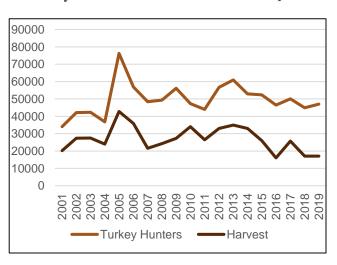


# Wild Turkey Program FY-2019: Harvest Monitoring

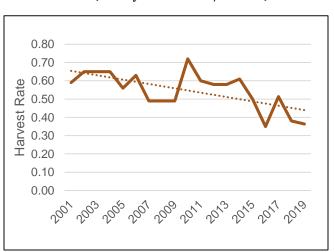
## Statewide Wild Turkey Harvest

Statewide, 46,995 hunters hunted wild turkey in 2019; up 5% from 2018. These hunters harvested 17,073 gobblers in 2019 (unchanged from 2018). The harvest rate was 0.36 turkeys per hunter, slightly below the 2018 rate. Juvenile male turkeys (jakes) accounted for 1,467 of the total gobblers harvested (9%). Regionally, the Piedmont had the highest percentage of the total harvest (36%) followed closely by the Upper Coastal Plain (33%). These were followed by the Lower Coastal Plain (17%), Ridge and Valley (11%), and the Blue Ridge regions (3%). Regional harvest totals were similar to 2018, but harvest has decreased over the past decade across the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions. Hunter satisfaction was 81%, lower than the previous year and below the 5-year average of 88%. Hunter satisfaction is defined as the percentage of hunters surveyed who rated the season Excellent, Good, or Satisfactory. *Source: Georgia Spring Turkey Harvest 2019 Report, Responsive Management* 

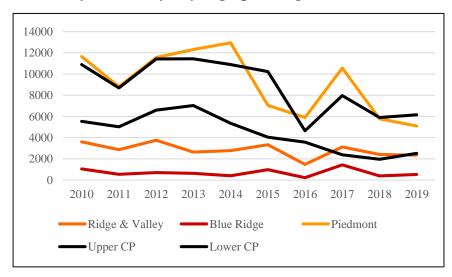
Turkey Hunters and Harvest 2001-2019.



Harvest Rate (turkeys harvested/hunter) 2001-2019



### Turkey Harvest by Physiographic Region, 2010-2019





## Wild Turkey Program FY-2019: Harvest Monitoring

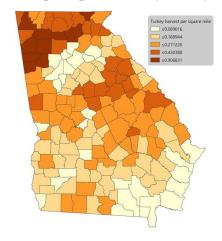
## **Harvest Reporting – Game Check**

Since 2016, hunters have been required to report their turkey harvest by phone, internet, or app. Total reported harvest to Game Check has remained stable from 2016-2019. This reporting requirement allows WRD to track harvest trends at finer spatial scales, as well as easily track WMA harvest.

Harvested turkeys reported to Game Check, 2016-2019

| 2016 | 11,229 |
|------|--------|
| 2017 | 11,781 |
| 2018 | 11,948 |
| 2019 | 11,521 |

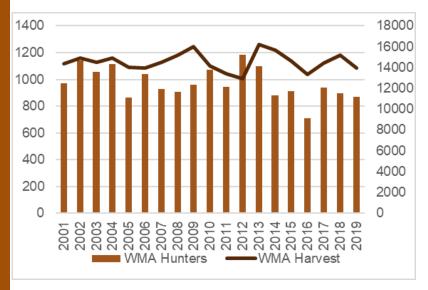
Turkey harvest per square mile by county, 2019



## **Wildlife Management Area Harvest**

In 2019, 13,934 hunters signed in on 113 WMAs, a 9% decrease from 2018. These hunters harvested 866 gobblers, a 3% decrease from 2017. Jakes comprised 21% of the WMA harvest. Overall, hunters had a success rate of 6.2% on wildlife management areas in Georgia.

### Georgia WMA Harvest and Hunter use 2001-2019



#### Top Five WMAs for Total Harvest, 2019

| Area                 | Turkeys   |
|----------------------|-----------|
|                      | Harvested |
| Paulding Forest      | 57        |
| Cohutta              | 52        |
| Dawson Forest        | 48        |
| Redlands             | 39        |
| Crockford-Pigeon Mtn | 32        |

#### Top Five WMAs for Hunter Success, 2019

| Area               | Hunter<br>Success |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Joe Kurz           | 23.5%             |
| Standing Boy Creek | 22.2%             |
| Dukes Creek        | 21.1%             |
| Dawson Forest      | 19.4%             |
| Griffin Ridge      | 17.2%             |