

# Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan

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# Why Am I here?

- Describe the action plan – its purpose
- Discuss goals for the next action plan
- Discuss efforts that might benefit community planners
- Get some initial feedback
- Answer questions



# What is a Wildlife Action Plan?

- Part of a national effort to keep species from becoming endangered



# Eight Essential Elements

- Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- Habitats
- Threats
- Actions
- Monitoring (status and effectiveness)
- Update
- Partner Collaboration
- Public Outreach

Not A Regulatory  
Document

# The Original Action Plan

- 900+ pages
- 925 Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- 75% to 80% of action plan species need aquatic, riparian, or wetland habitats
- Habitat loss/degradation single largest threat

# Issues With the First Plan

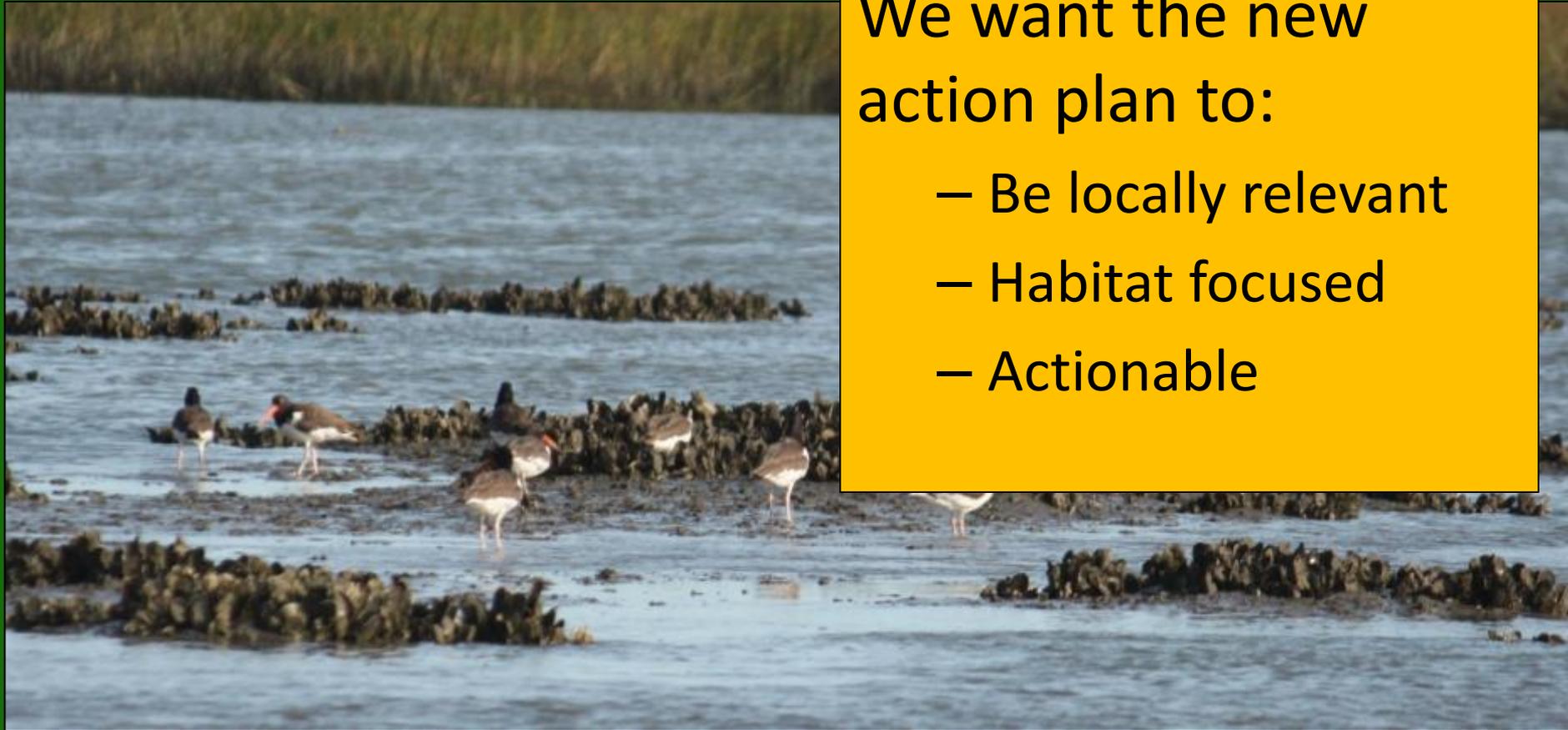
- Difficult to use
- Did not address habitat concerns
- Not always actionable



# Live and Learn

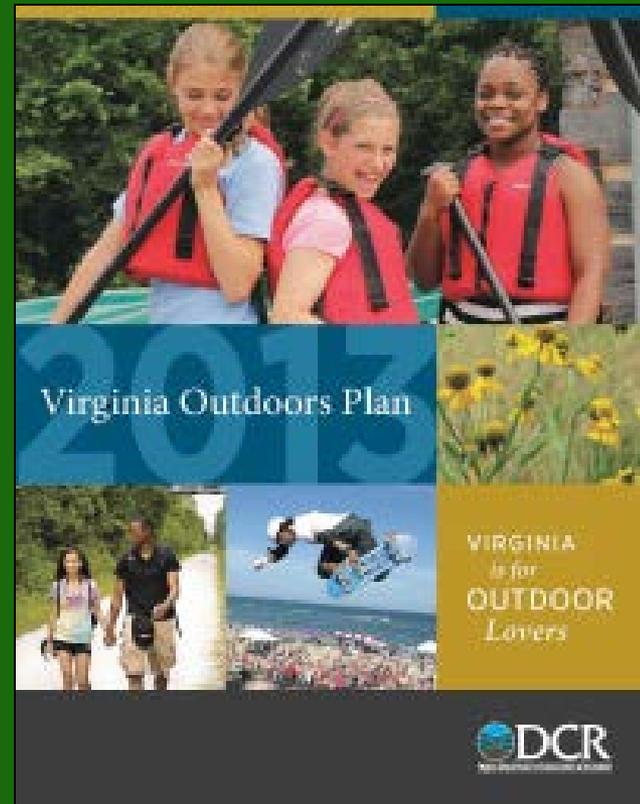
We want the new  
action plan to:

- Be locally relevant
- Habitat focused
- Actionable



# Locally Relevant

- Virginia Outdoors Plan Format – PDC Chapters
  - Priority species
  - Priority habitats
  - Threats
  - Conservation Actions
  - Priority places



# Habitat Focused

Habitat Conservation is our biggest challenge

- Theme – Water
- Water quality and quantity influenced by management of the riparian areas and the uplands
- If we focus on water, we have the opportunity to do good things for people, communities, and wildlife.



# Priority Habitats

- Strong healthy habitats that support lots of action plan species
  - Species distributions, impaired waters, riparian healthy and impervious surface, etc.
- Habitats that have been degraded, but can be improved
  - Impaired waters and TMDL information
  - Water Quality Improvement Plans

# Actionable



What are we asking people to help us do?

For Each PDC

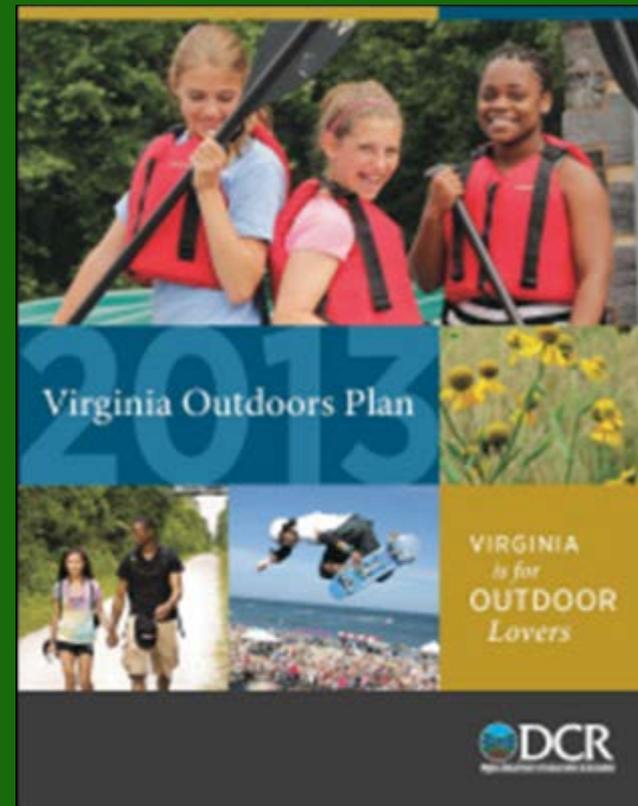
- Identify problems impacting action plan species
- Actions that can be taken to address those problems
- Places where those actions should be implemented first

# Ultimate Goal

- Develop a Wildlife Action Plan that can help us:
  - Direct existing resources towards priorities
  - Find new resources
  - Be more proactive and strategic in our thinking and
  - Prevent problems from becoming a crisis

# I Need Feedback

- Is the Virginia Outdoors Plan model useful at a community level?
  - Are there problems I should know about?
  - Things you would like to see adjusted in our effort?



# More Feedback?

Water quality ties in with a number of state priorities. Are there other efforts that we should be looking at?

- Green Infrastructure?
- Climate Change?



# More Feedback?

I would like portions of this document to point out that wildlife conservation can benefit communities. Are there sensitivities or considerations that I should be aware of?



# Last Question

- Public Outreach –  
Looking for  
Opportunities
  - Community  
Planners/PDCs
  - Land Trusts
  - Others?



Are There Questions I  
Can Answer?



# Thank You



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