

Natural Resource Management

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Outline

- Identify natural resources
- Sunday hunting exercise
- Laws that govern natural resources
- Two major management philosophies
 - Preservation
 - Conservation
- Resource management practices
 - Wetlands, grasslands, forests, & wildlife
- Merrimac Farms management plan

Natural Resources

- Air
- Water
- Wildlife
- Agriculture
- Soil
- Forests
- Recreation
 - Hiking/camping
 - Hunting/fishing

Sunday Hunting Issue

VDGIF was obtaining approval information from hunters regarding Sunday hunting

- **Currently it is prohibited**
- **General Assembly issue**
- **Numerous stakeholders other than hunters exist**
 - **Who are they?**
- **Discuss the potential conflicts between these groups**

Stakeholders

- In and out of state hunters
- Game Department
- Landowners
- Forest Service
- Military bases
- Churches
- Sporting goods stores
- Hunting outfitters
- Meat processors
- Horseback riders
- Hikers
- Hotels
- Local stores in rural communities

Sunday Hunting Wrap-up

- **Numerous stakeholders exist**
 - **Often groups have conflicting agendas**
- **Natural resource managers**
 - **Must balance needs of many**
 - **Protect resource for future generations**
 - **Constantly deal with politics**

Major Environmental Laws

- NEPA 1970
- CAA 1970
- CWA 1972
- RCRA 1976
- CERCLA 1980
- <http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/index.html>

NEPA 1970

- **National Environmental Policy Act**
- **Established a national policy**
 - **No consistency among federal & state agencies prior to this legislation**
- **Created the Council of Environmental Quality**
- **Requires EIS which is probably most significant aspect of law**

EIS

- **Environmental Impact Statement**
 - **Impact of proposed action**
 - **Alternative actions and their impact**
 - **No action is an alternative included in all**
 - **Public comment incorporated into the process**

CAA 1970

- **Clean Air Act**
- **Regulates air emissions**
- **Authorized EPA to establish NAAQS**
 - **National Ambient Air Quality Standards**
 - **Set maximum pollutants emitted**
- **Amended several times to address failures or poorly addressed issues**
 - **Acid rain, ground level ozone, atmospheric ozone depletion, and air toxics**

CWA 1972

- **Clean Water Act**
- **Regulates discharge of pollutants in US waters**
- **Authorizes EPA to implement pollution control programs**
- **Set water quality standards in surface waters (doesn't address groundwater)**

RCRA 1976

- **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Rick-rah)**
- **Authorized EPA to control hazardous waste from “cradle to grave”**
 - **Generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal**
- **Focuses on active and future facilities**

CERCLA 1980

- **The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund)**
- **Taxes chemical and petroleum industries**
 - **Fund used for cleanup**
- **Provides for federal authority to respond to releases of hazardous substances**
- **Regulates closed or abandoned HWS**
- **Provided for liability of persons responsible for HWS**

Wildlife Legislation

- **Lacey Act 1900**
- **Weeks Mclean Migratory Bird Treaty 1913,1916**
- **Migratory Bird Treaty Act 1918**
- **Migratory Bird Conservation Act 1929**
- **Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act 1934**
- **Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act 1937 (Pittman-Robertson Act)**
- **Endangered Species Act 1973**
- **Food Security Act 1984**

Lacey Act 1900

- John F. Lacey “ father of conservation legislation”
- Prohibited interstate transportation of illegally killed wildlife
- Imported wildlife were subject to state laws
- Prohibited importation of agricultural pests
- Wild bird restoration (emphasis on game)
- 1935 amendment extended it to foreign species
- Overall initiated uniformity among states regarding wildlife laws
- Went beyond simple hunting regulations

Migratory Bird Legislation

- **Weeks Mclean Migratory Bird Treaty 1913,1916**
 - Signed with Great Britain
 - Gave U.S. authority to manage the birds of Canada
- **Migratory Bird Treaty Act 1918**
 - Unlawful to hunt, take, capture, kill or posses any protected birds
 - Sell of game birds was prohibited
 - Set bag limits for migratory game birds
 - Shotguns were required to be at least 10 gauge

Migratory Bird Legislation

- **Migratory Bird Conservation Act 1929**
 - Established commission to obtain critical habitat
 - Development of sanctuaries
- **Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act 1934**
 - Required for hunting all migratory game birds (dove, woodcock, and waterfowl)
 - Established permanent funding for land acquisition

Pittman and Robertson Act 1937

- Placed a 10% tax on the sales of sporting arms & ammo (now 11%)
- Revenue is pooled in national treasury and redistributed to the states
- Formula is dependent on # of hunting licensees sold and land area
- Once amount is determined each state has to match federal money at 1:3
- State loses eligibility if funds are diverted from wildlife conservation (roads, construction, schools)

Wildlife Funding PR Cont.

- **The most critical funding source for state wildlife management agencies**
- **Non-consumptive users contribute little to wildlife management funds in VA**
- **New funding sources are needed in VA**
 - **Less hunters**
 - **Growing urban centers**
 - **More demand from non-consumptive users**
 - **Increased costs of operation**

Endangered Species Act 1973

- The purpose is to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which ES and TS depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such species
- ES = a species endanger of extinction in all or part of its range
- TS = a species that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future if measures are not taken to protect it and its habitat

ESA

- **Prevented taking of listed species**
 - Includes killing or removing from wild
- **Protected critical habitat**
 - specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species essential to the conservation
- **Outlined federal policy regarding these species**

ESA Cont.

- One of most powerful and controversial wildlife laws
- This law is constantly threatened with amendments that would decrease its power; Current admin has weakened it
- 66 species listed in VA (HI has most with 329 followed by CA 309)