

Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife

REVIEW OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS Wildlife Program Services and Funding

January 2016



*We Bring You Delaware's Great Outdoors
through Science and Service*

Wildlife Program Public Workshops

Sussex County

January 12, 2016

Georgetown – Delaware Tech

124 participants (estimated)



Kent County

January 13, 2016

Dover – Kent County Administrative Bldg.

92 participants



New Castle County

January 14, 2016

New Castle – Ommelanden Shooting Range

71 participants



Wildlife Program Public Workshops

Total Public Attendance: 287

Completed Questionnaires: 216

**Not all questions were answered*

Age Categories Represented:

(Based on Questionnaires)

13-15 years: 4

16-29 years: 11

30-45 years: 38

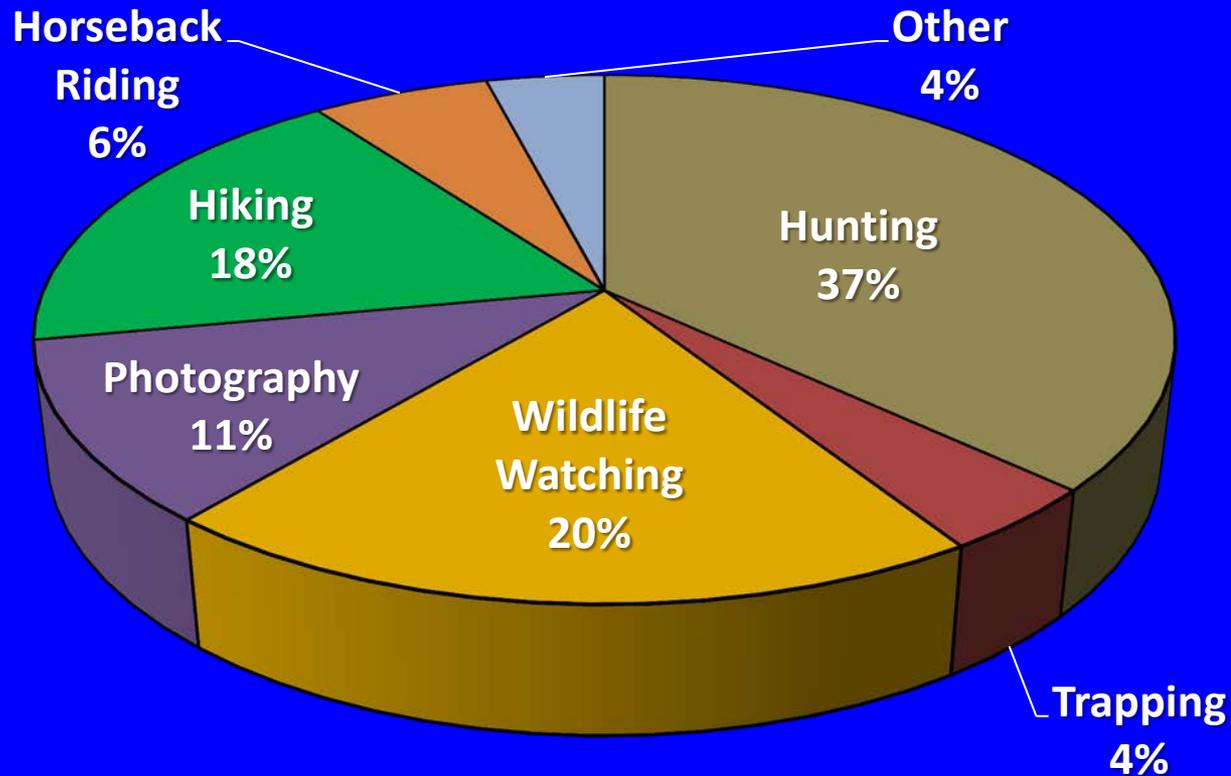
46-64 years: 106

65+ years: 56



Questionnaire Public Responses

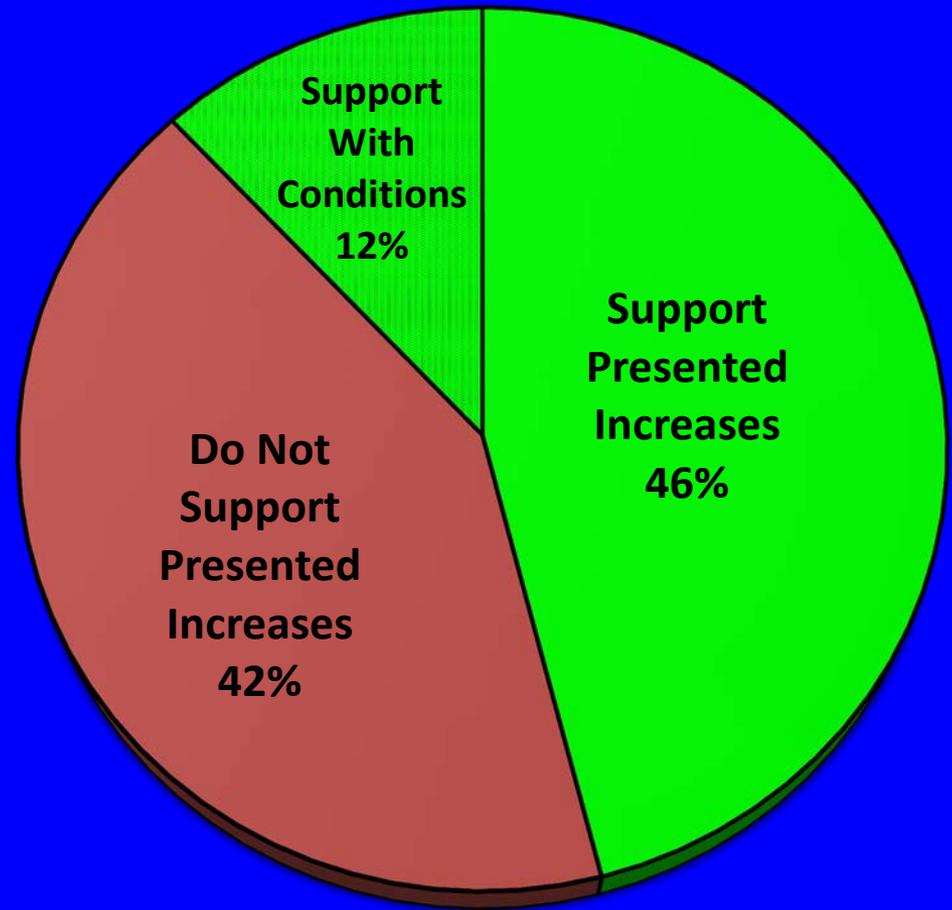
Question 3: Do you participate in any of the following wildlife-associated recreational activities?



Questionnaire Public Responses

Question 4:

Do you support the possible fees presented tonight to fund wildlife conservation and public Wildlife Area management, access, hunting and wildlife watching opportunities?

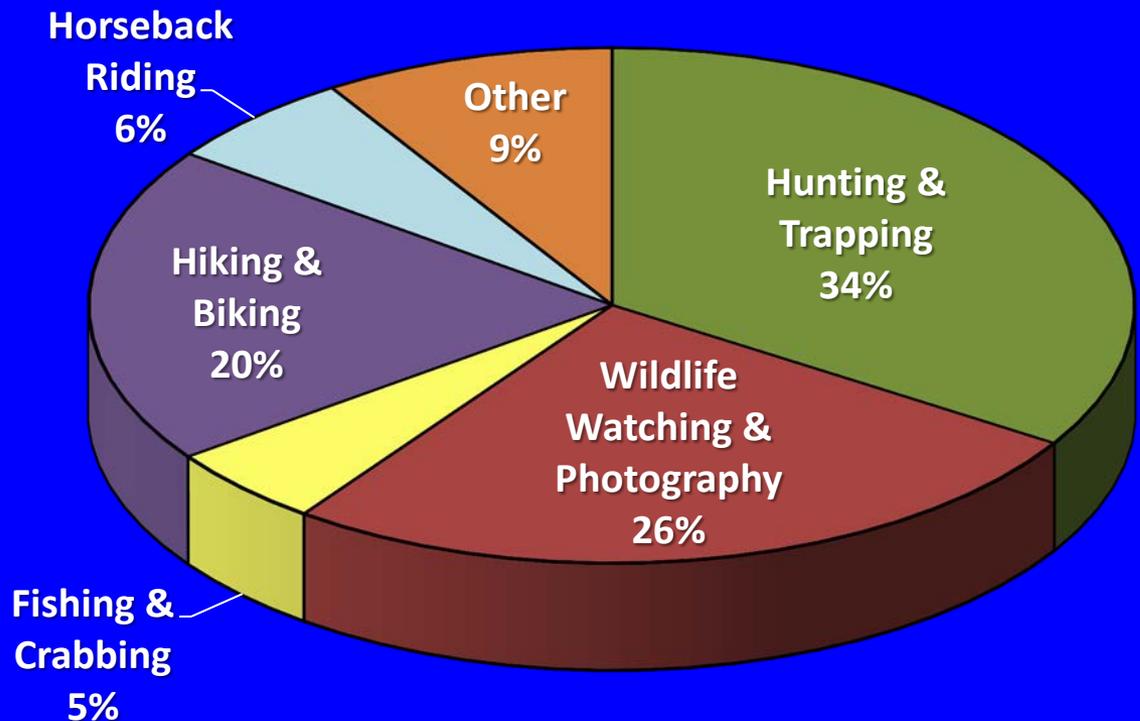


Questionnaire Public Responses

Question 5: The Division of Fish & Wildlife owns and manages 17 public Wildlife Areas totaling 60,078 acres. Do you use or have you used a Wildlife Area? If so, how?

YES
63%

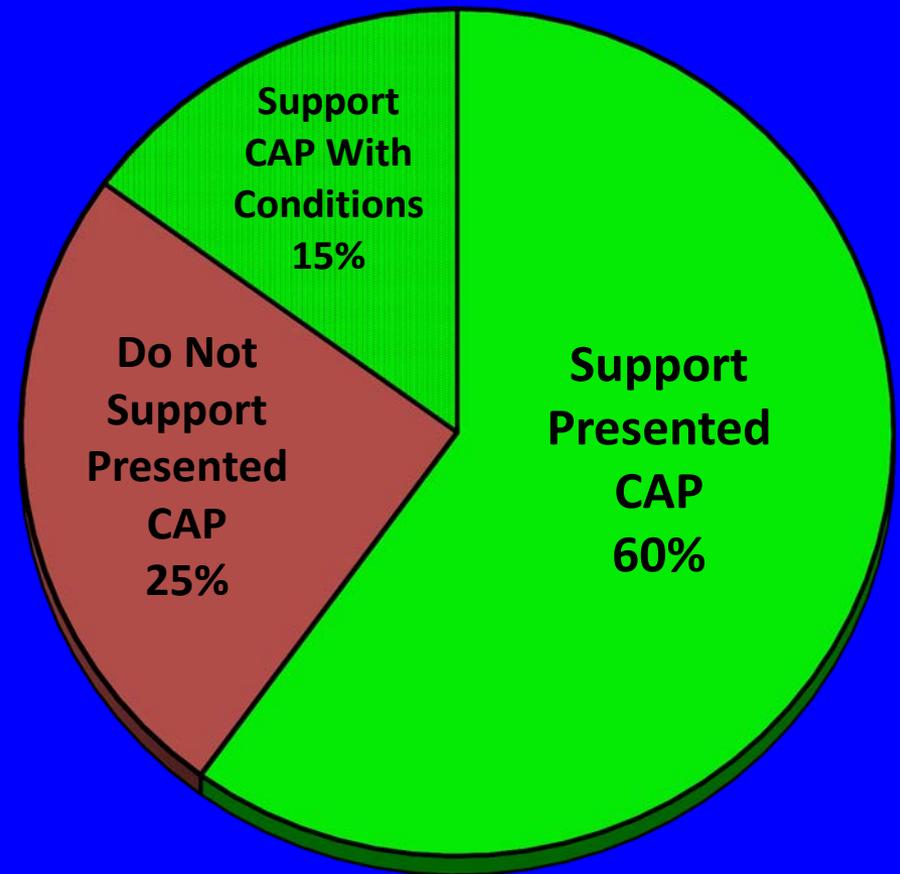
NO
37%



Questionnaire Public Responses

Question 6:

Do you support a \$20.00 resident and \$30.00 non-resident annual Conservation Access Pass (and discounted 3-day passes) to use public Wildlife Areas for hunting, trapping, wildlife watching, horseback riding, hiking, etc. if the fee was used for Wildlife Area management (*such a fee would eliminate the current public Wildlife Area blind/stand fee for hunters*)?



CAP = Conservation Access Pass

Questionnaire Public Responses

Question 7:

Would you support the following options for a potential \$25.00 discounted resident senior citizen hunting license for individuals 65 years of age or older instead of the current license exemption?

Option 1:

Require a discounted license for **all** residents 65 years and older if it would reduce the possible **resident** hunting license from \$39.50 to \$36.50 and the **non-resident** hunting license from \$199.50 to \$189.50?

YES	NO
28%	72%

Option 2:

Require a discounted hunting license for **all** residents 65 years and older if it would reduce the possible **resident** hunting license from \$39.50 to \$35.00 (no reduction in **non-resident** hunting license cost)?

YES	NO
33%	67%

Option 3:

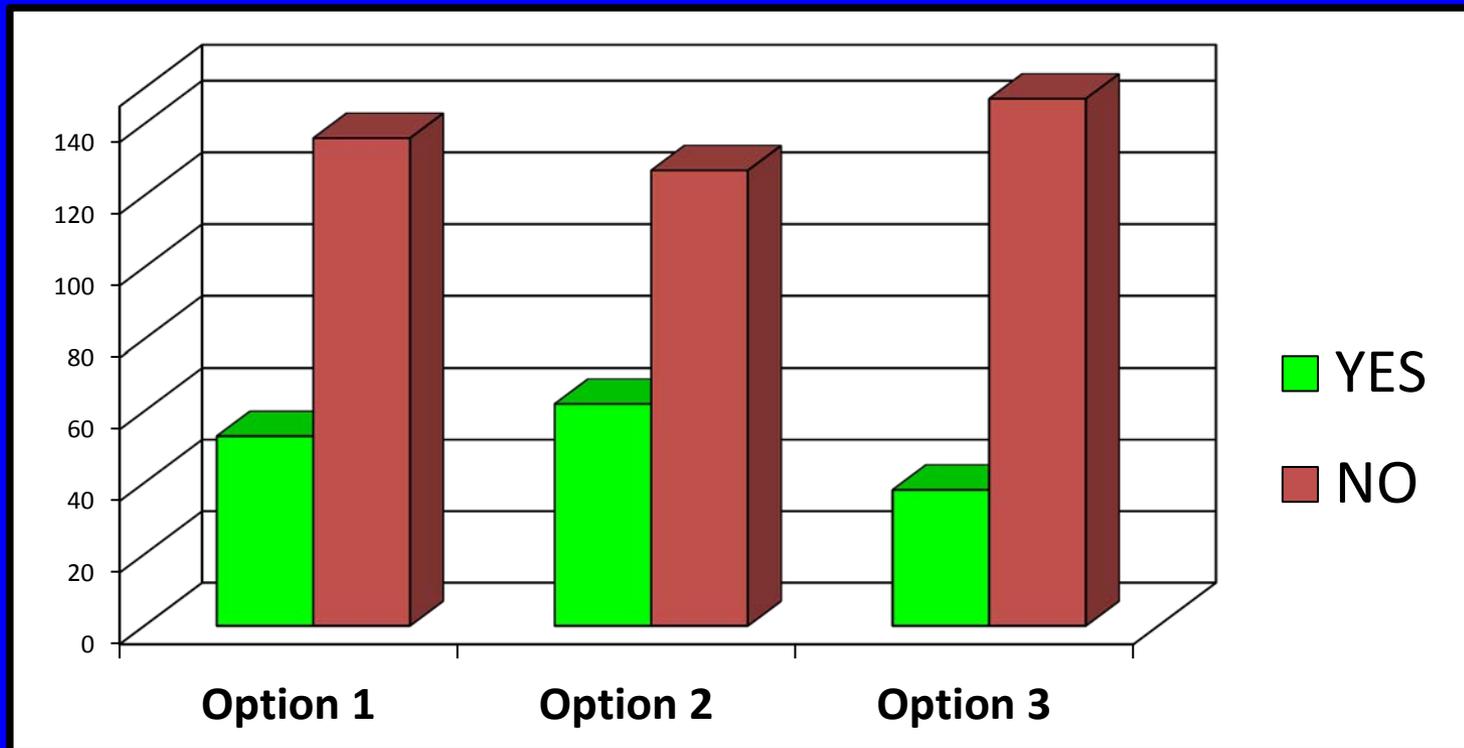
Require a discounted license for **all** residents 65 years on or after July 1, 2016 if it would reduce the possible **resident** hunting license from \$39.50 to \$38.50?

YES	NO
20%	80%

Questionnaire Public Responses

Question 7:

Would you support the following options for a potential \$25.00 discounted resident senior citizen hunting license for individuals 65 years of age or older instead of the current license exemption?



Public Comment Summary

License Fees

Cost

- Increases are too high – prefer lower increases and/or small increases over time
- Non-resident and deer tag costs are too high

Support with Value-Added Conditions

- Allow Sunday hunting
- Improve habitat to provide more services (e.g., better small game hunting, more duck blinds, etc.)
- Expand certain hunting seasons

Change License Category Structure/Types

- Consider a turkey tag, snow goose conservation order pass, sunflower stamp and/or a collectible wildlife stamp
- Eliminate or reduce youth hunting fees; increase youth age to 18

Public Comment Summary

Conservation Access Pass

Model/Cost

- Prefer a 1-day and a 7-day pass instead of a 3-day pass
- Want an option for a group and/or family pass
- Prefer a sticker for their car window

Concerned about Conflicts

- Hunters are concerned about conflicts with non-hunters over use of areas
- Hunters are concerned about non-hunters having more say in the management of the wildlife areas, and also politically
- Overall concern that users won't have access to areas every day all year; suggestions to mandate certain times for certain user groups

Concerned about Cost to Hunters

- Hunters should not have to purchase a Conservation Access Pass
- OR hunters should pay less for a Conservation Access Pass

Other Public Comment Summary

Suggestions for Additional Revenue

- Ask General Assembly for more funds
- Charge a fee for blind/stand lotteries; auction low number licenses
- Charge fees for food plots and for hunter education classes

Suggestions for Cost Savings

- Contract out for wildlife area management and facilities maintenance
- Partner with other organizations/volunteers for plantings, stands, etc.
- Cut staff

Suggestions for Recruitment

- Support for a hunter mentor program
- Implement a hunting class in schools
- Legalize 7-shot for turkey hunting to recruit more youth

Council Questions

Questions from Council on presentations



*We Bring You Delaware's Great Outdoors
through Science and Service*

A landscape photograph of a grassy field with a tree in the foreground showing autumn foliage. The tree's branches are filled with vibrant red and orange leaves, contrasting with the muted green and brown tones of the field and sky. The background shows a line of trees under a clear, light blue sky.

Public Workshops

***Your input
mattered.***

We listened.

Fee Alternatives

Your input mattered. We listened.

Changes made to presented fees based on public comment to balance service delivery and revenue needs

Alternative A and Alternative B were developed to:

- Reduce some fees (Alternative A) or change conservation access pass requirement (Alternative B)
- Change conservation access pass model/structure

Both alternatives will reduce anticipated revenue increase, resulting in a lower annual budget buffer of only 1% of total budget.

Fee Alternative A

Hunting License Fees

- Reduces Resident Hunt license increase from \$39.50 (as presented) to \$37.50
- Reduces Resident Deer Tag increases from \$20 (as presented) to \$17.50
- Reduces Non-resident Deer Tag increases from \$50 (as presented) to \$47.50

Conservation Access Pass

Structure changes:

- 7-day pass
- 1-day pass
- Annual Group Guide Pass
- Eliminates different resident and non-resident fees

Fee Alternative A

Fee Type	Existing Fee	Presented Fee	Alternate Fee
Resident Hunt (Age 16-64) (Includes Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$25.00	\$39.50	\$37.50
Resident Junior Hunt (Age 13-15) (Includes Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Resident Guide Hunting License (Age 18 and Over) (Includes Individual License for Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$100.00	\$159.50	\$159.50
Non-Resident Hunt (Age 16 and Over) (Minimum of \$130.00 or other state reciprocal value) (Includes Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$130.00	\$199.50	\$199.50
Non-Resident Junior Hunt (Age 13-15) (Includes Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Non-Resident 3-Day Hunt (Age 16 and Over) (3 Consecutive Days for Small Game only. Not valid for Deer or Turkey)	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Non-Resident Guide Hunting License (Age 18 and Over) (Includes Individual License for Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$300.00	\$475.00	\$475.00
Resident Hunters Choice/Quality Buck Tag	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$17.50
Antlerless Tag	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$17.50
Non-Resident Quality Buck Tag	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$47.50
Non-Resident Antlered Tag	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$47.50
Public Blind/Deer Stand Permit	\$20.00	n/a	n/a
Resident Waterfowl Stamp (Age 16-64)	\$9.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Non-Resident Waterfowl Stamp (Age 16 and Over)	\$9.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Resident Fur Dealers	\$28.75	\$50.00	\$50.00
Non-Resident Fur Dealers	\$287.50	\$475.00	\$475.00
Breeders Permit	\$11.50	\$17.50	\$17.50
Propagating Permit	\$25.00	\$39.50	\$39.50
Resident Trapping	\$3.50	\$10.00	\$10.00
Non-Resident Trapping	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)* - see page 2			

Conservation Access Pass

Previously Presented

Fee Type	Existing Fee	Presented Fee	Alternate Fee
Resident Annual Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	\$20.00	n/a
Non-Resident Annual Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	\$30.00	n/a
Resident 3-Day Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	\$7.50	n/a
Non-Resident 3-Day Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	\$12.50	n/a

Conservation Access Pass

Alternative A**

Fee Type	Existing Fee	Presented Fee	Alternate Fee
Annual Individual Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	n/a	\$20.00
7-Day Individual Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	n/a	\$12.50
1-Day Individual Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	n/a	\$3.50
Annual Group Guide Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	n/a	\$200.00

**New fee category; requires General Assembly establishment*

****Conservation Access Pass would be required in addition to hunting license.**

Fee Alternative B

Conservation Access Pass

- *Changes model so hunting license could be used instead of Conservation Access Pass*
- Structure changes:
 - 7-day pass
 - 1-day pass
 - Annual Group Guide Pass
 - Eliminates different resident and non-resident fees

Hunting License Fees

- No change to presented hunting license fees (current fees increase)
- Retains current Public Blind/Deer Stand Permit

Fee Type	Existing Fee	Presented Fee	Alternate Fee
Resident Hunt (Age 16-64) (Includes Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$25.00	\$39.50	\$39.50
Resident Junior Hunt (Age 13-15) (Includes Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Resident Guide Hunting License (Age 18 and Over) (Includes Individual License for Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$100.00	\$159.50	\$159.50
Non-Resident Hunt (Age 16 and Over) (Minimum of \$130.00 or other state reciprocal value) (Includes Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$130.00	\$199.50	\$199.50
Non-Resident Junior Hunt (Age 13-15) (Includes Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Non-Resident 3-Day Hunt (Age 16 and Over) (3 Consecutive Days for Small Game only. Not valid for Deer or Turkey)	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Non-Resident Guide Hunting License (Age 18 and Over) (Includes Individual License for Deer, Turkey, Small Game plus 4 Antlerless Deer Tags)	\$300.00	\$475.00	\$475.00
Resident Hunters Choice/Quality Buck Tag	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Antlerless Tag	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Non-Resident Quality Buck Tag	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Non-Resident Antlered Tag	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Public Blind/Deer Stand Permit	\$20.00	n/a	\$20.00
Resident Waterfowl Stamp (Age 16-64)	\$9.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
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Non-Resident Fur Dealers	\$287.50	\$475.00	\$475.00
Breeders Permit	\$11.50	\$17.50	\$17.50
Propagating Permit	\$25.00	\$39.50	\$39.50
Resident Trapping	\$3.50	\$10.00	\$10.00
Non-Resident Trapping	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)* - see page 2			

**Fee
Alternative
B**

Conservation Access Pass

Previously Presented

Fee Type	Existing Fee	Presented Fee	Alternate Fee
Resident Annual Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	\$20.00	n/a
Non-Resident Annual Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	\$30.00	n/a
Resident 3-Day Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	\$7.50	n/a
Non-Resident 3-Day Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	\$12.50	n/a

Conservation Access Pass

Alternative B**

Fee Type	Existing Fee	Presented Fee	Alternate Fee
Annual Individual Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	n/a	\$20.00
7-Day Individual Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	n/a	\$12.50
1-Day Individual Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	n/a	\$3.50
Annual Group Guide Conservation Access Pass (for wildlife areas)*	n/a	n/a	\$200.00

**New fee category; requires General Assembly establishment*

****Hunting license could be used instead of Conservation Access Pass.**



Council Consideration of Presented Fee Alternatives