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GEORGIA. GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

THIS IS A HUNTER'S DOLLAR...

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This Is a Hunter's Dollar



What Goes With It



Georgia Department of Game & Fish

Peter S. Twitty,
Commissioner,

Atlanta - - - Georgia

Members of Board:

D. M. Byrd, Chairman

Chas. S. Arnow

J. E. Harden

There are two pertinent questions which may reasonably be asked by the hunters in Georgia, to both of which it is the purpose of the Department of Game and Fish to here set down frank and candid replies; facts and figures.

Who gets our money and for what purpose?

How do costs upon us compare with costs in other states?

IT is only a frank statement to admit that all the money paid by hunters in Georgia for hunting licenses does not go exclusively to expenditures in behalf of the hunters. It has long been the announced conviction of the Game and Fish Department that the entire revenue should be used solely for wild life protection, propagation and conservation. But, the law provides otherwise.

The Commissioner of Game and Fish has made such recommendation in the past, and in his last report said:

"I believe the hunters of the state should get the fullest benefit of every dollar paid by them for hunting licenses. I think it extremely unjust to the hunter, and certainly unfair in principle, that he should be required to pay a fee for the privilege of hunting game, and then have a substantial portion of that fee used to maintain some other Department of government."

In principle the assessment of a license upon hunters for the privilege of engaging in oldest outdoor recreation and sport is not a "tax" for revenue purposes, designed to contribute to the common support of the government. Obviously its purpose is to provide means for the administration and enforcement of regulatory enactments, for the safeguarding of the supply of game, fish and wild life, and for such propagation as will insure against an extravagant, unnecessary and wanton destruction which will lead to extinction.

There are four major heads under which the Game and Fish Department, in its functions, expends the funds derived from the one source of revenue: General Expenses; Enforcement; Propagation; Education and Information.



Herewith are set down the actual expenditures by the Department of Game and Fish for the year 1928, under the respective heads:

General Expenses:

Salaries	\$15,386.75
Travel, Commissioner and Board members	1,777.04
Office supplies and expense	1,889.34
Telephone, Telegraph and Postage	3,499.92
Library and Museum	1,090.85
Auto supplies and repairs	634.05
Printing and distributing licenses, etc.	1,515.28
Miscellaneous expenses	1,713.04
Total	<u>\$27,506.27</u>

Under the heading of "general expense" is included all the cost of operation of the general offices of the Department of Game and Fish, located in the State Capitol. This expense does not mean that it is the cost of administering the hunting laws of the state alone, but includes the administration of all game laws, fish laws, the salaries of all of the employees in the department's offices, the travel expenses of the Commissioner and the Members of the Board in the transaction of the business of the Department, whether in connection with the administration of the hunting regulations, in behalf of the game and fresh water fish, propagation work, conservation, etc.

Propagation:

Mexican Quail purchase and distribution	\$ 8,911.20
Deer and other animals—Expense game refuge, and deer corrals in North Ga.	3,287.85
Fish, including expense to date on fish hatchery at Summerville	1,456.61
Migratory birds, aquatic plants, etc.	149.13
Total	<u>\$13,804.79</u>

The expenditures of the Department, under the heading "Propagation", is a direct application of funds derived from the hunters for their present and future benefit; designed as a totally different and distinct purpose from the present-day regulatory administrations. Administration of the regulatory restrictions is a protection of the supply of game as it ex-

ists now from wanton wastefulness. Propagation as carried on is a conservation measure looking not only to the present supply and protection thereof, but endeavoring to insure for the future as well as to replenish certain species of game almost extinct in some parts of the state and practically in a state of total extinction in other localities. It is probable that greater advancement has been made in this phase of the Department's work in the past two years than in any other classified endeavor.

Informational and Educational:

Cost of producing and exhibiting six reels of motion pictures of Georgia's Wild Life from nature -----	\$ 6,931.54
Publicity: educational; instructive; advertising -----	4,182.97
Junior educational Work: "Nature Guardians" -----	537.80
Total -----	<u>\$11,652.31</u>

Enforcement:

Salaries, per diem, travel expenses of game wardens, patrolmen and deputies -----	\$62,538.90
Supplies -----	122.05
Apprehensions and prosecutions -----	1,241.00
Total -----	<u>\$63,901.95</u>

The game wardens and deputy game wardens and special patrolmen work directly under provisions of law, but their work is not entirely in enforcement or administrative duties, as such. As an illustration, many of them are used during the periods of high water, commonly called "freshets," in salvaging and conserving fish marooned in holes and low spots from which they could not otherwise escape. Their duties also are largely in the administration and enforcement of the fishing laws of the state, from which no revenue whatever is derived, although this branch of the work requires practically as much attention if not more than does the time given to the game and hunting laws.

To get a clear insight, it should be borne in mind that these officials are not included in the expenses of other branches of the work by the Department, although their duties are dual, or two-fold, in respect to the game laws and the fish laws of the state.

Recapitulation:

General Expenses	\$ 27,506.27
Propagation	13,804.79
Informational and educational	11,652.31
Enforcement	63,901.95
Total	<u>\$116,865.32</u>

A comparison of the foregoing figures will doubtless serve to correct the more or less general misapprehension that the Game and Fish Department is almost entirely an "enforcement" or police agency of the state government, operated for the apprehension of violators of the regulatory statutes. That is one of the functions of the Department. Without an enforcement provision, and an agency to back up the statutory regulations, they would undoubtedly soon become inoperative. At the same time it has been the persistent policy of the Game and Fish Department to encourage a general acceptance of its own theory that the very best enforcement of law comes through good-spirited co-operation rather than through the mandatory heavy hand of the law. In that endeavor there has been a degree of success almost beyond estimate; so much so in fact that the assertion is ventured that no state in the country evidences a more wholesome respect for its game and fish regulations than is shown by the people of Georgia, taking them as a whole.

The foregoing facts and figures have been presented to show in what manner the funds derived from the hunters of the state are expended.

These presentations have been made in the hope that they will amply answer the first natural question to be expected from the hunter who pays for a hunting license—and satisfactorily so.

There is another question. These citizens of our State want to know, naturally, how these expenses compare with the similar costs in other states—how does the per capita cost upon Georgia hunters compare with the per capita cost in other states. A table has been compiled from official information in other states in the South giving this information in some detail.

Expenditures of Departments of Game and Fish in Atlantic and Gulf States Past Fiscal Year.

<i>State</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Area, Sq. Miles</i>	<i>Total Ex- pended</i>	<i>Per Capita Cost</i>
Florida	966,296	58,666	\$313,597.91	.32c
Louisiana	1,797,798	48,506	303,122.93	.17c
Maryland	1,449,610	12,327	132,237.95	.09c
Mississippi	1,789,348	46,865	(No Game Dept.)	
North Carolina	2,556,486	52,426	400,000.00	.16c
South Carolina	1,683,662	30,988	88,321.68	.0525c
Texas	4,661,027	265,896	418,666.62	.09c
Virginia	2,306,361	42,627	222,580.97	.10c
Alabama	2,348,174	51,998	126,400.75	.05c
Georgia	3,074,082	59,265	116,865.32	.038c

There is, in reality, something of a revelation in the comparative figures offered above. Of the ten states whose official figures are given it is seen at a glance that the per capita cost of the Game and Fish Department in Georgia, upon the hunters of this state, is lower than in any other state shown; one nearest to Georgia's being the cost in South Carolina, where the area covered is just about half the area in Georgia and the population is about half that in Georgia. In fact of all the states shown Georgia is the largest, except Texas. An especially interesting comparison is that between Georgia and Florida, the territory just to the South of Georgia's border line, where the per capita cost of the same department is .32 cents, as compared with .038 cents per capita in Georgia. In making this comparison it is strikingly memorable, too, that there has lately been so great an attraction in the facilities and supply in Georgia, over all the others of the surrounding states, as to bring to Georgia some of the most notable people in the country to enjoy, as guests of Georgians, the hunting and fishing in this state. This is more particularly true as to the hunting.

In consideration of the application of the funds derived from the hunters of the state, through hunting licenses, a quick illustration of the division of these funds is had from the drawing at the front hereof, indicating the division of the dollar into its several applications. These divisions of application have already been presented in the foregoing detailed financial statistics.

Reference has heretofore been made to the fact that the existing law does not provide that all the money derived from the sale of hunting licenses shall be used for wild life protection, conservation and propagation. Our present law provides that revenue received by this department shall be used to pay "all legally authorized expenses for the year in which the same is collected and the following fiscal year, and at the end of the following fiscal year the surplus, if any, shall be paid over to the State Treasury for the benefit of the common schools of Georgia." On this the Commissioner of Game and Fish has been quoted in the introductory remarks herein.

This provision of law can hardly be considered any more than a fiction. It is known that the common schools can not receive or get for use any other funds than those appropriated to them by the Legislature and, obviously, whatever funds are turned over to the Treasury by the Department of Game and Fish at the end of any fiscal year would not apply specifically to the common school funds, but would become a general treasury fund, to be distributed in the payment of the general expenses or debts of the government of the state. Quoting the Commissioner again on this subject, he has lately said:

"I have always taken the position that it is not only sound in principle, but that it is far better for the State Board of Game and Fish to apply any anticipated surplus in its funds to the purchase of additional game and fish, for the creation of game preserves and the establishment of fish hatcheries, or to similar propagation purposes, whereby those who support the Department will get the direct benefit of the special collection taken from them."

In a closer consideration of this principle, it is appropriate to bear in mind the fact that, though fishing is to many people an equally enjoyable sport as hunting is to others, the fishermen of the state do not contribute one penny to the funds on which this Department is operated. That expense is borne entirely by the hunters, despite the fact that more than half the expense of operating the Department and administering the laws is taken up in the interest of fishing and the regulations thereof.

At this point it is entirely appropriate, and informative, to quote the following extract from the last annual report of the State Commissioner of Game and Fish, on this subject. He said:

"Georgia is one of the very few States in the Union that does not re-

quire a license for fishing in her public streams. The fishermen of the State do not contribute one penny to be used for protecting and propagating fish. Practically every penny of revenue collected by the Game and Fish Department is paid by the hunter through the purchase of hunting licenses. However, I estimate that fully two-thirds of the time of all game wardens, deputies, and field men is devoted to the enforcement of the fishing laws. I have always thought it to be wrong in principle and certainly unjust to the hunter to require him to buy a hunting license and then spend two-thirds of his fee for the enforcement of the fishing laws. It might well be said that many of the hunters are also fishermen, but there are thousands of hunters who never fish at all. On the other hand, there are a half-dozen or more fishermen to every hunter and fishing goes on throughout the year, while the hunting season lasts only three or four months. I again recommend the enactment of a law requiring a fishing license of non-residents, and also a reasonable license of residents, fishing beyond the limits of their own county. The money thus derived should be used for the establishment and operation of State fish hatcheries, for the purpose of propagating fish to restock Georgia's streams.

"While giving consideration to the establishment of a State hatchery and otherwise increasing the supply of fish in Georgia streams, I think it should also be the policy of the Board to encourage in every helpful way the creation of private ponds by individuals. A private pond not only furnishes pleasure and recreation for the owner and his family, but is usually a very profitable enterprise in providing food for home and market. We ought to have more private ponds in Georgia, and it has always been a pleasure for me to encourage and assist farmers and other property owners in establishing them."

There is a great measure of credit due to the people of Georgia for the magnificent spirit of co-operation they have evidenced during the past year in carrying out the purposes of the regulatory statutes, and the Department makes grateful acknowledgement. In that respect it is felt and believed that 1928 was the most successful year in the Department's operation. A great deal has been accomplished during the past year which will bear highly satisfactory fruit in the future, and bring to the sportsmen of the state a magnificent return. Much has been done in the direction of two things which, in early days to come, are going to set Georgia far forward even of her present status as a true "Happy Hunting Ground"—they are: **PROPAGATION AND CONSERVATION.**



The Game and Fish Department does not cost the tax payers of Georgia a single penny. It receives no legislative appropriation whatever, being supported entirely by funds received from the sale of hunting and trapping licenses.

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