



**Protecting Transportation, Property, Timber, and Other**

**Natural Resources**—Beaver populations throughout the State cause many of Georgia’s 159 counties to experience losses. WS provides assistance on a variety of properties, using an integrated management approach that includes water level manipulation, exclusion, population reduction, and the safe and effective use of explosives by a certified specialist. Damage estimates to agriculture, landscapes, natural areas, ponds, pastures, timber, airport safety, sanitation lines, culverts, highways, wells, and other properties approach \$1 million.

**Protecting Human Health and Safety, Property, and Crops**—

Nonmigratory Canada geese threaten human health and safety, property, and crops. WS is involved in an active program to safely and humanely capture and relocate Canada geese from areas where they present a risk to aircraft or are a health hazard on public and private lakes, parks, golf courses, and even urban office complexes.

A population of more than 1 million white-tailed deer in Georgia also present a wildlife management challenge. Loss of wildlife habitat through urbanization creates an ever increasing demand for the resolution of human-deer conflicts. WS has taken the lead in resolving many deer-related issues in urban and suburban areas where sport hunting is no longer a viable option. These areas include airports, agricultural research facilities, neighborhoods, arboretums, botanical gardens, military installations, and public and private recreational areas.



**Looking to the Future**

While WS provides safe, professional, and humane assistance to combat a diverse range of wildlife conflicts, many wildlife management needs continue to go unmet in Georgia. Increased habitat loss, human population growth, and the adaptability of many wildlife species to human environments will expand the need for professional resolution of wildlife conflicts in the future. Significant species of concern include deer, geese, beaver, vultures, cormorants, pigeons, feral hogs, and raccoons. For example, WS significantly reduces feral hog and raccoon predation rates on Loggerhead sea turtles at the National Park Service’s Cumberland Island National Seashore.

**Georgia Wildlife Services Funding** ●●●●●●●●●●

In addition to receiving federally allocated funds, WS also receives money from cooperators; such as producers; private individuals; businesses; and other Federal, State, and local government agencies who have a vested interest in the program. In most cases, these cooperators need help to resolve wildlife damage problems or they play a role in wildlife damage management.

