

# Cavalier Wildlife Management Area: Connecting Nature and People



# Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

## Mission

**Conserve** and manage wildlife populations and habitat for the benefit of present and future generations.

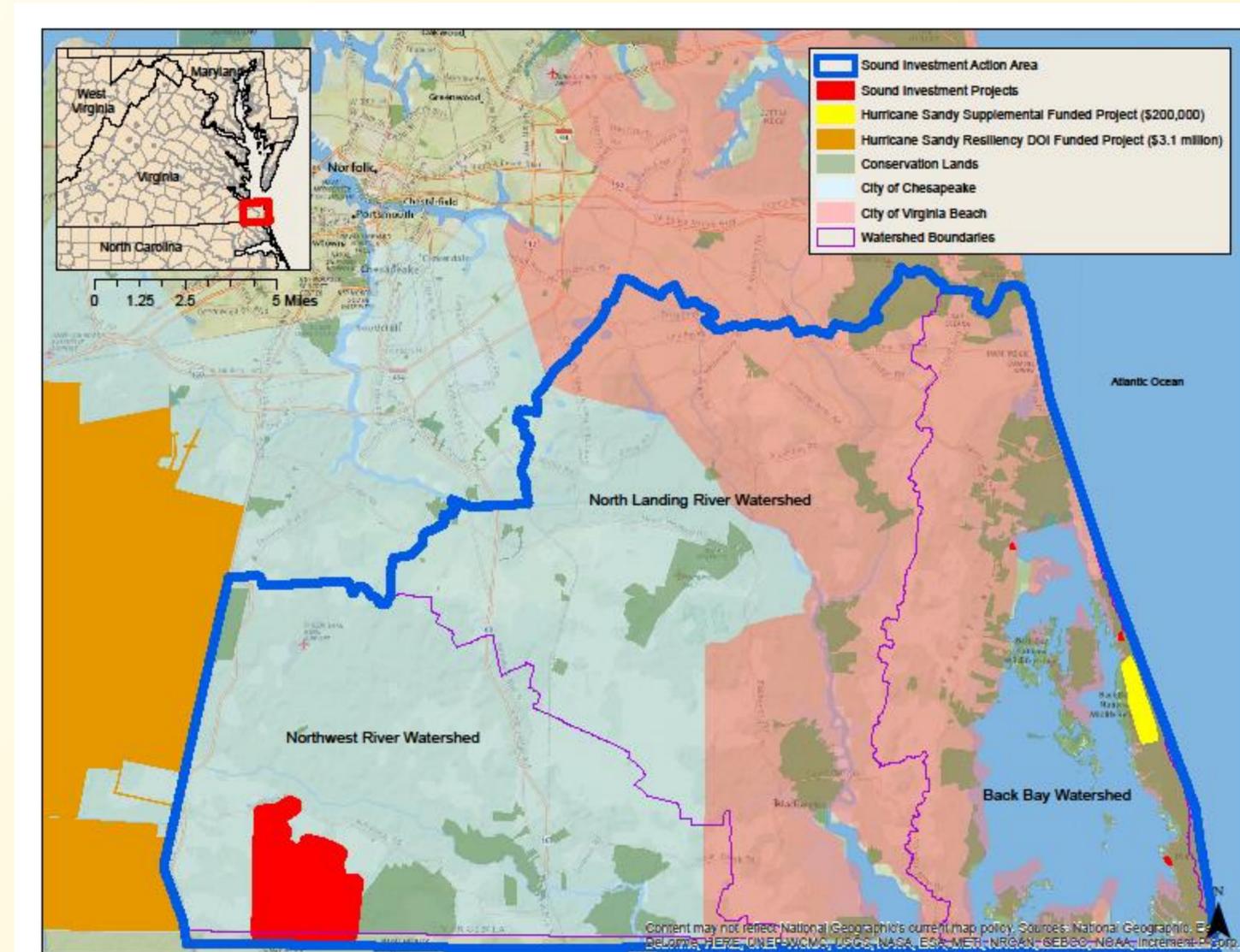
**Connect** people to Virginia's outdoors through boating, education, fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and other wildlife-related activities.

**Protect** people and property by promoting safe outdoor experiences and managing human-wildlife conflicts.



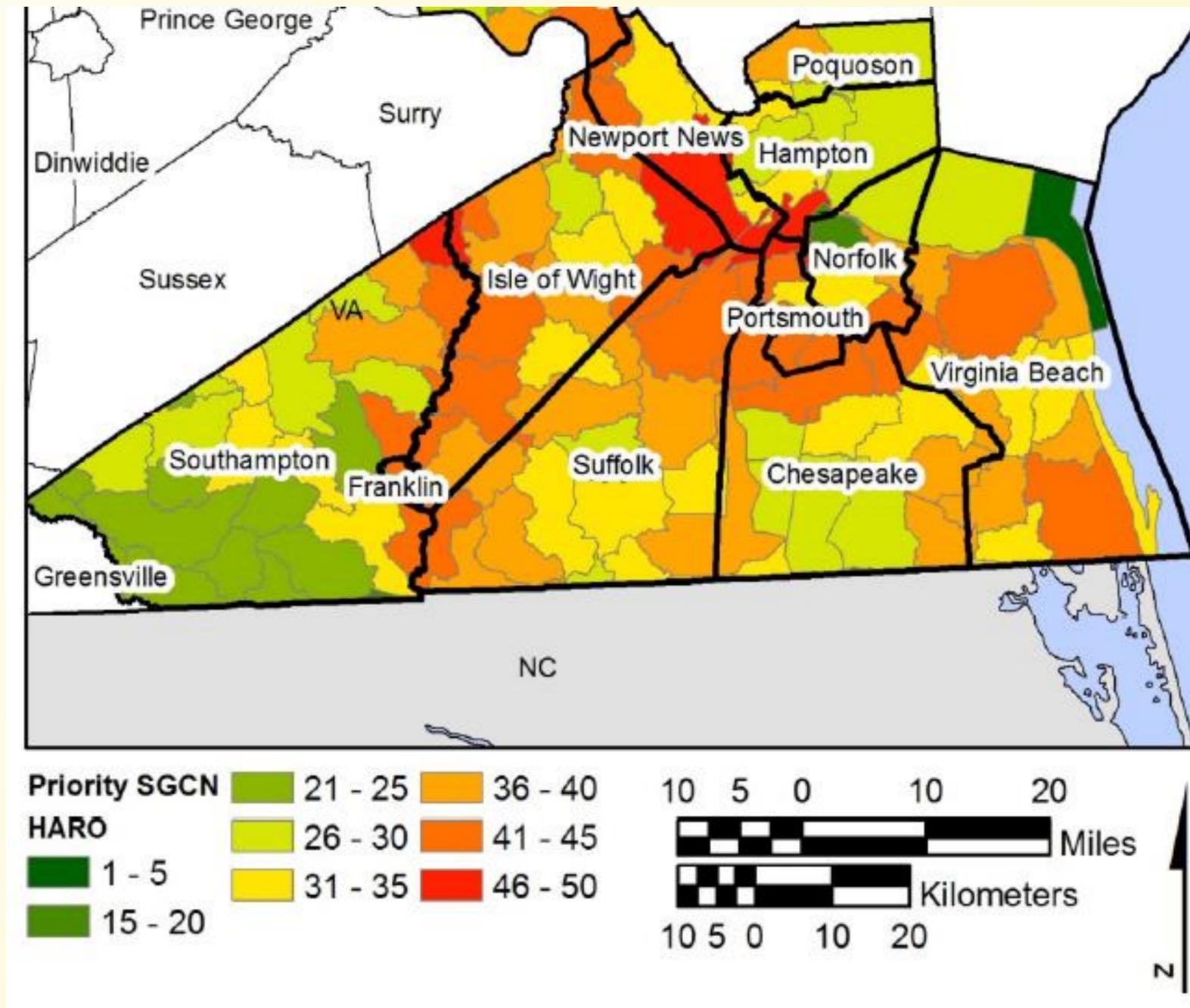
# Cavalier Wildlife Management Area

- Purchased in 2005 for wetlands habitat management, wetlands restoration, plant community restoration, recreational access
- Main tract 3,800 acres; Dismal Swamp tract 750 acres
- Once part of Great Dismal Swamp
- Drained and ditched > 200 years ago
- Archaeological site 9,000+ years old
- Goals:
  - Develop and enhance forested wetlands, early-successional & Atlantic white cedar ecosystems
  - Develop and provide optimal canebrake rattlesnake habitat



# Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan: 883 species at risk
- Important habitats, threats, conservation actions
- 50 SCGN in the watershed; 36 "priority"
- Priority conservation actions:
  - Maintain and restore wetlands
  - Maintain and restore forest habitat
  - Maintain and restore open habitat

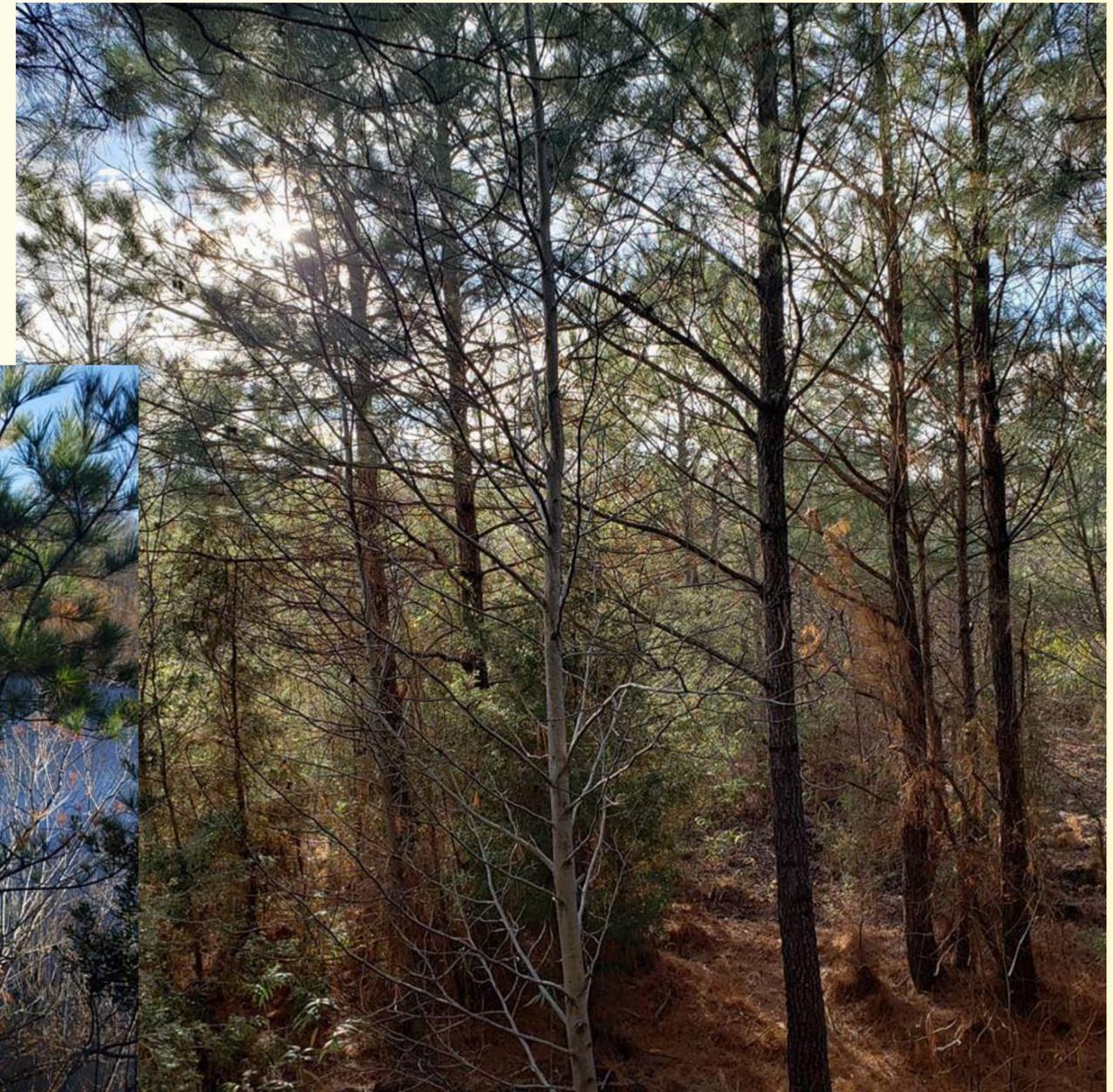
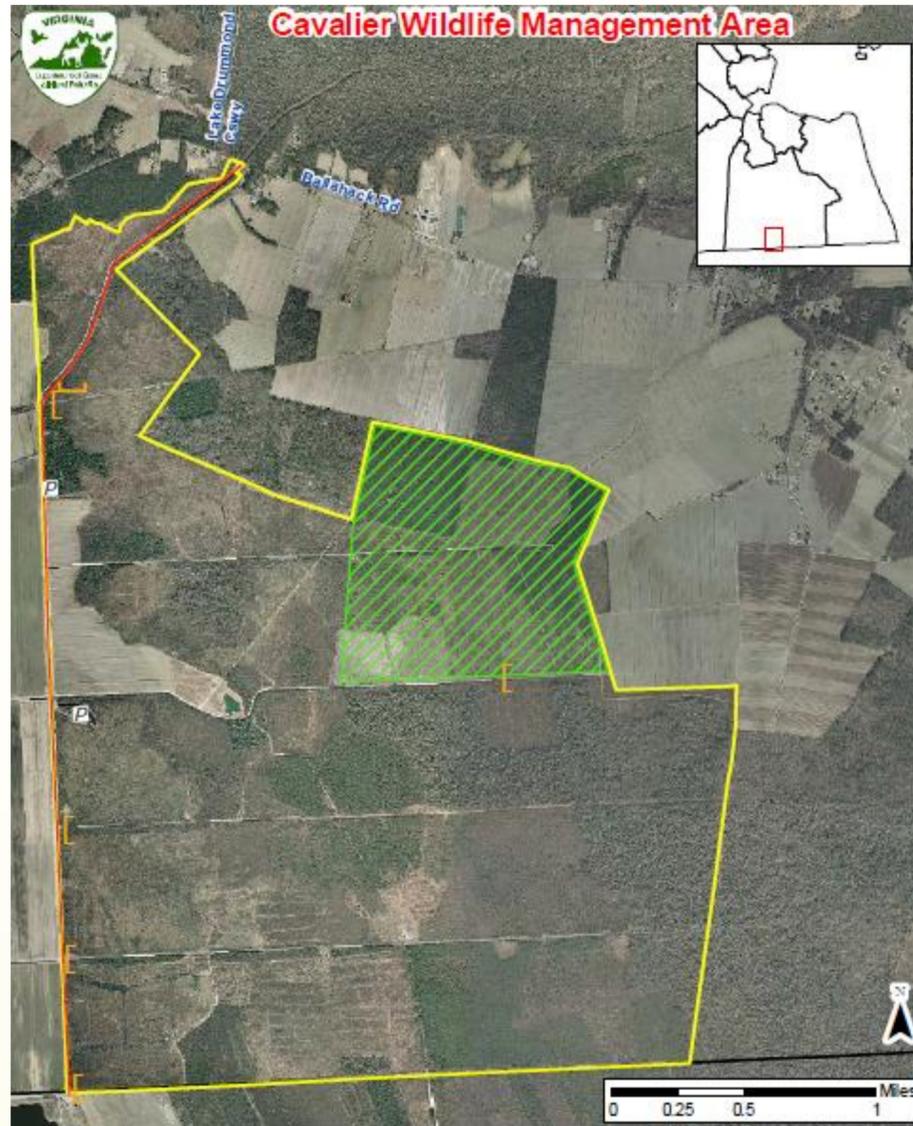


# Canebrake Rattlesnake

- State endangered species; protected under Virginia law
- Approximately 80% of historic habitat lost
- Threats: development, small population size, persecution
- Conservation Plan 2012
- Cavalier WMA anchors one of 5 core areas of conservation opportunity to keep the canebrake from being extirpated in southeast Virginia



# Habitat Management & Restoration



# Cavalier Hydrologic Restoration Project

Restoration of hydrology and reforestation of 3,783 acres of severely drained and degraded forest habitat



# Wildlife Watching

Ecotourism & Wildlife Viewing Recreation

Wildlife Interpretation Through Various Mediums

Citizen Science



Richmond Falcon Cam

IMPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES  
CONSERVATION, CONNECT, PROTECT

HUNTING FISHING BOATING VIEWING WILDLIFE INFO CONSERVATION POLICE EDUCATION

FORMS & PERMITS ABOUT

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Notes from the Field

Wildlife Viewing

Connecting Children to Nature via The Virginia Wildlife Grant Program  
AUGUST 08, 2018  
DGIF encourages you to introduce a child to nature to help foster their love for wild animals and wild places. A single encounter can spark a lifelong passion. [READ MORE...](#)

Cost Birding Costless with a Roseate Spoonbill and More at Hog Island WMA  
JULY 27, 2018  
In addition to the ruff and the roseate spoonbill, birds have been turning in some impressive bird checklists for Hog Island WMA, including reports of American osprey, tricolored heron, little blue heron, white ibis, and glossy ibis. [READ MORE...](#)

Rare Bird Attracted By Red Ibis Area  
JULY 27, 2018  
A rare bird was attracted to the Red Ibis Area at Hog Island WMA. [READ MORE...](#)

Wildlife Viewing with the Virginia Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments  
JULY 06, 2018  
A very special thank you to Richmond Ford for supporting the program through the Virginia Wildlife Grant Program. [WATCH...](#)

Represent Virginia Birds in the Global Big Day  
MAY 2, 2018  
May 2nd, 2018 is the Global Big Day, a 24-hour event seeking to document as many bird species as possible across the world. Participation is easy - get outdoors and do some birdwatching! [READ MORE...](#)

Spring Migration Has Begun! Visit the Virginia Birding & Wildlife Trail to View Migratory Birds  
A very special thank you to Richmond Ford for supporting the program through the Virginia Wildlife Grant Program. [WATCH...](#)

Season Three of the 2nd Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas - How You Can Help  
A very special thank you to Richmond Ford for supporting the program through the Virginia Wildlife Grant Program. [WATCH...](#)

Program Continues on Loggerhead Shrike Project  
MARCH 2, 2018  
A very special thank you to Richmond Ford for supporting the program through the Virginia Wildlife Grant Program. [WATCH...](#)

2018  
YEAR OF THE BIRD

IRGINIA IS FOR FROGS



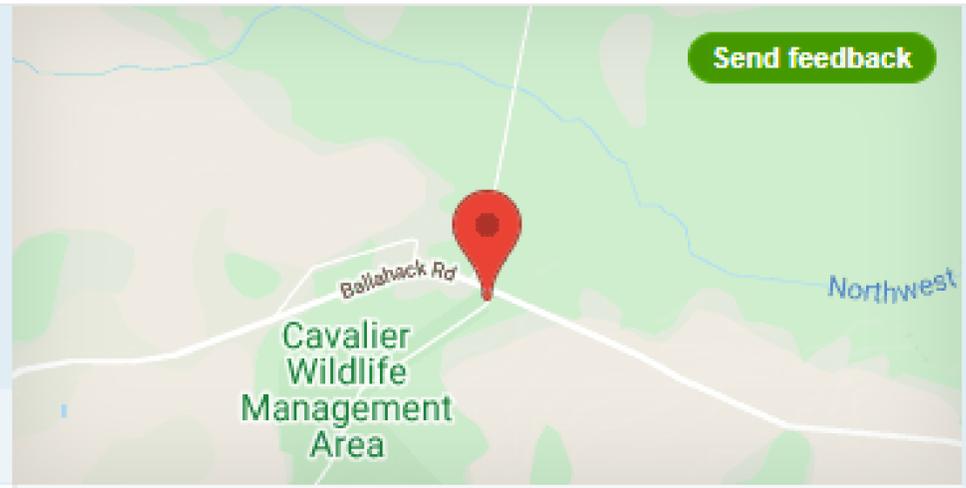
< Hotspot Map

# Cavalier WMA

Chesapeake County, Virginia, US — [Get Directions](#)

All Months ▾ All Years ▾ **Set**

**Submit Data**



**Overview**

Recent Visits

Illustrated Checklist

**120** Species | 65 Checklists

Updated 8 sec ago.

**Last Seen** First Seen High Counts Bar Charts ➔ Printable Checklist ➔

Show All Details

	SPECIES NAME ▾	COUNT ▾	DATE ▾	BY
1	Wood Duck	2	16 Feb 2020	Lisa Rose
2	Mallard	2	16 Feb 2020	Lisa Rose
3	Turkey Vulture	4	16 Feb 2020	Lisa Rose
4	Red-shouldered Hawk	1	16 Feb 2020	Lisa Rose
5	Red-bellied Woodpecker	2	16 Feb 2020	Lisa Rose
6	Downy Woodpecker	3	16 Feb 2020	Lisa Rose
7	Northern Flicker	1	16 Feb 2020	Lisa Rose
8	Eastern Phoebe	4	16 Feb 2020	Lisa Rose



## Recent Visits

Checklists submitted within the last hour are not shown.

OBSERVER	DATE	SPECIES
Lisa Rose	16 Feb 2020	29



# Ecotourism & Wildlife Related Recreation

## Participation Numbers & Economic Benefits

### 2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. 2016.

**Total Wildlife-Related Recreation Participants = 103.7 million**

#### Wildlife Watchers

**Total participants\*\* .... 86.0 million**

(a 20% increase from 2011 – due to increased photography and feeding around the home)

Around the home ..... 81.1 million

Away from home ..... 23.7 million

\*\* 18.8 million wildlife watched both around the home and away from home.

#### Sportspersons

**Total participants\* ..... 39.6 million**

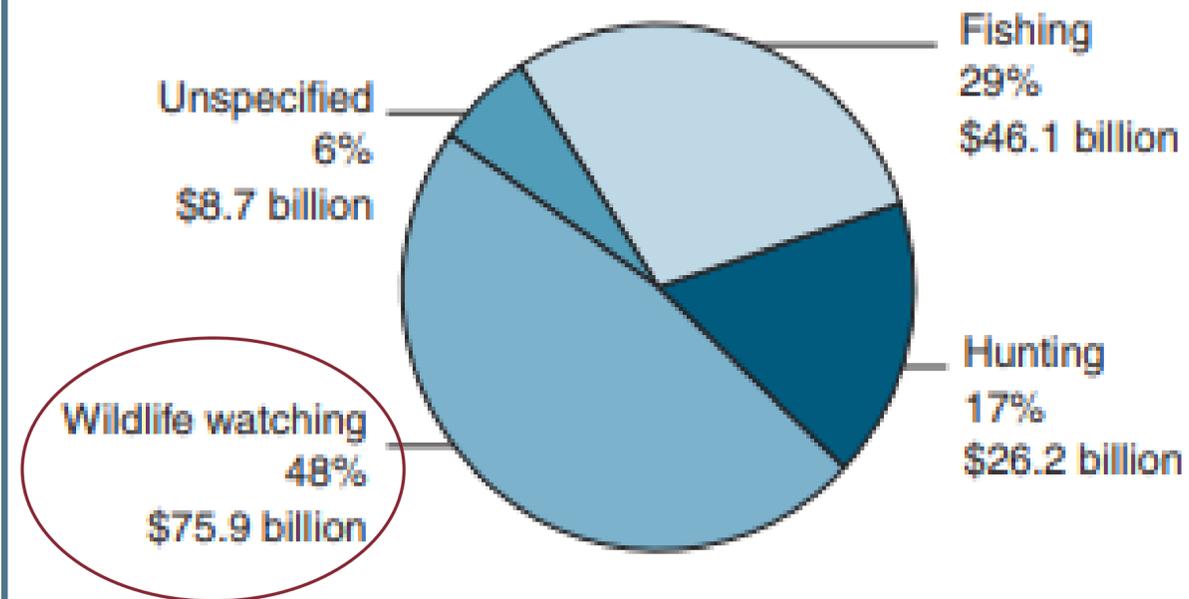
Anglers ..... 35.8 million

Hunters ..... 11.5 million

\*7.7 million both fished and hunted.

#### Expenditures for Wildlife-Related Recreation

(Total expenditures: \$156.9 billion)



**Definition of wildlife watching: a "special interest" in wildlife around the home or taking a trip for the "primary purpose" of wildlife watching.** Secondary wildlife watching, such as incidentally observing wildlife while pleasure driving, is not included.



# Wildlife Viewers in Virginia

## Participation and Expenditures in Virginia by State Residents and Nonresidents – from the National Survey

Year	Number of Participants	Average per spender (dollars)	% of wildlife-watching participants AWAY FROM HOME	Expenditure item	Expenditures (thousands of dollars)	Average per participant (dollars)
2011 (Census)	1.604 M	\$218	64	Wildlife watching equipment	\$349,010	\$126
2016 (Census)	907,000	\$157	40	Wildlife watching equipment	\$142,570	\$63
2016 (Rockville)	3.294 M	\$442	59	Wildlife watching equipment	1,456,285	\$261

### Take-aways, Regardless of Which Survey Used:

- A Significant and Large User Group (907,000 – 3.2 Million)
- More Wildlife Watchers than Hunters and Anglers



# Opportunities for Collaboration

- **Maintaining corridors** that allow for natural movement of wildlife and decreases human-wildlife interactions
- **Increasing set-asides/natural buffers**
- **Evaluating the impacts of wildlife-related and outdoor-related recreation** to illustrate the full value of this important economic driver
- **Evaluating groundwater mining and hydrologic function** to understand the impacts of withdrawals on natural systems
- **Evaluating and identifying important habitats and restoration opportunities**, consistent with the Wildlife Action Plan, Canebrake Conservation Plan and other natural resource plans

