



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
September 10 – September 16, 2017

This report is a broad sampling of events that have taken place in the past week, but does not include all actions taken by the Law Enforcement Division.



Region I- Acworth (Northwest)

CHATTOOGA, FLOYD, GORDON, AND WALKER COUNTIES

During the period of Hurricane Irma, Corporal Ben Cunningham and Game Warden Kalem Burns assisted local authorities and monitored the condition of state assets such as Wildlife Managements Areas, State Parks and Historical Sites in Floyd, Walker, Chattooga and Gordon counties. The Game Wardens also provided direction to several evacuees seeking shelter from the storm. All of Georgia's State Parks were open to evacuees.

DADE COUNTY

On September 12th, Sgt. Mike Barr assisted evacuees at Cloudland Canyon State Park. High winds and rain caused several trees to fall. An evacuee from Savannah hit a pole on the way out of the campground. Sgt. Barr and park personnel assisted the family with getting their camper back road ready so they could return home after the hurricane.



High winds caused several trees to fall at Cloudland Canyon State Park.



An evacuee was attempting to start the trip back to Savannah when their camper struck a pole. DNR assisted in getting their camper back road ready.

FLOYD COUNTY

On September 11th, Sgt. Mike Barr assisted a female who lost control of her car on Highway 140 as Hurricane Irma rain and winds moved through Floyd County. She received a bump on her head but was otherwise OK.



High winds and heavy rains made driving conditions dangerous during Hurricane Irma.

On September 16, Corporal Ben Cunningham and Game Warden Kalem Burns, were driving along Big Texas Valley Rd when they noticed three large bags of trash that had been tossed on the side of the road by the old railroad bridge. Upon investigating the contents, the game wardens were able to find several pieces of mail that had the subject's names and address. Before leaving the area, the game wardens picked up the trash and took it to the local dump. Upon investigating the residence, and interviewing the tenants, the game wardens determined that the trash did originate from the address and the tenant's name who was on the letters was dealt with accordingly about the improperly disposed litter.

GORDON COUNTY

On September 14th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore received a call from Gordon County E911 about possible spotlighting that had occurred around 2000 hours. Cpl. Elmore made contact with the complainant, gathered more information, which included hearing a high powered rifle shot, and responded to the area. Cpl. Elmore met with Gordon County deputies who were on scene. After a short search of the area, the officers located an eight-point buck hidden in the bushes along a roadway in an abandoned subdivision. Cpl. Brook Varnell, K9 Taz and Game Warden Nolan Callaway were called to the scene. K9 Taz was able to track back to a deer stand where the kill sight was located as well as bait. A vehicle parked near the scene was located and the driver of the vehicle showed up. After an investigation and search of the vehicle and the driver's residence, it was determined the driver was the suspect. The suspect shot the deer with a high powered rifle over bait and without permission. He was arrested and transported to the Gordon County jail. The Calhoun man was charged with hunting without license, hunting without big game license, hunting big game over bait, hunting without permission, hunting with an illegal weapon, failing to record deer harvest, and issued a written warning for criminal trespass.



Eight point white tail buck hidden in the bushes next to a roadway.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

No activity to report.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On September 10th RFC Tim Butler cited one person for hunting big game over bait.

MORGAN COUNTY

On September 10th RFC Tim Butler checked a group of waterfowl hunters. RFC Butler determined the area had been baited with wheat. Five hunters were cited for hunting waterfowl over bait. Sixteen Canada Geese and two blue winged teal were confiscated.

OCONEE COUNTY

On September 16th Cpl. Julian Wilkins and RFC Tim Butler cited one person for hunting big game over bait.

WALTON COUNTY

On September 16th and 17th, Ranger Jason Harrison patrolled Walton County for Dove Hunting Activity. Violations for Hunting Without a License and Hunting With an Unplugged Shotgun were documented.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

On September 9th, Game Wardens and Firefighters from the Albany Fire Department, responded to a fatal boating incident on the Flint River north of Albany. A vessel sank with a total of four people on board, three were rescued by passing boaters, but one of the subjects drown. Games Wardens and Firefighters searched the river utilizing side-scan sonar, divers and aerial searches for several days before recovering the body on the evening of September 13th.

WORTH COUNTY

On the afternoon of September 15th, Cpl. Greg Wade and his patrol dog Trigg checked an area where a landowner had previously reported someone hunting without permission. Cpl. Wade and Trigg checked where stands had previously been located, but none were found. While walking the area to check for additional stands, Cpl. Wade noticed activity indicating the recent passage of a subject. With K9 Trigg leading the track, the able to locate the trespasser some distance away in a tree stand. The trespasser was charged with hunting without permission and hunting big game over bait.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LAURENS COUNTY

On September 12th, Corporal Dan Stiles responded to reports of road hazards, located down power lines, and other damage. Corporal Stiles also patrolled state properties and checked for damage to buildings and facilities.

On September 16th, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the River Bend Wildlife Management Area for dove hunting and deer hunting activity. Five hunters were checked hunting the public dove field on the property. No violations were detected.

PIERCE COUNTY

On September 13th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger First Class Jason Miller conducted a security patrol in the county to assist local agencies and citizens.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On September 10th, Cpl. Kevin Joyce was conducting routine patrol when a vehicle was located in a wooded area just off the roadway. After a brief investigation Cpl. Joyce located two individuals fishing in a nearby private pond without permission. Both individuals were appropriately charged and released at the scene.

TREUTLEN COUNTY

On September 16th, 2017 RFC Bobby Sanders was patrolling for dove hunting activity when several hunters were located. One violation was documented for taking over the bag limit of mourning doves, the birds were confiscated and donated to a local youth home.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

COASTAL GEORGIA

All Game Wardens in Region VII prepared for Hurricane Irma. She entered Georgia on September 11th and caused damage throughout Georgia. Game Wardens in Region VII assisted local counties with debris removal/ road clearing and security patrols. During these patrols over 65 cases of water and multiple cases MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) were given out to residents that needed assistance.

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On September 16th, Ranger Judd Sears was notified by Corporal John Evans that a city of Nahunta officer had a vehicle stopped with some possible wildlife violations. Ranger Sears responded to the area and observed a subject in possession of a 7-point buck. This subject stated he killed the buck on his hunting club with his bow. Ranger Sears checked this subjects hunting license and it was found he was not licensed when the deer was harvested, this subject had purchased his license online after he killed the deer. Charges were documented for non-resident hunting without a license, and non-resident hunting big game without a big game license. The 7-point buck was seized as evidence.



CAMDEN COUNTY

On September 17, Corporal John Evans and Ranger Judd Sears patrolled the St Marys river in the Flea Hill community to check on residents that were flooded. During this patrol they received a call from a subject that wanted to be taken out to high ground. Cpl. Evans and Ranger Sears picked the subject up from his residence by vessel and transported him out of the flooded area.

