

# Protecting Virginia's Natural Resources

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# Brief remarks

- I. Overview of Agencies
- II. Budget reduction strategies
- III. Budget Items: Operational
- IV. Budget Items: Capital



# Agencies

- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Marine Resources Commission
- Department of Historic Resources
- Virginia Museum of Natural History



# Budget Reduction Strategies

- DCR: Reduce wage costs in reservation center (\$100K)
- DCR: Reduce on-site supervision of construction projects (\$65K)
- DCR: Combine staff functions of Conservation reserve enhancement program and land conservation program (\$65K)
- DHR: Consolidate agency servers and reduce IT assets (\$15K)
- DEQ: Scale back Chesapeake Bay Monitoring (\$285K)
- DEQ: defer vehicle replacement (\$300K)



# Budget Items: Operational (DCR)

## \$ 20 M Deposit for Agricultural BMP Cost-Share and targeted initiatives tied to Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Impaired Waters

Agriculture Cost-Share Program Total - \$ 18.5 M

Chesapeake Bay - \$ 11.2 M (60%);

Southern Rivers - \$ 7.3 M (40%)

- Base Cost Share Program
- Targeted 5 Priority Practices
- Implementation of TMDL (impaired waters) clean-up plans

Strategic Water Quality Initiatives - \$ 1.5 M

- Support innovative and cost-effective practices (ex: animal diet and feed management, litter transport, stream restoration, buffer establishment)
- Partnership with Department of Forestry



# Budget Items: Operational (DCR)

## Dam Safety/Floodplain Loan Fund

- \$ 2.7 M for loans to dam owners and localities
- (\$ 1.35 M in both FY 2009 and FY 2010)

## Dam Safety Engineers

- FY09 - 2 positions (no additional funding requested)
- Currently, only 4 dam safety engineers statewide



# Budget Items: Operational (DCR)

Needs Identified by 2002 Commission on Future of Virginia's Environment and updated in 2004 by DCR to reflect demands from new GOB facilities and prospective new parks

Currently 283 State Park FTE. Remaining Need: \$ 10 M and 117 Staff (including positions for new parks)

FY 2010 - \$ 1.5 M and 15 FTE to continue re-benchmarking began in 2005

- Park Rangers
- Maintenance Staff
- Cabin Housekeepers
- Seasonal Staff
- Equipment

FY 2009 - Transfer 2 positions and responsibilities for Chippokes Plantation Farm Foundation to DCR



# Budget Items: Operational (DEQ)

- Increase state match for Water Facilities Revolving Loan Fund.
  - The state provides \$1 for every \$5 in federal funding.
  - FY09: \$1.2M (GF) and \$2.2M (NGF) FY10: \$1.4M (NGF)
- Combined Sewer Overflow assistance for Richmond and Lynchburg: \$1.5M for each year for each city



# Budget items: Capital

## Land conservation

- Of all the land developed since Capt. John Smith's arrival in 1607, more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  has occurred in the last 15 years.
- Approximately 100 forest acres per day are lost in the Bay watershed.
- Only a fraction of Civil War battlefield lands in Virginia are protected.



# Budget Items: Capital

## \$50 M in VBPA bonds for land conservation

- State agency acquisitions
  - DCR
  - DOF
  - DHR
  - VOF
- Public access

## \$20 M VBPA bonds for dam safety

- Will upgrade dams owned by DCR and SWCDs



# Budget Items: Capital

## Powhatan State Park

- 1,563 acres along the James River
- Proposed as day-use until nearby state road improvements can be made
- GOVERNOR'S CAPITAL BUDGET FY09: \$ 3 M (first-time funding to begin Phase 1 development)

## High Bridge Trail State Park

- 34 mile trail: Burkeville to Farmville to Pamplin; includes historic Civil War battle site and "world's largest bridge"
- Donation of rail-to-trail corridor from Norfolk Southern
- Current funding of \$ 1 M; "fast track" plan to open first 7.5 miles this spring (High Bridge to Farmville; Farmville west towards Pamplin)
- GOVERNOR'S CAPITAL BUDGET FY09: \$ 4.5 M; enable DCR to open additional 13 miles in spring 2009

