

The Importance of White-tailed Deer and Deer Hunters in the Southeast

Hunters are our nation's original conservationists, and they continue to fund the lion's share of wildlife conservation today. Surveys show approximately three of every four hunters pursue deer, and whitetails are by far the most hunted game species in the United States. Unfortunately, hunters are aging out. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data shows only about five percent of Americans, 16 years old and older, hunt. That percentage is half of what it was five decades ago, and the decline is expected to continue. The following facts show the importance of hunters, and especially deer hunters, to our wildlife programs, and highlight the importance of promoting the benefits of hunting and increasing hunter numbers.



Contributions to Agency Budgets

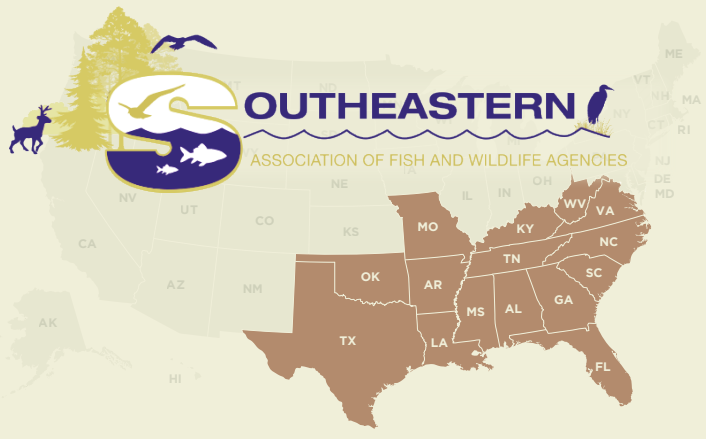
Hunters help fund a significant portion of state wildlife agency budgets through license sales

- Greater than **6.7 million** paid hunting license holders purchased over 12 million licenses, tags, permits and stamps in the SEAFWA region
- Annual hunting license sales exceed **\$251 million** in the SEAFWA region

Hunters are Aging



The peak of the curve is shifting right as the average age of hunters increases.



States in the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Region

Workdays and Dollars Deer Hunters Contribute to Improving Wildlife Habitat

Many deer hunters are dedicated to improving wildlife habitat

In 2016, deer hunters in the SEAFWA Region spent:

- ~\$84 million on plantings related to hunting and other items
- > \$1 billion on land leased primarily for deer hunting
- There are greater than **4.2 million** acres in DMAP programs and **3 million** reported acres in deer cooperatives in the SEAFWA Region. All these acres are actively managed for wildlife.

Contributions to Conservation Funding

In addition to purchasing hunting licenses which help support wildlife agency budgets, hunters also help support general conservation efforts through self-appointed excise taxes annually, specifically through apportionments via the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) Act

\$201.5 million – The total 2020 P-R contributions to wildlife agencies paid back to state agencies by hunters in the SEAFWA Region

Contributions to Regional, State and Local Economies

Hunter spending directly helps our economy

Deer hunting alone in the SEAFWA Region supports:

- ~168,700 jobs
- ~\$609 million in state and local tax revenues
- ~\$1.06 billion in federal tax revenue

Become a partner in supporting the future of deer hunting and wildlife conservation.

Learn more at qdma.com/conserve/southeast-deer-partnership