

Unified Regulatory Plan of the Department of Conservation and Recreation for State Fiscal Year 2025

Prepared on June 30, 2025

Description of Agency or Boards

The **Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)** is the state's lead natural resource conservation agency. DCR protects what Virginians care about - natural habitat, parks, clean water, dams, open space, and access to the outdoors. The Department of Conservation and Recreation is empowered to prescribe rules and regulations necessary or incidental to the performance of duties or execution of powers conferred by law, pursuant to the Administrative Process Act. The department and its boards operate under the supervision of the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources.

The **Board of Conservation and Recreation** provides recommendations to the director on grants and loans pertaining to outdoor recreation, the designation of recreational sites eligible for recreational access road funds, master plans and substantial acquisition or improvement amendments to master plans, and designations for scenic rivers, scenic highways, and Virginia Byways.

The **Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board's** responsibilities are related to funding, collaboration, and cooperation between and oversight of programs by the soil and water conservation districts. The board shall promulgate regulations to ensure that impounding structures in the Commonwealth are properly and safely constructed, maintained, and operated. The board shall adopt regulations that include criteria relating to the development of nutrient management plans, qualifications, and standards for individuals necessary for individuals preparing nutrient management plans, and fees for individuals enrolling in the training and certification programs. Title 10.1, Chapter 1, Article 1.

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Action 6763/Stage 10777		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Repeal 4VAC 45-10 (et seq.) Regulations Governing Application for and Use of Grant Funds to Localities		
Brief Overview: In 2003, the Board of Conservation and Recreation (BCR) was reorganized as a policy board within the executive branch, becoming the successor to the Board on Conservation and Development of Public Beaches. With the transfer of powers, the Board of Conservation and Development of Public Beaches was abolished in accordance with Chapters 79 and 89 of the 2003 Acts of Assembly. The Regulations Governing Application For and Use of Grant Funds to Localities (4VAC45-10) outline criteria for implementing a public beach grant program. However, funding for this program has not been available since prior to 2003. Upon review of Chapter 7 - Shoreline Erosion and Public Beach Preservation of Title 10.1 of the Code of Virginia, it was noted that clear authority for the original promulgation of these regulations does not appear to exist. As a repeal of these regulations was anticipated, they were not officially renumbered and transferred to the Board of Conservation and Recreation under 4VAC3		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency Rule or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☒ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☒ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	Fully deregulate all regulatory requirements.	
Expected Date	July 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Repeal 4VAC5-36 (et seq.) Standard Fees for Use of Department of Conservation and Recreation Facilities, Programs, and Services.		
Brief Overview: DCR has traditionally promulgated state park fees as regulations. This practice is unnecessary and can be safely ended. State Park-related fees are not subject to the APA or the Virginia Register Act and are under the authority of the agency's Director.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency Rule or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☒ Fast-Track
Additional	☐ Expedited Review Requested	☐ Guidance Document

