Georgia Deer Population and Management Archive

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**2022**

[12 parks, campgrounds around Lake Lanier to close for annual deer hunt to help with overpopulation](https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/several-parks-campgrounds-around-buford-dam-close-annual-deer-hunt/LKZAXN3OFVDONLAJYDZGGY4RAQ/) November 14, 2022 Georgia, WSB-TV

... The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is gearing up for 2022 Buford Dam Deer Hunt near Lake Lanier this week. Several parks and campgrounds in the area will be closed starting Monday. The hunt has been an annual event since 2010 ...

[Georgia deer hunters take to the woods](https://news.yahoo.com/georgia-deer-hunters-woods-035900420.html) October 22, 2022 YAHOO!News

... During the 2021-22 firearms deer season, about 210,000 hunters harvested more than 214,000 deer in the state... State law allows hunters to harvest up to 10 antlerless deer, and no more than two antlered deer (with one of the two antlered deer having a minimum of four points, one inch or longer, on one side of the antlers), or a minimum 15-inch outside antler spread...

[Poor Acorn Crop In North Georgia Mountains](https://gon.com/hunting/poor-acorn-crop-north-georgia-mountains) September 10, 2022 Georgia Outdoor News

... one of the poorest mast crops in recent years ...The downside, Isler said, is that in their search for food, deer, and especially bears, often end up in areas where they shouldn’t be, like residential areas..,

[Researchers share findings on declining deer populations in Georgia](https://news.uga.edu/researchers-share-findings-on-declining-deer-populations-in-georgia/) July 8, 2022 UGA Today

... published by UGA researchers ... In just four decades, the deer population has dropped by almost two-thirds ... “These forests are now late-stage; they’re different than what we would have seen pre-settlement. There are accounts of agriculture by Native Americans, and low-growing vegetation with sparser, larger trees was maintained by fire ..,

[Declines in deer populations may point to larger issues](https://www.dailycitizen.news/news/lifestyles/growings-on-declines-in-deer-populations-may-point-to-larger-issues/article_6d47cb35-f1e3-57d0-adf5-697c289a9f86.html) January 26, 2022 Georgia, Daily Citizen-News

... “We have a real problem with fawn survival in the Chattahoochee National Forest. Black bears and coyotes, which are omnivores, will forage from a blackberry bush just as easily as they might eat a fawn in the spring or summer,” .... Most of the fawns we found were just lying on the ground with nothing growing around them..,

[Declines in deer population may point to larger issues](https://news.uga.edu/declines-in-deer-population-may-point-to-larger-issues/) January 10, 2022 Georgia. UGA Today

... Deer populations in the North Georgia mountains have dropped by almost two-thirds over the past few decades, according to new research by the University of Georgia... In older forests, shade from towering trees provides little opportunity for new growth on the forest floor—the majority of forests across North Georgia..,

**2021**

[Estimation of Visual Discrimination in the White-tailed Deer by Behavioral Assay](https://peerj.com/articles/12587/) 2022 The American Midland Naturalist

... Our results suggest the white-tailed deer eye allows relatively low spatial resolution, consistent with prior studies that reported high temporal resolution. The combination of low spatial resolution and high temporal resolution allows for efficient detection of movement and enhanced capability to transverse a complex environment...

[When deer eyes can see laundry detergent residue ...](https://www.post-gazette.com/life/outdoors/2021/12/03/whitetailed-deer-vision-sight-study-University-Georgia-blue-laundry-detergent-hunters/stories/202112030111) December 3, 2021 Georgia, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

... In 2013, researchers from the [University of Georgia] found that deer detect wavelengths from the lower blue scale to the beginning of the red scale. In practical terms, deer see reds and oranges as shades of green; fluorescent orange looks like a pale yellow-green blur. Blues are more vibrant to deer...

[European red deer on the loose in Georgia](https://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2021/11/05/Georgia-Department-of-Natural-Resources-red-deer/8861636143056/) November 5, 2021 UPI.com

... officials started receiving wildlife camera photos of the animal in the Mitchell area about a month ago ... The Department of Natural Resources has distributed a letter to hunters in the state giving them permission to shoot the animal....

[Two coyotes emerge from darkness to chase down deer in Georgia field, video shows](https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/nation-world/national/article253673093.html) August 22, 2021 Georgia, News Tribune

... An outcome does not appear on 32-second video, but state officials say the deer appears to have escaped. It went back to “business as usual” — eating — within 5 minutes ...

**2020**

[Acorns crucial for wildlife survival in winter](https://www.ajc.com/life/wild-georgia-acorns-crucial-for-wildlife-survival-in-winter/5FS3C2GY6VHBVCIQ7F7EFDCSKM/) October 23, 2020 Georgia, Atlanta Journal Constitution

... The health and abundance of wildlife — especially bear, deer and turkey — often rise and fall with acorn availability ... acorns are the most preferred white-tailed deer food during the cold months, composing half or more of the animals' diet. When acorns are plentiful, deer may eat little else ...

[CWD could devastate deer populations](https://allongeorgia.com/georgia-lifestyle/firearms-deer-hunting-season-opens-oct-17/) October 11, 2020 Georgia, The Commercial Dispatch

... With all the rainfall we had leading into summer and throughout August, I expect optimal antler growth and bodyweights this season... During firearms deer season last year, more than 180,000 hunters harvested almost 210,000 ..,

[Want deer? Protect your oaks](http://www.mymcr.net/our_community/monroe-outdoors-want-deer-protect-your-oaks/article_6c53528e-0347-11eb-b84d-6bd8e5ebeed6.html) September 30, 2020 Georgia, Monroe County Reporter

... whitetails prefer white oak acorns above all others. ... the water oak is often underrated as a white-tailed deer food plant. Like the white oak, this tree usually doesn’t produce its first crop of acorns until it is 20 years old. However, from then on, the water oak bears an abundant crop of acorns each year...they are high in fat and crude fiber and low in phosphorus and potassium...

[Examining deer hearing ability](https://www.newsbug.info/newton_county_enterprise/lifestyle/examining-deer-hearing-ability/article_0a39d6f9-ca95-57bd-a69e-8a91dddfc0bc.html) September 28, 2020 Georgia, Newsbug.info

...researchers at the University of Georgia ... using fenced in deer aged one to four ... with ears about 10 times larger than a humans and with the ability to rotate those ears ... expect them to be able to hear a noise easily when, to a human, it would be impossible to detect.... deer don’t hear amazingly low sounds any more than humans, they can easily hear dog-whistle high sounds far beyond the ability of humans to detect...

[Deer researchers see face coverings differently](https://phys.org/news/2020-08-deer-differently.html) August 27, 2020 Georgia, Phys.org

... face coverings are used to keep the animals calm ... fawns are manageable with just a tiny covering slipped over their eyes—most often, it's just a ...a baby sock with the toe cut out ...

[Forest Management for Improving Deer Populations](http://www.deerfriendly.com/feeding-deer/forest-management-for-improving-deer-populations) July 21, 2020

... Are you looking to significantly improve your deer population? Forest, or [timber management](https://ghland.com/), is one powerful way to do it. Forest management helps to create healthy and fertile deer habitats that will improve your wildlife for decades to come. Forest management is a seriously fertile investment opportunity for hunters and wildlife enthusiasts...

[Dart guns used in deer relocations have Georgia roots](https://www.gwinnettdailypost.com/curated/dart-guns-used-in-deer-relocations-have-georgia-roots/article_6b0575fe-5296-11ea-8572-5fe8750eb5c3.html) February 18, 2020 Georgia, Gwinnett Daily Post

... in 1947 ... deer were almost completely absent from Georgia’s landscape ... In order to get deer into the state, the deer had to be moved ... Jack Crockford proposed the idea to use a propelled dart to deliver a chemical payload that would incapacitate a deer [in 1954]..,

[Dart guns used in deer relocations have Georgia roots](https://www.gwinnettdailypost.com/curated/dart-guns-used-in-deer-relocations-have-georgia-roots/article_6b0575fe-5296-11ea-8572-5fe8750eb5c3.html) February 18, 2020 Georgia, Gwinnett Daily Post

... in 1947 ... deer were almost completely absent from Georgia’s landscape ... In order to get deer into the state, the deer had to be moved ... Jack Crockford proposed the idea to use a propelled dart to deliver a chemical payload that would incapacitate a deer [in 1954]..,

[2020 Deer Hunting Season Forecast](https://www.outdoorlife.com/story/hunting/the-state-by-state-2020-deer-hunting-forecast/#Alabama) August 12, 2020 Outdoor Life

... Fall 2019-‘20 harvest: 262,042 ... Estimated population: 1 million ... [Georgia]

[CWD could devastate deer populations](https://allongeorgia.com/georgia-lifestyle/firearms-deer-hunting-season-opens-oct-17/) October 11, 2020 Georgia, The Commercial Dispatch

... With all the rainfall we had leading into summer and throughout August, I expect optimal antler growth and bodyweights this season... During firearms deer season last year, more than 180,000 hunters harvested almost 210,000 ..,

**2019**

[Georgia hunters, landowners have new deer management program](https://wgxa.tv/news/local/georgia-hunters-landowners-have-new-deer-management-program) November 8, 2019 wgxa.tv

... The Deer Management Assistance Program, also known as D-MAP ... is to allow us to give flexibility to landowners, to better manage their deer herd on their property, and give management recommendations to help other landowners better manage the habitat on their property to improve the deer herd across the state ...

[Whitetail Science: The Reason Bucks Scrape at Night](https://bigdeerblog.com/2019/10/whitetail-science-the-reason-bucks-scrape-at-night/) October 30, 2019 Georgia, Mike Hanback

... 90% of scrape visits occur at night ... between 2 and 3 a.m... in the dark, bucks are drawn to scrapes to interact with other deer through their powerful sense of smell...

[Deer season begins Saturday for archery hunters](https://www.13wmaz.com/article/sports/archery-deerhunting-deer-hunting-sportsmen/93-829f62d4-753d-4c4d-b452-f9dd50db4ec4) September 13, 2019 Georgia, WMAZ

... The state biologist says some parts of the state had less than normal rainfall and that may affect the body weights of deer you harvest this season. State biologist Charlie Killmaster also said there were lots of fawns born in 2018, so this season should be similar to last in terms of the number of deer harvested..,

[Few Fawns Surviving On Chattahoochee National Forest](https://www.gon.com/news/few-fawns-survive-chattahoochee-national-forest) August 3, 2019 Georgia, Georgia Outdoor News

... Only three of 13 fawns ... survived to 4 months... coyotes killed four, black bears ate two (possibly three) and a bobcat killed one...

[Best method for counting deer doesn't include corn, study finds](https://www.warnell.uga.edu/research/news/best-method-counting-deer-doesn%E2%80%99t-include-corn-study-finds) July 26, 2019 Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources - University of Georgia

... “Baiting can alter movement patterns and affect hunter harvest rates,” said Johnson, noting that this method also assumes that the deer who come to the cameras to eat are coming at equal rates for males and females. But this is inaccurate, as female deer have smaller roaming areas and are more likely to visit certain cameras more often...

[Few Fawns Surviving On Chattahoochee National Forest](https://www.gon.com/news/few-fawns-survive-chattahoochee-national-forest) August 3, 2019 Georgia, Georgia Outdoor News

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[Best method for counting deer doesn't include corn, study finds](https://www.warnell.uga.edu/research/news/best-method-counting-deer-doesn%E2%80%99t-include-corn-study-finds) July 26, 2019 Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources - University of Georgia

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[As Coyotes Change The South, The South Is Changing Them](https://www.gpbnews.org/post/coyotes-change-south-south-changing-them) April 24, 2019 Georgia, Georgia Public Broadcasting

... It's taken about a hundred years for coyotes to move in and fully saturate every corner of the South... “By and far white tailed deer were the most important prey resource for resident coyotes,” Chamberlain said of the study results in 2018...

[Pungent fertilizer might be solution for deer management in cotton](https://www.farmprogress.com/cotton/pungent-fertilizer-might-be-solution-deer-management-cotton) April 15, 2019 Georgia, Farm Progress

... Burch believes [Milorganite](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000UOB1P4/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=deerfr-20&camp=1789&creative=9325&linkCode=as2&creativeASIN=B000UOB1P4&linkId=c3b5ef7a25c79007e81efd2beed920e6), a fertilizer made from sewage collected in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is an effective deterrent... spread the fertilizer over cotton plots ... From all visible signs, the Milorganite had deterred the deer...

[Exclude wild pigs from wildlife feeders with panel fencing](https://www.rockdalenewtoncitizen.com/news/local/newton/exclude-wild-pigs-from-wildlife-feeders-with-panel-fencing/article_54ff0190-5dc8-544d-8937-f77760bf0ead.html) February 14, 2019 Georgia, Rockdale Newton Citizen

... results showed that 20-inch fences only reduced adult wild pig access, while the 28- and 34-inch fences excluded all wild pigs... adult deer visits to the game feeders did not decline significantly ... a different study ...found that fencing over 33 inches tall limited fawn access to feeding stations...

[Georgia wildlife officials surveying 2018-19 deer season](https://www.onlineathens.com/news/20190124/georgia-wildlife-officials-surveying-2018-19-deer-season) January 24, 2019 Online Athens

... Georgia wildlife officials believe the past 2018-19 deer hunting season will likely compare favorable to past seasons with a harvest of more than 300,000 deer...

[Deer season begins Saturday for archery hunters](https://www.13wmaz.com/article/sports/archery-deerhunting-deer-hunting-sportsmen/93-829f62d4-753d-4c4d-b452-f9dd50db4ec4) Friday 13, 2019 Georgia, WMAZ

... The state biologist says some parts of the state had less than normal rainfall and that may affect the body weights of deer you harvest this season. State biologist Charlie Killmaster also said there were lots of fawns born in 2018, so this season should be similar to last in terms of the number of deer harvested..,

[Biologist says Georgia hunters should not fear hunting deer with this disease after firearms season opens Oct. 19](https://www.mdjonline.com/neighbor_newspapers/west_georgia/sports/biologist-says-georgia-hunters-should-not-fear-hunting-deer-with/article_a7789aa4-ec5a-11e9-96df-e35daed7732a.html), October 11, 2019 Georgia, MDJonline

... “Through reductions in doe harvest, deer population goals have been met for most of Georgia and the population is stable," ... “To date, neither chronic wasting disease or tuberculosis have been detected in Georgia deer,” ..,

**2018**

### [Georgia 2017-18 Deer Harvest](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15BOF-ZDIKQH790XtgktEzBhuQ4Jsbb6CjM1q5lTYGBk/edit?usp=sharing)

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[Weather Blog: Forecast for opening weekend of firearm deer season in Georgia](https://www.wrdw.com/content/news/Weather-Blog-Forecast-for-opening-weekend-of-firearm-deer-season-497961161.html) October October 19, 2018 WRDW ·

... Hunters in Georgia are allowed to harvest 10 antlerless deer and 2 antlered deer during the season. One of the bucks must have a minimum of 4 points, 1” or longer, on one side of the antlers... Firearm deer season in Georgia runs from Saturday, October 20th, 2018 through January 13th, 2019...

[Creek Tribes Were Decimated by Disease but Thrived Through Skin Trade](http://www.deerfriendly.com/deer/goog_1065251372)

[Ancient Origins](https://www.ancient-origins.net/history-important-events/creek-indians-0010721) September 19, 2018 Georgia, ancient-origins.net

... the Creek traded in deerskins and Indians for slavery that they captured in Florida ... By the 1750s ... shipping as many as 60,000 deerskins a year... Eventually, the deer population crashed ...

[Facts About Deer Vision and How It Can Help Us Succeed](http://www.northamericanwhitetail.com/tactics/deer-behavior/facts-about-deer-vision-and-how-it-can-help-us-succeed/) June 5, 2018 Georgia, North American Whitetail

... deer ... see into the blue part of the spectrum 20 times better than humans... about 18 times greater ability to see at night than humans .... Deer don’t... have to constantly move their eyes to focus on a point, deer use the blue cones are scattered across their retina (and about double what humans have) to see the “big picture.” ...

[Ex-Georgia officials take aim at 'hunting over bait' expansion](https://politics.myajc.com/blog/politics/georgia-officials-take-aim-hunting-over-bait-expansion/IAFtrNeE4yZRE2M4DhHm7J/) May 29, 2018 MyAJC

... head of the Georgia Wildlife Federation, joined by four retired high-ranking Department of Natural Resources leaders, warned that Deal’s April order involving hunting deer over bait could have harmful long-term environmental consequences...

[Behavioral response of white‐tailed deer to coyote predation risk](https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ecs2.2141) WD Gulsby, MJ Cherry, JT Johnson, LM Conner… - Ecosphere, 2018, Georgia

... Coyote abundance (i.e., predation risk) varied spatiotemporally and was a predictor of foraging behavior during at least one season for all sex‐age classes of deer except juveniles. Adult males were more sensitive to predation risk in winter, after the breeding season, whereas adult females were sensitive to predation risk during both seasons, but more so during fall when offspring are at greater risk. Yearling males were more sensitive to predation risk than adult males, and juveniles were least sensitive to predation risk, likely because of inexperience and high energetic demands...

[Berry starts genetic study of deer population](http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/rome/news/local/berry-starts-genetic-study-of-deer-population/article_93d1288c-2a31-11e8-bf0b-bfa93560e6c2.html) March 17, 2018 Georgia, Northwest Georgia News

... George Gallagher, professor of biology at Berry College, said students have started a new deer DNA research project ... “We’re trying to create some genetic markers that we hope will help us, over time, to look at our deer versus deer in other regions ...

[Lawmakers debate deer hunting rules](http://www.valdostadailytimes.com/news/local_news/lawmakers-debate-deer-hunting-rules/article_4bb0e315-9287-50a8-a7e4-fa68c11fefee.html) March 12, 2018 Georgia, The Valdosta Daily Times

... Right now, South Georgia hunters are not bound to rules that keep their peers in North Georgia two-football-field-lengths away from any corn, apples or other bait used to entice deer...

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### [Seeing more coyotes where you live? Now we know why](http://www.macon.com/news/local/article204345729.html) March 9, 2017 Georgia, The Telegraph

... coyotes in the Southeast are relying more heavily on deer as prey than Western coyotes do ... white-tailed deer were the most important prey resource for resident coyotes ..,

# Georgia Deer Baiting Changes

Atlanta, GA - DNR News

Tuesday, July 3, 2018 - 02:15

On the authority of the 2011 law, the Board of Natural Resources recently approved a measure allowing hunters on private lands across the state to hunt as close as they would like to supplemental feed. This change, in effect for the 2018-19 deer hunting season, remedies an existing disparity among hunters hunting deer on private lands in the northern portion of the state, allowing the existing law to apply equally to all hunters.

For many years, Georgians have been able to place supplemental feed on private land regardless of their location. But, hunters could not harvest deer within 200 yards or within sight of that feed. However, in 2011, a law passed to allow hunters on private land in the southern zone to hunt as close to that feed as they would like, whereas hunters in the northern zone had to adhere to the distance and sight standards.

Rules remain the same with no one having the authority to place feed on state or federal land.

**2017**

[Red Top to close for managed deer hunt Tuesday, Wednesday](http://www.daily-tribune.com/newsx/item/9338-red-top-to-close-for-managed-deer-hunt-tuesday-wednesday) November 11, 2017 Georgia, Daily Tribune News

... Started in 2006 ... “The current population estimate is up approximately 20 percent — roughly 82 deer/square mile — from 2015, which aligns with a hiatus of the 2016 hunt season. ... An end goal for deer/square mile following the managed hunt would be 35 [to] 45.” ...

[Firearms deer hunting season opens this weekend in Georgia](http://www.mdjonline.com/neighbor_newspapers/west_georgia/sports/firearms-deer-hunting-season-opens-this-weekend-in-georgia/article_8ebc19b6-b32a-11e7-824b-27e34b3d8ae8.html) October 17, 2017 Georgia, MDJOnline.com

... During firearms deer season last year, almost 320,000 hunters harvested 260,765 deer ... Hunters are allowed a harvest of up to 10 antlerless deer and no more than two antlered deer ...

[Georgia 2017-2018 Hunting Regulations Major Changes](https://georgiawildlife.wordpress.com/2017/07/17/2017-2018-hunting-regulations-major-changes/) July 17, 2017 DNR News

... Georgia’s [hunting and fishing licenses](http://georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes) have been restructured. Customers will now need fewer licenses, and fees have increased... There will also be many new [either-sex day opportunities](http://georgiawildlife.com/sites/default/files/wrd/pdf/regulations/17-18_PrivateLand_DeerMap.pdf) to take advantage of this year during deer season. The Ridge, Valley and Piedmont regions have 21 additional either-sex days, and the lower coastal plains region added an additional 14...

[Coyote Removal Helps Georgia wildlife](https://www.41nbc.com/2017/06/12/coyote-removal-helps-georgia-wildlife/) June 12, 2017 Georgia, 41 NBC News

... About 70,000 coyotes are killed during deer season ... Kevin Kramer, Region Supervisor for Game Management Region 4, said it’s important for hunters to kill coyotes to save baby deer...

[Coyote Challenge offers Georgia hunters prizes for kills](https://www.forsythnews.com/local/coyote-challenge-offers-north-georgia-hunters-prizes-kills/) May 30, 2017 Georgia, Forsyth County News Online

... DNR plans to continue its coyote challenge from April to August next year, Johannsen said. That covers fawning season for deer ... More than 160 coyotes have been killed across the state since the Georgia Department of Natural Resource’s coyote challenge started in April...

[Coyote challenge pales compared to deer hunters](http://www.tribuneledgernews.com/opinion/don-mckee-coyote-challenge-pales-compared-to-deer-hunters/article_2014315a-2d61-11e7-b25f-b719d92afd7d.html) April 30, 2017 Georgia, Cherokee Tribune Ledger News

... An estimated 50,000 coyotes are killed each year by deer hunters in Georgia ... hunters take more than 300,000 deer each season, about one-third of the estimated more than one million deer in Georgia...

[Gov. Deal signs House Bill 208](http://www.thepostsearchlight.com/2017/04/25/gov-deal-signs-house-bill-208/) April 25, 2017 Georgia, Post Searchlight

... resident hunting license fees from $10 to $15. For deer or turkey, the annual license fee would jump from $9 to $20...

['Georgia Coyote Challenge' puts canine in cross-hairs](http://newstome.blog.ajc.com/2017/03/14/georgia-coyote-challenge-puts-canine-in-cross-hairs/) March 14, 2017 Georgia, Atlanta Journal Constitution (blog)

... Georgia’s deer population is where the DNR wants it ... On average hunters kill about 350,000 deer annually and 50,000 coyotes annually ... the 33 coyotes taken in the “Challenge” seems like a really small number...

[Coalition of Scientists Condemn Georgia State Sanctioned Coyote Slaughter Commenced March 1](https://yubanet.com/enviro/coalition-of-scientists-condemn-georgia-state-sanctioned-coyote-slaughter-commenced-march-1/) March 2, 2017 YubaNet

... In a [letter](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=fjmsvW1FAeTeOU2LNqC239mr9lA43Ud3) to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), eighteen scientists with Project Coyote ... point to the DNR’s contradictory position on organized coyote killing programs, citing the [Georgia Deer Management Plan](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=IAbjudbgMb85qj3gLhPZRNmr9lA43Ud3) (2015-2024), which was prepared by the DNR and states: “Coyote bounties [are] viewed as an ineffective tool...

[Bobcats breeding on Jekyll Island](http://jacksonville.com/news/national/2017-02-21/bobcats-breeding-jekyll-island) February 21, 2017, Florida, Florida Times-Union

... discovery of two adult and two juvenile bobcats on the 5,700-acre island, ... the carcass of a 50-pound doe that had been attacked and killed. The deer had been attacked in the neck while bedded down in heavy brush, he said. “The deer didn’t have a chance,” ...

[Georgia wildlife managers want more coyote hunting](http://onlineathens.com/local-news/2017-02-17/georgia-wildlife-managers-want-more-coyote-hunting) February 17, 2017 Online Athens

... “Currently, scientific research suggests that removal of coyotes during the spring and summer is the most advantageous time to reduce the impact of predation on native wildlife,” ...

[Forsyth senator introduces bill for deer hunting season](http://www.forsythnews.com/section/1/article/32174/) February 14, 2017 Georgia, Forsyth County News Online

... Senate Bill 122, which would create a statewide season for deer hunting and extend the length of time firearms may be used for the sport...

[Deer Population](https://georgiawildlife.wordpress.com/2017/01/04/deer-population/) January 5, 2017 Georgia, Georgia Wildlife Resources Division

Currently, the estimated deer population in Georgia is 1.27 million...

Thanks to the Wildlife Resources Division for responding to our question about the calculation of this number. We provided this question:

"Is 1.27 million deer the DNR’s estimate for 2016? The 2015-24 deer management plan says 1 million deer in the current year (2014, see paragraph two on page IV) and 990,000 in 2012 (Table 1-1 on page 6). The 1.27 number seems very high given these previous DNR estimates and the significant decline in the 2015 deer harvest."

Georgia Wildlife provided this response which we have used to update historical deer population estimates:

"Current deer population estimates are calculated slightly differently than they were during the development of the 10-year deer management plan, resulting in this discrepancy. The deer population has been relatively stable since that time, so there has not been any substantial increase in the population. The current calculation method was also used for prior years, which brought the 2014 estimate to 1.2 million instead of 1 million. Absolute population estimates are not generally used to make management decisions, but rather to show a general trend in the population over time."

**2016**

[Balanced deer herd takes time and perseverance](http://www.albanyherald.com/sports/balanced-deer-herd-takes-time-and-perseverance/article_96227939-8028-5ad8-b1d4-e517f2726a37.html) December 24, 2016 Georgia, Albany Herald

... “One of the most important is the length of the rut. In a deer herd with a balanced number of does and antlered bucks, nearly all does will be bred during first estrous, usually over a short period of about two weeks. Does in an unbalanced herd will have to ‘recycle’ and be bred over a two- to three-month period or even longer.” ...

[Can coyote predation risk induce reproduction suppression in white‐tailed deer?](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ecs2.1481/full)

MJ Cherry, KE Morgan, BT Rutledge, LM Conner… Georgia - Ecosphere, 2016

... evaluated effects of temporal variation in predation risk (i.e., coyote–deer ratios) on fecundity and reproductive success of white-tailed deer on the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center in southwestern Georgia ... a rapid decline in coyote abundance to establish a natural experiment ... incidence of ovulation and lactation increased following the decline in predation risk. Our results suggest coyotes may be able to influence deer recruitment, independent of direct predation, through interactions that result in reduced fecundity...

[Georgia Deer Forecast for 2016](http://www.gameandfishmag.com/forecasts/georgia-deer-hunting-forecast-2016/) October 11, 2016 Game & Fish

... I expect deer sightings to be up in the 2016-2017 season due to the decreased harvest last year; we’re going to have more fawns hitting the ground, and if you look at our fawn recruitment rate from last year it was a little on the higher side ...

[Monroe Co. deer trace roots only to 1940's](http://www.mymcr.net/our_community/monroe-outdoors---monroe-co-deer-trace-roots-only/article_4b740e66-85ae-11e6-b483-f38b1ebc6f21.html) September 28, 2016 Georgia

Monroe County Reporter

... When Europeans first set foot in North America, white-tailed deer were found throughout what is now Georgia. However, as settlers ventured into the interior of the state, whitetails were quickly extirpated... Georgia sought and was granted permission to trap deer in the Kentucky Woodland Refuge. Between 1939 and 1944 some 344 deer were trapped there and released ...

[The beautiful but sometimes destructive whitetail deer](http://lakeoconeenews.us/articles/2016/09/08/beautiful-sometimes-destructive-whitetail-deer) September 8, 2016

Lake Oconee News

...When the pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock, the whitetail population was estimated at more than 24 million. The settlers quickly dropped their number because their food was considered a delicacy and by the middle of the 1800's their population had declined to about 12 million. During a period in the late 1800's, their numbers were further depleted and nationwide only about 500,000 deer remained in the United States. The entire population of deer was almost completely wiped out in Georgia...

[Archer deer season starts](http://www.jacksonprogress-argus.com/features/archer-deer-season-starts-sept/article_5f4370ee-f205-5479-bd0d-82ef53afd16a.html) Sept. 10 September 2, 2016 Georgia, jacksonprogress-argus

... Hunters are allowed a season bag limit of 10 antlerless deer and two antlered deer. One of the two antlered deer must have a minimum of four points, one inch or longer, on one side of the antlers...

[Opening Day of Archery Deer Season is Sat. Sept. 10](http://georgiawildlife.com/node/4250) August 31, 2016 Georgia, GDNR

Last year, 132,641 archery hunters harvested more than 66,039 deer. Statewide, hunters can use archery equipment throughout the entire 2016-2017 deer season (ending Jan. 8, 2017). “The early part of archery season occurs before mature bucks shift into their fall movement patterns,” said state deer program coordinator Charlie Killmaster. “With their home range near its smallest at this time of year, hunters should concentrate on food sources closest to thick cover for the best chance at an early-season buck.” ...

[Deer and turkey management on in-common habitat](http://www.albanyherald.com/sports/deer-and-turkey-management-on-in-common-habitat/article_a7f801f3-1dfc-5e1d-998a-0c7512ce61ca.html) August 21, 2016 Georgia, The Albany Herald

... it has been well documented that prescribed fire with dormant and/or growing-season burns enhances the production of herbaceous forages and removes invasive and undesirable woody plants. This is especially important in pine plantations and mixed pine-hardwood landscapes. Deer and turkeys live at the ground layer, where burning is most effective...

[Drought hitting local farmers hard](http://www.madisonjournaltoday.com/archives/8513-Drought-hitting-local-farmers-hard.html) July 30, 2016 Georgia

Madison Journal Today

... “The deer are hungry, the foliage is not there in the woods for them so they’re out in the fields looking for food,” ... “Our current drought actually began in March when we had less than half of our normal rainfall,” Jenkins said. “Every month since has featured well below typical rainfall, averaging about one-half of normal...

[2016-17 Georgia Hunting Seasons](http://www.gon.com/news/2016-17-georgia-hunt-seasons) July 22, 2016, Georgia Outdoor News

... For the second consecutive Georgia hunting season, more than half the state will experience periods of buck-only hunting during firearms deer season ... hunters complaining of seeing fewer deer in the woods...

Appling [County meets concerning deer hunting with dogs](http://www.baxleynewsbanner.com/archives/9054-County-meets-concerning-deer-hunting-with-dogs.html) April 6, 2016 Georgia, Baxley News-Banner

... Tillman discussed that he did not want any dogs on his property and addressed a letter he submitted to the commissioners sometime before the meeting... Bill Bowers recalled that in the late 1960s he remembered when the original vote was cast that did not allow dogs to run deer in Appling County …

[Can burning trees be a sign of a good thing? Absolutely](http://www.bryancountynews.com/section/6/article/42933/) March 3, 2016 Georgia, Bryan County News

... The indigenous people of Georgia ... managed the forest with fire, for which the longleaf pine is particularly suited. The seeds of longleaf pine have to be exposed to fire before they will germinate. The Indians frequently burned the forest floor to keep down brush and encourage grasses, which improved forage for deer...

[Captive white‐tailed deer industry—Current status and growing threat](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wsb.627/full)

KP Adams, BP Murphy, MD Ross - Wildlife Society Bulletin, 2016

... Thirty-seven states provided some data. Twenty of 32 states reported 5–1,332 breeding facilities holding >140,000 white-tailed deer; 20 of 29 states reported 1–150 shooting preserves holding >25,000 white-tailed deer. Captive white-tailed deer were classified as wildlife in 12 of 22 states (55%), livestock in 8 states (36%), and game animals in 2 states (9%). Only 5 of 21 states (24%) had minimum acreage requirements for breeding facilities, but 13 of 20 states (65%) did for shooting preserves. Four of 16 states (25%) had a minimum release time before deer could be shot in a preserve. Six of 21 states (29%) had stocking density requirements ...

[Coyote diets in a longleaf pine ecosystem](http://www.bioone.org/doi/full/10.2981/wlb.00144)Georgia, MJ Cherry, KL Turner, MB Howze, BS Cohen… - Wildlife Biology, 2016

... Adult white-tailed deer were consumed during every month and was not limited to the pulse of carrion availability from hunter-harvested animals, suggesting the use of adult white-tailed deer may not be restricted to scavenging in this system. ... We offer evidence that coyote colonization may alter food web dynamics in longleaf pine ecosystems through depredation of white-tailed deer ...

[US Forest Service wants to thin north Georgia forest](http://www.ajc.com/ap/ap/georgia/us-forest-service-wants-to-thin-north-georgia-fore/nqFcf/) January 29, 2016 Georgia, Atlanta Journal Constitution

... "The deer population has declined pretty significantly over the past 20, 25 years. Ruffed grouse and other hunted species are becoming very rare," said Jim Wentworth, the district's wildlife biologist. "We can reverse that trend by taking a small part of this watershed and creating some of those young forest conditions." ...

**2015**

["Coyote Predation of Deer, Livestock and Pets"](http://patch.com/georgia/monroe-ga/coyote-predation-deer-livestock-pets) November 9, 2015 Georgia, Patch

... in Southwest Georgia on 2 sections of land. One section of 11,000 acres, 23 coyotes and 3 bobcats were trapped and on another 7,000 acres no trapping was done. The results were staggering. In the trapped area 2 out of every 3 does had fawns opposed to the un-trapped area where only 1 out of 28 does had fawns... “if coyotes are not a problem on your hunting property they will be in a few years.” …

[2 major studies underway in Georgia, Alabama involving coyote research](http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/rome/news/local/major-studies-underway-in-georgia-alabama-involving-coyote-research/article_c7d7298a-ba61-11e4-8be8-bb0ed494b28a.html) February 22, 2015 Georgia, Fish Wrap

... Biologists warn that coyotes in some areas are having a devastating effect on fawns — and that has implications for future generations of the whitetail deer... “Removing/killing coyotes simply opens up territory for others to move in and occupy,” Mowry said ...

[5 things to know about Georgia's new official state mammal](http://www.ajc.com/news/news/5-things-know-about-georgias-new-official-state-ma/nmp36/) July 1, 2015 Georgia, Atlanta Journal Constitution

... the Department of Natural Resources claims that there are currently over 1.2 million white-tailed deer in Georgia...

This number was on the DNR website but according to the 2015-24 [Deer Management Plan](http://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVlcmZyaWVuZGx5LmNvbXxob21lfGd4OjY4NTdiODA5ZjQ1ZTA4N2I) the number of deer in 2014 was about 1 million

[Blame the weather on lack of deer for most hunters in 2015](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2015-12-25/pavey-blame-weather-lack-deer-most-hunters-2015) December 25, 2015 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

... the deer have been sparse this season. It has to be the weather.

Statewide, November 2015 was one of the wettest, warmest Novembers ...

[An 'unusual year' for weather, marine conditions](http://savannahnow.com/sports/2016-01-06/fishing-forecast-unusual-year-weather-marine-conditions#) January 6, 2016 Georgia, Savannah Morning News

... the Georgia deer season closes this coming weekend, and while no data is yet available as to harvest numbers this year, talk among several groups of hunters indicate the count may be down, that the movement of deer has been unusually slow during daylight hours …

[Coyote-tracking study is working well so far](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2015-04-25/coyote-tracking-study-working-well-so-far) April 26, 2015 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

... A study launched three months ago to track coyotes using GPS telemetry is progressing smoothly ... at least two have managed to cross the Savannah River into South Carolina. Gulsby said the animals likely swam ...

[Coyotes help manage deer populations, study finds](http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/local/story/2015/oct/29/coyotes-help-manage-deer-populations-study-fi/333064/) October 29, 2015 Georgia, Times Free Press

... skyrocketing influx of coyotes to the region in the last 40 years... the deer population is stable after a period of more than 20 years when it was overabundant. "If the coyote impact becomes greater, then certainly, in order to maintain our deer population at a sustainable level, we would have to reduce hunter harvests," ...

[Deer Harvest survey Results available](http://www.examiner.com/article/deer-harvest-survey-results-available-now) July 15, 2015 Georgia, Examiner

... Since at least 1962, WRD has used scientifically valid, survey methodology to get estimates of not only deer harvest, but also harvest estimates of other game species. Harvest estimates are obtained by asking a random sample of approximately 2,500 licensed Georgia deer hunters ... [Total: 412,068 see [summary](https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVlcmZyaWVuZGx5LmNvbXxob21lfGd4OmRlNjU1OTRkOTAxM2UxMg)]

[Effects of predation risk and group dynamics on white-tailed deer foraging behavior in a longleaf pine savanna](http://beheco.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/04/29/beheco.arv054.abstract) MJ Cherry, LM Conner, RJ Warren - Behavioral Ecology, 2015

... We investigated the effects of predation risk on white-tailed deer foraging behavior by manipulating predator distributions through exclusion ... Predator exclusion resulted in a 5% increase in the time females spent feeding during the summer, concurrent with fawning; and 13.4% increase in the time males spent feeding during winter, while in postrut condition. Males were more vigilant than females and demonstrated a stronger response to predator exclusion…

[Forums set to talk about changes in Georgia hunting, fishing license fees](http://onlineathens.com/local-news/2015-05-18/forums-set-talk-about-changes-georgia-hunting-fishing-license-fees) May 18, 2015 Online Athens

... The price of a Georgia fishing and hunting license hasn’t gone up since 1992 ... the number of people buying licenses has been relatively unchanging in recent years, despite Georgia’s population growth ...

Game & Fish

... 1972 to ... 2012... the deer herd has grown from 253,000 to 990,000, having peaked at 1,352,000 in 1998. The total number of deer hunters was 220,900 in 1972, peaked at 335,600 in 1992 and has trended downward to 318,113 in 2012... The Blue Ridge Mountains contain about 15 to 20 deer per square mile (PSM), while the fertile Piedmont and Upper Coastal Plain regions have 25 to 30 deer PSM...

[Georgia sees changes in hunting regulations for 2015-2017 seasons](http://www.thepostsearchlight.com/2015/06/05/georgia-sees-changes-in-hunting-regulations-for-2015-2017-seasons/) June 5, 2015 The Post-Searchlight ·

... Some of the major changes include establishing a uniform statewide deer season. “Deer may be taken statewide with firearms authorized by law in accordance with the counties, sex and seasons ...

[Georgia to have uniform, statewide deer season starting in the fall](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2015-06-06/georgia-have-uniform-statewide-deer-season-starting-fall) June 6, 2015 The Augusta Chronicle

... new hunting regulations that include a single season, rather than separate closing dates for the “Northern Zone” and “Southern Zone.” This year’s firearms season, thus, will be from Oct. 17 to Jan. 10, 2016 in all counties except a handful ...

[Governor Deal promotes prescribed fires for healthy forests](https://sowegalive.com/2015/02/03/governor-deal-promotes-prescribed-fires-for-healthy-forests/) February 3, 2015 Georgia, Sowega Live

... “Prescribed fire benefits reforestation, aesthetics and forest access. It is also the most economically feasible land management tool for maintaining wildlife habitats for many species, including bobwhite quail, eastern wild turkey, white-tailed deer, the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and countless songbirds.” [Neal Edmondson, Prescribed Burn Coordinator for the Georgia Forestry Commission]

[Meetings for Georgia hunters take up various subjects](http://m.chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2015-01-10/meetings-georgia-hunters-take-various-subjects#gsc.tab=0) January 11, 2015 McDuffie Mirror

... “The deer population in the state has definitely come down,” said Don McGowan, regional operations manager for Georgia’s Wildlife Resources Division, which organized the Wilkes County meeting and seven similar gatherings across the state last week.

Georgia’s deer herd peaked more than a decade ago at 1.6 million to 1.7 million animals, he said. “Today, it’s down to about 1 million –we think.” The decline has been attributed to overhunting, liberal bag limits, longer seasons and the rapid spread of coyotes, which prey on fawns each spring...

[Project to track coyotes in three states](http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2015-02-07/project-track-coyotes-three-states) February 7, 2015 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

... the University of Georgia on a groundbreaking study of coyotes across Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama... Wildlife managers say there is mounting evidence that coyotes have drastically reduced deer fawn survival...

[State of Georgia inching closer to increasing hunting, fishing license fees](http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/rome/news/local/state-of-georgia-inching-closer-to-increasing-hunting-fishing-license/article_b43f0f0c-3291-11e5-a445-fb7c50abe31e.html) July 25, 2015 Northwest Georgia News

... the Georgia Department of Natural Resources says it’s time to increase basic hunting and fishing license fees for operational purposes for the first time since 1981... . The new fee structure provides the basic hunting license for $15. To hunt big game, deer or bear for example, the fee goes up to $40 from $9 and that includes the right to hunt on one of the state-managed WMAs ...

**Study on Coyotes Will Provide Needed Information for Management** January 15, 2015 Gerogia, GDNR News

... A new multi-agency study, scheduled to begin in 2015, will help answer many coyote-related questions, including determining what types of resources, such as prey availability and hiding cover, are important to coyotes when establishing territories. “We know that coyotes play a critical role in ecological communities,” says project coordinator Joseph Hinton, a University of Georgia post-doctoral researcher. “But, they are a relatively new predator to Georgia that rapidly colonized the state... More Information: [Full News Release re: Coyote Study](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwMTE1LjQwMzIwNjcxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDExNS40MDMyMDY3MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjA1NzM3JmVtYWlsaWQ9a2VudHdlYmJAZGVlcmZyaWVuZGx5LmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9a2VudHdlYmJAZGVlcmZyaWVuZGx5LmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&100&&&http://georgiawildlife.com/node/3781), [Coyote Information - Georgia Wildlife Resources Division](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwMTE1LjQwMzIwNjcxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDExNS40MDMyMDY3MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjA1NzM3JmVtYWlsaWQ9a2VudHdlYmJAZGVlcmZyaWVuZGx5LmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9a2VudHdlYmJAZGVlcmZyaWVuZGx5LmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&101&&&http://www.georgiawildlife.com/nuisancewildlife), [Coyote Study - University of Georgia](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwMTE1LjQwMzIwNjcxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDExNS40MDMyMDY3MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3MjA1NzM3JmVtYWlsaWQ9a2VudHdlYmJAZGVlcmZyaWVuZGx5LmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9a2VudHdlYmJAZGVlcmZyaWVuZGx5LmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&102&&&http://www.ugadeerresearch.org)

[What's The Truth About Coyotes And Deer?](http://forum.gon.com/showthread.php?p=9540377) June 17, 2015 Georgia, Georgia Outdoor News Forum

... Have witnessed them hunting grown deer, not fawns, in packs during the fall twice in recent years. Have watched a 2.5 yr old buck run by with his tongue hanging out in the daylight followed by five yotes... any deer management plan that doesn't take it into account is missing a big piece of the puzzle...

[White-tailed deer, coyotes, and the ecology of fear in a longleaf pine savanna](http://athenaeum.libs.uga.edu/handle/10724/30894) MJ Cherry - 2014

Predators can exert powerful influence on their prey, independent of direct killing, by inducing antipredator responses. Coyotes (Canis latrans) have recently achieved abundances capable of influencing white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) population demography in the southeastern USA, but the effects of antipredator responses have not been reported ... his work provided evidence that coyotes can influence white-tailed deer space use and vigilance while foraging, and documented a negative relationship between coyote abundance and body mass of adult female deer during an 11-year period...

[White‐tailed deer fawn recruitment before and after experimental coyote removals in central Georgia](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wsb.534/abstract;jsessionid=83B4C9D9778281E55E01FCE00FC20060.f03t01?deniedAccessCustomisedMessage=&userIsAuthenticated=false) WD Gulsby, CH Killmaster, JW Bowers, JD Kelly… - Wildlife Society Bulletin, 2015

... Recent evidence from across the southeastern United States indicating high predation rates by coyotes (Canis latrans) on white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) fawns has led some managers to implement coyote control... Fawn recruitment on Cedar Creek WMA did not differ among years during the study, and was similar to that prior to coyote arrival. The differential coyote impacts and variable effectiveness of trapping we observed on nearby sites suggest coyote control may not achieve management objectives in some areas. Furthermore, transient behavior and the potential for coyotes to adapt to control efforts likely reduce efficacy of this management action ...

[WRD Proposes More Buck-Only Days Next Deer Season](http://onlineathens.com/sports/outdoors/2015-05-08/wrd-proposes-more-buck-only-days-next-deer-season) May 8, 2015 Georgia, Athens Banner-Herald

... After more than a decade of basically no limit (12 deer per hunter per season) and every day being either-sex, the thinking that we can’t kill too many does has been “re-thunk.” The elephant in the Georgia deer woods looks exactly like a coyote... They eat enough deer that, for now, hunters are going to have to shoot fewer deer... Doe days are how the deer harvest is reduced...

**2014**

[Coyote control might not help fawn mortality](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/2014-09-13/coyote-control-might-not-help-fawn-mortality) September 13, 2014 Georgia

The Augusta Chronicle

... “When the objective is to increase recruitment of white-tailed deer, we conclude that neither coyote control nor vegetation management appear effective,” ... scientists removed 474 coyotes from three 7,900-acre parcels ... “Coyote predation accounted for 80 percent of all mortality during the pre-removal period and 73 percent during the removal period.” ... at Savannah River Site ...

[DNR deer-management plan calls for maintaining herd size](http://onlineathens.com/breaking-news/2014-10-28/dnr-deer-management-plan-calls-maintaining-herd-size) October 29, 2014 Georgia, Athens Banner-Herald

... The state’s plan for managing Georgia’s deer population, revealed Tuesday, calls for ample hunting and habitat to hold the herd size at 1.1 million... a peak of 1.6 million in the late 1990s ... harvesting 400,000 to 450,000 animals yearly ...

[Do whitetails alter their habits to avoid coyotes?](http://www.outdoornews.com/August-2014/Do-whitetails-alter-their-habits-to-avoid-coyotes/) August 21, 2014 Georgia, Outdoor News

... growing coyote populations are causing at least some degree of havoc on whitetail herds... Georgia, like Illinois, is in the middle of a coyote population explosion...Biologists at the University of Georgia’s Deer Lab began a unique study last summer, looking at white-tailed deer in two separate controlled environments – one with coyotes and one without…

[Fallow deer numbers growing on St. Simons](http://jacksonville.com/news/georgia/2014-07-05/story/fallow-deer-numbers-growing-st-simons?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+JacksonvillecomsNewsSportsAndEntertainment+(Jacksonville%27s+Most+Recent+Headlines+-+Jacksonville.com+and+The+Florida+Times-Union)) July 5, 2014 Georgia, Florida Times-Union

... fallow deer ... The deer were brought to neighboring Little St. Simons Island in the early 1900s... they have the ability to swim and made their way to St. Simons Island, where they have multiplied. They have also been spotted on Jekyll Island and in mainland Brunswick ...

[Georgia Deer Forecast 2014](http://www.gameandfishmag.com/forecasts/georgia-deer-hunting-forecast-2014/)October, 2014 Game and Fish

... Of the 385,410 whitetails harvested in 2012-13, bucks accounted for 143,141 of the kills, and 242,268 were does... 52 percent of all Georgia deer hunters killed at least one deer... Blue Ridge Mountains: with relatively little agriculture, the deer density is low ... Piedmont: historically been some of the most productive deer lands in the state ... Upper Coastal Plain: stable population ...

[Georgia drafts plan for deer management](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/2014-08-16/georgia-drafts-plan-deer-management) August 17, 2014 The Augusta Chronicle

... the number of deer rose from about 220,000 in 1972 up to a peak of 1.4 million in the late 1990s before steadily declining to the current estimate of about 1 million.

In the early 1980s, does – or “antlerless deer” – accounted for barely a fourth of the total deer harvest, according to the draft plan, with yearling bucks accounting for the majority of deer taken... Since 2002, the doe harvest has accounted for 60 percent or more of the annual deer harvest...

[Hunting: The season is here](http://www.covnews.com/section/27/article/56466/) October 11, 2014 Georgia, Covington News

... During this time of year bucks are still traveling in bachelor groups. In the southern zone of Georgia, hunters can bait deer, but you can’t bait deer in the northern zone. Therefore, hunters rely on attractives to get deer closer. As the rut draws closer, bucks start competing for breeding rights for the does ... the end of October/beginning of November is the peak rut ...

[Passing by young bucks and allowing them to grow to maturity pays off with more mature bucks](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2014-02-01/passing-young-bucks-and-allowing-them-grow-maturity-pays-more?v=1391275271) February 1, 2014 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

... The best news from [Quality Deer Management] ... In 1989, the percentage of yearling bucks in the U.S. whitetail harvest was a whopping 62 percent... declined steadily over the decades, to an all-time record low of 37 percent during the 2012-13 season ...

[Primitive Weapon Season Opens October 11th](http://worthit2u.net/worth/2014/10/02/worth-outdoors-primitive-weapon-season-opens-october-11th/) October 3, 2014 Georgia, Worth It 2U

... Black powder rifles, and bows and arrows... the week-long primitive weapons deer hunting season beginning Saturday, Oct. 11. Over 48,000 hunters participated in last year’s primitive weapons season, bringing in over 11,000 deer with black powder rifles...

[Proposed Hunting Regulations](http://www.gohuntgeorgia.com/Hunting/ProposedRegulations?cat=1) March 27, 2014 Georia, GDNR News

Proposed amendments to hunting regulations for the 2014-2015 season are under consideration by the Board of Natural Resources. These proposals establish hunting opportunities on the following properties being added to the Wildlife Management Area system: Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA (owned by The Nature Conservancy) and the Spirit Creek Forest (owned by the Georgia Forestry Commission). The Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA is 10,800 acres in three tracts located in Marion and Talbot Counties. The Spirit Creek Forest is 570 acres in Richmond County. [Review the proposed amendments to hunting regulations](http://www.gohuntgeorgia.com/sites/default/files/uploads/wildlife/hunting/pdf/regulations/Public%20Notice_2014%20Interim%20Regs.pdf). [Two public hearings](http://www.gohuntgeorgia.com/Hunting/Meetings?cat=1) on the above proposals have been scheduled for April 15 and April 16.

[Research looks at deer vision](http://triblive.com/sports/outdoors/6916062-74/deer-disease-fish?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+alltribstories+(TribLIVE+News)#axzz3FzTeEmTg) October 12, 2014 Georgia, Tribune-Review

... deer see many colors, but blues the best and reds the worst. They can't differentiate shades the way humans can ...

Sapelo, [Public-Land Deer Hunting In Georgia](http://onlineathens.com/sports/outdoors/2014-08-21/2014-wma-special-public-land-deer-hunting-georgia) August 21, 2014 Georgia, Athens Banner-Herald

... “Deer numbers on Sapelo are high and continue to remain so,” said David Mixon, WRD’s Coastal region supervisor. “Rainfall over the past couple of years has certainly contributed to the continued success by providing adequate vegetation growth and abundant freshwater (a critical limiting factor on barrier islands)...

[Spring planting for wildlife](http://www.albanyherald.com/news/2014/apr/19/outdoors-spring-planting-for-wildlife/) April 20, 2014 Georgia, Albany Herald

... Bottomland hardwood forests should be protected from fire and maintained for mast production in the fall and winter months. Less desirable trees within these stands, such as maple, yellow poplar, sweetgum and unproductive oaks, can be removed to allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor... White-tailed deer: Cowpeas (plant May 1 – July 15) ...

[State Biologists Discuss Deer Decline in October Issue of North American Whitetail](http://www.ammoland.com/2014/09/state-biologists-discuss-deer-decline-in-october-issue-of-north-american-whitetail/#axzz3EC5RAZ2g) September 23, 2014 Georgia, Ammo Land

... We all know the whitetail population is down somewhat from a decade ago,” ... a recent blitz of challenges facing whitetails — everything from viral diseases to new predators to extreme weather patterns and sudden habitat changes — the species clearly is at a key juncture in its modern history...

[The next 10 years of deer management](http://onlineathens.com/sports/outdoors/2014-08-07/next-10-years-deer-management)August 8, 2014 Georgia, Athens Banner-Herald

... Why did a trend of hunters being very satisfied shift to a clear trend of growing dissatisfaction? One reason was the deer population dropped. On some tracts of land, it absolutely crashed. Deer limits had been raised dramatically, and either-sex days went from a few weekends each fall to every day of deer season. The experts were telling hunters to shoot every doe they saw—that it was impossible to kill too many does...

[TV host proclaims need for next generation of outdoorsmen](http://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/rome/lifestyles/local/tv-host-proclaims-need-for-next-generation-of-outdoorsmen/article_37e1a640-34b8-11e4-aad9-001a4bcf6878.html) September 5, 2014 Georgia, Fish Wrap

... the Pittman–Robertson Act ... funds wildlife programs throughout the country through an excise tax paid by outdoorsmen for their sporting goods... The state manages a deer population of approximately 1.3 million, he said. “If we don’t recruit the next generation, who’s going to pay for this?” ...

**2013**

[All God's critters big and small, deer population in Georgia](http://www.covnews.com/section/16/article/39150/) March 30, 2013 Covington News

... According to the Department of Natural Resources deer harvest guidelines, “ ... reduced the statewide deer population from 1.4 million deer in the 1990s to close to 1 million today...” DNR biologist Don McGowan estimates that the present deer population in this area is approximately 30-35 per square mile, considered healthy by current standards...

[Antlered does do exist](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2013-11-16/antlered-does-do-exist?v=1384628125) November 16, 2013 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

... The deer was a nine-pointer, but funny looking didn't begin to describe the odd rack, which was covered in coarse, hairy velvet and dark bumpy knots. We also noticed its long, slender neck, which had no hint of swelling ... female parts, right down to the milk sacks in its belly ...

[Are Deer Numbers Too Low?](http://www.gon.com/article.php?id=3265&cid=158) January 3, 2013 Georgia, Georgia Outdoor News

It’s been almost a decade since a subcommittee organized by the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) Game Management Section met numerous times to hash out ideas for the direction of deer management in Georgia ... Now we kill more does than bucks, and many more of the bucks we kill are older-aged. That’s a basic premise of quality management, which most hunters say they want... what wasn’t even mentioned 10 years ago during those subcommittee meetings? Coyotes... Deer recruitment rates (the number of fawns that survive) are way down because of coyote predation.

[Buck-only days return in Georgia this weekend](http://m.chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2013-11-30/buck-only-days-return-georgia-weekend) November 30, 2013 Georgia Mobile Augusta

... The change was adopted long before our season began, due to an increasing number of studies that indicate fawn recruitment continues to decline, while our annual doe harvest continues to increase. The folks at the Wildlife Resources Department simply want to ensure a herd that is sustainable from year to year ...

[Coyote inquiries on the rise this year, especially in Evans](http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2013-06-10/coyote-inquiries-rise-year-especially-evans?v=1370868602) June 10, 2013 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

... Georgia officials did not import and release coyotes to control white-tailed deer populations. Coyotes made it to Georgia by their natural territorial expansion across the Mississippi River ...

[UGA deer lab holds field day in Screven](http://www.thepress-sentinel.com/articles/2013/07/02/sports/doc51d3302bd8c9a652351698.txt) July 2, 2013 Georgia, Jesup Press Sentinel

... many questions remain because researchers still cannot explain why coyotes are more dense in some areas than others, why coyotes drastically reduce fawn survival in some areas but not others, and why some coyotes are “residents” that live their entire lives in small areas while others are “transients” that roam hundreds of square miles...

[Darton to offer prescribed burn manager and deer ecology courses](http://www.mysouthwestga.com/news/story.aspx?id=868231#.UTZ44jCG2So)March 5, 2013 Georgia, WFXL FOX 31

Darton State College has announced two new courses to be offered this year; Georgia Prescribed Burn Manager and White Tailed Deer Ecology and Management ... The prescribed burn course will take place April 16th and 17th with a fee of $95 and the ecology course is schedule for May 22nd and 23rd, with a cost of $290

[Deer Anatomy Lesson: How Buck Scent Glands Really Work](http://www.outdoorlife.com/blogs/master-class/2013/10/deer-anatomy-lesson-how-buck-scent-glands-really-work)November 1, 2013 Georgia, outdoorlife.com

... “Some of the glands communicate information about a deer—they don’t really attract other deer,” says Dr. Karl V. Miller, professor of wildlife biology at the University of Georgia...

[Deer hunters should review either sex day changes for 2013-14 season](http://www.lincolnjournalonline.com/news/2013-12-05/News/Deer_hunters_should_review_either_sex_day_changes_.html) December 5, 2013 Georgia, lincolnjournalonline.com

... More than 300,000 hunters pursue the most popular game animal in Georgia, the white-tailed deer. As a reminder to hunters, there was a regulation change in the number of available days to take deer of either sex depending on the type of equipment used and the area of your hunt, beginning Dec. 1...

[Deer Hunting Season Rumors](http://lakeallatoona.com/201311/deer-hunting-season-rumors/) April 11, 2013 Georgia, Stephen Burge

... The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Wildlife Resources Division wants you to know the length of the deer hunting season has not been shortened — as has been reported by some media sources ... The broad trend of declining fawn recruitment rates coupled with high levels of doe harvest warrant a statewide regulatory action. As the public grows more dissatisfied about the harvest of antlerless deer, declines in deer density concern many deer hunters in Georgia.... “We believe the proposed reduction in either-sex days strikes a reasonable balance ...

[DNR clears up rumors about deer season reduction](http://www.rockdalecitizen.com/news/2013/apr/13/dnr-clears-up-rumors-about-deer-season-reduction/) April 13, 2013 Georgia, Rockdale Citizen

... "The proposed regulations under consideration recommend a 25-day reduction only in the number of either-sex or 'doe days,' not in the length of the overall deer season," said John Bowers, assistant chief of the Game Management Section. "This proposed change is a result of scientific data and deer hunters will still be able to hunt bucks during either-sex days." ...

[Georgia Deer Season Shortened? Not exactly.](http://www.realtree.com/hunting/realtree-hunting-blogs/brow-tines-and-back-strap/georgia-deer-season-shortened-not-exactly) April 17, 2013 Realtree

... "The proposed regulations under consideration recommend a 25-day reduction only in the number of either-sex or 'doe days,' not in the length of the overall deer season," said John Bowers, assistant chief of the Game Management Section said in a press release. "This proposed change is a result of scientific data and deer hunters will still be able to hunt bucks during either-sex days." The 25-day reduction in doe days seems to be something Georgia hunters have been asking for ...

[Proposed hunting regulations would cut deer season, declining deer population](http://onlineathens.com/sports/outdoors/2013-04-23/proposed-hunting-regulations-would-cut-deer-season) April 23, 2013 Georgia, Online Athens

... Georgia’s deer hunters have put forth a proposal to trim the number of “doe days” in order to halt a decline in the state’s deer population... the department’s own research showed that the longer hunting season during the past 10 years has reduced the deer population from 1.4 million to slightly less than 1 million... John Bowers, DNR’s assistant chief of game management. “Our goal is to stabilize the population around a million animals.” ...

[Deer hunts at Savannah River Site limited, but more costly](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2013-06-29/deer-hunts-savannah-river-site-limited-more-costly) June 29, 2013 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

... due to “severe budgetary constraints related to the effects of sequestration” ... This fall, the 310-square-mile site’s popular public deer hunts will be scaled back and limited only to registered members of dog pack teams who have participated in past hunts... Pack owners must pay a fee of $650 ...

[Deer management through culling: Feasible or not?](http://www.albanyherald.com/news/2013/jan/05/outdoors-feature-deer-management-through-culling-f/) January 5, 2013 Georgia, The Albany Herald

...According to wildlife biologist Chris Cook ... “What some people don’t understand is that the dam (doe) provides as much or more genetic influence for antler development as does the sire ... Another argument against culling bucks is a lack of understanding about white-tailed deer genetics. By and large, the genetics of deer, including those determining antler production, are poorly understood.

[DNR clarifies deer hunting dates](http://www.walb.com/story/21921150/dnr-clarifies-deer-hunting-dates), reduced deer population April 9, 2013 Georgia, WALB-TV

... DNR studies show the population of deer in Georgia has been reduced, and needs to be stabilized. "There has been about a 13 percent increase in the doe harvest over the last several years," said Wildlife Biologist Brent Howze. "And the doe harvest stays about 65 percent of the total harvest. But fawn recruitment has decreased overall in the state about 26 percent." ...at[www.gohuntgeorgia.com/hunting/regulations](http://www.gohuntgeorgia.com/hunting/regulations). Hunters may harvest up to 10 antlerless deer and no more than two antlered deer (one of the two antlered deer must have a minimum of four points, one inch or longer, on one side of the antlers).

[G&F Forecast: Your Best Counties For Georgia Deer Hunting in 2013](http://www.gameandfishmag.com/deer-forecast/georgia-deer-forecast-2013/#forecast)October, 2013

... The state deer biologist is Charlie Killmaster ... "fawn recruitment, though it varies widely across the state, has a generally declining trend whereas the percentage of does in the harvest has recently showed an increasing trend. In addition, many parts of the state experienced a higher than normal incidence of hemorrhagic disease, from which we had numerous reports of sick or dead deer last fall,” concerning the disease often called EHD ..In the 2011-12 season there were 141,591 bucks and 269,890 does ...

[Georgia DNR changes deer hunting regulations](http://www.newtoncitizen.com/news/2013/nov/25/georgia-dnr-changes-in-deer-hunting-regulations/) November 25, 2013, newtoncitizen.com

... The number of firearms either-sex days was reduced based on a several factors, according to the DNR, including the decline in the number of fawns that survive into fall and an increase in doe harvest rates. These factors warranted regulatory changes to reduce the doe harvest....

[Georgia efforts to grow bigger bucks faring well, QDMA says](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2013-02-15/georgia-efforts-grow-bigger-bucks-faring-well-qdma-says)February 15, 2013 The Augusta Chronicle

... Georgia’s percentage of 3.5 year old bucks compared to total buck harvest increased from 20 to 26 percent from the 2010-11 season to 2011-12. Georgia also led the nation with the highest antlerless deer harvest (277,961), and also ranked first in the U.S. with a 3.5-to-1 ratio of antlerless deer harvested per buck ...

[Georgia's deer hunters ask DNR for shorter season](http://jacksonville.com/news/georgia/2013-04-08/story/georgias-deer-hunters-ask-dnr-shorter-season) April 8, 2013 Florida Times-Union

... Georgia's deer hunters would get 25 fewer days to seek their quarry, but they don't mind the reduction. They requested it ... they were finding fewer bucks and does.

Indeed, the department’s own research showed that the longer hunting season during the past 10 years has reduced the deer population from 1.4 million to slightly less than 1 million...

[Hunters gain edge after passing of "Baiting Bill"](http://savannahnow.com/sports/2011-05-25/hunters-gain-edge-after-passing-baiting-bill) May 26, 2011 Georgia Management Savannah Morning News

Nathan Deal signed HB 277, better known to outdoorsmen as the “Baiting Bill,” allowing hunters to use bait to attract and take a clear line of sight to shoot a deer. The bill is in effect for the Southern Zone, which includes Chatham, Liberty, ...“I think you’ll see an erosion of hunting skills,” Murphy said. “I think it’s a shame that our young hunters growing up may think you just dump a bag of corn out and watch it (in anticipation of attracting a deer and killing it). We can do better than that.

[Hunters trade shots over deer breeding, killing methods](http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/09/15/hunters-trade-shots-over-deer-breeding-killing-methods/) September 15, 2013 Georgia, FOX News

... "They’ve now created deer that are beyond human belief in terms of their antler size,” said Brian Murphy, CEO of the Quality Deer Management Association. “[The deer] staggers around under the weight of those antlers." ... in the most egregious cases, are released into three to five acres before they are shot down... Chris Dougherty describes what he called "[Frankenstein Bucks](http://www.outdoorlife.com/photos/gallery/hunting/2011/09/freak-show-bucks-look-genetically-altered-deer)." ... Michigan-based Whitehouse Whitetails, said there's no difference between killing deer in the wild and killing them in an enclosed space...

[Hunters, state authorities on watch for poachers](http://m.chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2013-10-26/hunters-state-authorities-watch-poachers?v=1382850364) October 26, 2013 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

... To protect their land, the wildlife population and the integrity of the state’s fee collection system, local hunting groups are gating reservations, marking stands and monitoring social media sites to catch poachers who post online pictures of large kills. State rangers say the best way to stop the illicit act is to file complaints with Georgia’s Turn in Poachers program, a 25-year-old awareness campaign that pays $100 for any tips ...

[Misinformation abounds; deer season length not being reduced](http://www.accessnorthga.com/detail.php?n=260275)April 9, 2013 Georiga, Access North Georgia

... “The proposed regulations under consideration recommend a 25-day reduction only in the number of either-sex or ‘doe days,’ not in the length of the overall deer season,” said John Bowers, assistant chief of the Game Management Section... Long-term data indicate a statewide decline in the fawn recruitment rate in all physiographic regions of the state. At the same time, does have comprised 60-65% of the annual deer harvest...

[New Tracts Add More Than 1300 Acres To Oconee WMA In Georgia for Public Use](http://www.chattanoogan.com/2013/11/27/264424/New-Tracts-Add-More-Than-1300-Acres.aspx) November 27, 2013The Chattanoogan

... in Greene and Hancock counties. These new tracts enhance the Oconee WMA by increasing the availability of public land for hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts...

[Panel blocks 'breeder' deer bill in Georgia](http://www.ajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/panel-blocks-breeder-deer-bill-in-georgia/nWc7k/) February 28, 2013 Atlanta Journal Constitution

... Supporters of Senate Bill 230, introduced by Sen. Tyler Harper, R-Ocilla, cheered the move as an economic opportunity for breeders and rural farmers who could house the deer on private property for sport. The animals would not be released in the wild, supporters said, nor could they be slaughtered at the breeding facilities. The deer, however, would be hunted in captivity...

[Proposed hunting regulations would trim deer season](http://savannahnow.com/sports/2013-04-11/proposed-hunting-regulations-would-trim-deer-season#.UWbQC7WG2So) April 11, 2013 Georgia, Savannah Morning News

... the hunting community asked the Department of Natural Resources to shorten the either-sex deer season by 25 days. The regular hunting season would remain the same. Hunters made the request because they were finding fewer bucks and does. Indeed, the department’s own research showed that the expanded hunting season during the past 10 years has reduced the deer population from 1.4 million to slightly less than 1 million...

**Public Meetings Scheduled Regarding Deer Management Plans in Georgia** October 29, 2013 WRD New Release

How many white-tailed deer should we have in Georgia? The answer to this question varies depending on whom you ask. Management of Georgia's white-tailed deer herd can be a challenging and, at times, controversial topic. According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Resources Division (WRD), the white-tailed deer is Georgia’s most popular game species. Currently, management of regional and statewide deer populations occurs through hunting (81 percent of all hunters pursue this game species) as facilitated and constrained by laws, regulations and hunter access. However, there are a number of key issues and opportunities directly linked to this resource besides hunting; including wildlife viewing, ecological functions, agricultural damage, and deer-car collisions.

WRD is requesting your participation in 10 statewide, highly interactive, open house-style public meetings, scheduled throughout early November. These meetings are one opportunity to allow members of the public to provide input regarding management of white-tailed deer.

[QDMA: Coyotes and Hogs Hitting Deer Herds Hard](http://www.outdoorlife.com/blogs/big-buck-zone/2013/07/qdma-coyotes-and-hogs-hitting-deer-herds-hard) July 19, 2013 Georgia, Outdoor Life Magazine (blog)

... University of Georgia professor, Dr. Karl Miller believes coyotes to be a real threat to whitetail populations in certain areas. Trapping, thought by many to be a viable solution, may not be. Miller and his graduate students have done extensive work with coyotes and have concluded that it is difficult if not impossible to trap out a coyote population...

[Red Top State Park, DNR and Red Top seek controlled deer population](http://www.daily-tribune.com/pages/full_story/push?article-DNR+and+Red+Top+seek+controlled+deer+population%20&id=24185162) December 8, 2013 Georgia, The Daily Tribune News

... “We actually had a problem [in the early to mid-2000s]. There were a number of car collisions ... [The hunts] are not open to the general public, you actually have to apply and have a lottery number selected to be one of the hunters ... " Kim Hatcher, public affairs coordinator for Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites, said...

[Rutting Edge Research: The Latest Finding On Whitetail Breeding Behavior](http://www.fieldandstream.com/articles/hunting/deer-hunting/finding-deer-hunt/2013/11/rutting-edge-research-0) November 4, 2013 Georgia, Field and Stream

... Randy DeYoung, a research scientist with Texas A&M University-­Kingsville ... "Despite the big uptick in movement during the rut, these bucks were still utilizing only about 30 percent of their home range," ... Andy Olson, with the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. "... for the majority of these bucks, home range was the smallest in fall, including the peak of the rut, and largest during winter and spring, presumably when finding food sources required more travel."

**2012**

[Animal Advocates Gather at Georgia Capitol to Lobby for Wildlife](https://sites.google.com/a/deerfriendly.com/home/goog_2028406586) [Protection](http://presszoom.com/story_173613.html) February 29, 2012 PressZoom

Citizens from across Georgia participating in Humane Lobby Day assembled at the state house in Atlanta to oppose a bill to expand the cruel and unsporting captive hunting industry. ... Our wildlife management system is based on the idea that wildlife is held in public trust and belongs to all Georgians. Allowing deer breeding facilities commercializes a whole species of native wildlife ...” said Jessica DuBois, The HSUS’ Georgia senior state director.

[Animal rights activists' drone shot down at shooting preserve](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2012-03-10/animal-rights-activists-drone-shot-down-shooting-preserve?v=1331408354) March 10, 2012 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

... when the aircraft and its remote video camera cleared the trees in the vicinity of the scheduled pigeon shoot, someone shot it... the discussion quickly transitions to raising “test tube deer” in which genetically altered whitetails with mammoth antlers are grown and sold for sport.... That’s why – just two weeks ago – the Georgia Wildlife Federation and other groups launched a campaign to defeat legislation to legalize just such an industry right here in Georgia.

[Are pythons invading Georgia?](http://m.chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2012-12-07/are-pythons-invading-georgia) December 7, 2012 The Augusta Chronicle

... . In the south Florida swamps where the pythons have been established the longest, very few mammals like raccoons and deer remain ... ecologist J.D. Willson ... One controversial study concluded that pythons could survive as far northward as Washington, D.C. “That question’s still very much open to debate,” ...

[Captive Deer Breeding Legislation Overwhelmingly Defeated During 2012 Legisltative Session](http://www.ammoland.com/2012/06/05/captive-deer-breeding-legislation-overwhelmingly-defeated-during-2012-legislative-session/#axzz1wy882BX5) June 5, 2012 Georgia, AmmoLand.com

... attempts to legalize deer breeding in three new states were unsuccessful, including Georgia,Mississippi and Tennessee... in Indiana which would have legalized “hunting preserves” for farm-bred and released deer; Missouri which would have reclassified captive whitetails from wildlife to “livestock”; and West Virginia where authority over deer farms would have been transferred from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture …

[University researcher trying to revive the chesnut tree](http://redandblack.com/2012/04/18/university-researcher-trying-to-revive-the-chesnut-tree/) April 18, 2012 Georgia, Red and Black

Chestnut blight – Cryphonectria parasitica – was introduced when the Chinese chestnut was introduced to America in 1904, beginning in New York. It spread quickly because the American chestnut had no resistance. ... The chestnut also provides a highly reliable food source because it flowers later than other trees and is less likely to suffer frost damage ... “There are hardly any trees in the United states that make a big nut crop,” [Scott] Merkle said. “The nuts store energy as starch rather than fat. They were eaten by deer, bears and turkeys...

[Coyote predation could force changes in deer management](http://m.chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/2012-06-15/coyote-predation-could-force-changes-deer-management) June 15, 2012 Georgia, m.chronicle.augusta.com

... U.S. Forest Service research biologist John Kilgo has been studying coyote-fawn predation at Savannah River Site since 2006 ... coyotes are killing at least 37 percent of newborn fawns, and most likely as many as 80 percent ... In a peer-reviewed article scheduled for publication in August in the Journal of Wildlife Management, Kilgo and co-authors .... say ... that if coyote predation on fawns is as high as studies say it is, the current hunter harvest levels appear unsustainable.

[Coyotes and Deer: Research at the UGA Deer Lab - Winter 2012](http://forum.gon.com/showthread.php?t=680454) March 22, 2012, From the official newsletter of the University of Georgia Deer Management Research Group.

... In the first UGA Deer Lab study on coyotes, Josh Schrecen-gost, under the direction of Dr. Miller, studied home range and food habits of coyotes on the 198,000─acre Savannah River Site, located in South Carolina ... “deer remains were found in 22% of the coyote scats sampled and that coyotes would preferentially feed on fawns during May and June despite the large effort required to find fawns at low deer densi-ties." ... In 2007, Brent Howze, under the direction of Dr. Warren, studied the effect of coyote and bobcat predation on deer recruitment on a 29,000─acre property in south-western Georgia. Brent confirmed Josh’s earlier findings that coyotes were much more important predators of fawns, than bobcats…

[Coyotes Could Drive Deer Into “Predator Pit”](http://www.gon.com/article.php?id=3045&cid=26) April 26, 2012 Georgia, Georgia Outdoor News

... Studies in the Southeast are finding only 20 to 25 percent of fawns are making it, and recruitment rates are 0.2 to 0.25 fawns per doe. Recruitment rate is the number of surviving fawns (5 to 6 months old) per adult doe in the pre-hunt population. In a healthy Georgia deer herd, recruitment rates should be 0.8 to 1.0, and the fawn survival rates should be more than 50 percent. ... Dr. Steve Ditchkoff, an Auburn professor and a top whitetail researcher who heads up Auburn’s respected Deer Lab, talked about the predator-pit concept ...

[Deer Drought in Georgia?](http://forum.gon.com/showthread.php?p=7348509) November 3, 2012 Forum.gon.com

... Deer sightings in many areas in Georgia are down so far this year. My processor, who is also a high school bus driver who spends lots of time driving the county roads at early light, reports his deer intake numbers significantly down and is seeing very few deer on the roads... dawson/lumpkin counties and the population is way down. Mostly because of coyotes ...

[Deer farming bill would allow "genetically altered" whitetails](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/2012-02-25/deer-farming-bill-would-allow-genetically-altered-whitetails) February 25, 2012 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

... sponsors include State Rep. Jay Powell of Camilla, Ga., would legalize the importation, breeding and sale of genetically-enhanced trophy whitetails that could be stocked at high-fence preserves where “hunters” pay huge sums to kill trophy deer. “House Bill 1043 is a threat to ethical deer hunting and could become the greatest threat to our native white-tailed deer population ever,” said the Georgia Wildlife Federation,

[Deer Hunting Georgia Leases](http://shooterscenter.hubpages.com/hub/Deer-Hunting-Georgia-Leases) August 10, 2012 shooterscenter ... A large majority of hunters (71%) would support an increase in deer hunting license fees if the money is used for deer management. Some other things that people should consider, contrary to popular believe most hunters oppose using dogs to hunt, hunting over bait, hunting in enclosed fences or shooting a doe before harvesting a buck. Most hunters believe in fair chase hunting and wildlife management...

[Deer Hunting Season Opens for Archers on Saturday, Sept. 8](http://monroe-ga.patch.com/articles/deer-hunting-season-opens-for-archers-on-saturday-sept-8)September 2, 2012 Georgia, Patch.com

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Wildlife Resources Division announced that opening of Deer Hunting Season for archers will be Saturday, Sept. 8 ... According to the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Georgia is No. 1 in the nation for attracting out-of-state hunters and hunting accounts for $679 million in retail sales in Georgia each year with a $1.1 billion ripple effect...

[Deer Management In The New Era Of Coyotes](http://www.gon.com/article.php?id=3155&cid=26) August 30, 2012 Georgia, GON.com

... top deer researchers explained that coyotes, on some Southern properties, were eating enough deer and lowering deer populations so much the herd couldn’t recover, even when doe harvest by hunters was eliminated... Dr. Steve Ditchkoff, an Auburn professor ... “In a healthy population with deer in good condition and not above carrying capacity, .7 was considered to be a good recruitment rate ... researchers are documenting recruitment rates as low as .25 and even .2 on some tracts of land in Alabama ...

[Deer numbers](http://forum.gon.com/showthread.php?p=7123213) August 15, 2012 Georgia, Georgia Outdoor News Forum

I did some math and it is a little scary for the future of our deer: population estimate 1,000,000; deer harvested 400,000; coyote predation 100,000;car accidents 100,000; disease 50,000;remaining deer 350,000; doe population 200,000; new fawns aboveX1.5 300,000; new deer population 650,000

The above are estimates using deer herd and deer harvest estimates from Deer and Deer Hunter Mag. The predation, auto deaths and disease were my guesses...

[Doe-to-buck ratio needs major improvement as deer season continues](http://www.thebayonet.com/2012/10/30/367363/doe-to-buck-ratio-needs-major.html) October 30, 2012 Georgia, Bayonet

If you cannot confirm the deer is a doe or that a buck has at least four points on one side, do not pull the trigger.... Decreasing the number of immature bucks harvested and increasing the harvest of does, specifically in comparison to bucks, is important to increasing herd health ... While immature buck harvest in non-quality deer management areas on post is not restricted beyond Georgia state regulations, it is in the QDM area.

[Federal rules widen Bond Swamp hunting potential](http://www.macon.com/2012/09/16/2179477/federal-rules-widen-bond-swamp.html) September 17, 2012 Georgia, Macon Telegraph (blog)

“.. try to maximize our habitat and resource management,” Tuttle said. Much of the interest is expected in the refuge's white-tailed deer ... , which biologists determined are “approaching nutritional carrying capacity,” [Jacob Tuttle, manager of the refuge] said a University of Georgia report shows... much of the deer’s problem are the feral pigs in the refuge. Considered an invasive species, the pigs are destroying much of the plant life that animals survive on...

[Firearms deer season begins Saturday](http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2012/10/15/2240611/joseph-myers-firearms-deer-season.html) October 15, 2012 Georgia, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

During the 2012-2013 firearms deer season, almost 280,000 licensed deer hunters harvested more than 340,000 deer in Georgia... John W. Bowers, assistant chief of Game Management for the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division, in a recent press release. "In addition, sportsmen and women provide more than $30 million each year to fund wildlife conservation in the state through license fees and self-imposed excise taxes collected on the purchase of firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and fishing equipment."

[Ga. wildlife officials plan to hold deer hunt](http://onlineathens.com/local-news/2012-10-31/ga-wildlife-officials-plan-hold-deer-hunt) November 5, 2012 Georgia, Online Athens

Georgia wildlife officials plan to hold a deer hunt at Panola Mountain State Park to control deer population in and around the park ... the park had between 60 and 70 deer per square mile last year. Wildlife officials say the recommended population is closer to 15 to 20 deer per square mile...

[Game rangers, deer hunters hit the woods on opening day](http://onlineathens.com/local-news/2012-10-19/game-rangers-deer-hunters-hit-woods-opening-day) October 19, 2012 Georgia, Online Athens

... “Across Georgia and the nation, about 85 percent of all deer hunting occurs on private land, but on that land hunters can regulate the harvest and improve the habitat. That is much more challenging on state and federal land,” ... according to Brian Murphy, chief executive officer of the Quality Deer Management Association ... The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has a toll free hotline that people can call to report any poachers and illegal hunting practices. It’s anonymous: 1-800-241-4113.

[Hungry coyotes might threaten Georgia deer herds](http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2012-10-22/hungry-coyotes-might-threaten-georgia-deer-herds?v=1350889360) October 22, 2012 The Augusta Chronicle

... UGA wildlife scientist Mike Chamberlain ...analyzed Eastern coyote data and found they had bred with Canadian wolves. Coyotes also can breed with dogs, but those offspring don’t contribute much to the gene pool, the DNA analysis showed... Southeastern researchers have found that coyotes may be cutting deer recruitment in half, reducing the fawn survival from about one fawn per doe down to about half that ,,, according to UGA deer management researcher Karl Miller and Williams Gulsby ...

[It's Ice Cream for Deer but Poison for Humans](http://markgelbart.wordpress.com/2012/02/15/its-ice-cream-for-deer-but-poison-for-humans/) February 15, 2012 Georgia, GeorgiaBeforePeople

... 2 species of common plants found in Georgia that are favorite foods of deer but are poisonous to humans... Strawberry bush–Euonymous americanus. Naturalist refer to the plant as “ice cream” for deer. But it is poisonous to humans. It’s in the bittersweet family.... Buffalo nut–Pyrularia pubera. Also a favored deer edible that is poisonous to humans. It’s in the sandalwood family.

[Jekyll Island deer an attraction, maybe a problem](http://www.necn.com/04/14/12/Jekyll-Island-deer-an-attraction-maybe-a/landing_health.html?&apID=41883d4ae3454d768d8599df7a8ad76c) April 14, 2012 Georgia, NECN

Tourists on Jekyll Island pull over to snap photos of them grazing by the roads, while island residents leave corn for the four-legged whitetails in their yards. [corn is low in protein for deer]

... Will Ricks, the DNR wildlife biologist who conducted the Jekyll Island survey, said he suggested bow hunting ... [Bonnie] Newell told its board members to expect protesters "with arrows through their heads and ketchup on them" if they authorized deer hunting.

[Deer of Jekyll Island](http://www.wrcbtv.com/story/17451723/bc-ga-georgia-news-digest) April 14, 2012 Georgia, WRCB-TV

Often spotted chewing leaves by roadsides and at the edge of golf course fairways, deer have become such a common sight on Jekyll Island they're almost something of a tourist attraction... Just the suggestion that Jekyll might allow limited hunting has been met with howls of protest.

[Jekyll to study deer population](http://www.thebrunswicknews.com/open_access/local_news/DEER-040612-hr#) April 6, 2012 Georgia, Brunswick News

The Jekyll Island Authority ... was advised five months ago by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources that the island is overpopulated with deer... The Jekyll Island Authority plans to research the situation itself to determine if the deer population is elevated, said Ben Carswell, conservation manager with the Jekyll Island Authority...

[Look into the Future of Bowhunting](http://www.bowhuntingmag.com/2012/08/16/a-look-into-the-future-of-bowhunting/)August 16, 2012 Georgia, Petersen's Bowhunting Magazine

... At the 2012 Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting, several researchers presented some very sobering statistics on the impact coyotes are having on deer populations in Georgia, Alabama, North and South Carolina and Virginia... According to the Quality Deer Management Association’s 2011 Whitetail Report, antlered buck harvests (in 2009) were down 3 percent in the Midwest, 7 percent in the Northeast and 8 percent in the Southeast. Antlerless harvests were also down in all regions but the Southeast, and down 45 percent in the West...

[UGA Deer Lab, QDMA to present research, host banquet next week](http://onlineathens.com/sports/prep/2012-10-02/uga-deer-lab-qdma-present-research-host-banquet-next-week) October 2, 2012 Georgia, Online Athens

... University of Georgia Deer Lab ... host a banquet at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education on Oct. 11... “Coyotes have emerged recently as a big issue and a big question mark for deer and deer hunters, [QDMA director of communication Lindsay Thomas Jr.] “We’re finding that coyotes are having an impact that wasn’t significant before but is now. A lot of deer hunters are scratching their heads and saying, ‘What happened?’ A lot of them are seeing trail-cam pictures with coyotes with deer in their mouths.”

[Unexpected Items in the Diet of the White-Tail Deer](http://markgelbart.wordpress.com/2012/05/11/unexpected-items-in-the-diet-of-the-white-tail-deer/) May 12, 2012 Georgia, Mark Gelbert

Like cows, deer have 4-chambered stomachs, and they chew their cud... During the Eocene, ungulates arose from a common ancestor shared with carnivores ... The ability to exploit many different foods improves the survival rate of white-tail deer...In late Pleistocene Georgia the 3 most common large mammal species were white-tail deer, long-nosed peccary, and black bears....

[Unsightly clearcuts herald rebirth of forests and wildlife](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2012-11-10/unsightly-clearcuts-herald-rebirth-forests-and-wildlife) November 10, 2012 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

... “The carrying capacity definitely improves, and it usually improves a lot ... There are lots and lots of studies to back that up.” ... veteran whitetail deer biologist Kip Adams ...

Mature forests, even those with chestnut oaks and other deer-favored foods, typically produce 50 to 100 pounds of browse per acre ... Clearcuts, by comparison, average 10 to 20 times as much browse – about 1,000 pounds per acre – and much of it is found in the first few feet off the ground, where deer can get to it...

[Yearling buck harvest drops in Georgia](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/rob-pavey/2012-02-18/yearling-buck-harvest-drops-georgia) February 18, 2012 The Augusta Chronicle, By Rob Pavey

... in 2010-11 with the lowest-ever percentage of yearling bucks among the nation's whitetail harvest ... efforts to allow smaller bucks to grow into large ones ... Georgia’s percentage of yearling bucks among all antlered bucks killed had been in a steady decline over the past half-decade ... From a national perspective, Kansas had the lowest percentage of yearling bucks killed, at 9 percent, while Vermont’s 68 percent was the highest.

**2011**

[Acorns are the staff of life for wildlife](http://www.ajc.com/lifestyle/acorns-are-the-staff-1210578.html) October 26, 2011 Georgia, Atlanta Journal Constitution

Then, I can go back to appreciating acorns as a valuable food source for more than 100 species of Georgia's wild creatures -- including white-tailed deer, black bear, wild turkeys, squirrels, mice, rabbits, foxes, raccoons, turkeys, quail, blue jays, ... the health and abundance of wildlife -- especially bear, deer and turkeys -- often rise and fall with acorn availability in autumn and winter. When available, acorns are the most preferred white-tailed deer food in autumn and winter, composing half or more of the animals’ [diet](http://g.ajc.com/r/C8/). When acorns are plentiful, deer may eat little else other than acorns until the nuts are depleted.

[Deal signs bill removing deer, hog baiting restrictions](http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/ec5c9f0584334aa1922d2fe97b34c35a/GA--Bait-and-Hunt/) May 7, 2011 Georgia Hunting Greenfield Daily Reporter

Nathan Deal on Friday signed legislation that removes baiting restrictions on south Georgia deer and hog hunters. Deal signed the bill at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga. saying hunting is an economic engine for rural stretches of ...

[Gov. Deal signs 'deer baiting' bill](http://www.albanyherald.com/news/headlines/Gov_Deal_signs_deer_baiting_bill_121543729.html?ref=729) May 10, 2011 Georgia Hunting Management Albany Herald On-line

HB 277 is of particular interest to the region because the new law will allow for hunters and land owners in the Southern Hunting Zone to bait fields to better manage deer and feral. hog populations. The law is also intended to encourage more people to ...Georgia is the No. 1 destination for hunting in the United States. Deer hunting in Georgia is responsible for an estimated 10,000 jobs in the state.

[Ga. House approves **deer** baiting](http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/morning_call/2011/03/ga-house-approves-deer-baiting.html) March 18, 2011 Georgia Bizjournals.com

... After 12 hours of debate, one of the longest debates in the current legislative session, the state House agreed to allow hunters to shoot, at close range, **deer** eating snacks laid out for them, the Macon Telegraph reports. Lawmakers voted to get rid of **…**

[Georgia deer disappearing, some hunters say](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/outdoors/2011-01-05/georgia-deer-disappearing-some-hunters-say?v=1294241075) January 5, 2011 The Augusta Chronicle By Rob Pavey THOMSON

...As president of a hunting club in Taliaferro County for 30 years, Wright said his members see fewer and fewer deer, making it harder to retain enough members to cover land leases.

Potential causes, he said, could include overhunting made possible by Georgia's liberal, 12-deer bag limit, the impact of coyotes and -- quite possibly -- illegal baiting on neighboring properties....

Georgia's statewide deer herd was estimated at about 1.4 million in the 1990s and has been intentionally reduced to about 900,000 to 1 million today under a statewide Deer Management Plan adopted in 2005....

[Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division Celebrates A Century Of Conservation](http://www.ammoland.com/2011/07/11/georgia-dnr-wildlife-resources-division-celebrates-a-century-of-conservation/) July 11, 2011 AmmoLand.com

Georgia's deer herd has boomed from about 12500 animals in 1937 to nearly 1 million... The division’s work helps fuel an annual economic impact estimated at $3.3 billion alone from hunting, fishing and wildlife watching, according to the most recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey...

[Georgia House passes bill to allow hunters to bait](http://www.deerfriendly.com/goog_1418170881) [deer](http://jacksonville.com/news/georgia/2011-03-17/story/georgia-house-passes-bill-allow-hunters-bait-deer) 3/17/2011 Florida Times-Union By Walter C. Jones ATLANTA —

Hunters would be able to bait **deer** with corn and other food under legislation passed by the House Wednesday night. Meanwhile, the Senate rejected hunting **deer** raised in pens. House Bill 277 passed 122-48 moments before the **…**

[Hunting bills in House and Senate stir debate](http://www.ajc.com/news/georgia-politics-elections/hunting-bills-in-house-873463.html) March 15, 2011 Georgia Atlanta Journal Constitution By Aaron Gould Sheinin

A bill that would make it easier to attract **deer** and another that would allow hunters to train their sights on exotic species are causing a ruckus in the Georgia General Assembly. Senate Bill 188, which would allow the creation **…**

[Jack Crockford, 88: Father of the Georgia deer restoration program](http://www.ajc.com/news/jack-crockford-88-father-1030456.html) July 20, 2012 AJC.com

Atlanta Journal Constitution

In 1947, roughly 3000 white-tailed deer roamed Georgia when Jack Crockford joined the state Game and Fish Commission as a wildlife biologist. Family photo. Jack Crockford, who retired as director of the Georgia Game and Fish Division in...Today, more than 1 million deer populate the state yearly. Mr. Crockford, who eventually served as director of the wildlife agency, is considered a major player in the state's deer restoration efforts of the 1950s and 60s. Success was partly due to his invention of the "Cap-Chur gun."...The Michigan native created a dart gun and, with help from the University of Georgia, a tranquilizer that made it easier to capture and transplant deer as well as other animals. It's still utilized today.

[Lawmakers sign off on deer, feral hog baiting in South Georgia](http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/8a6f28e9b44c422194562a36095d07a1/GA--XGR-Bait-and-Hunt/) April 14, 2011 Georgia Hunting The Republic AP ATLANTA —

Georgia lawmakers have given final approval to a bill that removes baiting restrictions on south Georgia deer and hog hunters. The House on Thursday voted 110-39 to agree to changes made in the Senate. It now heads to the Governor....

[GA Hunting Restriction Could Be Dropped](http://www.41nbc.com/news/local-news/3417-ga-hunting-restriction-could-be-dropped) April 16, 2011 Georgia Hunting 41 NBC News (blog)

Georgia lawmakers approved a bill that removes baiting restrictions for South Georgia deer and hog hunters. Currently, hunters can set bait for deer and hogs, but are only allowed to hunt them from 200 yards away. The bill removes the distance …

[Push Made For Georgia Deer Farms](http://www.gon.com/article.php?id=2946&cid=158) Genetics December 29, 2011 GeorgiaOutdoor

... Selective breeding in enclosures ... the latest “world record” is a buck named “Ballistic” that reportedly has 561 inches of antler. A straw of that buck’s semen sells for tens of thousands of dollars ... Speaking in opposition at the legislative meeting were Jessica DuBoise, Georgia state director of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) ... Philip Ford, of the Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA). The HSUS representative cited their opposition to “canned hunts” where animals, often exotics, are shot behind fenced areas.

[Rutting whitetails: Let's get this party started](http://chronicle.augusta.com/sports/2011-10-31/rutting-whitetails-lets-get-party-started) October 31, 2011 Georgia, The Augusta Chronicle

It varies from region to region, and from parcel to parcel, depending upon how the area's deer are managed. Here in east Georgia, it is safe to place the peak breeding weeks between mid October and early November, ... After studying whitetail reproductive behavior almost 25 years, Hamilton and his colleagues have learned that a balanced herd with older, mature bucks contributes to a shorter, more intense rutting period. Similarly, a poorly managed herd with fewer, younger bucks and overpopulated does might have a rut that is difficult to even detect. …

[What do Georgia hunters want?](http://www.charltoncountyherald.com/articles/2011/04/27/sports/doc4db7296644af4431669935.txt)April 27, 2011 Population Charlton County Herald

Georgia hunters can thank the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) for giving us the opportunity to provide input on what will become our state wide hunting regulations for the next two seasons, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

From the first round of public input sessions, it was no surprise that deer hunting drew the second highest number of suggestions. It is Georgia's top draw in hunter participation.

Deer hunters seem to be interested in lowering season bag limits on does (now at 10 does and 2 bucks), hinting at passing up young bucks with small racks, and standardizing the season close for both north and south Georgia....

Senate OKs deer, feral hog baiting in south Georgia April 1, 2011 Hunting By The Associated Press

The Senate has adopted a bill that removes baiting restrictions on south Georgia deer and hog hunters. Senators debated for nearly an hour over the issues of property owners' rights versus equal access to hunting and "fair catches" ..