

Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan: Keeping Common Species Common

Austin Kane and Chris Burkett

Virginia Tech/CMI and DGIF

February 24, 2016

While we are here...

- The Wildlife Action Plan
 - Background/ Significance
 - Priority species
 - Key Habitats
 - Threats
 - Conservation Actions
- Answer Questions



Keeping Common Species Common

- It is easier and cheaper to conserve species before they become endangered.
- Congress developed **State Wildlife Grants**
- Requires a Wildlife Action Plan

Virginia's 2nd Action Plan recently completed.



Wildlife Action Plans



Blueprint for
conservation action

Benefits for people
and wildlife

Locally relevant
and actionable

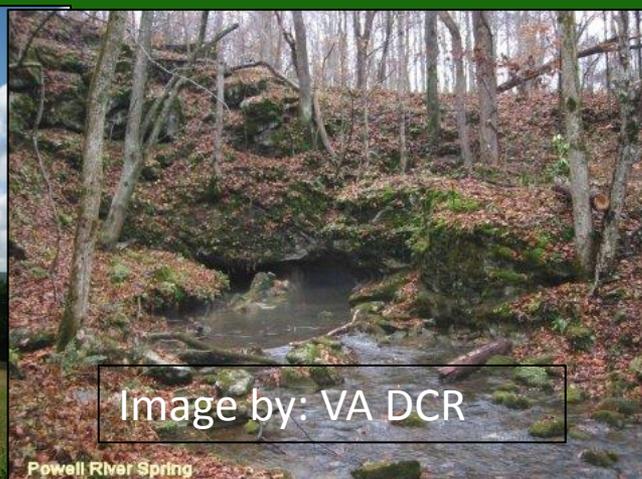
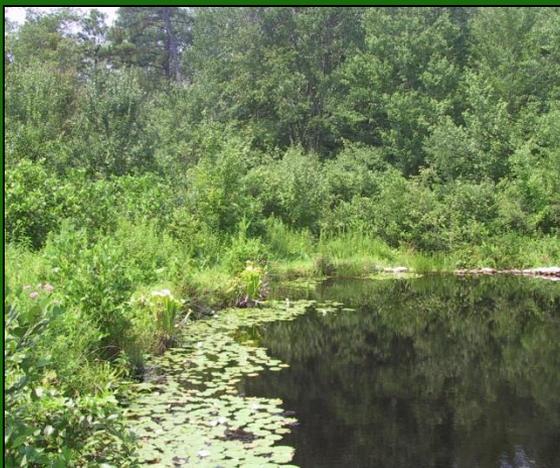
Species of Greatest Conservation Need



884 Species of Greatest Conservation Need



Habitat Focus

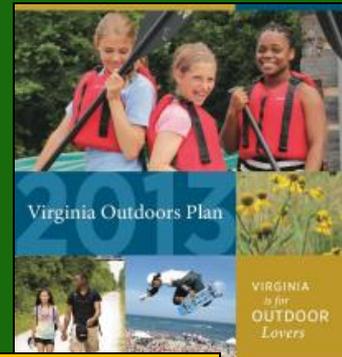
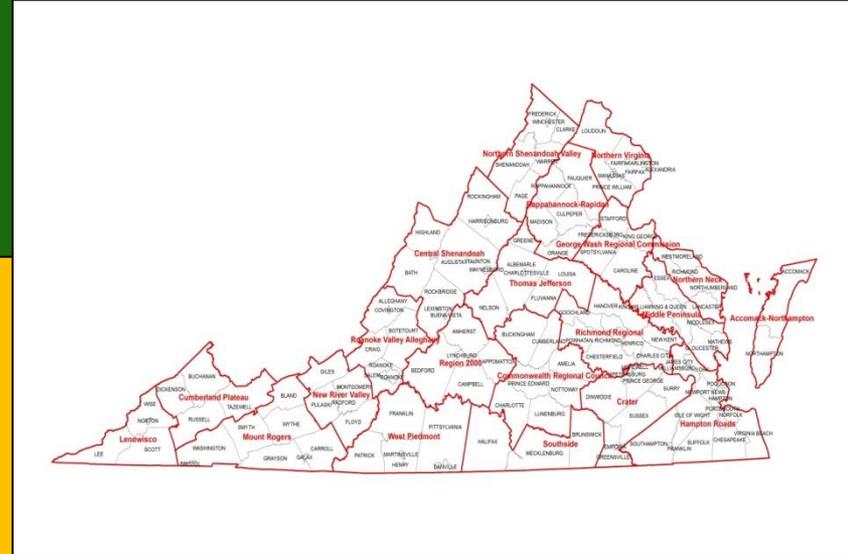


Local Action Plan Summaries

Stand alone chapters for the 21 Planning Regions

Define Local Actionable Priorities

- Identifying priority species and habitats
- Identify problems impacting Action Plan species and habitats
- Actions that can be taken to address those problems
- Places where those actions should be implemented first



Virginia Outdoors Plan Format



Primary Threats

- Loss and fragmentation of habitats
- Water quality degradation
- Invasive species
- Climate Change



Conservation Actions

- Example conservation actions
 - Riparian buffers
 - BMPs
 - Land conservation
 - Restoration
 - Restoring connectivity
 - Climate-smart actions
- Actions benefit a wide range of fish and wildlife



Managing for Open Habitats

- Rare and managed in ways that can exclude wildlife
 - Manage after timber harvest/ agricultural applications
 - Control invasive species
 - Plant native species
- Citizen monitoring



Action Plan Website

WAPTest Andrew

localhost/WAP/

Wildlife Action Plan Demo Application

Choose a Region Selected Region

>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur ultricies augue orci, sit amet posuere turpis vestibulum ut. Vivamus non elit dolor. Sed a porta lacus, et elementum lectus. Aenean ut vulputate massa. Nunc dolor libero, imperdiet ut tellus ut, hendrerit commodo dolor. Donec elementum volutpat elit, sed porta eros placerat sed. Nullam risus ex, sodales eu ex sed, pretium interdum tortor. Aenean fermentum libero eu ante luctus, vitae ornare justo hendrerit. Nam sed convallis mauris, quis sollicitudin nisl. Suspendisse vitae metus in velit imperdiet accumsan. Nullam in auctor magna, eget porttitor ex. Sed dictum sagittis nisl, eget sollicitudin enim iaculis at. Nam pellentesque lacinia condimentum. Etiam sed cursus velit, at efficitur nunc. In posuere accumsan ultricies. Vivamus cursus fermentum nibh, ac maximus neque lobortis vitae. Vivamus purus augue, cursus a enim nec, malesuada condimentum mauris. Vivamus ut finibus turpis. Cras a tellus at eros lacinia ultrices eget non ligula.

Esri, DeLorme, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS

Action Plan Website

WAPTest localhost/WAP/ Andrew

Wildlife Action Plan Demo Application

Choose a Region Selected Region

- Summary
- Priority Species

Of Virginia's 884 species of greatest conservation need, 115 are believed to either occur, or have recently occurred, within the New River Valley Planning Region. Of these 115 species, 77 species are dependent upon habitats provided within the planning region and constitute the priority SGCN. Eight species occur only within this region and nowhere else in the world (New River Valley cave beetle, Straley's cave beetle, Mitchell's satyr butterfly, Virginia fringed mountain snail, Buffalo Mountain mealybug, Ellett Valley pseudotremia, Pygmy snaketail, and Laurel Creek xystodesmid millipede).

- Priority Species Density
- Karst Habitat
- Wetlands Habitat
- Aquatic and Riparian Habitat

Name	Scientific Name	Taxa Group	Conservation Status	Tier	Opportunity Rank	Habitat
Barking treefrog	<i>Hyla gratiosa</i>	Amphibian	ST	II	a	Forests near or within shallow wetlands
Carpenter frog	<i>Lithobates virgatipes</i>	Amphibian		III	a	Freshwater wetlands with sphagnum moss
Eastern mud salamander	<i>Pseudotriton montanus montanus</i>	Amphibian		IV	a	Freshwater wetlands with sphagnum moss
Eastern spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>	Amphibian		IV	c	Forest and upland habitat generalist but require soils suitable for digging
Eastern tiger salamander	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	Amphibian	SE	II	a	Site specific pine savanna
Greater siren	<i>Siren lacertina</i>	Amphibian		IV	a	Tolerates a variety of warm aquatic habitats with abundant vegetation
Lesser siren	<i>Siren intermedia intermedia</i>	Amphibian		III	a	Tolerates a variety of warm aquatic habitats with abundant vegetation
Little grass frog	<i>Pseudacris ocularis</i>	Amphibian		IV	a	Most abundant in wetlands within

Action Plan Website

WAPTest Andrew localhost/WAP/

Wildlife Action Plan Demo Application

Choose a Region	Selected Region
^ Wetlands Habitat	
^ Aquatic and Riparian Habitat	
^ Forest Habitat	
▼ Open Habitat	

Open habitats are botanically characterized by grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Open habitats are often comprised of post-agricultural lands, glades, and barrens and make up less than 0.5% of the planning region. These areas provide important habitat nesting, feeding, and/or protection areas for species within this planning region, such as the golden-winged warbler, Henslow's sparrow, loggerhead shrike, Persius duskywing butterfly, Buffalo Mountain mealybug, and Appalachian grizzled skipper. Open habitats are becoming rare as agriculture and timber harvest practices change (lack of management on or development of these lands). Additionally, natural succession (where trees are allowed to dominate and the site



Action Plan Website

WAPTest Andrew

localhost/WAP/

Wildlife Action Plan Demo Application

Choose a Region Selected Region

- Summary
- Priority Species
- Priority Species Density
- Karst Habitat**
- Wetlands Habitat
- Aquatic and Riparian Habitat
- Forest Habitat
- Open Habitat

Karst features are created by complex interactions of water, bedrock, vegetation, and soils. Karst areas contain sinkholes, sinking and losing streams, caves, and large flow springs. Within this planning region, degraded water quality and water quantity are primary issues threatening the systems. Maintaining water quality and quantity by ensuring forest cover over and around karst systems, protecting cave openings, and preventing garbage from entering sinkholes will be key actions to conserve these systems.

Esri, HERE, DeLorme, FAO, USGS, NGA, EPA, NPS | U.S. Geological Survey Open...

Thank You



Chris Burkett, Wildlife Action
Plan Coordinator
Virginia Department of Game and
Inland Fisheries
804-367-9717
Chris.Burkett@dgif.virginia.gov

Austin Kane, Project Associate
Conservation Management
Institute/ Virginia Tech
804-288-4719
Austin.Kane@vt.edu

© John White

www.bewildvirginia.org