We know that many of you are interested in the status of the MRCCA rulemaking project. As you may recall, we wrapped up the informal rulemaking phase last December with a review of the proposed rules the DNR planned to submit to the Revisor’s Office. On December 11, 2014, many of you attended a meeting where we reviewed the draft rules and district maps and answered questions about changes we had made following the June 2, 2014 publication of the Request for Comments. Since then, we have drafted the Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) and made a number of technical revisions to the rules to address issues raised at the December meeting and the Revisor’s Office criteria for rule language.

We are now preparing to start the final phase of rulemaking, which will begin with publication of the Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules (with public hearing). Following is an estimate of the key milestones for this last phase of rulemaking:

**Fall 2015** – Publication of Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules and start of 45-day formal comment period. We will convene another meeting of affected interests when the Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules is published. The purpose of this meeting will be to review rule changes made since December 2014 and to provide information about the public comment period and the public hearing.

**Late Fall 2015** – Public hearing(s) held by an administrative law judge (ALJ).

**Early Winter 2015/2016** – ALJ issues report, which may include:
- recommendations to approve all or portions of the rules,
- recommendations to disapprove all or portions of the rules, or
- specific suggestions for the DNR to consider.

**Late Winter 2016** – DNR submits final rules to Governor for approval. The DNR may further revise the rules prior to submitting them to the Governor, based on ALJ recommendations.

**Spring 2016** – If Governor approves, DNR adopts rules and State publishes Notice of Adoption in State Register. Rules become effective five days after publication.

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