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.

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 110 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.
CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT
BY THE NUMBERS

- 188 POST certified officers
- Each Game Warden serves an average of 54,171 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 37 million acres. This includes public and private land, including 132 Wildlife Management Areas, 11 Public Fishing Areas, and 63 State Parks and Historic Sites.
- 1,000,000+ Licensed Anglers
- 500,000+ Licensed Hunters
- 300,000+ Registered Vessels

Programs
- 1,293 Hunter Education Hours
- 3,476 Information and Education
- 349 Boating Safety & Boating Education Hours

Cases
- 3,410 Land & Water Search and Rescue Hours
- 30 Hunting Incidents
- 120 Boating Incidents

Licenses Checked
- 21,142 Vessels Checked
- 26,905 Hunting Licenses
- 31,689 Fishing Licenses

Activity
- 6,338 Boating Contacts
- 4,681 Hunting Contacts
- 3,051 Fishing Contacts
- 806 Environmental Contacts

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

2022 OFFICER TRAINING
- 36th Game Warden Academy
- Use of Deadly Force and De-escalation
- X2 Taser recertification
- Standardized Field Sobriety and BUI Refresher
- Governor’s Initiative Community Oriented Policing
- Mental and Emotional Wellness
- “Building Positive Community Relations”
- Firearms requalification
- Legislative Update

FY 2022
Funding Sources

- Other $2,066,355
- Federal Funds $3,332,728
- State Funds $24,592,185

FY 2018 FUNDING
- Headquarters - (770) 918-6408
- Region I - (770) 529-2424 Capt. James McLaughlin
- Region II - (770) 535-5499 Capt. Derek Dillard
- Region III - (706) 595-4211 Capt. Doyte Chaffin
- Region IV - (912) 685-2145 Capt Bob Lynn
- Region V - (229) 430-4252 Capt. Rick Sellars
- Region VI - (912) 264-7234 Capt. Chris Hodge