



**State Parks, Soil and Water Conservation, Natural Heritage,  
Outdoor Recreation Planning, Trails and Grants, Dam Safety,  
Floodplain Management, Environmental Education,  
Land Conservation**



DCR was founded in 1926 by Governor Harry F. Byrd as the **Virginia Conservation and Development Commission**

He appointed Will Carson, a businessman from Warren County, as its first chairman.



Harry F. Byrd



Will Carson

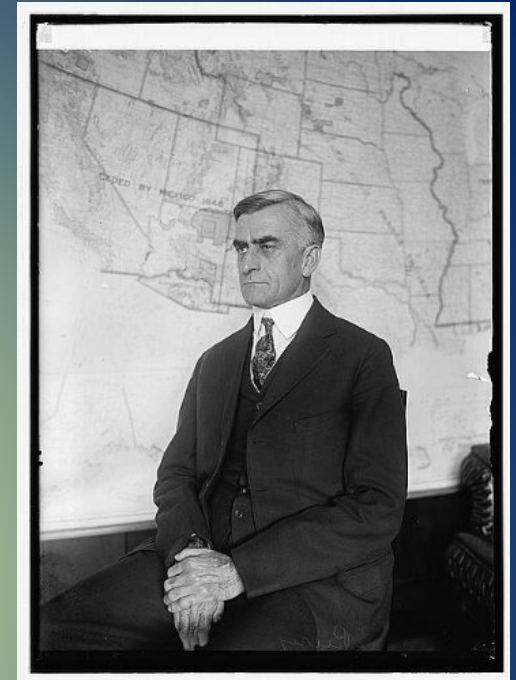
# June 15, 1936

“Our new state park system has been built to serve the working man. The state parks are for all people, and not only will they afford recreation for our own people, but will attract tourists from other states.”

“A movement of this kind is the answer to those who argue that we are going backward. There is no place for Communism, Nazism, or Fascism in this country; but there must be recreational opportunities available to the rich and poor alike. I believe these parks will contribute greatly to the national good as we go forward to the splendid destiny that awaits in the future.”

On this day, Virginia opened 6 State Parks:

1. Hungry Mother, Marion
2. Douthat, Millboro
3. Fairy Stone, Stuart
4. Westmoreland, Montross
5. Staunton River, Scottsburg
6. Seashore (now First Landing), Virginia Beach



George C. Peery

Byrd surmised Virginia had the richest history of any of the states starting with the Jamestown Settlement in 1607 and the most dramatic and diverse natural resources



Chesapeake Bay



Great Rivers



Atlantic Ocean



Blue Ridge



Close to the Nation's Capital



Magnificent Lakes

# The Civilian Conservation Corps is launched -1933



FDR with members of the National Park Service  
and Civilian Conservation Corps

Out of the Great Depression...

“A Chance of a lifetime”

~ Will Carson

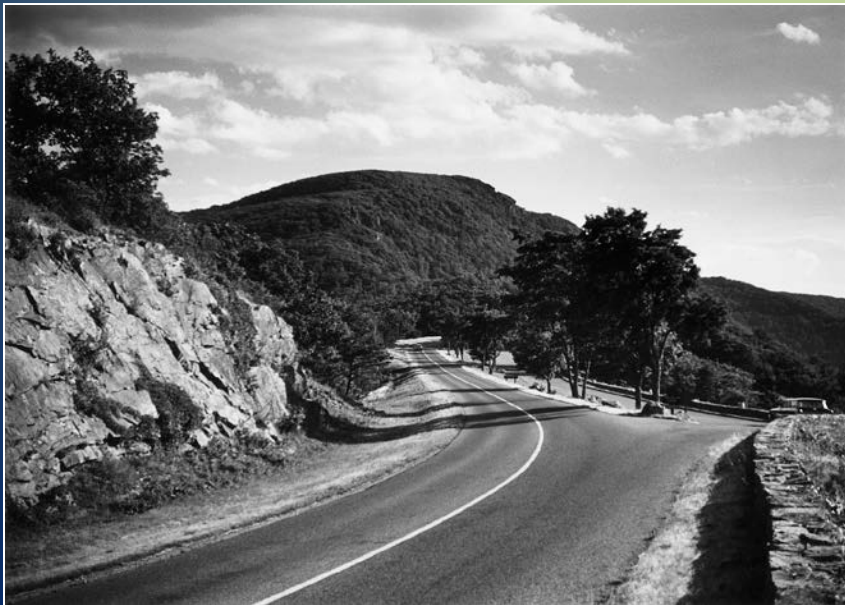


Boys of the CCC

# President Roosevelt's Promise to Will Carson...

“ I will give you the men and the money for your state parks, if you will demonstrate in Virginia what such a system would mean to the state.”

F.D.R.



Shenandoah National Park

36 parks

260 cabins and lodges in 17 parks

1,835 campsites in 25 parks

8 day use parks

70,000 acres

600+ miles of trails

87 picnic shelters

28 visitor centers

(7 LEED Certified: Wilderness Road, Smith Mountain Lake, Shenandoah River, First Landing,  
Sailor's Creek Battlefield, Westmoreland and James River)

11 swimming beaches

5 swimming pools

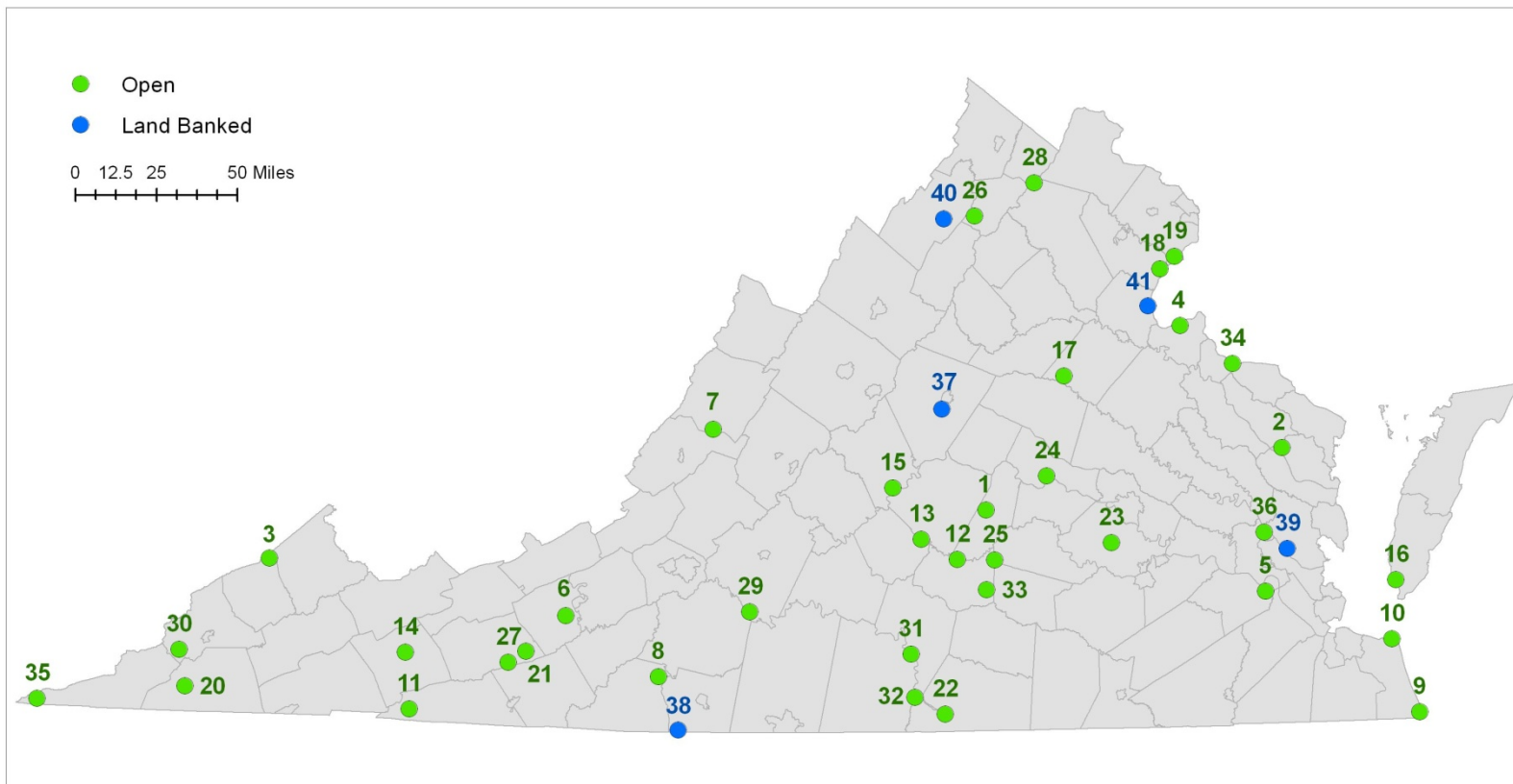
2 restaurants; 19 snack bars

# Virginia State Parks 2013

- ◎ 8.8 million visits
- ◎ \$206 million in economic impact
- ◎ 1 million overnight visits
- ◎ 17,934 interpretive programs – 410,548 participants
- ◎ 56,350 FaceBook Fans
- ◎ 34,057 Enews Subscribers
- ◎ 21,574 Twitter Followers
- ◎ 10,260 volunteers – 314,000 volunteer hours



# Virginia State Parks



## OPEN

- |                         |                       |  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Bear Creek Lake      | 11. Grayson Highlands | 21. New River Trail                      |
| 2. Belle Isle           | 12. High Bridge Trail | 22. Occoneechee                          |
| 3. Breaks Interstate    | 13. Holliday Lake     | 23. Pocahontas                           |
| 4. Caledon              | 14. Hungry Mother     | 24. Powhatan                             |
| 5. Chippokes Plantation | 15. James River       | 25. Sailors Creek Battlefield Historic   |
| 6. Claytor Lake         | 16. Kiptopeke         | 26. Shenandoah River                     |
| 7. Douthat              | 17. Lake Anna         | 27. Shot Tower Historic                  |
| 8. Fairy Stone          | 18. Leesylvania       | 28. Sky Meadows                          |
| 9. False Cape           | 19. Mason Neck        | 29. Smith Mountain Lake                  |
| 10. First Landing       | 20. Natural Tunnel    | 30. Southwest Virginia Museum Historical |

## LAND BANKED

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 31. Staunton River Battlefield | 37. Biscuit Run      |
| 32. Staunton River             | 38. Mayo River       |
| 33. Twin Lakes                 | 39. Middle Peninsula |
| 34. Westmoreland               | 40. Seven Bends      |
| 35. Wilderness Road            | 41. Widewater        |
| 36. York River                 |                      |

# State Parks Are Relevant

*In The Hearts And Minds Of Virginians*



# Virginia State Parks

## Our Relevancy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- **Therapy for the mind, body, and spirit**
- **Conserve natural, cultural, and recreational treasures**
- **Economic engines**



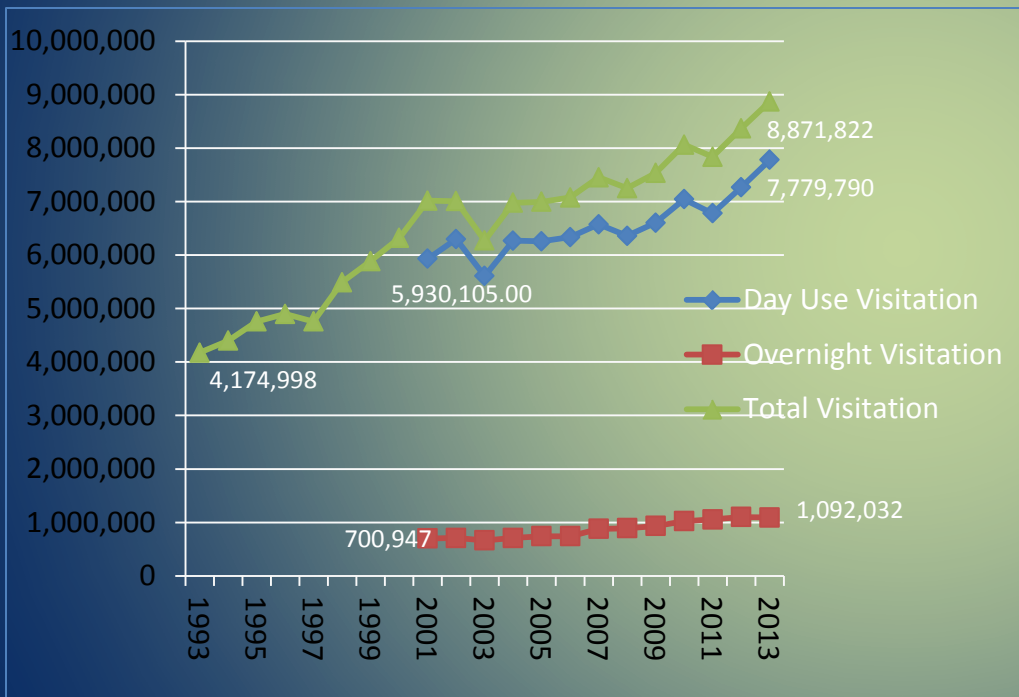
## What makes us relevant?

- **Connecting children & families to nature**
- **Battling the obesity epidemic**
- **Reducing attention disorders**
- **Being part of a healthy lifestyle, environment, and economy**

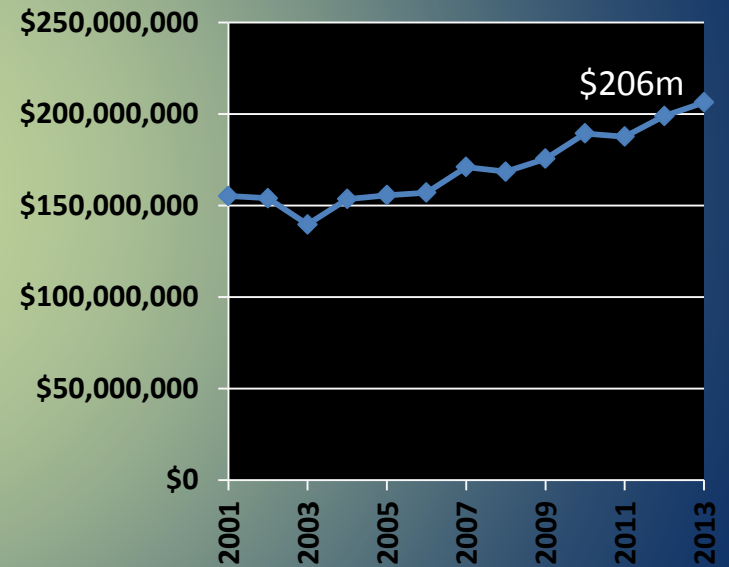


# Park Visitation and Economic Impact

## State Park Visitation



## Park Economic Impact



# Projects Authorized by the General Assembly in 2013

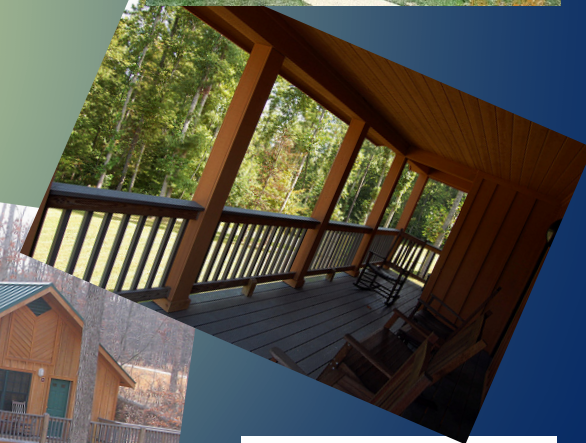
- Powhatan State Park Phase 1 (B) - \$3.9 M estimate
  - Campground Loop
  - Eastern James River Access Road
- Route 522 and 617 Intersection Improvement - \$2.7 M original estimate /\$5.5 new estimate
- Widewater State Park Phase 1 - \$7.5 M estimate
- New Cabins at Various Parks - \$7.5 M estimate



# New Cabins: 2013 General Assembly

In Priority Order

- 1. Lake Anna: (2) six bedroom cabins
- 2. Twin Lakes: (1) six bedroom cabin, (2) three bedroom cabins \*
- 3. Kiptopeke: (2) three bedroom cabins, (2) two bedroom cabins \*
- 4. Claytor Lake: (2) three bedroom cabins
- 5. Bear Creek: (2) three bedroom cabins, (1) six bedroom cabin
- 6. Natural Tunnel: (4) two bedroom cabins \*
- 7. Shenandoah River: (2) three bedroom cabins



\* Full Cabin Build Out

# Parks Purchased with 1992 GOB Funding - \$95 million

## 67% voted for Passage

Belle Isle State Park

James River State Park

Shenandoah River State Park

Wilderness Road State Park

Staunton River Battlefield State Park (donated by Old Dominion Electric Cooperative and Dominion Power)

# Parks Purchased with 2002 GOB Funding - \$119 million

## 69% voted for passage

Biscuit Run

Seven Bends

Mayo River

Middle Peninsula

Widewater (planning underway)

Powhatan (opened July 6, 2013)



# Belle Isle

739 Acres

2013 Attendance 42,742

2013 Economic Impact \$1,400,132

Master Plan Adopted in 1998





# James River State Park

1,500 Acres

2013 Attendance 57,985

2013 Economic Impact \$3,195,838

Master Plan Adopted in December 2004



# Shenandoah River

1,619 Acres

2013 Attendance 242,419

2013 Economic Impact \$6,104,656

Master Plan Adopted in March 2001



# Wilderness Road

310 Acres

2013 Attendance 136,233

2013 Economic Impact \$2,179,728

Master Plan Adopted in December 1998



# Staunton River Battlefield (donated)

300 Acres

2013 Attendance 29,976

2013 Economic Impact \$479,616

Master Plan Adopted in December 1998



# Land Banked Parks



Biscuit Run



Mayo River



Middle Peninsula



Seven Bends



Widewater

# Biscuit Run

1,195 Acres

Albemarle County

Master Plan Recommended for Adoption by the  
Board of Conservation and Recreation on  
September 11, 2013



Seven Bends

1,066 Acres

Shenandoah County

Master Plan Adopted in November 2008



# Mayo River

342 Acres

Henry County

Master Plan is scheduled to be developed in  
October 2015





Middle Peninsula  
431 Acres  
Gloucester County  
Adjacent to Rosewell Ruins  
Master Plan Adopted in October 2010



Widewater  
1,100 Acres  
Stafford County

Master Plan Recommended for Adoption by the Board  
of Conservation and Recreation on September 11, 2013

Phase 1 - \$7.5 Million

Boat Ramp, Day Use Area, Trails, River Access, Infrastructure,  
Contact Station, Office, 2 Residences



# Capital Projects Funded by The General Assembly

2007 – High Bridge Trail opened August 22, 2008	\$7.5 million
2012 – Powhatan Phase 1 opened July 6, 2013	\$7.5 million
2013 – Powhatan Phase 1B	\$3.9 million
Widewater Phase 1	\$7.5 million
Cabins to Lake Anna, Twin Lakes, Kiptopeke, Claytor Lake, Bear Creek Lake, Natural Tunnel, Shenandoah	\$7.5 million
Total for 2013	\$18.9 million

# High Bridge Trail

1,108 Acres

2013 Attendance 194,251

2013 Economic Impact \$3,108,016

Master Plan Adopted in February 2007



# Powhatan on the Historic James

1,565 Acres

Master Plan Adopted in February 2007

2013 Attendance 30,441

2013 Economic Impact \$487,056



# Foster Falls Hotel

Last Major Project of the 2002 GOB



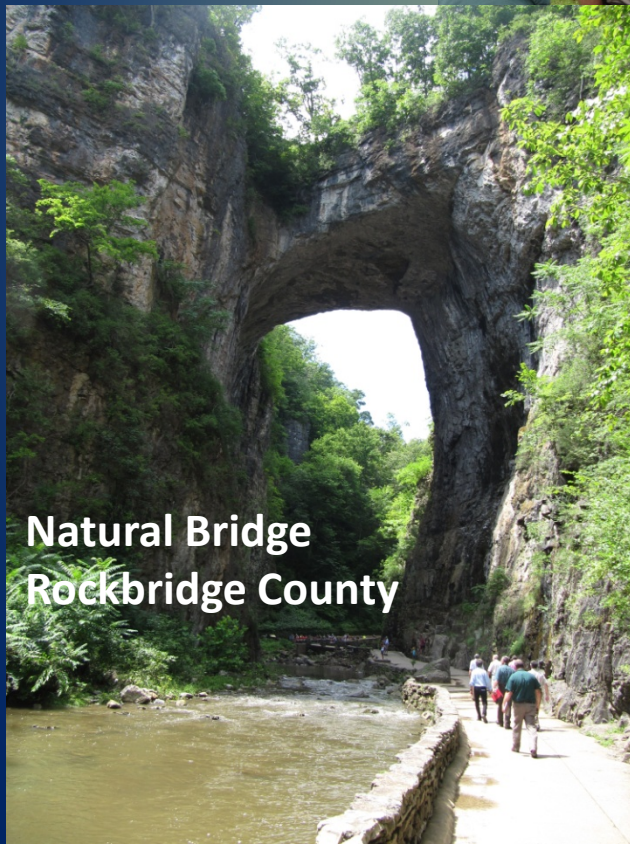
# On The Horizon....



Loudoun County



Clinch River  
Tazwell, Russell, and Scott Counties



Natural Bridge  
Rockbridge County



Highland County

# Budget Amendments

## House Budget Amendments

- |  |           |           |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| • <b>Item 358 #3h</b> ; Delegate Hodges; Funding start-up of Middle Peninsula State Park                                 | \$145,531 | \$454,344 |
| • <b>Item 358 #4h</b> ; Delegate Minchew; Planning Support Funds for a Loudoun County State Park                         | \$50,000  | \$50,000  |
| • <b>Item 357 #3h</b> ; Delegate Kilgore; Provide Support and FTE's from past reductions to the Natural Heritage Program | \$900,000 | \$900,000 |
| • <b>Item 467 #1h</b> ; Delegate Lingamfelter; Prior Service of Deputies as DCR Conservation Officers                    | \$50,000  | \$50,000  |



# Budget Amendments Continued

## Central Capital Outlay House

- **Item C-43 #2h**; Delegate Hodges; Middle Peninsula State Park Phase 1 Development \$8 million
- **Item C-43 #3h**; Delegates Chafin, Campbell, Kilgore, Morefield and O'Quinn; Clinch River State Park Development \$2.5 million

## Central Capital Outlay Senate

- **Item C-41 #3s**; Senator Hanger; Maintenance Reserve \$3.6 million
- **Item C-43 #3s**; Senator Puckett; Clinch River State Park \$2.5 million
- **Item C-43 #4s**; Senator Norment; Middle Peninsula State Park Phase 1 Development \$8 million
- **Item C-43 #6s**; Senator Ruff; Occoneechee State Park Spray Ground \$3 million
- **Item C-43 #7s**; Senators Carrico and Hanger; New River Trail State Park Completion of Foster Falls Hotel \$2.5 million
- **Item c-43 #8s**; Senators Deeds and Hanger; Highland County State Park Acquisition \$3.6 million

# Budget Amendments Continued

## Senate Budget Amendments

<b>Item 358 #2s;</b> Senators Norment and Hanger; Opening support for Middle Peninsula State Park	\$145,531	\$454,344
<b>Item 358 #3s;</b> Senator Hanger; Funding Restoration for State Parks	\$3,451,289	\$3,451,289
<b>Item 358 #4s;</b> Senator Hanger; Natural Bridge Operational Preparation Monies	\$130,998	\$130,998
<b>Item 358 #5s;</b> Senators Stuart and Hanger; Widewater State Park Opening Operations	\$145,531	\$454,344
<b>Item 58 #6s;</b> Senator Hanger; Matching Grant Support for the Virginia Service and Conservation Corps	\$362,082	\$757,000
<b>Item 358 #7s;</b> Senator Hanger; Youth Conservation Corps Funding	\$654,988	\$654,988
<b>Item 358 #8s;</b> Senator Hanger; State Park Equipment Needs	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
<b>Item 357 #1s;</b> Senator Vogel; Funding and 7 FTE for Natural Heritage Program	\$900,000	\$900,000
<b>Item 357 #2s;</b> Senators Colgan and Vogel; Funding and 7 FTE for Natural Heritage Program	\$900,000	\$900,000
<b>Item 467 #4s;</b> Senator Deeds; DCR Conservation Officers inclusion into the Virginia Law Enforcement Officers' Retirement System	\$671,000	\$671,000