

SUCCESS STORY



Fast Launch, Real Impact: Mississippi Modernizes Turkey Season



A new law, a short timeline

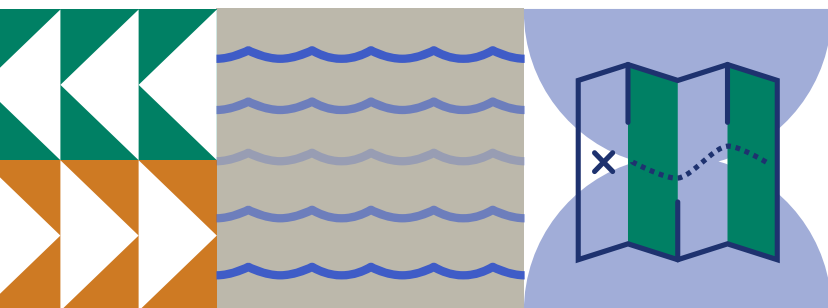
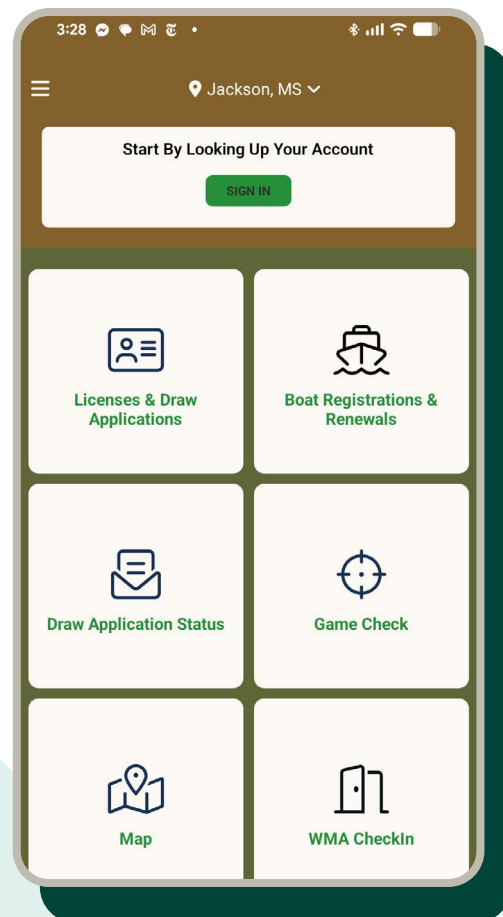
When Mississippi passed a new turkey hunting regulation in spring 2025, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) had to move quickly. The regulation required the launch of a new turkey permit stamp that hunters would purchase before the season. Hunters were allowed to harvest up to three birds under a single stamp, with a mandatory game check required to validate each individual harvest. This new functionality had to be operational before the permits went on sale in January 2026, ahead of the opening weekend in March.

MDWFP already had a head start. Since launching a new electronic licensing system with PayIt in February 2025, the department has enabled hunters and anglers to purchase licenses and boat owners to register and renew vessels in a modern, digital experience. That foundation helped pave the way for what came next.

Delivering what hunters needed in the field

Working together, MDWFP and PayIt configured two new products on the existing PayIt Outdoors platform: the turkey stamp and a digital game check workflow tied directly to it.

After harvesting a turkey, hunters complete their check through the mobile app in just a few taps, whether they're online or offline. The process was designed to be fast enough that compliance wouldn't feel like a burden.



Hunters responded

When the 2026 spring turkey season opened, 90% of game checks came in through the mobile app. Nathan Blount, Wildlife Restoration Coordinator at MDWFP, says that participation rate has real downstream value: “Increased game check participation allows MDWFP to get more accurate counts of both hunter numbers and turkeys harvested. You need both numbers to get a more complete picture of a season’s harvest. Having quick access to better data allows MDWFP to more efficiently monitor hunter numbers and manage turkey populations to ensure that hunters continue to have quality turkey hunting experiences far into the future.”

Every turkey stamp sold directly supports wild turkey conservation in Mississippi, with proceeds funding habitat restoration and protection, scientific research, and expanded access to public hunting opportunities. As more hunters complete game checks, MDWFP gains more accurate harvest data to better manage turkey populations and guide these conservation efforts. Thanks to the funds raised through the new permit, more than \$180,500 has already been directed towards habitat enhancement projects that will protect 1,501 acres of public land across Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) statewide.

Conservation with momentum

With the turkey stamp program running at scale, MDWFP has the data and the funding to achieve its conservation goals. For Blount, that’s part of a longer story. “Wild turkey in Mississippi are already a success story, recovering from dangerously low populations due to over-exploitation. Conservation funded by hunters through hunting license sales played a major role in bringing the wild turkey back. Now with dedicated perpetual funding through the Wild Turkey Stamp, hunters are directly contributing to wild turkey conservation in the state and helping ensure we have healthy wild turkey populations for generations to come”



About PayIt

PayIt enables state and local government agencies to deliver a great resident payments experience that accelerates the shift to digital. Agencies choose PayIt to better achieve their mission through improved operational efficiency, customer support, and resident satisfaction. Our solutions span property tax, courts, utilities, DMV, outdoors, and more. PayIt provides a single resident profile across agencies and jurisdictions, integrates into back-office and adjacent systems, and our team helps clients drive adoption of digital channels. Serving more than 150 million residents in North America, we have received awards from Fast Company and StateScoop, and have been listed in the GovTech 100 every year since 2015.

