



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Law Enforcement Off The Pavement

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

EDDIE HENDERSON
COLONEL

August 21, 2017

Mr. Meier,

I would like to provide a brief update on the use of cellular trail cameras purchased by the Georgia Chapter of Safari Club International for the Law Enforcement Division of Georgia DNR. As you are aware, our Division began a pilot program in 2016 to determine the effectiveness and feasibility of using cellular linked trail cameras for surveillance of known or suspected game law violations. We have been very fortunate to have partners like SCI step forward and help this program grow. It is with great pleasure that we report the cellular linked cameras purchased by SCI have become a very successful tool in the apprehension of those who choose to violate the law and abuse our State's natural resources.

These Spartan cellular cameras have a number of positive attributes that make them a tremendous asset in conservation law enforcement. This type of electronic surveillance allows our Game Wardens to monitor violation sites 24 hours a day in all weather conditions. They also give our officers the ability to actively work multiple complaints at the same time as the camera provides immediate notification of a violator's presence. Other benefits are improved time management as well as savings in fuel and vehicle mileage. Our Game Wardens have also been very successful with the Spartan cameras in the assistance of local law enforcement agencies when requested.

Since the pilot program began in our region well over 120 violations have been documented with the majority related to hunting or fishing without permission complaints. Other cases that are directly attributed to camera surveillance are theft of money from State Park pay tubes, Wildlife Management Area violations, hunting big game over bait, license violations, numerous trapping violations including failure to check traps within 24 hours and illegal devices, taking game fish by illegal methods, alligator poaching, and property theft. One investigation that stemmed from a single photograph resulted in the issuance of 41 arrest warrants. This is just a brief synopsis in a growing list of violations documented by Georgia Game Wardens with the use of trail camera surveillance. It is only through the dedicated support of organizations like Safari Club International that this technology has become available to our Game Wardens.

As servants of the people of the State of Georgia, we are grateful for your support in the protection of our natural resources for generations to come.

Respectfully,
Corporal Mark Patterson
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division
Region III - Thomson