

## DIVISION MISSION

*Conserve and promote fishing, hunting and wildlife resources through management, education and scientific research.*

## ECONOMICS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

*Hunters, anglers, shooters and wildlife enthusiasts spend BILLIONS in Georgia*

### FISHING

- Anglers: 1,114,640\*
- Fishing generates \$1.5 billion in retail sales in Georgia, annually.
- 10 State Fish Hatcheries produced and stocked 9.2 million fish.
- 11 Public Fishing Areas: 130 lakes (2,700 acres), estimated 800,000 visitors.

### HUNTING

- Hunters: 819,893\*
- Hunting generates \$977 million in retail sales in Georgia, annually.
- 133 Wildlife Management Areas: 1,108,187 acres.

### WILDLIFE VIEWING

- Wildlife Viewers: 2.4 million (1/4 of adult Georgians).
- This group spends an estimated \$1.8 billion annually in Georgia.
- Wildlife Viewing has grown nationwide since the mid-1990's.

### SHOOTING SPORTS

- Recreational Shooters: 1.2 million+
- Shooters spend \$326 million in retail sales.
- 47 Public Shooting Ranges (archery, shotgun, pistol, rifle) with 80,000 estimated visitors.

## RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT

*Wildlife Resources Division averages approximately \$30 million in federal Sport Fish & Wildlife Restoration funds each year. These funds come from a federal tax on ammunition, guns, fishing equipment and motorboat fuel. To receive federal funds, Georgia must spend 100% of state revenue collected from hunting/fishing licenses on sport fish and wildlife management to benefit hunters and anglers.*

## MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Hatchery Production & Stocking:

- ◇ 875,000 Trout
- ◇ 1.3 million Largemouth Bass
- ◇ 850,000 Striped Bass
- ◇ 6.1 million other species combined

### WMA Land Ownership:

- ◇ State-Owned: 495,104.76
- ◇ Long-Term Lease: 641,668
- ◇ Short-Term Lease: 21,599

### WMA Land Management (Acres):

- ◇ Dove Fields: 3,107 acres
- ◇ Impoundments: 5,270 acres
- ◇ Food Plots & Openings: 9,313 acres
- ◇ Roads Maintained: 1,882 miles

### Other Management Activities:

- ◇ Prescribed Fire: 76,000+ Acres Burned
- ◇ Boat Ramps Managed: 165+
- ◇ Fish Attractors Installed: 600 (14 waterbodies)
- ◇ Aquatic Plants Grown & Installed: 15,000 (15 waterbodies)

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

**Fisheries Technical Assistance:** 525 fulfilled requests.

**Wildlife Technical Assistance:** 5,800 hours provided to 11,900 citizens.

**Georgia Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP):** 140 cooperators managing 221,471 acres.

**Urban Wildlife Program (Metro Atlanta):** 2,227 calls; on-site response to 437 citizens.

**Info Sources Include:** WRD Annual Reports FY23 (Fisheries, Game, Wildlife Conservation Sections); WRD Education Program Data ("Education and Outreach"); WRD Hunter Development Program Data ("Education and Outreach"); 2019 Target Shooting in America Report; National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-associated Recreation (USFWS); States of the Union: Ranking America's Biodiversity (NatureServe 2002); ASA 2019 Economic Contributions of Recreation Fishing Report; Wildlife Viewer Survey: Enhancing Relevancy and Engaging Support from a Broader Constituency (Virginia Tech, 2022)

\*Number of certified anglers & hunters reported in Fall 2023 to US Fish and Wildlife Service based on their certification rules and criteria, based on FY2022 state license data (WRD LBRU).

**CONSERVATION WORK AND ACTIONS**

- ◇ 640 State Wildlife Action Plan high-priority species.
- ◇ 84 Ongoing Research Projects.
- ◇ Georgia Biodiversity Portal: Nearly a half-million site visits; 1.2 million page views.
- ◇ NatureServe Biotics: 20,446 rare species and natural community sites.
- ◇ Environmental reviews and assistance: 1,139 web visits; 1,080 data requests.

**EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

**7 Regional Education Centers Outreach:**

- ◇ Visitor Center Guests (16,794)
- ◇ Education Programs (67,117 youth & adults)
- ◇ Public Programming Classes (50,462)

**Hunter Development Program Outreach:**

- ◇ 39,700 people (17,300 youth, 22,400 adults)
- ◇ National Archery in the Schools Program: 116 Georgia Schools (20,846 students)

**Fishing Outreach:**

- ◇ Kids Fishing Events: 100+ Events with estimated 11,000 participants

Georgia is one of the most biologically diverse states in the nation, ranking:

- ◇ 2nd in amphibian species
- ◇ 3rd in freshwater fish species
- ◇ 7th in reptile species
- ◇ 7th in vascular plant species

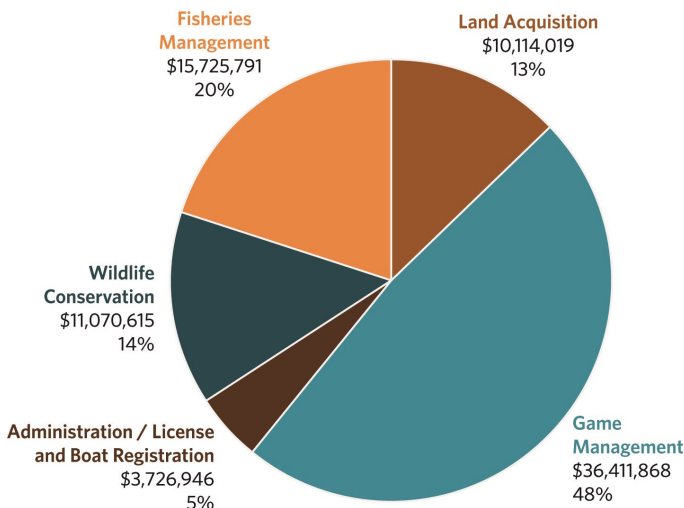
**STATE SPECIES**

- State Reptile: Gopher Tortoise
- State Amphibian: Green Treefrog
- State Marine Mammal: North Atlantic Right Whale
- State Mammal: Whitetail Deer
- State Bird: Brown Thrasher
- State Game Bird: Bobwhite Quail
- State Coldwater Game Fish: Brook Trout
- State Freshwater Game Fish: Largemouth Bass
- State Saltwater Game Fish: Red Drum
- State Riverine Game Fish: Shoal Bass
- State Butterfly: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
- State Insect: Honeybee
- State Tree: Live Oak
- State Flower: Cherokee Rose

**LICENSE DOLLARS AT WORK:** When you purchase a hunting or fishing license, did you know that it directly affects the work that WRD is able to do? Fish stockings, improving access to waterways, range renovations, and responding to the public are all examples of how license dollars are used.

**WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION BUDGET INFORMATION**

**FY23 Expenditures**  
\$77 Million



**FY23 Revenue Sources**  
\$77 Million

