



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

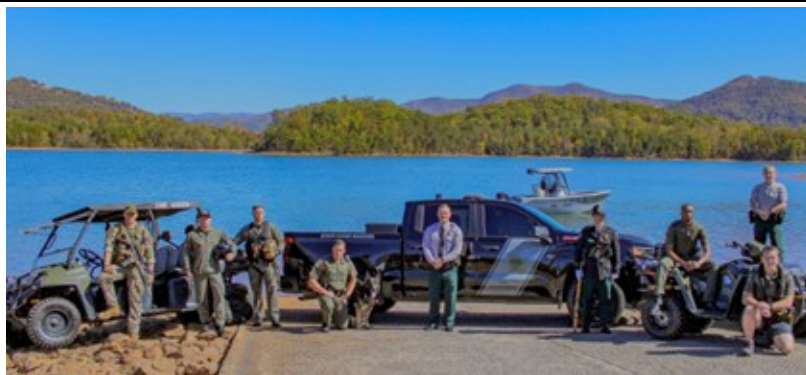
FY2025 FACT SHEET

Walter Rabon
Commissioner

Colonel Mike England
Director

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION MISSION

The Mission of the Law Enforcement Division is to conserve our natural resources and to protect the people we serve. We maintain public support through fair and vigorous law enforcement, quality education, and community involvement. We commit ourselves to our Vision and Mission by practicing our core beliefs: trust, fairness and professionalism.



Serving Since 1911—Trust, Fairness, Professionalism

DNR has the oldest state law enforcement unit in Georgia. In 1911, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation creating Game Wardens. In those days, they patrolled the woods and waterways on foot and horseback, carrying their own firearms, wearing the now collectible “quail badge” pinned to their chests.

The people, equipment, methods, and technologies have drastically changed in the last 115 years but the core beliefs have not. Their roles continue to evolve but they still focus on their core mission of enforcing hunting, fishing, boating and environmental laws, providing public safety on all DNR-controlled properties, and serving outdoor enthusiasts and the public throughout Georgia.

Today, the agency is well-respected as one of the top conservation law enforcement divisions in North America. Utilizing new and reliable equipment, deploying the latest technology, and employing top-tier men and women are the keys to meeting the Division’s mission of conserving natural resources and protecting the people they serve.

Georgia Game Wardens are POST-certified peace officers with statewide authority and full arrest powers. They serve alongside all other local, state and federal agencies in all areas of law enforcement. They are the most versatile law enforcement officers in state government with specialized training in:

- Woodland Operations
- Waterborne Operations
- Aviation
- Critical Incident Reconstruction
- Search-and-rescue
- Disaster response
- K-9
- Urban crime suppression

The Ranger Hotline program, which provides a way for citizens to report anonymously potentially illegal wildlife and other conservation law violations, continues to be successful. If the information leads to an arrest, the tipster receives a cash reward funded by the Georgia Natural Resource Foundation.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Game Warden of the Year	GWFC Hunter Rush
Supervisor of the Year	Capt. Derek Dillard
Georgia Boating Officer of the Year	GW Ben Hawkins
Investigative Game Warden of the Year	Cpl. Shawn Elmore
Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award	Cpl. Jason Bennett
James R. Darnell Award Recipient	Cpl. Zach Griffis
NWTF Officer of the Year	GW Drew Weathersby
Hunter Education Instructor of the Year	GW Noah Osborne
Torch Award	GW Thomas Ledford
Operation Dry Water Officer of the Year	Cpl. Ryan Locke
Administrative Professional of the Year	Tasha Lamb
S. Atlantic Fisheries Marine Council OOF	GW Errol Hall



Serving Since 1911

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

- 200 POST certified officers
- Each Game Warden serves an average of 54,550 Georgia citizens
- 16,000 miles of rivers patrolled
- 500,000 acres of impounded waters patrolled
- Coastal Patrol: 100 linear miles of shoreline and out to 200 miles offshore
- Land Patrol: Over 38 million acres. This includes public and private land, including 163 Wildlife Management Areas, 11 Public Fishing Areas, and 66 State Parks and Historic Sites.
- 1,129,635 Licensed Anglers
- 815,738 Licensed Hunters
- 326,099 Registered Vessels

Programs

- 1,479 Hunter Education Hours
- 8,331 Information and Education Hours
- 1,099 Boating Safety & Boating Education Hours

Cases

- 8,461 Land & Water Search and Rescue Hours
- 25 Hunting Incidents
- 127 Boating Incidents

Licenses Checked

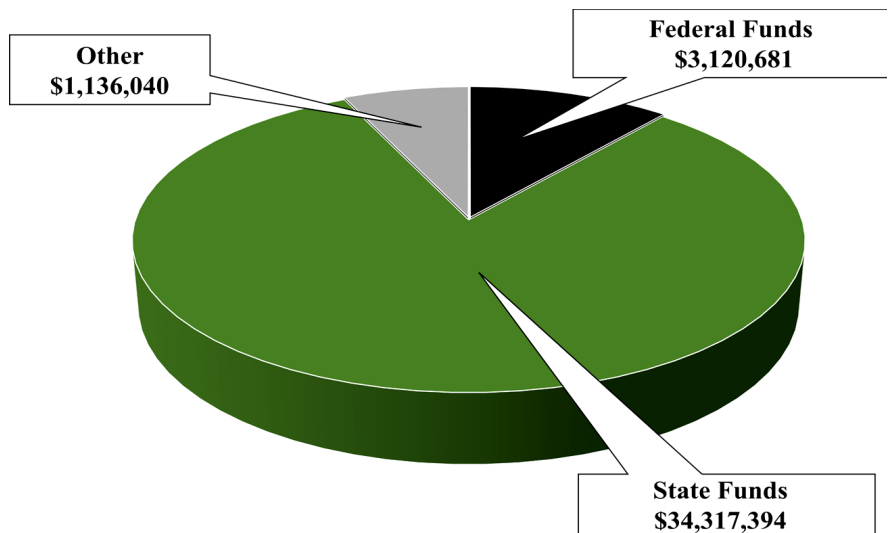
- 18,173 Vessels Checked
- 27,115 Hunting Licenses
- 36,063 Fishing Licenses

Activity

- 6,952 Boating Contacts
- 7,370 Hunting Contacts
- 5,287 Fishing Contacts
- 476 Environmental Contacts



FY2025 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

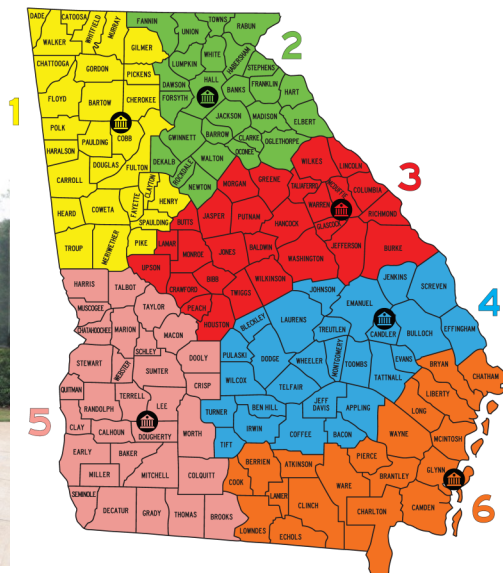


SPECIALTY UNITS

- Investigative Unit
- K-9
- Aviation
- Side Scan Sonar/ ROV
- Marine Theft
- Region Investigators
- Critical Action Teams
- Special Permits
- Critical Incident Reconstruction Team
- Special Operations Group
- Chaplains

FY2025 OFFICER TRAINING

- 39th Game Warden Academy
- SFST
- Taser 7 recertification
- De-escalation & use-of-force
- CPR & First Aid recertification
- SOG—Long range rifle training
- FTO Certification
- Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)
- CIRT SONAR Training
- Firearms and Defensive Tactics
- K-9 Specific Training



Headquarters - (770) 918-6408

Region I - (770) 529-2424
Capt. Casey Jones

Region II - (770) 535-5499
Capt. Derek Dillard

Region III - (706) 595-4211
Capt. Sam O'Neal

Region IV - (912) 685-2145
Capt. Bob Lynn

Region V - (229) 430-4252
Capt. Al Greer

Region VI - (912) 264-7234
Capt. Chris Hodge

Serving Since 1911