

DIVISION MISSION

Conserve and promote fishing, hunting and wildlife resources through management, education and scientific research.

ECONOMICS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

Hunters, anglers, shooters and wildlife enthusiasts spend BILLIONS in Georgia

FISHING

- Anglers: 1,119,779
- Fishing generates \$3.6 billion in direct expenditures, annually.
- 10 State Fish Hatcheries produced and stocked 11 million fish.
- 11 Public Fishing Areas: 130 lakes (2,700 acres), estimated 900,000 visitors.

HUNTING

- Hunters: 803,058
- Hunting generates \$1.6 billion in direct expenditures, annually.
- 133 Wildlife Management Areas: 1,149,664 acres.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

- Wildlife Viewers: 7.5 million (~57% of adult Georgians).
- This group generates \$5.2 billion in direct expenditures, annually.

SHOOTING SPORTS

- Recreational Shooters: 1.2 million.
- Shooters spend \$2.1 billion on target-shooting purchases.
- 46 Public Shooting Ranges (archery, shotgun, pistol, rifle) with 120,000 estimated annual visitors.

RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Resources Division averages approximately \$35 million in federal Sport Fish & Wildlife Restoration funds each year. These funds come from a federal tax on ammunition, guns, fishing equipment and motorboat fuel. To receive federal funds, Georgia must spend 100% of state revenue collected from hunting/fishing licenses on sport fish and wildlife management to benefit hunters and anglers.

MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Hatchery Production & Stocking:

- ◇ 750,000 Trout
- ◇ 1.9 million Largemouth Bass
- ◇ 1.1 million Striped Bass
- ◇ 7.25 million other species combined

WMA Land Ownership:

- ◇ State-Owned: 498,622
- ◇ Long-Term Lease: 601,959
- ◇ Short-Term Lease: 49,083

WMA Land Management (Acres):

- ◇ Dove Fields: 3,085 acres
- ◇ Impoundments: 5,276 acres
- ◇ Food Plots & Openings: 9,788 acres
- ◇ Roads Maintained: 2,306 miles

Other Management Activities:

- ◇ Prescribed Fire: 70,199 Acres Burned
- ◇ Boat Ramps Managed: 165+
- ◇ Fish Attractors Installed: 700 (18 waterbodies)
- ◇ Aquatic Plants Grown & Installed: 16,911 (14 waterbodies)

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Fisheries Technical Assistance: 615 fulfilled requests.

Wildlife Technical Assistance: 3,840 hours provided to 9,100 citizens.

Georgia Deer Management Assistance Program: 190 cooperators managing over 280,000 acres.

Private Lands & Bobwhite Quail Initiative: 269 landowners in 96 counties managing 107,779 acres.

Urban Wildlife Program (Metro Atlanta): 3,052 calls; on-site response to 393 citizens.

Info Sources Include: WRD Annual Reports FY25 (Fisheries, Game, Wildlife Conservation Sections); WRD Education Program Data ("Education and Outreach"); WRD Hunter Development Program Data ("Education and Outreach"); 2022 Sportsmen's Alliance Economic Contributions Report (Target Shooting); 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-associated Recreation (USFWS; Georgia report/NORC at University of Chicago); States of the Union: Ranking America's Biodiversity (NatureServe 2002); ASA 2019 Economic Contributions of Recreation Fishing Report; Wildlife Viewer Survey: Enhancing Relevancy and Engaging Support from a Broader Constituency (Virginia Tech, 2022)

GEORGIA DNR WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

CONSERVATION WORK AND ACTIONS

- ◇ 1,062 Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).
- ◇ 100+ organizations engaged to develop and implement SWAP conservation actions.
- ◇ 87 Ongoing Research Projects.
- ◇ Georgia Biodiversity Portal: 1.4 million page views.
- ◇ NatureServe Biotics: 34,980 rare species and natural community locations mapped.
- ◇ Environmental reviews and assistance: 1,171 data requests.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

8 Regional Education Centers Outreach:

- ◇ Visitor Center Guests (19,501)
- ◇ Education Programs (58,743 youth & adults)
- ◇ Public Programming Classes (36,112)

Hunter Development Program Outreach:

- ◇ 54,000 people (39,500 youth, 14,500 adults)
- ◇ National Archery in the Schools Program: 497 Georgia Schools (20,000 students)
- ◇ 171 Program Events (47 school, 39 range)

Fishing Outreach:

- ◇ Kids Fishing Events: 110+ Events with an estimated 25,000 participants

Georgia is one of the most biologically diverse states in the nation, ranking:

- ◇ 3rd in amphibian species
- ◇ 3rd in freshwater fish species
- ◇ 3rd in freshwater mussel species
- ◇ 6th in vascular plant species
- ◇ 7th in reptile species

STATE SPECIES

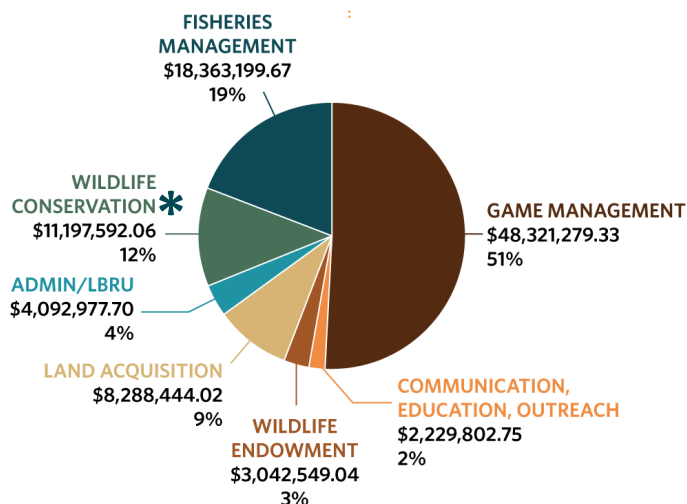
State Reptile: Gopher Tortoise
 State Amphibian: Green Treefrog
 State Marine Mammal: North Atlantic Right Whale
 State Mammal: Whitetail Deer
 State Bird: Brown Thrasher
 State Game Bird: Bobwhite Quail
 State Coldwater Game Fish: Brook Trout
 State Freshwater Game Fish: Largemouth Bass
 State Saltwater Game Fish: Red Drum
 State Riverine Game Fish: Shoal Bass
 State Butterfly: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
 State Insect: Honeybee
 State Tree: Live Oak
 State Flower: Cherokee Rose

LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK: The purchase of a hunting or fishing license directly affects the work WRD does. Fish stockings, improving access to waterways, range renovations, and responding to the public are all examples of how license dollars are used.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION BUDGET INFORMATION

FY25 Expenditures

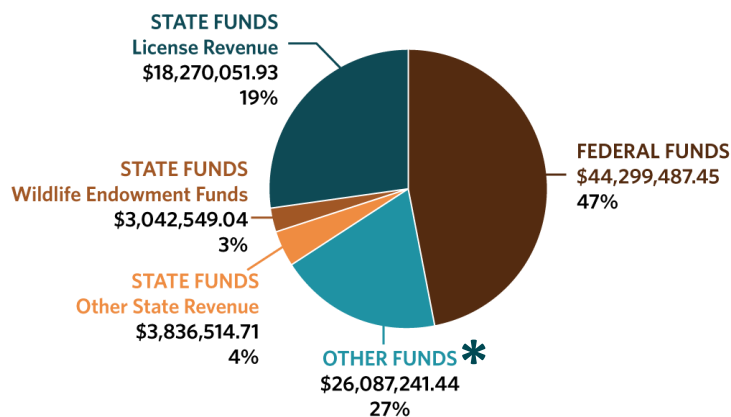
\$96 Million



* Wildlife Conservation: Nongame Conservation Fund Expenditures = \$4,501,880

FY25 Revenue Sources

\$96 Million



* OTHER FUNDS made up of license plate sales, donations, timber revenue, etc.