

Cowpasture River: State of the Fishery 2026



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Resources

- North Fork, South Fork, and Main Stem Shenandoah
- Lake Frederick, Laura, Arrowhead, Robertson and Shenandoah
- Cowpasture and Maury River



Outreach and Habitat



Objectives

- Discuss some of the ways we collect data and monitor the Cowpasture River
- Share data related to the status of the game fish population in the Cowpasture River



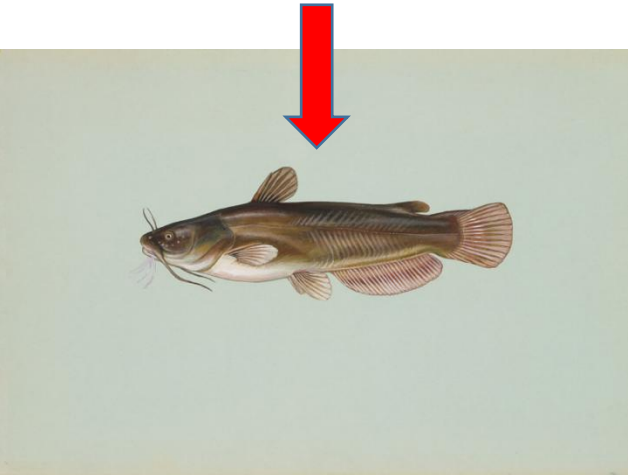
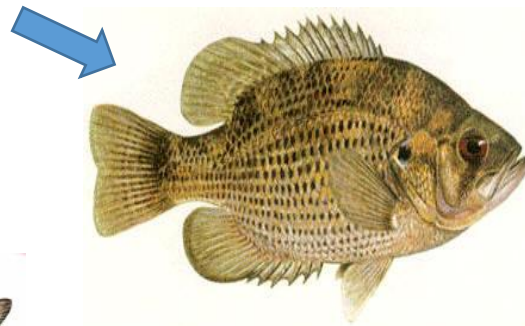
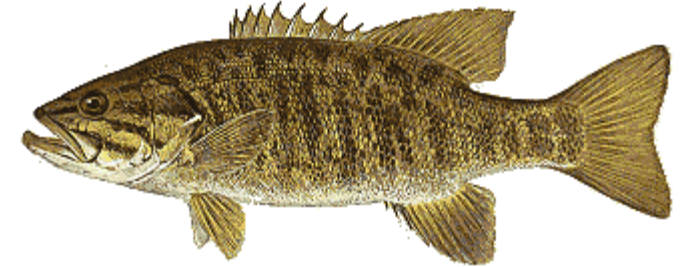
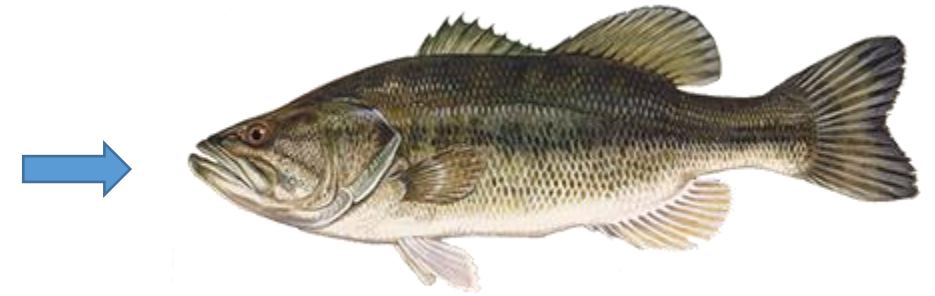
Sampling Techniques

- Fall Boat & Raft Electrofishing (4 Sites)
 - Sycamore Bend
 - Walton Tract
 - Lynchburg Camps
 - Griffith



Sampling

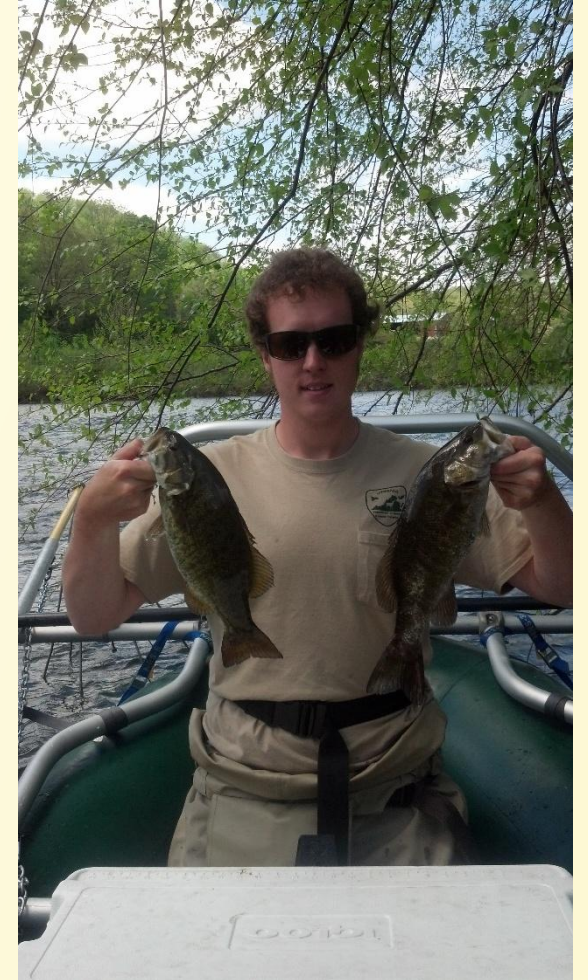
- Conduct 2-3 samples per reach (15 minutes each)
- Collect all fish, but prioritize game fish
- Identify, Measure, and Weigh





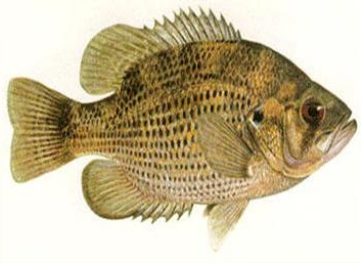


Sampling Results

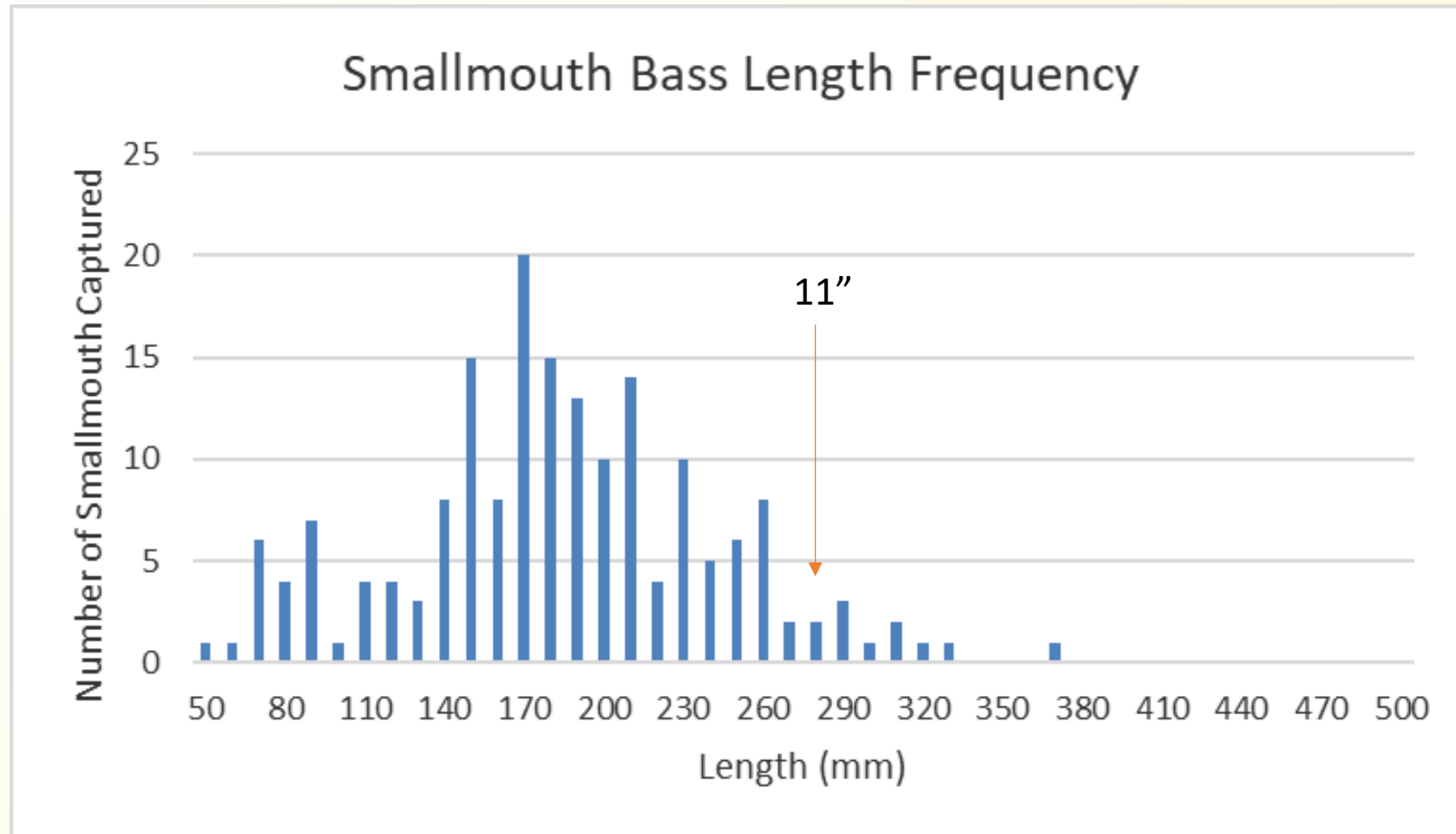


Sampling Results

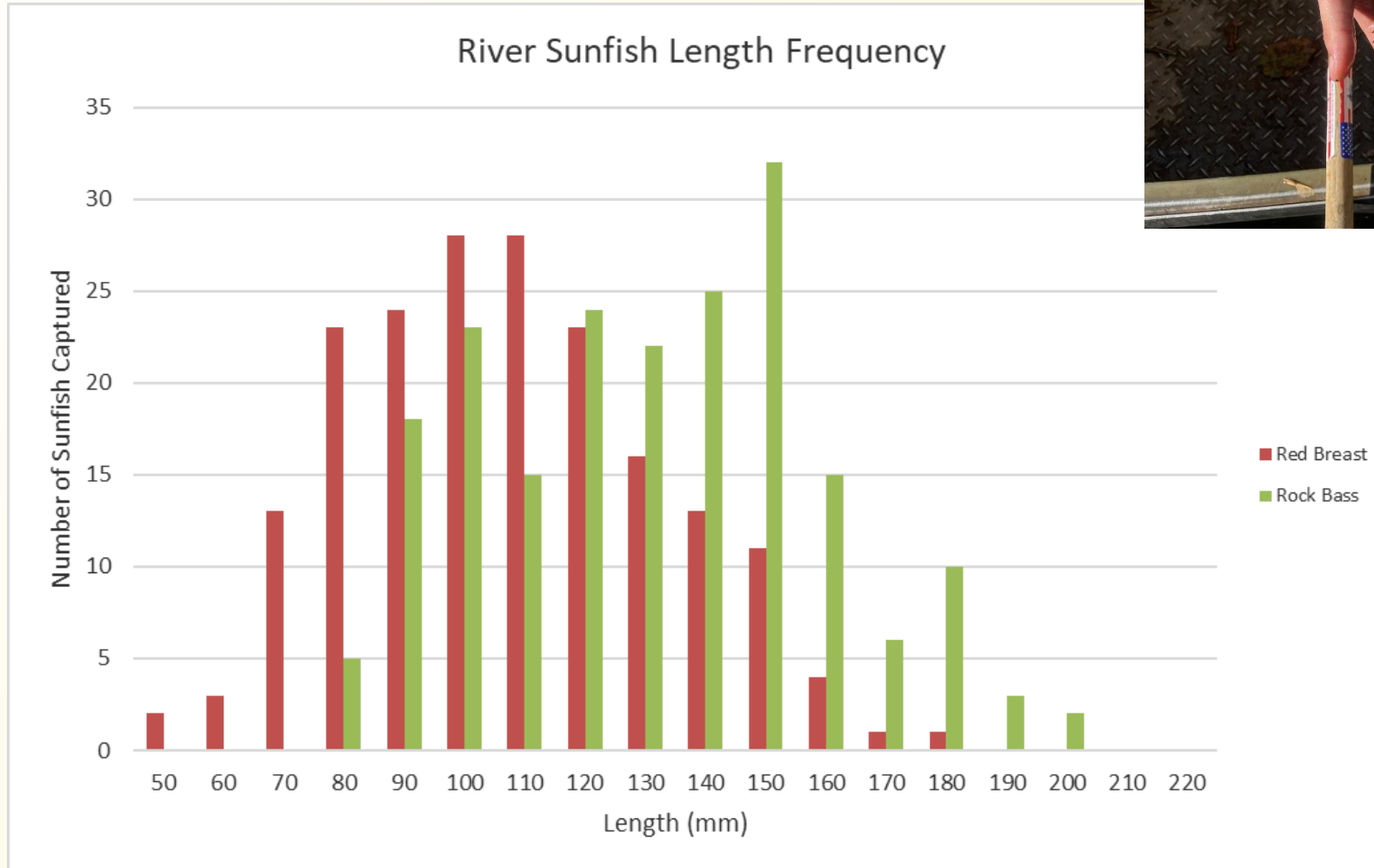
- 22 Species Collected
- Bass, Sunfish, Suckers, Minnows, Catfish, Darters, Trout, Musky



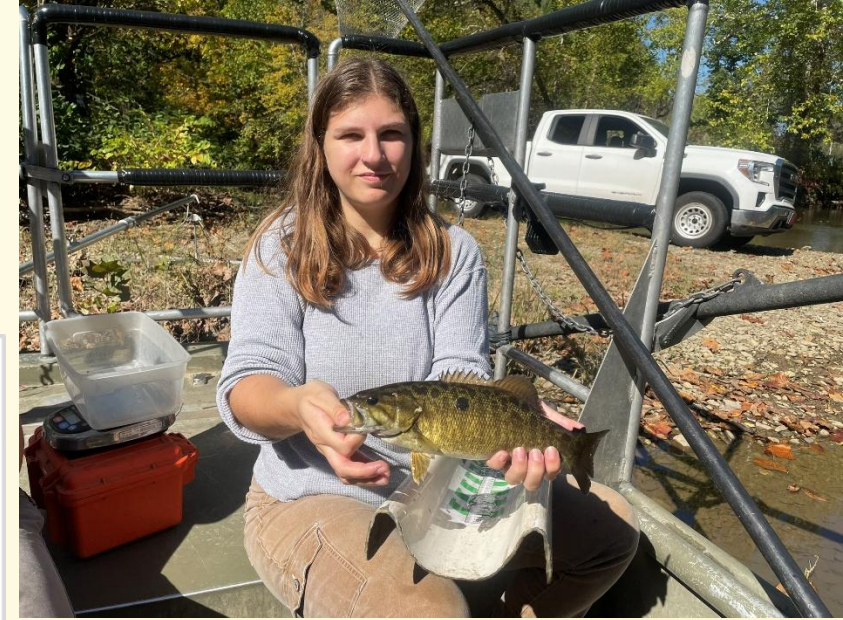
Sampling Results



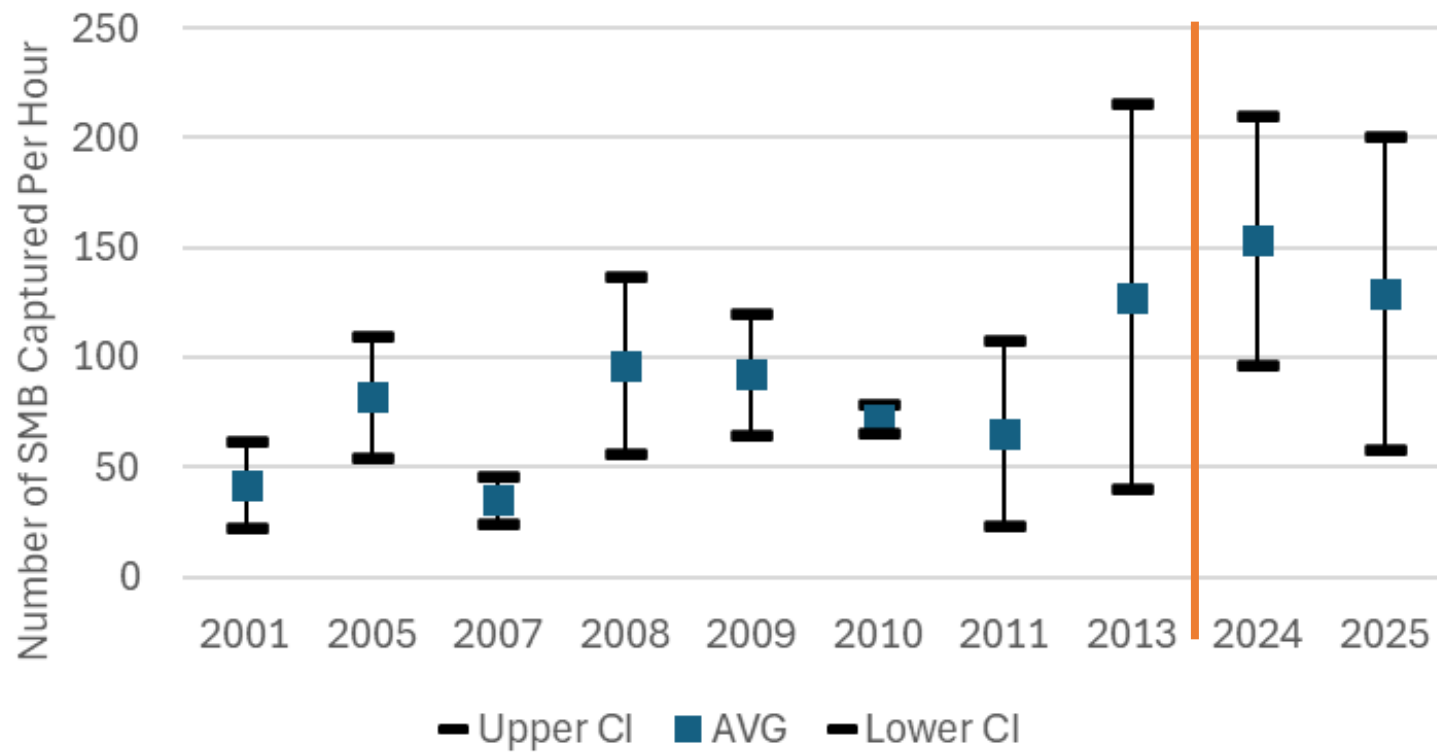
Sampling Results



Historic Trend Data

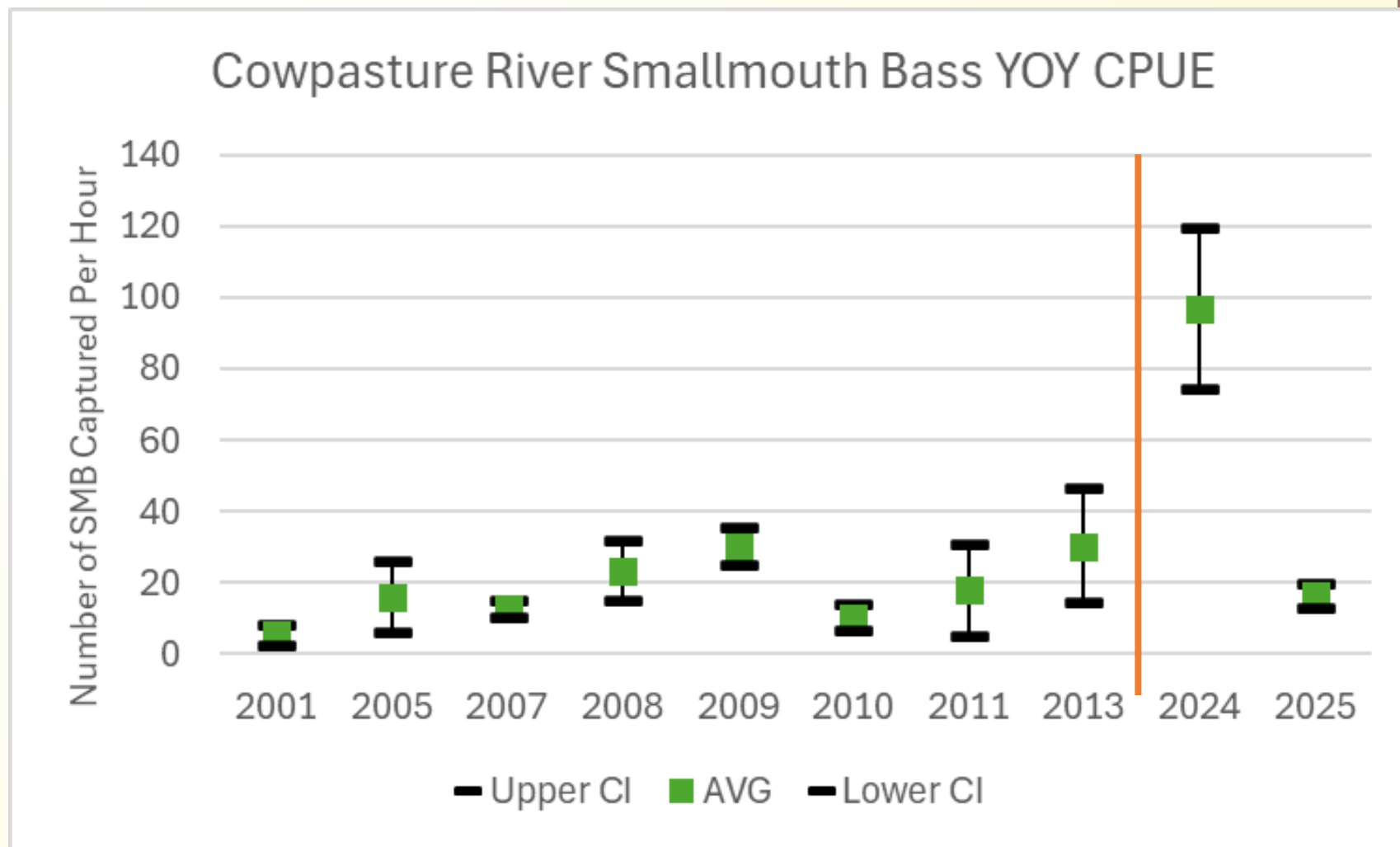


Cowpasture River Smallmouth Bass Total CPUE





Historic Trend Data: SMB Juveniles



Supplemental Stocking



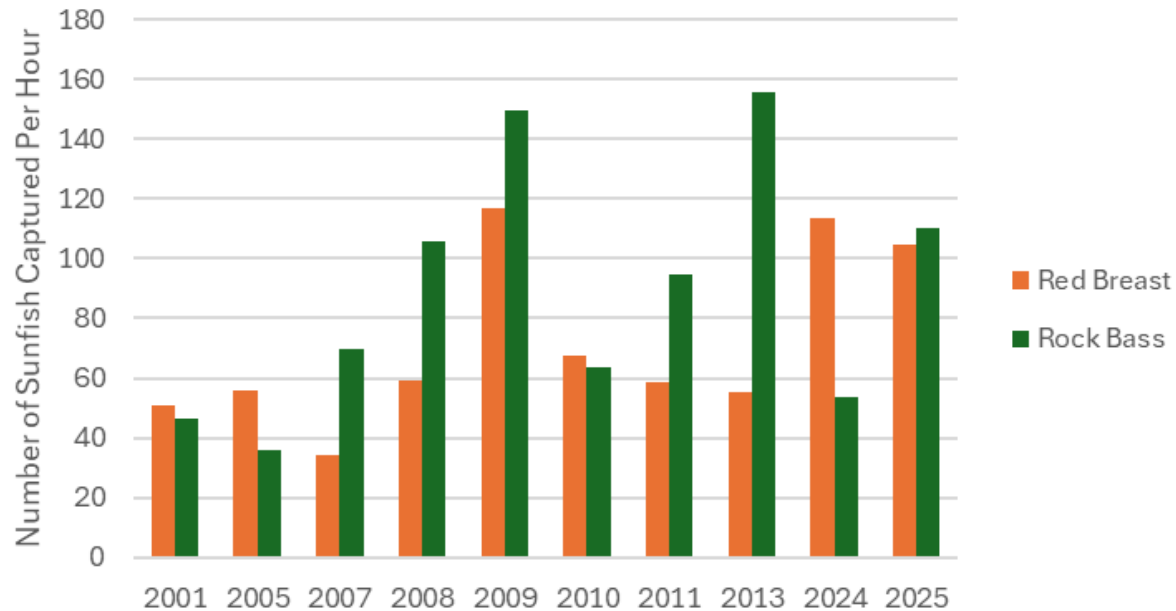
- 21,500 fingerling Smallmouth
 - Evans Tract
 - Sharon Park
 - Griffith
 - Cowpasture River Farm Rd
 - Lynchburg Camps
 - Wallwhatoola Rd
 - Walton Tract



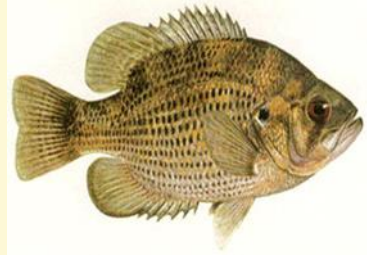
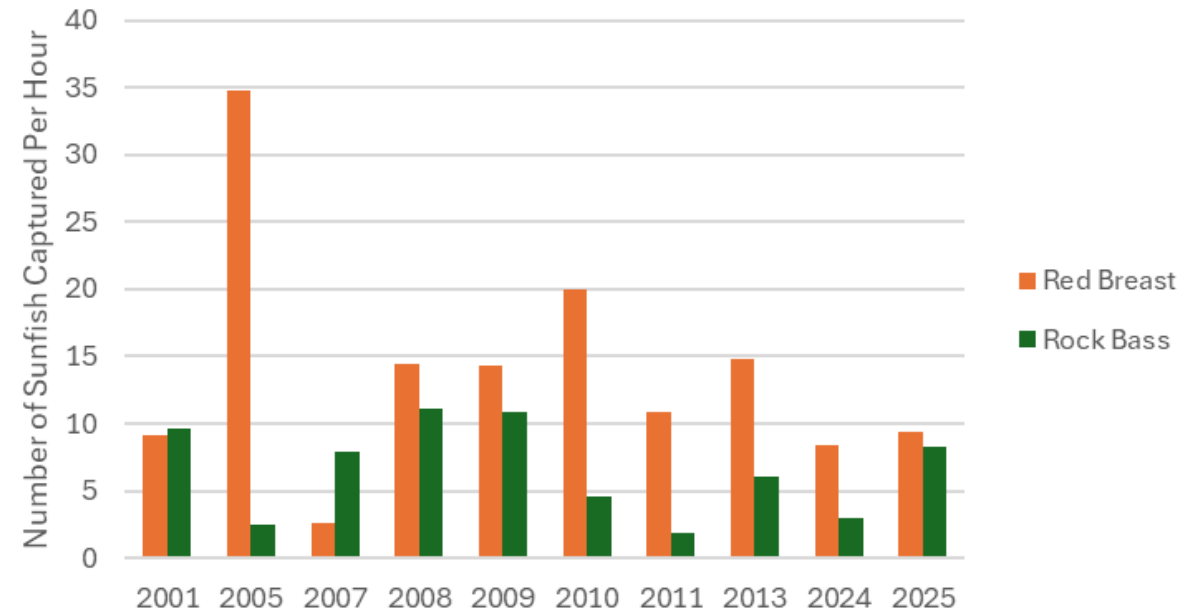
Historic Trend Data: Red Breast Sunfish



Cowpasture River Sunfish Total CPUE



Cowpasture River Sunfish PSDQ (>6") CPUE

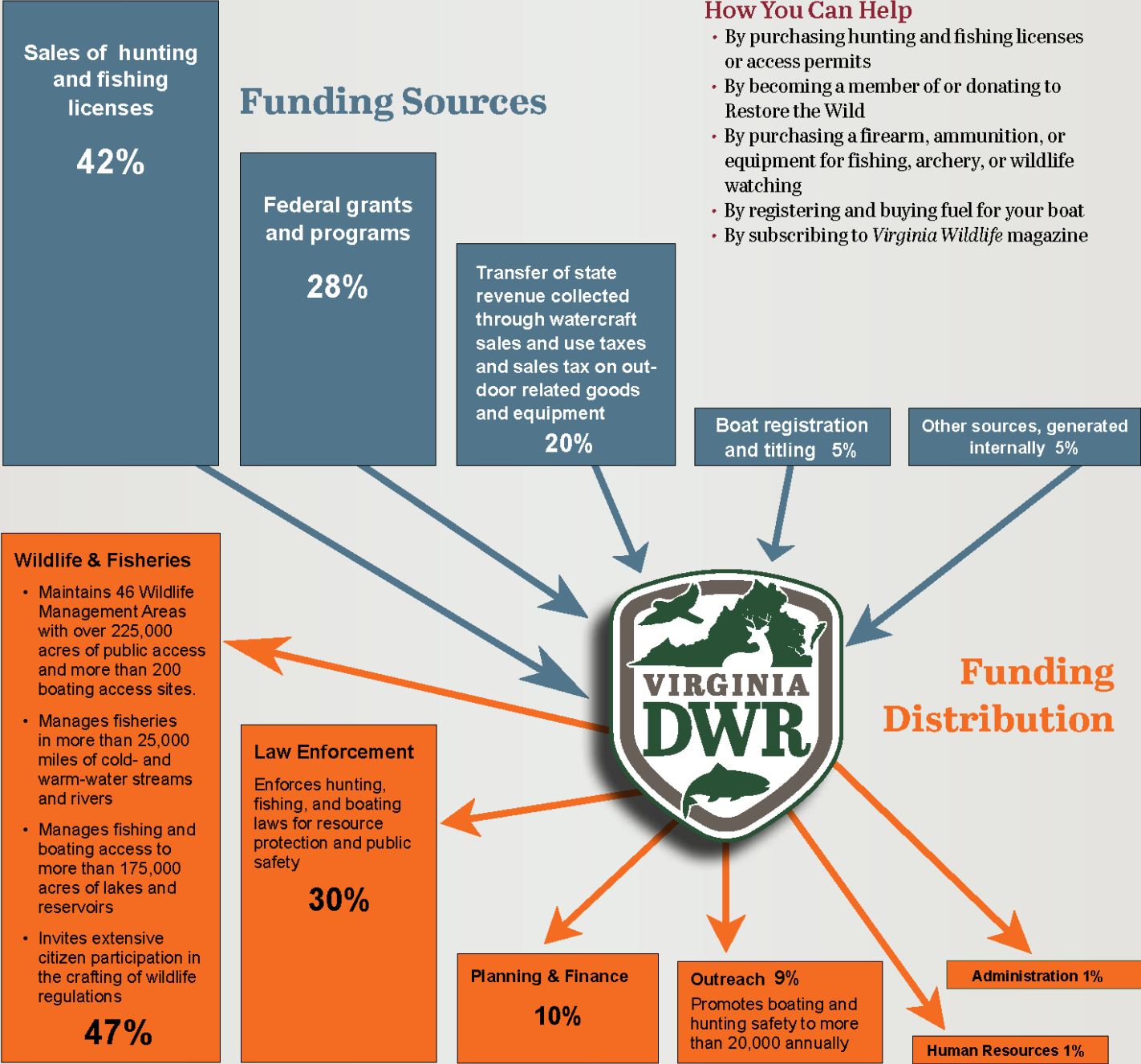


Positive Takeaway

- Partnerships with organizations like CRPA
- Tolerant Landowners
- Many Fishing Opportunities from Cold Water to Warm Water
- Diverse fishery
- Protected Watershed

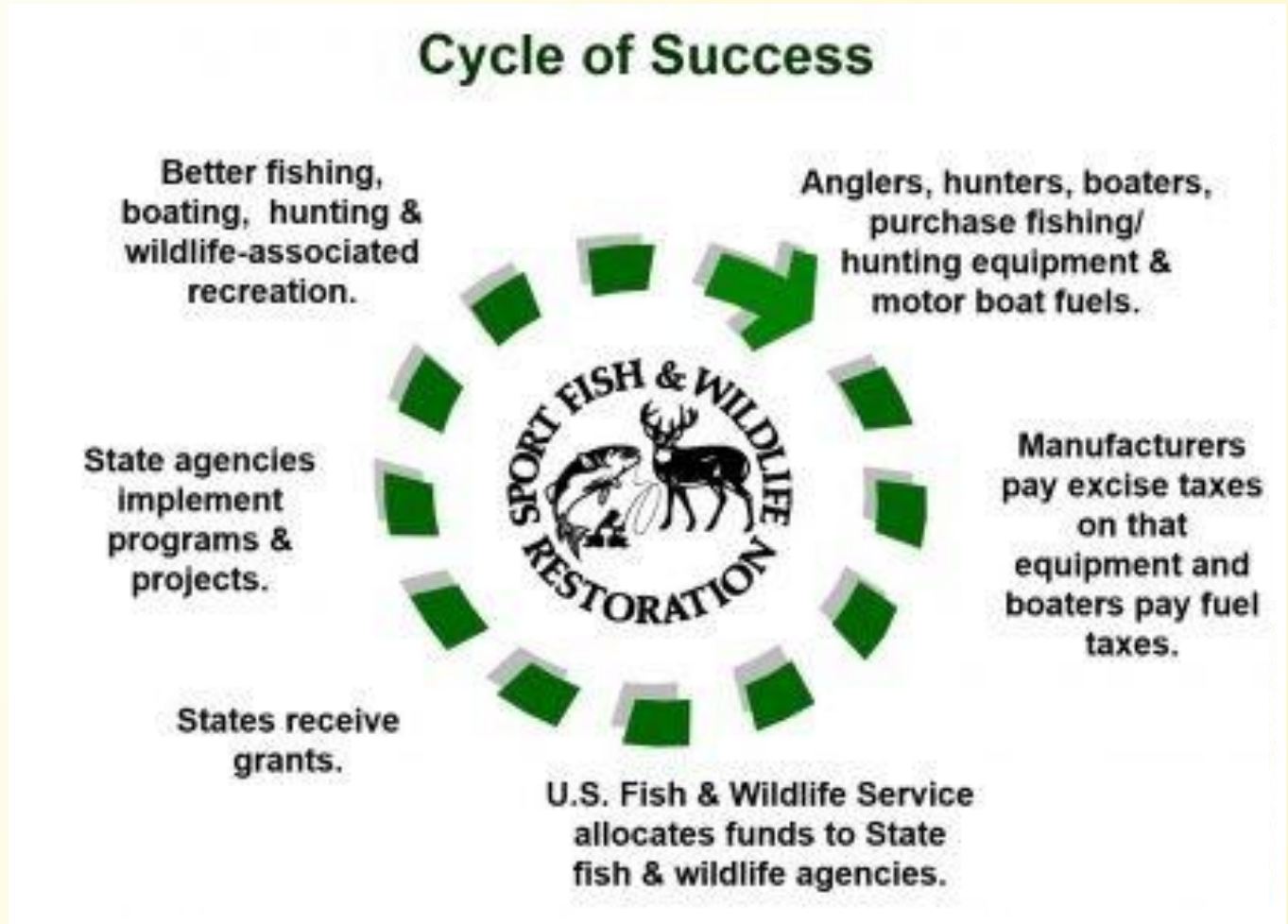


How DWR is Funded...

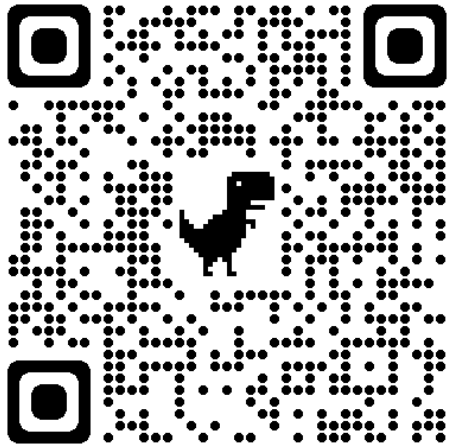


How You Can Support VA DWR

- Purchase a License
- Boat Registration
- Access Pass
- Restore the Wild Membership



Restore the Wild



Join Us and Help Keep Virginia's Wild Places Wild

DWR invites all Virginians to join us in our mission to ensure wildlife has healthy places to live and thrive by becoming a Restore the Wild Member. Your membership will help support projects across the state designed to restore and create wildlife habitat vital for their survival.

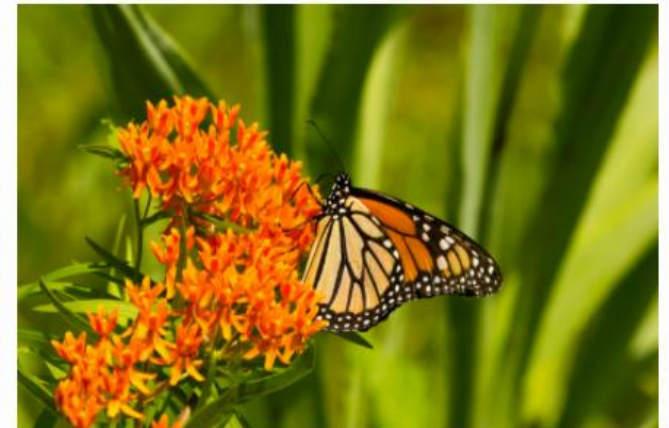
How to Buy a Membership

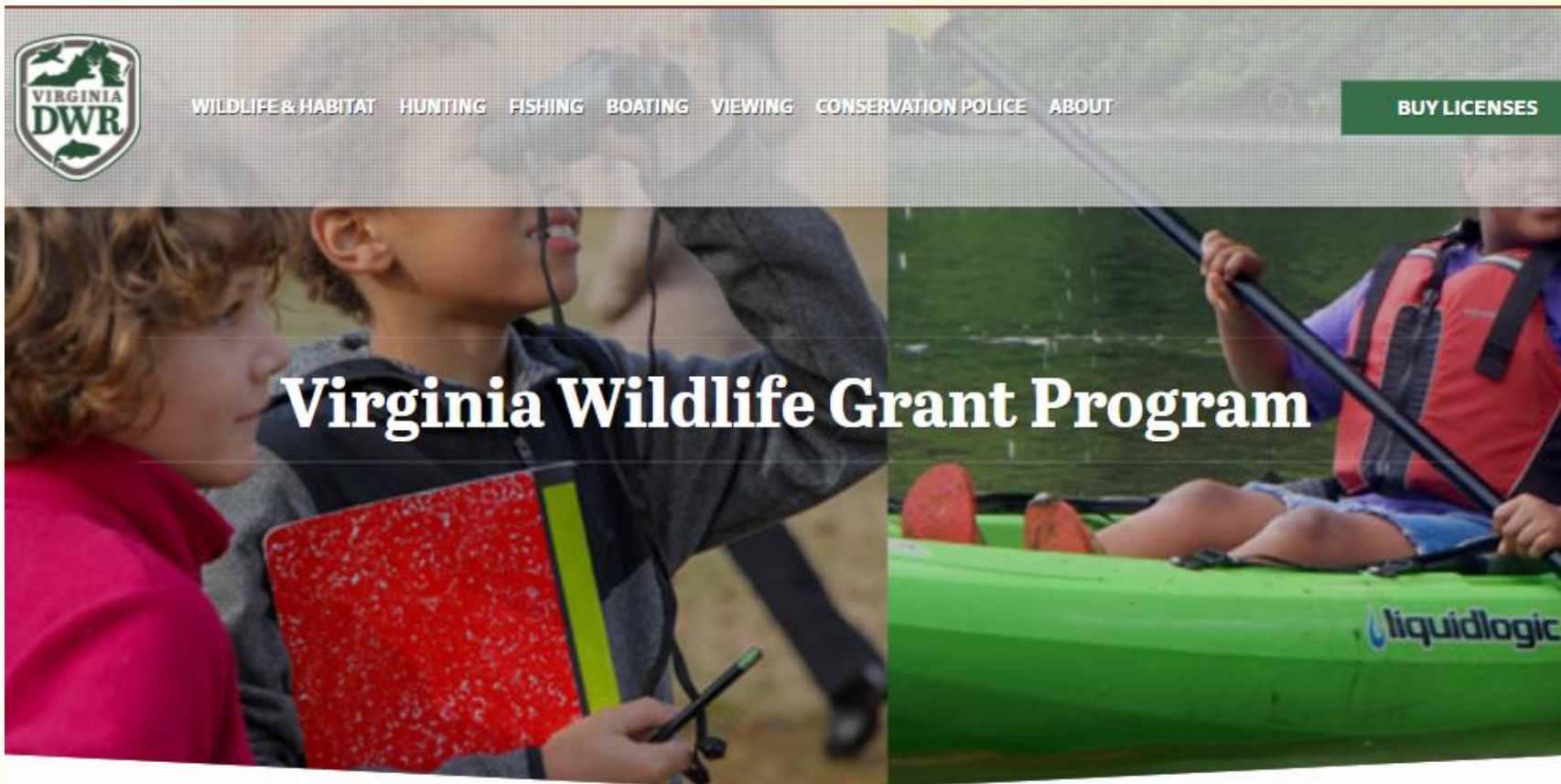
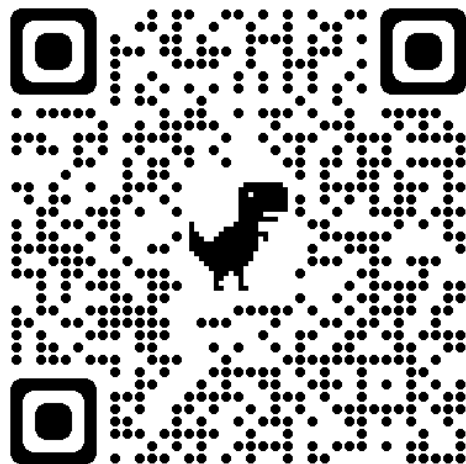
BUY A MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

or call 1-866-721-6911

(Monday–Friday, during business hours)

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is Virginia's lead agency for wildlife protection and conservation. For decades, DWR has conserved wildlife habitat at our numerous Wildlife Management Areas and lakes (we own more land than any other state agency in Virginia) and support restoration work on National Forests and private lands.



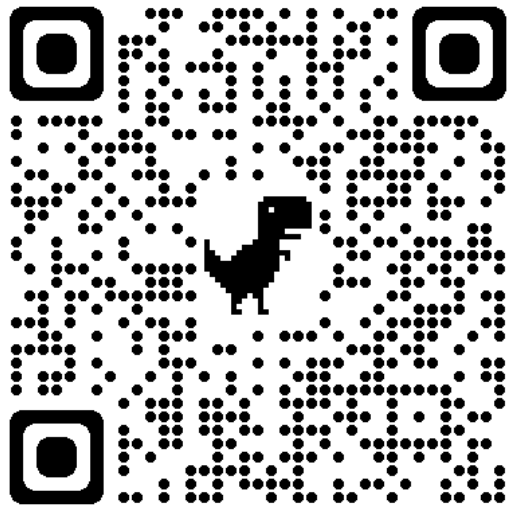


[Home](#) > Virginia Wildlife Grant Program

The Virginia Wildlife Grant Program, launched in 2014, provides a funding source to non-profits, schools, and government agencies with a focus to connect youth to the outdoors and is a partnership effort between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Wildlife Foundation of Virginia. Support of the Grant Program is generated through the sale of gear and other merchandise from [ShopDWR](#), the [One Shot Turkey Hunt Fundraiser](#), and private donations.



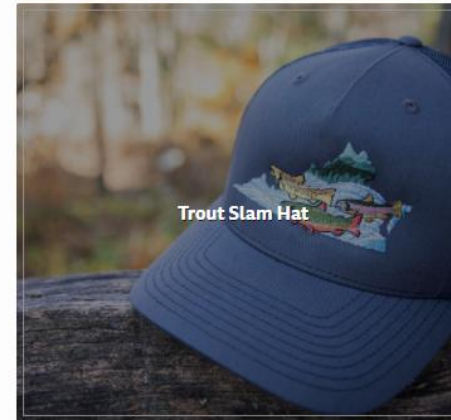
Shop DWR



Custom Cliff Outdoors Fly Boxes



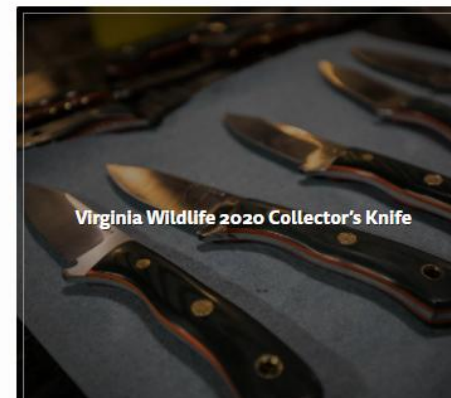
Run for the Wild Running Hat



Trout Slam Hat



Vintage Deer Stamp Hat



Virginia Wildlife 2020 Collector's Knife



Virginia Wildlife Leather Money Clip Wallet



Go Outdoors VA APP



App Store Preview



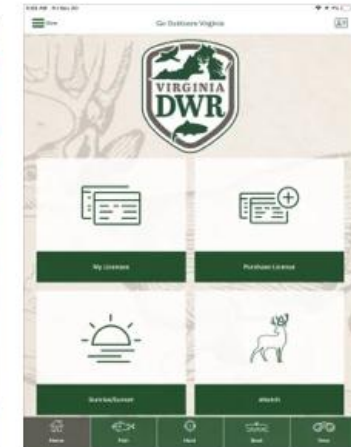
Go Outdoors VA 4+

[Go Outdoors Virginia](#)

Designed for iPad

Free

Screenshots [iPad](#) [iPhone](#)



Do you hunt or fish in Virginia? This application is for you. Made available by the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and GoOutdoorsVirginia.com, this free application contains a variety of useful tools and information including:

- Store your license on your phone and sync recent purchases

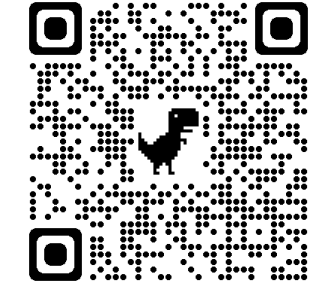
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Restore the Wild!



Questions?

VA Wildlife Grant Program



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