

2025  
FISCAL YEAR **SUMMARY**

CONSERVING GEORGIA'S  
WILDLIFE

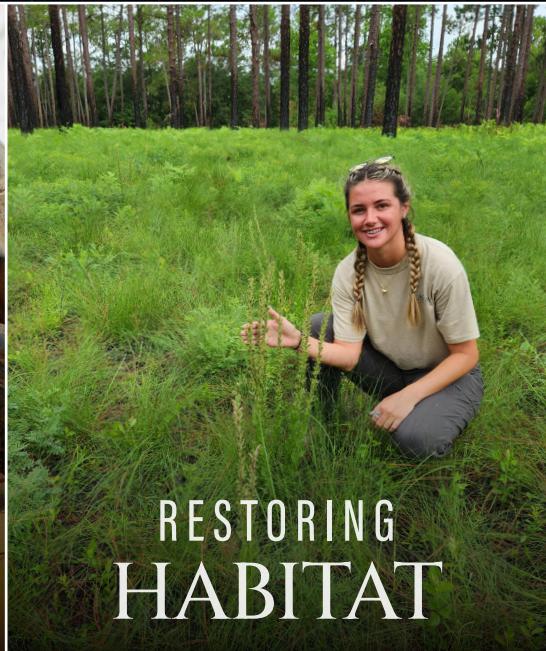


**GEORGIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION



CONSERVING  
WILDLIFE



Our mission at Georgia DNR's **Wildlife Conservation Section** is clear: Restore and protect native wildlife that aren't hunted or fished for, rare plants and the wild places all of these species need.

This work is steered by the State Wildlife Action Plan – a comprehensive strategy for conserving animals, plants and habitats before they become more rare and more costly to save and restore.

Georgia is amazingly rich in wildlife. But we need your help to keep it that way.

Learn more at [georgiawildlife.com/conservation/annualreport](http://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/annualreport) or by scanning the code below.



DNR's Kaylee Clayton Blackburn samples for eDNA from trispot darters (Alan Cressler)

# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

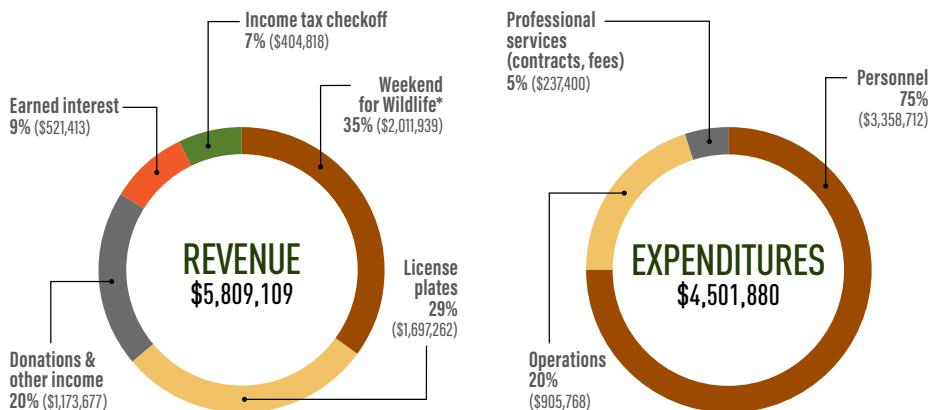
- ✓ Helped achieve a Gopher Tortoise Conservation Initiative milestone: 65 populations permanently protected!
- ✓ Led completion of Georgia's 2025 State Wildlife Action, which will guide conservation for the next 10 years.
- ✓ Added Upatoi Ravines Natural Area and Treat Mountain WMA with key support from a Georgia DOT agreement aiding bats and needed roadwork.
- ✓ Rallied on private and public lands to restore wildlife habitat in the wake of Hurricane Helene.
- ✓ Opened the Joe Tanner Discovery Center at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center, part of larger education efforts that reached over 100,000 people this year.
- ✓ Advanced plant conservation across the state, helping with easements benefiting endangered Canby's dropwort, relocating at-risk pitcherplants and documenting unique species.
- ✓ Teamed with northwest Georgia partners to assess threatened trispot darters using eDNA and identify culverts that block their spawning runs.
- ✓ Monitored and studied imperiled mammals, from North Atlantic right whales to Appalachian cottontails.

- ✓ As keeper of the Biotics database and DNR's 1,600-profiles-plus Biodiversity Portal, served as our state's go-to source on rare wildlife.
- ✓ Promoted a red knot's stunning migration and capped a Georgia coastwide survey of fast-declining saltmarsh sparrows.



DNR's Sam Holst with an Appalachian cottontail

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



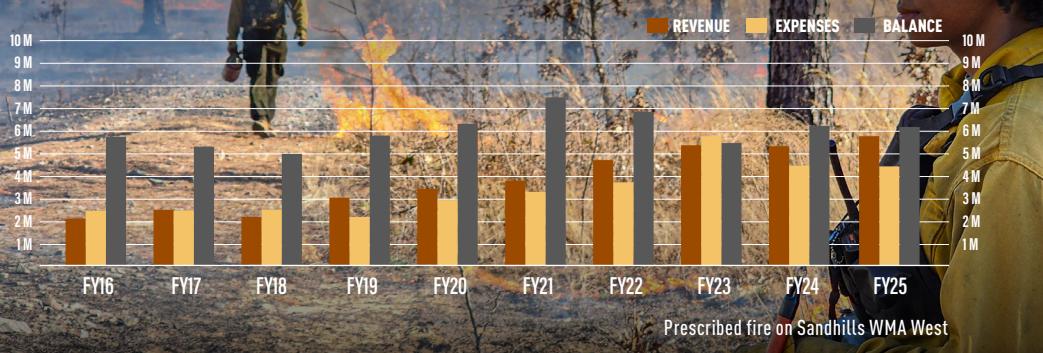
*Does not include grants or state appropriations.*

*\*2025 Weekend for Wildlife revenue disbursed by the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation in fiscal 2026.*

*Expenditures paid through the Nongame Fund.*

## NONGAME WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND

*Listed in millions per year*



Pearl crescent butterfly and DNR's Linda May

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Wildlife Conservation Section depends on fundraisers, grants and donations. That means your support, whether it's renewing a bald eagle license plate or donating through [gooutdoorsgeorgia.com](http://gooutdoorsgeorgia.com), is crucial.

Join us as a contributor, volunteer, landowner or organization and give Georgia wildlife a chance!

# HOW YOU CAN HELP



**BUY** an eagle or monarch butterfly license plate or renew these or an older design, like the hummingbird tag. Most of the \$25 fee goes directly to wildlife!



**DONATE** to the Georgia Wildlife Conservation Fund at [gooutdoorsgeorgia.com](http://gooutdoorsgeorgia.com). To give, click Licenses and Permits to create an account or Go Outdoors Georgia Shop to see donation options.



**CONTRIBUTE** through the Wildlife Conservation Fund state income-tax checkoff. Details at [georgiawildlife.com/donations](http://georgiawildlife.com/donations).



**PURCHASE** a hunting or fishing license. A license returns to Georgia wildlife the purchase fee *plus* up to \$45 in federal excise taxes paid by hunters and anglers.



**VOLUNTEER** with DNR and join conservation organizations such as our friends group, The Environmental Resources Network (TERN). Learn more at [gooutdoorsgeorgia.com](http://gooutdoorsgeorgia.com) and [tern.homestead.com](http://tern.homestead.com).



“The work of our partners and your support through donations and collaborations – from renewing DNR nongame license plates to providing feedback on the State Wildlife Action Plan – are more important than ever for our conservation mission. Thank you all! You are truly appreciated.”

**Matt Elliott** | Chief, Wildlife Conservation Section

## FOLLOW US

Sign up for our free Georgia Wild e-newsletter at [georgiawildlife.com/GaWild](http://georgiawildlife.com/GaWild)

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COVER: Red knot (Adobe Stock)

PHOTO CREDITS

INSIDE COVER: Trispot darter (Doug Strickland/Tennessee Aquarium) | DNR's Audra Futch with endangered American chaffseed at Doerun Pitchplant Bog | Camp TALON youth point out a bird | Gopher tortoise eating All photos are from DNR unless noted.