

## DIVISION MISSION

*Conserve and promote fishing, hunting and wildlife resources through management, education and scientific research.*

## ECONOMICS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

*Hunters, anglers, shooters and wildlife enthusiasts spend BILLIONS in Georgia*

### FISHING

- Anglers: 1,129,635
- Fishing generates \$3.6 billion in direct expenditures, annually.
- 10 State Fish Hatcheries produced and stocked 10 million fish.
- 11 Public Fishing Areas: 130 lakes (2,700 acres), estimated 900,000 visitors.

### HUNTING

- Hunters: 815,738
- Hunting generates \$1.6 billion in direct expenditures, annually.
- 133 Wildlife Management Areas: 1,149,664 acres.

### WILDLIFE VIEWING

- Wildlife Viewers: 7.5 million (~57% of adult Georgians).
- This group generates \$5.2 billion in direct expenditures, annually.

### SHOOTING SPORTS

- Recreational Shooters: 1.6 million.
- Shooters spend \$598 million in retail sales.
- 47 Public Shooting Ranges (archery, shotgun, pistol, rifle) with 100,000 estimated annual visitors.

## RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT

*Wildlife Resources Division averages approximately \$35 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.*

## MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Hatchery Production & Stocking:

- ◇ 1,000,000 Trout
- ◇ 1.5 million Largemouth Bass
- ◇ 1.7 million Striped Bass
- ◇ 5.8 million other species combined

### WMA Land Ownership:

- ◇ State-Owned: 498,622
- ◇ Long-Term Lease: 601,959
- ◇ Short-Term Lease: 49,083

### WMA Land Management (Acres):

- ◇ Dove Fields: 2,869 acres
- ◇ Impoundments: 5,270 acres
- ◇ Food Plots & Openings: 9,544 acres
- ◇ Roads Maintained: 1,911 miles

### Other Management Activities:

- ◇ Prescribed Fire: 97,214+ Acres Burned
- ◇ Boat Ramps Managed: 165+
- ◇ Fish Attractors Installed: 660 (15 waterbodies)
- ◇ Aquatic Plants Grown & Installed: 17,953 (16 waterbodies)

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

**Fisheries Technical Assistance:** 400 fulfilled requests.

**Wildlife Technical Assistance:** 3,600 hours provided to 8,300 citizens.

**Georgia Deer Management Assistance Program:** 178 cooperators managing over 200,000 acres.

**Private Lands & Bobwhite Quail Initiative:** 347 landowners in 98 counties managing 136,384 acres.

**Urban Wildlife Program (Metro Atlanta):** 2,848 calls; on-site response to 386 citizens.

**Info Sources Include:** WRD Annual Reports FY24 (Fisheries, Game, Wildlife Conservation Sections); WRD Education Program Data ("Education and Outreach"); WRD Hunter Development Program Data ("Education and Outreach"); 2019 Target Shooting in America Report; Economic Impact of Hunting and Shooting in 2020; 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-associated Recreation (USFWS; Georgia report/NORC at University of Chicago); States of the Union: Ranking America's Biodiversity (NatureServe 2002); ASA 2019 Economic Contributions of Recreation Fishing Report; Wildlife Viewer Survey: Enhancing Relevancy and Engaging Support from a Broader Constituency (Virginia Tech, 2022)

# GEORGIA DNR WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

## CONSERVATION WORK AND ACTIONS

- ◇ 640 Greatest Conservation Need species in Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).
- ◇ 1,000 species under consideration for 2025 SWAP.
- ◇ 84 Ongoing Research Projects.
- ◇ Georgia Biodiversity Portal: 1.2 million page views.
- ◇ NatureServe Biotics: 33,641 rare species and natural community sites.
- ◇ Environmental reviews and assistance: 1,390 data requests.

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH

### 8 Regional Education Centers Outreach:

- ◇ Visitor Center Guests (16,892)
- ◇ Education Programs (68,008 youth & adults)
- ◇ Public Programming Classes (38,388)

### Hunter Development Program Outreach:

- ◇ 50,000 people (42,000 youth, 8,000 adults)
- ◇ National Archery in the Schools Program: 446 Georgia Schools (27,000 students)
- ◇ 171 Program Events (50 school, 21 range)

### Fishing Outreach:

- ◇ Kids Fishing Events: 90+ Events with estimated 15,000 participants

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

- ◇ 2nd in amphibian species
- ◇ 3rd in freshwater fish species
- ◇ 3rd in freshwater mussel species
- ◇ 6th in vascular plant species
- ◇ 7th in reptile species

## STATE SPECIES

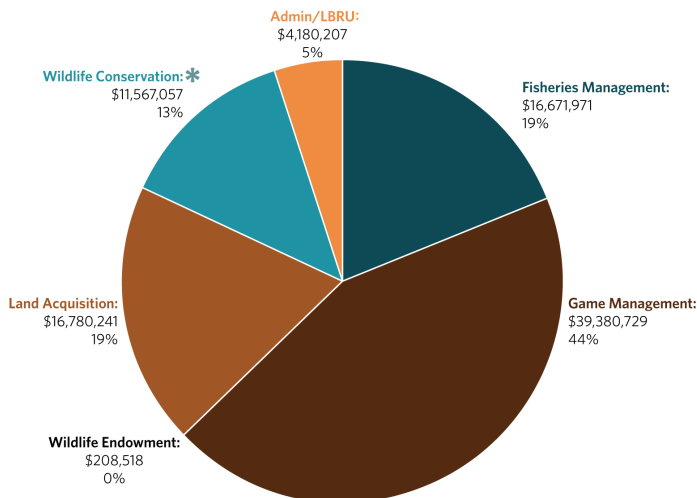
- State Reptile: Gopher Tortoise
- State Amphibian: Green Treefrog
- State Marine Mammal: North Atlantic Right Whale
- State Mammal: Whitetail Deer
- State Bird: Brown Thrasher
- State Game Bird: Bobwhite Quail
- State Coldwater Game Fish: Brook Trout
- State Freshwater Game Fish: Largemouth Bass
- State Saltwater Game Fish: Red Drum
- State Riverine Game Fish: Shoal Bass
- State Butterfly: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
- State Insect: Honeybee
- State Tree: Live Oak
- State Flower: Cherokee Rose

**LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK:** *The purchase of a hunting or fishing license directly affects the work WRD does. Fish stockings, improving access to waterways, range renovations, and responding to the public are all examples of how license dollars are used.*

## WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION BUDGET INFORMATION

### FY24 Expenditures

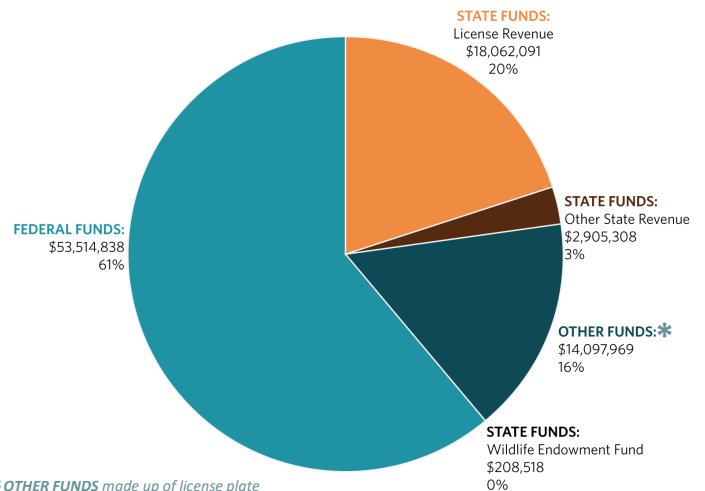
**\$89 Million**



\*Wildlife Conservation: Nongame Conservation Fund Expenditures = \$4,558,271

### FY24 Revenue Sources

**\$89 Million**



\*OTHER FUNDS made up of license plate sales, donations, timber revenue, etc.