
Survey Intro and consent

You have been selected to participate in this survey because you have volunteered for VWL grassland biodiversity surveys and/or VWL partner projects, including eMammal and the Orchid Project. You will be asked about your thoughts on conservation activities and your experience volunteering with the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute's Virginia Working Landscapes Program (VWL).

Please keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these questions so feel free to openly express your thoughts. Your responses to the questions will never be associated with your name and will be kept confidential. Your survey responses will be used for a master's thesis, scientific journal article, and to inform VWL on how to improve their work with volunteers. In addition to being confidential, your participation in this survey is completely voluntary so you may stop participating in the survey at any time.

If you have any questions about this study, you may contact Rachael Green at rg1132@vt.edu or Dr. Ashley Dayer at dayer@vt.edu. Should you have any questions about your rights as a research

participant, you may contact the Virginia Tech Institutional Review Board at irb@vt.edu or 540-231-3732. This research study can be referenced as IRB protocol number 19-1018.

Before we begin, are you 18 years old or older?

Yes

No

Thank you for your interest, but only participants that are 18 years of age or older are eligible to

Thank you for your interest, but only participants that are 18 years of age or older are eligible to participate in this survey.

Do you consent to participation in this research study?

Yes

No

Background info on VWL participation

We would like to know about your participation in VWL activities.

What types of surveys have you participated in while volunteering with VWL? *Please check all that apply.*

Orchid survey

eMammal / mammal survey

Grassland plant survey

Pollinator survey

Grassland bird survey

Arthropod survey

Which years have you volunteered with VWL?

Please check all of the years that you have volunteered for VWL.

2010

2016

2011

2017

2012

2018

2013

2019

2014

2020

2015

We understand that 2020 was not a typical year for volunteers. In a typical year, how many hours on average do you volunteer with VWL? *Please enter a number only.*

How many hours did you volunteer with VWL in 2020? *Please enter a number only.*

Could you tell us about how the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted your volunteer experience with VWL?

Participation in conservation activities

Next, we would like to know a little bit about your experience with conservation activities.

For the purposes of this survey, we define the terms conservation activity and land as follows:

Conservation activity is defined as any activity that contributes to positive impacts for the environment and/or reduces negative impacts to the environment. Some examples may include managing your land

and/or reduces negative impacts to the environment. Some examples may include managing your land for conservation purposes or donating money to a conservation organization.

Land is defined as any property that you own, rent, or manage. Some examples may include fields, yards, or common areas.

Which of the following conservation activities, if any, have you started doing within the last 10 years? *Check all that apply.*

- Creating, managing, or restoring wildlife habitat on your land or land you manage
- Creating, managing, or restoring wildlife habitat on public land
- Talking to or educating others about conservation issues
- Educating myself about conservation issues
- Participating in a local conservation group, other than VWL
- Collaborating with others on conservation activities
- Contributing data or observations to a conservation – based citizen science project, other than VWL
- Supporting conservation issues through civic engagement (some examples may include voting, petitioning, or calling representatives in support of conservation issues)
- Donating money for conservation or environmental causes

Have you started any other conservation activities within the last 10 years not previously mentioned?

Yes, please specify

No

Has VWL had a positive or negative impact on the extent to which you do these conservation activities?

Very negative impact Negative impact Slightly negative impact No impact Slightly positive impact Positive impact Very positive impact

Follow up: Participation in conservation activities

We'd like to ask you a few follow-up questions about the conservation activities you do.

Could you tell us more about how you **create, manage, or restore wildlife habitat on your land**? *For example, what activities do you do on your land that benefit wildlife habitat?*

Has VWL had a positive or negative impact on the extent to which you **create, manage, or restore wildlife habitat on your land**?

Very negative impact Negative impact Slightly negative impact No impact Slightly positive impact Positive Impact Very positive impact

Could you tell us more about how you **create, manage, or restore wildlife habitat on public land**? *For example, what activities do you do on public land that benefit wildlife habitat?*

Has VWL had a positive or negative impact on the extent to which you **create, manage, or restore wildlife habitat on public land**?

- Very negative
impact
- Negative
impact
- Slightly
negative impact
- No impact
- Slightly positive
impact
- Positive Impact
- Very positive
impact

Could you tell us a bit more about how you **talk to or educate others about conservation issues**? *For example, what types of people do you educate, where, and on what topics?*

Has VWL had a positive or negative impact on the extent to which you **talk to or educate others about conservation issues**?

- Very negative
impact
- Negative
impact
- Slightly
negative impact
- No Impact
- Slightly positive
impact
- Positive impact
- Very positive
impact

Could you tell us a bit more about how you **educate yourself about conservation issues**? For example, what topics do you educate yourself on and where do you go to find this information?

Has VWL had a positive or negative impact on the extent to which you **educate yourself about conservation issues**?

- | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Very negative
impact | Negative
impact | Slightly
negative impact | No Impact | Slightly positive
impact | Positive impact | Very positive
impact |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Could you tell us more about how you **participate in a local conservation group, other than VWL**? For example, what is the name of the local conservation group you participate in, how long have you been a participant, and what activities do you do as a participant?

Has VWL had a positive or negative impact on the extent to which you **participate in a local conservation group, other than VWL**?

- Very negative impact Negative impact Slightly negative impact No impact Slightly positive impact Positive impact Very positive impact

Could you tell us more about how you **collaborate with others on conservation activities**? For example, what types of conservation activities do you collaborate with others on?

Who have you **collaborated with on conservation activities**? Please select all that apply

- VWL staff
- VWL landowners
- VWL citizen scientists
- Other conservation groups
- Family members
- Neighbors
- Friends
- Others, *please specify*

Has VWL had a positive or negative impact on the extent to which you **collaborate with others on conservation activities**?

Very negative impact Negative impact Slightly negative impact No impact Slightly positive impact Positive impact Very positive impact

Could you tell us more about how you **contribute data or observations to conservation - based citizen science projects, other than VWL**? *For example, what kind of citizen science project have you contributed data for? What were your responsibilities as a citizen scientist? What kind of data did you contribute? How long have you been contributing data to this project?*

Has VWL had a positive or negative impact on the extent to which you **contribute data or observations to conservation - based citizen science projects, other than VWL**?

Very negative impact Negative impact Slightly negative impact No impact Slightly positive impact Positive impact Very positive impact

Could you tell us more about how you **support conservation issues through civic engagement**? *For example, what types of civic actions do you do personally or in the community that support conservation issues?*

Has VWL had a positive or negative impact on the extent to which you **support conservation issues through civic engagement**?

- Very negative
impact
- Negative
impact
- Slightly
negative impact
- No impact
- Slightly positive
impact
- Positive impact
- Very positive
impact

Could you tell us more about how you **donate money for conservation or environmental causes**?
For example, which conservation or environmental causes do you donate to and how often do you donate to them?

Has VWL had a positive or negative impact on the extent to which you **donate money for conservation or environmental causes**?

- Very negative
impact
- Negative
impact
- Slightly
negative impact
- No impact
- Slightly positive
impact
- Positive impact
- Very positive
impact

Covid 19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have your conservation activities increased, decreased, or remained the same compared to a typical year?

- Increased
- Decreased
- Remained the same

Could you tell us more about how the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted your conservation activities?

Matrices

Now, we are interested in learning more about what prompted you to start a conservation activity within the last 10 years. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Within the last 10 years, I started a conservation activity because I...

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
...had the necessary knowledge and skills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...had enough time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...had the money and resources.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...believed it would be easy to start.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...was confident in my own ability.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...was encouraged by my friends and family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...was encouraged by VWL staff.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...was encouraged by VWL citizen scientists.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...learned that it was necessary through VWL trainings or other communications.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
...was inspired by what I saw on some of the properties I surveyed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Next we would like to know a little more about your thoughts on conservation activities.

Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Most <u>VWL citizen scientists</u> I interact with engage in	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

conservation activities.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>				
Most <u>VWL landowners</u> I interact with engage in conservation activities.	<input type="radio"/>				
Most of <u>my friends and family</u> engage in conservation activities.	<input type="radio"/>				
Most <u>VWL citizen scientists</u> I interact with would approve of the conservation activities I do.	<input type="radio"/>				
Most of the <u>VWL landowners</u> I interact with would approve of the conservation activities I do.	<input type="radio"/>				
Most of <u>my friends and family</u> would approve of the conservation activities I do.	<input type="radio"/>				
I feel a strong personal obligation to engage in conservation activities.	<input type="radio"/>				
I would feel guilty if I did <u>not</u> do conservation activities.	<input type="radio"/>				

Next we would like to know a little more about your interactions with other VWL participants.

Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

			Neither agree nor disagree		
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree		Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree

I often interact with <u>other VWL citizen scientist volunteers</u> while surveying landowners' properties.	<input type="radio"/>				
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I often interact with <u>VWL biologists and interns</u> while surveying landowners' properties.	<input type="radio"/>				
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I often interact with <u>VWL landowners</u> while surveying their properties.	<input type="radio"/>				
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VWL landowners often accompany me while I am

VWL landowners often accompany me while I am surveying their properties.

Next we would like to know a little more about your thoughts on the natural world.
Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

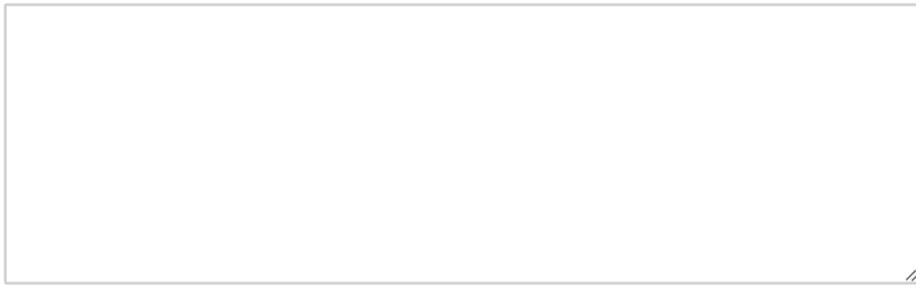
	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
I feel that my personal wellbeing is separate from the wellbeing of the natural world.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel disconnected from nature.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I appreciate the intelligence of other living organisms.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think of the natural world as a community to which I belong.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Events

VWL hosts a variety of events in a typical year. *Some examples of VWL events are lectures, workshops, field walks, farm tours, annual meetings, and volunteer picnics. Please note that this question is not referring to mandatory citizen science trainings and ID sessions.*

In a typical year, about how many VWL events do you attend? *Please select the best option.*

What have you gained from attending these events?



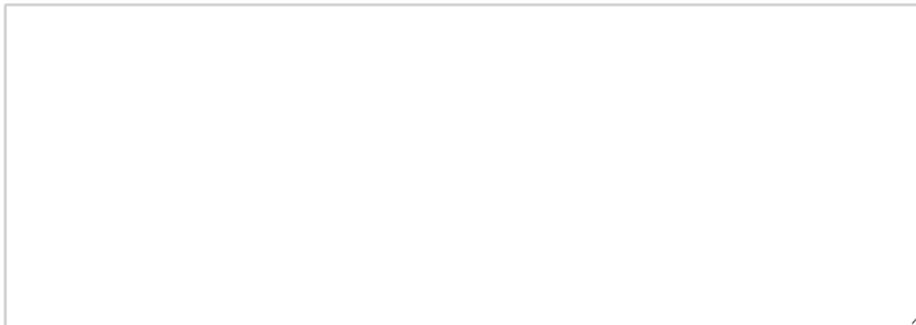
Newsletter

Each month VWL emails out a conservation science newsletter.

In a typical year, about how many VWL monthly conservation science newsletters do you read? *Please select the best option.*



What have you gained from reading the VWL monthly conservation science newsletter?



Are you currently a Virginia Master Naturalist or in training to become one?

Yes

No

Have your hours with VWL gone toward Virginia Master Naturalist volunteer requirements?

Yes

No

What drew you to VWL compared to other programs for Virginia Master Naturalist volunteer hours?

Demographics

Before we finish the survey, we would like to learn a little more about you.

What gender do you identify as? *Please select the option that best describes you.*

Female

Male

Other (please specify)

Prefer not to specify

What race or ethnicity do you identify as? *Please select all that apply.*

American Indian or Alaskan Native

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Black or African American

Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish

White

Middle Eastern or North African

Asian

Some other race or ethnicity (please specify)

What year were you born? *Please enter a 4-digit year.*

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed? *Please select the best option.*

Some high school

High school diploma or GED

Associate's degree

Bachelor's degree

Master's degree

Professional degree or doctorate

Which of the following broad categories describes your approximate annual household income before taxes? *Please select the best option.*

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$124,999
- \$125,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more

Do you have any other comments you would like to share with us?