



Welcome, and thanks for attending.

COVID-19 Precautions:

Please wear your mask and maintain 6 ft distancing

If you did not preregister, you will be invited to speak at the end of the meeting

This presentation can be viewed online and comments submitted to
gm.comments@dnr.ga.gov



Georgia's Wildlife Resources Division

2021–2023 Hunting Regulations Cycle Public Input Meetings

Department of Natural Resources

Regulations Purpose & Process

The General Assembly declares that the state's wildlife resources shall be managed in accordance with sound principles of wildlife management, using all appropriate tools, including hunting, fishing, and the taking of wildlife (OCGA 27-1-3).

The purpose of these public meetings is to: 1) Encourage public participation; 2) Obtain input for consideration; and 3) Exchange of information.

The process for development of hunting regulations is:

Jan - Public Input

Feb - Develop Proposals

Mar- Review by DNR Board

Apr - Public Notice & Hearings

May- DNR Board Action

Jun - Develop Popular Guide

July- Distribution to Public

Wildlife Conservation Funding

- Wildlife conservation predominantly is paid for by hunters and anglers through license sales and equipment purchases
- If you enjoy wildlife watching, thank hunters and anglers for conserving all wildlife through their support of sportfish and wildlife restoration funds
- Hunters and anglers have and continue to pay more toward conservation than all other conservation groups combined!



WRD averages approximately \$20 million in federal SFWR funds each year. Recent projects include extensive renovations at West Point, Wilson Shoals, and Mike Commander Shooting Ranges, and boat ramp/facilities improvements in Ben Hill, Floyd, Jeff Davis, & Jasper counties.

Regulatory Objectives

- Biologically appropriate & scientifically sound—statutory mandate
- Responsive to public desires where appropriate
- Minimize negative impacts on R^3 (Recruitment, Retention & Reactivation of hunters)
- Minimize complexity; Strive for simplicity



Statewide regulation changes

- Require bears harvested in the northern zone to be reported via Game Check
- Simplify existing antler restrictions—4 on a side OR 15 inch outside spread (except Dooly and Macon Co.s)
- Enact a daily bag limit of 1 turkey statewide
- One of the following 3 options for turkeys:
 - Allow only 1 gobbler/1st 10 days and reduce bag limit to 2
 - Reduce turkey bag limit from 3 to 2
 - Allow only 1 gobbler during the 1st 10 days of the statewide season

General WMA regulation changes

- Delay start of Turkey Season on all state managed lands until the second Saturday in April
- One Gobbler per WMA season limit
- One standard for Quality Bucks (4 points on one side or 15 inches)



Survey of turkey and dove hunters

- Thank you, everyone who completes our email surveys and annual telephone surveys!
- Big game permit holders will get a survey about turkey regulations
- GA migratory bird stamp holders will get a survey about dove season
 - Provide October Dove Hunting Opportunity?
 - WRD would have to delay the first and/or third season start to provide this opportunity)
- If you do not have a valid email address in your GoOutdoorsGeorgia account, you will not get the surveys

Public Input Period

- 1) This begins the official portion of the meeting.
- 2) Please hold any questions until the end of the meeting.
- 3) Please keep comments to 3 minutes. We will be recording your summarized input.
- 4) Please direct comments to staff. Interrupting and engaging other participants is discouraged.
- 5) First, we will call from list of those who indicated they would like to make a comment.
- 6) Next, we will ask if there is anyone else who would like to make a comment.
- 7) Afterward, the comment period is closed and the official meeting is over.
- 8) We will remain to entertain any questions.

Learn More & Stay Connected

Thank You for Your Participation!

The best way to financially contribute to wildlife conservation is through the purchase and renewal of hunting and/or fishing licenses. Your license purchases ensure Georgia's ability to maximize its share of WSFR program dollars and successful conservation programs can continue.

Stay Connected:

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