



February 18, 2022

HB0882: Natural Resources – Pocomoke River Wildland – Alteration of Boundaries

Position: Support: HB0882

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) supports HB0882 and urges the House Environment and Transportation Committee to favorably report the bill and move it to the full House.

MOS applauds the addition of nearly 80 acres situated on the River to the Wildlands, as well as a recreational trail from Snow Hill to Pocomoke River State Park. A natural surface trail connecting Snow Hill to Pocomoke State Park will help build local support for conservation of natural resources, while expanding outdoor recreational opportunities.

The addition of 80 acres of Wildland will more than compensate for the loss of just shy of 2 acres to the trail. We have been assured by the Department of Natural Resources that habitat fragmentation will not occur at the tree canopy level, and would be minor at ground level. The addition 80 acres to the north would extend uninterrupted Wildland shoreline by 3,860 feet.

Passage of this bill would a big win for untrammelled Wildland, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation. We support HB0882 and urge the Committee issue a favorable report, and move onto the House floor.

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1945 and devoted to the study and conservation of birds. Currently we have 15 chapters and approximately 1,800 members. Some are scientists and naturalists, but our membership includes people of all ages and all walks of life, from physicists to firefighters, legislators to landscapers. Birding is one of the fastest growing types of outdoor recreation. Our members visit the Pocomoke Region often to admire its birdlife.

Sincerely,
Kurt R. Schwarz
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