

WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION MISSION

To conserve, enhance and promote Georgia's fish and wildlife resources and outdoor heritage through science-driven research, management, regulation and education.

ECONOMICS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

Hunters, anglers, boaters and wildlife enthusiasts spend MILLIONS OF DOLLARS each day in Georgia

FISHING

- 1.2 million resident anglers fish in Georgia.*
- Fishing in Georgia generates \$1.3 billion in retail sales and a \$2.1 billion ripple effect each year.
- Fishing in Georgia is responsible for 15,644 jobs, \$622 million in salaries/wages/earnings, \$147 million in federal tax revenues, and \$109 million in state and local tax revenues.
- There were more than 8.7 million total days of fishing in the state.

**6 years old and up*

HUNTING

- 630,000 people hunt in Georgia.*
- Hunters spend more than 9.9 million days a year in the field.
- Hunters account for \$977 million in retail sales in Georgia with a \$1.6 billion ripple effect each year, up \$500 million since 2006.
- Georgia sportsmen are responsible for creating 23,996 jobs, \$600 million in salaries/wages/earnings, \$106 million in state and local taxes, and \$145 million in federal tax revenue.
- Nationally, hunting participation increased by 9% and hunting-related spending is up 30% since 2006.

**6 years old and up*

WILDLIFE WATCHING

- 2.4 million residents and visitors annually participate in Georgia wildlife-watching activities.
- On average, wildlife watchers spend \$639 per person on food and lodging, transportation, equipment and supplies each year.
- This group spends \$1.8 billion annually in the state.
- 2.2 million Georgians 16-and-older took part in wildlife-watching activities in 2011.

SHOOTING SPORTS

- There are 660,000 target shooters in Georgia.
- Shooters account for \$326 million in retail sales with a total economic impact of \$559 million.
- Shooting provides over \$191 million in salaries.
- Shooting provides \$40 million in state and local taxes and \$48.5 million in federal taxes each year.
- Our partnership with Georgia Southern University produced a state-of-the-art indoor shooting facility investing \$5.8 million for public and collegiate access to this growing recreational and athletic interest.

SOURCES: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, American Sportfishing Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Southwick Associates, Responsive Management 2011 & 2015 (Resident Participation In Freshwater and Saltwater Sport Fishing and Hunting in Georgia)

WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Facts and Stats

- 104 Wildlife Management Areas utilizing 68 wildlife technician positions who perform habitat and timber management activities
- Opportunities on nearly 1 million acres of public lands
- 10 Public Fishing Areas with more than 2,200 acres of water open for fishing
- 10 Fish Hatcheries
- 151 Boat Ramps
- 7 Regional Education Centers
- 17 WRD Shooting Ranges
- 22 WRD Archery Ranges

More than 62,000 acres of habitat improvements completed in 2016 through prescribed burns and wildlife opening management and more than 1 million seedlings planted on state-owned WMAs to enhance wildlife habitat.

Wildlife Resources Division reaches **tens of thousands of children** each year through:

- Outdoor Adventure Days
- Conservation Education Programs
- Kids Fishing & Hunting Events
- Hunter Education and more

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

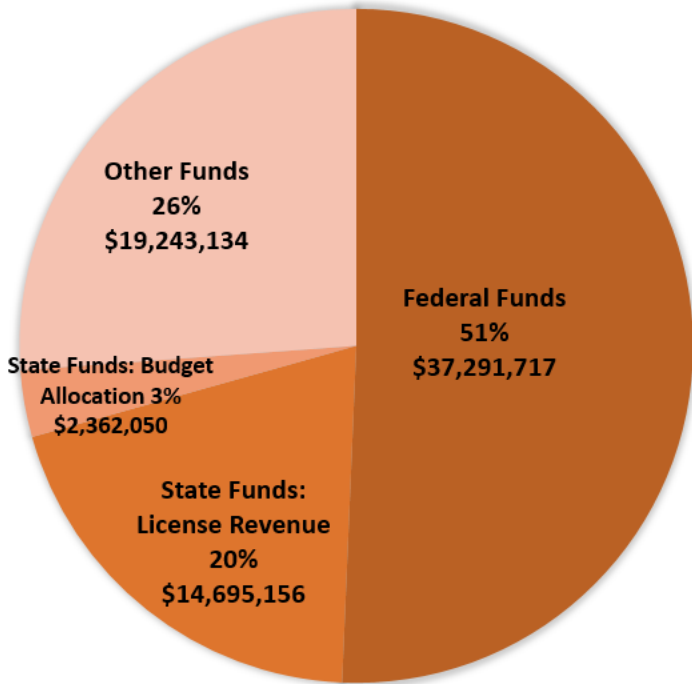
- 2nd in amphibian species
- 3rd in freshwater fish species
- 7th in reptile species
- 7th in vascular plant species

SOURCE: NatureServe

Emergency Response: Over the past 3 years, WRD averaged 400 man-days/year assisting with disaster debris clearing efforts clearing roads with the primary role to clear trees and other debris from white line to white line on targeted roadways.

Responded to a reported 11,416 public contacts involving nuisance abatement, wildlife management/advice, programs, and agency assistance. The majority (11,252) of the contacts dealt with nuisance abatement issues (effort totaled 792 man-days).

FY 16 Revenue Sources



Other funds made up of license plate sales, donations, timber revenue, etc.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Wildlife Resources Division averages approximately \$20 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.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service closely monitors WRD's programs. Together, these agencies ensure that funds generated by Georgia hunters and anglers -- state license revenue and federal funds -- are directed back to programs and projects that benefit sportsmen.

FY 16 Expenses

