



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

VISION – TO CREATE A CULTURE OF CONSERVATION IN GEORGIA

MISSION - To sustain, enhance, protect, and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices.

DIVISIONS

WILDLIFE RESOURCES regulates hunting, freshwater fishing, and the registration of watercraft in Georgia, protects non-game and endangered wildlife, and maintains public education to ensure that Georgia's natural resources will be conserved for present and future generations. WRD protects and manages nearly one million acres of land for outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation.

COASTAL RESOURCES has primary responsibility for managing the state's marshes, beaches, and marine fishery resources, balancing coastal development and the protection of the coast's natural assets, socio-cultural heritage and recreational resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC SITES manages 63 properties that preserve the state's environment and history and provided recreation and education to about 7.9 million visitors in FY15.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION is Georgia's state historic preservation office. Our economic development programs leverage private capital to encourage business growth. Through programs like the National Register of Historic Places and Certified Local Governments we work with local, state, and federal organizations to encourage regional and local planning, neighborhood conservation, downtown revitalization, heritage tourism and archaeological site protection and research.

LAW ENFORCEMENT is responsible for protecting Georgia's citizens and wildlife populations by enforcing laws, rules and regulations pertaining to game and nongame animals, threatened and endangered plants and animals, exotic animals, Georgia's boating safety act, litter and waste control, public safety on all DNR controlled properties and other natural resource issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION protects Georgia's air, land, and water through the authority of state statutes and major parts of five federal environmental statutes. It has received authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue and enforce all permits required by federal laws.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

DNR is an economic development engine in Georgia. Consider the following:

ECOTOURISM (hiking, biking, golf, camping, kayaking, canoeing, boating, hunting, fishing, bird watching, and other outdoor activities) is one of the fastest growing tourism segments and brings in nearly **\$8 billion** annually to Georgia.

- Over half a million **hunters** generate an economic impact of **\$1.6 billion** annually in our state.
- Nearly 1.4 million **anglers** over the age of 16 create an estimated economic impact of **\$2.1 billion**.
- 2.4 million **wildlife watchers** annually create an economic impact of more than **\$1.9 billion**.
- With 322,000 registered boats in Georgia, **recreational boaters** generate **\$2.1 billion** in annual spending in Georgia.

STATE PARKS and historic sites generated an economic impact of **\$610 million** in FY2015.

COMMERCIAL SALTWATER FISHING provides fresh seafood such as shrimp, blue crabs, and fish for local consumption and export. Annual sales and associated jobs contribute more than **\$25 million** to the state's economy.

HERITAGE TOURISM attracts millions of visitors to Georgia each year, sustaining **117,000 jobs** and generating **\$204 million in wages** and **\$210 million in local tax revenues**.

OVER 9,000 JOBS have been created through the rehabilitation of historic buildings, generating **\$420 million in household income**.

HPD generated \$329 million in private investment and \$248 million in wages and salaries in FY2015.