

## Nationally

### Federal Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Act:

Funds from the sale of guns, ammo, and fishing gear are used to fund Hunter and Boater Education, operate shooting ranges, fund research, create fishing access, and for habitat management.

# TWRA FUNDING

Where does it come from?

## Locally

### License Sales & Boat Registrations:

TWRA is primarily funded by sale of hunting and fishing licenses and boat registrations. Marine Fuel Tax is also used for work on boat ramps, parking areas, and marina infrastructure.



## Your Role in Conservation

A hunting or fishing license is more than your ticket to a great day on the water or in the field. Every license purchase increases Tennessee's portion of federal funding for conservation. Support wildlife in the Volunteer State by purchasing or renewing your license today.

## Got Fined?



All wildlife are held in trust for the citizens of Tennessee by the TWRA. Enforcement efforts are local investments to prevent poaching and protect populations from returning to the critically low levels seen in 1949 when we were founded. The majority of money from fines goes towards court costs. TWRA receives less than 10% of fines and puts it to use funding law enforcement and wildlife management.

General Fund: 0.4%

Services: 3%

Inter-Departmental:  
12.6%

Reserve Funds:  
15%

Federal Grants:  
29%

Licenses and  
Registrations:  
40%

**FY26 Budget  
\$131M**

**Revenue  
Sources**

**Expenses  
by Project**



Hatcheries: 4%

Ranges: 5%

Biodiversity: 6%

Lakes & Streams: 7%

Business Operations: 10%

Comms & Outreach: 10%

Boating: 10%

Law Enforcement: 10%

Wildlife Management:  
12%

Fisheries Management:  
13%

Wildlife Management  
Areas (WMAs): 13%



# Wildlife Conservation: License History

**1903**

Tennessee adopted Chapter 169 to protect wildlife resources on a statewide basis. The law declared wildlife to be property of the State, and it established the office of the State Game and Fish Warden.

**Fines  
Only**

**1907**

First resident hunting license created by the Tennessee General Assembly to fund wildlife conservation and Game Warden salaries.

**Hunting  
\$3**

**1913**

Governor Ben Hooper appointed W.D. Howser as the state game warden. The statewide hunting fee was increased, and a non-resident hunting was \$15.

**Hunting  
\$5**

**1931**

The Game and Fish Act of 1931 established a Game and Fish Fund to collect license fees, fines, forfeitures, and other penalties to pay for expenses of the Game and Fish Division. The statewide hunting license was expanded to include fishing, but women, as well as children under age 16, were exempt.

**Hunt/Fish  
\$2**

**1949**

Gov. Gordon Browning signed the "Model Law," creating The Tennessee Game and Fish Commission. Browning appointed nine citizens from lists submitted by sportsmen's meetings across the state.

**Hunt/Fish  
\$2**

**1974**

The Game and Fish Commission was reorganized to create the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency with oversight from a 13 member Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission (TFWC).

**Hunt/Fish  
\$5.25**

**1990**

The General Assembly increased license prices.

**Hunt/Fish  
\$15.50**

**2004**

The General Assembly gave the TFWC authority to set license prices and to establish new licenses. Lawmakers required that the increase could not exceed the increase of the consumer price index.

**Hunt/Fish  
\$21**

**2014**

Prices were once again increased to account for growing expenses. The TFWC set the resident combo hunting and fishing license at \$33, the Sportsman License at \$165, and a nonresident all game hunting license at \$305. The increase took effect in 2015.

**Hunt/Fish  
\$33**

**2024**

Today, the TFWC must consider license increases due to inflation. The consumer price index has risen 31.6% since the last fee increase. The proposal would increase boating registration fees by 22%. On average, hunting and fishing license prices would be increased by 28%. Sportsman and Lifetime license fees would be increased by 12%.

**Hunt/Fish  
\$42**  
\*Proposed



*Governor Gordon Browning who signed into legislation the "Model Law" creating The Tennessee Game and Fish Commission in 1949.*



*The first Conservation Officers appointed by the Game and Fish Commission in 1949 who were dubbed the original "Forty-niners".*



*First nine-member Game and Fish Commission in 1949. Seated L to R: ex-officio member of the commission C.P. Swan, Ed Tayloe, chairman Lucius E. Burch Jr., and secretary James F. Asbury. Standing L to R: H.H. Meadors, John H. Webb, Dr. Hal A. Baker, LeRoy Rymer, Joe Curry, and M.L. Brickey. Missing is vice-chairman Edwin Crutcher.*



## Proposed Resident License Fees

*This is a summary only. For a full list of proposals review the rule filing.  
If approved, proposed fees would take effect July 1, 2025.*

### Lifetime Licenses

*All-inclusive license valid for the duration of the holder's life.*

- Under 3 years of age: \$358.00
- 3-7 years of age : \$738.00
- 7-13 years of age: \$1,107.00
- 13-51 years of age : \$2,213.00
- 51-65 years of age : \$1,291.00
- 65 years of age or older : \$368.00
- Adopted Under 13 years of age: \$358.00

### Sportsman Licenses

*Annual all-inclusive license valid for 365 days from purchase.*

- Sportsman Annual: \$185.00
- Youth Sportsman Annual: \$12.00
  - Youth Combo Hunt/Fish upgraded to be all-inclusive.
- Senior Sportsman Annual: \$80.00

### Senior Licenses

*65 years of age or older eligible.*

- Resident Senior Hunting & Fishing Annual: \$5.00
- Resident Senior Hunting & Fishing Permanent: \$62.00

### Disability Licenses

*No changes made to Disability license prices.  
Licenses available by application only.*

### Base Licenses

*Entry level licenses valid for listed activity and length.  
Supplemental may be required for certain activities.*

- Hunting & Fishing License Annual: \$42.00
- Trapping Annual: \$42.00
- Fishing 1-Day: \$9.00

### Supplemental Licenses

*Annual licenses valid for listed species. Valid base license is required to hunt. This category replaces weapon type permits.*

- Bear Supplemental Annual: \$42.00
- Deer Supplemental Annual: \$42.00
- Elk Supplemental Annual: \$42.00
- Turkey Supplemental Annual: \$42.00
- Waterfowl Supplemental Annual: \$42.00
- Night Coyote & Bobcat Supplemental Annual: \$21.00
- ~~Trout Supplemental~~ – Now included in base fishing license

### WMA Permit

*Annual permit to hunt WMAs. Single permit replaces several previous types of WMA permits.*

- Resident WMA Permit: \$40.00

### OHV Permit

*New permit required to ride off-highway vehicles at North Cumberland WMA. Valid for listed length.*

- OHV Riding Permit 1 Day: \$20.00
- OHV Riding Permit Annual: \$200.00
- OHV Riding Permit Guide: \$700.00



## Proposed Non-Resident License Fees

*This is a summary only. For a full list of proposals review the rule filing.  
If approved, proposed fees would take effect July 1, 2025.*

### Annual Base Licenses

*Entry level licenses valid 365 days from purchase for listed activity. Supplemental may be required for certain activities.*

- Non-Resident Hunting & Fishing Annual: \$145.00
- Non-Resident Fishing Only Annual: \$99.00
- Non-Resident Trapping Annual: \$258.00

**NEW**

### Sportsman Licenses

*Annual all-inclusive license valid for 365 days from purchase.*

- Non-Resident Sportsman Annual: \$540.00
- Non-Resident Youth Sportsman Annual: \$25.00
- Non-Resident Senior Sportsman Annual: \$131.00

### Short-Term Base Licenses

*Entry level licenses valid for listed activity and length. Supplemental may be required for certain activities. Several previous versions of fishing licenses simplified into new structure.*

- Non-Resident Hunting & Fishing 7-Day: \$75.00
- Non-Resident Fishing 7 Day: \$65.00
- Non-Resident Fishing 1 Day: \$20.00

### Supplemental Licenses

*Annual licenses valid for listed species. Valid base license is required to hunt. This category replaces weapon type permits.*

- Non-Resident Deer Supplemental Annual: \$200.00
- Non-Resident Elk Supplemental Annual: \$300.00
- Non-Resident Bear Supplemental Annual: \$300.00
- Non-Resident Waterfowl Supplemental Annual: \$60.00
- Non-Resident Turkey Supplemental Annual: \$200.00
- Non-Resident Night Coyote & Bobcat Supplemental Annual: \$42.00
- ~~Trout Supplemental~~ Now included in base fishing license

### WMA Permit

*Annual permit to hunt WMAs. Single permit replaces several previous types of WMA permits.*

- Non-Resident WMA Permit: \$75.00

### OHV Permit

*New permit required to ride off-highway vehicles at North Cumberland WMA. Valid for listed length.*

- Non-Resident OHV Riding Permit 1 Day: \$50.00
- Non-Resident OHV Riding Permit Annual: \$500.00
- Non-Resident OHV Riding Permit Guide: \$1,000.00



## Proposed Boating Registration Fees

This is a summary only. For a full list of proposals review the rule filing.  
If approved, proposed fees would take effect July 1, 2025.

### Boat Registration Fees

Registration fees based on vessel length. Available in one, two, and three year terms.

| Vessel Fee Category               | 1 year | 2 years | 3 years |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| 16 feet and under                 | \$18   | \$34    | \$50    |
| Over 16 feet to less than 26 feet | \$35   | \$68    | \$101   |
| 26 feet to less than 40 feet      | \$54   | \$102   | \$153   |
| 40 feet and over                  | \$72   | \$138   | \$203   |
| Dealer/Manufacturer               | \$45   | \$92    | \$135   |

Duplicate: \$9

Full list of proposed rule changes and public comment opportunity available at:  
<https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/twra/public-notice.html>

## ENGINE CUT-OFF SWITCH. USE IT.



LEARN MORE  
[SafeBoatingCampaign.com](https://SafeBoatingCampaign.com)

### WHAT IS IT?

- Safety mechanism that shuts off the boat's engine
- Also called ECOS, engine cut-off switch, engine cut-off device, man overboard device

### WHY USE IT?

- Reduces the risk of a propeller strike
- Stops the engine if the operator falls overboard
- Stops the engine quickly if needed in an emergency
- Protects others from a runaway boat
- Regain control of the boat more quickly
- And, it's the law

### WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

It may be a:

- Lanyard—Attaches to the boat operator from the installed engine cut-off switch
- Wireless—A wristband or key fob can be worn by the operator and passengers