



Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Stefanie K. Taillon
Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources


Michael S. Rolband, PE, PWD, PWS Emeritus

MEMORANDUM

To: Robert Farrell, Virginia State Forester

Through: Michael S. Rolband, PE, PWD, PWS Emeritus, Director 

CC: Alex Samms, Chief Deputy Director
Trisha Beasley, Director of Operations
W. Brandon Bull, Director of Policy
Brenda Winn, Manager Office of Wetlands & Stream Protection

From: Bryant Thomas, Interim Director of Water 

Date: June 24, 2025

Re: 2024 Nonpoint Source Nutrient Credit Certification of Land Use Conversions
Annual Report to Virginia Department of Forestry

Background:

2024 Acts of Assembly Chapter 146 (HB 892, Del. Bulova) requires that by July 1 of each year, the Department of Environmental Quality shall report to the Department of Forestry the following information about nonpoint source nutrient credits certified in the previous year pursuant to § 62.1-44.19:20 of the Code of Virginia and 9VAC25-900 of the Administrative Code of Virginia that involve land use conversion: (i) the name of the nonpoint source nutrient credit-generating practice; (ii) the acreage of the forest or agricultural lands that could be impacted by the nonpoint source nutrient credits, and (iii) the location of the generation of the nonpoint source nutrient credits, including the locality in which such nonpoint source nutrient credit-generating practice is located.

2024 Nonpoint Source Nutrient Credit Certification of Land Use Conversions:

The regulations for the Certification of Nonpoint Source Nutrient Credits, at 9VAC25-900-10, define "certification of nutrient credits" or "nutrient credit certification" as "the approval of nutrient credits issued by the department as specified in 9VAC25-900-80. Nutrient credit certification does not include the certification of point source credits generated by point sources regulated under the Watershed General Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit issued pursuant to § 62.1-44.19:14 of the State Water Control Law." This memorandum includes

information about nonpoint source nutrient credits associated with land use conversions that the Department of Environmental Quality (department) certified in the calendar year 2024.

For nutrient credit-generating land use conversion projects, 25% of the credits are released by the department after the department has verified completion of the conditions of the nutrient credit certification, including the recordation of the site protection instrument. For afforestation projects, an additional 25% of credits are released by the department after the site has been planted with a minimum of 400 woody stems per acre. The remaining balance of credits are released by the department after it is satisfied that the implementation plan's performance criteria required pursuant to 9VAC25-900-120 has been achieved.

Table 1 identifies nutrient banks that received a credit certification in calendar year 2024, as well as the county in which the bank is located, the acreage associated with the certified credit generating activities, and the type of land conversion that has taken place. Nutrient banks that received approvals in calendar year 2024 that did not have associated credit certifications are not included in Table 1. Crop to hay conversion types remain in agricultural production but still require the recordation of a site protection instrument.

Figure 1 shows where each of the nutrient banks is located. Additional information regarding the credit certifications featured in Table 1 may be provided upon request.

Nutrient Bank	County	Conversion Type	Acreage
Richloam	Lunenburg County	Crop/Hay to Forest	91.94
Hays Farm	King William County	Crop to Hay	27.56
Colonial Mill Creek Preserve	James City County	Mixed Open to Forest	10.53
NBOTJ4	Cumberland County	Pasture to Fallow	30.40
Napier	Charlotte County	Pasture/Crop to Forest	118.45
3 Creeks	Campbell County	Crop to Forest	0.89
Buffalo Junction	Prince Edward County	Crop to Forest	5.78
Lockett's Mill	Prince Edward County	Crop to Forest	12.49
Rappahannock	Orange County	Crop to Forest	7.81
Riverside	Northumberland County	Crop to Forest	32.89
Sailors Creek	Prince Edward County	Crop to Forest	24.34
Sandy River	Prince Edward County	Crop to Forest	33.97
Seven Islands	Buckingham County	Crop to Forest	2.61
Tench	Augusta County	Crop to Forest	48.62
Subtotal			169.40
Charlotte	Charlotte County	Hay to Forest	132.86
Grist Mill	Harrisonburg	Hay to Forest	89.25
Pristine Waters	Orange County	Hay to Forest	30.30
Winchester	Shenandoah County	Hay to Forest	115.87
Subtotal			368.28
81 Express	Rockingham County	Pasture to Forest	19.13
Birch Creek	Halifax County	Pasture to Forest	36.90
Clover	Pulaski County	Pasture to Forest	91.46
Cumberland Road	Cumberland County	Pasture to Forest	57.39
Luray	Page County	Pasture to Forest	38.80
Martin	Shenandoah County	Pasture to Forest	25.41
Rising Star	Buckingham County	Pasture to Forest	159.78
Roanoke Altavista	Pittsylvania County	Pasture to Forest	32.52
Subtotal			461.39
TOTAL			1,277.95

Table 1. List of nutrient banks that received credit certifications for land conversion practices in calendar year 2024

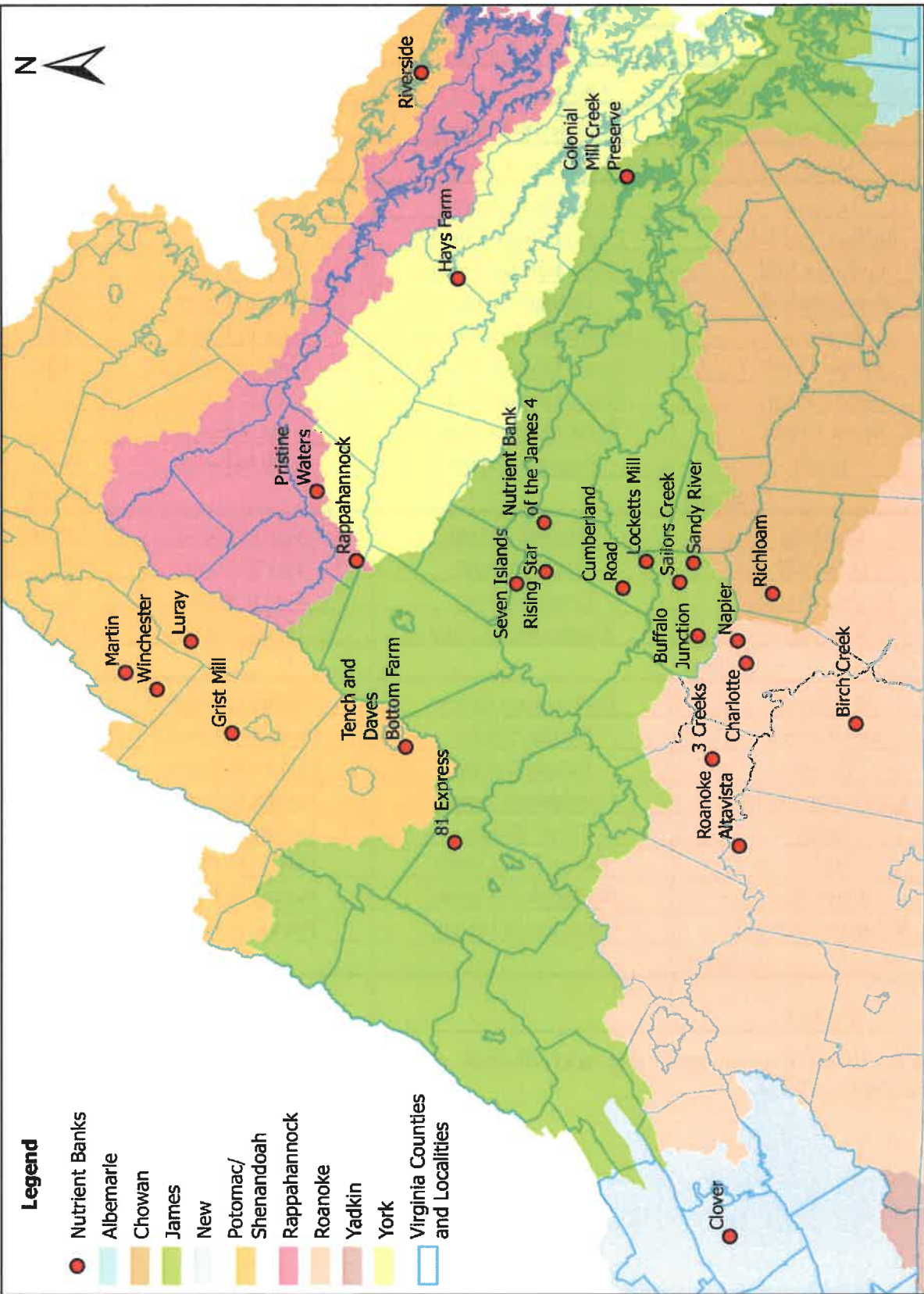


Figure 1. Map of nutrients banks that received credit certifications for land conversion practices in calendar year 2024