



Proposed Hunting Regulations 2025-2027 Seasons

Tina Johannsen
Assistant Chief
Game Management Section

Timeline & Process (odd years only)

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



Regulatory Objectives

1. Biologically Appropriate & Scientifically Sound
2. Responsive to Public Desires within Biological Appropriateness
3. Strive for Simplicity & Flexibility
4. Minimize challenges for Recruitment, Retention & Reactivation (R³)



Public Input

- 30 day public comment period required by Administrative Procedure Act
- Public hearings
 - 3 in person
 - 1 virtual
- Deadline to submit written comments – April 30, 2025

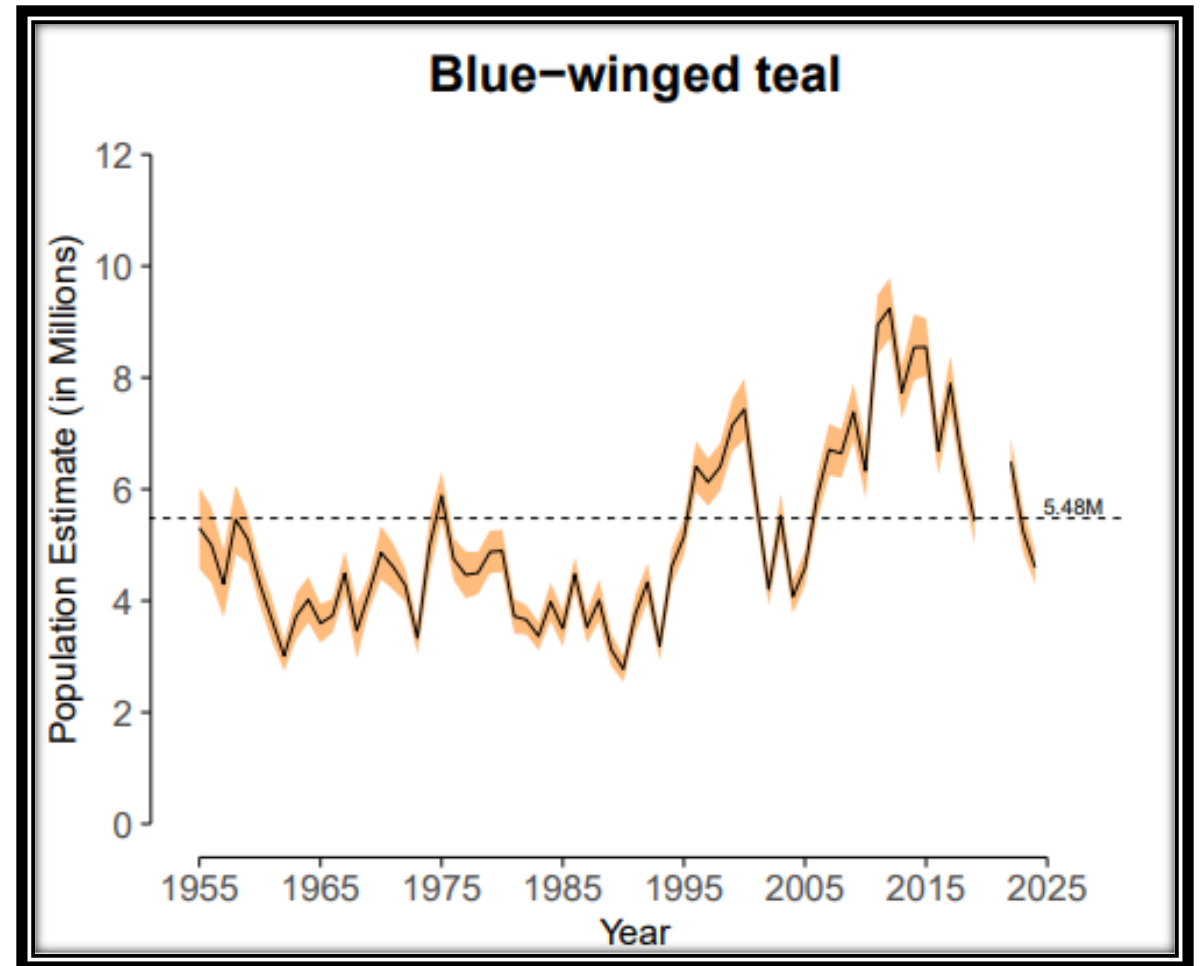


Proposed Changes – Statewide Regulations

- Make definition of “youth” consistent across species/seasons/hunts
- HB 287 amended 27-2-4.4 (B)(1) Youth under 16 years of age ~~Any person who is 16 years of age or younger~~”
- 27-2-1. Hunting, trapping, or fishing without license or permit generally; nonresidents. “It shall be unlawful for any resident of this state who has attained the age of 16 years to hunt, fish in the waters of this state, or trap without a valid hunting license, fishing license, or trapping license, respectively”

Proposed Changes – Statewide Regulations

- Reduce early teal season to 9 days (no change in bag limit)
- BWTE is 10% below longterm average
- [Waterfowl Population Status, 2024](#)

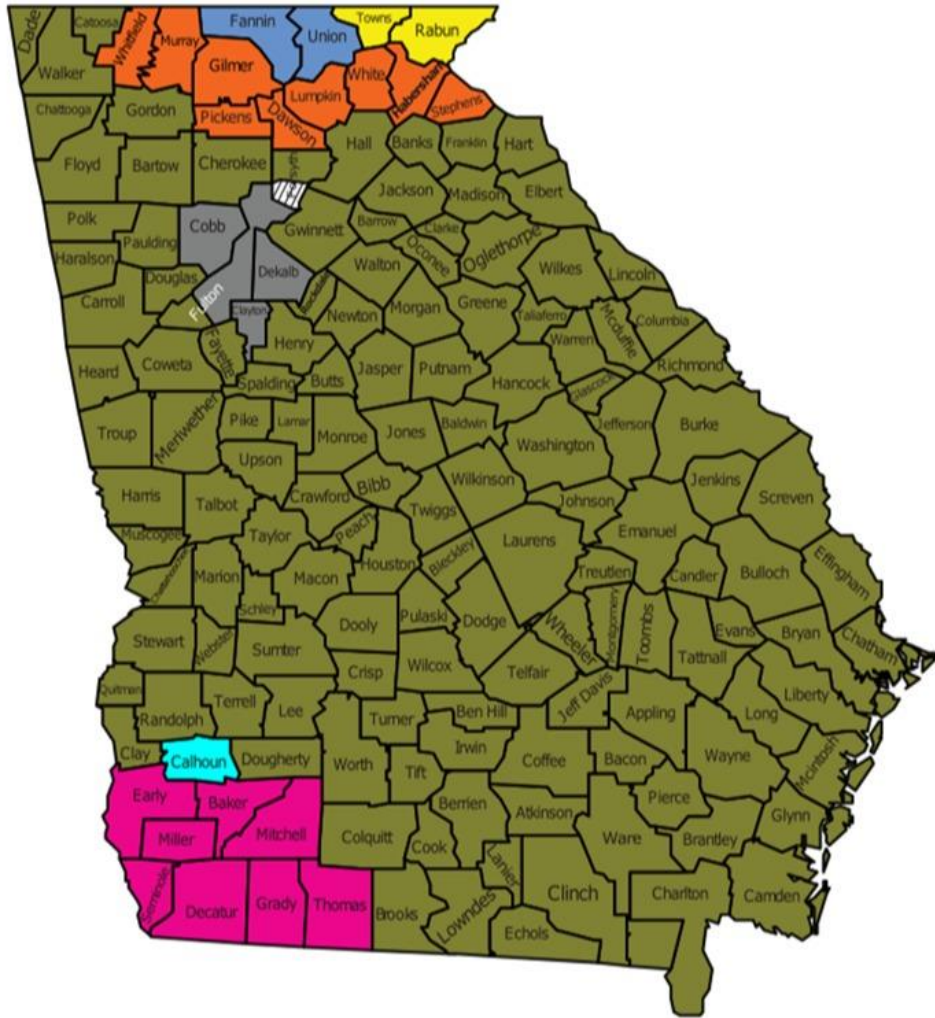


Proposed Changes – Deer Season SWGA



- 1st 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)

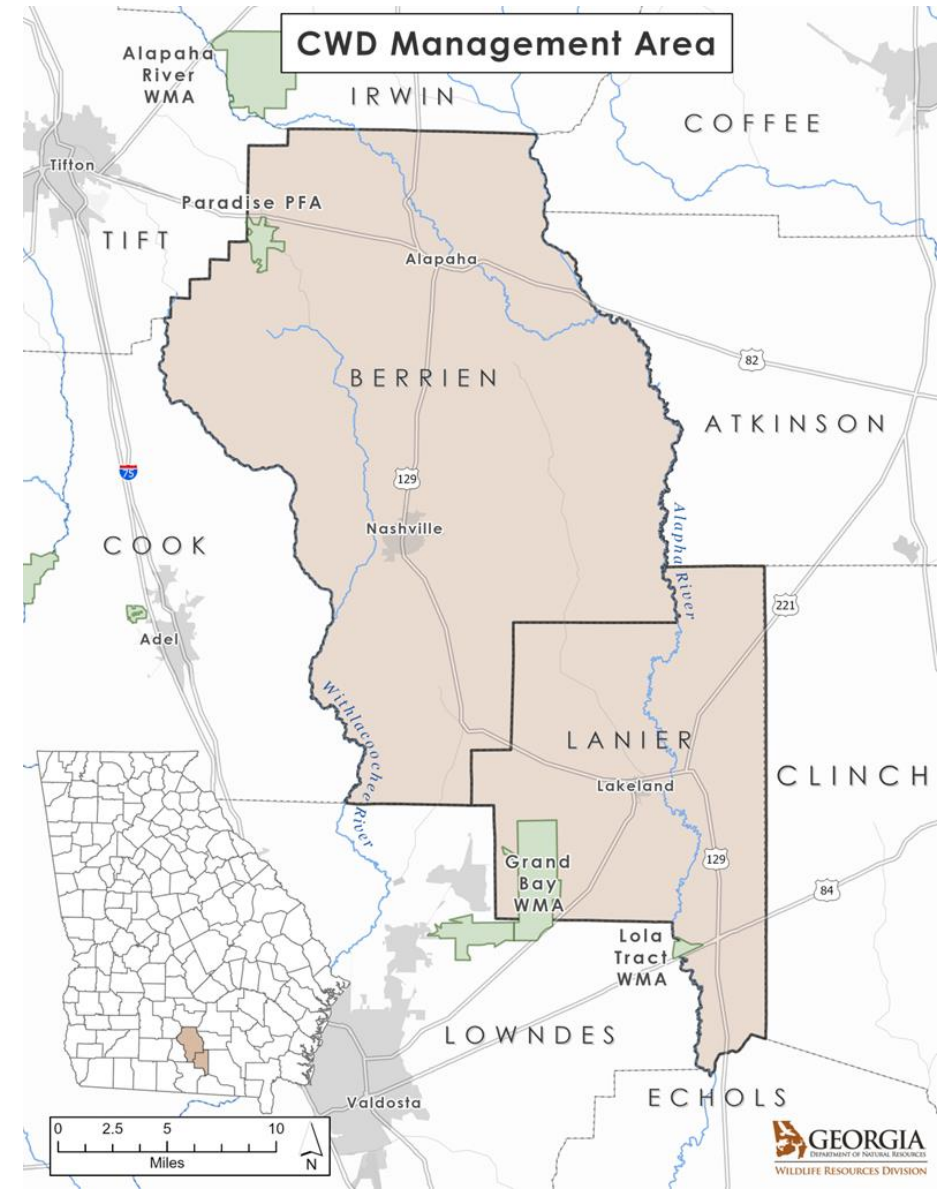
Proposed Changes – Antlerless-only Firearms



- For the purpose of facilitating venison donation in counties experiencing crop damage from deer, the Department may designate a firearms hunt not to exceed 2 consecutive days, first Saturday in October and the following Sunday.
- Statewide except in gray (archery only) and orange/blue/yellow counties (mountains)

Proposed Changes – Deer Carcass Disposal

- Deer carcasses/parts must be left on the property of kill or disposed of per the Dead Animal Disposal Act.
- Proper disposal of carcass parts prevents the risk of infected parts transmitting CWD to new areas
- Alternative to within state carcass transport restrictions that limits the impacts of CWD management zones to hunters, taxidermists and processors



Proposed Changes – Replace Tags for CWD+

- Deer that test + do not count toward bag limit.
- For test results received late in (or after) deer season the Department may credit a deer to the hunter during the following season.
- Encourages hunters to submit harvested deer for CWD sampling.
- Additionally, while there is no evidence CWD can infect humans, this supports CDC recommendation to avoid consuming the meat of CWD-infected deer.

Notable Changes – Public Lands

- Definition of "supervision"
 - Adult must remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm at all times while either is participating in a Youth WMA hunt



Other WMA amendments:

- Hunts have been adjusted on ~50 WMAs:
 - Calendar shifts
 - Add or remove quotas to improve quality or increase participation
 - Increase opportunity where possible, e.g. expanded deer archery on Big Dukes, Big Hammock, Big Lazer, Cedar Creek, DiLane, Dawson Forest, Dodge Co PFA, River Bend, Rum Creek



Next steps

- Deadline for public comment is April 30
 - gm.comments@dnr.ga.gov
 - 2065 Hwy 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025
- May meeting of DNR Board in Atlanta – May 20, 2025 at 9 am



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 until April 30, 2025.

Please visit our website for more information

www.georgiawildlife.com/regulations/meetings