

Deer Program Accomplishments

FY 2021–2022

Overview

The 2021-22 deer season was excellent with 209,742 deer hunters taking 257,441 deer. Updates to the Deer Harvest Dashboard show total harvest estimates adjusted for reporting compliance. Hunter satisfaction for the 2021-22 deer season was excellent with 92% of survey respondents rating their season as satisfactory, good, or excellent. Georgia’s new Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) is progressing well with 117 cooperators managing over 160,000 acres of land. Program participants receive detailed habitat and herd management plans, harvest data analysis, and assistance with camera surveys.

Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has not been found in Georgia to date, however recent discoveries in Alabama and North Carolina have increased our level of concern. We are continually monitoring the population and adapt our disease surveillance strategy whenever new scientific information becomes available. WRD staff collected 1,404 samples in 2021-22. We also completed a CWD tabletop exercise and are revising the CWD response plan accordingly. A new law was passed in 2022 that expanded deer carcass import restrictions to all areas outside Georgia.

Research

The southwest Georgia breeding study completed another field season of data collection, potential regulation changes will be discussed at the upcoming biologists meeting. We are currently working with UGA to develop a human dimensions project for opinions and attitudes towards CWD management. This project already has a significant financial contribution from Safari Club International. We are also exploring options for improving deer populations in the north Georgia deer research project.

Deer Management Assistance Program

Georgia’s DMAP is administered by 3 experienced wildlife biologists under guidance of the State Deer Biologist. Since the launch of the program in November of 2019, DMAP biologists have provided technical guidance to over 275 customers with a total impacted land area of 294,000 acres. Of those, 117 customers have enrolled their private property or hunting club in DMAP with a total 163,162 acres in the program. Georgia’s DMAP was designed to provide assistance to everyone regardless of property size.

2021-22 Deer Harvest Summary

		Archery	Muzzleloader	Firearm
Total Hunters		83,314	24,819	187,797
Total Harvest	Buck	18,320	3,023	90,578
	Doe	27,485	3,090	114,766
Weapon Subtotal		45,805	6,113	205,344
Percent Success		11.4%	2.4%	47.1%
			Statewide Total	257,441

