

West Virginia
Natural Resources



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008



West Virginia
WEST VIRGINIA



Capitol Complex
Building 3, Room 669
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0660

Telephone: 304) 558-2754
Fax: (304) 558-2768

Web sites:

www.wvdnr.gov
www.wvstateparks.com
www.wvhunt.com
www.wvfish.com
www.wonderfulwv.com

Electronic mail:

parks@wvdnr.gov
wildlife@wvdnr.gov
law@wvdnr.gov
comments@wonderfulwv.com



Joe Manchin III
Governor, State of West Virginia

Kelley Goes
Secretary, Department of Commerce

Frank Jezioro
Director, Division of Natural Resources

Emily J. Fleming
Assistant to the Director / Legislative Liaison

Harry F. Price
Executive Secretary, Administration Section

David E. Murphy
Chief, Law Enforcement Section

Kenneth K. Caplinger
Chief, Parks and Recreation Section

Curtis I. Taylor
Chief, Wildlife Resources Section

Joe T. Scarberry
Supervisor, Land and Streams

Natural Resources Commissioners

Jeffrey S. Bowers, *Sugar Grove*
Byron K. Chambers, *Romney*
David M. Milne, *Bruceston Mills*
Gus C. Svokas, *Weirton*
David F. Truban, *Morgantown*
Kenneth R. Wilson, *Chapmanville*
Jan E. Riffe, *Dawson*

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Annual Report 2007-2008 is published by the Division of Natural Resources and the Department of Commerce Communications.

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, services, programs and employment opportunities to all persons without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability, or other protected group status.

Foreword



DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Capitol Complex, Building 3, Room 669
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston WV 25305-0660
TDD (304) 558-1439
TDD 1-800-354-6087
Fax (304) 558-2768
Telephone (304) 558-2754

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Frank Jezioro
Director

December 1, 2008

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Governor Manchin:

Transmitted herewith is the annual report for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources for fiscal year July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008.

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

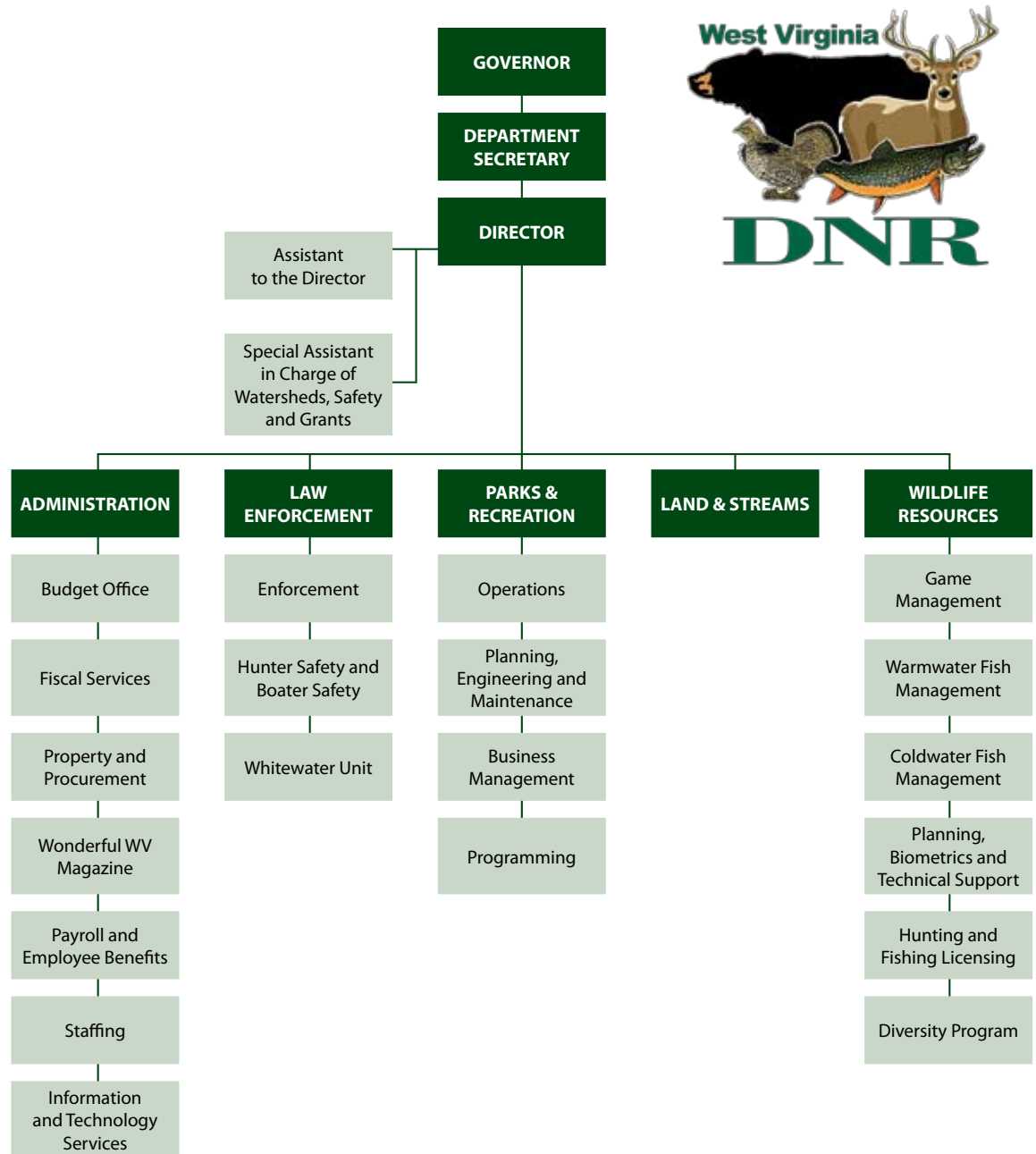
A detailed accounting of receipts and expenditures as prescribed by Chapter 20, Code of West Virginia, is also respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Jezioro".

Frank Jezioro
Director

DNR ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



MISSION STATEMENT

It is the statutory mission of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to provide and administer a long-range comprehensive program for the exploration, conservation, development, protection, enjoyment and use of the natural resources of the State of West Virginia.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ON WHICH THE DIRECTOR SERVES

- WV Natural Resources Commission
- Wildlife Endowment Fund Advisory Board
- Ohio River Management Fund Advisory Board
- WV Public Land Corporation
- State Soil Conservation Committee
- WV Whitewater Commission
- Governor's Commission on West Virginians Outdoors
- Ohio River Basin Commission
- Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail Advisory Council

EEOC STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, services, programs, and employment opportunities to all persons without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin, or ancestry, disability, or other protected group status. — *September 2005*

West Virginia



DNR

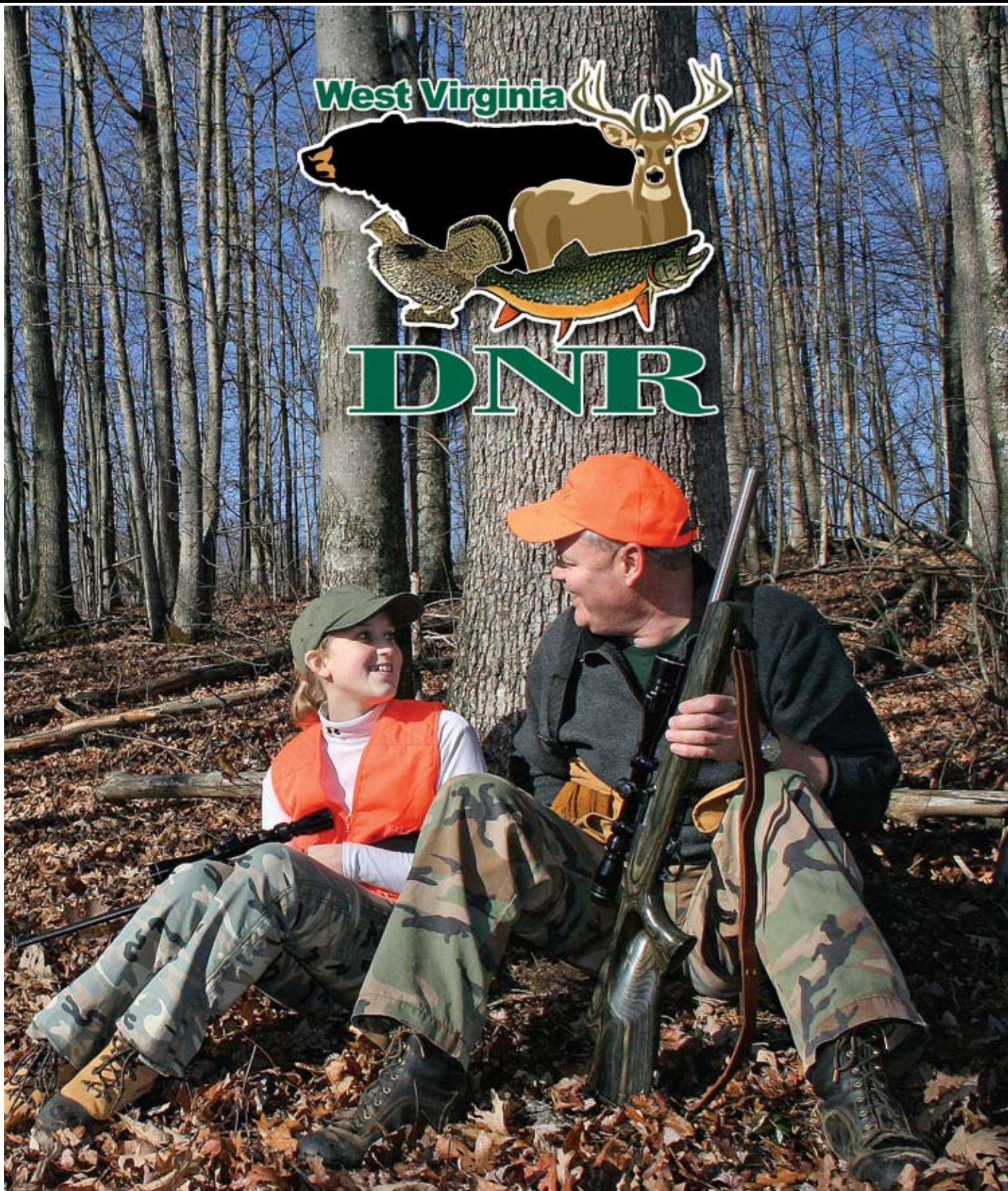


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Administration

The administrative offices provide services to all sections and offices of the Division of Natural Resources in the areas of budgeting, accounting, investments, staffing, payroll, employee benefits, procurement, property management and control, general services, computer application development and maintenance, and publishing *Wonderful West Virginia* magazine.

Administration Section
Harry F. Price,
Executive Secretary

Sectional responsibilities include developing and maintaining sound fiscal and personnel policies, coordinating purchasing procedures, maintaining active inventory and records management programs, managing a statewide radio communication system, publishing the state's premier magazine, coordinating and developing and maintaining mainframe and local network program applications, and developing administrative procedures required for the orderly correlation of divisional activities and the overall operation of the division. The services are provided by employees working in seven major branches: staffing, payroll and employee benefits, procurement and property management, fiscal services, budget, information technology, and *Wonderful West Virginia* magazine.

STAFFING

The Staffing branch acts as liaison between sections of the division and the West Virginia Division of Personnel in order to secure qualified applicants and to ensure fair and equitable treatment for employees. This office also maintains personnel files and leave records for all employees of the Division of Natural Resources.

On June 30, 2008, the Division of Natural Resources had 824 permanent and 992 hourly employees employed on regular programs. The year-round work force for DNR is approximately 1,767 permanent and temporary employees with fluctuations due to seasonal programs and activities.

Work force characteristics as of June 30, 2008, are listed in the chart below.

Section	Permanent Employees	Average Age	Average Years of Education	State Service	Average Monthly Salary
Administration	50	47	12	15 yrs 4 mos	\$2,874
Executive	6	56	13	20 yrs 6 mos	\$4,191
Law Enforcement	132	47	14	16 yrs 6 mos	\$3,298
Parks & Recreation	422	48	12	14 yrs 6 mos	\$2,105
Land & Streams	6	50	11	15 yrs 4 mos	\$3,045
Wildlife Resources	208	46	14	16 yrs 5 mos	\$2,943
Division	824	48	13	15 yrs 5 mos	\$2,576*

FOOTNOTE:

* Please note that the Average Monthly Salary listed for the agency is calculated by totaling individual monthly salaries and dividing by the number of employees, not by adding the section average monthly salaries and dividing by seven.

One hundred four (104) vacancy announcements were posted and distributed throughout the agency for employee bulletin boards and mailed to other state agencies. This number produces a turnover rate for the agency of 12.62 percent with thirty-four (34) percent of the vacancies being attributed to retirements and thirty-one (31) percent of the vacancies being attributed to internal promotions. One hundred thirteen (113) job vacancies were filled by transfer/promotion of current state employees or new hires. The average age of newly hired employees for the agency was thirty-seven (37).

PAYROLL AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Payroll and Employee Benefits branch electronically processes and approves data concerning payrolls and administers employee benefit programs and other related items for the Division of Natural Resources through the statewide Employee Payroll Information Control System (EPICS), acting as liaison between the agency and the Auditor's Office. The benefit programs include unemployment, workers' compensation, retirement, and insurance. Other responsibilities include WVFIMS processing for DNR payrolls, fund transfers pertaining to payrolls, retirement, insurance programs, and maintaining personnel, activity, and payroll related information on all seasonal and temporary hourly employees on state parks.

WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA MAGAZINE

Wonderful West Virginia is an official publication of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and is the state's premier publication. Published monthly, there are about 39,333 copies printed of each issue.

In FY 2008, the average number of copies mailed each month to paid individual subscribers was 33,109. In addition, some 3,505 copies were distributed each month to paid bulk subscribers such as government agencies, chambers of commerce, motels, real estate firms, newsstands on state parks, and other newsstand distributors.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND PROCUREMENT

The Property Management and Procurement branch includes management of a statewide two-way radio communications network, centralized purchasing, and inventory control. Management of district level administrative activities is also a function of this branch. This office handles all purchasing transactions, inventory control, records management programs, and property and liability insurance for the division.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Information and Technology Services Unit provides computer program analysis, coding, and documentation to all DNR sections and maintains DNR Web pages.

BUDGET OFFICE

The Budget Office prepares the division's appropriation requests, expenditure schedules and amendments and monitors all budgeting processes for compliance with generally accepted accounting and auditing practices. The office manages the division's budgeting system consisting of the state budget and federal cost accounting, reporting and automated clearing house payment systems. It establishes and ensures adherence to budgetary policies and standards and serves as a liaison for negotiation and preparation of the division's indirect cost allocation plan. The office prepares, coordinates and processes legislative fiscal notes that affect rules and regulations relating to the division. In addition, the office has assumed responsibility for the budgeting and accounting functions of the agency's Law Enforcement Section.

FISCAL SERVICES

Centralized accounting and auditing services are the primary functions of this operational unit. The Fiscal Services Office is responsible for preparing financial statements for the division. Various analytical, budgetary and management reports are originated and distributed. Receipting, investing and billing are the major daily functions of the fiscal office. Auditing and payment processing of all division obligations occur in these offices. The unit is the liaison with the Travel Management Office for travel approval and seeks reimbursement from the Auditor's Office for employees. This unit now provides the coordination of central mail and messenger operations.

STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS

The following report is limited to a presentation of the fiscal operations of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources for the year ending June 30, 2008. Itemization of summarized financial data contained in this report is public record and on file.

Statement of Disbursements

ADMINISTRATION SECTION

EXECUTIVE/ADMINISTRATIVE

Personal Services	\$	359,348.73
Employee Benefits		96,532.03
Current Expenses		213,476.89
Repairs & Alterations		5,908.85
Grants and Awards		77,396.00
Fund Transfer		2,735,000.00
TOTAL	\$	3,487,662.50

FISCAL SERVICES

Personal Services	\$	644,460.03
Employee Benefits		221,876.97
Current Expenses		554,566.12
Repairs & Alterations		697.75
Equipment		356.99
PEIA Transfer		15,621.43
TOTAL	\$	1,437,579.29

STAFFING/PAYROLL

Personal Services	\$	237,312.91
Employee Benefits		82,312.90
Current Expenses		24,326.03
Repairs & Alterations		4.96
TOTAL	\$	343,956.80

GENERAL SERVICES

Personal Services	\$	407,494.23
Employee Benefits		160,678.76
Current Expenses		254,362.03
Repairs & Alterations		19,470.25
Equipment		63.79
TOTAL	\$	842,069.06

WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA MAGAZINE

Personal Services	\$	73,595.04
Employee Benefits		26,570.26
Current Expenses		624,525.16
Repairs & Alterations		262.50
PEIA Transfer		311.52
TOTAL	\$	725,264.48

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	2,400,088.64
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		3,467,703.04
Special Revenue Appropriated		894,204.38
Federal Revenue Appropriated		74,536.07
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$	6,836,532.13

LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTION

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Personal Services	\$	5,141,825.09
Employee Benefits		1,874,377.19
Current Expenses		1,977,309.86
Repairs & Alterations		22,497.28
Equipment		20,179.10
PEIA Transfer		6,501.32
TOTAL	\$	9,042,689.84

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	1,113,421.82
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		1,495,612.69
Special Revenue Appropriated		5,975,956.62
Federal Revenue Appropriated		457,698.71
TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT	\$	9,042,689.84

WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION

GAME MANAGEMENT

Personal Services	\$	2,869,192.82
Employee Benefits		1,033,795.00
Current Expenses		1,001,218.15
Repairs & Alterations		125,273.39
Payment of Claims		222,934.05
PEIA Transfer		516.72
Medical Service Payments		39.00
TOTAL	\$	5,252,969.13

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Personal Services	\$	255,373.46
Employee Benefits		51,129.15
Current Expenses		299,962.33
Repairs & Alterations		1,746,282.95
Tax Mapping		8.00
Building Improvements		4,940.00
Land Improvements		70,878.65
Land Purchases		2,725,550.00
Consultant Pmts for Capital Asset Proj		88,811.00
TOTAL	\$	5,242,935.54

COLD WATER FISH MANAGEMENT

Personal Services	\$	1,126,288.41
Employee Benefits		438,099.36
Current Expenses		792,332.54
Repairs & Alterations		63,448.75
Equipment		34,937.00
TOTAL	\$	2,455,106.06

Statement of Disbursements

WILDLIFE - ADMINISTRATION

Personal Services	\$	503,239.16
Employee Benefits		167,335.31
Current Expenses		1,037,087.72
Repairs & Alterations		4,829.04
Grants and Awards		143.34
TOTAL	\$	1,712,634.57

WARM WATER FISH MANAGEMENT

Personal Services	\$	1,000,090.99
Employee Benefits		342,982.84
Current Expenses		448,660.03
Repairs & Alterations		44,611.46
TOTAL	\$	1,836,345.32

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Personal Services	\$	596,799.50
Employee Benefits		208,666.49
Current Expenses		301,827.10
Repairs & Alterations		1,853.64
TOTAL	\$	1,109,146.73

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Personal Services	\$	340,466.44
Employee Benefits		115,419.85
Current Expenses		256,708.83
Repairs & Alterations		9,495.11
TOTAL	\$	722,090.23

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

Personal Services	\$	522,768.15
Employee Benefits		199,267.40
Current Expenses		456,556.74
Repairs & Alterations		5,277.33
Grants and Awards		3,948.21
PEIA Transfer		1,254.00
Medical Service Payments		4,819.00
TOTAL	\$	1,193,890.83

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE UNIT

Personal Services	\$	175,414.76
Employee Benefits		68,846.77
Current Expenses		205,799.46
Equipment		6,175.00
TOTAL	\$	456,235.99

POINT OF SALE LICENSE SYSTEM

Current Expenses	\$	21,476.23
TOTAL	\$	21,476.23

ELKINS OPERATIONS CENTER

Personal Services	\$	93,354.00
Employee Benefits		40,616.29
Current Expenses		132,367.05
Repairs & Alterations		23,886.42
TOTAL	\$	290,223.76

WEST VIRGINIA WILDLIFE CENTER

Personal Services	\$	191,516.35
Employee Benefits		56,628.05
Current Expenses		57,665.22
Repairs & Alterations		24,026.42
Building Improvements		10,880.00
TOTAL	\$	340,716.04

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	335,859.36
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		5,978,460.85
Special Revenue Appropriated		8,454,907.28
Federal Revenue Appropriated		5,864,542.94
TOTAL WILDLIFE RESOURCES	\$	20,633,770.43

PARKS & RECREATION SECTION**PARKS & RECREATION**

Personal Services	\$	16,435,488.14
Employee Benefits		5,644,127.93
Current Expenses		12,109,718.20
Repairs & Alterations		3,123,823.06
Equipment		660,353.83
Grants and Awards		25,058.73
Fund Transfer		9,418.02
PEIA Transfer		97,302.29
Debt Service Leases - Principle		185,040.64
Debt Service Leases - Interest		24,648.03
Building Improvements		29,253.59
Land Purchases		6,200.00
Building Purchase or Construction		18,900.00
Consultant Pmts for Capital Asset Proj		159,605.25
Medical Service Payments		1,790.00
TOTAL	\$	38,530,727.71

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	9,237,933.05
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		20,387,841.59
Special Revenue Appropriated		8,904,953.07
TOTAL PARKS & RECREATION	\$	38,530,727.71

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES SECTION**OFFICE OF LAND & STREAMS**

Personal Services	\$	225,919.20
Employee Benefits		59,822.64
Current Expenses		107,593.60
Equipment		16,328.10
PEIA Transfer		1,324.08
Land Purchases		35,000.00
TOTAL	\$	445,987.62

General Revenue Appropriated	\$	504.12
Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		104,502.58
Special Revenue Appropriated		340,980.92
TOTAL SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES	\$	445,987.62

Grand Total General Revenue Appropriated	\$	13,087,806.99
Grand Total Special Revenue Non-Appropriated		31,434,120.75
Grand Total Special Revenue Appropriated		24,571,002.27
Grand Total Federal Revenue Appropriated		6,396,777.72
GRAND TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$	75,489,707.73

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN CASH BALANCES FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

APPROPRIATED FUNDS

GENERAL FUND (0265)

Appropriated Fund - No Cash Balance

DISBURSEMENTS

Personal Services	(8,901,447.92)	
Employee Benefits	(3,603,246.12)	
Current Expense	(437,720.25)	
Repairs and Alterations	(36,443.22)	
Equipment	13,761.82	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(74,536.74)	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(13,039,632.43)

SPECIAL REVENUE LICENSE FUND (3200)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007	1,724,409.82
Investment Balance July 1, 2007	158,064.73
Beginning Fund Balance	1,882,474.55

RECEIPTS

Animal Replacement Costs	30,609.00	
Hunting & Fishing Licenses and Stamps	12,343,133.23	
Investment Earnings	111,841.85	
Miscellaneous Permits and License	8,901.00	
Miscellaneous Collections	25,791.18	
Surplus Property Sale	13,015.00	
Transfer from Wildlife Endowment Fund	2,300,000.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		14,833,291.26

DISBURSEMENTS

Personal Services	(7,038,521.73)	
Employee Benefits	(2,602,467.68)	
Current Expense	(2,256,560.91)	
Repairs and Alterations	(197,920.82)	
Equipment	(56,072.10)	
Bank Costs	(175.70)	
Medical Service Payments	(39.00)	
Point of Sale License System	(21,304.10)	
2005 Capital Improvement	(167,751.01)	
2006 Capital Improvement	(857,566.69)	
2007 Capital Improvements	(107,611.79)	
2008 Capital Improvements	(467,841.51)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(13,773,833.04)

Ending Fund Balance	2,941,932.77
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008	(1,446,315.22)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008	1,495,617.55

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

GAME, FISH AND AQUATIC LIFE FUND (3202)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		75,092.77
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		299,552.51
Beginning Fund Balance		374,645.28
RECEIPTS		
Fish Kill Reimbursement	25,403.76	
Investment Earnings	16,970.16	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		42,373.92
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(10,186.69)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(10,186.69)
Ending Fund Balance		406,832.51
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(341,122.67)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		65,709.84

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY FUND (3203)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		155,173.65
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		2,199,612.67
Beginning Fund Balance		2,354,786.32
RECEIPTS		
Gift Shop Sales	169.00	
Investment Earnings	106,114.27	
Miscellaneous Collections	9,793.80	
New River Environmental Study	2,500.00	
Sale of Booklets	2,946.60	
Sale of Wildlife Calendars	116,207.84	
Sale of Wildlife License Plates	368,760.00	
Scientific Data Collection Permits	14,350.00	
Special Events	2,657.47	
Wildlife Diversity Collections	4,001.06	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		627,500.04
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(385,939.83)	
Employee Benefits	(145,940.35)	
Current Expense	(157,191.17)	
Bank Costs	(393.37)	
Medical Service Payments	(4,789.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(694,253.72)
Ending Fund Balance		2,288,032.64
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(1,983,736.94)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		304,295.70

USE & DEVELOPMENT FUND - PUBLIC LAND CORPORATION (3205)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		582,077.76
RECEIPTS		
Channel Changes	400.00	
Coal Annual Fees	400.00	
Docking Facilities	9,200.00	
Gas & Oil Leases	27,263.12	
Low Water Fords	4,700.00	
Low Water Level Bridges	81,000.02	
Miscellaneous Collections	60,870.00	
Pipeline Permits	193,895.38	
Sand/Gravel ATE Management	8,000.00	
Stream Restoration	2,300.00	
Structures	89,724.50	
Subterranean Cable Permit Renewal	10,850.00	
Water Intake Supply System	5,400.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		494,003.02
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(116,042.72)	
Employee Benefits	(32,792.16)	
Current Expense	(46,098.36)	
Equipment	(550.00)	
Land Purchases	(35,000.00)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(1,124.04)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(231,607.28)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		844,473.50

WHITewater STUDY AND IMPROVEMENT FUND (3253)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		118,295.98
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		24,379.26
Beginning Fund Balance		142,675.24
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	5,742.23	
Study and Improvement Fees	67,600.51	
Whitewater Stocking Study Fee-Gauley River	218.40	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		73,561.14
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(49,745.15)	
Employee Benefits	(18,584.39)	
Current Expense	(37,040.83)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(400.58)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(105,770.95)
Ending Fund Balance		110,465.43
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(2,871.49)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		107,593.94

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

PARKS LOTTERY NET PROFITS (3267)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		14,130,891.10
RECEIPTS		
Lottery Transfers	15,436,464.43	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		15,436,464.43
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(1,475,017.71)	
Employee Benefits	(636,338.67)	
Current Expense	(1,218,128.38)	
Repairs and Alterations	(6,613.93)	
Equipment	(6,082.00)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(14,463.84)	
Contractor Pmts for Capital Asset Proj	(304,903.00)	
Consultant Pmts for Capital Asset Proj	(88,448.00)	
Grants and Awards	(81,344.21)	
Medical Service Pmts	(30.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(3,831,369.74)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		25,735,985.79

STATE PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND (3277)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		9,254,722.59
Beginning Fund Balance		
RECEIPTS		
Lottery Transfers	5,000,000.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		5,000,000.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(1,062,541.27)	
Employee Benefits	(479,856.83)	
Current Expense	(550,019.20)	
Repairs and Alterations	(2,208,304.87)	
Equipment	(672,211.06)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(11,211.00)	
Contractor Pmts for Capital Asset Proj	(633,947.44)	
Consultant Pmts for Capital Asset Proj	(35,770.00)	
Building Improvements	(29,253.59)	
Land Purchases	(6,200.00)	
Building Purchase or Construction	(24,976.92)	
Debt Service Leases - Principle	(185,040.64)	
Debt Service Leases - Interest	(24,648.03)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(5,923,980.85)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		8,330,741.74

CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL FUND (8707)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		2,953,026.39
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		168,861.09
Beginning Fund Balance		3,121,887.48
RECEIPTS		
Law Enforcement		

Boating Safety	296,124.00	
Duplicate Boat Safety Cards	10.00	
Hunter Safety Replacement Cards	15,380.00	
Hunter Safety	408,573.35	720,087.35
Wildlife Resources		
Acid Water Studies	187,500.00	
Archery Education in Schools	28,190.41	
Avian Flu Research-USDA	6,791.61	
Biometrics	418,537.54	
Blackwater Canyon Habitat Study	12,978.54	
Boating Access Administration	188,989.31	
Boating Access Grant	6,524.78	
Commercial Navigable Rivers	69,244.81	
Chronic Wasting Disease Research-USDA	424,000.00	
Chronic Wasting Research(Captive Cervid)-USDA	174,108.04	
Chronic Wasting Disease Study-USF&WS	10,000.00	
District Wildlife Management	1,481,457.49	
Endangered Plants Grant	15,000.00	
Endangered Species	145,336.57	
EPA Geo Info Sys Development	76,019.00	
Fish & Wildlife Coordination	366,391.94	
Interagency Coordination	501,669.09	
Investment Earnings	184,614.11	
Landowner Incentive Program	33,602.00	
Miscellaneous	2,856.54	
Reservoir Investigations	68,992.03	
Rivers and Streams Assessment	34,728.78	
Small Impoundment Assessment	45,110.09	
State Wildlife Grants	337,047.94	
Surplus Property Sale	29,170.32	
Trout Hatchery Operations	1,559,831.84	
USDP AG NRCS Wildlife Hbt Inc	55,496.65	
Warmwater Fish Hatcheries Grant	280,000.00	
Wildlife Research	837,197.32	7,581,386.75
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		8,301,474.10
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(3,051,785.20)	
Employee Benefits	(986,445.29)	
Current Expense	(2,204,391.80)	
Repairs and Alterations	(70,895.52)	
Equipment	(6,178.65)	
Bank Costs	(77,081.26)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(6,396,777.72)
Ending Fund Balance		5,026,583.86
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(2,800,525.20)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		2,226,058.66

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

NON-APPROPRIATED FUNDS

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM FUND (3204)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		245,600.65
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		978,375.12
Beginning Fund Balance		1,223,975.77
RECEIPTS		
Captive Cervid Facility License	3,625.00	
Hunter Safety Card Replacement	3,640.00	
Investment Earnings	50,256.55	
Law Enforcement Homeland Security Grant	45,627.00	
Miscellaneous Collections	138.00	
Miscellaneous Permits	3,955.00	
Motorboat Licenses	752,463.75	
Tipping Fees	464,581.03	
Whitewater Rafting Licenses	32,500.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		1,356,786.33
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(122,441.11)	
Employee Benefits	(45,924.59)	
Current Expense	(1,213,815.70)	
Repairs and Alterations	(14,159.88)	
Equipment	(5,632.60)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(1,401,973.88)
Ending Fund Balance		1,178,788.22
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(866,531.67)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		312,256.55

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTS (3208)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		12,779.06
RECEIPTS		
Contracts	0.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		0.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Equipment	(7,594.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(7,594.00)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		5,185.06

WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND (3224)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		3,650.00
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		39,964,007.62
Beginning Fund Balance		39,967,657.62
RECEIPTS		
Gifts & Bequests	4,000.00	
Investment Earnings	(993,700.30)	
Lifetime Hunting & Fishing License	582,490.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		(407,210.30)
DISBURSEMENTS		
Fund Transfer	(2,735,000.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(2,735,000.00)
Ending Fund Balance		36,825,447.32
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(36,824,572.32)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		875.00

WILDLIFE RESOURCES-RECREATION FUND (3227)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		137,266.67
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		3,397,577.60
Beginning Fund Balance		3,534,844.27
RECEIPTS		
Acid Impacted Stream Studies	13,067.22	
Allegheny Power	131,448.00	
Cabin Rentals	2,681.24	
Campsite Rentals	20,717.63	
Captive Cervid Facility License	3,625.00	
Coal Royalties	73,830.02	
Donation for Stream Treatment with Limestone	15,730.52	
Entrance Fees	59,982.34	
Fish Kill Reimbursement	2,407.14	
Gas Royalties	469,817.00	
Gift Shop Sales	14,812.35	
Gifts & Bequests	83,313.18	
Go-Wild Hunting & Fishing License Issuance Fee	116,937.00	
Habitat Land Inquiries	30,150.00	
Hunters Helping the Hungry	18,347.00	
Hunters Helping the Hungry DHHR Grant	75,000.00	
Information Retrieval	36,671.31	
Investment Earnings	168,786.79	
Leases	25,300.00	
Miscellaneous Collections	45,917.04	
Mitigation Wildlife	141,290.58	
National Wild Turkey Federation	25,000.00	
New River Study	2,896.00	
Oil Royalties	91.29	
Real Estate License Fees	99,744.31	
Residence Rentals	1,000.00	
Specialty Lifetime License Card	9,555.00	

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

Timber Sales	37,906.13	
Transfer from Wildlife Endowment Fund	260,000.00	
Trophy Fish Citations	4,490.00	
Wildlife Contract Reimbursement	1,546.25	
Wildlife Cooperative Agreements	10,126.20	
Wildlife Special Events	45,832.99	
Wildlife Studies	2,885.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		2,050,904.53
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(322,864.85)	
Employee Benefits	(99,721.17)	
Current Expense	(606,964.02)	
Repairs and Alterations	(38,382.24)	
Building Improvements	(10,880.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(1,078,812.28)
Ending Fund Balance		4,506,936.52
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(4,200,276.39)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		306,660.13

BEAR DAMAGE FUND (3228)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		3,773.39
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		448,083.68
Beginning Fund Balance		451,857.07
RECEIPTS		
Bear Damage Stamps	243,814.00	
Investment Earnings	17,394.07	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		261,208.07
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(93,832.30)	
Repairs and Alterations	(4,744.25)	
Payment of Claims	(222,934.05)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(321,510.60)
Ending Fund Balance		391,554.54
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(387,627.75)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		3,926.79

WILDLIFE RESOURCES CONTRACTS FUND (3229)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		5,463.57
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		168,204.25
Beginning Fund Balance		173,667.82
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	10,205.86	
Miscellaneous Collections	32.45	
Mussel Damage Assessment Ohio River	138,419.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		148,657.31
DISBURSEMENTS		
Employee Benefits	45.47	
Current Expense	(3,865.88)	

Repairs and Alterations	(1,459.22)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(5,279.63)
Ending Fund Balance		317,045.50
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(316,610.11)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		435.39

MIGRATORY WATERFOWL STAMP FUND (3231)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		216.64
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		256,485.43
Beginning Fund Balance		256,702.07
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	11,383.24	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		11,383.24
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(5,000.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(5,000.00)
Ending Fund Balance		263,085.31
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(263,068.67)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		16.64

CONSERVATION STAMP FUND (3232)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		171,974.03
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		3,554,766.21
Beginning Fund Balance		3,726,740.24
RECEIPTS		
Conservation Stamp Sales	1,526,598.00	
Investment Earnings	135,322.85	
National Wild Turkey Federation	40,000.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		1,701,920.85
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(108,711.46)	
Employee Benefits	(13,587.15)	
Current Expense	(116,530.87)	
Repairs and Alterations	(19.70)	
Contractor Pmts for Capital Asset Proj	(621,929.90)	
Land Purchases	(2,725,550.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(3,586,329.08)
Ending Fund Balance		1,842,332.01
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(1,691,639.06)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		150,692.95

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

TROUT STAMP FUND (3233)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		140,327.67
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		1,287,427.79
Beginning Fund Balance		1,427,755.46
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	59,938.96	
Miscellaneous Collections	36.66	
Surplus Property Sale	1,877.50	
Trout Stamp Sales	1,259,008.00	
Transfer from Wildlife Endowment Fund	175,000.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		1,495,861.12
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(689,699.45)	
Employee Benefits	(291,329.81)	
Current Expense	(500.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(981,529.26)
Ending Fund Balance		1,942,087.32
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(1,810,507.75)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		131,579.57

OUTDOOR SKILLS (GOV CIVIL CONT. FUND) (3236)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		1,751.85
RECEIPTS		
Statutory Transfers	0.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		0.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(1,399.75)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(1,399.75)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		352.10

GIFTS, GRANTS & BEQUESTS (3237)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		50,775.27
RECEIPTS		
Special Events	42,416.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		42,416.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(66,252.11)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(66,252.11)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		26,939.16

LAND MINERALS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS (3239)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		182,001.05
RECEIPTS		
Land Leases	4,528.00	
Miscellaneous Collections	6,246.80	
Real Estate Taxes	12,803.08	
Rental Fees	1,700.00	

Right-of-Way	16,565.50	
Royalties	108,200.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		150,043.38
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(22,315.09)	
Employee Benefits	(6,107.54)	
Current Expense	(48,419.15)	
Equipment	(15,778.10)	
Remittance of Taxes	(19,924.79)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(200.04)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(112,744.71)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		219,299.72

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SPORTS EDUCATION STAMPS (3247)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		37,230.25
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		126,730.17
Beginning Fund Balance		163,960.42
RECEIPTS		
Law Enforcement / Sports Ed. Stamps	393,740.00	
Investment Earnings	17,259.50	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		410,999.50
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(33,506.10)	
Employee Benefits	(22,742.28)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(56,248.38)
Ending Fund Balance		518,711.54
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(485,426.67)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		33,284.87

MAGAZINE SALES & SUBSCRIPTIONS (3248)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		6,956.34
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		256,313.30
Beginning Fund Balance		263,269.64
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	12,738.20	
Magazine Sponsorship	22,500.00	
Magazine Bookshelf Sales	7,161.54	
Magazine Sales	34,861.90	
Magazine Subscriptions	561,718.09	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		638,979.73
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(35,356.29)	
Employee Benefits	(15,241.40)	
Current Expense	(599,739.35)	
Repairs and Alterations	(262.50)	
Bank Costs	(2,269.15)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(311.52)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(653,180.21)

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

Ending Fund Balance	249,069.16
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008	(243,251.50)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008	5,817.66

CLEARING ACCOUNT-EQUIPMENT (3251)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		94,650.21
RECEIPTS		
Rental Leases	22,570.96	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		22,570.96
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(1,172.99)	
Repairs and Alterations	(5,921.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(7,093.99)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		110,127.18

CLASS A-1 SMALL ARMS HUNTING LICENSE (3259)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		3,599.80
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		45,114.16
Beginning Fund Balance		48,713.96
RECEIPTS		
Class A-1 Small Arms Hunting License	97,108.00	
Lifetime Small Arms Hunting License	4,500.00	
Investment Earnings	4,040.33	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		105,648.33
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(21,696.43)	
Employee Benefits	(7,968.19)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(29,664.62)
Ending Fund Balance		124,697.67
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(121,164.49)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		3,533.18

PARKS IMPROVEMENT TO FACILITIES (3260)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		33,002.95
RECEIPTS		
Parks Development Grant	0.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		0.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(12,165.84)	
Repairs and Alterations	(1,890.15)	
Building Purchase or Construction	(8,248.33)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(22,304.32)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		10,698.63

WATTERS SMITH MEMORIAL STATE PARK (3261)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		0.00
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		76,019.29
Beginning Fund Balance		76,019.29
RECEIPTS		
Investment Earnings	3,372.68	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		3,372.68
DISBURSEMENTS		
Equipment	0.00	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		0.00
Ending Fund Balance		79,391.97
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(79,391.97)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		0.00

DECOY ANIMALS ASSESSMENT FEE (3264)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		73.45
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		8,512.84
Beginning Fund Balance		8,586.29
RECEIPTS		
Decoy Animal Assessment Fee	200.00	
Investment Earnings	377.86	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		577.86
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	(131.81)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(131.81)
Ending Fund Balance		9,032.34
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(8,890.70)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		141.64

STATE PARK OPERATING FUND (3265)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		836,962.52
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		2,332,845.65
Beginning Fund Balance		3,169,808.17
RECEIPTS		
Arts and Crafts	13,531.99	
Bath / Massages	384,485.40	
Bicycle Rental	1,509.90	
Boat Rental	64,435.52	
Cabin Advance Reservation	3,661,466.33	
Cabin Rentals	1,109,086.67	
Campsite Advance Reservation	349,337.27	
Campsite Rentals	1,412,492.07	
Cass Advance Fares	437,151.64	
Coin Laundry Machines	8,463.88	
Consumers Sales Tax	(26,662.02)	
Cot & Crib Rental	30,892.96	
Dinner Train Advance	28,288.71	
Driving Range	22,176.71	

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

Entrance Fees	232,036.82	
Equipment Rental	12,618.20	
Facility Use Rental	158,906.40	
Firewood Sales	118,399.05	
Food & Snacks	169,488.78	
Games	3,651.72	
Gas Royalties	29,029.70	
Gift Cards	44,478.22	
Gift Shop Sales	1,655,446.92	
Greens Fees	939,377.97	
Group Camps	43,182.93	
Hotel Occupancy Tax	475,277.57	
Investment Earnings	140,776.96	
Lodge Advance Reservation	2,629,597.07	
Lodge Rooms	2,645,813.17	
Lottery Collections - Net	17,655.50	
Magazine Sales	330.69	
Miniature Golf	32,572.69	
Miscellaneous Collections	(171,207.65)	
Miscellaneous Non-Taxable	62,823.02	
Miscellaneous Taxable	77,024.71	
Picnic Shelter Fees	179,056.24	
Pro Shop	183,531.89	
Railroad Charters	38,974.15	
Railroad Fares	398,316.33	
Residence Rentals	17,668.31	
Restaurants	2,252,558.72	
Roman Bath	117,083.00	
Special Events	67,860.02	
Swimming Fees	336,854.55	
Tennis	1,112.99	
Tram	132,527.43	
Vending Machines	52,645.00	20,592,126.10
RECEIPTS - CONCESSIONS		
Boat Dock Concession	27.00	
Canaan Concession	540,594.77	
Coin Machine Concession	18,490.86	
Food and Snacks Concession	7,854.26	
Golf Carts	323,743.52	
Landing Fees	(74.52)	
Marina	5,798.29	
Miscellaneous Concession	63,890.66	
Restaurant Concession	98,223.45	
Riding Stable	18,182.82	1,076,731.11
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		21,668,857.21
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(7,553,344.69)	
Employee Benefits	(1,824,405.75)	

Current Expense	(10,224,914.46)	
Repairs and Alterations	(1,851.03)	
Equipment	34,179.74	
Remittance Of Taxes	(453,094.58)	
Grants and Awards	(25,058.73)	
Bank Costs	(273,574.82)	
Fund Transfers - Canaan Maintenance Fund	(9,418.02)	
PEIA Reserve Transfer	(20,583.60)	
Contractor Pmts for Capital Asset Proj	(1,989.00)	
Building Purchase or Construction	(1,915.26)	
Medical Service Pmts	(1,790.00)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(20,357,760.20)
Ending Fund Balance		4,480,905.18
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(3,956,122.61)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		524,782.57

CANAAN MAINTENANCE FUND (3274)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		24,668.70
RECEIPTS		
Maintenance Transfer from Operating Fund	9,418.02	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		9,418.02
DISBURSEMENTS		
Personal Services	(3,900.41)	
Employee Benefits	(411.51)	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		(4,311.92)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		29,774.80

JUNE '03 FLOOD DISASTER FUND (3281)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		4,515.88
RECEIPTS		
Transfers In	0.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		0.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Repairs and Alterations	0.00	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		0.00
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		4,515.88

NOVEMBER '03 FLOOD DISASTER FUND (3282)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		32,636.08
RECEIPTS		
Transfers In	0.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		0.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	0.00	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		0.00
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		32,636.08

Statement of Revenues/Disbursements

MAY '04 FLOOD DISASTER FUND (3284)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		3,212.22
RECEIPTS		
Transfers In	0.00	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		0.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Repairs and Alterations	0.00	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		0.00
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		3,212.22

COYOTE MANAGEMENT FUND (3292)

Cash Balance July 1, 2007		28.00
Investment Balance July 1, 2007		500.00
Beginning Fund Balance		528.00
RECEIPTS		
Coyote Management Donations	488.00	
Investment Earnings	28.06	
PLUS TOTAL RECEIPTS		516.06
DISBURSEMENTS		
Current Expense	0.00	
LESS TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		0.00
Ending Fund Balance		1,044.06
Less - Investment Balance June 30, 2008		(1,028.06)
CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2008		16.00

RECAPITULATION OF FUNDS

	Revenue	Disbursements	Investments
General Fund	0.00	(13,087,806.99)	0.00
Consolidated Federal Funds	8,301,474.10	(6,396,777.72)	2,800,525.20
Appropriated Special Revenue Funds	36,507,193.81	(24,571,002.27)	3,774,046.32
Non-Appropriated Special Revenue Funds	29,672,910.88	(31,434,120.75)	51,256,109.72
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	74,481,578.79	(75,489,707.73)	57,830,681.24

Office of Land and Streams

**Office of Land
and Streams**
Joe T. Scarberry,
Supervisor

The Office of Land and Streams (formerly Real Estate Management Section) serves the Division in many capacities. Two primary responsibilities are: the supervision and administration of the Division's land acquisition and real estate title documents program and the administration of the State's rivers and streams. These main functions involve the acquisition, exchange, and leasing of land and improvements and the exercising of control over the various activities in the State's rivers and streams. They include organizing and archiving of the real estate title documents for the Division and the everyday administration of the real estate title once lands are acquired; and various rights-of-entry and license agreements on the State's rivers and streams.

LAND ACQUISITION

The acquisition function is accomplished by purchase, lease, condemnation, donations, bequests, and exchanges. It involves various procedures such as: the collection of legal data from county courthouse records; negotiations with property owners to obtain leases and/or options to purchase; detailed physical inspections of all types of real estate; obtaining appraisal reports of fair market value; the holding of public hearings; and the preparation of various real estate title documents and real estate quantitative and status reports.

The Office of Land and Streams is responsible for procedures dealing with the preparation, execution, and recording of legal documents such as deeds, leases, license agreements, rights-of-way, joint interagency agreements, easements, and land purchase invoices. It also prepares numerous other types of documents for state and federal agencies, including permits, applications, agreements, and contracts.

This Office maintains a close liaison with the attorneys assigned by the State Attorney General's Office to projects such as land acquisitions, court cases, and other required real estate legal work. This Office also handles all contract boundary survey work and contract consultants for engineering services relating to oil, gas and coal resources owned by the Division of Natural Resources.

The primary land acquisition program and the real estate related activities are conducted on behalf of the West Virginia Department of Commerce, the Parks and Recreation and Wildlife Resources sections of the Division of Natural Resources, and the Division of Forestry.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The Division of Natural Resources holds for the state the title to the beds of the state's rivers, creeks and streams totaling some 34,000 miles or some 5,000 named waterways. In the past year, 582 right-of-entry letters were granted to governmental agencies, companies and/or individuals to conduct construction activities in the state's rivers, creeks, and streams. A total of 895 right-of-way licenses was granted for pipelines, underground or underwater cables, and overhead power and telephone lines crossing the state's waterways. Additionally, 278 large stream structure agreements were granted for bridges and culverts, five dredging agreements and 10 loading/docking agreements were granted in the State's streams.

OTHER FUNCTIONS

This Office is also responsible for the up-to-date inventory of all lands owned or leased by the West Virginia Department of Commerce, Division of Natural Resources. At the end of this fiscal year, the Division of Natural Resources owned or long-term leased and operated 517,835 acres of land with partial mineral rights and held title to 34,000 miles of the state's river and creek beds. Division of Natural Resources lands are broken down into 298,953 acres owned and 218,882 acres leased. This acreage encompasses some 348 separate areas such as: wildlife management areas, public access sites, wetlands, state park and forest lands. These lands provide recreation and are of great natural and/or historical significance and are managed for the use and benefit of the citizens of West Virginia and its visitors.

PROPERTIES ACQUIRED

AREA	ACREAGE
Beury Mountain Wildlife Management Area The Nature Conservancy	2300.00
Cabwaylingo State Forest Carl Perry	171.25
Coal River Public Access Site Curtis H. Barnette	1.76
Elk River Public Access Site Grafton Coal	79.478
Elk River Wildlife Management Area Charles Taylor	77.10
Lewis Wetzel Wildlife Management Area Sharon Neff	293.25
Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area The Conservation Fund	36.515
St. Albans Public Access Site City of St. Albans	1.00
Underwood Wildlife Management Area Mark Spurlock	14.00
Valley Falls State Park Lura Watkins (oil & gas only)	397.8

LAND LICENSED OR LEASED TO DNR

AREA	ACREAGE
Beury Mountain Wildlife Management Area The Nature Conservancy (interim lease)	2284.00
Elk Creek Wildlife Management Area Heartwood Forest Land Fund, II, L.P.	6004.00
French Creek Embayment Public Access Site Hal C. Williamson	0.5 *
Riverton Rental, LLC.	0.10*
H. C. Williams	0.584*
Hanging Rock Public Access Site Charles Herriott	1.0*
Horse Creek Lake Wildlife Management Area Heartwood Forest Land Fund IV, L.P.	45.00
Sandstone Public Access Site Charles W. Boyd	0.5*
St. Albans Public Access Site First Charleston, LLC	0.164*
Old Field Public Access Site Division of Highways	0.5*
Park Hollow Lake Public Access Site West Virginia Soil Conservation Committee	0.5
Romney Bridge Public Access Site Mary Susan Williams	0.46*
Sandstone Public Access Site Charles W. Boyd	0.5*
Tuscarora Creek SBPA Ralph Olean	1.00*

*Renewals not included in summary of new acreages

	ACREAGE
9 parcels acquired	2979.00
1 release: (Big Ugly WMA-Mildred Dehaven Property)	195.00
8 parcels licensed or leased	8334.50
1 parcel (oil & gas only)	397.8
Net increase for FY 2007-2008	+11,118.50

OPTIONS TO PURCHASE OBTAINED

AREA	ACREAGE
Beury Mountain Wildlife Management Area	
The Nature Conservancy	1450.00
Jack Meadows	107.54
Cabwaylingo State Forest	
Carl Perry	171.25
Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area	
Sennett Triplet Coal, Inc.	10.00

PARCELS IN PROCESS OF ACQUISITION

AREA	ACREAGE
Beury Mountain Wildlife Management Area	1450.00
The Nature Conservancy	107.54
Jack Meadows	
Little Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area	10.00
Sennett Triplet Coal, Inc.	
PARCELS IN PROCESS OF ACQUISITION:	3
TOTAL ACREAGE	1567.54

ENGINEERING AND SURVEY CONSULTANTS

The Office of Land and Streams prepared and processed the required agreements and purchasing forms for engineering and survey services on two (2) projects. These projects included boundary surveys, drafting/mapping, mineral analysis and other related services.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Land and Streams prepared and processed, through various stages of completion, 97 documents relating to the use of the Division of Natural Resources' real estate holdings. These documents included lease agreements, license agreements, easements, mitigation agreements, and amendments and supplements to other existing agreements. Land rights covered by these agreements included road rights-of-way, power line, cable line, water line, sewage line, and gas and oil line rights-of-way.

The processing of these agreements required close communication with various field and central office personnel with various other sections of the Division of Natural Resources and with the Department of Commerce, Division of Forestry, and other state, county and local governmental offices.

RIVERS AND STREAM MANAGEMENT

Another function of the Division of Natural Resources is to hold title to the beds of the streams within the state of West Virginia. The Office of Land and Streams exercises control over the following activities involving these real estate resources:

- Dredging and/or pumping of sand, gravel, and derelict coal from the beds of the streams in the state.
- Leasing areas of the beds and under the beds of the streams for the purpose of exploring for oil, gas, and other minerals.
- Utilizing the beds of the streams for the purpose of crossing or placing in the streams pipelines, fords, submarine cables, culverts, bridges, low water bridges, dams, dikes, commercial docking, loading and mooring facilities, recreational marinas and other structures.

During FY 2007-2008, the various types of in-stream construction activities that were approved were channel changes, bridge construction, culvert construction, gravel removal, ford preparation, stream bank protection, water impoundments, fills, and pipeline construction.

During FY 2007-2008, right-of-way or license agreements were issued for gas, water and sewer pipelines, underground and overhead telephone, power and fiber optic cables and loading, docking and mooring agreements.

Licensed commercial sand, gravel and coal dredging and/or pumping operations produced 175,353 tons of sand and gravel from the beds of the streams in 2007-2008, as reflected below:

2007-2008 COMMERCIAL DREDGERS REPORT

Total Tonnage Used

COMPANY	RIVER/CREEK	TYPE	TONS
C. B. Lyons	Bells Creek	Sand & Gravel	150
Tri-State River Products	Ohio River	Sand & Gravel	175,203

Law Enforcement Section



The Law Enforcement Section is responsible for the prompt, orderly and effective enforcement of all laws of Chapter 20, Code of West Virginia, and rules promulgated under that authority. Of primary importance is the protection of West Virginia's wildlife to the degree that they are not endangered by unlawful activities. A highly visible, uniformed conservation officer patrol is the only viable way to accomplish this mission. Prevention and apprehension are crucial to the enforcement goal, and the conservation officer is meeting that goal. In West Virginia, no species of wildlife is jeopardized because of illegal taking.

Law Enforcement Section

David E. Murphy, *Chief*

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The Law Enforcement Section normally has a staffing level of 126 conservation officers and 11 support personnel. Six conservation officers retired, and eight new officers were employed during fiscal year 2008. Three conservation officers were activated for military service.



The Law Enforcement Section has been actively seeking new and innovative methods for the accomplishment of our overall mission. The following are some of the highlights of this past fiscal year:

- Participated in numerous public meetings to provide for a better understanding of the Law Enforcement Section's goals and objectives.
- Monitored various trout stockings to ensure compliance.
- Utilized deer and turkey decoys in an effort to curtail "road hunting" violations.
- Increased boating and fishing patrols on all major Corps of Engineer lakes.
- Provided watercraft support to various regattas and other major river events.

- Participated in the overall planning and coordination of West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Days at Stonewall Resort State Park.
- Increased ATV patrols on wildlife management areas in an effort to deter unlawful entry.



OFFICER TRAINING

The Law Enforcement Section takes pride in the amount and quality of training provided to conservation officers. Officers log thousands of hours each year sharpening their skills and preparing for the worst.

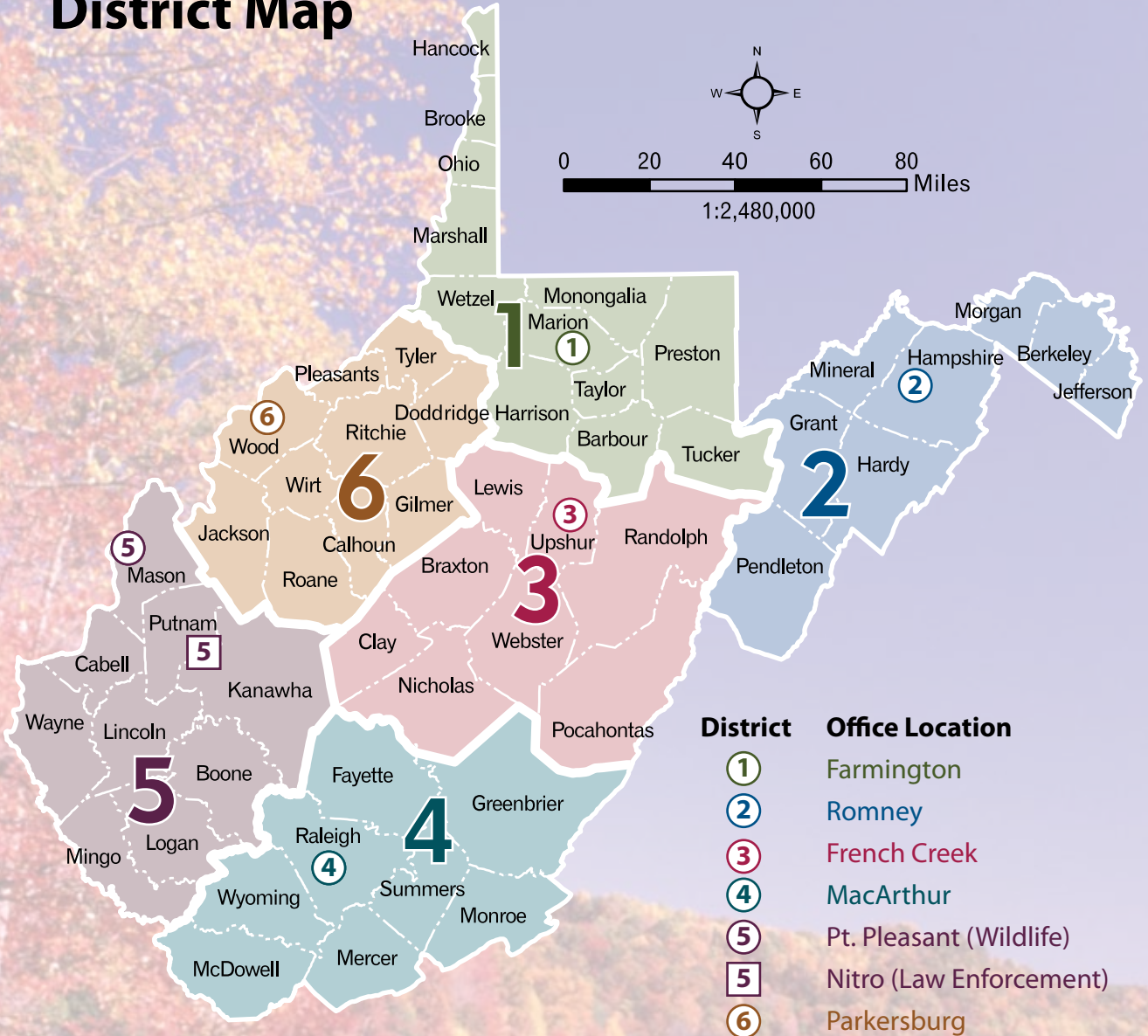
Several Defensive Tactics classes were held to train officers to defend themselves. In a continuing effort to be prepared for the worst in Homeland Security, officers received training on various Homeland Security topics.

Law enforcement officers must complete a minimum of 16 hours training annually in order to meet the Law Enforcement Training Committee Standards. In addition, all six districts conduct four regional training sessions annually, consisting of one unit of Defensive Tactics and three units of Firearm instruction. The Section continues to provide instructors to other law enforcement agencies to assist them in meeting their Law Enforcement Training Committee standards.

Four officers attended the National Marine Patrol Officer Course conducted at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center in Charleston, South Carolina.



West Virginia Division of Natural Resources District Map



HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The mandatory Hunter Education Program in West Virginia continues to be a success. During fiscal year 2008, approximately 8,400 graduated from 300 statewide classes. Volunteer instructors continue to provide a great service to the Hunter Education Program. In FY 2008, more than 200 instructors drove 33,788 miles and donated in excess of 7,180 hours to the program. Conservation officers logged 15,707 hours and drove 135,433 miles.



The Law Enforcement Section dedicates six regional training sergeants and one state coordinator to this program. Computers and projectors were purchased this year to allow instructors to more efficiently conduct training presentations. These computers utilize new technology to enhance student learning.

The Law Enforcement Section maintains a toll-free Hunter Education Hotline (1-800-243-9968) that provides class schedules to anyone interested in attending a class. In addition, class information and registration can be accessed on the DNR Web site, www.wvdnr.gov or the Hunter Education Web page, www.wvhuntered.com.

During fiscal year 2008, West Virginia experienced 13 Class A hunting incidents, resulting in two fatalities. A Class A hunting incident is defined as a hunting related injury resulting from the discharge of a firearm or bow.

There were 17 Class B hunting incidents. Six of these Class B incidents resulted in fatalities. Nine were tree stand related and two were from heart attacks. A Class B incident is defined as a hunting related injury.



Officers across the state have participated in several sporting and hunting shows and attended summer camps and other special events such as JAKES Day and BOW (Becoming an Outdoors-Woman) programs.

The Law Enforcement Section has conducted numerous interviews for TV, radio and magazines promoting safe hunting and boating.

West Virginia was represented at the International Hunter Education Association Conference.

BOATING SAFETY/EDUCATION PROGRAM



West Virginia has more than 63,000 registered boats. The owners, as well as their families and friends, have the opportunity to enjoy the activities our waters provide. Unfortunately, the state had 29 boating accidents this year, resulting in six fatalities. Alcohol, operator inexperience, and lack of training account for these tragedies.

Boating safety classes are offered in all counties in West Virginia, although few take advantage of this training. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U.S. Power Squadrons, and the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) have approved courses. The classes are also available online. The Law Enforcement Section is directly involved in either teaching or assisting in these courses. In fiscal year 2008, 43 classes were taught and 395 students successfully completed the course. Statistics are not represented for the Auxiliary, Power Squadrons or Web-based NASBLA approved courses. Anyone born after December 31, 1986, is required to successfully complete a NASBLA approved course before operating a motorboat. Several news releases and interviews have been conducted to get this message out to the public.

Officers from this section have participated in boating events and patrols around the state in an effort to promote water safety and reduce the number of accidents. Four conservation officers attend the National Marine Patrol Officers Course in Charleston, South Carolina, each year.

WHITewater ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The Division of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section has the responsibility of regulating the Commercial Whitewater Industry in West Virginia. This includes issuing all licenses, collecting all fees, maintaining all records of outfitters, and investigating new license applications.

Conservation officers patrol rivers, conduct compliance checks on guides and equipment and investigate whitewater accidents. In 2008, there were 28 licensed commercial whitewater outfitters.

The Law Enforcement Section has trained all conservation officers in swift water rescue techniques. Additional classes are planned to train new hires and provide enhanced training to all officers.



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

JULY 1, 2007 – JULY 4, 2008

DISTRICT	CLASSIFICATION OF HOURS			LEAVE			ARRESTS			WARNINGS			PUBLIC MEETINGS		COMPLAINTS		
	SPECIAL DETAIL HOURS	REGULAR WORK HOURS	TOTAL HOURS	ANNUAL	SICK	OTHER	CHAPTER 20 ARRESTS	CHAPTER 22 ARRESTS	OTHER ARRESTS	CHAPTER 20 WARNINGS	CHAPTER 22 WARNINGS	OTHER WARNINGS	NUMBER	CONTACTS	RECEIVED	WILDLIFE DAMAGE INVEST.	OTHERS INVESTIGATED
ONE	35	38621	38656	3566	832	2997	733	149	131	266	86	37	295	25227	1474	252	1233
TWO	0	27485	27485	2298	591	2087	648	124	39	233	169	49	97	5684	1510	500	1014
THREE	0	32995	32995	3190	719	2929	565	108	107	284	135	61	77	10058	1537	547	1004
FOUR	0	34313	34313	2692	863	2940	570	138	109	333	190	78	120	6683	1582	472	1062
FIVE	0	32654	32654	2584	372	2199	877	106	42	881	299	72	111	17959	1117	161	906
SIX	0	25428	25428	2300	1219	2065	501	105	108	181	170	55	136	14934	974	182	805
Charleston	0	6623	6623	579	77	496	1				1				4		4
TOTALS:	35	198119	198154	17209	4673	15713	3895	730	536	2178	1050	352	836	80545	8198	2114	6028

REPORT OF PROSECUTIONS BY CHARGE

FY 2007–2008

HEADING AND CHARGE	DISTRICT						TOTAL
	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	
LITTERING							
LITTERING, HIGHWAY	50	40	22	25	12	26	175
LITTERING, STREAM	13	5	8	16	19	5	66
LITTERING, PRIVATE PROPERTY	30	32	20	14	22	10	128
LITTERING, PARK OR PUBLIC PROPERTY	8	5	4	1	1	0	19
OTHER LITTERING VIOLATIONS	0	3	2	3	1	0	9
TOTAL LITTERING	101	85	56	59	55	41	397
LICENSE							
RESIDENT HUNTING WITHOUT LICENSE	46	11	15	32	34	24	162
RESIDENT FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE	67	50	27	49	130	25	348
IMPROPER HUNTING LICENSE	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
MAKING FALSE APPLICATION - HUNTING LICENSE	1	3	2	0	2	0	8
HUNTING WITHOUT CLASS A-1 LICENSE	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
HUNTING DEER WITHOUT CLASS N LICENSE	9	3	0	0	1	2	15
FISHING PARAPHERNALIA IN POSSESSION WITHOUT LICENSE	16	19	2	6	5	1	49
HUNTING PARAPHERNALIA IN POSSESSION WITHOUT LICENSE	4	6	4	3	2	1	20
HUNTING BEAR WITHOUT BEAR DAMAGE STAMP	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
HUNTING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
FISHING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TRAPPING WITHOUT LICENSE	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
MAKING FALSE APPLICATION - HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE	0	1	1	0	3	0	5
NON-RESIDENT HUNTING WITHOUT LICENSE	6	7	13	8	3	5	42
NON-RESIDENT FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE	17	103	9	10	5	3	147
IMPROPER FISHING LICENSE	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
MAKING FALSE APPLICATION - FISHING LICENSE	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
OTHER LICENSE VIOLATIONS	12	2	3	3	3	3	26
TOTAL LICENSE	183	205	81	111	192	64	836

HEADING AND CHARGE	DISTRICT						TOTAL
	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	
HUNTING							
LOADED GUN IN VEHICLE	48	45	37	40	50	35	255
UNCASED GUN IN VEHICLE AT NIGHT	12	5	6	3	13	5	44
SPOTLIGHTING	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
SPOTLIGHTING WITH FIREARM OR IMPLEMENT IN POSSESSION	11	4	10	6	11	4	46
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF WILDLIFE OR PARTS THEREOF - GAME	67	33	45	22	89	51	307
HUNTING CLOSED SEASON	22	12	24	13	35	17	123
EXCEEDING DAILY BAG LIMIT	0	4	0	2	6	0	12
UNCASED GUN, CLOSED SEASON	0	1	0	0	4	0	5
UNCASED GUN ON SUNDAY	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
FAILURE TO FIELD TAG GAME	30	10	12	8	15	21	96
FAILURE TO CHECK GAME	16	23	10	11	26	12	98
NEGLIGENT SHOOTING	1	1	0	0	0	1	3
SHOOTING FROM OR ACROSS HIGHWAY	11	2	3	2	3	6	27
SHOOTING WITHIN 500 FEET OF DWELLING; 400 CHURCH/SCHOOL	7	3	1	6	7	7	31
HUNTING WITHOUT PERMISSION	31	17	20	29	21	23	141
POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL HUNTING PARAPHERNALIA	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
ILLEGAL TRAPPING	0	2	9	0	0	0	11
ILLEGAL METHOD OF HUNTING - (MUST BE IN 20-2-5)	1	4	3	3	1	11	23
HUNTING AFTER KILLING LEGAL DEER	13	9	11	3	6	9	51
KILLING PROTECTED BIRD	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
ILLEGAL SALE OF WILDLIFE (INCLUDING BEAR)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
VIOLATION OF BEAR LAW OR RULES	0	1	3	6	4	0	14
ILLEGAL KILLING OR TAKING OF DEER, TURKEY OR BOAR	11	21	35	19	14	16	116
INSUFFICIENT OR NO BLAZE ORANGE	9	20	3	9	2	10	53
HUNTING ON SUNDAY	4	5	1	2	3	0	15
HUNTING DEER 1/2 HR AFTER SUNSET OR BEFORE SUNRISE	3	2	2	16	12	17	52
SHOOTING AT GAME NOT PLAINLY VISIBLE	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
SHOOTING/HUNTING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	25	21	23	37	46	22	174
HUNTING WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE	1	0	0	1	0	2	4
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF BEAR	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
HUNTING BEAR CLOSED SEASON	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
FAILURE TO FIELD TAG BEAR	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
OTHER GAME LAW VIOLATIONS	8	9	10	12	28	12	79
TOTAL HUNTING	331	257	272	256	400	282	1798

HEADING AND CHARGE	DISTRICT						TOTAL
	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	
FISHING							
TAKING FISH BY ILLEGAL METHOD	0	3	2	2	2	0	9
EXCEEDING DAILY CREEL LIMIT	5	7	7	5	2	0	26
ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FISH, MINNOWS AND AQUATIC LIFE	0	0	6	0	0	0	6
USING PROHIBITED BAIT IN RESTRICTED AREA	0	4	22	13	0	0	39
FISHING WITHOUT PERMISSION	2	5	1	0	1	0	9
OTHER FISHING VIOLATIONS	2	0	4	4	4	2	16
TOTAL FISHING	9	19	42	24	9	2	105

BOATING

OPERATING UNREGISTERED WATERCRAFT	10	5	8	3	26	3	55
OPERATING WATERCRAFT WITHOUT PROPER EQUIPMENT	4	0	4	1	5	5	19
INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF LIFE PRESERVERS	29	25	24	7	19	25	129
OVERLOADING A WATERCRAFT	2	0	7	0	0	1	10
IMPROPER LOCATION OR SPACING OF NUMBERS ON WATERCRAFT	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
RECKLESS OPERATION OF WATERCRAFT	3	1	6	0	0	2	12
CREATING A WAKE IN A NO-WAKE ZONE	3	0	14	0	0	0	17
PULLING SKIER WITHOUT OBSERVER OR MIRROR	12	0	6	2	1	2	23
SKIING WITHOUT A LIFE PRESERVER	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
NONE OR NO APPROVED EQUIPMENT	1	0	0	0	1	2	4
OPERATING A WATERCRAFT IN RESTRICTED AREA	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
OPERATING WATERCRAFT WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
OTHER BOATING VIOLATIONS	5	0	7	15	2	11	40
TOTAL BOATING	72	31	78	28	55	52	316

WASTE MANAGEMENT

KNOWING ENDANGERMENT	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
CONTRIBUTING TO AN OPEN DUMP	11	0	4	15	12	10	52
ENDANGERMENT BY WASTE DISPOSAL	1	0	0	0	0	4	5
OTHER SOLID WASTE VIOLATIONS	30	31	55	61	32	42	251
TOTAL WASTE MANAGEMENT	42	31	59	76	44	58	310

POLLUTION

STREAM POLLUTION	0	0	0	2	2	0	4
OTHER POLLUTION VIOLATIONS	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
TOTAL POLLUTION	2	0	0	3	2	0	7

HEADING AND CHARGE	DISTRICT						TOTAL
	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	
FORESTRY							
ILLEGAL BURNING	19	14	9	21	7	9	79
ABANDONING A FIRE	6	4	0	3	4	3	20
PERMITTING A FIRE TO ESCAPE	7	13	1	9	7	4	41
VIOLATING STATE FOREST REGULATIONS	1	0	0	0	8	0	9
VIOLATIONS OF GINSENG REGULATIONS	1	0	1	2	0	0	4
OTHER FORESTRY VIOLATIONS	29	2	15	7	5	2	60
TOTAL FORESTRY	63	33	26	42	31	18	213
GENERAL							
VIOLATION OF PARK REGULATIONS	26	50	8	52	60	3	199
WITHHOLDING INFORMATION	1	1	4	4	5	0	15
OBSTRUCTING,HINDERING, OR INTERFERING WITH OFFICER	7	0	4	2	3	5	21
CONSPIRING IN A VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 20	29	19	17	27	33	17	142
OFFENSE OUTSIDE CHAPTER 20	92	22	24	51	41	88	318
VIOLATION OF FUR DEALERS REGULATIONS	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
VIOLATION OF NATIONAL FOREST REGULATIONS	1	4	9	0	0	0	14
DRUG RELATED VIOLATION	25	3	0	16	8	3	55
CONSPIRING IN A FISHING VIOLATION OF CHAPTER 20	1	0	1	8	0	1	11
MISCELLANEOUS VIOLATIONS	22	6	14	12	13	8	75
TOTAL GENERAL	205	105	81	172	163	125	851
TOTAL ALL PROSECUTIONS	1008	766	695	771	951	642	4833

PROSECUTION PROGRAM

FY 2007–2008

COUNTY	NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS	Amounts Assessed		Dispositions of Prosecutions			
		FINES	COSTS	CONVICTED	DISMISSED	ACQUITTED	FAILED TO APPEAR
Barbour	88	\$2,282.00	\$12,523.50	78	10	0	0
Berkeley	156	\$6,760.00	\$20,711.50	131	10	0	15
Boone	80	\$1,970.00	\$9,956.00	63	17	0	0
Braxton	83	\$3,031.00	\$11,560.50	72	10	0	1
Brooke	56	\$1,437.00	\$6,420.00	48	8	0	0
Cabell	33	\$547.00	\$3,224.50	20	6	0	7
Calhoun	14	\$690.00	\$1,820.50	11	3	0	0
Clay	51	\$1,660.00	\$6,580.50	42	9	0	0
Doddridge	15	\$660.00	\$2,367.00	15	0	0	0
Fayette	127	\$2,670.00	\$13,046.00	72	27	2	26
Gilmer	33	\$645.00	\$4,173.00	26	7	0	0
Grant	45	\$2,335.00	\$6,741.00	43	0	2	0
Greenbrier	100	\$8,280.00	\$14,224.00	88	11	1	0
Hampshire	113	\$5,500.00	\$17,494.50	103	2	1	7
Hancock	19	\$840.00	\$2,893.50	17	2	0	0
Hardy	54	\$2,575.00	\$6,259.50	39	15	0	0
Harrison	118	\$8,170.00	\$17,869.00	111	7	0	0
Jackson	138	\$3,415.00	\$14,544.50	90	48	0	0
Jefferson	220	\$8,471.97	\$26,156.65	166	15	0	39
Kanawha	149	\$4,372.00	\$8,993.00	55	84	0	10
Lewis	87	\$2,365.00	\$12,842.00	85	0	0	2
Lincoln	79	\$1,085.00	\$6,741.00	43	13	0	23
Logan	184	\$3,380.00	\$15,613.50	99	85	0	0
McDowell	169	\$4,225.00	\$24,305.00	148	21	0	0
Marion	48	\$840.00	\$6,901.00	44	4	0	0
Marshall	108	\$3,641.00	\$14,447.00	91	13	0	4
Mason	128	\$2,075.00	\$10,956.00	65	35	3	25
Mercer	79	\$2,775.00	\$8,557.66	52	12	0	15
Mineral	43	\$1,469.25	\$6,420.00	40	1	0	2
Mingo	130	\$2,710.00	\$17,013.00	107	22	1	0
Monongalia	122	\$2,820.47	\$17,456.03	105	12	1	4
Monroe	48	\$1,700.50	\$7,212.00	45	3	0	0
Morgan	45	\$1,745.00	\$6,921.50	43	1	0	1

COUNTY	NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS	Amounts Assessed		Dispositions of Prosecutions			
		FINES	COSTS	CONVICTED	DISMISSED	ACQUITTED	FAILED TO APPEAR
Nicholas	100	\$5,965.00	\$12,840.00	80	18	0	2
Ohio	19	\$360.00	\$2,407.50	15	4	0	0
Pendleton	92	\$3,850.00	\$13,371.50	86	6	0	0
Pleasants	33	\$780.00	\$4,012.50	24	7	0	2
Pocahontas	66	\$3,140.00	\$10,370.24	64	2	0	0
Preston	151	\$9,280.00	\$20,890.00	127	24	0	0
Putnam	107	\$3,033.50	\$12,358.00	77	20	1	9
Raleigh	67	\$2,825.10	\$7,885.50	54	5	0	8
Randolph	91	\$2,925.00	\$13,743.00	85	6	0	0
Ritchie	88	\$2,750.00	\$11,875.06	75	11	0	2
Roane	77	\$1,504.00	\$9,172.50	57	20	0	0
Summers	134	\$5,550.00	\$19,859.05	122	11	0	1
Taylor	48	\$2,625.00	\$5,989.57	37	11	0	0
Tucker	89	\$1,148.02	\$7,947.15	49	40	0	0
Tyler	28	\$790.00	\$3,691.50	23	5	0	0
Upshur	87	\$4,965.00	\$11,821.50	74	13	0	0
Wayne	81	\$1,276.00	\$5,497.00	34	36	0	11
Webster	131	\$5,624.00	\$16,530.00	102	29	0	0
Wetzel	69	\$3,625.00	\$8,505.50	65	4	0	0
Wirt	39	\$1,000.00	\$4,012.50	28	10	0	1
Wood	187	\$5,766.00	\$23,921.59	156	25	1	5
Wyoming	87	\$1,600.00	\$9,645.00	63	20	0	4
TOTALS	4,833	\$167,523.81	\$599,290.50	3,754	840	13	226



Parks and Recreation Section



Parks and Recreation Section

Kenneth Caplinger,
Chief

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a review of the major programs, policy actions, and challenges being addressed as of June 30, 2008.

Overview

The purpose of the DNR Parks and Recreation Section is to “promote conservation by preserving and protecting natural areas of unique or exceptional scenic, scientific, cultural, archaeological, or historical significance and to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for the citizens of this state and its visitors.” This mission statement is embodied in state law and has been the guiding principal for operating the state park system since its inception in the late 1920s. Additionally, state parks and state forests serve as major tourist attractions to bolster the fame and economy of the state.

The system is composed of 35 state parks, seven state forests, five wildlife management areas, the Greenbrier River Trail, and the North Bend Rail Trail. From rustic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-era facilities with limited development to massive modern resorts, from restored logging railroads and company towns to Civil War battlefields, from natural areas with national significance to areas that are primarily day-use local recreational facilities, the system offers tremendous variety and fills a number of roles. To the average West Virginian, they are sources of employment and recreation that might not otherwise be available, especially in rural areas, and are a valuable regional source of high-quality, reasonably-priced vacation and outdoor recreational experiences. To the out-of-state tourist, they are among the nation’s finest state park vacation destinations. State parks and forests play host to numerous church picnics, retreats, and get-togethers; provide a safe environment for senior citizens to recreate; provide areas where children can safely learn how to swim; and promote family values by giving families a chance to re-create the body and spirit that comes with quality time spent together. In addition to recreation, what is often overlooked is this system’s contribution to enhancing and protecting environmental values, which in turn contributes to the overall quality of life found in West Virginia. State parks and state forests protect watershed, provide quality wildlife habitat, prevent soil erosion, provide hunting and fishing opportunities, and present numerous other environmental benefits.

Lastly, and very importantly, they serve a valuable role as a cornerstone of tourism in West Virginia. Division of Tourism surveys of out-of-state tourists consistently reveal state and national parks as the single biggest attraction that brought these individuals to our state. Given that there are only two national park units in West Virginia, these results are telling. For the investment of tax dollars that the park system receives each year to support the system, dividends are repaid several times over in economic benefits.

SYSTEM-WIDE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND CHALLENGES

Self-sufficiency

Park managers endeavor to make the system as self-sufficient as possible while at the same time protecting the overall mission and resources associated with the system. Despite certain inherent challenges that keep the system from full self-sufficiency, the West Virginia state park system has traditionally been and continues to be one of the most operationally self-sufficient in the nation, even though it is one of the few systems in the nation not charging entry fees.

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

State Parks, Forests and Recreation Areas



The FY 2008 operational self-sufficiency figure was 60 percent, compared to 59 percent the prior year. This mark was improved despite very large increases in operating expenses that were beyond the control of system managers, including utilities, gasoline and minimum wage changes. It is estimated that these factors drove operating expense in FY08 up more than \$1 million.

Fiscal Year 2008 was a record year for total revenues. Collections totaled \$21,229,122. Current plans call for major expansion of Cacapon, Blackwater and Twin Falls lodging facilities, which should have a major revenue and self-sufficiency impact when complete. In addition, the new Chief Logan Lodge continues to gain in occupancy, revenue, and profitability. Beech Fork State Park showed an operating profit for the first time.

Of course, direct revenues do not measure the full economic benefit of the park system. An economic impact study conducted several years ago by the Marshall University Center for Business and Economic Research very conservatively concluded that state park visitor spending had a total direct and indirect impact of \$127 million on the economy of West Virginia. It is hoped that this study can be repeated soon to provide an updated figure.



Chief Logan Lodge, Hotel and Conference Center

Lodge Sales

An ongoing effort to maximize occupancy in all state park lodges, especially in the off-season, is the task of the two group sales staffers (one in Charleston, one at Pipestem Resort State Park) who market lodges and resort parks to various organizations throughout the state and country. The sales staffers are paid a base salary plus incentives for increases in lodge occupancy. Efforts include sales and telemarketing calls to corporations, state and federal government agencies, travel agencies, tour groups, and the like. Direct mailings and travel shows also are used frequently.

These employees work particularly hard to attract off-season, mid-week business, which is the most difficult lodging sales challenges facing the park system. With the recent promotion of the Charleston-based sales staffer to another position, the program is being reviewed for continuation versus alternate approaches. A contractual approach may well be pursued.

Infrastructure Improvements

Major projects completed this fiscal year included construction of trail steps at Audra, repairs to the Babcock Grist Mill, replacement of two lift stations at Beech Fork, completion of the extensive pool renovations at Berwind Lake, structural repairs to selected lodge stairs at Canaan Valley, structural repairs to the Cass Store, completion of the Chief Logan Convention Center maintenance garage, installation of a pool liner at North Bend, replacement of the Tygart Lodge roof, and completion of the maintenance garage at Valley Falls. One of the challenges facing Parks the past several years has been the lack of adequate funding for major repairs. However, the 2008 Legislative Session provided enough additional general revenue to allow the amount available for this to increase to some \$3 million annually with an additional \$2 million available for more routine repairs and improvements. In addition, there was a one-time appropriation of \$12 million for major projects.

Administrative Management

To support the 49 units that comprise the system in FY08, there were some 430 full-time employees, 1,000 hourly employees at the peak of seasonal employment, and several major park concessionaires. To meet administrative demands, Parks employs five statewide general administrative personnel. These are a Chief, a Business Manager, and three District Administrators. In addition, there are two technical program administrators in the form of an Assistant Chief in charge of Planning, Engineering, and Maintenance (PEM), and a Coordinator in charge of Programming, Interpretive Services, Special Events, Gift Certificate Sales, Youth Programs, and various other special functions. Field-based park superintendents and assistants are particularly important since they play a variety of roles that are vital to the success of park operations. As general managers, they must direct natural resources, business personnel, public relations, law enforcement, maintenance, guest and employee safety, and other programs essential to their areas of assignment. These individuals are a key factor in assuring a high level of customer satisfaction as evidenced by overwhelmingly positive guest comment cards.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

Most of the items identified in the original system-wide assessment are complete while smaller additional and ever-evolving needs remain. A major wheelchair access project was in the planning stage at the close of FY08 for a portion of Pipestem's McKeever Lodge.

Minority Employment

Parks desires to increase the representation of minority groups in the work force. There is a commitment to add employment minorities within the Division of Personnel framework that governs the selections for the classified service. Three female superintendents were added to the work force in FY08.

Hazardous Dams

The Dam Control Office of the Division of Environmental Protection has declared dams on several areas, including Blackwater Falls, Cacapon Resort, and Tomlinson Run state parks, as being potentially hazardous structures. These are being remedied as funding allows. As a state statutory requirement, a monitoring and evacuation plan is kept current for each major dam.

Resource Management

Many individuals are surprised to learn that state park and forest superintendents and assistant superintendents are commissioned as special conservation officers and possess full law enforcement authority on the areas they manage. Consequently, game and fish law enforcement, littering violations, and enforcement of other environmental laws are routinely conducted. All superintendents, assistants, and key supervisory personnel are required to attend the West Virginia Division of Forestry's annual Wildfire Control Training school and suppression action is taken on any forest fires, which occur or threaten state lands. The Parks and Recreation Section cooperates with the State Department of Agriculture and the Division of Forestry in controlling gypsy moths, hemlock woolly adelgid, and other insects and diseases which threaten state-owned forests. Routine trail and boundary maintenance are carried-on throughout the year.

INDIVIDUAL AREA AND SECTION ACTIVITY REPORTS

West Virginia parks, forests, and wildlife management areas differ from those in most other states because of their added role in filling a local recreational niche occupied elsewhere by local government. Local communities in West Virginia often cannot afford to provide recreational facilities such as tennis courts, swimming pools, picnic areas and similar development that are offered by city and county government in other states.

Because of this and other factors, requirements for maintaining the individual parks, forests, and wildlife management areas are quite varied. Facilities range from the modern development at parks like Canaan, Pipestem and Stonewall, to historical structures dating from the CCC days. Replacement and upkeep of aging infrastructure at various areas is a constant challenge. This section of the annual report will focus mainly on repair and improvement items, since the common themes of self-sufficiency, compliance programs, and similar management challenges are described elsewhere.

Audra State Park

Power was installed to the picnic shelter to allow for lights and outlets. A new grill was also installed. New steps were constructed along the Alum Cave trail and parts of the boardwalk were replaced. The office roof was replaced. Six fire pits were replaced in the campground and both bathhouses were painted. A partnership with Broaddus Hospital was formed to promote active lifestyles for kids. T-shirts were sold with all proceeds going to fund new playground equipment.

Babcock State Park

A new chlorine contact chamber was purchased and installed at the campground sewage plant. This project included the complete removal of the existing failed tank that was attached as part of the sewage treatment package plant. This project was completed by park staff. The hardwood floors in cabins 1 -13 and 16 - 20 were refinished as were some kitchen table tops. New charcoal grills were fabricated and painted for use in the campground and cabin areas. With the assistance of the PEM crew, some structural repairs were made to the Glade Creek Grist Mill. The PEM crew also replaced some siding boards located around the wheel of the grist mill. Babcock staff constructed shelving units to be used for merchandise display in the gift shop. Two new steel gates were fabricated and installed at the swimming pool parking lot to aid in security during the off season. The parking space for Cabin 7 was modified to allow better access and adequate room for the guests to park out of the roadway. A new two door commercial refrigerator and a slide top commercial freezer were purchased to allow adequate storage space needed to display our gift shop food items.

Beartown State Park

Many of the old wooden information and regulatory signs were replaced with the new plastic laminate signs. Several sections of the boardwalk were damaged by uprooted trees and fallen rocks and required extensive repairs. Other maintenance activity was routine. The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid continued to damage and kill trees despite control efforts.



Beartown State Park

Beech Fork State Park

The park took over operation of the Campers Corner store this year and the facility was renovated to provide additional space for sales of gift items and hand-dipped ice cream. The maintenance staff was realigned to provide for a mowing crew to better utilize the existing personnel. Twenty-eight campsite grills were replaced throughout the campgrounds. The automatic pool cleaner was repaired. The Old Orchard bathhouse and park office buildings were stained. The office supply room was remodeled and shelving installed to allow for better stocking and inventory of supplies. Exhaust fans in bathhouses and restrooms were repaired. The park recorded a 20 percent increase in revenue for the fiscal year and finished a fiscal year in the black for the first time.



Beech Fork State Park

Berkeley Springs State Park

Extensive maintenance improvements were made to all areas this year and included installing new steel handrails on the Warm Springs Run footbridge, replacing one hundred feet of deteriorated sidewalk with new concrete and planting dozens of rhododendron and holly bushes at the swimming pool. Repairs were made to the swimming pool due to flooding and the ravages of time. The Main Bathhouse boiler was repaired and new electric water heaters were installed. Brush was cleared from the Warm Springs Ridge hillside. Painting included the exterior of the swimming pool entrance and Spring House support columns. The Old Roman Bathhouse suffered from several instances of flooding and repairs were made as needed.

Berwind Lake Wildlife Management Area

Renovations were completed on the swimming pool in time for reopening on Memorial Day and a full summer season. Improvements included painting, repairing pool buildings, and installation of a new filter system and a pool liner. The National Guard and McDowell County Faces program held a family day and volunteered to do a trash pick up around the lake.

Blackwater Falls State Park

The annual Park Superintendents' Meeting was hosted by Blackwater Falls in early 2008. Construction of a new wastewater treatment plant near the lodge began. The lodge exercise room received a new universal gym system and a flat screen TV. New rollaway cots and mattresses were received for the cabins. Three more cabins were added to those designated as pet friendly. Cabin improvements included new windows in some, refinished floors and insulation improvements. Special events included Murder Mystery Weekend, Wildflower Pilgrimage, Septemberfest, Astronomy Weekend, Halloween Party, and Easter Egg Hunt.

Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park

For the third year in a row, the island again escaped major flooding. The second year of self operation of the Spirit of South Charleston sternwheeler saw a savings of more than \$250,000 compared to the former contractual ferry service. This also was the second year of evening programs on the island, including Island Frolic, Family Fireworks Cruise, and Sunday Sundae Cruise. A third controlled deer hunt was held on the island in November 2007 with 50 deer harvested. A follow-up spring deer count in April 2008 totaled 99 deer. The Blennerhassett Foundation completed renovations to the Putnam-Houser house with only outside shutters remaining. The Foundation and Friends of Blennerhassett purchased a new front desk structure for the museum. Volunteer hours for the year were in excess of 15,000.



The Putnam-Houser house at Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park

Bluestone State Park

The park focused on basic maintenance projects, including refinishing cabin floors, installing ceiling fans and new entrance doors and storm doors. Meador Campground had new electric pedestals installed on some sites. The Old Mill Campground received new culverts and ditch cleaning to improve drainage in the area. The annual "Safety on the Blue" event was held in June, offering visitors safety information and presentations. The Pit Area electric supply line was replaced across the Lilly Bridge on Route 20.

Bluestone Wildlife Management Area

Revenue was more than \$46,000 for the year, an increase of more than \$6,000 from the previous year. Volunteers performed more than 1,000 hours of labor to assist staff and guests. Maintenance operations included clearing trails, repairing and painting campsite posts and signs and using a long arm brush cutter to mow the roadsides. The WVDOH graded and graveled 19 miles of roads in the camping areas.



The CCC memorial statue at Cabwaylingo State Forest

Cabwaylingo State Forest

Some of the CCC standard cabins were re-roofed, new ceiling fans were installed and areas of chinking were replaced. The CCC memorial statue and forest entrance signs were repaired. Lighting, plumbing and heating upgrades were made to the pool, cabins and maintenance buildings. New laundry equipment was installed in the laundry room. Playground equipment consultants were retained for the future addition of a new play area.

Cacapon Resort State Park

Upgrades were completed on plumbing at the Old Inn and lake bathhouse. The bathhouse also received an electrical upgrade and was re-roofed. Wireless Internet service was installed at the lodge. A new ticket booth was built at the lake, a new bow range was built at the wobble clay shooting range and new entrance signs were installed. Picnic grills donated by the park foundation were installed throughout the park.

Camp Creek State Park

A large shelter and utility building was constructed at the new law enforcement training area. Construction began on a new amphitheater facility that will include a 500 square foot stage, an attached 400 square foot room that will include a kitchen, restroom and multipurpose room. Repairs were made to the laundry facility exhaust system. A new booster pump and chlorination system was installed on the main water system. Repairs to the sewage lift station included replacing one pump. Maintenance was performed on nearly 35 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails. Special events included the annual Bluegrass Day and Fall Festival.

Canaan Valley Resort State Park

The exteriors of all rental cabins were painted. Reinforcing was installed on all steel staircases on all five lodging units. New steps were installed at the main entrance to the Bear Paw Lodge. A new roof was installed on "C" building at the ski area and a new drainage system was installed as well. The roof on the extension of "B" building was replaced. New rain shelters were constructed on two holes at the golf course. An RFP for a new redevelopment and operating contract for Canaan Valley was prepared for release to the private sector in the fall of 2008. Major lodge and ski area investment is sorely needed.

Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park

The picnic shelter power supply was relocated from the old restroom to the snack stand. New electrical cable was run to each shelter. All shelters and the snack stand were painted. One old restroom building was demolished and the site reclaimed. New gates were installed in the picnic area to replace old chain gates. The Ford tractor engine was rebuilt and two John Deere mowers had engine repairs done.

Cass Scenic Railroad State Park

Great progress was achieved in painting, repairs, and preventive maintenance throughout the town, and two more houses were brought into the vacation rental program. Twenty-six structures were prepped and painted. Major repairs were completed to several porches throughout town, and several houses received half-round guttering and downspouts. Interior renovations and installation of new furnishings were done in several houses. The Odd Fellows Lodge/Kane's Grocery building was re-roofed. Foundation drain systems were installed at four buildings. An overall facelift to the houses on Front Street was completed, including such projects as sidewalk replacement, porch and boardwalk reconstruction, foundation, siding, skirting and window repairs. Reconstruction of an historic garage building was completed in order to serve as winter equipment storage. Emphasis was placed on interior decorating concerns, such as making textual, diagrammatic and photographic records of work already done, including paint schemes and floor plans. This information will be of use to reservation clerks and the building maintenance staff. Window treatments in sixteen rental houses were updated. Work commenced on phase 2 (of 5 phases) of the town water line replacement and meter installation program. A large number of undesirable trees throughout town were taken out or pruned.



Cass Scenic Railroad State Park

Major roofing and drainage repairs were completed at the locomotive, repair and restoration shops. The staff replaced leaking panels in the shop roof. New guttering and downspouts were installed, and an extensive drainage system was installed to pipe the water away from the foundations.

Significant remodeling, repairs, and repainting were carried out in the restaurant and Whittaker Station concession stand. A decayed floor and walls in the wash room of the restaurant necessitated dismantling and reconstructing the entire room. A new wall and doorway were constructed to better shield the Switchback Room from the rest of the restaurant. New restaurant equipment and furnishings were purchased, resulting in the need for considerable rewiring and replumbing. The concession stand received completely new and upgraded electrical service, the picnic area at Whittaker was landscaped, and bear-proof plastic trash receptacles were installed. For the first time, the park's restaurant concession is fully equipped with state owned equipment, a move made necessary by the departure of longtime concessionaire Snowshoe Resort.

Two firsts were achieved in railroad maintenance this year: completion of the refling of Shay #6, as well as the full recertification of Shay #5's boiler, brought six locomotives into service simultaneously; and all passenger cars were repaired and freshly painted in one winter. Six more cars received the low maintenance flexible rubber roofing, and one cabooses was repainted as well.

A major project to realign the track at the "wye" resulted in the park being able, for the first time, to utilize the powerful Shay #6 locomotive on daily trips to Bald Knob. Previously, the sharp mainline curve at the wye caused the big locomotive's wheels to bind in the curve. The realignment, affecting 250 feet of track as well as two switches, reduced the maximum radius of the curve from 36 degrees to 30. This project will reduce the need to doublehead, saving considerable manpower and wear and tear on equipment.

An AM transmitter was procured and set up to broadcast park information to guests and people traveling Rt. 66. A reproduction of an historic baggage cart was constructed in the machine shop and set up outside the depot. Construction of a wooden playground train set for younger visitors was completed. The Mead/WestVaco display was moved to the historical museum, with the corporation paying for a partial remodeling of that facility. A new interpretive tour of Cass was developed: The "Lantern Tour" focuses on the trials and difficulties encountered by the residents of Cass during its heyday. For the first time, the popular Murder Mystery trains were produced completely by park staff. Cass was prominently involved in the formation of the new West Virginia Tourist Railroad Association, an effort by the state's formidable lineup of such attractions to improve visibility and marketing efforts.

Cathedral State Park

This year Cathedral State Park participated in the West Virginia Make It Shine statewide litter cleanup with the removal of more than 400 pounds of litter and debris along Rt. 50 and the section of Cathedral Trail that parallels the road. More than 200 pounds of the invasive plant garlic mustard were also removed. Both projects were completed with the help of local volunteers. The Wood Thrush Trail was reclaimed by removing debris from the trail. A new leach field for the septic system was installed. All grills in the picnic areas were repainted and a layer of sandstone gravel was placed under them to improve aesthetics and to help prevent accidental forest fires. Trail blazes were repainted on Cathedral Trail. A large amount of litter was removed from Rhine Creek, which follows Cathedral Trail. Non-slip surfacing was placed on all boardwalks, bridges and stairs in common areas and along all trails. Boardwalks were installed in areas where standing water and mud were common. A new Land and Water Conservation Fund sign was installed in the main parking lot. Cathedral State Park was also highlighted in *Wonderful West Virginia* magazine, which resulted in an increase in visitation from guests all over the state and region.



Cedar Creek State Park

Cedar Creek State Park

Staff completed several improvements to the swimming pool. The most appreciated by visitors was installation of a water heater and all related plumbing and electrical upgrades. The pool was much warmer as a result. Staff constructed a room in the barn by the assistant's residence to accommodate the water treatment system. More than one thousand feet of water line was installed in the campground, providing water hookups for an additional dozen campsites. A kiosk was built to accommodate the electric meter, breaker box and other components for the electric upgrades to the lower campground. Concrete pads and fireplaces were added to two campsites. The wagon used for nature programs was renovated with new seating and rails, as well as a new set of retractable steps.

Chief Logan Lodge

During its second full year of operation, this facility reached an occupancy rate of 38 percent and generated a positive operating margin of \$263,000. Notable events during the year include the following: General Manager resigned in mid February. Continental breakfast was added to the list of services provided by the hotel becoming the first such offering among all state operated food facilities. An agreement with a third party provider was developed and implemented to provide the lodge real time web based reservations using cyber based travel agents and other commercial marketing companies such as Orbitz. An easement was granted for a cell tower to be installed on a high ridge overlooking the lodge complex that will provide significantly increased phone service for overnight and conference guests. A new maintenance building was completed that will greatly assist in the delivery of services to lodge guests. Scenic West Virginia wall hangings were purchased to add color and excitement to all guest rooms and further introduce hotel guests to the beauty of our state. A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the construction of a five million dollar recreation center near the lodge that will feature an eight-lane competition swimming pool, three tennis courts, walking track, and fitness area.

Chief Logan State Park

The campground electrical system was completely upgraded to meet current electrical codes. All standard circuit breakers were replaced with GFCI breakers. The amphitheater seating project was completed with 588 seats installed to replace the old bench seating. A new phone system with multiple lines and voice mail was installed in the main office. The tennis court was resurfaced, all buildings were painted and a new septic system and leach field was installed for the museum facility. Groundbreaking was held for the new recreation center. The park hosted the annual VIPP picnic, an Airstream owners rally and the usual annual events, including the Sue Browning Wildflower Hike, Civil War Reenactment, Shawnee Living History Trail, and Christmas in the Park.

Coopers Rock State Forest

The roof was replaced on one of the large picnic shelters and the building was stained. The concession stand and one restroom in the main picnic area were also stained. Deteriorated siding was replaced on the restroom at the overlook parking area and the building was stained. New vanity tops were installed in the campground bathhouse. An area in the campground was cleared for future use as a site for a campground host. Siding was installed to the exterior of the vault toilet at the trout pond. Trees were removed from the trout pond dam in preparation for repairs to the spillway wing walls.

Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park

A major accomplishment was the installation of a dozen interpretive signs detailing the positions and activities of various regiments during the November 6, 1863, battle. A small cannon ball and numerous shell fragments were donated to the museum by local residents. Many tours and presentations were given to schools, motor coach tour groups, senior groups and Civil War Roundtable. An inventory of all CCC constructed facilities was done. The park suffered damage from an ice storm that brought down dozens of trees.



Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park

Greenbrier River Trail

Two Adirondack style camping shelters were constructed at the northernmost campsites on the trail. Five picnic areas, two new campsites, and several river access points were developed along the trail and a new parking area was built at Sitlington. Improvements around the town of Marlinton included new parking, 250 feet of split rail fencing, a footbridge to the elementary school, ditching, and landscaping. A mapping company completed a GPS trail map of all infrastructure on the trail for 911 emergency purposes.

Greenbrier State Forest

Stone fireplaces at nine campsites were rebuilt. Campsite #11 was redesigned to make it more attractive to trailer and RV campers. The exteriors of two cabins were stained. The sewer lines serving three cabins were replaced and a deck was added to cabin #2. The residences of the superintendent and assistant superintendent were re-roofed. The interior of the swimming pool bathhouse was painted. The office restroom was remodeled. The forest hosted the annual Show-Me Hike (spring wildflower hike), Greenbrier County Boy Scout/Girl Scout Day Camp and the Civil War Re-enactment of the Battle of White Sulphur Springs.



Hawks Nest State Park

Hawks Nest State Park

The lodge received some attention this year by way of a facelift to rooms and HVAC repairs. All guest room air handlers were replaced during the project. Room upgrades included new a paint color scheme, new televisions, bathroom renovations, updated hallway and public area lighting to fluorescent, and rewiring some rooms to accommodate refrigerators and microwaves in suites. Although passing inspection and being safe to operate, the aerial tramway has continued to be unreliable with mechanical and electrical service failures. Many of the malfunctions appear to be related to faulty old switches and circuit boards which are difficult to find replacement parts for due to new technology. Tramway staff inspected and replaced tower #1 walking arm pins, bearings and axles on base station towers. A certified electrician was contracted to provide technical assistance with electrical faults, replacement of circuitry, and investigating and repairing phantom errors. "Lights along the Midland Trail" continued to be a popular event during the Christmas holiday. Dinner Theater special events continued draw sell-out crowds, building room nights as well as meals during off season. Golf course play was lackluster even with incentive rates during evenings. The deeply discounted rate did not generate revenues to make up for lack of day guests. Excellent comments were received this year from golfers, many stating that the course is in the best-ever shape.

Holly River State Park

Cabin exteriors were stained and chinking was painted on the standard cabins. Renovations were started on the softball field and included replacing the old backstop, building dugouts on the first and third base lines, and installing chain link fence. Funding for the ball field improvements was provided by the park foundation.

Kanawha State Forest

Extensive renovations were made to the small bathhouse at the campground, both inside and out. Restrooms in the day use areas of the forest received siding repairs, new roofing and were stained. The Johnson Hollow picnic area restroom was painted inside. Construction began on a new restroom in the Dunlop Hollow picnic area. Silt catch ponds in Davis Creek were cleaned out and the material used to make a safety mound at the shooting range. Forest signs were painted or replaced as needed.

Kumbrabow State Forest

A major relocation/renovation to the residence kitchen involved removing paneling, rerouting electric and plumbing and installing new cabinets. Receptacles were installed and the 220 volt outlet for the clothes dryer was moved upstairs into the old kitchen. Water line hookups were changed in the old kitchen to accommodate a washing machine. The entire remaining kitchen was relocated to the old dining room. Shelves were built in the old kitchen making it a pantry/laundry area. Trim was replaced in both rooms. New window trim was fabricated to replace trim around a window that was removed when the cabinets were installed in the old kitchen. All new wood was stained to match the existing wood in the new kitchen and pantry. A small set of play equipment was built to be placed in the cabin area. The large timbers were donated to us by The Coastal Lumber Company, Beverly, W.Va. The other materials needed were purchased at a local sawmill. The play set was fabricated through the winter and assembled in the spring as weather allowed. Framing posts were set and concreted in for a new maintenance/storage shed at the office complex. Cat5 internet cable was installed from the office to the residence. It was necessary to prepare a 240-foot ditch by hand and cover and dress the same ditch to complete the project.

Laurel Lake Wildlife Management Area

Extensive remodeling was done to the residence, including replacing hardwood flooring and carpeting, installing new windows and new appliances, and rewiring. The maintenance truck engine was replaced.

Little Beaver State Park

The existing playground equipment was improved by adding additional baby swings to one swing set and the merry-go-round was removed for repairs, repainted, and replaced. All metal trash cans were replaced with new plastic trash containers. Animal resistant dome lids were added to the most used cans, which has reduced the amount of trash being removed by wildlife. Speed bumps were added on the sides of the park office for safety and traffic control. The lights in the main parking lot were rewired and all the ballasts replaced and the lights restored to working condition. The automatic light sensors were removed from the restrooms and replaced with timer controlled switches. A low fence was installed at the turn around at the end of the park road and picnic tables were added as well, creating a very popular picnic site. Most of the old wooden signage was replaced with the new plastic park signs and additional new signs were added where they were needed. Brush was cleared from around the picnic shelters, picnic areas and road sides. A number of dead trees were removed from the park and all trees within 20 feet of the dam were removed, both for safety reasons. All of the wooded planters at the base of the light poles along the park road were removed. The parking area near the Beaver Creek Trail was expanded by cutting back the overgrown brush and new gravel was laid in. A rock fire ring was added to one of the picnic areas and new grills were added to three shelters. The slope adjacent to the parking area across from the park office was cut back and the drainage improved. This has expanded parking for the office staff and a handicap spot was added as well. All parking lots were re-striped and crosswalks were painted where needed. Contractual completion of the new 75 site campground should begin in FY09.



Little Beaver State Park

Lost River State Park

New decks were built on four cabins and other improvements included installing GFCI outlets, new light switches, new floor tile, bathroom renovations and painting. One cabin was re-roofed as was the settler's cabin on Big Ridge Mountain. New playground equipment was installed in the cabin area. The Lee Cabin porch roof received new cedar shakes. Many dead and fallen trees were processed for firewood.

Moncove Lake State Park

All park signs were repainted and all hiking trails were blazed with plastic trail markers. Counters were built at the pool bathhouse to create a snack sales area and improve traffic flow. Shelving for the gift shop portion of the campground office was built as well as an ADA ramp to access the front landing. The bathhouse in the lower portion of the campground received major renovations which included installing a new ceiling and lighting as well as a new roof. Fishing opportunities in the lake have been improving rapidly as fish populations continue to mature.

North Bend Rail Trail

To address drainage problems on the trail, extensive ditching was done in several areas. Other improvements included replacing access gates, repairing barricades, installing culverts and cutting back right-of-way. One mile of the trail was paved within the city limits of West Union.

North Bend State Park

Cokeley Campground was opened this summer with 28 sites with water and electricity hookups. The Natural Resource Conservation Service was continuing with the campground development including paving and installation of a small playground. A liner was installed in the swimming pool and the roof was replaced on the pool bathhouse this year. A wireless Internet system was installed in the lodge in order to provide access to our guests. Park staff replaced the roof on three of the park's buildings, remodeled seven more lodge guest rooms, and rebuilt two bridges on park trails. The second annual Lake & Park Clean Up was held this year, with more than three tons of trash being removed from the park and lake. North Bend State Park Foundation was established and work began on its first project.

Panther Wildlife Management Area

Work was completed on the exterior of the new superintendent's residence and a well and filtration system were installed. All exterior lights at the group camp were rewired and placed in conduit. A new roof was installed on the locker room side of the pool bathhouse. The pool filtration system was re-plumbed and the pool was painted. An audit by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the area was originally purchased to be a wildlife management area, so an official name change was instituted from "Forest" designation to "Wildlife Management Area."

Pinnacle Rock State Park

Three additional trails were built, giving the park a nice network and diversity with eight miles of trails for hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. The trails were blazed and the park boundary remarked. Several maintenance projects were completed at the shelter with additions to the storage room, a new electrical supply and a fireproof cabinet installed. The handicap deck at the lake was reinforced and a fresh coat of paint was applied to the deck, signs, trash cans and gates.

Pipestem Resort State Park

The ongoing lodge room upgrading project continued through the winter months with 16 rooms receiving total renovations, including new bathrooms, new air conditioner/heating units, Internet upgrades and a general facelift of floor coverings and wall treatments. To date, 74 of 113 rooms have been completed. A new 1600 square foot permanent wooden dance floor was installed in the conference center. Installation of a new keycard locking system was completed in all McKeever and Mountain Creek lodge rooms and all cottages. High speed Internet capability was extended to the park headquarters. All maintenance buildings were painted. Upholstery was replaced on dining room chairs in all two bedroom cottages. A Web camera was installed on top of McKeever Lodge to send pictures to the Web site, local CVB sites, and WVVA television. Eight tram cars were inspected, repaired, and placed back into service. The miniature golf course was renovated with new carpet and several new obstacles. All floor tiles were replaced in the stable, public areas and restrooms. All double beds in cottages were replaced with queen-size bedding.



North Bend Rail Trail



Pinnacle Rock State Park

Plum Orchard Wildlife Management Area

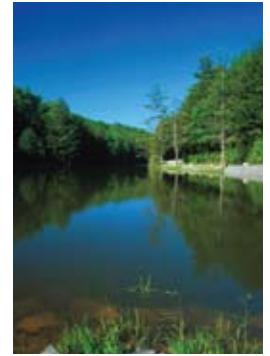
The cut stone wall beside the residence was rebuilt and a carport was constructed. Several concrete fire ring pads were replaced in the campground. The rifle range parking lot and foot paths were graveled. Vegetation was removed from the face of the dam for safety reasons.

Prickett's Fort State Park

Major accomplishments for the year were completion of the 18th century Blacksmith Shop, which was opened for interpretive use. The main park entrance sign was replaced. The educational annex building was painted and the sewer plant was upgraded with a new pump and other repairs. The park hosted Fairmont State University theatrical programs, outdoor concerts and the 100th anniversary of the Morgan Morgan Reunion.

Seneca State Forest

Construction began on the new grant-funded Michael Mountain trail system. This consists of two new trails that will connect with the existing Crestline Trail. A small excavator was rented, and rough construction of the 3.5 miles of trail surface began. Excellent progress was made on this project, which is scheduled for completion in the coming fiscal year. In addition, another new trail on Big Thorny Creek Mountain, the McCutcheon Trail, was brushed, signed, and blazed. It is approximately one-half mile long. This new trail construction will provide the hiker with loop options not available before. The picnic area was put into service as an official group camping area and is already generating significantly more revenue in this capacity. It is still used as a picnic area, and the shelter may still be reserved for picnics, when not reserved by groups that are camping. The exterior of the 20,000 gallon water storage tank was cleaned, rusted areas were primed, and it was repainted. Bear-proof plastic trash cans were installed in the campground, picnic area, and cabin areas. The interior renovation of Cabin 4 continued.



Seneca State Forest

Stonewall Resort State Park

The resort operator continues to operate the resort with a high level of guest satisfaction. For the fourth year in a row, The American Automobile Association awarded Stonewall Resort the prestigious Four Diamond Award for service excellence, quality facilities, and memorable guest experiences. The golf course was ranked #22 nationwide for "Best Resort Golf Courses" by Golf Week Magazine. Guest comments continue to reveal satisfaction with quality experiences in lodging, camping, dining, and other recreational amenities. Unfortunately, project revenues continue to be insufficient to cover bond debt repayment and the project is in technical bond default. Sales and marketing staff are diligently seeking business from both conferences and vacationers. The park was awarded a \$66,650 Recreational Trails Grant for the completion of hiking trails projects, trails signage, and a map and trail guide. All marina cables were replaced with a solid core cable, anchors inventoried, and the marina aligned by a dive company. The new improvements should provide greater stability during storms and provide a baseline for understanding marina movement and cable deterioration. Stonewall Resort hosted the first annual One Shot Deer Hunt which was successful in raising funds for the Hunters Helping the Hungry Program. The event was conducted by the Division with the assistance of a number of hunting and outdoor organizations and volunteers.

Tomlinson Run State Park

Both restrooms at Shelter 2 were gutted and completely rebuilt. New cement floors were poured, stalls were rebuilt, all walls were paneled with easily maintained laminate material, and new toilets, sinks, and lighting were installed. Two sleeping cabins were purchased by the park foundation and installed in the campground. A new picnic shelter was funded by the Hancock County Commission and built in the swimming pool area. Once complete it will have electric service and a restroom. A major water leak was discovered and repaired on the main water line in the park. A new on-demand hot water system was installed in a campground bathhouse.



Tu-Endie-Wei State Park

Tu-Endie-Wei State Park (Point Pleasant Battle Monument)

Repairs to the Mansion House Museum included new eaves on the south side and new chinking in areas that were deteriorated. All park signs were replaced with new plastic laminate signs. The restroom building was repainted inside. In preparation for the coming 100th anniversary of the monument, materials were purchased to clean and reseal all interpretive plaques.

Twin Falls Resort State Park

Improvements at the golf course included the planting of 200 trees, installation of new laminated signs, and installation of a guard rail/fence next to Number 17 tee. The roof was replaced on the restroom at shelter three, a bridge was replaced on the Twin Oaks trail, and five miles of park roads were resurfaced. At the lodge, smoke detectors were installed throughout the facility, area handrails were replaced, wireless Internet service was installed throughout the rooms and conference rooms, and the fire alarm system was refurbished. Wireless Internet service was also installed in the cottage area. Decorative trash bins were installed throughout the park and the assistant's residence was stained. Design work on the new lodge addition of 28 rooms and indoor pool was finalized and a construction contract awarded.

Tygart Lake State Park

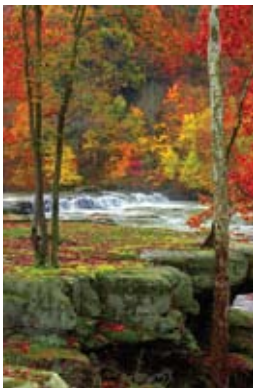
Two rooms have been upgraded to executive rooms (deck overlooking lake, queen beds, large TV, DVD/VCR player, refrigerator, microwave) bringing the total to four. The restaurant received a new coat of wine colored paint on two walls and new decorations on the main wall. Upgrades to the restaurant kitchen include new flooring, new oven, and a fresh coat of paint on the walls and ceiling. The stairwell railing leading to the balcony and the balcony railing received a fresh coat of paint. Four new handicapped parking spots were added to the Marina. The lodge received a new roof. Staff formalized an agreement with Pruntytown corrections for five inmates to help with maintenance on the park. The inmate crew painted the inside and outside of the campground bathhouse and check-in building, the second picnic area restroom and the inside of the restrooms at the recreation hall. This crew was also used to clear the overlook at the lodge, marina, beach, and lake view at five cabins, cut and split approximately 50 dump truckloads of firewood, cut and cleared a new special event horse trail, and cleared many other trails. The foundation contributed a new concrete bench at the marina parking area, refreshments for several foundation-backed functions, and hired bands for special events. In cooperation with DNR Law Enforcement, both hunter and boating education classes were offered at the park.

Valley Falls State Park

A new 24' x 32' maintenance building was constructed by staff and inmate labor from Pruntytown Correctional Center. A smaller metal storage building was moved to make room for the new maintenance facility. Shelves were built in the metal building for storing lumber and small equipment. WVDOH paved and bermed a mile of park roads from the gate to the railroad bridge. A local 4-H club built a flower bed at the restroom. The picnic area water tank was flushed and cleaned inside. A new roof was installed on the building housing the picnic area water filtration system.

Watoga State Park (includes Calvin Price State Forest)

Cabin renovations included kitchen and bathroom upgrades in one CCC cabin, refinishing floors in 13 other cabins, re-roofing woodsheds and pouring new concrete steps. Daylighting was completed in Beaver Creek campground and the check-in station received extensive floor and joist repairs. Gabion baskets were installed at the bridge abutments at Cabin 10 to protect the CCC-built stone wall from flood damage. Stone wall repairs were made along Bucks Run at the administration building. A backwash tank and dechlorination system was installed at the swimming pool. On Calvin Price State Forest, the second half of the Fort Lewis Timber Sale commenced. A service road was constructed to allow all-season access to the Beaver Creek water system and an additional trail was cut in the airstrip area to provide for future equestrian use.



Valley Falls State Park

Watters Smith Memorial State Park

Repairs to the Activity Building included replacing some rotten logs and re-staining the whole structure. In addition, extensive plumbing and sewer line repairs were done in the Activity Building restrooms. Siding repairs were made to the Old House Museum and the structure was painted. Equipment repairs were made and the park was wired for high-speed Internet service.

PLANNING/ENGINEERING/MAINTENANCE SECTION

Projects completed between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008.

Construction Projects Completed or Assisted

- Audra Trail Steps
- Babcock Mill Repairs
- Beech Fork Lift Stations Replacement (2)
- Berwind Lake Pool Renovations
- Blennerhassett Log House Repairs
- Bluestone Pit Power
- Canaan Valley Lodge Stair Support
- Cass Store Structural Repairs
- Chief Logan Convention Center Maintenance Garage
- Chief Logan Lodge End Entrance Retaining Walls and Planter
- North Bend Pool Liner
- North Bend Rail Trail Bridge Inspection
- Pipestem Lodge Freight Elevator Repair
- Pipestem Tram Parts
- Tygart Lake Lodge Roof
- Valley Falls Maintenance Garage

Design Projects Completed or Approved for Construction

- Berkeley Springs/Bath Town Water Connection
- Blennerhassett Mansion Stone Steps Replacement
- Cacapon Lodge Improvement Study A/E
- Cedar Creek Activities Building Fireplace
- Coopers Rock Office Restroom
- Coopers Rock Glade Run Lake Dam Spillway Repairs
- Greenbrier River Trail Ben's Run Bridge Flood Damage Repairs
- Pipestem Lodge Kitchen Improvements
- Prickett's Fort Maintenance Garage

Community Work Experience Program (CWEP)

In calendar year 2007, this program provided the following benefits:

- 33 participants for 6 state recreation areas
- 2,610.15 hours of maintenance, crafts and general service work
- \$15,978.30 of federal funds

PROGRAMMING SECTION

The state park programming staff oversees special event planning, nature-based activities, interpretative efforts, special programs, and collateral public awareness information and resources, including, but not limited to, Web sites, brochures, trail maps, trade shows, etc. A part-time clerk is the frontline contact for daily maintenance of statewide programs, including the VIPP (Very Important Parks Persons) program, the Hiking West Virginia State Parks program, and the WV State Parks Gift Card program and sales. Secretarial support is shared with the lodging district administrator and provides background administration for the Geocaching program, Adopt-A-Trail program, and volunteer agreements/work hours, in addition to other support duties.

Programs

Parks and forests focus on the natural environment and history of the specific areas and of the state in general, as well as providing events that attract visitors, overnight use, and/or ridership/admission to unique settings.

Summer activities and events began a renewed concentration on interpretation of flora, fauna and natural history in 2007/2008. Seventeen individuals were charged with implementing and/or increasing the daily activities of summer programs to include hikes, water study, etc., and to engage visitors in interpretive programs. Energizing families (children and adults) to get outside and explore has been and will continue to be a priority. Year-round programmers/naturalists include nature based activities through hikes, nature center visitation and special weekends that are interpretation based.

Special summer programs include contracted entertainers or presenters who are scheduled at state parks to increase awareness of parks through fee-free programming. A limited budget was stretched for maximum results and included a stronger concentration on notification of these events. The result was large attendance. Special summer programs in the 2008 summer season included square dancing, campfire stories, Appalachian music, the French and Indian War's influence on West Virginia, the Irish Road Bowling series, Geology! Rocks with WVGES, Three Rivers Avian Center, and the state's champion liar, Bil Lepp.

Special events and entertainment attracted attention to parks with unique qualities. These programs are generally initiated by the park or forest and include events such as Mansion by Candlelight or Island Frolic Evening Cruise at Blennerhassett Island, the "Murder of Lumberjack Johnny Parker" Murder Mystery Train at Cass Scenic Railroad, Guitar Workshop at Twin Falls Resort, Women's Getaway at North Bend, eagle surveys at Pipestem, artisan workshops at Hawks Nest, dinner theaters, road races, car shows, etc. Events that attract a specific audience may or may not have a lodging package associated. Most special events are scheduled on weekends and in the shoulder or winter months to attract visitation.

Parks recognized a slight increase in program/activities attendance in 2007/2008. High fuel costs, parks' fee-free events, the nationwide interest in being "green," or the value that parks provides are some reasons why there is a return to state parks and forests. By providing nature based and special events or programs, the state park system appeals to a broad interest base. During 2007-2008, more than 250 such programs were staged, not including the daily offerings. Attendance for all events typically exceeds 125,200.

Statewide Programs

The Hiking program, VIPP program, and Geocaching continue to have increased enrollment. The 2007 Annual VIPP Picnic was held at Chief Logan Lodge and welcomed 146 attendees. The theme was “coal history” in West Virginia. The VIPP program enrollment hovers at 5,000 strong. The W.Va. State Park Hiking Program was retooled in 2007 to clarify the special hikes list, hiking plateau cane shields and mileage log cards. This program has an enrollment fee of \$10 and numbers around 850 enrollees. Geocaching is a nationwide outdoor activity and a trend that will not disappear anytime soon. The placement of caches on state parks and forests operates on a permit system that requires the area superintendent’s approval of all cache sites prior to placement. This approval system takes into account safety issues, environmental impact and non-geocaching visitor concerns. Currently, there are 87 caches posted to the park Web site. Adopt-A-Trail at a state park or forest remains in effect and attracts service organizations, special interest groups, companies, and youth groups, as a way to give back to their state areas.

Volunteers

Volunteers continue to play an important role in W.Va. State Parks. Campground hosts and docents at historical areas are our largest workforce, followed by golf course starters, hike leaders, and trail maintenance. In 2007, volunteer hours exceeded 36,000 with more than 250 individuals registering as volunteers.

Exhibits and Trade Shows

Parks decreased the number of out-of-state hunting/fishing/golf/sports shows it attended as an exhibitor in 2007/2008, and the possible affect on attendance or visitation will be monitored. In-state shows focusing on business, women’s and men’s expos, wellness days, tour operators, etc., continue to be part of the programming mission of distribution of information on events, activities, and packages in addition to the 10 parks with conference facilities. West Virginia State Park exhibits are recognized as providing an enormous amount of information and resources and continue to be very popular exhibits at any given exhibition regardless of show focus or demographic area.

Conference Sales

Maximizing occupancy through group services occurs predominantly at the 10 lodge parks. Continued efforts to create visibility of these facilities include distribution of a meeting planners resource guide via direct mail; a strong online presence; distribution of information at welcome centers, exhibits, shows, and parks; in-state and surrounding state advertising efforts in meeting planner publications; press releases; and contacting government agencies and businesses. Three tour operator trade shows were attended in 2007/2008 to increase exposure of state parks as a cost-effective attraction in tour planning. Development of group services information continues in printed material as well as Web content. Pipestem Resort has a dedicated employee concentrating park sales and package promotion. An increase in the download of conference Web pages was recognized in 2007/2008 with the posting of the meeting planners resource guide.

Promotion of conference opportunities at state park lodges is driven by Web content, press coverage, response to direct mail and e-mail requests, paid advertising, and, most importantly, word of mouth by groups satisfied with the service received. Group services and conference sales/planning staff take calls and e-mails and convert these efforts into a sale. Good service is good business. Conference business continues to remain steady in what was a challenging year of economic conditions, budget tightening by agencies/companies/businesses, and travel management. There appears to be a trend for smaller group gatherings and resurgence in family reunions and tours.

Wildlife Resources Section



Wildlife Resources Section
Curtis I. Taylor, *Chief*

The Wildlife Resources Section (WRS) is responsible for the management of the state's wildlife resources for the use and enjoyment of its citizens. The primary objective of the section is to maintain and perpetuate fish and wildlife at levels compatible with the available habitat, while providing maximum opportunities for recreation, research, and education.

ADMINISTRATION

Promotion and Outreach

Information and Education staff gave 22 presentations to approximately 880 people. Staff also worked at Junior Conservation Camp and wrote the Wildlife Exam for the West Virginia Envirothon. Personnel edited, proofed and updated the hunting and fishing regulations in printed format and on the Web. Staff reviewed and coordinated Web updates for the Wildlife Resources Section. In addition, legislative rules were written. Staff edited, approved, and coordinated, with Department of Commerce Marketing and Communications, publication of various brochures.

Considerable time was spent coordinating and hosting the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual conference held in Charleston in October 2007.

Lottery proceeds were used to publish and distribute the quarterly *West Virginia Wildlife* magazine. The 28-page publication is mailed to 34,000 subscribers with the remaining 5,000 copies distributed at fairs, schools and upon request. The articles are written by DNR employees about the state's wildlife and plants and the programs used to manage them wisely. Lottery proceeds were also used to place advertisements in both electronic media (TV, radio) and print media (direct mail cards, magazines and newspapers). The ads promoted hunting, fishing, special events, the goWILD! online licensing system, and the West Virginia Wildlife Center.

The WRS sponsored and provided technical assistance and interviews for *West Virginia Wildlife*, a weekly, 90-second TV segment shown on six newscasts on two stations in the Charleston-Huntington-Beckley market. The *West Virginia Outdoors* and *DNR Report* radio programs were broadcast over 17 MetroNews affiliated stations located throughout the state.

Project WILD provides training for formal and nonformal educators across the state. In the past year, 19 educators attended one Project WILD related workshop in the state.

Wildlife Resources Section personnel staffed the West Virginia State Fair and the Hunting and Fishing Show in Charleston.



DNR advertisement



The W.Va. Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program introduces women to outdoor activities with fall and spring workshops.

The W.Va. Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program is continuing to introduce women to outdoor activities. Participants in the fall and spring weekend workshops attended hands-on classes in hunting, fishing, backpacking, canoeing, and other outdoor-related skills. Also, the Beyond BOW program is growing to provide women more in-depth weekend experiences on a specific topic. Events such as a fly fishing weekend and women's deer hunt have received excellent reviews. A one-day outdoor skills event for women, held in July at Kanawha State Forest, was co-sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation.

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

Wildlife Management Areas

District 1

(304) 825-6787

1. Bear Rocks Lake
2. Briery Mountain
3. Burches Run
4. Castleman's Run Lake
5. Cecil H. Underwood
6. Center Branch
7. Cross Creek
8. Dunkard Fork
9. Hillcrest
10. Lantz Farm and Nature Preserve
11. Lewis Wetzel
12. Little Indian Creek
13. Pedlar
14. Pleasant Creek
15. Pruntytown State Farm
16. Snake Hill
17. Teter Creek
18. Upper Deckers Creek

District 3

(304) 924-6211

30. Becky Creek
31. Big Ditch
32. Burnsville Lake
33. Elk River
34. Handley
35. Huttonsville
36. Slatyfork
37. Smoke Camp
38. Stonewall Jackson Lake
39. Stonewall Jackson Lake
40. Summersville Lake
41. Valley Bend
42. Wallback

District 5

(304) 675-0871

55. Amherst/Plymouth
56. Beech Fork Lake
57. Big Ugly
58. Chief Cornstalk
59. East Lynn Lake
60. Elk Creek
61. Green Bottom
62. Hilbert
63. Laurel Lake
64. McClintic
65. Mill Creek
66. Morris Creek
67. Upper Mud River

District 6

(304) 420-4550

68. Buffalo Run
69. Conaway Run Lake
70. Frozen Camp
71. Hughes River
72. O'Brien Lake
73. Ritchie Mines
74. Rollins Lake
75. Sand Hill
76. Stumptown
77. The Jug
78. Turkey Run
79. Woodrum Lake

National Forests

- I. Beaver Dam
- J. Blackwater
- K. Cheat
- L. Cove Creek
- M. Cranberry
- N. Little River
- O. Neola
- P. Otter Creek
- Q. Potomac
- R. Potts Creek
- S. Rimel
- T. Shenandoah
- U. Tea Creek
- V. Wardensville

District 4

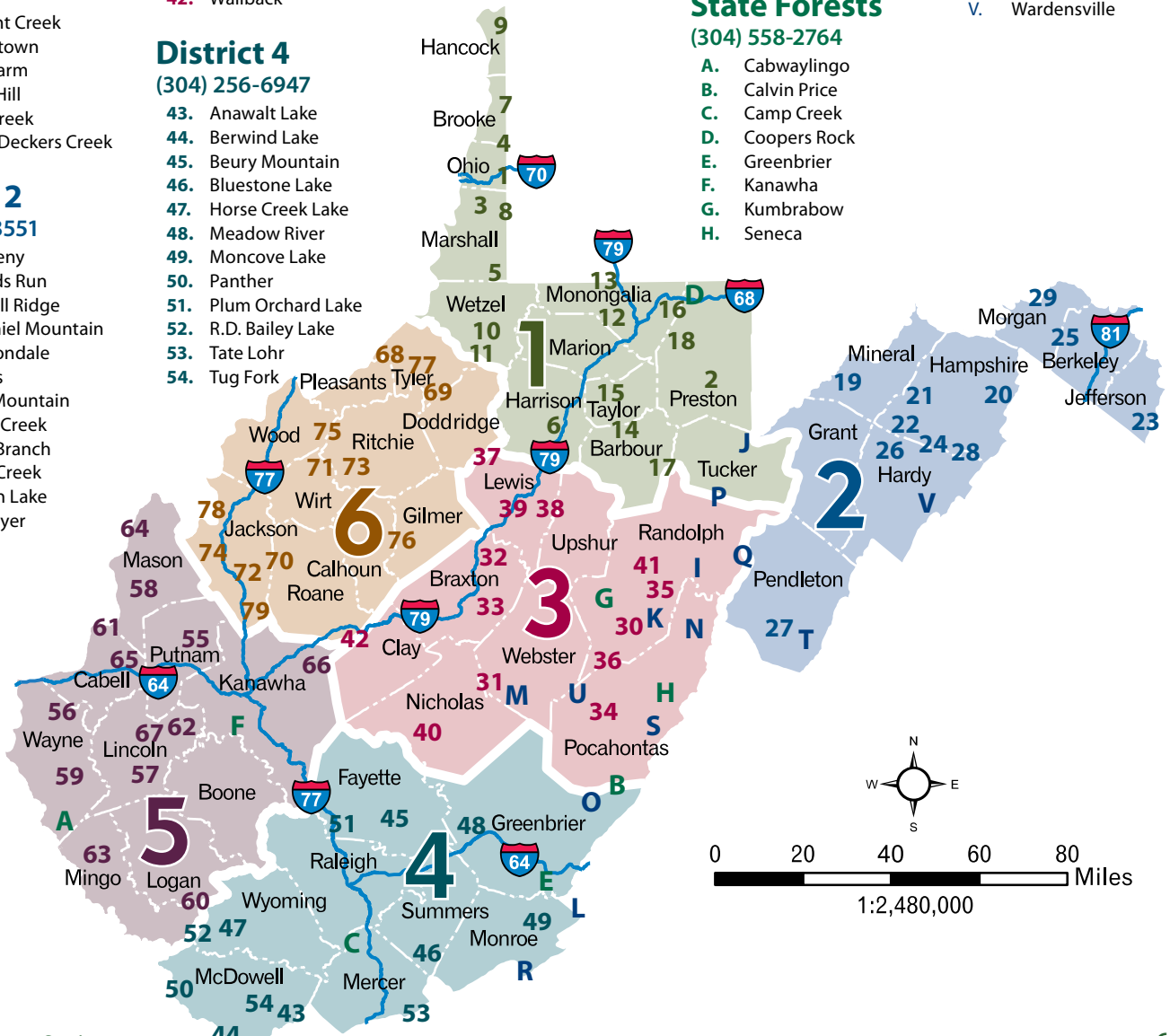
(304) 256-6947

43. Anawalt Lake
44. Berwind Lake
45. Beury Mountain
46. Bluestone Lake
47. Horse Creek Lake
48. Meadow River
49. Moncove Lake
50. Panther
51. Plum Orchard Lake
52. R.D. Bailey Lake
53. Tate Lohr
54. Tug Fork

District 2

(304) 822-3551

19. Allegheny
20. Edwards Run
21. Fort Mill Ridge
22. Nathaniel Mountain
23. Shannondale Springs
24. Short Mountain
25. Sleepy Creek
26. South Branch
27. Thorn Creek
28. Warden Lake
29. Widmeyer



National Hunting and Fishing Days, held each September at Stonewall Resort State Park, is like no other event held in West Virginia with hands-on learning opportunities for youngsters and families in the area of wildlife and outdoor recreation. The objective of the event is to educate the non-hunting/fishing public on the benefits of these recreational activities and how they support the DNR's efforts in wildlife conservation. Nearly 20,000 wildlife enthusiasts are in attendance to try their hand at everything from archery, shooting, fly-fishing, and kids fishing derby, to list only a few. In addition, attendees also have the opportunities to observe several wildlife demonstrations or visit one of the hundred-plus vendors on hand.

West Virginia Wildlife Endowment Fund

The Wildlife Endowment Fund received \$4,000 in donations in Fiscal Year 2008. The total market value of the fund at the close of FY 2008 was \$34,925,834.29. During calendar year 2007 there were 463 Adult Lifetime Licenses and 985 Infant Lifetime Licenses sold for a total dollar amount of \$569,205.

Hunting and Fishing License Unit

The Hunting and Fishing License Unit is responsible for administering all aspects of the hunting and fishing license system. The unit processed 955,737 transactions and collected \$15,770,069 in license revenue in calendar year 2007.

The goWILD! online system generated more than 3.2 million dollars in sales and the APS point-of-sale proved successful in completing 183,732 transactions for a total of more than \$3 million in revenue collected.



Hunting and Fishing License Sales By Class—Calendar Year 2007

Lifetime Agent License Sales

ADULT				
Class	Description	Price	Number	Amount
	Adult			
A-L	Hunting and Trapping	\$760.00	2	\$1,520.00
AB-L	Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing	\$760.00	298	\$226,480.00
A-1-L	Small Arms Hunting	\$75.00	53	\$3,975.00
B-L	Fishing	\$530.00	14	\$7,420.00
O-L	Trout	\$230.00	96	\$22,080.00
	Adult Subtotal		463	\$261,475.00

INFANT				
Class	Description	Price	Number	Amount
	Infant			
A-L-I	Hunting and Trapping	\$380.00	—	\$ —
AB-L-I	Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing	\$380.00	727	\$276,260.00
B-L-I	Fishing	\$265.00	12	\$3,180.00
O-L-I	Trout	\$115.00	246	\$28,290.00
	Infant Subtotal		985	\$307,730.00

	Grand Total Lifetime Sales		1,448	\$569,205.00
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Capital Improvements

The Wildlife Resources Section continued an aggressive capital improvements program to meet the needs of hunters, anglers and other wildlife recreationists. Funds for capital improvements are derived from 10 percent of the hunting and fishing license revenues and from the Conservation Stamp that all licensed hunters and anglers are required to purchase. This program remains one of the most visible efforts of the DNR, providing such facilities as wildlife management areas, shooting ranges, fishing and boating access sites, areas for physically challenged sportspersons, and small impoundments.

During this fiscal year, \$4,719,260 was spent on capital improvements from all funding sources. The largest expenditures were for fish hatchery improvements – \$1,190,485, and the purchase of land – \$2,523,100.

The year's major projects were:

1. completion of water treatment facilities and raceway improvements for Spring Run Fish Hatchery;
2. purchasing of 2,300 acres to expand Beury Mountain Wildlife Management Area in Fayette County;
3. completion of repairs to a walkway for the physically challenged in the tailwaters of Stonewall Jackson Lake in Lewis County;
4. completion of the design of a new public boat launching area at Nitro on the Kanawha River;
5. completion of the design of a new public boat launching area near Morgantown on the Monongahela River; and
6. the start of construction of a new public boat launching area near Buckhannon on the Buckhannon River.

Hunters Helping the Hungry

The Hunters Helping the Hungry Program is a cooperative effort involving the DNR, the Mountaineer and Huntington Area Food Banks, and a network of local food pantries, shelters, churches, and children's homes. Since its inception in 1992, the HHH Program has provided more than 850,000 meals to the state's hungry. In 2007, generous hunters donated a total of 1,224 deer (49,789 pounds of nutritious meat providing 66,384 meals). Deer processing costs for the HHH Program in 2007 were \$54,889.90, which was offset largely in part with donations from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Share the Harvest Sunday, wildlife organizations and the generosity of private individuals. Federal and State Law prohibits the use of license revenue to fund this program and the DNR must rely upon the generosity of others through donations to continue it.

West Virginia's Archery in the Schools Program

When the school year begins in the fall of 2008, students from more than 150 schools around the state will be participating in the DNR West Virginia Archery in the Schools Program. In just four years the program has reached more than 35,000 students. This allowed the DNR to host three State Archery Tournaments and had students from seven schools represent the state at the National Archery Tournament in Louisville, KY, in May of 2008.



In just four years the DNR West Virginia Archery in the Schools Program has reached more than 35,000 students.

The Archery in the Schools Program has become one of DNR's largest and fastest growing educational programs, reaching nearly 35,000 thousands students within the first four years. Working with the Department of Education, wildlife organizations, and teachers, the Wildlife Resources Section has been able to bring an activity into the physical education class in which anyone can participate and teach a skill that can be enjoyed throughout a lifetime.

West Virginia is one of 48 states participating in this national program, with similar success being experienced by state wildlife agencies throughout the country. West Virginia's DNR received national attention when the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind (WVSDDB) became the first school in the nation for the

hearing and sight impaired to participate in this program.

Considerable work has gone into reaching this point and much of the credit is given to the teachers and volunteers who believe in this program. Special thanks also are given to wildlife organizations such as the West Virginia Bowhunters Association, the National Wild Turkey Federation and the West Virginia Trophy Hunters Association for their financial donations. Without them, the DNR would not have been able to reach as many schools.

Teachers interested in participating in this program or wildlife organizations wanting to make a donation are encouraged to visit DNR's Web site at www.wvdnr.gov or call (304) 558-2771.

GAME MANAGEMENT

The Wildlife Resources Section, Game Management Unit, conducts management activities on 77 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and eight state forests, totaling 415,199 acres. Acquisition of public land and wetlands is a high priority of the section. One new WMA (6,004 acres) and additions to five existing areas (4,978 acres) were acquired in 2007-08.

An extensive wildlife management program is conducted on more than 1.1 million acres of national forest land located in West Virginia through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and the DNR. State wildlife biologists devote most of their time reviewing national forest opportunity areas, timber sales and providing technical input in the development of national forest plans. Management issues are closely reviewed to ensure that wildlife receives the maximum possible benefit.

Management on the 77 WMAs is directed toward improving wildlife habitat. Timber management was conducted on 283 acres with additional acreages in the planning stage. Mitigation for oil and gas exploration on WMAs consumed a large amount of personnel time.

Management activities on state and national forest lands included planting 1,482 trees and shrubs for food and cover and pruning, releasing, and/or grafting more than 438 individual trees and shrubs.

More than 3,277 acres of wildlife clearings were mowed and 20 acres of new clearings were established. Lime and/or fertilizer were applied to 204 acres and 387 acres were seeded to herbaceous vegetation. Prescribed burning was used to retard vegetation succession and improve the diversity and abundance of desirable plants on 107 acres. Sharecropping agreements with local farmers were signed on 1,301 acres to maintain open land. Sixty-eight waterholes were maintained to provide a year-round water supply for wildlife.

Water levels on 221 acres of wetlands were manipulated to encourage waterfowl use. Four hundred eleven waterfowl nest structures were maintained. Fifty-two nest structures were maintained for other wildlife species.

More than 594 miles of roads and trails and 20 bridges were maintained. Road closures were installed or maintained at 568 sites to prevent disturbance to wildlife and protect habitat.

Numerous information and regulation signs were erected or maintained. Four hundred fifty-three campsites, 22 boat ramps, 24 shooting ranges, 29 physically challenged hunter access roads, eight fisherman access sites, and 150 parking areas were maintained. One parking lot was developed. The highly successful controlled waterfowl hunting program at McClintic Wildlife Management Area continued to provide quality waterfowl hunting for West Virginia hunters. Approximately 41 waterfowl ponds and 22 waterfowl blinds are maintained on the area including two waterfowl blinds for the physically challenged.



An oak savannah managed by DNR Wildlife Resources.

Wildlife Damage and Nuisance Activities

Fifty-one nuisance bears were destroyed, 30 were relocated, and four were trapped and released on site. Hundreds of other bear complaints were resolved with harassment and/or removal of edible attractions.

Literally thousands of additional calls about sick, injured or nuisance wildlife are handled annually. Calls about nuisance wildlife are often resolved by providing technical advice and recommendations but many require capture and relocation or euthanasia of the offending animal.

Environmental Reviews

Wildlife biologists reviewed numerous projects that impact on wildlife and its respective habitat. Primary concerns are road construction, stream alteration, hydropower projects, gas line construction, surface mines, and other construction projects. In numerous cases, recommendations have been made to alter projects, thereby reducing detrimental impacts on wildlife.

Wildlife Population Surveys and Research

Waterfowl surveys (7) and census routes for woodcock (16) and mourning doves (10) were conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Surveys also were conducted for bald eagles (7), and song birds. Three hundred twenty-one doves and 502 Canada geese were banded.

Harvest and biological data were compiled for hunter-killed turkey, beaver, bobcat, fisher, deer, bear, and wild boar.

Technical Assistance

Interest in managing private lands for wildlife continues to increase and biologists are frequently contacted for technical assistance. Assistance ranges from general advice over the telephone to providing specific management recommendations to actually completing detailed site specific management plans. Approximately 1,000 workdays were spent providing technical assistance to private individuals and landowners in 2007-08. Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) plans were prepared for three properties totaling approximately 410 acres.

Information and Education

Wildlife biologists devoted considerable time assisting conservation clubs, schools, community and civic clubs, Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs, sportsmen's clubs, nature tours, fairs, training schools, and National Hunting and Fishing Day activities. Cooperation was given to universities and colleges by serving as guest lecturers. More than 150 classes and lectures on conservation were presented and more than 100 sportsmen's groups meetings were attended. Numerous interviews were given to the TV, radio and print media.

"Sectional" meetings were conducted at 12 sites around the state in March to present proposed regulation changes to sportsmen. These meetings also provide the public an opportunity to make recommendations and ask questions.

Special youth hunting opportunities were conducted for waterfowl, squirrel, turkey, and white-tailed deer. The special youth hunts provide an excellent opportunity to introduce young people to the outdoors and the hunting tradition.

The W.Va. Wildlife Center continues to excel as an educational facility. More than 37,897 visitors and 96 group tours visited the area's facilities and enjoyed viewing West Virginia wildlife.

Many of the challenges and issues facing the Wildlife Resources Section's Game Management and Game Management Services Units are shared by other states and agencies. A number of regional, national, and international organizations exist to promote information exchange and multi-jurisdictional coordination. The Wildlife Resources Section is an active member/participant in many of these organizations and their various committees. Notable organizations include: Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Resources Agencies, The Wildlife Society, Atlantic Flyway Council and Technical Sections, Southeast Deer Study

group, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, and Eastern Management Unit Dove Technical Committee.

White-tailed Deer

West Virginia continues to be one of the favorite deer hunting grounds in the eastern United States. In 2007, hunters bagged 145,937 deer. These included 65,213 bucks, a 1.6 percent increase from the 2006 harvest; 43,626 antlerless deer, an increase of 11 percent; 27,440 archery deer, an increase of eight percent; and 7,658 muzzleloader deer, an increase of 11 percent. During the special youth and Class Q deer season, 3,036 antlerless deer were reported harvested.



Nearly 38,000 people visited the West Virginia Wildlife Center during the past fiscal year.

A bowhunter survey has been conducted annually since 1995. This cooperative venture with the West Virginia Bowhunters Association is an excellent means of monitoring populations of game animals and furbearers as well as providing a method for bowhunters to report their observations. The wild turkey fall harvest has been measured accurately by the survey.

In 2007, hunters took 307 deer in the special urban deer season and 38 on other special hunts. Special hunts were held in five cities, two homeowners associations, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, and the USFWS National Conservation Training Center.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy of cervids, was discovered in Hampshire County in September 2005. The Wildlife Resources Section initiated a response plan to address the disease and conducted extensive sampling efforts that have included more than 4,300 tested for the disease in three years of sampling. Only 31 of the tests were positive for the disease, indicating the disease is not widespread or is at a low prevalence. Management efforts to reduce the prevalence and/or slow the rate of spread of the disease have been initiated.



A DNR wildlife biologist takes a tissue sample of a deer to test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Black Bear

In 2007, 1,804 bears were harvested, a six percent increase from 2006 and the highest harvest on record. Bowhunters harvested 728 bears, which is a 41 percent increase over 2006. Firearms hunters harvested 1,076 bears, the second highest firearms harvest on record. During the special November seasons held in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, and Raleigh counties, 173 bears were harvested in the early November one-week dog season and the late November season without dogs. The good hard mast crops during the year likely increased the number of bears killed in December.

A total of 228 nonseasonal bear deaths occurred in 2007, which is up 98 percent from the 115 recorded in 2006. Road kills continue as the second leading cause of nonseasonal mortalities with 62, while 155 bears were killed for nuisance behavior.

The southern West Virginia black bear research study was designed to gather information on reproduction and the status of bears captured as nuisance animals. Wildlife Managers have handled 661 bears 1,264 times during the study. DNR personnel observed 282 cubs during winter den checks and a mean litter size of 2.71 cubs. There were 88 bears tagged in the study area and considered available for harvest in 2007. Sixteen of the 75 females (15 percent) and two of the 13 males (15 percent) were reported dead during the hunting season.



Black bear

Bear damage claims increased from 145 last year to 221 in 2007. Landowners in 29 counties were paid \$188,004 in 2007, a 98 percent increase from \$98,089 in 2006.

Wild Turkey

The 2007 spring gobbler harvest (9,965) was 15 percent lower than the 2006 harvest of 11,735 birds. There was a total of 25 counties open to fall hunting in 2007. The harvest of 1,511 was 27 percent higher than the 2006 total of 1,186.

The survey of wild turkey broods is an important aid in forecasting the statewide harvests and changes in the wild turkey population. During the summer of 2007, the count (313) by Wildlife Resources personnel was 6 percent higher than the 2006 count and 7 percent higher than the 5-year average.

The third and final year of the Mid-Appalachian Gobbler Study resulted in 88 gobblers being trapped and monitored with radio telemetry. In the traditional fall hunted counties, harvest rates of adult and juvenile gobblers were 20 percent. In the western and southern counties, the adult harvest rate was 24 percent and eight percent of the jakes were killed.

The 2007 Gobbler Survey was conducted jointly by the Wildlife Resources Section and the West Virginia Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The survey serves as a means for hunters to report their observations and opinions about wild turkey management. During 2007, results were compiled from 266 hunters. Cooperators took 2,303 hunting trips and heard 4,407 gobblers. The gobbling rate (48 gobblers heard per 100 hours) was 13 percent higher than 2006 (55), and was down 11 percent from our 23-year average (54).

Wild Boar

Hunters killed 22 wild boar during the 2007 season. Bowhunters took 15 and firearms hunters killed seven. The single firearm season initiated in 2003 in late October was designed to reduce the harvest and provide boar the additional time needed to occupy more productive habitat. An extensive wild boar survey in February 2004 confirmed low populations of boar confined to one general area.

Annual Mast Survey

Annually during August, cooperating personnel in the Division of Natural Resources rate the abundance of mast produced by selected tree and shrub species. Mast indices are then formulated for each species on a statewide and ecological region basis. This survey has been conducted annually since 1970 and is important information often requested by hunters. Mast abundance is also an important tool to forecast the annual big game harvests.

Mast abundance in 2007 declined considerably from 2006 and the long term average. Most of the decline came from such soft mast species as dogwood, hawthorn, and greenbrier. The oaks as a group were below average in 2007 acorn production. A significant increase in cherry was observed.

Ruffed Grouse

Ruffed grouse hunters experienced fair hunting for grouse during the 2007-2008 season. Hunters average about 1.1 flushes per hour when hunting for grouse. Brood counts were up 46 percent from last year and 29 percent over the 5-year average. Most of the brood reports were in the mountain counties.

The field work for the six-year Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project was completed in September 2002, and final results and analysis are examining the effects of late season hunting on grouse as well as many habitat and environmental effects. This multi-state cooperative project is producing a wealth of grouse research information in the form of dissertations, theses, scientific articles, popular publications, and presentations. A Wildlife Society Monograph on ruffed grouse population dynamics has been published and a book on the ruffed grouse in Appalachia is planned as a follow-up to the project.



West Virginia oaks as a group were below average in 2007 acorn production.

WARMWATER FISH MANAGEMENT

The Warmwater Fish Management Unit is responsible for providing maximum fishing opportunity to meet increasing recreational demand and for protecting and managing approximately 98,000 acres of warmwater streams and more than 22,000 acres of public impoundments.

To meet this challenge, the warmwater program is divided into five areas:

- 1) surveys and inventories of existing fishery resources, providing essential data to assess and develop management programs;
- 2) protection of fish habitat, placing intensive efforts toward review and comment on various state and federal permits for proposed activities that could possibly impact public fishing waters;
- 3) enhancement and development of fisheries, increasing production and use of fisheries through stream and lake improvements, and providing additional opportunities by stocking desirable fish species;
- 4) development of public access to fishery resources, ensuring adequate public access to existing streams and lakes, and acquisition and/or development of new lakes; and
- 5) outreach and information development, providing the public with material concerning fishing and fish management programs.

Muskellunge

Personnel stocked 5,934 fingerling muskies in ten streams and four lakes in 2007. More than 4,700 advanced fingerling muskies were stocked in six streams and 12 lakes in 2007. West Virginia's musky fishery is primarily sustained by this annual stocking program. More than 60 percent of the reported musky catches and those qualifying for trophy citations were caught from stocked streams or lakes in 2007.



Muskellunge

Walleye

More than 46,000 walleye fingerlings were stocked in three lakes in 2008. The walleye stocking program is designed to establish reproducing populations of this fine sport species in suitable waters throughout the state. Approximately 40 percent of all trophy catches since 1976 were from stocked waters.



Walleye

Channel Catfish

More than 85,000 channel catfish fingerlings reared at Palestine and Apple Grove hatcheries were stocked in 57 waters in 2007. Fishable populations are established in the majority of these waters with excellent catfishing found in Anawalt, Barboursville, Bear Rocks, Berwind, Castleman Run, Cedar Creek, Chief Logan, French Creek, Laurel, Little Beaver, North Bend, Pendleton, Pipestem, Tomlinson Run, Wallback, and Watoga lakes.

Sixteen small impoundments were stocked with 2,643 adult channel catfish in May and June 2008. The adult catfish were purchased with funds provided from reimbursements for pollution-caused fish kills.

Hybrid Striped Bass

More than 60,000 hybrid striped bass fingerlings were released in the Ohio and Monongahela rivers in 2008. More than 37,000 hybrid striped bass were stocked in three lakes. Hybrids over five pounds, with some up to 12 pounds, are regularly being caught from stocked waters. The New and Kanawha rivers also are providing excellent opportunities to land trophy hybrids.

Paddlefish

Efforts to restore the paddlefish in West Virginia continued in 2007 and more than 130 advanced paddlefish fingerlings were stocked in the Kanawha, Little Kanawha and Ohio rivers.

Black Bass

More than 15,000 largemouth bass fingerlings were stocked in the Belleville, Racine, and Willow Island pools of the Ohio River; and more than 48,000 smallmouth bass were stocked in the Hannibal Pool and the Tug Fork and Middle Fork rivers in 2007. These stockings represented one component of a five-year fisheries management plan for the Ohio River. Additionally, more than 6,000 largemouth bass were stocked into five small impoundments and more than 19,000 largemouth bass were stocked into the Kanawha River.

Sauger

More than 13,000 sauger fingerlings were stocked into the Kanawha and Tug Fork rivers in 2008.

Blue Catfish

More than 21,000 blue catfish were stocked in the Kanawha and Ohio rivers as part of restoration efforts of this native species in 2007.

Reservoir Management

Fishery surveys were conducted at all 13 large reservoirs in the state. Surveys focused on black bass and open water species such as walleye and hybrid striped bass. These inventories provide the basis for determining management needs and evaluating management measures.



South Branch of the Potomac River

Annual operational changes by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) and owners of other large reservoirs require coordination between the WRS and agencies responsible for these reservoir projects to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife and recreational opportunities during such operational changes. Information upon which to base these fish and wildlife considerations is available as a result of the section's reservoir monitoring program.

River, Stream and Lake Research and Surveys

Stream and lake fisheries management activities continued in 2007 with emphasis on new research efforts. Smallmouth bass population assessments were conducted on the New and South Branch of the Potomac rivers. Muskellunge population assessments continued on the Buckhannon River and Middle Island Creek. Assessment of black bass and channel catfish population characteristics continued on the Little Kanawha River and selected small impoundments in 2007.

Fish restoration, and aquatic habitat and fishing access improvements continued in 2007 in conjunction with the Marmet Locks expansion project on the Kanawha River. Sauger, walleye, paddlefish, shovelnose sturgeon, and blue catfish were stocked in the Little Kanawha, Kanawha and Ohio rivers as part of fishery enhancement and restoration efforts.

Fisheries management staff is coordinating fisheries research and management activities on the Ohio River. These efforts include habitat and fish population assessments through the interstate Ohio River Fish Management Team. Fisheries biologists are also participating in the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association's aquatic nuisance species planning efforts to minimize impacts upon West Virginia's aquatic resources.

Habitat Enhancement

Fisheries management staff continued habitat enhancement projects in 2007. The agency continued the long-running and successful fish attractor project in large lakes. Recycled Christmas trees were placed as attractor structures in Burnsville, East Lynn, Summersville, Sutton, Stonecoal and Tygart lakes.

Native aquatic vegetation plantings were conducted at Beech Fork, Burnsville, East Lynn, Stonewall Jackson, Sutton and Woodrum lakes. Anglers from B.A.S.S. and Muskies, Inc., provided assistance during the planting and both organizations provided financial support for this endeavor. Staff are also conducting assessments of fish spawning and nursery habitat structures in selected small impoundments and the Ohio River.

Stream and Lake Access

A public boating and fishing access facility was completed on the Coal River. Access improvements were completed at the Stonewall Jackson Lake Tailwaters. Access facility planning continued for the Kanawha River at Nitro and the Monongahela River at Morgantown.

Fishing Tournament Coordination

Data on 2007 catch rates and fishing effort during 542 organized fishing tournaments were collected from 31 bass clubs and 65 open tournament sponsors. Tournaments were held at 31 West Virginia sites, including 361 on lakes, 92 on the Ohio River, 46 on the Kanawha River, and 40 on the Monongahela River. Tournament fishing pressure at 114,614 angler hours increased by three percent from 2006. When comparing 2007 results to 2006, average tournament catch rate decreased from 0.16 to 0.15 fish per angler hour in lakes and from 0.17 to 0.13 in rivers.

Trophy Fish Citation Program

The Trophy Fish Citation program recognized anglers who caught a total of 859 fish, representing 27 species that qualified as trophies in 2007. Of 19 waters (private lakes are counted as one water) yielding 10 or more fish citations, 61 percent were from streams and rivers, 10 percent from small public fishing lakes, 22 percent from private lakes and ponds, and 7 percent from large public lakes. The trophy citation program began in 1976 and has recognized 54,287 anglers for their outstanding catches. The 2004 trophy citation program marked the first year of issuing length only citations in addition to the certified weight citation. This allows anglers to practice catch-and-release and still receive a trophy citation. In 2007, 287 length-only citations were issued.

The First Fish Certificate program was established in 2008 to recognize young anglers' first catches. The online certificate is a colorful, tangible way to record a youngster's first fish. The certificate can be completed with the angler's name, species of fish, and date and place of catch. The certificate can then be printed at home at no cost. The First Fish Certificate can be found online at www.wvdnr.gov/Fishing/First_Fish.shtm.



The First Fish Certificate program was established in 2008 to recognize young anglers' first catches.

Outreach

Fisheries management staff conducted or assisted in 17 fishing education events involving more than 2,500 participants. These events included Outdoor Classrooms, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Hunting and Fishing Days, Conservation Camps, Becoming an Outdoors Woman, and Boy Scout Trailblazer Adventure.

Fish Kills

The DNR requested financial reimbursement from responsible agents for five fish kills in 2007 (see following table).

Stream or Lake	Date	Cause	Fish Killed		Severity	
			Number	%Game	Miles	Degree
Campbells Creek Kanawha County	5/3/07	Flocculent Chemical	5,410	0	2.3	Heavy
Chenowith Creek Randolph County	6/4/07	Raw Sewage	855	8	1.2	Heavy
Tuppers Creek Kanawha County	6/15/07	Raw Sewage	9,890	1	0.75	Total
Scotts Run Monongalia County	6/15/07	Treatment Pond Discharge	8,915	0	2.0	Heavy
Elkhorn Creek McDowell County	9/5/07	Diesel Spill	2,081	58	5.5	Heavy

2007-2008 Warmwater Stockings

Species and Hatchery/Source	Number	Size	Location
Muskellunge (A) (B)(E)	10,698	Fg	Burnsville, Curtisville, East Lynn, Huey Run, Mason, Mountwood, North Bend, Stonecoal, Stonewall Jackson, Teter Creek, Upper Mud and Woodrum lakes; Buckhannon, Coal, Dunkard Fork, Gauley, Kanawha, Meadow, Monongahela, New, and West Fork rivers; Fishing and Sandy creeks
Channel Catfish (C)	2,643	ad	Anawalt, Barboursville, Bear Rocks, Berwind, Castleman Run, Cedar Creek, Chief Logan, Laurel, Little Beaver, Pendleton, Pipestem, Tomlinson Run, Wallback, and Watoga lakes; French Creek and North Bend ponds
Channel Catfish (A)	85,300	fg	Anawalt, Barboursville, Bear Rocks, Berwind, Big Run, Brandywine, Burnsville, Cacapon, Camp Run, Castleman Run, Cedar Creek, Charles Fork, Chief Cornstalk, Chief Logan, Coopers Rock, Curtisville, Dixon, Dog Run, Elk Fork, Flat Run, Frozencamp, Horse Creek, Huey Run, Hurricane, Krodel, Laurel, Little Beaver, Lumberport, Mason, Miletree, Mountwood, Newburg, North Bend, Pendleton, Pennsboro, Pipestem, Plum Orchard, Rockcliff, Rockhouse, Sleepy Creek, Stephens, Teter Creek, Tomlinson Run, Turkey Run, Upper Mud, Wallback, Watoga, and Whetstone lakes; Airport, French Creek, Handley, McClintic, North Bend, Saltlick #9, and Westover ponds
Blue Catfish (P)	21,554	fg	Kanawha and Ohio rivers
Paddlefish (P)(A)	139	fg	Kanawha, Little Kanawha, and Ohio rivers
Walleye (P)(A)	46,781	fg	East Lynn, Jennings Randolph, and Sutton lakes
Hybrid Striped Bass (A)	98,257	fg	Beech Fork, Bluestone, and R.D. Bailey lakes; Monongahela and Ohio rivers
Smallmouth Bass (P)	48,895	fg	Ohio, Middle Fork, and Tug Fork rivers
Largemouth Bass (A)	41,200	fg	Big Run, Chestnut Ridge, Mason, Moncove, and Whetstone lakes; Kanawha and Ohio rivers
Sauger (P)	13,650	fg	Kanawha and Tug Fork rivers

(A) = Apple Grove Hatchery
 (B) = Bowden Hatchery
 (BP) = Burnsville Rearing Ponds
 (C) = Commercial Source
 (E) = Elk River Rearing Pond
 (P) = Palestine Hatchery
 (S) = Other States

fy = fry
 fg = fingerlings
 ad = adults

COLDWATER FISH MANAGEMENT

In 2007-08, selected waters in West Virginia were stocked with 1,013,162 trout weighing 742,985 pounds. Major renovations at Spring Run Hatchery, including the construction of a wastewater treatment system and new raceways, began in September 2006 and continued through September 2007. As a result of construction activities throughout this period, trout production had to be reduced at Spring Run Hatchery by approximately 50,000 pounds and affected both FY 07 and 08 trout production. Additionally, the lease for the Stoney Creek ponds at Edray was not renewed in 2007, and this resulted in approximately a 30-40,000 pounds reduction being produced at Edray Hatchery. The overall size of trout stocked in 2007-08 was 1.4 fish per pound, a result of good growth due to adequate rainfall and relatively mild winter weather. A breakdown of trout production by facility follows.

The seven state-owned hatcheries produced 730,141 pounds of trout in 2007-08. Except in years when production is affected by conditions such as drought and disease outbreaks, normal production averages 750,000 pounds per year. Given the present state of hatchery facilities available, this level of production is considered near capacity. Production greater or lesser than this reflects unusual situations.

The federal hatchery at White Sulphur Springs provided 12,844 pounds of trout during 2007-08. This is the only federal hatchery remaining in West Virginia. The poundage of trout provided this past year is less than has been provided historically from this facility, but is representative of expected trout poundage because of changes in hatchery operations at White Sulphur Springs. Other anticipated operational changes at the hatchery will further reduce the available poundage for stocking.

The 2007 fall stocking totaled 35,645 pounds. This represents a decrease in the poundage stocked in 2006, but is still within the targeted poundage range of normal fall stockings. Thirty-five waters received two stockings each during a two-week period in October. The fall trout stockings are very popular and provide fishing opportunities through the fall and winter months until the regular spring stocking schedule begins.

Wild trout management continues to receive special attention in West Virginia. The two major parts of this program involve protecting and enhancing native brook trout populations and stocking fingerling trout to establish and maintain wild trout populations in streams that will not support stream reproduction. In 2007-08, personnel stocked 455,060 trout fingerlings, primarily brown trout, in 85 waters. This program has resulted in considerable expansion of wild trout populations in West Virginia, particularly in southern West Virginia waters, where traditional trout waters are not present. Many of these southern trout fisheries are dependent on cold, unpolluted discharges from abandoned mines. The wild trout program provides thousands of anglers with year-round recreational opportunities in areas of West Virginia previously lacking such angling opportunities.

2007-08 Year Trout Stocking

Time Period & Hatchery	Rainbow Trout		Golden Trout		Brook Trout		Brown Trout		Total		No./Lb
	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	
Spring Run	6,893	13,710							6,893	13,710	2.0
Petersburg	8,812	11,954	979	295					9,791	12,249	1.3
Bowden	8,190	5,217	910	613					9,100	5,830	0.6
Reeds Creek	7,055	6,141							7,055	6,141	0.9
Edray	600	440							1,500	980	0.7
*White Sulphur	1,306	606							1,306	606	0.5
Sub-Total	32,856	38,068	1,889	908					35,645	39,516	1.1
Fall 2007	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	Weight	Number	No./Lb
Spring Run	111,951	142,438	9,861	12,335					121,812	154,773	1.3
Petersburg	22,644	25,405	1,848	1,699					24,492	27,104	1.1
Edray	83,474	123,671	9,549	14,381	14,775	16,712	10,749	14,906	117,647	169,670	1.4
Ridge	20,555	29,620	2,156	3,111	33,234	49,028			55,945	81,759	1.5
Tate Lohr	18,690	32,631	537	1,067					19,227	33,698	1.8
Reeds Creek	123,931	191,085	7,648	12,739	31,518	48,148	8,778	15,855	171,875	267,827	1.6
*White Sulphur	11,538	4,659							11,538	4,659	0.4
Bowden	123,027	148,203	8,423	10,458	29,252	38,382	24,102	37,113	184,804	234,156	1.3
Sub-Total	515,810	697,712	40,022	55,790	107,879	152,270	43,629	67,874	707,340	973,646	1.4
TOTAL	548,666	735,780	41,911	56,698	108,779	152,270	43,629	67,874	742,985	1,013,162	1.4

*Federal Hatchery

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PROGRAM

Coordination

New and renewal wildlife license plate sales generated \$354,720 in dedicated Wildlife Diversity Program income, a significant part of which was used to match federal funding for the program.

One new Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site (OWLS) school was added this year, bringing the total to 106 schools in 39 counties. Five Wild Yards were added to the growing list of participants. The total is now 143 sites statewide.



The West Virginia Master Naturalist Program continued growing despite a depleted staff to coordinate the program. The program seeks to engage interested citizens in natural history and conservation activities by offering 64 hours of high level education and requiring 30 hours of conservation volunteer activity to achieve certification as a W.Va. Master Naturalist. Currently, there are nine local Master Naturalist chapters, three seeking to be chartered and 35 certified teachers. The Wildlife Diversity Program maintains a list of more than 300 individuals interested in participating in the program. The program is designed to provide trained individuals for a statewide speaker's bureau, watchable wildlife trail development and maintenance at state Wildlife Management Areas and parks, assistance with various field projects, interpretive programs at state parks, and many other activities.

Staff and contractors taught numerous classes for the West Virginia Master Naturalist Program. Interested individuals take a specified number of core courses and electives as part of their required curriculum.

Work continued on the completion of a statewide reptile and amphibian atlas, focusing on species for which little data exists.

Staff prepared feature articles for *West Virginia Wildlife* magazine, which has a circulation of about 34,000. Included in each issue are four pages devoted to the Wildlife Diversity Program, as well as two special sections – "A Sense of Wonder" and "Nature Notes." Through the reporting period, 16,874 2008 W.Va. Wildlife Calendars were sold, generating \$114,172.50 in gross income for the program. Numerous magazine articles, press releases, and radio and TV spots to inform the public about program activities and nongame wildlife in general were produced. Brochures were updated and printed as needed. A dragonfly newsletter was published.

Numerous wildlife presentations were given to schools, conservation organizations, and other groups.

Staff judged at local and regional science fairs, facilitated the state *Partners in Flight* program, participated in the Appalachian Bird Conservation Joint Venture, conducted bird surveys along Point Count Survey routes, and monitored loggerhead shrike nesting sites.

Eight Breeding Bird Survey routes were operated and new point count routes were established throughout the state. Survey routes were coordinated for wetland birds and winter bird surveys were conducted. Surveys were conducted for grassland birds and Christmas Bird Counts were coordinated. Nest boxes were placed in suitable habitat for saw-whet owls and monitored. Surveys were also conducted for bald eagle and peregrine falcons. Data are being collected for barn owl nests, and some threatened nests are being relocated. A staff member continues to serve as secretary to the state's Bird Records Committee. Information was compiled on the annual winter backyard bird survey.

A three-year survey and characterization of Golden-winged Warbler nesting site was implemented and planning was begun to redo the statewide Breeding Bird Atlas, which was most recently completed in 1994 and is now largely outdated and of declining utility for guiding conservation actions.

Additional surveys conducted throughout the state included: Terrestrial and aquatic snails, frogs and salamanders, dragonflies and damselflies, wood turtles, cave invertebrates, woodrats, small mammals, butterflies, running buffalo clover, Virginia spirea, northeastern bulrush, harperella, shale barren rock cress, and mast. Assistance was provided for surveys for federally endangered bats, (in both the summer and winter), mussels, and flat-spined three-toothed land snails.

Assistance was provided to the Game Management Unit and Fish Management Unit for such projects as nuisance bear removal and relocation, deer check stations, tag collections, sample collections, locating goose nesting structures, trapping and banding geese, water level management at waterfowl marshes, and fish surveys. In addition, many requests for information concerning all aspects of nongame wildlife and botanical resources were answered.

Endangered Species Program

Although the peregrine falcon was removed from the federal list of endangered species in 1999, this species is still monitored closely by Wildlife Diversity Unit personnel. Cliffs were monitored in early spring 2008 for returning falcons. A nesting pair was observed at a cliff on North Fork Mountain, and although this pair nested on the cliff, no young were fledged. However, a pair nesting on a bridge crossing the Ohio River was successful at fledging young this summer. Peregrine falcon reintroduction efforts continued in 2008 with 21 young falcons released at a hack site in the New River Gorge. Six of the young birds released in 2007 were fitted with radio transmitters and their movements were monitored via satellite; three of these transmitters are still active.

In 2007, 17 successful bald eagle nests fledged 34 eaglets. In 2008, Wildlife Diversity Unit biologists monitored 27 active bald eagle nests. All but two of these nests were in the Potomac River drainage; the other two nests, in Hancock and Taylor counties, are in the Ohio River drainage.

West Virginia northern flying squirrel nest boxes were monitored by program biologists at 16 sites to obtain data on the distribution and population trends of this rare mammal. Tissue samples for genetic analyses (blood samples preserved on FTA cards) were collected from several of the animals handled this year. All capture data on this species, including captures by other state and federal agencies and other researchers, were entered into the program's database and map files. During this fiscal year, 39 squirrels were captured at 10 sites. DNR biologists assisted the USFWS with the development of a post-delisting monitoring plan that will be implemented when the species is "delisted" in September 2008. Endangered Species Program biologists continue to work with Allegheny Wood Products, Inc. and the W.Va. Division of Forestry to develop conservation plans for this species and its habitat.



Bald eagle nest

Surveys for hibernating endangered bats were conducted to examine population trends and to look for new hibernation sites. Winter surveys were conducted at 20 caves in seven counties. More than 20,600 bats of six species were tallied. Populations of endangered Indiana bats in these caves increased since these caves were last surveyed two years ago. No caves containing the endangered Virginia big-eared bat were surveyed this year. In June 2008, female Virginia big-eared bats were censused at known maternity colonies. Night vision equipment was used to count these cave-dwelling bats as they left their roost to feed in the evening. A total of 5,493 bats was tallied at nine maternity caves, an increase of nearly two percent over the 2007 population level. A landslide near one cave entrance made it unsafe to approach the cave entrance; therefore, this cave was not surveyed in 2008. WRS biologists continued to work with private landowners and land management agencies to protect important bat caves. Gates constructed at the entrances of important bat caves were repaired and maintained as needed. Preparations are being made to gate another important bat cave in September 2008. No signs of White Nose Syndrome, a condition which has killed thousands of cave bats in the Northeast, were noted during any bat surveys conducted in the state.

Mist netting surveys were conducted to provide information on the distribution of bats, especially the Indiana bat, during the summer months. In August 2007, WRS biologists conducted a survey along the Tygart Valley River in Randolph County. A total of 128 bats of three species was captured. No endangered bats were observed. Program biologists monitored an Indiana bat roost on private land in Pendleton County in late July 2007. Twenty-eight bats emerged from the roost. Data from bat surveys conducted in West Virginia by WRS personnel and others were entered into the Program's databases.

WVDNR and USFWS personnel worked with Greer Limestone, Inc., to establish a monitoring plan to ensure that quarry expansion in Germany Valley will not negatively impact important bat caves. Temperature and barometric pressure monitors were placed in Hellhole and Schoolhouse caves and a weekly report of the results of the monitoring is sent to the WRS and USFWS. A meeting was held in early 2008 to review data collected and to revise reporting criteria.

A contract was issued to field test and refine the habitat mapping criteria for the federally threatened flat-spined three-toothed land snail, a species found only in Monongalia and Preston counties, W.Va. This protocol was then used by Allegheny Wood Products, Inc., (AWP) to map potential habitat for this species on Snakehill Wildlife Management Area where AWP owns timber rights. Potential habitat for the snail will be avoided during the logging operation.

Additional projects focused on acquiring data on species of concern that are not on the federal threatened and endangered species list. A three-year statewide survey of cave invertebrate species was completed, and the results of this survey were published as West Virginia Speleological Survey Bulletin 16. A statewide snail survey was initiated to provide information on the distribution of snails in the state. A radio telemetry study of the small-footed bat, a species of concern, was conducted to provide information on the roost sites and foraging habitats used by the species. Long-term monitoring of Allegheny woodrat populations allows biologists to look at population trends for the species of concern; live-trapping surveys were conducted at four sites this year, and additional data on woodrats in caves were gathered while conducting bat surveys in caves.

Numerous information requests from the public were answered, and popular articles were written on the state's threatened and endangered animal species. Program personnel reviewed WRS projects to assure compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act. Private landowners were assisted with the management and conservation of rare species on their lands. Educational materials were prepared for the West Virginia Wildlife magazine and Web site.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

Ecology

EPA High Elevation Wetlands Contract: The classification and conservation assessment of high elevation wetlands in the Allegheny Mountains has been completed. All project goals were accomplished. Wetland community classification data resulting from this project will facilitate wetland monitoring, prioritizing wetlands for protection and/or restoration, and writing permit (state certification) conditions based on sound scientific data. The 760 high elevation wetland plots contain site-specific data that will be used in identifying reference wetlands to support related projects. The wetland data set is now large enough to use as a control for our efforts to remotely identify wetlands and refine the West Virginia part of the National Wetland Inventory. With the completion of this project, a crucial part of the of the state's wetlands have been described and classified according to national standards, a necessary prerequisite to developing a unbiased, efficient and effective wetland plan for West Virginia.

Wetland communities above 730 meters (2400 feet) elevation in the Allegheny Mountain region of West Virginia are characterized by exceptionally high biodiversity and conservation value. A new ecological system for the High Allegheny Wetlands and 41 wetland associations were classified, ranked for conservation purposes, and published in the National Vegetation Classification. Eleven of these associations represent wetland types that are new to the national system. Twenty of the types have high global conservation priority, and the remaining 21 types have high state conservation priority. The highest conservation priorities at both the global and state levels are forested conifer and mixed swamps, ancient peatlands, and an ice-scour community. Documented species occurrences in the study area include 590 animal species and more than 900 plant species. Rare taxa include five mammals, 13 breeding birds, one reptile, three amphibians, two snails, two crayfish, 58 dragonflies and damselflies, six butterflies, four spiders, and 145 species of vascular plants.

The final report is available to the public in .pdf form on the WVDNR Web site at <http://www.wvdnr.gov/publications/publications.shtm>. Printed copies of the report have been distributed to stakeholders and partners. More than a dozen lectures highlighting the project results and their implications for land management have been presented to partners and to the public.

National Park Service Contracts: All products for New River Gorge National River vegetation mapping were completed and the final report is available on the Internet. All products for vegetation mapping and floristic inventory of Bluestone National Scenic River were completed and will soon be available on the Internet.



A DNR wildlife biologist gathers data for a wetland community assessment.



Classification and Conservation Assessment of High Elevation Wetland Communities in the Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia

Red Spruce Ecosystem Project: Field work has been completed for the red spruce project, and classification analysis is underway. Provisional conservation ranks have been assigned to five red spruce forest communities and one red spruce woodland community. In cooperation with our Biometrics program, distribution models based on vegetation plots and environmental data were created for upland and wetland red spruce habitats. Distribution models were also developed for the habitats of several high-concern species associated with red spruce, including West Virginia northern flying squirrel, Cheat Mountain salamander, northern goshawk, southern rock vole, and balsam fir. These models have generated great interest among our partners and have been useful in restoration and conservation efforts.

Collaboration with government and other partners to restore the red spruce ecosystem in West Virginia has taken the form of a High Elevation Conservation Working Group, with participation by USFS, USFWS, NRCS, WVDNR, WVDEP, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Trout Unlimited, The Mountain Institute, and others. WRS has taken the lead in providing maps and technical support to the group, working specifically on analysis of conservation targets, environmental stresses, threats to the ecosystem, and restoration/conservation strategies. The partnership has initiated several restoration projects, including planting of thousands of red spruce and balsam fir seedlings on degraded land within the former range of these forest types.

Other Projects: Work continued on the limestone habitat classification project, with plot sampling and site assessments in Grant, Greenbrier, Jefferson, Pendleton, and Randolph counties. Plot sampling was initiated for a new project to describe a cross-section of vegetation along the ridge tops of West Virginia, in areas that have been designated by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory as having high potential for wind development. GIS assessment of landscape integrity and high wind resource areas in West Virginia resulted in a map that was included as part of NatureServe's national climate change strategy.

Collaborative Work: Ecology staff worked together with other WRS programs on a number of initiatives. Metrics for rapid assessment and remote sensing assessment of wetlands were recommended and reviewed. Floristic quality index assessment data and wetland buffer references were shared. Based upon vegetation plot data, staff recommended sampling sites for snail surveys, and snails were also collected during plot sampling. Comments were provided for two USFS forest management and prescribed burn projects and for WRS Cooperative Research Grant proposals.

Outreach Activities: Ecology staff participated as field trip leaders and instructors for the DNR Wildflower Pilgrimage, the Brooks Bird Club, and the Randolph County Outdoor Program. Staff contributed articles to the *West Virginia Wildlife* magazine and WRS calendar.

Several of DNR's partners requested data or technical support, including USFS, USFWS, NRCS, The Nature Conservancy, and numerous universities. Information was provided to these organizations regarding natural communities, native plants, invasive species, restoration strategies, old growth forests, sampling methodology, and graduate research projects.

Data Management, Scientific Collecting Permits, and Environmental Review: Personnel issued 252 permits for a variety of projects including T&E monitoring/surveys, graduate student research, and stream surveys. One permit for falconry was issued. Four scientific collecting permits were denied.

Data Requests: Personnel responded in writing to 809 requests (table following) and several hundred more by e-mail and telephone.

Type of request	Number
Mining Lands inquiries	198
Abandoned Mine Land reviews	74
Wind turbine projects	5
Division of Highways	274
Other	258
Total	809

Staff attended several meetings regarding transmission lines, gas lines, hydropower and wind turbine projects.

Rare Species Database: Rare species and plant community data continue to be entered into the Biotics database, with records for threatened and endangered species being the priority. All available data for threatened and endangered (T&E) species from the 2007 field season have been entered.

The annual data exchange with NatureServe to update the global data in Biotics took place in June 2008.

Botany

Over the period of March 2007 through February 2008 (continuing currently), federally endangered plant species were monitored with partial financial support from the USFWS under the Endangered Species Act, Section 6. Species surveys were conducted for running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*), shale barren rockcress (*Arabis serotina*), northeastern bulrush (*Scirpus ancistrochaetus*), small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), and Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*).

Staff continued coordination with representatives from the Ecological Services Office of the USFWS and the Monongahela National Forest (MNF) regarding the conservation of the federally listed endangered species, Running Buffalo Clover (RBC) on the MNF supporting a management plan for RBC on the MNF. Staff also attended a status review meeting regarding the federally listed endangered plant species harperella (*Ptilimnium nodosum*) in Manassas, Virginia, during which representatives from Natural Heritage Programs, USFWS offices, representatives from NRCS, and other state and federal agencies as well as academic botanists, met to discuss the recovery progress of harperella. Staff presented two illustrated lectures regarding the status of harperella in West Virginia and the general decline of the world's formerly largest population of harperella on Sleepy Creek in Morgan County.

Staff monitored the federally endangered plant species, harperella (*Ptilimnium fluviatile*) along three rivers in Morgan County and responded to various requests for consultation from the USFWS, Nature Serve and TNC concerning the status of harperella in West Virginia, and landowner actions along those rivers that potentially threatened the harperella population. Staff has been working closely with state and regional biologists and conservationists to better coordinate the national recovery of harperella.

Consultations were conducted with the USFWS, the MNF, the Canaan Valley Institute, and TNC regarding the status of T&E plant species in West Virginia, and specific concerns regarding perceived threats to populations. This information was used to evaluate the status of T&E plant species in West Virginia, as well as to draft a six-year plan (March 2008 – February 2014), for monitoring, conserving and recovering federally listed plant species.

Personnel replied to numerous requests from state and regional botanists and conservationists regarding the status, distribution and systematics of vascular plant species of West Virginia. Staff continued to serve on the Flora of West Virginia Committee and promoted the distribution of the *Checklist and Atlas of the Vascular Flora of West Virginia*. Staff serves on the Invasive Species Working Group, meeting twice a year with state and federal biologists, consultants, and others to exchange information regarding the status of invasive species and their threats to natural areas in West Virginia.

Staff conducted numerous outreach and education programs regarding natural history topics, especially vascular plants. Programs included National Hunting and Fishing Days; DNR Wildflower Pilgrimage; a spring Boy Scout Camporee whose theme was hunting, fishing and wildlife diversity; programs regarding appreciation of snakes; and more.

Work continued on a long-term conservation plan for rare, threatened and endangered plant species of greatest concern. This plan will compliment the strategic conservation action plan for animal species. Accordingly, a revised list of G1, G2 and G3, plus S1, S2 and S3 plant species was assembled as a baseline data set towards developing a list of species of greatest concern for conservation action measures.

Rare plant element occurrence records were updated and new ones entered into the Natural Heritage database. Most noted were updates regarding federally listed threatened and endangered plant species, including running buffalo clover, harperella, and small whorled pogonia orchid.

Zoology

Fourteen cooperative research grants, totaling \$88,171, and one small cooperative education project grant were awarded this year. Research focusing on life history, status and distribution information included projects on species such as leopard frogs, golden-winged warblers, timber rattlesnakes, Rafinesque's big-eared bats, softshell and map turtles, freshwater mussels and breeding bird and landsnail assemblages. Other research projects focused on the propagation of two species of darter, the propagation and restoration of the federally endangered plant Harperella, genetic diversity among the state's wintering golden eagles, and the development of a surveillance and response protocol for the amphibian disease chytridiomycosis.

Efforts continued in the collection and compilation of information for the Odonate (dragonfly and damselfly) Atlas Project.

Staff taught classes for the West Virginia Master Naturalist Program in Tucker County, and provided outreach at Wildlife Diversity Day at the State Capitol as well as the Southern Boreal Birding Festival in Canaan Valley.

Staff attended Natural Heritage Methodology training, Biotics Mapper training, and Biotics Tracker training.

Stream Classification Project: A project to classify West Virginia streams continued. The Stream Classification Survey collects fish, invertebrate, physical habitat and water quality and temperature data that will be used to predict the current and past distribution of state fishes, and evaluate the health of state streams.

In 2007, a limited crew size reduced the productivity of the Stream Classification Survey. Detailed habitat data were collected on 11 streams. Qualitative or quantitative fish surveys were completed on 71 streams with assistance of WRS district personnel, DEP personnel, and Coldwater Fisheries personnel. Other agencies cooperating included USFWS and USACOE, and USGS. Assistance was also provided to District personnel to sample larger sites in the Tug Fork, Coal, and Guyandotte rivers.

Land Conservation Program: The Land Conservation Program is an initiative to conserve plant and animal species at risk on private lands. Several areas of the state have been identified as having concentrations of at-risk species and were the initial focus for the program. During the course of the year work was done to refine the resolution of conservation focus areas in Jefferson, Morgan, Berkeley, Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Mercer counties. The goal is to map species of greatest conservation concern and identify areas of greatest concentration.

Mussels

A cooperative project with the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery to survey for the green floater mussel and to determine its preferred habitat was completed in 2008. As part of the Corps of Engineers Mitigation Project, a systematic survey of mussel populations within the Marmet Pool of the Kanawha River was also completed in 2007. A site with a large mussel population will be targeted as a long-term monitoring site. Additional surveys were conducted on the South Fork of the Hughes River and the Elk River.

A site where rayed bean mussels were reintroduced was surveyed in spring 2008. Some of the tagged mussels were relocated indicating that these mussels were surviving at this site.

Mussel brood stock was collected from the Elk River and Ohio River for White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery for propagation and stocking in the Marmet Pool. Some mussels were propagated and stocked into the Marmet Pool. Also, with assistance from the Warmwater Fish Management Section, fish were inoculated with larval mussels for release into the Marmet Pool. Mussel propagation activities were initiated at Stonewall Jackson Lake. At this site, fish inoculated with larval mussels are held in cages where the juveniles will grow, disengage from the host fish and develop into immature adults which can be stocked in rivers.

Biologists attended a meeting in Pennsylvania to discuss recovery efforts for the endangered northern riffleshell; mussels salvaged from the Allegheny River may be available to supplement the riffleshell population in the Elk River.

Numerous office reviews were conducted for bridge replacements, pipeline crossings, industry dredging, and public stream projects. Assessments of dredge material disposal sites on the Ohio and Kanawha rivers for the USACOE were conducted in cooperation with the USFWS.



DNR wildlife biologists conduct a survey for mussels.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT UNIT

Aquatic Habitat Conservation

Personnel from the Technical Support Unit were very active during the year coordinating and participating in efforts to assess and restore aquatic habitats in the state. Staff attended training courses in natural stream channel design, participated in the field reconnaissance of degraded streams, developed and submitted grant applications for inventory and research projects, and coordinated the implementation of such projects.

Acid Stream Restoration Program

Management of the Division's Acid Stream Restoration Program continued. This nationally recognized, publicly visible and highly popular program has restored and now annually maintains water quality and sport fisheries in over 250 miles of 50 streams and three lakes impacted by acid precipitation. Restoration has been accomplished through annual, direct application of limestone sand to acid-impacted streams and through the operation of two, self-feeding limestone drum stations. The total program budget is approximately \$350,000 annually. Seventy-five percent (\$262,500) of program support accrues from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the USFWS. The remaining 25 percent (\$87,500) accrues from nonfederal sources including investment income from the West Virginia Wildlife Endowment Fund administered by the WVDNR and additional financial support from Trout Unlimited, Plum Creek Timber Company, and MeadWestvaco Corporation. Without the Acid Stream Restoration Program, sport fisheries would be lost in these waters. Public fisheries in these restored waters sustain an additional 220,000 days of sportfishing and \$15.3 million of associated economic impact annually.

Planning Program

The fish and wildlife planner coordinated with the other members of the Division's budget team to monitor the status of the Hunting and Fishing License Fund and the Wildlife Endowment Fund. Significant assistance was provided in developing the Division's annual Budget Narrative. Fiscal notes were prepared and submitted on legislation during the 2008 legislative session. Legislative rules were developed and submitted for an inflation-indexed adjustment to hunting and fishing license fees. Major issues management activities included wilderness designation, state land conservation legislation, and major land acquisition projects.

Coordination Program

Field and/or office coordination continued on the following USACOE projects: Winfield Locks and Dam Rehabilitation Mitigation Project, Marmet Locks and Dam Rehabilitation, and the Bluestone Dam Hydropower Development Study.

Continued action (e.g., plan review, impact analysis, development of mitigation, appeals, litigation, relicensing) was taken on each of the following proposed or licensed hydropower projects at reservoirs or river locks and dams: R. C. Byrd, Willow Island, Pike Island and New Cumberland locks and dams on the Ohio River; Summersville on the Gauley River; Sutton Dam on the Elk River; Dam Sites 4 and 5 and Jennings Randolph Dam on the Potomac River; Millville Dam on the Shenandoah River; Hawks Nest Dam, Bluestone Dam and Claytor Lake Dam on the New River; Lake Lynn Dam on the Cheat River; R.D. Bailey Dam on the Guyandotte River; Opekiska and Hildebrand Lock and Dams on the Monongahela River; and Tygart Dam on the Tygart Valley River.

Staff has been involved with the development of the wind power industry. Presently, there are 10 proposed projects located in eight counties. If these projects are developed, West Virginia will have approximately 1,200 wind turbines producing power in the state.

The Coordination Program continued participation in the National Environmental Policy Act mitigation process for several major highway projects and numerous smaller highway, bridge and culvert improvement projects. Adoption of tighter design standards for culvert sizing and installation will significantly reduce the impacts of road crossings on West Virginia streams. Work continues on mitigation resulting from the U.S. Route 35 upgrade that will develop wetlands on Chief Cornstalk WMA and on adjacent land that will come under management of the Game Management Unit. The first stream mitigation portion of this upgrade was implemented and the second monitoring report was submitted for review. Coordination continues on wetland mitigation construction and an alignment change.

State Clean Water Act (CWA) certifications continue to be reviewed under the MOU with the W.Va. Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). Additional reviews were conducted and comments provided relative to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Considerable mitigation in the form of avoidance, reduction, re-creation, enhancement and compensation has been secured as a result of these efforts. Approximately 204 CWA, Section 404/10 permit actions were coordinated. They include highway reviews; wetland and stream permit reviews; and NRCS and WV Conservancy Agency (WVCA) project reviews. Additionally, compensatory wetland creation projects have been started on two of our wildlife management areas (WMA). The 2.5-acre tree and shrub planting on Frozencamp WMA was augmented with stock from the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Monitoring of some mitigation sites may result in improvements to those projects.

Significant time has been spent working with the WVDEP and the USACOE developing a science-based assessment protocol for stream disturbance activities and an In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program for the state. The in-lieu program agreement was signed by the USACOE in the Spring of 2006 and is currently a viable mitigation option. Staff were involved in field testing and review of a "Functional Assessment Approach for High Gradient Streams" developed by the COE. Staff continues coordination with the COE on a final assessment model for high gradient streams.

HEP modeling was completed in cooperation with the USFWS for the Lower Mud River Flood Protection project at Milton.

Staff responded to requests from the WV Division of Highways (WVDOH) and numerous watershed groups to inform them on permitting issues relating to wetland disturbance, mitigation obligations, permit compliance, Natural Stream Design and other issues.

The Lower Cove Run Dam site #16 Flood Control and Water Supply Project was reviewed. Staff continues to coordinate with the NRCS on mitigation for the Elkwater Fork Water Supply project in Randolph County which is near completion. WRS involvement with a cooperative Natural Stream Restoration project on Horseshoe Run in Tucker County and Knapps Creek in Pocahontas County continued. Work continued with NRCS on Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program Plans for private farms as requested by the districts. The NRCS' Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program seems to be in decline. Staff attended only three farm visits this year and monitored 15 farms. Coordination continues on proposed flood control/water supply impoundments in Hardy and Randolph counties.

Significant time was spent implementing the Clean Water Act Regional Permit to assist landowners with small stream restoration and management activities. Approximately 253 landowner stream plans have been received and reviewed during this reporting period.

Significant time was spent working with WVDEP, WVDOH, WVCA and others to develop a set of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Natural Channel Design Projects. These BMPs will be added to the NPDES Manual.

Significant time was spent in the re-certification of Nationwide Permits.

WRS staff is working with the NRCS on three dam removals on the West Fork. It is the goal to return approximately 25 miles of the river to a free-flowing state.

Staff coordinated with the WVCA on a natural stream restoration project for the Island Creek watershed in Logan County. The first phase of this project involving partial flood plain restoration was completed. Environmental assessment was completed on a USACOE flood protection project for the lower Island Creek drainage.

Technical assistance relative to fish and wildlife continues to be provided to the WVDEP's mitigation development program and biologists continue to review surface mine permit applications and develop wildlife management plans. Wildlife habitat development plans were completed for 6,292.25 acres and 167 mine pre-plans were reviewed.

Significant time was spent working on stream restoration plans and coordinating mitigation plans for mine impacts to aquatic ecosystems. Assistance was provided to WVDEP in locating potential aquatic improvement projects that could be completed by mining companies' in-lieu of administrative penalties for violations. A comprehensive plan for habitat restoration of the Little Coal River from Madison to its confluence with the Big Coal River has been completed. The first phase of this work was completed on a six mile length of the river by Coal River Energy as mitigation for its Boone County Complex. Legal agreements have been completed with Massey Energy for the installation of an additional 20 habitat structures over the next two years and a legal settlement with AEP has earmarked 1.4 million dollars to this project. Coordination has begun with WVDEP on a plan to use mitigation money to remove the old dam on the Coal River near Tornado.

Coordination work has begun on an EIS for a possible mining project involving the public land surrounding East Lynn Lake. A MOU has been signed with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management making the WVDNR a cooperating agency in this study development. The EIS for possible mining leases has been completed and is now in the public comment stage.

Staff continues to monitor the stream and wetland mitigation sites on the new Wallback Lake.

Significant time was spent working on mitigation banking. The state currently has one operational bank with several others in various states of development.

Numerous opportunities to teach school children about wetlands, riparian zones and streams were realized this year. Likewise, the stream table was set up and adults were provided with instruction on the functioning of streams. These three will ultimately result in informed conservation of West Virginia wetlands.

The WVDNR, through the work of the Technical Support Unit, has been awarded an additional \$250,000 from USEPA to supplement the \$325,221 previously awarded to increase the agency's capacity to protect the state's wetland resources. The grants are directed toward refining wetland distribution information, assessing wetland ecological integrity and functional value and planning for long-term wetland monitoring that will be required beginning in 2011.

The Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge is in the process of revising its 15 year Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Staff has actively participated and supported this effort by attending all public meetings, including two focus group sessions. Additionally, as a primary participant of the core planning team, personnel have attended numerous bi-weekly, monthly and subject specific meetings to identify and help formulate the resource management constraints and opportunities on this refuge.

Biometrics/Geographic Information System (GIS) Program

Technical Support Unit staff provided routine installation, maintenance and support of computer hardware, software and peripherals for the Wildlife Resources Section funded by traditional sources and from grants and contracts (USFWS and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency).

Staff continued assisting with new and ongoing section projects and activities. Activities included performing data processing, project design and analysis consulting, conducting data analysis, preparing paper and electronic map products, technical training, computer maintenance and support for Section budget, personnel and inventory.

Annual routine projects supported included managing the section's work report system, producing game harvest and trout stocking summaries, summarizing spring gobbler survey results, summarizing responses from the grouse cooperator survey, summarizing bow hunter survey results, processing antlerless deer applications for eligibility, summarizing statewide hunter prospects and mast surveys, summarizing accomplishments for game management, and preparing federal aid vouchers and monthly summaries for all projects. Work time and cost reporting services were also provided to the Law Enforcement Section.

Database management and development continued as needed. Programs to access data were developed and expanded to incorporate tabular and GIS data stored in MS SQL Server 2005/ESRI ArcSDE 9.2 databases. This database server is now open to the Internet so agency staff and cooperating agencies can use databases centrally stored and maintained. This year, databases were upgraded from MS SQL Server 2000 and ESRI ArcSDE 9.0 to provide agency staff with new functionality.

GIS staff provided training and technical assistance to WRS staff on GIS and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) data acquisition and dataset development, GPS data management, GIS application use, cartography, and spatial data analysis. Existing GPS collection, processing and organization procedures were further refined to streamline the tracking of GPS data collection activities. These geospatial services were provided for section projects operating statewide to ensure the collection of well-documented and accurate locations of field survey data.

Data analysis and mapping were performed in support of the ongoing efforts to monitor Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Hampshire County. GIS staff further refined Stonewall Resort State Park maps and other promotional materials, with cooperation from the WVDNR State Parks, for future National Hunting and Fishing Days planning, brochures and displays. Mapping services were provided to complete the latest WMA Guide. GIS staff continued the development of spatial and tabular data sets for selected wildlife management areas. GIS mapping continued on a number of wildlife management areas. GIS/GPS consultation and database development services were provided to various federally assisted rare, threatened and endangered species studies. GPS training was provided to Game Management staff and other biologists and common datasets were maintained.

GIS staff maintained a central database server to store and share information for West Virginia's natural resource management projects for use in its evolving GIS program. GIS personnel have deployed GIS capabilities in several district offices and cooperating agencies and provided ongoing instruction as requested.

The GIS staff has amassed more than one TB of natural resource base mapping information ranging from statewide aerial photography, satellite imagery, topographic maps, soil surveys, elevation models for visualization and watershed modeling, streams, wetlands, public fishing lakes, demographics, political boundaries, land use/land cover, and other miscellaneous datasets. Use of these GIS datasets by agency staff continues to grow and become incorporated into the basic analysis of project data and management of state lands.

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Capitol Complex
Building 3, Room 669
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0660
(304) 558-2754
Fax: (304) 558-2768
www.wvdnr.gov