



CASE STUDY

Georgia DNR – Wildlife Resources Division



ASSOCIATION of
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

Private Lands Working Group

Agriculture Conservation Committee



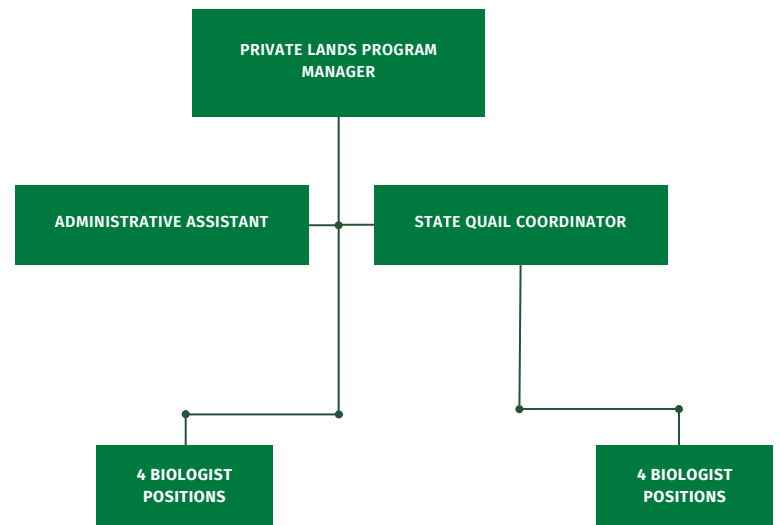
STATE AGENCY PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM CASE-STUDY

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Wildlife Resources Division private lands program was initiated in 1996. Georgia’s private lands program consists of a team comprised of 18 state employees and seven partner positions to deliver their private lands program.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS USED TO DELIVER PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION IN GEORGIA

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Resources Division uses seven federal programs to deliver private land conservation to the state. The primary program used is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (RCCP’s) have become more common in the past 2-3 years. Georgia is also part of a four state RCCP Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA) with National Bobwhite and Grasslands Initiative.

To lesser degrees, Georgia uses the Conservation Stewardship Program, Conservation Reserve Program, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easement, and Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program to deliver private lands conservation.



Private Lands Program
Organizational Chart



STATE AGENCY PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAM CASE-STUDY: GEORGIA

PRIMARY PARTNERS

- Quail Forever
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Georgia Wildlife Federation
- Tall Timbers
- Georgia Forestry Commission



EMPLOYEE RECRUITMENT

- NGO's
- Other state agencies
- Internal hires
- College graduates

Hires have been widely varied.



PRIMARY PROGRAMS

- Private Lands Program
- Bobwhite Quail Incentive Program
- Forest Protection and Habitat Partnership
- Forestry for Wildlife Program
- Deer Management Assistance Program
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Wildlife Incentives for Nongame and Game Species (Project WINGS)

PRIMARY FUNDING

- Bobwhite Quail Initiative License Plate
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) agreements
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR)



PRIMARY MARKETING AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES YOUR AGENCY USES TO ENGAGE PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

Georgia does very little wide-ranging outreach due to lack of capacity. The majority of landowners are referred to Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Wildlife Resources Division Private Lands Program through NRCS. Other outreach includes local field days, workshops, social media, website, and quarterly newsletters to landowners.

GEORGIA PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION EFFORTS: WHAT WORKS?

- Building good relationships and trust with landowners.
- Providing financial assistance programs.
- Low turnover of agency program staff.
- Providing direct assistance with implementation through partnerships.

GEORGIA PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION EFFORTS: CHALLENGES?

- Lack of staff capacity.
- Lack of staff to effectively utilize financial assistance opportunity resources for landowners.

Supporting Information

[Georgia Landowner Programs](#)



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Will Newman, William.Newman@tpwd.texas.gov
Ray Aberle, Raymond.aberle@state.co.us

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