



GEORGIA 2015 FACT SHEET

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Mark Williams
Commissioner

Colonel Eddie Henderson
Director

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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. Over the years, the name has changed but the mission has remained the same. Even though their roles have continued to evolve, Conservation Rangers still focus on their core mission of enforcing hunting, fishing, boating and environmental laws. They also provide public safety on all DNR-controlled properties and serve outdoor enthusiasts and the public throughout Georgia.

After a Divisional reorganization by the Board of Natural Resources in July 2013, the Law Enforcement Division is continuing to progress through the five-year reorganization process. The expected results of the transition are to promote streamlined operations, a clearer chain of command, standardize training, equipment and operational guidance for law enforcement services, as well as reducing liability for the Department.

The Law Enforcement Division is one of only ten organizations in the nation to be accredited for meeting the standards set forth by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) in their Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) program. The Division received accreditation for implementing key training elements for Rangers that ensures they are prepared to perform maritime law enforcement and to respond to emergency situations to a national standard of operations.

Law Enforcement *Off the Pavement*—Our Rangers are P.O.S.T. certified and well-trained Georgia Peace Officers, serving alongside all other local, state and federal agencies in all areas of law enforcement. They are often called upon to go *Off the Pavement* to get the job done with their specialized training in:

- Woodland Operations
- Waterborne Operations
- Aviation
- Critical Incident Reconstruction
- Counter-terrorism
- Search-and-rescue
- Disaster response
- K-9

In 2014, the “Turn In Poachers” program became the “Ranger Hotline” program. The purpose of the program is to encourage sportsmen to report poachers and violators of our state’s game laws, but it was expanded to include a broader range of rewards to support all of DNR. The Ranger Hotline program is operated by the Georgia Natural Resources Foundation, with DNR Commissioner Mark Williams serving as Chairman of an advisory committee comprised of GNRF Board Members and other organizations committed to this cause.

Whether in the woods, on the lakes or rivers, in the air enforcing the laws of the state, or in the classroom or community meeting educating Georgians, young and old, about safety and conserving our natural resources, DNR Law Enforcement Conservation Rangers are up to the task.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Ranger of the Year	Cpl. Casey Jones
Supervisor of the Year	Capt. Jeff Swift
Georgia Boating Officer of the Year	Cpl. Jason Roberson
Rocky Wainwright Waterfowl Award	Cpl. Brian Adams
James R. Darnell Award Recipient	Cpl. Bob Holley
Investigative Ranger of the Year	RFC Fred Hays
NWTF Officer of the Year	Cpl. Mark Patterson
Torch Award	RFC Daniel Gray

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

- 185 POST certified officers
- Each Ranger serves 54,054 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 90 Wildlife Management Areas, 10 Public Fishing Areas, and 63 State Parks and Historic Sites.
- 1.4 million Licensed Anglers
- Over 630,000 Licensed Hunters
- 332,000 Registered Vessels

Programs

- 1,046 Hunter Education
- 1,679 Information and Education
- 457 Boating Safety
- 324 Hunter Development

Cases

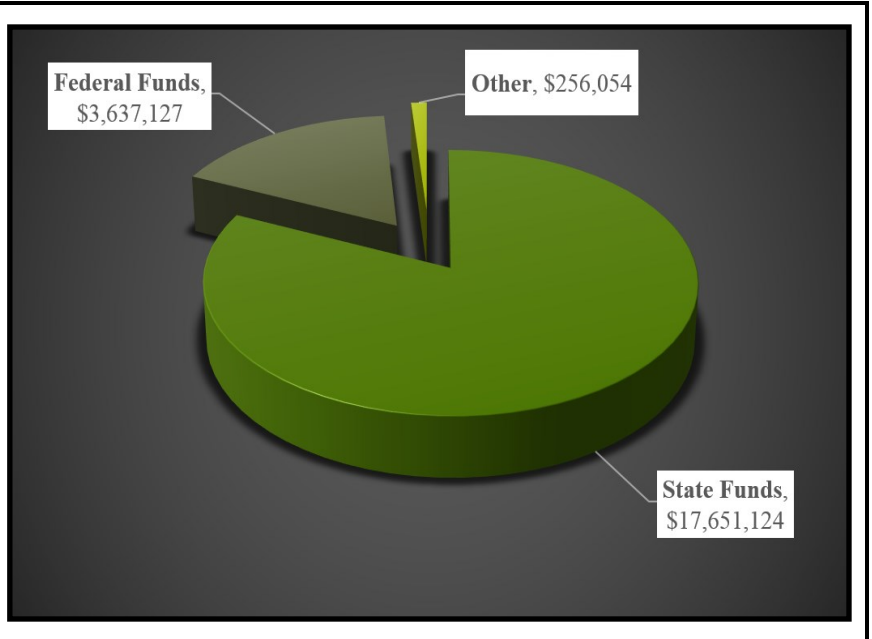
- 344 Water Search and Rescue
- 203 Land Search and Rescue
- 54 Hunting Incidents
- 102 Boating Incidents

Inspections

- 31,130 Vessels
- 20,527 Hunting Licenses
- 28,252 Fishing Licenses
- 814 Commercial Licenses

Activity

- 4,764 Boating Contacts
- 5,473 Hunting Contacts
- 2,673 Fishing Contacts
- 426 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
- Counter Terrorism Task Force

2015 OFFICER TRAINING

- Extensive Firearms/Use of Deadly Force Training
- ALERRT – Active Shooter Training
- PT Readiness/Health & Wellness
- Critical Incident Training/Crisis Intervention
- Advanced ATV Training
- BUI/SFST Training

