provisions
- Increase funding for buffer strip cost share programs
- Increase tax incentives for conservations easements and land donations

**Legislation
(5)**

Suggestions for Improvement

- Increase controls over the use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Increase protections on rivers and the Chesapeake Bay
- Increase the use of environmental impact studies
- Provide local governments the authority to preserve and manage natural resources
- Reduce permissible water and air pollutant levels
- Return National Forests to multi-use to diversify habitats
- Strengthen wetland laws
- Eliminate hunting with dogs

Critical Conservation Concerns

Session participants identified more than one hundred critical issues during the thirteen sessions. These critical issues analyzed and grouped into eight general areas of critical concern. Each area of concern is described below:

Decline and Fragmentation of Habitat

The decline and fragmentation of habitat emerged as an area of concern in all input sessions. This issue was consistently ranked as one of the highest priority concerns across the sessions (Table 1). Loss of habitat due to commercial, residential and roadway development was repeatedly mentioned. Lack of land use controls and development sprawl are viewed as major contributing factors to the increased fragmentation of existing habitats and wildlife corridors.

Also contributing to habitat decline is an increase of invasive plant and animal species and a rise in unwanted predator species. These factors contribute to the decline of biodiversity in some areas. Some concern was expressed over the proper management of existing habitats and the ability to maximize their benefit for wildlife.

Pollution Increases

The rise in pollution levels was also a concern identified in all sessions. Concern was expressed that overall levels of pollution and exposure to contaminants was occurring and that the effects were being witnessed at the global and national levels.

Declining water quality and quantity was a concern that surfaced in all regions of the state. Pollutants carried by surface water runoff and excessive erosion and sedimentation were often mentioned. Declining air quality was also of major concern.

Inadequate Funding

Participants in every session indicated that a lack of funding was hampering conservation efforts. In general, there is a perception and conservation is not a funding priority of state and federal government. Successful conservation programs, such as buffer strip programs, cannot meet demand due to inadequate funding levels.

Public Education and Support

Considerable comments were offered on the need to continue and expand public education and outreach efforts in ten of the thirteen sessions. Participants expressed concern that many citizens do not understand the value of natural areas and wildlife and the long term costs and consequences of inadequate conservation. Educating decision-makers was considered critical for generating increased funding and improving local and regional planning efforts.

Societal Trends

Concern was expressed at seven of the sessions on various societal trends that are making conservation more important and also more difficult. Population growth is placing increased pressures to develop open space and forested lands. Our society is highly consumptive of resources. An increasing percentage of Virginia's population are living in suburban and rural areas contributing to a lack of understanding and disconnect with the natural environment.

Coordination of Conservation Efforts

The need to better coordinate the variety of conservation activities being conducted by state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and other conservation groups was identified as an issue at four sessions. Maximizing expertise and resources can be enhanced by improved communication and expansion of partnerships.

Enforcement

Enforcement of existing laws and regulations was mentioned during two of the sessions. The ability to enforce game management and water quality protection laws were viewed as areas for improvement.

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Table 1. Matrix of most frequently cited concerns by session and priority ranking.

	Abingdon	Accomac	Alexandria	Annandale	Harrisonburg	Lynchburg	Richmond	Richmond pm	Roanoke	South Boston	Virginia Beach	Virginia Beach pm	Warsaw
Coordination		5		4							5		4
Enforcement	1											3	
Funding	5	6	2	2	2	4	3	2, 5	5	3, 5	2	3	1
Game Mgmt.		4, 8					6						
Habitat Decline													
Invasives		8	4	3	3		8		5	5	5	7	6
Loss	1	1	1	4		1, 3	1	1	1		1, 3	1	1
Management		1	4				5			5			
Planning				1	3, 6		2	2	2	1		3	
Pollution Increase													
Overall Decline		6			1			3	7, 10		8	6	
Air Quality			4	7		5			9		8		6
Water Qual/Quan	1			6		2	6	5	3	4	8		
Public Education	4	1		8	5	5	4	3			4	2	1
Societal Trends			3				8	5	3, 8	2, 5	8		8

Note: Column numbers reflect the rank order of importance as determined by the number of votes per issue for each session. Duplicate numbers within each session reflect tie votes. Some sessions had more than one issue that was grouped into the general headings listed on the left.

Appendix L1. CWCS Stakeholder Input Sessions Participating Agencies and Organizations

1. Beaverdam Park (Gloucester Co.)
2. Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy
3. Blue Ridge Parkway (National Park Service)
4. Board of Game and Inland Fisheries
5. Booker T. Washington National Monument (National Park Service)
6. Central Virginia Land Conservancy
7. City of Virginia Beach Agriculture Department
8. City of Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Department
9. Coastal Virginia Wildlife Conservancy
10. Congressman Schrock's office
11. Dominion Virginia Power
12. Ducks Unlimited
13. Eastern Shore Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)
14. Elizabeth River Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society
15. Elizabeth River Project
16. Fairfax Audubon
17. Fairfax County Park Authority
18. Fairfax Wetlands Board
19. Flint Hill School
20. Float Fishermen of Virginia
21. Friends of the Roanoke River
22. Friends of Huntley Meadows
23. Friends of Mason Neck State Park
24. Friends of Pocahontas State Park
25. Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
26. Hillside Garden Club
27. Holston River Soil and Water Conservation District
28. Izaak Walton League
29. James River State Park
30. Landowners Hunt Club
31. Mead Westvaco
32. Mid-Atlantic Exotic Plant Council
33. Mill Mountain Zoo
34. National Audubon Society
35. National Trappers Association
36. National Wild Turkey Federation
37. New River Land Trust
38. New River Valley Bird Club
39. Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District
40. Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
41. Pathways for Radford
42. Piedmont Environmental Council
43. RC&D (Warsaw meeting)
44. Richmond Audubon
45. Richmond Regional Planning District Commission
46. Roanoke City Council
47. Roanoke Valley Greenways
48. Save Crow's Nest
49. Save Our Streams-South Anna Monitoring Project
50. Sierra Club
51. Sierra Club-Battlefields Group
52. Sierra Club-Virginia Chapter
53. Tazewell County 4-H
54. Tazewell Soil and Water Conservation District
55. The Nature Conservancy
56. The Nature Conservancy-SW Field Office
57. The Nature Conservancy-Virginia Coast Reserve
58. Three Lakes Nature Center
59. Three Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District
60. Trust for Public Land
61. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
62. U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services
63. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge
64. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Ecological Services (Virginia Field Office)
65. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge
66. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Federal Assistance
67. U.S. Marine Corps (Quantico)
68. University of Virginia (Mountain Lake Biological Station)
69. Valley Conservation Council
70. Virginians for Appropriate Roads
71. Virginia Anglers Club
72. Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Museum
73. Virginia Association of Marine Industries
74. Virginia Audubon Council
75. Virginia Beach Audubon
76. Virginia Bear Hunters Association
77. Virginia Butterfly Society
78. Virginia Coastal Program (Virginia Department of Environmental Quality)
79. Virginia Commonwealth University (Department of Biology)
80. Virginia Cooperative Extension

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81. Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (Natural Heritage Division)
82. Virginia Department of Forestry
83. Virginia Department of Transportation
84. Virginia Forest Watch
85. Virginia Forestry Association
86. Virginia Hunting Preserve Association
87. Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center
88. Virginia Native Plant Society
89. Virginia Society of Ornithology
90. Virginia Taxidermist Association
91. Virginia Trappers Association
92. Virginia's United Land Trusts
93. Western Virginia Land Trust
94. Wetlands Watch
95. Wildlife Center of Virginia
96. WWWSportsmen of Virginia

Appendix L2. Stakeholder Input Session, Abingdon – November 30, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
▪ Fire prevention	▪ Education
▪ CREP: Riparian Protection	▪ 90% cost share
▪ Hunters education	▪ Volunteers
▪ Watershed groups	▪ Localized
Projects for public - Kids in the creek, etc.	▪ Experience for kids
▪ Access to wildlife areas and state forests	▪ Availability, education and recreation
▪ Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute	▪ Collaborative work
▪ Holiday Lake Forestry Camp	▪ Opportunity for kids to experience the outdoors
▪ Reforestation of timberland	▪ Replanting of habitat
▪ State cost share for BMPs	▪ Conserves riparian areas
▪ Riparian tax credits for not harvesting timber	▪ Money for conservation of land
▪ Local land trusts, expansion of capacity	▪ Provides tool for conserving land
▪ Harvesting management (game laws)	Reduce population; focuses on best time of year for harvest
▪ Master gardening Wildlife garden	▪ Bird houses Butterfly gardens
▪ Greenways in urban areas	▪ Great traveling space for wildlife
▪ Prescribed burning	▪ Controls physical habitat Creates open grasslands Maintains habitat
▪ Outdoor classrooms	▪ Tie in class curriculum to outdoor sites
▪ Game check-in stations	▪ Visually seeing deer Keep hunters honest

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
▪ Urbanization and effects on wildlife	▪ Reducing fragmentation Zoning and planning Set aside wilderness areas National and state forest and parks Open space/agricultural land Water quality (wastewater, storm drains, industry)
▪ Education	▪ Youth and adult workshops SOS stream monitoring Hunting and fishing guidelines
▪ TMDL Implementation	▪ Strategies/funding More public input
▪ More personnel (Game Wardens)	▪ Funding Employ more field deputies
▪ Game check-in stations	▪ Continue with game check in stations vs. on-line check in – 1-800 #
▪ Invasive species – Kudzu	▪ Better coordination Increase funding

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Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
	Management Education Research Regulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fish stocking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restructure stocking program ▪ Research site to ensure propagation and survival
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better BMPs and Implementation 	Plan ahead – streamside management zone requirements: agriculture, logging, mining, commercial and construction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landowner education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What attracts landowners to classes/meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Watershed management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More local groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enforcement of E&S guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better focus from local government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New programs to influence landowners in state acquisition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Age of landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Large turnover of land is coming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication of responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contacting Game and Inland Fisheries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Licensing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All hunters must buy license
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Game Warden recruiting 	

Critical Conservation Issues

Game/Habitat Regulation and Enforcement (3)	Water Quality and Quantity (3)	Habitat Loss & Fragmentation from Development (3)	Public Awareness of Watersheds and Ecosystems (2)	Conservation Not a Funding Priority (1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Harvest regulation and enforcement for wildlife and forestry ▪ Tailor harvesting to number of wildlife in specific areas ▪ Improve Game Warden recruitment; need more ▪ Develop original license document – not one that can be copied ▪ Recognize and develop trout stocking program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hydrologic alteration ▪ Pavement, roof tops ▪ Sedimentation of streams ▪ Improve water quality for all wildlife ▪ Increase participation in BMP's – cool water – vegetation camouflage ▪ Retention and improvement of water quality and quantity ▪ Coal mining impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development, sprawl effects on wildlife and habitat ▪ Increasing developmental pressures ▪ Implement zoning ordinances for development ▪ Management of invasive species and introduction ▪ Loss of habitat in general ▪ Urbanization and wild land interface ▪ Habitat fragmentation – roads, dams, urban ▪ Industry emission and effluent regulation and enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation in general ▪ Increase education in both youth and adults ▪ Education and public awareness ▪ A disconnection to the natural resources ▪ Make a commitment – you can made a difference in a habitat ▪ Needs/wants of an aging population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More funding ▪ Compensation to landowners for intrinsic values

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L3. Stakeholder Input Session, Accomac – December 8, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaboration of VDGIF with other resource managers – excellent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dedication and quality of people – (staff)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protecting habitat when they can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They have money, initiative and opportunity (through collaborations)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat selected for protection is strategic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General agreement among resource managers about priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public outreach and education programs (e.g. birding trail) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong effort with resources they have (dedication again)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research efforts good and diverse and collaborative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dedicated staff making use of limited resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landowner incentive programs (PDR programs, technical assistance, buffer protection programs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperative based incentive programs, appeal and money to fund them
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Predator control for plovers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Persistence, coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Freshwater impoundment improvement/creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Personal initiatives, incentives, DU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creation of early successional habitats/selective logging and clearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incentive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School contacts and courses – (outreach education) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinated efforts

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other agencies (USDA-NRCS) funding of habitat conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Political pressure, technical input and more money
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with agencies, local government and private landowners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat management (vegetation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More personnel and money
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Site management for public access (GATR tract; Guard Shore) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Site management plans and money to implement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management of private lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better export of knowledge – info public can understand ▪ Technical service providers (subsidized)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public support for more money outside typical VDGIF customer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide services to these groups ▪ Give them the ammo to lobby well
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Predator control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kill and study
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pet control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Animal control authority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fishery monitoring/over-harvesting menhaden, horseshoe crab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Study/implement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperation among resource users and enthusiasts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DGIF Forum with food and drink
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bay clean-up – hypoxia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$40 billion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring of breeding success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intra-agency annual coordinated efforts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wardening of sanctuaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Money - Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Definition/improvement –preservation of larger intact areas of forest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zoning, incentives, easements, land use taxation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inventory and monitoring of salt-marsh roosters and other species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agency coordinated efforts

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Freshwater wetland creation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DU, DGIF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordination of coastal impoundments, draw-downs for migratory shore-lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ USFWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population monitoring by air of Arctic nesting species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CCB

Critical Conservation Issues

Critical Habitat Protection (4)	Knowledge, Attitudes and Behavior (Society) (4)	Loss of Habitat due to Development (4)	Population Control of Targeted Species (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife corridor protection ▪ Degradation of preserved land by outside uses ▪ Prioritize protection needs ▪ Habitat and wildlife protection ▪ Identify and map wildlife corridors ▪ Identify and map habitat and wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public lack of knowledge of natural system complexity ▪ Not enough education about forest management activities ▪ Education of school children ▪ Enough people who care ▪ Working closer with public – proactive ▪ People's fear of nature ▪ Users not policing their ranks (no slob hunters) ▪ Loss of people actively using the resources (hunters, anglers, due to development) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest fragmentation and loss to development ▪ Forest/farm loss and fragmentation ▪ Fragmentation of forested habitats ▪ Land losses to development ▪ Too many roads and cars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proliferation of small mammal predators ▪ Deer over-population

Lack of Coordination Among Management Agencies (2)	Identifying Funding for Conservation (1)	Increasing Levels of Pollution (1)	Over Harvesting (0)	Invasive Exotic Species (0)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have the right people doing the right job ▪ Management actions which harm instead of protect ▪ Lack of management strategies for declining species ▪ Lack of coordination between agencies and others ▪ Before you fix it find out why it broke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop funding services ▪ Appropriate enough funds for projects ▪ Funding for protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bay – Hypoxia/Nutrient load ▪ Sea level rise (habitat loss) ▪ Acid rainfall ▪ High cost of pollution control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Over-harvest of marine species. ▪ Over-harvest of game birds and fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invasive species ▪ Exotic/invasive species – adelgids, mussels, fish, plants

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L4. Stakeholder Input Session, Alexandria – November 15, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
▪ Local government - land acquisition and easements	▪ Sets aside habitats
▪ Efforts to convert backyards, etc. into wildlife habitat	▪ Increase habitat biodiversity
▪ Low impact development initiatives/incentives	▪ Reduces run-off, educates
▪ Fairfax County watershed management plans	▪ Clean water act compliance
▪ Bird listservs, etc. "Citizen Science"	▪ What we have and how it's changing and what needs to be protected
▪ Fairfax County NRM plan adopted	▪ Priorities need funds appropriation
▪ Fairfax County parks education programs	▪ Informs future decision makers
▪ Deer population control in some areas	▪ Improves biodiversity
▪ CBPA – designation and protection of Resource Protection Areas (RPA)	▪ Regulates development/land clearing of riparian areas
▪ "Friends of" organizations	▪ Activism/keep pressure on decision makers
▪ Schools educating children and environment	
▪ Endangered Species Act	
▪ Voluntary environmental programs by Corps./industries (e.g., Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Clean Marinas Program) Certification by Forest Stewardship Council	

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
▪ Local government authority to preserve natural resources and manage them	▪ Legislation
▪ Increase education of policy makers and decision makers	▪ Lobbying
▪ Increase education and incentives for developers and property owners	▪ Funding
▪ Increased funding for acquiring, preserving, restoring wildlife habitat	▪ Funding
▪ Increase focus on cleaning rivers and bay	▪ Legislation
▪ Communication among land managers (partnering)	▪ Interagency agreement
▪ State/local governments need to be subject to state wetlands law	▪ Legislation
▪ Promote natural landscaping with native species	▪ Nurseries can label species
▪ Work and partner with industries	▪ Expand resources
▪ Increase environmental impact studies	▪ See Florida for model
▪ Increase control over or incentives for fertilizer dispensers	
▪ Tree save ordinance	▪ Legislation
▪ Stronger enforcement of environmental regulations	
▪ Air and water quality improvements (siltation)	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invasive species control (especially deer, plants) 	
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Critical Conservation Issue

Habitat Loss and Degradation Through Development (6)	Funding Is Inadequate (4)	Consumptive Culture (3)	Control of Non-Native Species (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Smart growth for sprawl ▪ Population densities ▪ Bad land management practices ▪ Degradation of natural resources ▪ Loss of habitat to development ▪ Excessive development ▪ Disappearing biodiversity ▪ Habitat loss ▪ Fragmentation of habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budget and resource restraints ▪ Level of state funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ignorance ▪ Educate policy makers ▪ Apathy and greed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invasive species ▪ More non-native species ▪ Exotic species

Declining Air and Water Quality (2)	Need Better Habitat Management (2)	Stronger Laws and Enforcement (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air and water quality ▪ Dependence on fossil fuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Save mature trees ▪ Habitat mitigation ▪ Reduce siltation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enforcement ▪ Weakening of environmental requirements

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L5. Stakeholder Input Session, Annandale – November 5, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Really participating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserving fragmented green areas in urban areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local/county are and not the state
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifying invasives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DCR is doing well, VDOF also
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental education – teachers, schools, festivals, fairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ash Borer response was quick – press and citizens reached for action, good partnership with DOF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education/outreach is good but results are not being realized (see Improvements)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mapping and species and habitat (inventory and assessment) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broad base which sets a good base for gathering more detail in future, criteria for targeting “efforts” are good
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DGIF is progressive in inclusion of Taxa and Habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fulfills comprehensive goal and shows diversity and ID’s info gaps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interstate coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is intended to happen over time-share knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest Legacy Program and associated partnerships ▪ DGIF eco-regional planning, TNC ▪ Watershed planning - looking at ecological boundaries to define landscape rather than political boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding, communication, partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chesapeake Bay Act, DGIF habitat restoration, especially aquatic habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motivation, partnerships and funding: NFWS, TU, DU, NFWF, DOF, DCR, NGOs, land trusts, industries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Licenses, fines (DGIF), cost share
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tax incentives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Real estate transfer tax, reconciliation, tax credits for conservation easements, cost share for wildlife conservation, CREP, WHIP

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local contacts for wildlife conflicts, hunting licenses, habitat/wildlife planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lists: publications, website, phone book
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication between groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integration of state and local datasets - GIS, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resources for urban areas – preservation vs. conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education/outreach: native/invasive species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecosystem perspectives in land use planning and zoning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local government interaction: technical resources/ assistance with local government, NGOs, citizens
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tools and personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural Resource Inventory and maps for local officials/land planners - education re: local vs. regional rarity ▪ GIS training/software ▪ Matrix of available information models, databases, experts, conservation plans, i.e., who is doing what and how to contact them
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not enough money for land acquisition, state or local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need incentives for private land conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More funding is needed

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(easements)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add VaULT to partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More sharing of info and people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevention of invasive species – introduction and spread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More environmental education ▪ \$\$ for public lands eradication ▪ Cost share with private landowners ▪ “Wash your Boots” campaign – “Wash your Boat” ▪ Partner with VDACS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aquatic stream clean-up/restoration - need to focus on watersheds and eco-regions (some integration, crosscut/correlation in product) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More education (Ag runoff) ▪ More funds ▪ More natural resource damage assessment partnerships with Feds ▪ More partnerships with neighbor states too ▪ Local NGO partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better dialogue between game and non-game recreation users of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More staff and dialogue between state and NGOs ▪ Utilize hunter education as an opportunity to broaden species/habitat message
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve eco-tourism for the state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workshops for land owners ▪ Create market for VA. made products ▪ Educate officials and others of economic benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conserving forest land base - use product to educate Congress, public partners - wide dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More incentives ▪ More partners ▪ Watershed land use planning

Critical Conservation Issues

Need for Effective Land Use Planning (5)	Lack of Dedicated Funding for Environmental Issues (3)	Loss of Biodiversity (all) (3)	Lack of Strategies for Threatened & Endangered Species & Habitat Loss (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sprawl – transportation ▪ Sprawl ▪ Local land use planning for conservation ▪ Land use planning ▪ Watershed planning ▪ Lack of watershed level land use planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Underlying issues – lack of money ▪ Dedicated sources of funding – state and local ▪ Lack of funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loss of diversity due to Invasive species (plants, pest, pathogens) ▪ Invasives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of strategies to focus on threatened species and habitat loss ▪ Habitat loss; forests, wetlands ▪ Habitat loss ▪ Fragmented migratory pathways

Need for Integration of Efforts and Resources at all Levels (2)	Declining Water Quality (1)	Declining Air Quality	Need for Effective Conservation and Wildlife Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordination: NGOs, government, citizens ▪ Tools, policies, actions ▪ Integration of technical tools (GIS, Datasets) ▪ Lack of integration of data, research, GIS compatibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water quality – stream degradation ▪ Aquatic habitat ▪ Water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of global warming mitigation strategies (local VA) ▪ Air quality ▪ Air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public education ▪ Adult environmental education! (Kids too) ▪ Public participation ▪ Political will to conserve natural resources

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L6. Stakeholder Input Session, Harrisonburg – November 4, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing partnerships (i.e., Fish Passage Program, Eastern Brook Trout Initiative) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing funds and expertise and improvement of habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Species recovery programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in # SPP and public awareness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DU habitat improvement 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Game Department Birding Trail Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness and habitat improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest Stewardship Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness and habitat improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Law enforcement (i.e. sting operations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decreasing poaching
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Va. Wildlife Foundation (Public-Private partnerships) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ T & E species database improvement in technology and user access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness (website)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Game SPP Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Herbivore regulation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource threat assessment (NPS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proactive management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invasive species management (NPS,DOF, DGIF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proactive management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal programs – locally administered (CREP, WHIP, EQIP, Farm Bill) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public participation processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They exist!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on all wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not just game, new sources of funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Private land conservation easements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transferable tax credits and CRP farm bill incentives - greater public awareness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Citizen leadership on conservation issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental education, public awareness and public ethic

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest Service land management - hardwood conversion – need better management for hardwoods, not pines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater public input
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater financial incentives for landowners with hardwoods vs. pine 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife management needs broader coordination/ better interdisciplinary work – more agency connections – land conservation, land management, agriculture, public health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve coordination – hiring cross discipline personnel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve strategies for monitoring wildlife health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More veterinary input
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better baseline data on species counts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compilation of available data sources – current and ongoing

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordination with other conservation plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green infrastructure – Virginia United Land Trust, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proactive advocacy of wild life regarding other environmental issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land use planning ▪ Permits for air and water ▪ Nonpoint source water issues ▪ Structures, towers, windmills ▪ Building design ▪ Chemical, pesticide use ▪ Transportation infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More law enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solving overtime issue (\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater emphasis on non game species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More resources (\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater coordination with public and greater awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach media
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessibility to game wardens 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve data on private lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data sharing and coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New techniques/ways of thinking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing education/cross training among agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvement in contiguous habitat/reduction in rate fragmentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Private-public cooperation, awareness

Critical Conservation Issues

Declining Ecosystem Health (7)	Increased Public Priority and Resources (6)	Wildlife not a Concern in Land Use Planning (4)	New Threats (4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce air and water pollution by implementing alternative energy ▪ Alternative Energy research ▪ Increased pollution (vehicles) ▪ Mitigate the effects of pollutants ▪ Water and air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife as a priority (resources) ▪ Send money ▪ Funds ▪ Money ▪ Weakened resource management ▪ Prevent/control invasive species and pathogens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce footprint of new development. ▪ Maintain and restore critical habitats and species. ▪ Stop fragmentation of current habitat ▪ Habitat loss and fragment ▪ Add to existing large habitat areas ▪ Loss of connectivity ▪ Uncontrolled growth (sprawl) ▪ Innovative transportation solutions ▪ Coordinate/integrate urban and road planning with conservation goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in exotic invasives ▪ Emerging diseases and wildlife health issues ▪ Loss of native biodiversity

Public needs to be Invested and Involved (2)	New Issues will Require New Strategies (1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Citizen education – importance of wildlife and ecosystems to people’s lives ▪ Increased citizen involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Application of new concepts and technologies ▪ Old tools won’t fix new problems ▪ Need better data/ monitoring change ▪ Increasing rate/speed of change ▪ Work with agencies, local government and NGO’s for coordination

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L7. Stakeholder Input Session, Lynchburg – November 3, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Big game restoration program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hunter education; pretty well funded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DGIF – got some dedicated funding from outdoor-related sales taxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need money to operate ▪ Political support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Political support in state legislature for game (non-game) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-use of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Builds broader constituency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urban archery/shotgun ranges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More people in urban areas hunting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hunters for the Hungry program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Too many deer – give food to needy, benefits from big game restoration program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Threatened and endangered species identification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landowners mitigate work around issue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virginia Wildlife magazine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excellent, educational informative, well distributed, affordable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diversity of protected landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tax credits for donated land, easements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incentives for forest management replanting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides more habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Nature Conservancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserves critical habitat by purchasing property
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public education; habitat preservation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation easements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reserves “green-space”; stops development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water conservation easements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Erosion control/enhances water quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Riparian buffers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides financial incentive for landowner; preserves stream-side habitat; enhances water quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperation among state agencies (VDGIF, DOF, NRCS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education programs (i.e., volunteer stream monitoring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provides data to identify potential problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteer non-profit organizations that have programs to enhance habitat; provide scientific data, education programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These groups see a need for this kind of work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural Heritage program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Virginia Environmental Endowment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It allows the flow of money to environmental studies/problems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local newspaper coverage on environmental issues (Lynchburg News and Advance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotes public awareness

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dedicated funding source for land conservation at state level – save more land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife groups/hunters support funding programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Less spraying of pesticides on public and private land that also kill wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legislation to ban – provide non-toxic alternatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigate sludge on land and impact on wildlife 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Law enforcement – speeding, littering kill wildlife, ruin habitat 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Return National Forests to multi-use to diversify habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Change federal laws
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Storm water management – destroy habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better local planning/zoning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Control of invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase public awareness and funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased funding of VDGIF, VDOF and parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reallocation of funds or increased taxes (rethink spending priorities)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better coordination among volunteer groups (particularly land preservation/conservation easement groups) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education/communication spending – coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public education about wildlife and their habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinator at some state level (information and education coordinator)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grassland habitat preservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More research dollars – learn more about impact of actions on habitat, wildlife water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Universities, state, federal

Critical Conservation Issues

Loss of Habitat due to Inappropriate Growth (9)	Loss of Water Quality and Quantity (7)	Quality and Diversity of Habitat Diminishing (6)	Funding of State Wildlife Agencies (3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ American dream vs. land conservation ▪ Land shortage/control growth ▪ Loss of habitat due to development ▪ Urban sprawl ▪ Overcrowding ▪ Control Land use ▪ Better local land use decisions ▪ Human population growth ▪ Public education of wildlife habitat needs ▪ Habitat fragmentation ▪ Reduce land fragmentation ▪ Habitat diversity ▪ Control of invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water quality ▪ Degradation of water quality ▪ Water quality ▪ Water pollution ▪ Conservation of water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Efficient farm practices vs. habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adequate funding for agencies

Educating People about Conservation Issues (2)	Air Pollution (2)	Predator Control (1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Responsible hunter education ▪ Educate public on non gas cars and recycling ▪ Educating youth ▪ Public education re: multi-use and benefits ▪ Speeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Predator control

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L8. Stakeholder Input Session, Richmond – November 8, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restoration of game, though there are too many deer, beaver, geese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need/support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Return of bald eagle and peregrine falcon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regulatory backing, education, support, symbolism, funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat conservation agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mutual interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat preservation identification - Natural Heritage, TNC, IBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Desire, financial incentive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dam removal/habitat restoration – WIP, CREP, EQIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Livestock exclusion ▪ Under story burning ▪ Wildlife plantings ▪ Watering structure ▪ Manure management systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation easements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial, tax benefit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness, e.g. Birding Trail Guides, DGIF education programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You can't protect what you don't understand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prescribed burning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fuel control - unique habitat ▪ Quail – rare plants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Riparian buffer planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water quality habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DGIF easy to communicate with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open to suggestion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People like wildlife

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Control invasives – plants, animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diversify info in Va. Wildlife Magazine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication to lay population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DGIF more coordination with other agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Researcher – Field Manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify plants (exotics) that really impact wildlife
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loss of forest land – more intensive use, fragmentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developmental mandates, mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loss of native grasslands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Warm season grasses, fire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development/sprawl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conservation easements, zoning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect riparian buffers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incentives to developers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More info on DGIF website ▪ Make it “cool” to conserve –sell it! - start in schools
Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wetlands/riparian corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More green space and buffers required ▪ Conservation input to local planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water pollution – nutrient control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sediment control, wider buffers, waste treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase intra/inter-agency communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open up databases – share!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anticipatory planning vs. reactionary acts. e.g. invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land ethic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Political support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ?

Critical Conservation Issues

Habitat Loss and Degradation (12)	Wildlife and Habitat Issues Addressed in Policy and Planning (9)	Inadequate Funding (6)	Need for Public Education (5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat for Imperiled (priority) species ▪ Identifying critical habitat ▪ Species and habitat restoration ▪ Habitat loss ▪ Habitat loss and degradation ▪ Riparian habitat loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poorly planned, high impact, accelerated development ▪ Uncontrolled land use ▪ Biodiversity values in public decisions ▪ Balancing growth and development with preservation ▪ Turf battles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Securing adequate funds ▪ Support and funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public education ▪ Political and public support and education ▪ Education leading to public support for conservation

Habitat Management for Wildlife (3)	Wildlife Over-Population (2)	Water Quality and Quantity and Wetlands (2)	Invasive Species (1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early successional habitat ▪ Native grasslands ▪ Loss of Ag/Forest to more intensive use ▪ Habitat fragmentation ▪ Development of habitat loss ▪ Fragmentation of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Animal damage control ▪ Deer management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pollution ▪ Waste management issues and sediment runoff ▪ Pressure on wetlands ▪ Watershed management ▪ Protecting and improving water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife awareness and increase of feral and invasive species ▪ Exotic species ▪ Control invasive species

Population Impacts and Consumption Choices (1)	Prioritization of Conservation and Management Efforts (1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excessive consumption ▪ Too many people ▪ Human population growth and land consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifying target species ▪ Effective prioritization

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L9. Stakeholder Input Session, Richmond (pm) – November 18, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DGIF, media and internet communicating well with public and working well with partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Easier to get info today
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Massive public education to sensitize public to species and habitat depletion issues, especially in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Because public awareness is increasing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land ownership by conservation organizations/easements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife is undisturbed by human impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protection of certain previously rare species (e.g., deer, turkey, eagles), better management of game species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ These rare species have now increased
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our ability to identify stressors on wildlife populations, our scientific understanding is far greater now 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Once we pinpoint stressors, we can reduce or eliminate them
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat restoration efforts (e.g. dam removal, wetland creation, forest re-planting) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing new or replacing habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of more conservation groups/organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More people taking action and showing concern for environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better management of forests 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Income from wildlife industry/businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial incentives to conserve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CRP Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Taking land out of agriculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wetlands regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preservation/mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental issues are very important to public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More publicity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Catch basins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing habitat/catching pollutants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More organizations/groups improving habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bird feeding/birding in general 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase/assisted birds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tax check-off for non-game 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide funds for protection

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protection of habitat for “smaller” wildlife; i.e., less charismatic species, frogs, salamanders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better inform public
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Too many predators, raccoons, skunks, feral cats, too many deer in city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better management both in urban settings and non-urban settings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-consumptive use of fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Catch and release
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loss of hardwoods, wetlands 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loss of edge-effect 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat connectivity 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multiple agencies 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More proactive wildlife programs 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pollution regulations – make them stronger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce permissible pollutant levels/emissions

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Control of invasive or non-native species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Control imports, educate public
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to control urban and suburban sprawl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve urban living standards and encourage people back to city ▪ Increase incentives for easements ▪ Strengthen zoning regulations in localities ▪ Promote new urbanism principles ▪ Build up – not out

Critical Conservation Issues

Loss of Habitat to Development (9)	Lack of Financial Incentives (6)	Lack of Awareness and Sense of Stewardship (5)	Pollution of all Types (5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat connectivity ▪ Loss of habitat ▪ Encroachment and proffers ▪ Encroachment ▪ Sprawl ▪ More people using non-increasing habitat area ▪ Sprawl ▪ Easily changed zoning ▪ Maximum acres of habitat needed ▪ Vehicular impacts ▪ Invasion by non-native species ▪ Cooperation of state and private organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased hardwood re-forestation ▪ Incentives for private management of wildlife ▪ Food source loss, example – farmer doesn't leave smaller food plot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Education of public and lawmakers ▪ Public education about wildlife conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pollution – water – air, global warming ▪ Air and water pollution ▪ Toxic emissions and pollutants

Lack of Funding (3)	Managing Wildlife Around People (3)	Management of our Water Resources (3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding to develop and implement programs ▪ Alternatives to “Shrinking” public dollars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Surplus” wildlife in urban and suburban settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water quality and quantity ▪ Management of waterways ▪ Water use conflicts ▪ Technical “toys” e.g., jet-skis, cross country motorbikes

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L10. Stakeholder Input Session, Roanoke – November 30, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
▪ Birding and Wildlife Trails Guide	▪ Expands wildlife constituency, economic development connections to wildlife conservation
▪ Land (habitat) conservation by VOF and land trusts	▪ Conserving growing acreage
▪ Game species - deer, turkey, bear	▪ Wildlife management areas; game laws
▪ Warm water sports fish	▪ Dedicated funding
▪ Access to water and public lands	▪ Boat ramps, National Forests, etc.
▪ Upland mammals	▪ Low hunting pressure ▪ Move edge habitat
▪ USDA programs	▪ Cost share and education
▪ Public land management (National Forests and DCR preserves)	▪ Law and managers public involvement
▪ Water quality improvement	▪ Point source pollution reduction
▪ Endangered species habitat conservation	▪ TNC
▪ Virginia Wildlife Magazine	▪ Interesting educational articles on wildlife, habitats, etc.
▪ Public meetings	▪ Enables us to offer opinions, input
▪ Partnerships in regulated game management	▪
▪ Conservation agreements are working well	▪ Tax policy and market forces are effective tools (sometimes)
▪ Public opinion is supportive	▪ Ballot initiatives generally pass
▪ Conservation methods used in game and fish management	▪
▪ Politicians and decision makers have greater access to info (available at all levels of government)	▪ Local activism, public education, ubiquity of information
▪ State natural preserves system	▪
▪ More air and water quality monitoring	▪
▪ More outdoor recreation – more people getting out to experience nature	▪
▪ Water quality is improving	▪ Better agricultural practices; better erosion control; more sewage treatment plants
▪ Some environmental education programs working well – e.g. MAPS	▪ Children learn where they live – parents too
▪ Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail – Good job DGIF! Habitat seen as valuable	▪ Recreation and tourism dollars
▪ DGIF meetings held in evenings	▪ Good management

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
▪ Control invasive species	Quit planting them; educate VDOT and DGIF; develop management strategies to control invasive species
▪ Control deer destroying forest under story	▪ Harvest
▪ Stream protection	▪ Requires riparian buffers

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Appendix L — Community Meeting Summaries

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen NEPA enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better politicians and judges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growth management on regional scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each PDC should have a natural resource professional
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transportation and land use planning (local land uses imply transportation projects; transportation projects lead to land use changes) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New road building continues to fragment habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concentrate on maintaining existing roads instead of building new ones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stop decreasing water quality and quantity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Optimum population. Better land use planning Dedicated funding for WQIF Better education Enforce water pollution laws Public official accountability Water trust fund like N.C.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Join fragmented habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide acquisition program; dedicated source of land conservation funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education of value of wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elected officials' education.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Give unique specie's habitats special attention to prevent decline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental education; use outfitters to educate; "Work your patch"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air – acid precipitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join law suit against utilities; enforce laws
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine air quality improvement data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collect and use data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Map degree of air pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More funding; state land acquisition program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More media exposure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TV, radio, local newspapers, regional magazines, web
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urge city/county governments to use best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing education classes/seminars for government leaders, boards, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be more proactive where there are differing values, interests, etc. Be a decisive advocate for wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research best available information; be available to answer questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve/provide matching federal and private funds for conservation easements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have businesses contribute toward funds (incentives); If city offers incentives for business relocation, a provision should be provided for habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How can a citizen offer input prior to land use development. Who monitors the impact before "Wal-Mart" moves in? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a list of contacts; enable citizen input for specific land areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More education on specific wildlife and habitat relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TV, radio
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public schools education –focus on wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisions to SOLs; teaching materials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dedicated funding source (flush tax?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Slow fragmentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zoning – land use revisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preservation of unfragmented forests and other habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More money for conservation programs – Forest legacy, VOF, land trusts, etc. In-fill development; brown field redevelopment in cities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve coordination among public and private; straighten out "alphabet soup". 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "One-stop" shopping to make conservation programs easier for landowners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preservation of travel corridors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comprehensive information and targeted acquisition (fee or easement)

Critical Conservation Issues

Loss and Degradation and Fragmentation of Habitat (8)	Controlling Sprawl (7)	Over Population (6)	Water Quality/Quantity Declining (6)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loss of diversity ▪ Land and wetland preservation. ▪ Habitat fragmentation ▪ Wetland destruction ▪ Loss of native grasslands ▪ Habitat loss ▪ Karsts and cave degradation ▪ Habitat fragmentation ▪ Habitat degradation ▪ Insensitive road building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Urban growth/sprawl ▪ Sprawl ▪ Growth management (sprawl) ▪ Economic incentives induced sprawl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population growth ▪ Population control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Polluted waters ▪ Water quality ▪ Water quantity ▪ Poor water quality

Invasive Species (5)	Conservation not a Funding Priority (5)	GlobalClimate Change (2)	Managing Resources and Demands (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-native species ▪ Deer over-population and under story loss ▪ Invasive species ▪ Invasive plants and animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of wildlife content in county planning ▪ Republicans ▪ Lack of dedicated funding ▪ People don't value wildlife enough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global climate change ▪ Global warming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Over-consumption of resources ▪ Energy (mining, dams, wind, nuclear, oil, natural gas, coal-bed methane)

Air Quality Declining (1)	Toxic Chemicals (0)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air Quality ▪ Polluted air 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased synthetic chemicals in environment

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L11. Stakeholder Input Session, South Boston – November 10, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
▪ Forestry BMPs	▪ Voluntary; effective in protecting water quality and diverse wildlife habitat
▪ Farming technology (i.e., no till)	▪ Reduces sedimentation
▪ WHIP/EQIP	▪ Monetary incentives
▪ Diverse ownership (farming, forestry, etc)	▪ Diversity of habitats
▪ Strong farming/forestry economy	▪ Keep lands in field and forest
▪ Volunteerism	▪ Passionate people
▪ Game management	▪ Seasonal limits, management plans in place have led to good game populations
▪ Bear populations	▪ Management, food, etc.
▪ Education	▪ Volunteers
▪ Personnel, agencies, conservation groups	▪ Dedicated, passionate employees
▪ Access for fishing/recreation	▪ Fishing access sites, ramps, wildlife management area (but could improve rails to trails opportunities)

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
▪ Educational programs	▪ Reintroduce wildlife education programs – tie to SOLs
▪ Incentive programs for conservation purposes	▪ Information dissemination ▪ Tax credit funding ▪ Land use taxation for conservation (open space)
▪ Partnerships/cooperation between agencies	▪ Dialogue
▪ Land conservation efforts	▪ Work with localities, sportsmen's groups, planning commissions - education
▪ Communication with clientele	▪ Include questionnaires with hunting license purchases
▪ Reduce conflict among user groups	▪ Do away with dog hunters
▪ Game department publishes great materials, but they are hard to come by (snakes, ponds, etc.)	▪ Funding source for these
▪ Natural Heritage Program – a good program but . . .	▪ Improve DCR response time
▪ Nature preserves (publicity)	▪ Publicize
▪ Understanding of watersheds	▪ Educational materials
▪ Local land use policies that are counter productive to conservation	▪ More unified conservation/natural resource groups

Critical Conservation Issues

Counterproductive Land Use Policies (5)	Disconnect with the Land (4)	Inadequate Resources for Conservation (3)	Competing Demands for Water (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land use policies ▪ Land use changes ▪ Land conservation ▪ Stupid county ordinances ▪ Sprawl ▪ Development/fragile habitats ▪ Population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loss of contact with the land ▪ Disconnect with the land ▪ Decreased hunting and fishing ▪ Nintendo ▪ Predominantly urban population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population impact on water quality/quantity ▪ Water quality

Defining and Controlling Invasive Species	Conservation vs. Extreme Preservation	Decreasing Biodiversity	How to Shift Focus and Pay Bills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PETA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of active management on Federal forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Game department focus

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L12. Stakeholder Input Session, Virginia Beach - December 9, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Groups and associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Committed and specialized people/groups that can add knowledge and passion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ VDOT process of identifying mitigating effects on species of concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internal and external experts have input to process and \$ available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NEPA process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must do it – good process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open space project in Va. Beach, \$50 million 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Money for acquisition, citizen input
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Buying land (i.e., USFWS) from willing sellers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protects from development, protects watershed, \$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborating, partnering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moves faster, higher quality results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to info – Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal and State agency resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Available to all background info to answer questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education – Increased course offerings related to environmental wildlife topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Course offerings have increased awareness of environmental wildlife issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City specific - Habitat Enhancement Committee (funds received through violations and used to improve parks, open space and city property) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funds used to environmental/habitat projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fees/Memberships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revenues for site specific improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current land use valuation/Real Estate (Ag. and Forest and Conservation properties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keeps tax level at current use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tax incentives for donations of conservation easements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal and State financial incentive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government and private associations that encourage stream buffers as well as local watershed associations that involve the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial incentives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Buffer zone regulations and enforcement brings the issues home/more personal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing awareness and knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased public awareness through media and community groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pressure on decision makers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased awareness within hunting/fishing community about critical habitat issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public pressure on them ▪ Continuation of life style/tradition ▪ Ability to reach decision makers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appreciation gained from visiting parks, aquariums, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better behavior to protect resources they visit

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education of outdoor users, re: ethics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore informal education opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marketing – encourage people to want to conserve, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create effective marketing campaign
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase staffing, game wardens, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education of everyone – re: impacts on our watershed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create “No Discharge” zones ▪ Explore informal educational opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involvement of marine environmental component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with VMRC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public – education/awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access through websites, press releases, community

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Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
	meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loss of habitat to development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Buy more – “Open Space” project – TNC, USFWS ▪ Land use taxation ▪ Easements ▪ Agriculture Reserve Program (city specific) ▪ Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperation between agencies and other interested parties – more meetings with groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholders – ongoing relationships needed ▪ Farm land ▪ Back Bay Wildlife Refuge ▪ Town meetings/process re: this comprehensive strategy (varied members)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prediction/prevention before issues arise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This is what DGIF is trying to accomplish
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teach the general public what we need to identify – Wildlife? What’s endangered? Habitat? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth programs, Adult programs, training staff, coordinate with schools, curriculum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local ordinances and regulations – enforcement of current laws and regulations (i.e., proper uses, hunting, fishing). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local citizen involvement ▪ Staff availability ▪ money ▪ More severe penalties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognition and payment of true costs of environmental impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legislation, education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring of ecological impacts and publicizing (i.e. Chesapeake Bay water quality) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$, Staff, citizen input, media interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reliable/dedicated funding, e.g. check-off box on license applications (H&F) ▪ Creative – cooperation on campuses – awareness day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proactive involvement in localities by resource agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More staff ▪ Better communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Design of roads to accommodate wildlife movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication ▪ Input on permit applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How development is done and controlled ▪ Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) – City Planning Commission ▪ - Refuges 	

Critical Conservation Issues

Habitat Loss (13)	Conservation not a Funding Priority (9)	Habitat Fragmentation (5)	Declining Interest and Knowledge (4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development pressure on private agricultural and forest lands ▪ Development pressure on public natural resource lands ▪ Decreases in forests and farmland ▪ Easements. ▪ Unrestrained development ▪ Rate of habitat depletion ▪ Forest/habitat loss. ▪ Conservation of critical wildlife habitat ▪ Biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding. ▪ Funding and staffing. ▪ Lack of \$\$\$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife corridors ▪ Impacts of infrastructure (road, communication) on wildlife habitat ▪ Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marketing/partnerships ▪ Public participation ▪ Public involvement ▪ Education ▪ Public education/awareness

VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY
Appendix L — Community Meeting Summaries

Lack of Coordination between Natural Resource Agencies (2)	Invasive Species (2)	Not Enough Opportunities for Participation (1)	Water Quality and Quantity (0)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of coordination between natural resource agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invasive plants and animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water quality. ▪ Water quality and supply

Air Quality Decline (0)	Contaminants (0)	Interface Conflicts (0)	Non-compatible uses (0)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hazardous material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human wildlife conflict ▪ Growth of wild-land urban interface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special interest groups requests (multi-use interests) ▪ Jet skis.

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L13. Stakeholder Input Session, Virginia Beach (pm) – December 9, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
▪ DEQ has wetland inventory grant	▪ Lack of wetland function inventory
▪ Conversion/restoration of habitat	▪ DGIF using farmland
▪ Tracking of species – swans, fish	▪ DU, VMRC, NOAA
▪ Educational programs for schools	▪ EPA, CBF, ERP, NWF has curriculum activities and funds
▪ Controlled hunting	▪ DGIF
▪ Protection of threatened species	▪ International Paper and DGIF partnership
▪ Park management	▪ Good staff, good natural resources
▪ Tidal vegetated wetlands protection	▪ Federal/state laws have been in place
▪ Non-tidal wetlands law	▪ New
▪ Education	▪ Schools, NGO's work together.
▪ NGO's and citizens help with wildlife assessments, ex: Audubon bird counts.	
▪ Nurseries ask for help on butterfly/bird friendly plants	

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
▪ Natural resources funding – state, city, land trust, in lieu fees	▪ Educate the public and regulators/lawmakers
▪ Chesapeake Bay habitats/water quality	▪ Increase funding and other resources (manpower)
▪ Mitigation not replacing acreage or function of habitats	▪ Make the issues personal (how does this affect taxpayers who wouldn't care otherwise)
▪ Encourage smart growth	
▪ More emphasis on avoiding wetland impacts than compensatory mitigation	▪ Corps of Engineers and DEQ take a stronger stand
▪ Better enforcement of environmental laws	▪ All levels of government
▪ Needs wetlands functional assessments by watershed	▪ Need funds

Critical Conservation Issues

Development Pressures (6)	Raising Awareness (5)	Consistent Enforcement (2)	Governmental Reforms (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encroachment: too much growth ○ Not enough "green space" or buffers ○ Stopping development of non tidal wetlands ○ Expanding populations ○ People - air pollution, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteers ○ Educating the public and politicians ○ Education ○ No vs. need public education on conservation ○ Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Law enforcement – need of biologist ○ Enforcement – ○ Laws ○ Regulations ○ Compensation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legislation: ○ Laws/regulations are "fluff" ○ Great ideas and programs but not legislative support/critical bills don't get passed.

VIRGINIA'S COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STRATEGY
Appendix L — Community Meeting Summaries

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> water pollution ○ Land/ground – water pollution ○ Slowing the hardening of shorelines by increasing the use of natural erosion protection ○ Adequate in stream flows ○ Loss of wildlife habitat to development ○ Restoring wetland habitat ○ Loss of wetlands ○ Loss of hatchery and nursery functions for finfish and shellfish. ○ Forest management 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reform of boards and commissions that regulate habitats ○ Better planning to ensure preservation of essential habitats ○ Over-harvest of marine species
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Inadequate Funding (2)	Increasing Pollution (1)	Invasive Species (0)	Public Access (0)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funds to support our resources ▪ Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not enough money Not enough people Not enough concern ▪ No money! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pollution ▪ Water pollution ▪ Environmental contaminants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preservation of parks – to keep citizens in touch with nature ▪ Lack of public hunting areas

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

Appendix L13. Stakeholder Input Session, Warsaw – November 9, 2004

What is Working Well

Working Well	Why it is Working
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reintroduction of depleted species and restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evident increased populations (works across taxa)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restriction of catch/bag limit – seasonal closures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better populations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving data collections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased knowledge base
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decrease pesticides/fertilizers and AG BMPs and forest BMPs, fencing streams, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decrease nutrients in stream ▪ Decrease siltification – mussels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restoration/mitigation of wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvement of nursery habitat for aquatic species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grass roots organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solving local problems, ownership of local landowners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purchase development rights and conservation easements (CREP and land acquisition) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preserve habitat by tax break and dollar incentives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safe Harbors program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protection of small threatened populations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase knowledge base/cooperation between agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land use taxing/Ag-Forestry districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can't develop, tax break
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gating bat caves, protection of critical habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Turtles, Plovers, Bats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean Marina and Clean Farm Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognition - decrease sewage, decrease point source toxins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Labeling of fertilizers – informative/general info 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase knowledge base
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TMDL process – tributary strategies (upgraded wastewater treatment plants) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mandated by EPA and Virginia (benthic, chlorine, oxygen criteria)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comprehensive plans 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ License plate funds 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased education in pollution reduction 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air pollution reduction 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decrease acid rain effects (liming of streams) 	

What Needs Improvement

Needs Improvement	How it can be Improved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve habitat protection (emphasis on habitats, wildlife depends on habitats) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More and better education for general public, school children
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve education and outreach re: conservation to landowners, children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Simplify plans and include wildlife/habitat guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognize wildlife habitat needs when writing plans (FMPs, fire, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Easements, CRP, cost-share (CREP, WHIP), tax breaks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve habitat incentives for landowners (financial, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase CRP rental rates (to increase filter, buffer strip placement)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fragmentation of upland habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Smarter development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How to sell conservation ideas to landowners who can't see, appreciate, understand benefits of wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educating developers, real estate agents

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intra agency communication – “singing off same page” 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Predators and invasive species 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve comprehensive plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educate Board of Supervisors and elected officials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Show economic benefit (ecotourism) e.g., Birding and Wildlife Trails
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve environmental education (children and adults) ▪ Environmental friendly officials and knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ag/Cost share
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sprawl reduction and cluster development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alternative transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Better planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve grass roots advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decrease invasive species 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on priorities 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperation of state agencies 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Save more land 	

Critical Conservation Issues

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation (9)	Increase Awareness on how and why to Conserve (9)	Inadequate Resources for Implementation (9)	Fragmentation of the Conservation Process (4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat loss and fragmentation ▪ Loss of habitat ▪ Loss of habitat ▪ Habitat loss ▪ Habitat fragmentation and loss ▪ Fragmentation ▪ Fragmentation of habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality of life (all) ▪ How conservation affects each individual ▪ Recognition of these issues by public ▪ Need to define problems – simply/clearly ▪ Education ▪ Public education – kids, landowners, realtors, developers, supervisors ▪ Critical need for conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resources/funding ▪ Funding ▪ Funding for conservation ▪ Public landowner recourse - means or economic incentives for conservation or habitat improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of coordination among government agencies/NGOs ▪ Lack of land use and transportation planning ▪ Over regulation by governments ▪ Lack of comprehensive planning by region or state
No Final Agreement on Conservation Priorities (3)	Declining Air and Water Quality (2)	Control of Invasive and Predator Species (2)	Increased Consumption, Pressure on Resources & Habitats (1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus efforts on individual species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water quality – nutrients, sedimentation, erosion, timber practices, wetland loss ▪ Pollution: need clean air and clean water ▪ Declining water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spread of invasive species ▪ Non-natives out-competing fragile populations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Too many people ▪ Human population increase

Note: Issues are listed by order of priority. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of votes received.

**Virginia
Comprehensive Wildlife
Conservation Strategy**

**Summary of
2005 Stakeholder
Input Sessions:
Action Recommendations**

**Prepared by:
The VCU Center for Public Policy**

**for:
The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
and
CWCS External Steering Committee**

May 2005

**This effort was funded through a grant provided by the
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
State Wildlife Grants Program (VA-T-1)**

Virginia's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Summary of 2005 Stakeholder Input Sessions

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 Overview of the Stakeholder Input Process	

Thirteen stakeholder input sessions were conducted during November and December 2004 to gather critical input for Virginia's first Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). These sessions provided information on conservation efforts that were working well, how to improve current conservation activities, and the most critical issues to be addressed during the next ten years.

The Center for Public Policy at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) designed and conducted six additional stakeholder input sessions during April 2005 to gather additional information for plan preparation. Participants were asked to provide recommendations on the most important actions that should be taken to address the previously identified prioritized issues. These issues, in priority order, were:

1. Decline and fragmentation of habitat
2. Pollution and contaminant increases
3. Inadequate funding
4. Public education and support
5. Societal trends
6. Coordination of conservation efforts
7. Enforcement

DGIF sent invitations to everyone who participated in the previous input sessions. In addition, invitations were sent to several hundred groups representing a broad variety of state and federal government agencies, nonprofit conservation groups, hunting and fishing organizations, naturalist organizations, and other interested parties.

Sessions were held at:

- Abingdon – April 5
- Fishersville – April 6
- Richmond – April 27
- South Boston – April 27
- Virginia Beach – April 22
- Warsaw – April 25

Each input session followed a similar format. DGIF personnel opened each session with a short presentation describing the goals and objectives of the CWCS, the planning process, progress to date and the importance and use of stakeholder input. VCU staff summarized the 2004 stakeholder input sessions and provided an explanation of the seven priority conservation issues. Large sheets of paper were then posted around the room with the headings of the prioritized issues and participants were invited to write their action recommendations under the appropriate issue.

Summary of Recommended Actions

A summary of each input session was prepared for review and analysis (Appendices L15 through L20). Recommendations were collated across all six sessions. Several common themes emerged to provide focus on conservation initiatives during the next five to ten years.

Improve Agricultural Practices

- Regulate the use of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) and require their use – strengthen implementation and increase funding
- Work with agriculture groups to promote low impact farming and organic production
- Work to have better erosion and sediment control and agriculture development plans
- Restore funding to the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Division to write farm conservation plans within Chesapeake Bay resource protection and resource management lands
- Increase utilization of Resource Conservation and Development coordinator positions

Increase Information Sharing and Coordination among Conservation Agencies

- Improve coordination between law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal levels and share information on past violations

- Increase cooperation and partnerships between governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, industry and the public to help ensure conservation vision, goals, objectives and strategies can be addressed in a more proactive, informative way rather than reactive.
- Share data with local conservation organizations to help them implement plan priorities
- Encourage interagency cooperation in developing extensive corridor greenways and blueways
- Establish a better, coordinated early warning system for invasive species
- Identify and network partners specific to species or groups of species
- Convene monthly (or more frequent) meetings where partners can exchange information on their efforts, use of resources, issues, ideals, etc.
- Form regional groups or committees of interested parties and agencies to coordinate efforts
- Use National Wildlife Trust Fund staff to conduct biological assessments for landowners
- Provide technical expertise to private landowners thru United States Agriculture programs and tap local land conservancy efforts and practices, such as the Piedmont Environmental Council's ABC Handbook)
- Establish a statewide forest policy to manage forest resources and coordinate efforts
- Integrate efforts of Forestry, Natural Heritage, and DGIF to present a more unified, holistic vision
- Partner with VDOT to better plan for and mitigate pollution impact to state waters from both spills and storm water runoff
- Work with existing environmental and conservation coalitions such as VAULT and VCN to coordinate public-private efforts

Improve Local Land Planning and Development Standards

- Work with county planners to recommend cluster development and encourage clusters be situated so that the open space is contiguous
- Concentrate new development into "towns" or "growth areas" where infrastructure exists. Encourage development in towns by improving the quality of life through urban renewal, or other programs, to encourage people to live in developed areas
- Address the issue of affordable housing to provide incentives to live close to work and services to reverse the trend of a commuter society
- Partner with county and municipal governments to increase land-use planning efforts and offer technical assistance regarding wildlife issues when localities revise their Comprehensive Plans
- Work with municipalities to promote low-impact development techniques
- Pass laws to require developers to keep undeveloped land contingent to other undeveloped land
- Require more centralized development (smaller lots) near each other surrounded by undeveloped land
- Increase local government technical assistance and coordination of planning efforts to include conservation issues
- Increase mitigation efforts of land-disturbing activities by establishing buffer strips, planting trees and other vegetation, and other measures
- Use data and ranking of critical habitat areas to create wildlife corridors that counties can incorporate into their Comprehensive Plans

Increase Enforcement Efforts

- Identify and fund modernization of small town sewage treatment plants
- Stop individual home sewage being dumped directly into streams
- Increase enforcement of existing water quality standards
- Improve enforcement of non-compliant erosion and sediment control measures
- Increase enforcement on existing and new water quality standards in bays and associated watersheds

Expand Financial Incentives for Land Conservation

- Develop a statewide purchase of development rights program (PDR) and work with localities to prioritize areas for acquisition
- Coordinate conservation easement and purchase of development rights (PDR) programs statewide to help ensure most critical areas are being conserved and linked
- Develop a resource value cost payment system that would pool both private, state, federal, and nonprofit funds
- Have a private organization organize targeted cost-share programs for conservation

- Increase incentives for conservation efforts (for example, increase payments for CREP participation) to generate greater landowner involvement
- Promote Forestal Districts statewide with added incentives for landowners who manage "native forests" for ecological and wildlife purposes
- Encourage forest product companies (such as International Paper, Georgia Pacific, John Hancock) to place easements on company lands and ensure public access

Increase the Number of Game Wardens

- Increase compensation for law enforcement field personal
- Provide more Game Wardens, trained to note habit issues, which are out in the field. Train local and state law enforcement personnel on game laws to enable them to gather better information on game and pollution violators
- Allow Game Wardens adequate time to focus on enforcement duties and avoid too much time on hunter education and other programs
- Address overabundant species to decrease human and wildlife conflicts

Expand Public Education and Involvement Efforts

- Increase efforts to gain input from local citizens on conservation needs and actions
- Provide natural environment education aimed at urban center populations
- Use Game Wardens to provide information on hunting, fishing, and other activities to schools, civic groups and others. Have them provide information on land conservation options to targeted groups (schools, hunt clubs, etc.)
- Promote "conservation values" by addressing a broad spectrum of community groups (conservation, religious, service, schools, etc.) and take it across the state
- Create more opportunities where the public can be involved (conservation programs, public meetings, volunteer/friends groups, etc.). Make the public an active participant rather than someone who needs to be educated
- Visit civic associations in areas with land use and conservation conflicts and educate them on critical conservation issues and what they can do to help
- Convince former urban citizens that hunting has a positive effect on wildlife through species management
- Develop a mass media campaign on ways average citizens can reduce their impact on the land, and species and increase valuable habitat. Develop a marketing strategy with talking points that is concise, understandable and memorable. Provide modules tailored to specific groups or projects such as birds, butterflies, amphibians, etc. Develop a symbol for this program to publicize and market this effort
- Make greater use of television and the Internet to reach the general public

Increase Penalties for Violations

- Increase mandatory penalties for violation of game laws and enforce current penalties for violators
- Establish easier enforcement methods and procedures to address "bad actors"
- Codify statewide definition of what constitutes "pollution"
- Increase standards and thresholds for air and water pollution levels permitted by industry and by land development activities

Increase Education and Advocacy Efforts for Elected Officials

- Educate lawmakers on the need for estate tax reform to help maintain land in forest and agricultural use
- Inform lawmakers on need for stiffer penalties for conservation law violations
- Encourage lawmakers to provide funding for additional enforcement
- Increase funding from general assembly for staff and equipment
- Expand lobbying efforts of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Farm Bureau to increase funding for agricultural BMP programs
- Quantify shortfall in funding for lawmakers
- Reinforce to the General Assembly that the Commonwealth's natural resources are essential for a healthy economy and a sustainable future and need additional funding for protection.

- Identify and organize constituents (voters) to educate them on conservation needs and have them bring funding issues to elected officials

Identify New Sources of Funding

- Continue to seek non-game funding sources to support non-game programs
- Require farm tenants to buy hunting licenses
- Hire a grant writer to research and apply for the many Partner Grants provided at the federal level that are becoming available
- Further investigate user fees for non-game recreation use

Restore Damaged Habitats

- Work with VDOT to prevent introduction of invasive plants like Ailanthus and Autumn Olive, etc. Work with them to destroy current invasive plants and introduce more wildlife plantings, including native wildflowers
- Connect forest canopies by using native seedlings to reforest old fields and agriculture areas with significant forest habit
- Increase funding for aerial control of Phragmites Australis in watersheds and wetlands (spray-burn-spray)

Identify and Protect Threatened or Unique Habitat Areas

- Implement conservation standards aimed at conserving large tracts of wildlife habitats (i.e. wet woods, streams, watersheds and forest) and require municipalities to incorporate into their planning regulations
- Preserve high elevation habitat
- Increase planning and implementation of wildlife corridors that connect conservation areas
- Designate watersheds that feed into bays and/or estuaries as "special conservation areas" requiring increased protection and extensive vegetation buffers to mitigate impact of land use changes on watersheds and wetlands
- Address area sensitive grassland species on sites larger than 250 acres – do not lump into early successional species category
- Increase Coastal Plain habitat preservation to protect migratory birds
- Inventory and protect vernal pools through a certification program
- Increase education and outreach to small landowners (small farms, small woodlots) to foster cooperative management and link fragmented habits

Expand Efforts to Educate and Involve Youth in Conservation Activities

- Develop and implement more "urban" action programs such as organized fishing, hunting and birding trips for youth that usually would not take place
- Identify volunteer conservation groups to go into elementary and intermediate schools to teach habit management. Provide them with access to PowerPoint presentations, and equipment as necessary. Work with science and agriculture teachers to develop informative bulletin boards and presentations
- Increase outdoor education/classroom programs and experiences for school children
- Include consumption sports education
- Increase education for non-game species
- Integrate the various education programs such as Project Wild, PLT, KARGT, etc. into a more holistic curriculum, including more information on non-game species
- Ensure SOLs incorporate conservation and ecological education
- Connect with school kids through strong media campaigns (like Smokey the Bear) and tie into SOL criteria
- Use internet mailings and pop-up advertising to reach youth

Appendix L15. Stakeholder Input Session, Abingdon - April 5, 2005

Decline and Fragmentation of Habitat

- Preserve high elevation habitat
- Pay landowners for services their lands provide that they currently are not compensated for such as clean water, air, aesthetics, wildlife etc. Pool various products to create larger fund
- Protect current conservation tools, such as conservation easements, that are currently under threat politically

Pollution and Contaminant Increases

- Increase agriculture and forestry BMP and streamside buffer funding
- Work to have better EAS plans and agriculture development plans
- Work with VDOT to better plan for and mitigate pollution (both spills and storm water) impact to state waters

Inadequate Funding

- Reintroduction of species
- Educate our politicians about why this matters
- See habitat decline points
- Develop a resource value cost payment system that would pool both private, state, federal, and nonprofit funds

Public Education and Support

- Increase education for non-game species
- Integration of the various education programs: Project Wild, PLT, KARGT, etc. into a more holistic curriculum, including more on non-game species
- More education aimed at grade school level

Societal Trends

- Need to address the publics' disconnect from the land by increasing activity in the grade schools
- Take the message to the people - education about the national environment aimed at urban centers

Coordination of Efforts

- Establish a statewide forest policy for the state to center on the forest resources which provide economic and ecological benefits - coordinate the efforts
- Integration of efforts of forestry (DOF), Heritage, and DGIF to present a more unified, holistic vision

Enforcement

- More law enforcement personal - Game Wardens
- Establish easier enforcement laws in order to address "bad actors"
- Better enforcement of non-compliant erosion and sediment control projects and agricultural projects

Appendix L16. Stakeholder Input Session, Fishersville - April 6, 2005

Decline and Fragmentation of Habitat

- Pass state laws to require developers to keep undeveloped land contingent to other undeveloped land
- Look at more centralized development (smaller lots) near each other surrounded by undeveloped land
- Increase education and outreach to small landowners (small farms, small woodlots) to foster cooperative management and improve management of fragmented habits
- Increase local government coordination – stress work/assistance to and with local government (where land use decisions are made)

Pollution and Contaminant Increases

- Increase incentives for conservation efforts (for example increase payments for CREP participation) to generate greater involvement
- Increase migration efforts (establish buffers, plant trees, vegetation)
- Strengthen agriculture BMP implementation and funding
- Regulate agricultural BMPs - not voluntary
- Work with agricultural groups to promote low impact and organic production
- Work with municipalities to promote low-impact development techniques

Inadequate Funding

- Identify permanent source of funding (none federal) to assist in purchase of easements through current programs
- Continue to seek non-game funding sources to support non-game programs
- Evaluate use and dedication of existing funds/programs
- Establish a user tax for conservation users
- Work with other partners to develop a program to reimburse landowners for keeping land in forestry and agriculture use
- Require tenants to buy hunting licenses
- Add permanent operation and management agreements for conservation programs
- Careful balance of organizations represented on DGIF Board

Public Education and Support

- Implement more "urban" action programs such as organized fishing, hunting, bird trips for youth
- Identify volunteer cooperative groups to go into elementary and intermediate schools to teach habit management – provide them with PowerPoint presentations, laptops, etc. Work with groups such as NIOTF, DU, conservancy volunteers, Ruritans, 4-H, FFA, YFIA to provide presentations – we currently do this in Augusta County and work with science and agriculture teachers to help with bulletin boards, presentations
- Outdoor education/classroom programs and experiences for school children
- Expand use of local college interns for projects, programs

Societal Trends

- Work with county planners to recommend cluster development and encourage those clusters to be situated so that the open space is contiguous
- Development is not always a good thing
- Virginia ranked 49th, 50th, 50th, and 50th in funding per capita last four years for environmental spending
- Encourage development in towns, improve quality of life, do urban renewal to make people want to stay in town
- Address issue of affordable housing to reduce sprawl. Provide incentives to live close to work location and services to reverse trend of commuter society

Coordination of Efforts

- Work with existing environmental/conservation coalitions such as VAULT and VCN to coordinate public-private efforts
- Identify and establish networks of agencies/partners
- Identify partners specific to species or groups of species
- Increase utilization of RC & D coordinator positions
- NWTf mission statement includes conservation of habitat to benefit all wildlife. They are willing to offer biologist assessment to landowners and have programs in every state
- Work with VDOT to prevent introduction of invasive plants like Ailanthus and Autumn Olive – work with them to destroy current invasive plants and introduce more wildlife plantings, native wildflowers

Enforcement

- Change compensation (salary) for law enforcement field personal
- Increase mandatory penalties for violation of game laws, enforce current penalties for violators
- Wider coordination between law enforcement agencies – federal, state and local
- Currently local agencies give violators over to Game Wardens without adequate history on violators (i.e. a felon commits a game violation, Game warden never hears about the fact that they are a felon)
- Provide more Game Wardens trained to note habit issues – they are out in the field – most have law background. Train local/state law enforcement personnel on game laws so they gather better data for game and pollution violators

Appendix L17. Stakeholder Input Session, Richmond - April 27, 2005

Decline and Fragmentation of Habitat

- Preserve grassland areas greater than 250 acres for grassland species – do not lump these areas into early successional category
- Increase Coastal Plain habitat preservation for migratory birds
- Inventory and protect vernal pools through a certification program
- Encourage interagency cooperation in developing extensive corridors greenways, blue ways, etc.
- Better coordination of early warning systems for invasive species

Pollution and Contaminant Increases

- Use the program to reinforce why pollution control is needed (wildlife needs)
- Use this to target high wildlife and fish impact areas

Inadequate Funding

- Use this plan to influence the General Assembly to allocate more funding – Virginia is last in per capita funding for conservation
- Use this coalition of conservation groups to lobby for more funding (state and national)
- Further investigate user fees for non-game recreation use

Public Education and Support

- SOLs should incorporate conservation/ecological education

Societal Trends

- Take this program to a broad spectrum of community groups (conservation, religious, services, schools) to promote "conservation values"

Coordination of Efforts

- Have a traveling show to take across Virginia
- Develop a symbol for this strategy to publicize and market this
- Develop a "marketing strategy" with talking points that are concise, understandable, memorable
- Modules tailored to specific groups (projects) such as birds, butterflies, amphibians

Enforcement

- Provide adequate funding for enforcement

Appendix L18. Stakeholder Input Session, South Boston - April 27, 2005

Decline and Fragmentation of Habitat

- Increase public awareness about habitat loss and why it should be important to them
- Increase use of agricultural and forestal districts

Pollution and Contaminant Increases

- Identify and fund modernization of small town sewage treatment plants
- Stop individual home sewage being dumped directly into streams

Inadequate Funding

- Identify and pull together constituents (voters) and educate them on issues and get them to bring funding needs to politicians
- Increase staff to provide and deliver conservation programs already out there such as landowner cost-share and educational programs
- Be careful about funding, beware of constraints, find funding that will allow agency discretion

Public Education and Support

- Increase public awareness (general awareness) about why conservation is important
- Increase proactive educational efforts about specific issues
- Connect with school kids through campaigns (like Smokey the Bear) that have tie into SOL criteria
- Increase "outdoor classroom" opportunities for children (nature walk, stream surveys, etc.)
- Use internet mailings list and pop-up advertising

Societal Trends

- Use television and the Internet to reach public
- Shift culture to get kids "back to nature"

Coordination of Efforts

- Within DGIF - better understanding of what each division does
- Greater coordination and information sharing between conservation agencies (state)

Enforcement

- Permit Game Wardens to focus on enforcement – time is quickly watered down with hunter education duties, etc.
- Address over abundant species and human/wildlife conflicts

Appendix L19. Stakeholder Input Session, Virginia Beach - April 22, 2005

Decline and Fragmentation of Habitat

- Close up forest canopies by using native seedlings to reforest old fields and agriculture areas with significant forest habit
- Increase enforcement of existing water quality standards
- Designate watersheds that feed into bays/estuaries as "specials conservations areas" requiring increased protection and extensive vegetation buffers to mitigate impact of land use changes on watersheds and wetlands
- Educate lawmakers on the need for estate tax reform. This is definitely an issue in passing down land to the next generation. If heirs can't afford to pay estate taxes, land will be sold and will likely be developed rather than continuing in agriculture or forest use
- Increase cooperation and partnerships with other state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, industry, and public so that the vision, goals, objectives and strategies of concern can be addressed in a more protective/informative way rather than a reactive/contagious way. Coordination and cooperation of efforts is very important!
- Increased funding for aerial control of Phragmites Australis in watersheds and wetlands (spray-burn-spray)

Pollution and Contaminant Increases

- Codify statewide definition of what constitutes "pollution"
- Increase standards/threshold for pollution levels for industry for water and air quality and on development and construction activities
- Increase penalties, in addition to higher standards, to discourage the increase of pollution from the above activities.
- Increase funding for conservation programs to decrease pollution contributors

Inadequate Funding

- Have a private concern organize targeted cost-share programs for conservation
- Increase lobbying efforts from Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to increase funding for agricultural BMPs – the Farm Bureau could help too
- DGIF and partners should quantify shortfall in funding for lawmakers
- Increase funding at state conservation areas
- Hire grant writer to research and apply for the many Partner Grants (federal) that are becoming available – their salary could come from grants they procure

Public Education and Support

- Create more opportunities (conservation programs, public meetings, volunteer and friends groups) where the public can be involved – make the public an active participant rather than someone who just need to be educated. Through public participation (attention to importance of adults) one can gain support and understanding and at the same time educate the public
- Visit civic associations in areas with land use, conservation conflicts and educate them on critical conservation issues such as aquatic vegetation protection, water quality issues, etc. and public activities that conflict with conservation goals and objectives and let them know what they can do to help

Societal Trends

- Work with county and municipal governments to increase land use planning
- Implement conservation standards aimed at conserving large tracts of wildlife habitats (i.e. wet woods, streams, watersheds and forests) and require municipalities to incorporate into their planning regulations
- Localities and state could decrease development leaving more habitat to wildlife by promoting/implementing PDR programs (purchase development rights) with the state providing funding and localities setting priorities

- Increase coordination and cooperation among partnerships to focus on issues and determine the level of education, involvement and enforcement is necessary
- **Coordination of Efforts**
- Pool PDR and conservation easement efforts
- Have monthly (or more often) meetings where different partners can present and exchange information on efforts, resources, issues, ideals, etc.
- Form regional groups/committees of interested parties/agencies to better work together and coordinate efforts

Enforcement

- Educate lawmakers on need for stiffer penalties for conservation law violations
- Increase enforcement on existing/new water quality standards in bays and associated watersheds
- Encourage lawmakers to provide funding needed to provide additional enforcement

Appendix L20. Stakeholder Input Session, Warsaw - April 25, 2005

Decline and Fragmentation of Habitat

- Cluster development
- Concentrate new development into towns or growth areas where infrastructure exists using the Comprehensive Plan
- Promote statewide Forestal Districts with added incentive for landowners who manage "native forest" for ecological/wildlife purposes
- Share data with local conservation organizations to help them implement your priorities
- Work with forest product companies (such as IP, GP, and John Hamrok) to place easements on company lands and ensure public access – cheaper than outright purchases

Pollution and Contaminant Increases

- Refund (restore funding) to the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Division to write farm conservation plans within Chesapeake Bay RPA and RMA lands
- Increase state cost share funding for BMPs (winter cover crops, etc.)

Inadequate Funding

- DGIF has identified conservation easements as something that works well – pass this public input on to the General Assembly and Congress to ensure its continuation
- Reinforce to the General Assembly that the Commonwealth natural resources are essential for a healthy economy and sustainable future and need additional funding – an area's appearance defines its character and the way that it is perceived by potential businesses and residents

Public Education and Support

- Convince former urban citizens that hunting has a positive effect on wildlife management
- Game Wardens can provide more information to various groups about land conservation and options to ensure outdoor traditions continue
- Provide a "meaningful" outdoor experience for all students from 9th -12th grade such as hiking, bird identification, water related activities
- Mass media campaign on ways average citizens can reduce their impact on the land, and species, and increase habitat

Societal Trends

- Game Wardens can provide more information on hunting, fishing, and other activities to schools, civic groups and others and spread the word about land conservation options to select groups (schools, hunt clubs, etc.)
- Inform people that agriculture is not necessarily a "bad" land use and that farming with appropriate BMPs may be better for water quality than other land uses (i.e. residential)

Coordination of Efforts

- Use data and ranking of critical habitat areas to create wildlife corridors that counties can incorporate into Comprehensive Plans
- Provide technical expertise to private landowners through USAD programs – tap local land conservancy efforts, practices such as the Piedmont Environmental Council's ABC Handbook
- Offer technical assistance to counties regarding wildlife issues when counties revise their Comprehensive Plans

Enforcement

Increase funding from General Assembly for staff, equipment

- More local citizen input and monitoring

Other Actions

- Establish an even more liberal deer season to reduce human/wildlife conflicts
- Provide “Earn a Buck” or other incentives to increase doe harvest
- Increased cooperation with land-holding groups and/or companies to improve hunting opportunities