

The programs that remain with the Department of Natural Resources, Water Resources Administration, are the nucleus of the State's water resources management and development programs. These programs include Watershed Permits (the management of activities in fresh water streams and floodplains), Wetland Permits (the management of activities in Maryland's State and private tidal wetlands), Surface and Groundwater Appropriations (the management of water resource uses), the Water Supply Program (the management of the availability of water resources), Sediment Control Programs (assisting local jurisdictions in managing programs to prevent water pollution from erosion), the Surface Mine Reclamation Program (the management and reclamation of areas affected by and the proper operation of surface mining activities of minerals other than coal), Oil Control Program (a program to prevent and to respond to oil spills), the Flood Management Program (management programs to address stormwater runoff in watersheds and prevent manmade flooding problems), and Dam Safety (management of the inventorying and maintenance of dams and other impoundments of the State).

Program activities have been divided into three program elements: Resource Management (Water Supply, Wetlands, Surface Mining); Watershed Management (Erosion and Sediment Control, Watershed Permits, Watershed Planning, and Dam Safety); and the Resource Protection Program.

The Resource Protection Program includes the enforcement of permits, licenses, and certificates issued by Water Resources and the Oil Pollution Control Program. The Water Resources Administration operates a twenty-four hour a day oil and hazardous spill emergency number. For assistance weekdays call (301) 269-3551; weekends, evenings, and holidays call (301) 269-3181.

WILDLIFE ADMINISTRATION

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The Wildlife Administration, created by Chapter 348, Acts of 1972, is responsible for the maintenance, management, and protection of freshwater fish, marine mammals, birds, land based reptiles and amphibians, and mammals. This includes game species, non-game species, and threatened and endangered wildlife.

In the course of discharging its assigned duties the Administration engages in field surveys and research projects to evaluate public demands on the wildlife resources, fish and wildlife populations, harvesting parameters, and relevant environmental factors.

The Administration applies modern professional wildlife management techniques to both control and assure continuing wildlife production while affording a maximum of public recreational opportunities compatible with the welfare of those resources.

Among the Administration's projects and programs is the development and management of 35 state-owned Wildlife Management Areas (Public Hunting Areas) encompassing a total of 78,612 acres located throughout the State.

In addition the Administration also manages, administers, and controls recreational use of cooperative wildlife areas and some State park areas for a grand total of some 250,000 acres, plus the Albert M. Powell Coldwater Fish Hatchery, the Manning Warmwater Fish Hatchery, and rearing stations.

Management activities include the construction of ponds (primarily waterfowl habitat), planting food and cover vegetation, construction of dikes to control water levels where needed, and the stocking of hatchery-reared trout and other species of gamefish in compatible State waters.