

Fact Sheet: FY26

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: 1,095,732
- Fishing generates \$3.6 billion in direct expenditures, annually.
- 10 State Fish Hatcheries produced and stocked 10.8 million fish.
- 11 Public Fishing Areas: 130 lakes (2,700 acres), estimated 875,000 visitors.

HUNTING

- Hunters: 759,715
- Hunting generates \$1.6 billion in direct expenditures, annually.
- 134 Wildlife Management Areas: 1,192,999 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: 1.2 million.
- Shooters spend \$2.1 billion on target-shooting purchases.
- 46 Public Shooting Ranges (archery, shotgun, pistol, rifle) with 120,000 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:

- ◇ 800,000 Catchable Trout
- ◇ 1.25 million Largemouth Bass
- ◇ 1.7 million Striped Bass
- ◇ 7 million other species combined

WMA Land Ownership (acres):

- ◇ State-Owned: 532,403
- ◇ Long-Term Lease: 567,773
- ◇ Short-Term Lease: 92,823

WMA Land Management:

- ◇ Dove Fields: 2,667 acres
- ◇ Impoundments: 5,245 acres
- ◇ Food Plots & Openings: 8,252 acres
- ◇ Roads Maintained: 3,459 miles

Other Management Activities:

- ◇ Prescribed Fire: 68,106 Acres Burned
- ◇ Boat Ramps Managed: 165+
- ◇ Fish Attractors Installed: 800 (21 waterbodies)
- ◇ Aquatic Plants Grown & Installed: 10,500 (17 waterbodies)

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Fisheries Technical Assistance: 400 fulfilled requests.

Wildlife Technical Assistance: 4,880 hours provided to 11,501 citizens.

Georgia Deer Management Assistance Program: 245 cooperators managing over 366,080 acres.

Private Lands & Bobwhite Quail Initiative: 246 landowners in 71 counties managing 92,862 acres.

Urban Wildlife Program (Metro Atlanta): 3,206 calls; on-site response to 325 citizens.

Info Sources Include: WRD Annual Reports FY26 (Fisheries, Game, Wildlife Conservation Sections); WRD Education Program Data ("Education and Outreach"); WRD Hunter Development Program Data ("Education and Outreach"); 2022 Sportsmen's Alliance Economic Contributions Report (Target Shooting); 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

- ◇ 1,062 Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).
- ◇ 100+ organizations engaged to develop and implement SWAP conservation actions.
- ◇ 57 Ongoing & Completed Projects in the SWAP Conservation Action Tracker.
- ◇ Georgia Biodiversity Portal: 1.6 million site visits.
- ◇ NatureServe Biotics: 35,978 rare species and natural community locations mapped.
- ◇ Environmental reviews and assistance: 1,350 data requests.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

8 Regional Education Centers Outreach:

- ◇ Visitor Center Guests (19,550)
- ◇ Education Programs (63,919 youth & adults)
- ◇ Public Programs (44,283 youth & adults)

Hunter Development Program Outreach:

- ◇ 39,345 people (31,845 youth, 7,500 adults)
- ◇ National Archery in the Schools Program: 479 Georgia Schools (20,000 students)
- ◇ 79 Program Events (46 school, 33 range)

Fishing Outreach:

- ◇ Kids Fishing Events: 105+ Events with an estimated 22,000 participants

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

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

COMMUNICATION:

- ◇ News Releases: 74 issued to 450+ news outlets
- ◇ Targeted Emails Direct to Customers: 385 emails reaching 23,165,928 contacts
- ◇ Monthly E-Newsletter: 145,000 subscribers
- ◇ Website: 2.2 million total users
- ◇ Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn): 737 posts with a reach of 11,801,814 people

INTERNAL TRAINING:

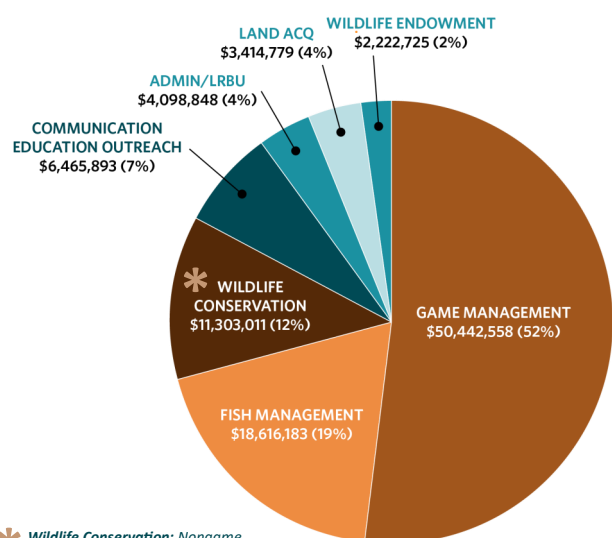
- ◇ More than 425 staff trained across multiple focus areas, including lifesaving, management, agency knowledge, and animal handling.

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

FY26 Expenditures

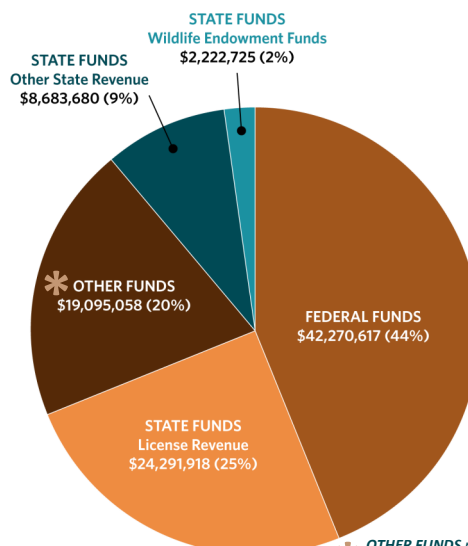
\$97 Million



* Wildlife Conservation: Nongame Conservation Fund Expenditures = \$4,768,579.44

FY26 Revenue Sources

\$97 Million



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