

APPENDIX 1. Implementation schedule for turkey management plan for Pennsylvania, 2006-2015

(Progress from July 2009 – January 2010 listed at bottom of each page)

Objective and Strategies	By End of Fiscal Year (e.g., FY 2006 = July 06 – June 07)									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Population Objective										
Strategy:										
1.1 Provide spring and fall hunting opportunities while maintaining or enhancing populations at or below social carrying capacity	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.2 Use fall season lengths as primary means for managing populations	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.3 Assess turkey population status and trends	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.4 Collect age and sex information of harvested turkeys for spring and fall seasons		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.5 Implement spring gobbler hunter survey			■	■	■	•	•	•	•	•
1.6 Evaluate the new mid-Atlantic turkey population model for application in Pennsylvania, and implement in 2008		•	•	■						
1.7 If necessary, develop and implement research to collect data to validate the new population model			•	■	■					
1.8 Conduct the 4-year multi-state gobbler harvest and annual survival rate study	•	•	•	•						
1.9 Conduct a hen harvest and annual survival rate study.			■	■	•	•	•	•	•	
1.10 Determine if the sample units of WMUs provide reliable trends for harvest and summer sighting data			•	•						
1.11 Determine if the two-bird spring bag limit has any effect on the turkey age structure and, if needed, recommend regulation changes			•	•						
1.12 Develop standard solutions to nuisance turkey complaints		■		■						
1.13 Quantify turkey complaints by season, type and location		■	■	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.14 Train personnel in identifying agricultural damage caused by turkeys	■	■		■	■					
1.15 Define wild turkey social carrying capacity by WMU							•	•		
1.16 Develop a habitat suitability model as a tool in harvest and habitat management								•	•	•

Progress: ■ Delete for years specified. ■ Add for years specified.

1.1, 1.2 – Completed for 2009 and ongoing. – On Schedule. 1.3 – In progress, behind schedule for fall 2009 harvest data – backlog due to Automated Licensing System (PALS).

1.4 – Completed for 2008 via Game-Take Survey, being used as trend data. – Full implementation with 2010 License Year via PALS.

1.5 – Postponed until biometrician is hired (conducted a general turkey hunter survey, 2008, Strategy 3.1).

1.6 – In progress. – Behind Schedule. Working with B.Eriksen, VT's turkey biologist & model author to understand model operation. Postponed due to hen study proposal and implementation.

1.7 – In progress. Began, 2008, collecting productivity data to use for proper model functioning. Beginning fall 2009, age/sex harvest data being collected via PALS. Hen harvest rate data beginning fall 2010.

1.8 – In progress. – On Schedule, data analysis proceeding, manuscript to be completed by end of FY 2009.

1.9 – In progress – Ahead of initial Schedule, federal funding received, trapping begins Jan 11, 2010. Applying for NWTf National Grant for FY 2010, to augment federal funding.

1.10 – In progress. – On Schedule. To be completed in 2010. Data needed for structured decision making process and hen harvest rate study.

~~1.11 – Completed. No effect; no regulation changes needed.~~

1.12 – Behind schedule. Low priority. Draft SOP completed. Postpone final SOP to end of FY2009. Three-year pilot study began Jan 2008 in SW Region to be completed June 2010. Reconfigured drop net for SW Region.

1.13 – Postponed. Was not able to incorporate into PGC standard bear complaint system. Low priority & beyond time commitment of turkey biologist.

Objective and Strategies	By End of Fiscal Year (e.g., FY 2006 = July 06 – June 07)									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Habitat Objective										
Strategy:										
2.1 Determine turkey habitat management priorities for State Game Lands while considering habitat on adjacent properties	•	•	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2.2 Quantify habitat management practices that benefit turkeys on State Game Lands			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.3 Evaluate efficacy of habitat management practices on State Game Lands, and recommend adjustments	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.4 Develop at least two demonstration areas per Region to promote habitat management to other public agencies and private landowners	●	•	•	●						
2.5 Conduct at least one workshop or field trip per Region at a demonstration area				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.6 Develop and/or continue partnerships for habitat funding	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.7 Provide technical information and assistance regarding turkey habitat management to other public land managers and private landowners	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.8 Promote use of prescribed fire	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Progress: ● -Delete for years specified. ● -Add for years specified.

Complete updates to be provided by BWHM at PGC/PANWTF Annual Cooperative Meeting, June, 2010.

Progress to June 30, 2009:

2.1 – Ongoing. 51 Game lands habitat management plans drafted.

2.2 – Ongoing, On Schedule. Habitat implemented: Regeneration: 2,069 acres; Intermediate/Thinning: 2,372 acres; Herbaceous plantings: 3,180 acres; Herbaceous maintenance: 11,537 acres; Tree plantings/release: 331,598 trees.

2.3 – In progress. Revised outline and supporting materials for the Habitat Management Manual.

2.4 – Behind schedule. Guidelines drafted for creating demonstration areas.

2.5 - To begin once Strategy 2.4 is underway.

2.6 – Ongoing. For 2009, PANWTF funded 62 habitat project proposals plus seed subsidy program = \$89,885, including 39 projects (\$51,388) on SGLs.

2.7 – Ongoing. Presentations conducted: 8; Individuals reached: 220.

2.8 – Ongoing. PGC (BWHM) was involved with drafting prescribed fire legislation (HB 262). Personnel trained: 91; Policy meetings attended: 8

Acres burned: As of June 1, 2009: 835 acres burned on Game Lands (383 forest, 452 herbaceous).

Objective and Strategies	By End of Fiscal Year (e.g., FY 2006 = July 06 – June 07)									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Information & Education Objective										
Strategy:										
3.1 Survey hunters and other stakeholders regarding turkey populations and management issues		■	■				■	■		
3.2 Report research and management findings to the public through all forms of media	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.3 Provide educational information through all forms of media and speaking engagements	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.4 Develop and publish fact sheets		•	•	•	•	•				
3.5 Provide information to landowners about turkey behavior and depredation			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Progress: ■ -Delete for years specified. ■ Add for years specified.

3.1 – In progress. Behind schedule (no Biometrician). Survey completed (70% response rate, 9,105 mailed). Final report expected Jan 2010. An annual PANWTF Turkey hunter coop. survey implemented spring 2009.

3.2 – Ongoing. Annual reports on website, 6 news releases, 15+ articles from general media, preliminary gobbler study results presentations (9+), gobbler legband retention rate research paper published in Journal of Wildlife Management, 2008 PA Turkey Hunter Survey and results of gobbler study to be published in scientific journals and in Game News. In cooperation with NWTF Reg'l Bio.

3.3 – Ongoing. In cooperation with BI&E, recorded 12 Radio PA segments regarding fall turkey season, turkey habitat needs, tri-state spring gobbler study and partnerships with NWTF, and 9 news releases so far in FY2009, Turkey webpage updated, responded to >50 inquiries from public, mainly occurrences of avian pox in turkeys due to the wet summer, average 1 public program every other month on wild turkeys by turkey biologist & many programs by WCOs and NWTF Reg'l Bio. In cooperation with NWTF Reg'l Bio.

3.4 – Ongoing through 2011. In cooperation with NWTF Reg'l Bio.

3.5 – Limited progress. Low priority, beyond time commitment. In cooperation with PGC WCO's, Reg'l Bio's, NWTF Reg'l Bio. Reconfigured drop net for SW Region nuisance turkeys.

Objective and Strategies	By End of Fiscal Year (e.g., FY 2006 = July 06 – June 07)									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Hunting Heritage/Hunter Safety Objective										
Strategy:										
4.1 Evaluate expanding hunter education to include optional & separate course on turkey hunting & safety			•	●	●					
4.2 Determine participation rates of various age segments of hunters and develop ways of increasing participation				●	●					
4.3 Assess and explore opportunities for continued development of the youth mentored hunting program	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.4 Consider expanding the youth spring gobbler season to an all-day season	●	●				●	●			
4.5 Consider implementation of expanded spring hunting opportunities	●	●	●	●	●	•	•	•	•	•
4.6 Maintain and expand the Game Commission's public access programs to promote and protect these privately owned lands open to public hunting	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.7 Acquire turkey habitat to expand hunting opportunities	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.8 Develop and distribute educational and hunter safety materials directly to turkey hunters		●	●	●	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.9 Investigate relationships between spring and fall hunter density and turkey hunter safety, and recommend regulation changes if necessary					•	•				
4.10 Conduct information and education programs to control turkey hunting related shooting incidents and promote wild turkey hunter safety/ethics	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.11 Monitor compliance with fluorescent orange turkey hunting regulations	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.12 Review orange requirements, evaluate regulatory alternatives, and, if appropriate, recommend changes to the spring season fluorescent orange turkey hunting regulations	•	•	●							
4.13 Assure that complete information on turkey hunting related shooting incidents are included in all International Hunting Education Association reports	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Progress: ● Delete for years specified. ● Add for years specified.

4.1 – Federal Assistance grant program funding approved for new Successful Turkey Hunting curriculum, development in 2009, implement in 2010. New, basic HTE curriculum implemented statewide.

4.2 – Postponed until full implementation of PALS.

4.3 – PANWTF working on fall turkey mentored youth program via sharing of harvest tag – legislation introduced and in Committee. Spring opportunities postponed until completion of gobbler study.

4.4 - Postponed until completion of gobbler study.

4.5 – Progress: Beginning Spring 2008, season extended to Memorial Day. At January 2010 Commission meeting, recommending extend to May 31.

4.6 – Ongoing. As of June 2009 12,627 properties (2,976,310 acres) under agreement in Public Access programs.

4.7 – Ongoing. As of June 2009: 12 tracts involving 8,550 acres.

4.8 – In Progress. PANWTF turkey hunter safety & success brochure provided to PGC; mailed with 2009 special turkey hunter licenses (totaling 10,720).

4.9 – Future (2010), obtain via PALS & Game-Take Survey.

4.10 – Ongoing, cooperative effort with NWTF. Advanced hunter education will address this as well. PANWTF turkey hunting success & safety brochure, published in PA Hunting/Trapping Digest, PANWTF website mailed with special spring turkey license in 2009.

4.11 – Ongoing. Calendar Year 2008: 175 violations prosecuted, 17% decrease from CY 2007's 210 violations.

Objective and Strategies	By End of Fiscal Year (e.g., FY 2006 = July 06 – June 07)									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Wild Turkey Protection										
Strategy:										
5.1 Assess compliance with laws and regulations to protect the wild turkey resource	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
5.2 Use wild turkey decoys and other appropriate law enforcement tools to discourage road hunting and poaching, and utilize partnerships to assist with purchasing equipment	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
5.3 Seek legislation to increase penalties for serious violations	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cooperative Partnerships Objective										
Strategy:										
6.1 Assist states and Canadian provinces with wild turkey restoration through trap and transfers where feasible	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
6.2 Continue the partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Progress:

Complete updates to be provided by BWHM at PGC/PANWTF Annual Cooperative Meeting, June, 2010.

Progress to June 30, 2009:

5.1 - Ongoing. 175 wild turkey violations in CY 2008. Added species code to PGC prosecution database (02/2008).

5.2 – Ongoing. Used decoys 8 times in 2008, 2 citations issued, 17% of vehicles that stopped discharged a firearm/bow at decoy. PGC SC Region and Michaux Yellow Breeches Chapter NWTF are partnering in WMU 5A to have 2 decoys made by a local taxidermist for enforcing the 2009 fall turkey season closure in WMU 5A.

5.3 – In progress since Jan 2007; HB 2205, amended to HB97. House Fish and Game Committee voted the bill out of Committee (6/2/09) and awaiting action by the full House. PGC is supportive of all amendments.

6.1 – Completed and Ongoing. No requests for 2009 or 2010. 2006-2008 total transfers to South Dakota: 113.

6.2 – Ongoing. PGC grant to NWTF for Regional Biologist, NWTF Grant-in-Aid research funding (2006-2009), PANWTF habitat superfund & other Hunting Heritage projects especially I&E, cooperative events (JAKES, WITO, Wheelin’ Sportsmen) & strong relationship with PANWTF.