

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – MAY 16, 2012

Chairman Jeffrey Plummer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Approval for the March 21, 2012 Meeting Agenda

- Director Paul Peditto will update the Commission on the Elk Reintroduction Public Opinion Survey conducted by the Maryland Legislative Sportsman’s Caucus (MLSF) and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)
- Conservationist, Employee, and Farmer of Year Nominations: Director Peditto outlined to the Commission the process as to nominations and the Commission’s role. The Wildlife and Heritage Service (WHS) solicits nominees for these three categories and submits the nominees’ letter to the members of the Commission for their review and vote.
 1. The Maryland Farm Bureau (MDFB) provides WHS with the nominees for the Farmer of Year. Mr. Fuchs helps facilitate the nominees from the MDFB. The Farmer of the Year is presented at the December Annual Maryland Farm Bureau Convention.
 2. The Conservationist of Year nominees are from internal and/or external nominators. The Conservationist of Year is recognized at a fall WAC meeting.
 3. The Employee of Year nominees are also from internal and/or external nominators. The Employee of Year is normally announced at the WHS Annual Meeting.
 4. The Commission received the Conservationist, Employee, and Farmer of Year packet with the ranking sheet. Commission members shall return the ranking sheet to Ms. Spencer by no later than June 6th.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Gulbrandsen to accept the May 16, 2012 Meeting Agenda as amended.
 2. Commissioner Gregor seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval for Minutes from March 21, 2012 Meeting

- The March 21st meeting minutes were distributed to the Commission prior to the meeting.
- Motion:
 1. Commissioner Boyles Griffin motioned to approve the March 21st meeting minutes.
 2. Commissioner Gulbrandsen seconded.
 3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Wildlife and Heritage Service Administration Update and Budget Update – Presentation given by Glenn Therres, Associate Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service.

- Mr. Glenn Therres is the Associate Director of Administration for the Wildlife and Heritage Service.
- Mr. Therres provided an overview of the functions of the staff within the Administration Program. [ATTACHMENT A] The staff members under the Administration Program have the following responsibilities: budget, procurement, inventory, fleet management, human resources, permits, regulations, legislation, hunting guide and customer service. Discussion re: Guide to Hunting and Trapping: WHS produces the “Guide” at no cost to the consumer or DNR. Staff members have to review and edit the text and assist with the design of the hunting guide. Currently, the hunting guide is produced without a cost to the State.
 1. Chairman Plummer made the suggestion to have all the changes listed in a particular area in the hunting guide. There is a “What’s New Section”; we will be sure to use for new information this year.
 2. Commissioner Compton recommended that there should be a message near the “What’s New Section” of the guide about harvest reporting. Staff members are waiting until the new

- software, Compass, is up and running to understand how the system is going to handle harvest data.
3. Director Peditto added that advertisement in the Guide is screened by DNR to the extent that it cannot be politically inappropriate or advocate for a position. Yes, DNR does monitor these advertisements that are located in the Maryland Guide to Hunting and Trapping.
- Mr. Therres outlined the FY 12 and FY 13 budgets to the Commission.
 1. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Smart Report for WHS FY 12 was distributed to the Commission. **[ATTACHMENT B]** The first column is the budget that WHS has to work with.
 2. Sources of Funding in FY 12 to WHS, which is in a pie chart. **[ATTACHMENT C]** There are four categories that make up WHS funding, which are federal fund, special fund, general fund and reimbursable fund. The pie chart demonstrates the relative percentage of these categories.
 - a. Federal funds are money that WHS receives from the federal government. Federal funds are in a variety of forms such as US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior. This would include Pitman and Robertson Fund (from excise taxes on firearms and ammunition). Another Federal fund is State Wildlife Grants for species at risk. There are some Federal funds for endangered species. There will be a shortfall of funding for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).
 - b. General funds are tax dollars from the State. For FY 13, WHS potentially will receive around \$248,000; all of it will go to (FHFH) Program. Therefore, WHS will not have any general fund allocation for operations for FY 13.
 - c. Reimbursable funds are funds from another agency to contract WHS to complete the work.
 - d. Special funds are revenue generated from specific fees, licenses, and permits that are dedicated by law for wildlife management activities. In the past, special fund reserves have helped WHS stay whole but special funds have declined to the point that now WHS has no reserves for FY 14 budget. The Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund is a check-off on your income tax form, which is a special fund. WHS receives half of that amount, which currently equals to around \$450,000 to \$500,000 a year.
 3. The Hunting Statistics by Season was handed out to the Commission. **[ATTACHMENT D]** The numbers in the columns are not dollar amounts they are the total numbers for each category.
 4. Questions and Answers:
 - a. Commissioner Bonomo mentioned that the Commission and staff have talked a little about the possibility of where revenues from increased gas and oil developments may eventually be applied to any extent that these revenues could be applied to DNR lands and programs that the Commission cares about. Commissioner Bonomo asked for update on the status of potential revenue allocations from the increased gas and oil developments. Commissioner Bonomo highlighted that this was a win situation for the Pennsylvania Game Commission.
 - i. There are two answers to Commissioner Bonomo's questions. First, if this were to occur on State forest lands then the funds most likely would go to the Forest Service same as the timber harvest that occurs on State forest lands.
 - ii. For the Wildlife and Heritage Service to generate revenue from projects like this, it would have to occur on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). There is a potential bar to that since the feds would have a stake in whether that exploration creates a diversion of feds' interest.
 - iii. Commissioner Boyles Griffin indicated if you receive this type of revenue for projects like this, it is not a sustainable revenue source for the Department.
 - iv. In Commissioner Bonomo's opinion, Pennsylvania was out in front of this opportunity.

Pennsylvania was able to control the outcomes to the best extent possible. In other words, Pennsylvania's lands that are sensitive will remain protected. The less sensitive lands are having the gas and oil developments; these lands are having windpower projects. If the Department decides to have the gas and oil development projects on its lands than the revenue would be excessive. Commissioner Bonomo encouraged the Department to pay close attention as to what is going on with these types of projects.

- b. Chairman Plummer mentioned since there are already examples of this going on in Pennsylvania what are the feds doing about funds that may or may not be diverted.
 - i. In many cases, the Pennsylvania Game Commission cannot bill management of those properties to federal aid funds.
 - ii. Therefore these projects would not be reimbursable.
 - iii. Since most of those lands were purchased by hunter dollars then the feds have input as to what occurs on these properties.
- c. Director Peditto indicated when staff receives more information on Marcellus Shale, Ms. Spencer will add it on the WAC agenda for Associate Director Jonathan McKnight to discuss.
- d. Commissioner Gulbrandsen asked what contribute to the deepest decline over the last seven years in Regulated Shooting Area (RSA) permits.
 - i. Staff members are not sure why there is such a decline. Most of the RSA permit holders are private entities.
 - ii. It may be because of the lack of availability of the birds because there were two major events that hurt the game breeders in the mid-west from big storms. The mid-west is where the birds come from.

Break 10:45 am to 10:55 am

2012 Legislative Session Outcome – Presentation given by Paul A. Peditto, Director, Wildlife and Heritage Service.

- Director Peditto mentioned that staff gave the Commission status report of WHS bills at the March WAC meeting.
- During 2012 Legislative Session, most of the wildlife related bills were dead except for the Sunday hunting bills and HB 1052 Natural Resources – Suspension of Hunting Licenses and Privileges. It was the fourth year for HB 1052 Natural Resources – Suspension of Hunting Licenses and Privileges and this year it passed both committees.
 1. Captain Ingerson mentioned that the new Compass system has the ability to record violations so that NRP officers will not have to carry papers with those violators listed.
 2. Captain Ingerson outlined that Maryland is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact – if someone's hunting license is suspended in Maryland that means that person's hunting license is suspended in around 36 other states, who are all members of the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact. Likewise, if a Maryland resident has a hunting suspension from out of State, the Maryland resident is suspended in the 36 states that participate in that Compact.
- The HB 1419 Natural Resources – Hunting and Licenses and Stamps failed.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update – Presentation given by Kurt Fuchs, Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) Government Relations Assistant Director

- Mr. Fuchs provided an update on the 2012 Doe Harvest Challenge. The 2012 Doe Harvest Challenge has been expanded to Carroll, Frederick, and Wicomico Counties. This expansion is due to farmers in those areas continuing to experience a lot of crop damage due to deer. Once

again the Maryland Soybean Board and Maryland Grain Producers provide the funding for the Doe Harvest Challenge.

1. The Maryland Farm Bureau and the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) are partners to offset the cost of donation of doe deer for every doe that is donated at a participating FHFH processor. A hunter files out an entry card and every three weeks of the deer hunting season, beginning in bow season and ending sometime around Christmas, the MFB has a drawing of those entry cards.
 2. It is only legally harvested doe. Deer taken under Deer Management Permits do not count in the entries.
 3. For the drawing, MFB partners up with local outdoor shops. MFB does prize packages of \$500.00 every three weeks and at the end of season all of the entries go into a pool for a grand prize.
 4. This year, in order to allow the same amount of donation to FHFH to offset that cost, MFB reduced the prize packages to \$300.00 in the two existing regions, southern Maryland and mid-shore for the every three-week cycle. The grand prize is \$500.00.
 5. For the smaller, north and central regions that included Carroll and Frederick counties, MFB had a \$200.00 prize packages for every three-week cycle and then a \$500.00 grand prize at the end of the season.
 6. MFB is confident that the donations will remain same with the changes to the prize packages.
 7. As the result of the Doe Harvest Challenge, MFB has been able to donate over the past three seasons well over 400,000 meals to those local communities. The challenge has doubled the amount of deer donated in those regions.
 8. MFB has not been able to calculate the amount of crop damage that the Doe Harvest Challenge has been able to reduce. It appears that Doe Harvest Challenge is working because Mr. Fuchs has not received any complaints.
- The Maryland Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service has compiled the 2011 Wildlife Related Crop Losses Report. [ATTACHMENT E] Mr. Fuchs will send a copy of the report via email to Ms. Spencer for the Commission.
 1. Deer continue to be the largest factor for crop losses in Maryland.
 2. North Central had the largest loss, which includes Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington Counties. These areas may not have the largest agricultural land mass as other areas but it still has the largest economic impact.
 3. The lower shore had a decrease in damage losses for 2011. Director Peditto mentioned that it is a possibility that the reason for a decrease in damage on the lower shore is because Sunday hunting is allowed whereas in Baltimore County, Sunday hunting is prohibited.
 - Mr. Fuchs requested that staff keep Mr. Fuchs informed on the protocol on how deer damage permits reporting will be handled in COMPASS. Director Peditto outlined that each permittee must have an identification number in COMPASS. This number will serve as the person's permanent DNR ID for all electronic transactions with the Department. Mr. Fuchs indicated that he will inform the MFB members about the identification number requirement.
 - MFB will be adopting a resolution in opposition to the reintroduction of elk in Maryland at MFB December Annual Convention because of the potential of economic damage to crops. The MFB is definitely concerned with the survey that highlighted 3:1 Marylanders are in favor of reintroduction of elk in Maryland.

Natural Resources Police (NRP) Update – Presentation given by Captain Lloyd Ingerson.

- Captain Ingerson indicated it is too early to report on the Wild Turkey Spring Season. However, there have been some baiting cases made in about 14 areas around the State. Several of these had multiple violations. In Western Maryland, there were some baiting cases with rifles. One case

had involved an electronic caller. About a half-dozen occurred in Eastern Region and one occurred in Central Region.

- NRP started a new class with 15 cadets in April. It depends on the approval of the budget but the goal is to have another cadet class next year. Hopefully, NRP will be able to bring back the NRP Cadet Program; it has been non-functional for around 15 years. Captain Ingerson was part of the old NRP Cadet Program. This will allow NRP to capture those candidates right out of high school to be eligible for the program. NRP will be able to hire them and the cadets will get on the job training for three years to prepare the cadets for NRP academy. This will help with recruiting and will assist with higher retention rate.

Old Business

- The Wildlife Advisory Operational Guidelines were provided to all the members of the Commission in their March 21st Meeting Minutes Packet. Chairman Plummer indicated this will help the Commission members know why a member is serving on Commission. If any member of the Commission has any question to email Chairman Plummer and/or Director Peditto.

New Business

- There was a press release on the Reintroduction of Elk in Maryland Survey. Responsive Management conducted the survey, which was statewide. Responsive Management is well known for natural resources surveys. The survey was underwritten by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. WHS did not spend any money on this survey except for staff time to review the survey questions and results.
 1. The press release is available on the DNR website, which is www.dnr.maryland.gov for individuals to read about this.
 2. The next step for the MD Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation to meet with potential stakeholders, such as the Western Maryland delegation, commissioners, MFB, and Chambers of Commerce.
- Commissioner Bonomo requested an update on the State Wildlife Action Plan at the next meeting.

Public Comment – no comment.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.
The next meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, June 20, 2012 in the Tawes State Office Building, C-1 Conference Room; Annapolis, Maryland.

Attendance

Members:	J. Bonomo, L. Compton, T. Gregor, S. Boyles Griffin, E. Gulbrandsen, J. Plummer, and C. Rodney
Guests:	K. Fuchs
Staff:	L. Ingerson, P. Jayne, J. McKnight, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, and G. Therres
Absent:	G. Fratz

WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE SERVICE
ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

STAFF

Glenn D. Therres, Associate Director
Tawes State Office Bldg, Annapolis
410-260-8572
gtherres@dnr.state.md.us

Iris Puffenberger, Procurement and Inventory Specialist
Cumberland Regional Office
301-777-2136
ipuffenberger@dnr.state.md.us

Mary Goldie, Permits Coordinator
Tawes State Office Bldg, Annapolis
410-260-8546
mgoldie@dnr.state.md.us

Lena Pajewski, Off-Shore Blind Licensing Coordinator
Tawes State Office Bldg, Annapolis
410-260-8545
lpajewski@dnr.state.md.us

Wade Henry, Graphic Artist
LeCompte WMA, Vienna
410-376-3236 x303
whenry@dnr.state.md.us

Ryan Haley, Wildlife Technician
Tawes State Office Bldg, Annapolis
410-260-8538
rhaley@dnr.state.md.us

RESPONSIBILITIES

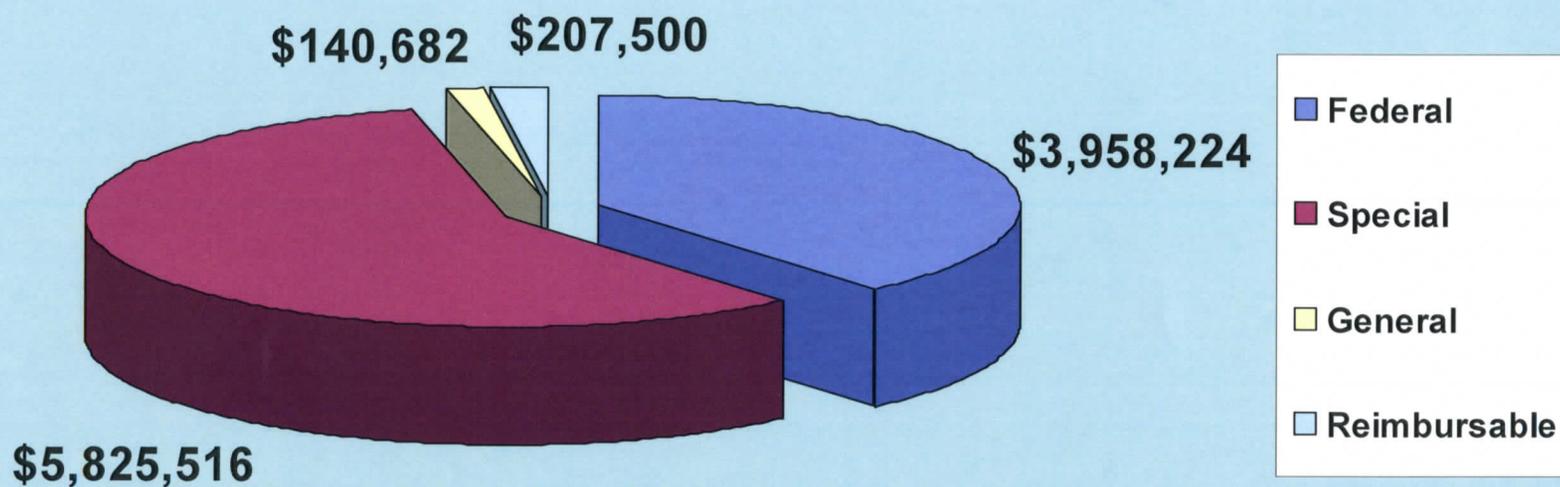
Budget, Procurement, Inventory, Fleet Management, Human Resources, Permits,
Regulations, Legislation, Hunting Guide, Customer Service

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
SMART REPORTING SYSTEM
APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE REPORT OBJECT FUND by UNIT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012
PREPARED AS OF 05/11/2012

C000 WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE SERVICE

OBJECT	BUDGET	EXPENSE	ENCUMB	AVAIL	PCT SPENT
01 SALARIES AND WAGES	\$6,785,059.00	\$5,747,745.32	\$0.00	\$1,037,313.68	84.71%
02 TECHNICAL AND SPECIAL FEES	\$489,432.00	\$259,260.07	\$0.00	\$230,171.93	52.97%
03 COMMUNICATIONS	\$152,869.00	\$125,280.02	\$6,201.34	\$21,387.64	86.01%
04 TRAVEL	\$80,229.00	\$48,187.72	\$0.00	\$32,041.28	60.06%
06 FUEL AND UTILITIES	\$55,283.00	\$41,706.31	\$0.00	\$13,576.69	75.44%
07 MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATIONS AND MAIN	\$363,983.00	\$332,405.44	\$3,228.72	\$28,348.84	92.21%
08 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$920,611.00	\$457,249.24	\$325,160.76	\$138,201.00	84.99%
09 SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	\$552,572.00	\$424,363.15	\$1,332.00	\$126,876.85	77.04%
10 EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	\$50,514.00	\$7,809.06	\$5,061.53	\$37,643.41	25.48%
11 EQUIPMENT ADDITIONAL	\$76,850.00	\$10,047.86	\$0.00	\$66,802.14	13.07%
12 GRANT, SUBSIDIES & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$420,703.00	\$147,371.50	\$87,615.50	\$185,716.00	55.86%
13 FIXED CHARGES	\$183,817.00	\$158,338.73	\$0.00	\$25,478.27	86.14%
14 LAND AND STRUCTURES	\$0.00	\$282.11	\$0.00	(\$282.11)	0.00%
OBJECT TOTALS	\$10,131,922.00	\$7,760,046.53	\$428,599.85	\$1,943,275.62	80.82%
0001 GENERAL	\$140,682.00	\$80,047.52	\$0.00	\$60,634.48	56.90%
0003 SPECIAL	\$5,825,516.00	\$5,554,871.49	\$120,301.15	\$150,343.36	97.42%
0005 FEDERAL	\$3,958,224.00	\$2,095,569.96	\$308,298.70	\$1,554,355.34	60.73%
0009 REIMBURSABLE	\$207,500.00	\$27,372.08	\$0.00	\$180,127.92	13.19%
0070 NON-BUDGETED	\$0.00	\$2,185.48	\$0.00	(\$2,185.48)	0.00%
FUNDING TOTALS	\$10,131,922.00	\$7,760,046.53	\$428,599.85	\$1,943,275.62	80.82%

Sources of Funding in FY12



Note: Federal & State Law prescribe specific purposes for Special/Fed. Fund use.

HUNTING STATISTICS BY SEASON	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
RESIDENT REGULAR	77,488	79,102	79,697	81,451	81,069	84,693	84,046
RESIDENT SENIOR	8,518	7,934	7,419	7,019	5,947	5,239	4,273
RESIDENT JUNIOR	8,588	8,599	8,660	9,116	8,981	9,423	9,242
RESIDENT MUZZLELOADER STAMP	59,171	59,204	59,882	60,318	59,603	62,273	60,278
RESIDENT BOW STAMP	53,904	52,908	51,342	51,346	49,081	50,652	49,094
RES BONUS ANTLERED DEER STAMP	9,811	9,859	9,554	9,768	9,349	8,907	8,155
NON RESIDENT REGULAR	14,784	15,211	14,917	14,897	14,890	14,657	13,774
NON RESIDENT JUNIOR	722	740	645	681	669	667	553
NON RESIDENT 3-DAY	7,685	7,439	7,250	7,186	7,409	6,944	6,880
NON RESIDENT MUZZLELOADER STAMP	7,825	7,892	7,855	7,878	7,904	7,870	7,254
NON RESIDENT BOW STAMP	7,923	8,033	7,532	7,430	7,319	7,117	6,432
NON RES BONUS ANTLERED DEER STAMP	1,523	1,494	1,346	1,311	1,184	1,171	1,001
MIGRATORY GAME BIRD/HIP PERMIT	50,496	50,733	50,808	51,774	51,987	52,202	51,202
RETRIEVER TRAINING (RES + NON RES)	470	468	486	498	464	437	290
REGULATED SHOOTING AREA	760	970	866	1,014	1,030	1,296	1,305
MYRTLE GROVE SHOOTING RANGE PERMIT	2,317	3,278	2,875	2,841	2,069	2,016	1,864
DNR MANAGED HUNT PERMIT	3,501	3,553	3,518	3,628	3,392	3,307	n/a
FURBEARER PERMIT - GROUP	117	121	82	84	92	95	n/a
FURBEARER PERMIT - INDIVIDUAL	10,787	10,454	9,981	10,494	11,366	21,750	n/a
NON-RESIDENT TRAPPING PERMIT	50	34	40	46	38	48	1,864
FEDERAL DUCK STAMPS	28,539	28,512	26,295	21,969	10,099	n/a	n/a
SNOW GOOSE CONSERVATION HUNT PERMIT	2,257	2,156	1,466	114	n/a	n/a	n/a
ELK NECK SHOOTING RANGE PERMIT + SR	427	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Updated: 2/28/12 (2011&2012) Source: COIN Sys

Report: Transaction Statistics - Season

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Licensing & Registration Service



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MARYLAND FIELD OFFICE
50 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY SUITE 202
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 April 30, 2012

Contact: Barbara Rater
 (410) 841-5740

Maryland Farmers Estimate \$10.0 Million in 2011 Wildlife Related Crop Losses

The Maryland Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service recently reported that Maryland farmers lost an estimated \$10.0 million in potential crop production income due to wildlife damage in 2011. The survey results were collected and tabulated from the agency's acreage and production survey, with nearly 400 reports tabulated. Damage statewide was attributed to the following wildlife species with the corresponding estimated percent loss due to each species: deer, 77 percent; groundhogs, 10 percent; migrant geese, 6 percent; and resident geese, 5 percent.

Estimated economic loss was greatest in North Central Maryland, with crop losses reported at \$4.3 million, 43 percent of the state's total estimated losses. Most of these losses were due to deer damage (77 percent) followed by groundhogs. Regional losses in order of magnitude were as follows: Southern Maryland, \$3.4 million; Northern Eastern Shore, \$1.2 million; Southern Eastern Shore, \$0.90 million; and Western Maryland, \$0.20 million. Crop farmers across Maryland spent an estimated \$0.410 million in 2011 on preventative measures such as fences, frightening devices, and repellents, with North Central Maryland growers spending the most, at \$0.175 million.

Region	Estimated Economic Loss	Percent of Loss by Species						Amount Spent on Preventative Measures
		Deer	Resident Geese	Migrant Geese	Bear	Ground-hogs	Other Species ^{2/}	
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Percent</i>						<i>dollars</i>
Western (Allegany, Garrett)	200,000	70	4	1	14	7	4	10,000
North Central (Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Washington)	4,300,000	80	5	1	1/	13	1/	175,000
Southern (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's)	3,400,000	80	3	5	1/	11	1/	50,000
Northern Eastern Shore (Cecil, Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot)	1,200,000	65	10	19	1/	5	1/	125,000
Southern Eastern Shore (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester)	900,000	80	7	4	1/	5	3	50,000
Maryland	10,000,000	77	5	6	1/	10	1/	410,000

^{1/} Data not published due to insufficient number of reports.

^{2/} Other Species include fox, beaver, muskrat, squirrel, vole, black bird, other birds, raccoon, and coyote. Data do not include potential crop losses due to stink bugs or other insects.