



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

**Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition**

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.panwtf.org E-mail: panwtfrep@panwtf.org

ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS

The next Executive Board meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn, State College, PA on Friday, August 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

The next regular State Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday, August 2, 2008 at 09:00 am at the Ramada Inn, State College, PA.

The Presidents' Leadership Workshop will be held on Sunday, August 3, 2008 at 09:00 am at the Ramada Inn, State College, PA.

*Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTF
Board of Directors Meeting
Glenn O. Hawbaker Offices
Pleasant Gap, PA
June 7, 2008*

Director's Present: D. Burdge, R. Johnson, F. Shields, G. Beatty, J. Drolet, T. Bunty, D. Heckman, J. Panaro, G. Huff, K. Fernburg, J. Pries, S. Motts, D. O'Brien, J. Nyce, H. Daub, J. Straley

Director's Absent: Dale Butler, Chuck Mathues, Bill Mackereth

Guests: Ron Fretts, Bob Boyd, H. Meyers

The Board Meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. by Chairman of the Board, Dave Burdge.

Dave welcomed the Board members, called the meeting to order, led the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, and ran through the ground rules.

Officers' Reports:

Chairman's Report:

BOARD CHAIRMAN REPORT

JUNE 7th, 08

03/10/08 Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting
03/15/08 Millcreek Chapter Hunting Heritage Banquet (15 YEARS GOL. GOB.)
04/14/08 Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting
04/24/08 Attended Jefferson County Youth Field Day Meeting
05/12/08 Attended Millcreek Chapter Meeting
05/28/08 Meeting with Phil Ferrare and local chapter Officers
05/17,18/ 08 Attended POWA Spring Conference in Allentown, PA.
05/22/08 Attended Jefferson County Youth Field Day Meeting
06/06,07 /08 Attended Quarterly NWTF Executive and Regular Meetings

President's Report:

PA STATE CHAPTER NWTF PRESIDENT'S REPORT

June 6, 2008

March:

9 & 10 – Attended PA Governor's Advisory Council meetings, Clinton County, PA.

11 – Attended Susquehanna Longbeards banquet meeting.

16 – 31 – Turkey hunting.

April:

1 – 30 – Turkey hunting.

Met with Rob Keck, National Board members Doc Detmer and Peggy Ann Valerie, and General "Buck" Bedard.

May:

1 – 9 – Turkey hunting. Met with National Board member Ron Fretts.

13 – Attended Susquehanna Longbeards banquet meeting.

22 -27 – Turkey hunting – Ontario, Canada. Met with Provincial President Tom Howe.

June:

4 – Waverly High School – Presented PA State Chapter Scholarship winner Robert Caccese with our \$1,000.00 check at the Awards Night.

- Attended Honey Hole Longbeards chapter meeting.

Vice- President's Report:

Don Heckman, PANWTF Interim Vice President's Report - March 3 - June 5, 2008

Report of vice-president activities, action items, decisions, ideas, completed items. I will have one copy of my report on Saturday for our Secretary.

Emailed, spoke to NWTF Staff about final PA Edition NWTF Turkey Hunting Success and Safety brochure

Talked to Robb Miller, officially removed my name from further consideration for PGC District 6 Commissioner seat

Worked with Bob Eriksen to put finishing touches on PA Edition NWTF Success and Safety brochure

Received both the low resolution and high resolution PA Edition NWTF Success and Safety brochure

Emailed NWTF Executive Staff thanking them for their professional work on completing the PA Edition NWTF Safety brochure

Emailed Joe Drolet PA Edition NWTF Success and Safety brochure to put on www.panwtf.org public internet web site along with the PGC/PANWTF poster sign Positively Identify Your Target

Emailed Dr. Kennamer for NWTF position on Global Warming - Emissions Controls. Explained what I need advice and NWTF feedback for PFSC Convention end of March

Attended March 1-2 Executive Committee Meeting and Sunday's Board Meeting. highlight of my weekend was our orange burning

Session, after 17 years we accomplished what Rob Keck told us back in 1991-1992 we needed to do

Received email communications from Dr. Kennamer stating NWTF position on Global Warming - Emissions Controls, will use at PFSC Convention is asked, will forward to PA Chapter NWTF Board and Staff

Emailed letters to 12 state Senators opposing HB 1214, supporting HB 2255, and slow mailed letters asking Senators for consideration for PGC hunting license increase fees package including turkey hunting license and pheasant

stamp

Emailed Safety and Education Committee on request for actions on distributing PA Edition NWTF Success and Safety brochure

Emailed Legislative Committee on request for actions to develop legislator buddy system

March 9th attended March 9 PA Sportsmen's Coalition Meeting as PANWTF representative

Emailed Brook Lenker, DCNR - PANWTF News Release - PA Chapter NWTF commits more than \$100,000 on improving wild turkey habitat in state; Brook will distribute news release to his DCNR contacts that met with PANWTF back in February

Sent PGC Executive Staff PA Edition NWTF Success and Safety brochure for use in second spring gobbler tag mailing envelopes

Talked to Carl Roe to confirm PGC Hunting Digest 2 pages for brochure, and Second Spring Gobbler License mailings with safety brochure

Received request to write recommendation letter for Joe Stefko PGC WCS for 2008 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award on behalf Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF, completed recommendation letter and emailed to Roxane Palone and Sally Tarhi

Tracking PA Bulletin Volume 38 looking for PGC Regulation Change for 2008 Spring Gobbler Season Orange Requirement

Working on my regular commitments to HPA forums covering wild turkey management, wild turkey hunting and safety, and PA Chapter NWTF forum for all kinds of PANWTF and NWTF information to be distributed via message boards

Worked on clarification of PA Bulletin requirements PGC Regulation Change for 2008 Spring Gobbler Season Orange Requirement

Worked on my usual commitment to HPA PA Chapter NWTF Forum for question and answer sessions

Posted both PA Edition NWTF Turkey Hunting Success and Safety brochure and PGC/PANWTF Positively Identify Your Target poster sign on HPA forums

Emailed Wild Turkey Management Committee on request for action to distribute PA Edition NWTF Success and Safety brochure

Talked to Terry Hyde, and emailed Terry to work out the problem between PA Outdoor Times and PANWTF to get their April issue a turkey hunting safety article, used my reduced size 600 word safety article that will be in TT spring issue

Talked to PFSC ED Melody Zullinger, and emailed request to Melody to email two site links for brochure and poster sign to PFSC member sportsmen's clubs, delegates, officers and directors distribution - Melody completed my request

Mailed 38 letters to legislators on my comments on legislative bills, hunting license increase, and turkey hunting license

Emailed PA Sportsmen's Coalition review of hunting license increase fees package with detailed information on turkey hunting license to be included in legislative bill proposal, talked to several Coalition members for their current status

March 18 attended MYB Local Chapter Board reorganization meeting, reviewed issues with what's left of local chapter leadership

March 28, meet with Bob Boyd, PGC BWM NWTF Technical Rep, wild turkey management plan, turkey hunting license, planning and communications

March 26, sent email to PANWTF Board distribution NWTF News Release on Rob Keck CEO resignation, and firing of Carl Brown and Dick Rosenlieb, including article from Southern Sporting Journal; phone was busy this week

Attended March 28-30 PFSC Spring Convention and Delegate voting session

Distributed PA Edition NWTF Turkey Hunting Success and Safety brochure to PFSC Board and Delegates

Presented PA Chapter NWTF report on wild turkey management, turkey hunting safety, and PANWTF recommendations for future PGC Commissioners consideration.

March 31, forwarded articles to PFSC - ON TARGET, PA OUTDOOR TIMES, PA OUTDOOR NEWS editors for publication consideration in their May issues

March 31, forwarded email request to Larry Holjencin and his reply to Walt Young, Bob Schmid, Jon Pries, Dave Burge detailing Larry's agreement to send Turkey Talk Spring Issue digitized cover photo to Walt

April 3rd attended House Game and Fisheries Committee public hearing on PGC Annual Legislative Report

Coordinating May issue PA Outdoor Times by April 15 for PA Chapter NWTF Safety article with Bob Eriksen; I did the April issue safety article, the NWTF membership application looked okay to me, no mistakes this time around

Completed the cover letter and sent to Joe Drolet for the PA Edition NWTF Turkey Hunting Success and Safety brochure .pdf file to be sent to local chapter presidents and/or banquet chairman; sent to Joe Drolet for his distribution

April 6th attended QDMA board meeting to review turkey hunting license, hunting license increase, PFSC state-wide organization

April 7th attended Legislative Rally Day on Capitol Hill for Pro Gun Legislation representing PA Chapter NWTF

April 7th attended PA Sportsmen's Coalition meeting as PANWTF representative

April 8th sent email to Treasurer for POWA Supporting member dues \$100, and Wild Turkey Article sponsorship fee \$150. Payment has not been received for 2008 supporting member dues; and wild turkey article sponsorship fee is being mailed

April 23rd completed coordination of 2 POWA payments with Treasurer Panaro and Bob Lollo; reviewed spring gobbler season PANWTF safety news release with Bob Kasun and Bob Eriksen; and worked with Jim Nyce to complete Glatfelter Project land acquisition in 2008 \$10,000 contribution, and postpone Waggoner's Gap Project land acquisition \$2000 contribution to January-February 2009

April 27th provided PFSC ED concept wording for supporting HB 1676 - alternative revenue funding

May 4th participated with PA Sportsmen's Coalition leadership on new legislative proposal for mentored hunting, any first time hunter, one time charge, all seasons with appropriate licenses, tags, Senate legislation to be written and submitted

May 6th provided Central Pennsylvania Conservancy [CPC] update on our 2008 CPC Waggoner's Gap Project funding

May 7th talked with new PGC District 6 Commissioner nomination from Governor's Office - Ron Weaner

May 22nd represented PANWTF at CPC Waggoner's Gap fund raising program. Special note for the evening, there will be a new Blue Mountain [Kittatinny Ridge] property fundraising to be announced this summer.

May 25th emailed NWTF Wild Turkey Management Strategic Plan for Pennsylvania to PANWTF Board

May 28th emailed Walt Young and Bob Schmid three articles for PA Turkey Talk Summer Issue review

Reminded Mary Jo Casalena, would appreciate update on wild turkey population model status, data, and preliminary report

Reminded Mary Jo Casalena, would appreciate bullet updates on wild turkey management 47 strategies for board meeting and full 6 objective/47 strategy report for June PGC/PANWTF Staff meeting

Reminded Mary Jo Casalena, would appreciate update on spring gobbler season information, HRSI's reported, 2008 leg band study status and 3 year update report

Reminded Mary Jo Casalena about my 5 Questions

May 29th - emailed replied to Jon P. suggested Executive Committee agenda additions

June 2nd - emailed House State Government Committee Members letter to vote against SB 740 and any amendments concerning land title transfer, HB 1657, or HB 2572, as offered by Representatives or Senators supporting the sale of the property to PSU, and support land title transfer to PGC

June 3rd - PA Sportsmen's Coalition is officially dead and buried. SSS group replaces

June 3rd - email replied to Bob E. my PGC Staff meeting agenda changes, suggestions and ideas

Posted 26 NWTF - PANWTF news items on HPA PA Chapter NWTF Forum, and several on Turkey Hunting Message Boards

January to March I said I sent/replied 150 or so other state chapter emails; March to June I must of sent/replied to over 400+ emails.

Tell The Story - Pass It On.

Think Safety - Hunt Safely.

Secretary's Report:

Rhonda Henry has the addresses of those who should be receiving the Board meeting minutes. Joe Drolet will contact her and get the list so that the minutes can be distributed before the next meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting recorded by Tom Buntly were approved with no amendments.

Treasurer's Report:

PA NWTF TREASURER'S REPORT

TO: PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAPTER NWTF
FROM: JIM PANARO
SUBJECT: REPORT FOR PERIOD MARCH 1, 2008 THROUGH MAY 31, 2008

DATE: 6/6/08

Starting Balance	\$30,323.43	
Income	\$21,763.51	
Upper Level Gun Raffle		\$14,890
Green sheets (Seed, scholarship, safety ad, convention)		\$4,340
Tom Bunty Trailer payments		\$1,400
Chapter Startup Loans returned		\$1,000
Expenses	\$ 22,537.42	
Turkey Talk Spring Issue		\$6,922
Green sheets (Safety signs, convention, & gobbler banding)		\$5,536
Chapter Travel		\$2,178
Upper Gun Raffle		\$1,893
Promotional Items Inventory Purchase		\$1,058
Insurance		\$1,000
Local Chapter Startup Loans		\$800
Ending Balance	\$29,560.90	
Net Gain (Loss)	\$(762.53)	

General Updates Fiscal year 2007-08 year-to date reports are attached.

Upper Level Gun Raffle to date was \$14,890 income & \$9,373 expenses for a net of \$5,516 vs. \$8000 budgeted.

Major upcoming expenses are summer Turkey Talk and Chapter President's meeting.

Don Heckman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Joe Drolet seconded the motion. The motion passed.

NWTF Reports

Carl Mowry:

We welcome him to the NWTF and we are looking forward to meeting him in a few weeks at our Summer RD Meeting.

2008 President's Leadership Workshop will be happening in State College on Sunday August 3rd along with a BBQ Picnic and some fun trap shooting and a block shoot at the Tyrone Sportsman's Club location like we have the past 4-5 years. We will start Saturday's activities at 2:00pm at the club and Sunday's meeting will be from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Ramada Inn. I have sent a letter out to all local chapter presidents asking them to attend or if they can't please send someone from your chapter to the meeting. Phil will be handling the room reservations and the meal count this year instead of me and Ray will set up the shoot and picnic meal but he has a banquet that day and will not be able to attend. Phil and I will need a couple board members to help with the pick up of the food and block shoot. Please let us know if you can help out. Also as a Board Member please ask your local presidents to attend and also call the chapters on your contact list and ask them to attend this fun and informational filled weekend. If chapters have any question please have them call me.

The PA JAKES Hunt of a Lifetime went great this year, I'd like to thank Doc Caldwell for setting up the hunt, getting the lodge to stay at along with the food and turkey calls from River Valley Game Calls. Also a big thank you to Keystone Country Store in Fort

Loudon for supplying the two youth hunters with camo clothing. I wasn't able to attend Friday night or Saturday morning but did arrive around lunch time. Past PA Chapter President Gene Alwine was also there to help out and furnished fishing rods and reels for fishing after the hunt. We did have lots of activity for the two hunters; I think Ray will talk about the hunt in a couple minutes from our drawing winner. Katie Morris whose father Archie purchased the hunt at the PA Chapters Rendezvous in January harvested a nice gobbler. The next issue of Turkey Talk will have a story and some photos of the hunt.

PA Chapter JAKES Gun Raffle will happen again this year. We will be passing out tickets at the President's Leadership Workshop in August.

PA 2009 Rendezvous seminars, tickets and add for Turkey Talk will need to be done before the next deadline and we will be working on that with the chapter.

Ray Smith:

Regional Director Report
Ray Smith
6-6-08

2008 Pa State Jakes Hunt of a Lifetime- The Hunt this year was hosted by Greg Caldwell and River Valley Game Calls- I attended Friday night and the day of hunt along with Jake Winners Katy Morris and Austin Robinson. Also attending was both fathers, Gene Alwin, Ron Chronister and Greg Caldwell of River Valley. A great diiner was held Friday night along with a campfire a stories. The morning was aesome with several birds gobbling. Doc set out with Katy. She bagged her first Longbeard. Austin also had a great morning. Not as lucky as Katy he managed to miss his longbeard. Austin , his father and myself returned home do to Austin having a ball Game.

Current Pa Membershp number

Hunting Heritage	2971
Wheelin Sportsman	905
WITO	2178
Life	343
Jakes	12784
Sponsors	1220
Regular	6685

Pa Hunt of a Lifetime – Currently we have 105 tickets sold.

Phil Ferrare:

- There are currently 88 Chapters.
- The 33rd, 2009 NWTF National Convention will be in Nashville, TN. It will be held on Feb 19 – 22, 2009. Refer to the national website for details. The telephone number of the hotel is 888-777-6779 and the rate is expected to be \$160/night.

Tammy Mowry:



June 7, 2008
Pennsylvania Board Meeting

Tammy Mowry
National Coordinator

My busy event season is now in full swing. Events are going well. The largest event so far this year is 154 at the Kinzua Allegheny event last weekend.

National Women in the Outdoors Event: Continue to work on the National Event. I'm in the process of talking with the coordinators to see how can attend. Registration forms are available if you know of someone who is interested in attending.

Turkey Talk

A couple of articles have been submitted for the upcoming issue. I want to work more with the events to get stories submitted.

DCNR

The DCNR has been a big help this year with scheduling events at various state parks throughout the state. They are very eager to work with us.

Events that Are Occurring

June 14 -- Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter, Walking Purchase Chapter, and Pocono Mountains Chapter

Katrina Skrapits (610) 760-1689, kskrap@ptd.net
Ontelaunee Rod & Gun Club, New Tripoli (Lehigh County)

June 14 -- Red Rose Chapter

Judi Brosey (717) 892-3543, broseyj@yahoo.com
Tammy Kauffman (717) 354-0457, tkauffman@frontiernet.net
Milton Grove Sportsmen's Club, Elizabethtown (Lancaster County)

June 21 -- Wilhelm Chapter

Annette (Sis) Tobin (814) 734-1691, lattobin@peoplepc.com
Meg LeSuer (814) 734-5029
Lake Edinboro Sportsman League, Edinboro (Crawford County)

June 21 -- Keystone Sportsmen's Club Women in the Outdoors

Tammy Parks (724) 354-3595, tammyparks69@yahoo.com
Keystone Sportsmen's Club, Creekside (Armstrong County)

June 21 and 22 -- PA State Chapter and Sinnemahoning State Park

Jackie Flynn (814) 647-8401, jaflynn@state.pa.us
Sinnemahoning State Park, Austin (Cameron County)

June 29 -- Bass Pro Shops – Outdoor Women and the Lykens Valley Longbeards Chapter

Pam Hood (570) 758-4016, hood_pamela@hotmail.com
Kristen King (717) 258-3990, ninapuchina@comcast.net
Tammy Mowry (724) 284-9201,
Harrisburg Hunters and tammynwtf@zoominternet.net
Anglers, Harrisburg (Dauphin County)

July 12 -- Moraine Chapter

Tammy Mowry (724) 284-9201, tammynwtf@zoominternet.net
Butler City Hunting & Fishing Club, East Butler (Butler County)

July 19 -- PA State Chapter and Cowans Gap State Park

Beth Garner (717) 485-3948, NRCowansEEPrograms@state.pa.us
Cowans Gap State Park, Fort Loudon (Franklin County)

July 26 -- Mason Dixon Chapter

Missy Rohrbaugh (717) 225-3549, m.rohrbaugh@att.net
Jefferson Sportsman Association, Spring Grove (York County)

August 1 and 2 -- Muncy Creek Chapter

Clare McWilliams (570) 323-7947, hurwitzbatteriescqm@verizon.net
Nancy Craft (570) 482-4364, rockrun@dishmail.net
North Mountain Sportsman Club, Muncy Valley (Sullivan County)

August 9 -- Mt. Pisgah State Park

Nicole Carman (570) 297-2734, nicolecarman@yahoo.com
Mt. Pisgah State Park, Troy (Bradford County)

August 9 -- Lower Bucks Longbeards Chapter

Dawn Secret (267) 253-9002, girlshunt2@comcast.net
Langhorne Rod & Gun Club, Southampton (Bucks County)

August 23 -- Bald Eagle Longbeards Chapter

Mary Probst (570) 748-3339
Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, Hyner (Clinton County)

August 23 -- Lakefront Gobblers Chapter and Presque Isle State Park

Brandie Wade (814) 756-3669, brandiewade@parapack.cm
Jill Ferry (814) 734-7126, jill.ferry@chromalox.com
Miranda Crotsley (814) 835-4550, mcrotsley@state.pa.us
Presque Isle State Park, Erie (Erie County)

2008 – National Event

September 25-28, 2008

10th Anniversary Celebration
“Learn, Laugh, and Lighten Up”
NWTF Headquarters
Edgefield, SC
Contact Tammy Mowry, National Coordinator—
(724) 284-9201; tammynwtf@zoominternet.net,
or go to our website: www.womenintheoutdoors.org

Events will continue to be scheduled throughout the year, be sure to check back often to see what events have been added.

Bob Eriksen:

- Super Fund balance is \$131,515.23

Regional Biologist Activity Report

March through May 2008
Bob Eriksen, NWTF Regional Biologist

Agency Assistance

- Maintained and baited trap sites for the tri-state gobbler banding research project
- Processed and paid 19 bills submitted by PGC regional staff for bait, equipment and supplies for the banding project
- Consulted with Penn State researchers and Ohio Division of Wildlife staff members about the possibility of Ohio withdrawing from the research project
- Submitted a grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Economic Development for habitat enhancement work on state game lands in Armstrong, Butler and Washington Counties
- Presented a power point on wild turkey habitat management to a meeting of PGC land managers in the Southeast Region
- Consulted with regional staff from PGC on the planning process for State Game Lands 205 in Lehigh County
- Participated in a video conference on Stewardship Contracting at Allegheny National Forest that was aired throughout Region 9 of the US Forest Service
- Planned and conducted a landowner workshop with the Delaware Forest Service
- Provided advice and assistance regarding wild turkey harvest management, planning and diseases to biologists in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Minnesota

Writing Projects

- Prepared articles on spring hunting safety for the spring issues of “Pennsylvania Turkey Talk” and “PA Outdoor Times”
- Prepared an article on a Wheelin’ Sportsmen deer hunt at the Raystown Lake facility for the spring issue of “Pennsylvania Turkey Talk”
- Prepared an article on diseases affecting wild turkeys for the summer issues of “Maryland Turkey Droppings” and “Pennsylvania Turkey Talk”
- Prepared articles on prescribed fire and the North American Wild Turkey Management Plan for the summer issue of “Pennsylvania Turkey Talk”
- Prepared letters for chapters in support of maintaining or increasing hunting opportunities on the Erie (PA), Wallkill and Supawna Meadows (NJ) National Wildlife Refuges as part of the USFWS planning process

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended the March Pennsylvania Chapter Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings
- Attended March meeting of the Delaware Chapter and the April meeting of the New Jersey Chapter
- Attended the April Pennsylvania Game Commission meeting
- Participated in a meeting of the New York DEC Bureau of Wildlife meeting in March where the Wayne Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Fred Evans, retired technician with the agency
- Attended the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Galloway, New Jersey
- Participated in a planning meeting for habitat enhancement at Nescopeck State Park in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania along with representatives from the park and Game Commission

- Attended fund raising dinners held by the Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter in Pennsylvania, the Kittatinny Gobblers and the Sussex County Sportsmen's Federation in New Jersey

Super Fund Activities

- Processed 170 Super Fund request forms from Pennsylvania, 14 from Maryland and 4 each from New Jersey and Delaware

Special Projects

- Participated in the spring Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association conference by taking an outdoor writer spring gobbler hunting
- Worked on filming segments for "Turkey Call" and "Get in the Game" in New York
- Filmed an interview on wild turkey harvest regimes and population management for "Bowhunter Magazine Television"
- Conducted spring hunting safety and techniques seminars for the Walking Purchase Chapter in Pennsylvania and New Jersey State Chapter
- Began planning with New York DEC for a Thanksgiving media event involving capture and release of wild turkeys in the New York media market
- Conducted interviews about wild turkey harvests, behavior and biology with outdoor writers and reporters from three New Jersey and two Pennsylvania newspapers

Information Requests

- Handled 24 requests for information from Pennsylvania and New Jersey on wild turkey harvest, behavior, natural history, ecology and management

Bob Boyd for Mary Jo Casalena:

**NWTF Technical Committee Representatives' Report - PA Chapter NWTF
Board of Directors Meeting, Pleasant Gap, PA
June 7, 2008**

Harvest Management

Harvest report cards received the first half of the spring turkey season are 56% above the previous 3-year average for the same time period. Reasons for this harvest increase include good weather for hunting and hearing turkeys, a slightly earlier start to the season due to the annual calendar, and a healthy turkey population in most areas; all of which differ from the previous 3 years. We continue to receive report cards until the 4th Wednesday after the close of the season (June 18th this year), at which time we make our final count.

Final count of special turkey licenses sold for 2008 is 8,795, an increase of 16% from 2007, and a 9% increase from 2006, the first year they were offered. Of these, we have received reports of 688 harvests (as of 5/20/08), a 97% increase from the same time last year. Most of this increase, however, likely is due to hunters now becoming familiar with the reporting procedure of this license rather than a substantial increase in harvest.

Preliminary calculated fall 2007 turkey harvest was 21,900 (Table 1). This was 2% higher than the preliminary fall 2006 turkey harvest (21,500), but 9% below the previous 3-year preliminary average (24,180). Final fall 2007 harvest figures will be available in July after completion of the annual Game-Take Survey, which will provide hunter participation and harvest estimates. Fall turkey harvests fluctuate annually according to fall season length, summer reproduction, hunter participation, fall mast crop and weather. We lengthened the season in 1

WMU in 2007 (4D) but shortened the season in 2 WMUs (2A & 2F). Additionally we shortened the season in 3 WMUs in 2005 (1A, 5C & 5D) and 5 WMUs in 2004 (2C, 2E, 4A, 4B & 4D). Numbers of fall turkey hunters and days fall turkey hunting have been decreasing since the mid 1990s. Fall turkey harvest in neighboring New York also was higher than last year due to good summer reproduction.

The PGC turkey biologist responded to over one dozen inquiries from the public, newspapers and magazines regarding an array of turkey harvest, management and turkey hunting questions and provided telephone interviews to several outdoor and newspaper writers.

Wild Turkey Management Plan

The annual review of the wild turkey management plan strategies is underway in preparation for the annual PGC/PANWTF Cooperative meeting (June 9, 2008). Each PGC Bureau is reviewing management plan strategies they are responsible for to show outputs and outcomes, if the timeframe for accomplishments is being maintained, and identifying potential problems with implementation.. The management plan implementation schedule (Appendix 1 in the plan document) is attached with an initial review of strategies. A complete review will be provided at the PGC/PANWTF meeting.

The regional wild turkey population model requires an annual recruitment variable, ratio of poults per hen, which we do not directly measure. We revised the statewide turkey summer sighting survey and Michaux summer sighting survey to calculate this directly. Previously we calculated an index of production, but not a direct measure. The statewide survey was simply used to give an index of the entire summer turkey population to track overall population changes from year to year.

The 2008 Pennsylvania Turkey Hunter Survey is being reviewed internally and, in late July, will be mailed to approximately 9,000-10,000 turkey hunters to determine their knowledge and attitudes to help the PGC direct future wild turkey management efforts.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study

Turkey trapping and leg banding concluded at the end of March, with 932 gobblers banded across the 3 states (NY-350, PA-332, OH-250). PA regional banding totals were: NW: 79, SW: 51, NC: 54, SC: 55, NE: 39, SE: 54, which included 152 adult gobblers and 180 juvenile males. There is one more winter of leg banding. The Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State maintains the toll-free number for reporting leg band returns. We thank the National Wild Turkey Federation for their total financial support of \$203,893, and the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf for their financial support of \$33,500 to date as well as volunteer assistance with turkey trapping.

Reports of harvested gobblers are coming into the toll-free phone number at the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. As of 20 May 2008, 121 leg-banded gobblers have been reported harvested in Pennsylvania, including 4 from the youth season and one harvested with a bow. Additionally, 5 have been found dead, or legbands found and reported. This compares to 100 leg-banded gobblers reported harvested by the same time last year. One harvest is an Ohio turkey that was harvested in Beaver County, and one was a New York banded turkey harvested in Erie County. Additionally, one was banded in Greene Co. in 2007 and harvested in West Virginia, about 500-600 yds. from Mt. Morris, Pennsylvania.. Fifty-eight of the 121 harvested were reward band birds (63 were nonreward). See Table 2 for comparison of state results to date.

Additionally, possible methodologies of the future turkey hen harvest rate study were investigated with the assistance of Dr. Duane Diefenbach (PSU).

As part of the NE Wild Turkey Technical Committee the turkey biologist reviewed and provided comments on 18 NWTf Grant-in-aid research proposals for wild turkey research. Our tri-state gobbler study is funded through this as well.

Wild Turkey Trap and Transfer

Personnel from the Southwest Region transferred 44 wild turkeys (4 juvenile males, 4 adult males, 36 females) from Pittsburgh area urban and suburban nuisance flocks to South Dakota in exchange for wild ring-neck pheasants as part of the pheasant restoration program in the Southwest Region. Additionally, 23 nuisance turkeys were leg-banded and released to SGL 432 (6 adult females), SGL 297 (8 adult males, 7 adult females), and Allegheny Land Trust Property (2 adult males), a Safety Zone property as part of our ‘Nuisance wild turkey transfer pilot program in Southwestern Pennsylvania, 2007-2010’ to monitor (via leg-banding) whether birds return to their nuisance location and/or, if relocated turkeys become nuisances in the relocated area. Leg bands are stamped with the Southwest Region telephone number, and contain a unique alpha-numeric number.

Hunter- Related Shooting Incidents

Preliminary results show eight (8) nonfatal spring 2008 gobbler season hunter related shooting incidents, compared to 5 in 2007 and 8.6 for the previous 10-year average (Table 3, containing reports of 5 of the 8 incidents). Incidents occurred in these counties: Allegheny, Cambria (2), Clinton, Cumberland, Luzerne, Lycoming and Northumberland.

Michaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys

Thanks to a well-established cooperative effort among the PGC, DCNR Bureau of Forestry (BOF), and volunteers from the National Wild Turkey Federation, the eleventh year of weekly Summer Sighting Surveys on the Michaux State Forest will be conducted to provide an additional index to turkey population trends besides our harvest and hunting success trend data for WMU 5A. This is the area of the turkey radio-telemetry study where we investigated the causes of the suppressed wild turkey population, and closed the fall season in 2003 to aid in population recovery. Additionally, since 2002, BOF staff record on a daily basis, all turkeys they see and miles driven, to get an index of turkeys seen per mile driven and productivity (poults/hen), as additional indices of the turkey population. Also, each summer since 2003 volunteers from local chapters have been conducting surveys of turkey usage of wildlife openings on the Michaux State Forest to determine the best mowing schedule for turkeys. This is the last summer of surveys and their assistance has been appreciated.

Submitted by:

Mary Jo Casalena, Wildlife Biologist II, and Robert C. Boyd, Assistant Director, Bureau of Wildlife Management, PA Game Commission

Table 1. PRELIMINARY Pennsylvania 2007 fall wild turkey harvests.

WMU	Calculated Harvest	Harvest per Square Mile	Percent (%) State Harvest
1A	795	0.35	3.6
1B	1,360	0.52	6.2
2A	615	0.28	2.8
2B	565	0.34	2.6

2C	1,441	0.38	6.6
2D	1,549	0.51	7.1
2E	692	0.45	3.2
2F	830	0.28	3.8
2G	1,987	0.39	9.1
3A	1,260	0.68	5.8
3B	1,549	0.56	7.1
3C	1,568	0.59	7.2
3D	834	0.31	3.8
4A	1,211	0.57	5.5
4B	965	0.49	4.4
4C	1,199	0.54	5.5
4D	1,856	0.55	8.5
4E	1,330	0.62	6.1
5A	-	0.00	0.0
5B	4	0.00	0.0
5C	246	0.09	1.1
5D	8	0.01	0.0
Unknown	54	--	0.2
TOTAL	21,916	0.39	100.0

Table 2. Comparison of leg-band returns from Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio, spring 2008 (to May 20, 2008).

	PA	NY	OH
Reported harvested	121	123	105
Reward bands	58	58	55
Youth season	4	9	9
Other reported (during hunting season)	5	1 roadkill	0
2008 banded	69	58	42
2007 banded	44	55	58
2006 banded	8	10	5

Note: 8 Ohio turkeys were wearing transmitters from 2007

Hunting Related Shooting Incidents from 01/01/2008 to 12/31/2008

INCIDENTS INVOLVING S TURKEY

Hunting Related Shooting Incident Reporting System

HRSIS Report: 02

	Non-			Non-		
	Fatal	Fatal	Total	Fatal	Fatal	Total
Number of Incidents						
***** TOTALS *****		5	5			
Injury Type						
SELF-INFLICTED		1	1			
INFLECTED BY OTHERS		4	4			
Sporting Arm Used						
SHOTGUN		5	5			
Species Hunted						
TURKEY		5	5			
Victim Age						
21 - 50 YEARS		2	2			
OVER 50 YEARS		3	3			
Offender Age						
12 - 15 YEARS		1	1			
21 - 50 YEARS		2	2			
OVER 50 YEARS		2	2			
Light Conditions						
DAWN		3	3			
DAYLIGHT		2	2			
Weather Conditions						
CLEAR		1	1			
OVERCAST		4	4			
Cause of Incident						
UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGE		1	1			
SHOT FOR GAME		4	4			
Place of Incident						
WOODLAND		5	5			
Cover						
DENSE		2	2			
LIGHT		3	3			
Victim Experience						
OVER 10 YEARS		5	5			
Offender Experience						
UNDER 2 YEARS		1	1			
OVER 10 YEARS		4	4			
Offender Experience Hunting Specie						
OVER 10 YEARS		5	5			
Distance Between Victim/Offender Mistaken for Game						
26 - 75 FEET				1		1
76 - 150 FEET				3		3
Color Worn by Victim Mistaken for Game						
CAMOUFLAGE				4		4
Victim Position						
STANDING				1		1
WALKING/RUNNING				1		1
SITTING				3		3
Victim Was						
HUNTING				5		5
Offender Was						
HUNTING				5		5
Gauge						
10				1		1
12				3		3
20				1		1
Shot Size						
2				1		1
4				1		1
5				2		2
6				1		1

These 5 incidents represent 83.33% of the 6 incidents reported during the period.

Thursday, May 29, 2008

Page 1 of 1

**Wild Turkey Management Plan Assessment
Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008**

Population Objective: Sustain or enhance healthy wild turkey populations in each Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) at or below social carrying capacity.

Strategy 1.1. Provide spring and fall hunting opportunities while maintaining or enhancing populations at or below social carrying capacity.

Outcomes: On-going.

Outputs: Analyzed trends in spring harvest densities and WCO summer sighting surveys by WMU for seasons and bag limits recommendations, as well as fall harvest densities, spring and fall hunter success, and additional harvest from the special spring license.

Strategy 1.2. Use fall season lengths as primary means for managing populations.

Outcomes: On-going.

Outputs: As per recommendations by PGC staff, based on biological and population data analyses, the Board of Commissioners approved to maintain existing fall season lengths in all WMUs for the fall 2008 turkey season, to comply with the recommendations in the management plan for establishing fall season lengths of maintaining any changes for at least three years to assess impacts of the change.

Strategy 1.3. Assess turkey population status and trends.

Outcomes: On-going.

Outputs: Analyzed trends in spring harvest densities and WCO summer sighting surveys by WMU for seasons and bag limits recommendations.

Strategy 1.4. Collect age and sex information of harvested turkeys for spring and fall seasons.

Outcomes: Data being collected on Game-Take Survey, and will be collected via the reporting portion of the Automated Licensing System, which may be implemented by July 2010.

Outputs: Postponed until POS is in place.

Strategy 1.5. – Implement spring gobbler hunter survey

Outcomes: Behind schedule.

Outputs: Postponed until POS is implemented.

Strategy 1.6. Evaluate the new mid-Atlantic turkey population model for application in Pennsylvania, and implement in 2008.

Outcomes: In progress and on schedule.

Outputs: Met with B.Eriksen, VT's turkey biologist & model author, J.McQhee, to review model implementation for PA & VT. Model requires an annual recruitment variable, ratio of poults per hen, which we do not directly measure. Statewide turkey summer sighting survey and Michaux summer sighting survey were revised to calculate this directly. Previously we calculated an index of production, but not a direct measure. The statewide survey was simply used to give an index of the entire summer turkey population to track overall population changes from year to year.

Strategy 1.7. If necessary, develop and implement research to collect data to validate the new population model.

Outcomes: In progress and on schedule.

Outputs: Statewide turkey summer sighting survey and Michaux summer sighting survey were revised to directly measure annual recruitment, ratio of poults per hen. Previously

we calculated an index of production, but not a direct measure. The statewide survey was simply used to give an index of the entire summer turkey population to track overall population changes from year to year.

Strategy 1.8. Conduct the 4-year multi-state gobbler harvest and annual survival rate study.

Outcomes: On schedule. Third year nearing completion.

Outputs: 3-year results: 2,632 male turkeys banded, close to quota of 2,700 (NY: 1,029; PA: 912; OH: 691).

PRELIMINARY results of first 2 years: harvest rates: Adult gobblers 36% (31-40%), juveniles 19% (14-23%). Reporting rates: Adults 75-100%, juveniles 74-78%. Rewards distributed to date: \$42,500 total, \$17,100 in PA. At completion of study, results will be analyzed by state, WMU, landscape characteristics and land ownership. Results also will be used in the new population model.

NWTF 4-year funding = \$203,893, PANWTF funding to date = \$33,500.

Strategy 1.9. Conduct a hen harvest and annual survival rate study.

Outcomes: On schedule.

Outputs: Met with Dr. Duane Diefenbach, B.Eriksen, and others to develop methodology of study and determine what states may be involved. Project plan will be drafted by July 2008.

Strategy 1.10. Determine if the sample units of WMUs provide reliable trends for harvest and summer sighting data.

Outcomes: No progress.

Outputs: To be completed in 2008. Data needed for hen harvest rate study.

Strategy 1.11. Determine if the two-bird spring bag limit has any effect on the turkey age structure and, if needed, recommend regulation changes.

Outcomes: On schedule to be done in 2008.

Outputs: To begin this summer once Game-Take survey data are available.

Strategy 1.12. Develop standard solutions to nuisance turkey complaints.

Outcomes: Behind schedule. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was drafted and reviewed in 2007. Initiated 3-year pilot nuisance wild turkey transfer program in southwestern PA during 2008.

Outputs: SOP to be completed in 2008. 23 nuisance turkeys were leg-banded and released to three different SGLs to monitor (via leg-banding) whether birds return to their nuisance location and/or, if relocated turkeys become nuisances in the relocated area. Leg bands are stamped with the Southwest Region telephone number, and contain a unique alpha-numeric number. Two leg-band returns were reported from successful (and pleased) hunters during the spring 2008 season.

Strategy 1.13. Quantify turkey complaints by season, type and location.

Outcomes: No progress. Complaints have not been significant.

Strategy 1.14. Train personnel in identifying agricultural damage caused by turkeys.

Outcomes: Behind schedule. Cooperative effort with NWTF. NWTF Regional Biologist will provide training to Wildlife Conservation Officers at PGC Regional meetings. Damage has not been significant so training has not been a priority.

Outputs: Training might be scheduled for 2008.

Strategy 1.15 – 1.16. Scheduled to begin 2012 or beyond.

Habitat Objective: Improve quality of existing, and minimize loss of, wild turkey habitat throughout the state.

Strategy 2.1. Determine turkey habitat management priorities for State Game Lands while considering habitat on adjacent properties.

Outcomes: Updated habitat management trainings have been and will continue to be provided to regional personnel (land managers, foresters and biologists). Effective management of openings for turkeys has been emphasized. Information garnered during trainings and field exercises is being incorporated into comprehensive game lands plans. The combination of training and planning is resulting in focused management and improved turkey habitat on state game lands.

Outputs:

Indoor trainings provided: 6
Hours of field exercises: 80
Personnel trained: 116
Game lands habitat plan drafts: 16

Strategy 2.2. Beginning 2008, quantify habitat management practices being conducted on State Game Lands to benefit wild turkeys.

Outcomes: Developing a tracking system to track habitat improvements specific to wild turkey on SGLs through the SGL planning and implementation program.

Outputs:

Beginning 2008:
Number acres planned and
Number acres implemented

Strategy 2.3. Evaluate efficacy of habitat management practices on State Game Lands, and recommend adjustments.

Outcomes: Habitat is being improved through approaches that incorporate current knowledge on best management practices for turkeys. The earliest improvements were initiated in spring 2006, and vegetative response is now becoming apparent. Progress continues to be monitored and techniques adjusted through game lands habitat planning and implementation.

Evaluating habitat management practices for turkeys is part of an adaptive resource management approach. Based on the habitat monitoring aspect of SGL planning, BHM is revising the “Habitat Management Manual”. This manual will reflect current best management practices for turkey habitat and will evolve as monitoring continues and new information is available.

Outputs:

Revised outline and supporting materials for the Habitat Management Manual.

Strategy 2.4. Develop at least two demonstration areas per Region to promote habitat management to other public agencies and private landowners.

Outcomes: To streamline this process, a single, centrally located demonstration area is being established on SGL 252 (Union and Lycoming Counties)

Strategy 2.5. Scheduled to begin 2009, once demonstration area is established.

Strategy 2.6. Develop and/or continue partnerships for habitat funding.

Outcomes: Game Lands Planning Section played an active role in the NWTF Superfund proposal process. Proposals were connected to specific habitat practices and SGL plans, ensuring that NWTF funds are used to their fullest potential.

Output:

Funds secured for 2008: \$ 68,785

Game lands projects funded: 40

Strategy 2.7. Provide technical information and assistance regarding turkey habitat management to other public land managers and private landowners

Outcomes: Presented technical information on turkey habitat management to woodland landowner associations, hunting leases, conservation groups, and private landowners.

Outputs:

Presentations conducted: 7

Individuals reached: 200

Strategy 2.8. Promote use of prescribed fire.

Outcomes: Field personnel were trained in prescribed fire planning for Farm Bill Programs on private lands. Regional personnel conducted prescribed burns on state game lands to improve conditions in both forested and herbaceous areas. From a policy standpoint, the Prescribed Fire Council was created with representatives from PGC (BWHM) taking an active role. From a policy standpoint, PGC (BWHM) is taking an active role in the Prescribed Fire Council. Also participated in and developed a poster entitled, “*Use of Prescribed Fire in PGC Habitat Management*” at the Prescribed Fire Conference in February 2008.

Outputs:

Personnel trained: 25

Policy meetings attended: 6

Acres burned: Prescribed fire season ended May 2008, final acreage yet to be compiled.

Approximately 200 acres burned on game lands.

Information and Education Objective: Assess and improve the publics’ knowledge, awareness and understanding of the wild turkey resource and its management.

Strategy 3.1. Beginning in 2007, and at 5-year intervals, conduct surveys to determine knowledge, attitudes, characteristics and levels of satisfaction of hunters and other stakeholders toward wild turkey populations and management issues.

Outcomes: Behind schedule due to delay of hiring biometrician in BWM and delay in implementing Point of Sale.

Outputs: Draft survey developed by BWM and currently being reviewed. Survey to be mailed in July 2008 to 9,000 – 10,000 hunters. Final report expected December 2008.

Strategy 3.2. Annually report research and management findings and conclusions to the public through all forms of media.

Outcomes: Ongoing.

Outputs: At least 6 news releases published, information placed in digest and hunting annual, turkey page on website updated several times, continuing to provide the latest information on turkey research/mgmt, on average 1 program provided per month by the turkey biologist to sportsmen clubs, NGOs and the general public. NWTF Technical representative attends quarterly PANWTF Board meetings and bi-annual Technical Committee meetings. Turkey biologist responded to over 40 inquiries via emails, phone calls and letters from the public. NWTF Regional Biologist provides information to the public and responds to even more requests for information via articles, presentations, emails, phone calls and letters. TMA 7B study research paper was published in NWT Symposium proceedings. Preliminary study results of the gobbler survival rate study were presented to NWTF national and northeast technical committees, NYDEC, PGC, PANWTF, and several sportsmen and conservation groups.

Strategy 3.3. Annually provide educational information through all forms of media and speaking engagements on various aspects of wild turkey biology, habitat management, and harvest management (including resolving nuisance/conflict situations, harvest reporting and its misconceptions and the importance of properly timing the opening of our spring season).

Outcomes: Ongoing.

Outputs: Six news releases in 2007, Turkey FAQs published as spring 2008 Game News article. Turkey biologist provided, on average, 1 program per month to the public on all aspects of wild turkey management/biology, and responded to over 40 inquiries via emails, phone calls and letters from the public. Local WCOs provide programs on turkeys. NWTF Regional Biologist provides information and responds to even more requests for information to the public via articles, presentations, emails, phone calls and letters.

Strategy 3.4. Beginning in 2007, develop and publish fact sheets or “frequently asked questions” information sheets on various aspects of wild turkey management addressing common questions and misunderstandings; put on PGC website, in the *Hunting and Trapping Digest* and *Game News* as appropriate.

Outcomes: On-going.

Outputs: Turkey FAQs published as spring 2008 Game News article. .

Strategy 3.5. By 2008, disseminate information through all forms of media to farmers and other landowners about turkey behavior and how to identify and handle crop damage and nuisances in urban-suburban areas.

Outcomes: Limited progress. Cooperative with NWTF. NWTF Regional Biologist will develop and distribute via PGC.

Outputs: NWTF Regional Biologist and PGC NW RWMS handled a suspected turkey crop damage incident in NW PA of silage storage bags. They proved, via field inspection and trail cameras, crop damage was caused by a family of coyotes feeding on rodents in

the silage bags, and the turkeys were simply opportunistically feeding. Information to be published in PA Turkey Talk.

Hunting Heritage/Hunter Safety Objective: Promote and improve the knowledge, safety and participation of wild turkey hunters.

Strategy 4.1. By 2008 evaluate the option of expanding hunter education programs to include an optional and separate course in wild turkey hunting and safety.

Outcomes: Federal Assistance Program funding will be requested.

Outputs: Part of next 5-year planning for hunter education, this is part of the next planning. First to fully implement new basic program curriculum statewide before implementing advanced curriculum. Spring 2009 – scheduled to complete the transition. Other advanced programs include fur-taker and muzzleloader programs. Curriculum development is scheduled to begin in 2009, but implementation should be moved to 2010 at earliest.

Strategy 4.2. By 2009 determine participation rates of the various age segments of turkey hunters and recommend ways of increasing participation of those various segments.

Outcomes: Contingent on POS, which may be implemented by July 2009(?).

Outputs: Scheduled to be conducted in conjunction with implementation of POS.

Strategy 4.3. Annually assess and explore opportunities for continued development of the turkey hunting aspect of the youth mentored hunting program in Pennsylvania.

Outcomes: On-going.

Outputs: Part of season/bag limits recommendations process. Cooperative effort with NWTF.

Strategy 4.4. By 2007 evaluate the pros and cons of expanding the youth spring gobbler season to an all-day season.

Outcomes: No progress..

Outputs: Part of season/bag limits recommendations process. Cooperative effort with NWTF. On hold until completion of tri-state gobbler study.

Strategy 4.5. Annually consider implementation of expanded spring hunting opportunities, including, but not limited to, multiple bird bag limits, extended hunting hours, Sunday hunting, and longer seasons.

Outcomes: On-going.

Outputs: Part of season/bag limits recommendations process. Cooperative effort with NWTF. Beginning with 2008 spring season, Board of Commissioners approved PANWTF's recommendation to extend length of spring season one day to include Memorial Day.

Strategy 4.6. Annually maintain and expand the Game Commission's public access programs to promote and protect these privately owned lands open to public hunting.

Outcomes: On-going. The Game Commission's public access programs were continued and the Public Access Program Cooperative Agreement was updated and distributed to Regions for implementation. New enrollment options were provided to program participants to increase retention rates and address participant concerns.

Outputs: As of May 2008 1,095 new agreements were added for a total of 7,676 properties under agreement in Public Access programs.

Strategy 4.7. Annually acquire turkey habitat in order to expand hunting opportunities.

Outcomes: On-going. Added acres for habitat conservation and public hunting access to the State Game Lands System. All of these acres occur within prime wild turkey range.

Outputs: As of June 1, 2008: 18 tracts involving 652 acres

Strategy 4.8. Once a database of turkey hunters is established develop and distribute educational and hunter safety materials directly to turkey hunters.

Outcomes: Contingent on POS.

Outputs: Possibly begin FY 2008 or 2009.

Strategy 4.9. By 2011 investigate relationships between spring and fall hunter density and turkey hunter safety, and compare with other states. If considered necessary, recommend regulation changes to control hunter density by WMU.

Outcomes: Contingent on POS.

Outputs: Scheduled for completion by 2011.

Strategy 4.10. Annually conduct information and education programs within the agency and with partners to help minimize and control turkey hunting related shooting incidents and to promote wild turkey hunter safety/ethics.

Outcomes: On-going, cooperative effort with NWTF.

Outputs: NWTF and PGC published several news releases, info on the websites, digest, NWTF sponsored billboards, PSAs. Advanced hunter education will address this as well. PANWTF developed and published a color, tri-fold hunting safety brochure, on PANWTF web-site, in PGC 2008 Digest, mailed to hunters with the 2008 special spring turkey license, and distributed to the public and conservation organizations.

Strategy 4.11. Annually monitor hunter compliance with fluorescent orange turkey hunting regulations. See BWP Strategy 5.1.

Outcomes: On-going.

Outputs: Calendar Year 2007 Fall; 29 violations prosecuted. Spring : 181 violation .

Strategy 4.12. By 2007 review orange requirements, evaluate the pros and cons of regulatory alternatives and, if appropriate, recommend changes to the spring season fluorescent orange turkey hunting regulations.

Outcomes: Completed.

Outputs: Spring season fluorescent orange regulations discontinued as of spring 2008 season, as per approval by PGC Board of Commissioners..

Strategy 4.13. Annually assure that complete information on turkey hunting related shooting incidents are included in all International Hunting Education Association reports. On-going.

Outcomes: On-going.

Outputs: Oversight provided by PGC within the agency to ensure reports are complete.

Wild Turkey Protection Objective: Improve hunter compliance with laws and regulations regarding wild turkey management.

Strategy 5.1. Assess hunter compliance with laws and regulations.

Outcomes: On-going.

Outputs: WILD TURKEY VIOLATIONS

CALENDAR YEAR 2007

Fall turkey season/rifle shotgun areas fluorescent orange violation	15
Fall turkey season/shotgun-archery only area fluorescent orange violation	14
Spring turkey season fluorescent orange violation	181
Possess or use a live turkey as a decoy	0
Use dogs, drives or electronic collars	0
Use shot size larger than #4 lead, #4 bismuth tin or #2 steel	5
Use or possess rifles or single-projectile ammunition, except arrows, in WMU's 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 5B, 5C and 5D	0
Use anything other than rimfire, centerfire or muzzleloading rifles and handguns or shotguns, bow or crossbow.	0
In the spring season, use or possess rifles or single projectile ammunition except arrows	1
In the spring season, to hunt by a method other than calling	4

Calendar year data is provided to capture a spring and fall season. Fiscal year data would provide little information regarding the recently closed spring turkey season.

The addition of a species code to the PGC prosecution data base (effective 02/2008) will result in additional data next year to include additional violations specific to wild turkeys. Examples include; number of unlawfully taken turkeys, safety zone violations related to turkey hunting, tagging violations, baiting violations, closed season violations, etc.

Strategy 5.2. Turkey decoy operations.

Outcomes: On-going.

Outputs: SUMMARY OF WILD TURKEY FACSIMILE OPERATIONS
CALENDAR YEAR 2007

Total turkey facsimile operations	4
Operations conducted during spring turkey season	4
Operations in spring season where shots were fired	1
Operations conducted during fall turkey season	0
Operations in fall season where shots were fired	0
Total number of vehicles that passed the facsimile location	137 ¹
Number of vehicles that observed/stopped at facsimile location	7 ²
Number of vehicles whose occupants discharged a firearm/bow at the turkey facsimile	1 ³
Number of citations issued	1 ⁴

¹ One facsimile operation had 106 vehicles pass during the 3 hour operation.

² 5% of all vehicles that passed the facsimile location observed the facsimile and stopped their motorized vehicle.

³ 14% of the vehicles that stopped near the facsimile contained one or more occupants who discharged a firearm/bow at the facsimile.

⁴ Defendant was charged with hunting through the use of a motorized vehicle.

Strategy 5.2. Utilizing partnerships to assist with purchasing equipment.

Outcomes: PA Game Commission Southcentral Region will propose partnership with local NWTF chapters in WMU 5A to purchase decoys for enforcing the fall turkey season closure in WMU 5A.

To date, there has been no significant movement on this increased penalty package by the General Assembly.

Strategy 5.3. Seek legislation to increase penalties for serious violations.

Outcomes: On-going. The existing penalty structure for violations of the Game and Wildlife Code can only be altered by legislative action.

Outputs:

In January 2007, the Bureau of Wildlife Protection submitted a comprehensive increased penalty package to the legislature for review and consideration. This recommended package calls for a general increase in penalties across the sliding fine structure. In addition, the package calls for significant increased penalties for “poaching” violations primarily involving big game animals, including wild turkey.

The submitted penalty package resulted in House Bill 2205, sponsored by State Representative Edward Staback, the Chairman of the House Game and Fisheries Committee and would substantially increase the penalties for these serious violations.

Currently, the penalty for killing a wild turkey in closed season or in excess of the bag limit is classified as a summary offense of the fourth degree with a penalty of \$100 - \$300. Were HB2205 in its present form to become law, the penalties for killing a wild turkey in closed season or in excess of the bag limit would be graded as follows:

Closed season or over the limit – 1 or 2 birds

Misdemeanor 3 \$1500-\$3000 0-6 months 5 years revocation

Closed season or over the limit – 3 or 4 birds

Misdemeanor 1 \$5000-\$10000 0-24 months 10 years revocation

Closed season or over the limit – 5 or more birds

Felony 3 \$10000-\$15000 0-36 months 15 years revocation

Turkeys killed in season, albeit through unlawful devices or methods, would still be classified as a summary violation of the fourth degree under a slightly modified penalty structure of \$200-\$300.

Chairman Staback would like to move this bill out of Committee in June and to the full House floor before the summer recess. When the legislative session reconvenes in September, it will be ready for action by the Senate.

The Bureau of Wildlife Protection would appreciate the National Wild Turkey Federation's **assistance with this legislation at all levels** by making contacts with the appropriate legislators and voicing your support. The passage of this bill will greatly enhance wildlife protection efforts of all big game species, including the wild turkey.

Cooperative Partnerships Objective: Maintain and enhance partnerships in all aspects of wild turkey management.

Strategy 6.1. Assist states and Canadian provinces with wild turkey restoration through trap and transfers where feasible.

Outcomes: Transferring wild turkeys from the Southwest Region to South Dakota in exchange for wild ring-necked pheasants.

Outputs: 2008 – Transferred 44 wild turkeys to South Dakota. All transfers were from over-abundant flocks in urban/suburban areas of Allegheny and Washington Counties. 2006-2008 total transfers to South Dakota:113.

Strategy 6.2. Continue partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Outcomes: NWTF Regional Biologist works cooperatively with PGC Turkey Biologist, provides assistance to PGC Regional personnel, land managers and WCOs, assists with tri-state gobbler harvest rate study, provides assistance and educational programs to landowners in cooperation with PGC. PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management Assistant Director and wild turkey biologist continue to act as technical representatives to the NWTF.

Outputs: Continued the partial funding for NWTF Regional Biologist.

Committee Reports

Fuzzy Shields - Promotion

- Sample Director's shirts are available
- Director's Shirts are \$31.50/each and can be ordered directly from:
Susan Shrock
Stitch Art
14058 Conneaut Lake Rd
Conneaut Lake, PA 16316
phone: 814-382-2702
fax: 814-382-2701
email: sshrock@stitch-art.com
www.stitch-art.com
- A motion was made by Tom Bunty that new Board members can get their first order of shirts for \$20/shirt. Don Heckman seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Joe Drolet agreed to add the shirts and the ordering information to the Board website.

Jon Pries for Bill Mackereth - Jakes Committee

- Bill is not renewing his board membership, Jakes Committee leadership, or Jakes Raffle leadership.
- A turnover from Bill is required at the August meeting
- Ken Fernburg would consider being a temporary replacement
- Bill would like to purchase 300 1st Bird Patches
- It was agreed that the Jakes Raffle would be handled just like the Upper Gun Raffle.
 - Carl will handle the ticket printing and gun selection and purchasing
 - Jim Panaro will handle the returned tickets, the money, and the drawing.
 - Ken Fernburg will handle the ticket distribution in State College in August
- Jon Pries will call Bill and have him write a check to close out the Jakes account. Jakes money will be handled from now on by Jim Panaro as budget item in the PA Chapter NWTF budget.

PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Treasurer's Report

Checkbook Balance 2/29/08 2190.64

Income - none

Expenses:

N. Boro's Dbl. Beards 16 = 80.00

Yellow Creek 61 = 305.00

Susquehanna Local 53 = 265.00

TOTAL Expenses = \$ 650.00

Checkbook Balance 6/1/08 \$ 1540.64

Respectfully Submitted

Bill

Bill Mackerell

NWTF/JAKES Fund Treasurer

PA Chapters and # of JAKES Memberships Available:

Adams Co 11

Allegheny Plateau 10

Allegheny Mtn 50

Midoux Yellow Breeches 25

Dave Burdge - Nominating Committee

- Gary Beatty will step down if there are enough new Board members, otherwise he will stay

- Ed Couch and Bob Schmid have resigned
- Don Heckman, Don O'Brien, and Bill Mackereth will be resigning
- Don O'Brien will stay one more year if there are not enough new members
- Candidates need a Resume and 15 recommendation signatures.
- There is a vacancy on the Executive Board with Bob Schmid resigning.

Dave Burdge – Turkey Talk

- Jason Straley is replacing Bob Schmid as the Turkey Talk liaison
- He will use the turkeytalk@panwtf.org email address for communications
- Joe Drolet will set him up with the email address and send him instruction for access.
- Jason will contact Walt Young and set up communications

Don Heckman – PFSC

- Many bills are being monitored

Don Heckman – Legislative

Legislative Committee - legislation being watched and letters/emails being written:

HR 642 - Deer Audit by 3rd party, audit being funded by General Assembly

HB 251 [HB 1862] - legalize hunting outside 150 yard perimeter around bait anywhere in commonwealth during any hunting season

HB 641 - Castle Doctrine - property owner protection

HB 843 - extend spring gobbler season to all day

HB 904 - change Sunday Hunting regulation to be regulated in Title 58 by PGC not General Assembly in Title 34; right now Title 34 is no hunting on Sunday for small game and big game

HB 1214 - PGC Commissioner term limit

HB 1676 - State Sales Tax revenue going to PGC and PFBC; 1/8 of 1%, with appx \$10 M going to PGC and \$5 M going to PFBC

HB 1862 [HB 251] - legalize hunting over shelled or ear corn anywhere in Pennsylvania during any hunting season

HB 2205 - Wildlife poacher(s) fines and penalties increases

HB 2364 - Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact law - add Pennsylvania to list of states

HB 2381 - PGC should be guided and support by verifiable data with equal regard for social, economic, and recreational impacts

No longer permit current and former employees or DWCO to serve on Board of Commissioners

SB 740 -- Spring Creek Canyon land title to Penn State University and Brenner Township rather than PGC for game lands

HB 1657

HB 2572

Don Heckman – Land Acquisition

- Glatfelter Farm #1 will be purchased for two payments of \$5,000 and will become part of the Michaux State Forest
- The purchase of the property at Wagonner's Gap will be postponed until January, 2009 and will cost \$2,000

Don Heckman – Hunting License Increase

- Agenda item for PGC/PA Chapter NWTF Meeting Monday.
- Will talk to Carl Roe

Don Heckman – Wild Turkey Management

- There will be extensive agenda items at the PGC/PA Chapter NWTF Meeting Monday

Jim Panaro – Seed

- Just a very few bags of seed left and they will be gone today
- Very smooth process this year

- Seed ordering must be included in Fall Turkey Talk (September Deadline).
- There will be no more seed this fall.

Communications

Jon Pries

- Greetings for George Thornton
- Gary Huff was asked to step forward and receive an award

Old Business

Don Heckman

- PGC Commissioner's: Don Heckman reported Ron Weaner, Biglerville, PA, was appointed Commissioner for District 6. Ron will be seated at the PGC Board of Commissioner's meeting on June 23 and 24
- Commissioner's Roxane Palone and Russ Schleiden terms will expire after the October 2008 meeting. Requests for both District 2 and District 3 applicant resumes have been requested through an advisory council news release
- The Global Warming Act (Climate Security Act) was defeated by Congress
- The amended Conservation & Energy "Farm Bill" was passed and sent to President Bush. An override is expected
- Hunter Safety – Education: Don Heckman request PANWTF Board to review PANWTF turkey hunting safety information, NWTF Turkey Hunting Success and Safety brochure, news releases and articles to come to August Board meeting with ideas to get information out to fall turkey hunters. As previously reported preliminary data indicates 8 HRSI's with no fatalities were recorded for 2008 spring gobbler season, including with 1 self inflicted incident.

Joe Drolet

- Need to contact Skip Sanderson concerning PA NWTF License Plate issues
- Joe will try to get hold of Skip via Reed Johnson

New Business

Jon Pries

- The annual PA Chapter NWTF/PGC meeting will be held at PGC Offices on Monday, June 9, 2008.

Dave Burdge

- There is a need to identify a way to pay for maintenance and repairs of PA NWTF assets

- A motion was made by Jim Panaro: The State Chapter should adopt a \$10 rental fee per banquet for State Chapter equipment to be voted on at the August Board meeting. Jon Pries seconded the motion, and it was passed.

For the Good of the Order

- Gary Beatty said that all directors should be encouraged to take the opportunity to “stay over” tonight.
- Jason Straley received a 1st Bird Award
- Skip Motts has a camp available in McKean county for future meetings
- Don O’Brien made a motion to donate a Stamp Print to the Loyal Sock State Forest. Tom Bunty seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- Motion made for the PA NWTF State Board of Directors meeting to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Strategic Planning Meeting

A Strategic Planning Meeting followed the regular board meeting.

In attendance were Don Heckman, Jim Panaro, Fuzzy Shields, Gary Huff, Gary Beatty, Joe Drolet, Carl Mowry, and Tammy Mowry.

A Principles of Operation document was developed as well as a new Strategic Plan both of which will be reviewed with the Executive Committee and Regular Board at the August Meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Drolet
PA State Chapter Secretary