



# Proposed Hunting Regulations 2023-2025 Seasons

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# Regulatory Objectives

- Biologically Appropriate & Scientifically Sound
- Responsive to Public Desires within Biological Appropriateness
- Strive for Simplicity & Flexibility
- Minimize challenges for Recruitment, Retention & Reactivation ( $R^3$ )





# Timeline & Process



- January - Public Input
- February - Develop Proposals
- March - Board Briefing
- April - Public Comment
- May - Board Action
- June - Popular Guide Development
- July - Popular Guide Available



# Major Changes – Legislative (HB 1147)

- Rules governing hunting and fishing are either **statutory** (state law) or **regulatory**. State laws are passed by the legislature. Regulations are passed by the Board of Natural Resources within statutory authority.
- HB 1147 was passed by the legislature during the 2022 session and the affected DNR Rules were amended accordingly in time to take effect July 2022.





# Hunting & Trapping, Private Lands

- Effective July 1, 2022, there is no closed season nor any bag limit for raccoons and opossums
- All methods currently lawful for take of these species may be used, including hounds
- All other regulations and license requirements do still apply





# Public lands - Hunting

- On WMAs, we expanded hunting opportunity - 61 additional days
- Now the season is **Aug 15 – Feb 28** (closed during quota hunts and unless otherwise specified)
- No bag limit
- All other public land license requirements and restrictions will still apply



# Public lands - Trapping

- On WMAs, trapping is by permit only
- Albany Nursery, B.F. Grant, Big Lazer Creek, Blanton Creek, Bullard Creek, Clayhole, Pigeon Mountain, Dawson Forest, Dixon Memorial, Elmodel, Joe Kurz, Penholoway, Rum Creek, Tuckahoe, West Point, and Yuchi
- Contact Region Office for permit details





# Major Changes – Legislative (HB 1148)

- HB 1148 was also passed by the legislature during the 2022 session and the affected DNR Rules were amended accordingly in time to take effect July 2022.
- This bill made it unlawful to bring an intact deer carcass into GA from any other state (not just those with reported cases of Chronic Wasting Disease).





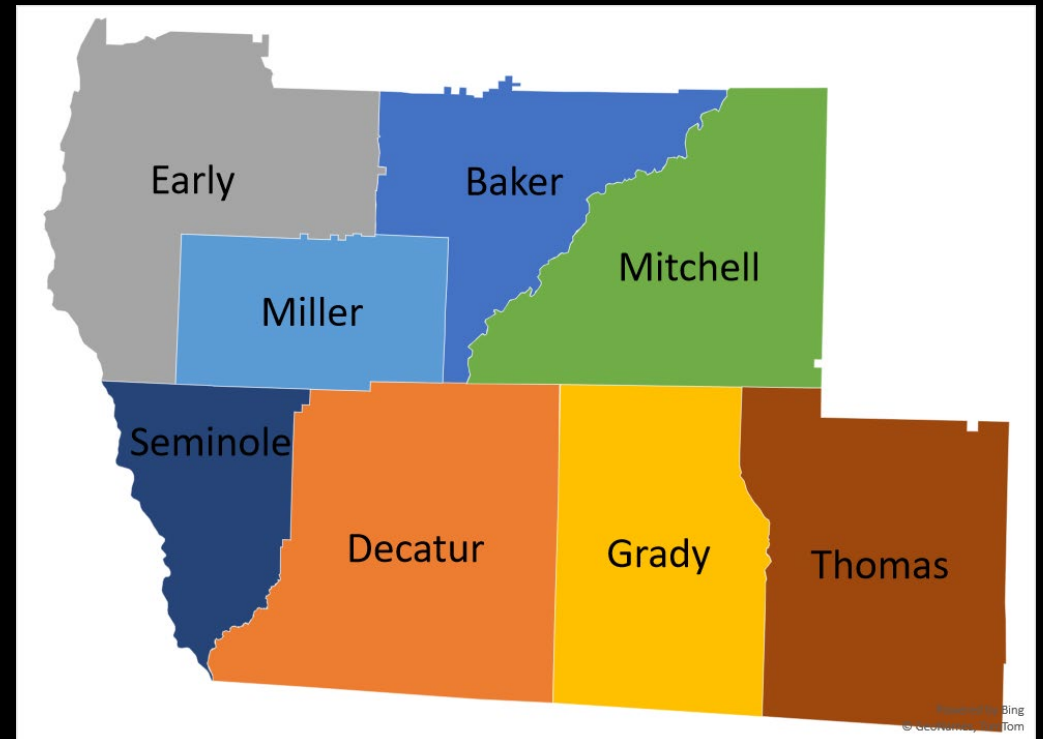
# Proposed Changes – Statewide Regulations

- **Housekeeping** (minor changes to existing rules to correct errors or omissions, or to clarify)
  - For drawn big game quota hunts, a hunter may bring an assistant afield
  - Clarify alligator hunters can sell a lawfully harvested raw hide
- **Alligators** – add 100 harvest permits (increases total quota to 1,130).
- **Extended Archery Season** (Urban Counties) – Add Richmond to those counties with an extended archery season consistent with the Statewide Strategic Deer Management Plan 2019-2024.

# Proposed Changes – Deer Season SWGA

- 1<sup>st</sup> 2 weeks of archery buck only due to late fawn weaning
- Extend firearms season to January 15th
- Extend archery season to January 31st (maximum statutory framework)
- Data from does recently collected in SW GA show peak rut is later than other areas of the state

**Baker, Decatur, Early, Grady,  
Miller, Mitchell, Seminole,  
Thomas Counties**





# Proposed Changes – Bears

- Require Game Check for all 3 zones
- Allow northern zone hunters to get harvested bears tagged by participating taxidermists and meat processors as well as usual locations
- Stipulate that bears harvested in the southern zone must be taken for tagging within 24 hours of harvest



# Proposed Changes – Central Bear Zone

- Allow an additional day of opportunity if less than 6 females are killed on 1st day
- Upcoming season date is Dec 16, 2023; the second day would be Jan. 6, 2024 if  $<6$  sows taken on Dec 16
- Keeps current 3rd Saturday in December single day private land only hunt as is
- Allows additional opportunity, particularly if weather on Day 1 restricts harvest, while limiting the risk of overharvesting females on Day 2
- UGA Population Viability Analysis – annual mortality above 11 adult females would result in pop'n decline over time



# Wildlife Management Areas

- As always, we have numerous small changes to the hunting regulations for some WMAs
- These can be viewed on our website at <https://georgiawildlife.com/regulations/meetings> after the March 28, 2023 DNR Board meeting
- Input relative to all proposed changes - [gm.comments@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:gm.comments@dnr.ga.gov)
- Got questions about a specific WMA? Contact the region office for the best response (contact info on our website)

# Question & Answer Period

## Thank You For Your Participation & Support



### Our Mission:

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

**Comments can be sent to [gm.comments@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:gm.comments@dnr.ga.gov) until February 6, 2023. Please visit our website for more information**

**[www.georgiawildlife.com/regulations/meetings](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/regulations/meetings)**