



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

2021 FACT SHEET

Mark Williams
Commissioner

Colonel Thomas Barnard
Director

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION MISSION

The Mission of the Law Enforcement Division is to conserve our natural resources and to protect the people we serve. We maintain public support through fair and vigorous law enforcement, quality education, and community involvement. We commit ourselves to our Vision and Mission by practicing our core beliefs: trust, fairness and professionalism.



Serving Since 1911—Trust, Fairness, Professionalism

DNR has the oldest state law enforcement unit in Georgia. In 1911, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation creating Game Wardens. In those days, they patrolled the woods and waterways on foot and horseback, carrying their own firearms, wearing the now collectible “quail badge” pinned to their chests.

The people, equipment, methods, and technologies have drastically changed in the last 109 years but the core beliefs most certainly have not. Their roles have continued to evolve but they still focus on their core mission of enforcing hunting, fishing, boating and environmental laws. They also provide public safety on all DNR-controlled properties and serve outdoor enthusiasts and the public throughout Georgia.

Today, the agency is well-respected as one of the top conservation law enforcement divisions in North America. Utilizing new and reliable equipment, deploying the latest technology, and employing top-tier men and women are the keys to meeting the Division’s mission of conserving natural resources and protecting the people they serve.

Georgia Game Wardens are POST-certified peace officers with statewide authority and full arrest powers. They are Georgia’s Law Enforcement *Off the Pavement*, serving alongside all other local, state and federal agencies in all areas of law enforcement. They are often called upon to go *Off the Pavement* to get the job done with their specialized training in:

- Woodland Operations
- Waterborne Operations
- Aviation
- Critical Incident Reconstruction
- Search-and-rescue
- Disaster response
- K-9

The Ranger Hotline program, which provides a way for citizens to report anonymously potentially illegal wildlife and other conservation law violations, continues to be successful. If the information leads to an arrest, the tipster receives a cash reward funded by the Georgia Natural Resource Foundation.

Whether in the woods, on the lakes or rivers, or in the air enforcing the laws of the state; or in the classroom or community, educating young and old and encouraging safety and conserving our natural resources, DNR Law Enforcement Game Wardens are up to the task.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Game Warden of the Year	GW Ryan Locke
Supervisor of the Year	Sgt. Phillip Scott
Georgia Boating Officer of the Year	GWFC Frank Pucci
Investigative Game Warden of the Year	GWFC Joe Hill
Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award	Cpl. David Fisher
James R. Darnell Award Recipient	GW Dean Gibson
NWTF Officer of the Year	Cpl. Bubba Stanford
Hunter Education Instructor of the Year	GW Randell Meeks
Torch Award	GW Tyler Lewis
Administrative Professional of the Year	Sharon Sims

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

- 198 POST certified officers
- Each Game Warden serves an average of 53,623 Georgia citizens
- 16,000 miles of rivers patrolled
- 500,000 acres of impounded waters patrolled
- Coastal Patrol: 100 linear miles of shoreline and out to 200 miles offshore
- Land Patrol: Over 37 million acres. This includes public and private land, including 132 Wildlife Management Areas, 11 Public Fishing Areas, and 63 State Parks and Historic Sites.
- 1,284,480 Licensed Anglers
- 707,508 Licensed Hunters
- 332,944 Registered Vessels

Programs

- 121 Hunter Education
- 868 Information and Education
- 136 Boating Safety
- 2 Hunter Development

Cases

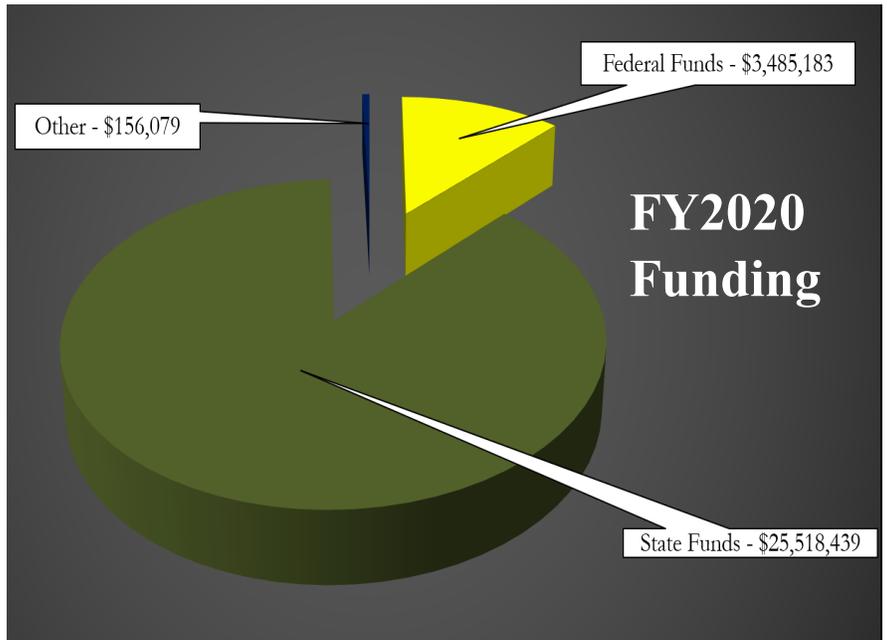
- 337 Land & Water Search and Rescue
- 27 Hunting Incidents
- 128 Boating Incidents

Licenses Checked

- 24,461 Vessels Checked
- 25,441 Hunting Licenses
- 29,779 Fishing Licenses
- 317 Commercial Licenses

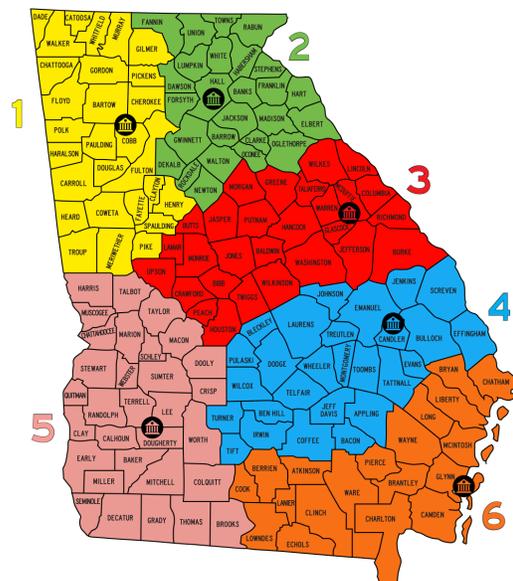
Activity

- 5,703 Boating Contacts
- 3,596 Hunting Contacts
- 3,739 Fishing Contacts
- 700 Environmental Contacts



SPECIALTY UNITS
■ Special Permits
■ K-9
■ Chaplains
■ Aviation
■ Marine Theft
■ Investigative
■ Region Investigators
■ Critical Action Teams
■ Body Recovery Team
■ Critical Incident Reconstruction Team
■ Special Operations Group
■ Side Scan Sonar/ ROV

2020 OFFICER TRAINING
■ 34th Game Warden Academy
■ Use of Deadly Force and De-escalation
■ X2 Taser re-certification
■ Standardized Field Sobriety and BUI Refresher
■ Governor's Initiative Community Oriented Policing
■ "Start the Conversation" suicide awareness and prevention training and the
■ "Building Positive Community Relations"
■ CPR/First Aid recertification.



Headquarters - (770) 918-6408

Region I - (770) 529-2424
Capt. Derek Dillard

Region II - (770) 535-5499
Capt. Mike Burgamy

Region III - (706) 595-4211
Capt. Doyte Chaffin

Region IV - (912) 685-2145
Capt Bob Lynn

Region V - (229) 430-4252
Capt. Rick Sellars

Region VI - (912) 264-7234
Capt. Chris Hodge