

**NWTF Technical Committee Representatives' Report - PA Chapter NWTF
Board of Directors Meeting, March 2, 2008**

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

PANWTF Habitat Superfund Committee

Pennsylvania Game Commission technical committee member, Mary Jo Casalena, and Chief of Game Lands Planning and Development Division, Ben Jones, are members of this committee. Despite the smaller habitat budget again this year in order to set aside monies to be used as annual funding, the committee approved funding for 63 of the 83 proposals for a total of \$100,375.72 for wild turkey habitat throughout Pennsylvania plus \$10,000 for the seed subsidy program. Of these, 40 projects were funded in cooperation with the PA Game Commission for a total of \$68,784.77. Many proposals were funded at a lower level than requested because there simply were not enough funds available to fully fund every proposal. I sent memos to all regions informing them which proposals were funded and which were not and why. The committee has made several technological advances for project review, which made the review process more streamlined. The new electronic proposal form, created by the PGC, worked seamlessly this year as all PGC proposals were submitted electronically. In light of the Game Commission's current budget shortfall, when dollars for planning and implementation of wildlife habitat work are so critical, it is through cooperators such as the PANWTF, that the Game Commission is able to continue its mission.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study

The third field season of this four-year study has been underway since January. PGC staff, often with volunteer assistance, has legbanded 230 male turkeys from January to present, which is about 77% of the total needed (300). Trapping continues in all regions, and with recent snows and cold temperatures, which help attract turkeys to bait sites for trapping, we feel confident we will achieve our goal. Regional Totals are: NW: 59, SW: 39, NC: 37, SC: 38, NE: 15, SE: 42.

Annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show, Atlanta, GA

The Game Commission sincerely thanks the Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF for hosting the Wildlife Conservation Officer of the Year award recipient (WCO Beth Fife, Allegheny County), Joe Kurz award recipient Shayne Hoachlander (Land Manager, NW Region), and PGC-NWTF Technical Committee Representative Bob Boyd to the 2008 NWTF National Convention and Sports Show. They enjoyed this unique opportunity and learned a great deal more regarding all that the NWTF does for our wild turkey resource and hunting heritage.

As part of the NE Wild Turkey Technical Committee Mary Jo Casalena reviewed and provided comments on 18 NWTF Grant-in-aid research proposals for wild turkey research, which were reviewed and rated during the National Technical Committee meeting in Atlanta. Our tri-state gobbler study is funded through this as well.

Bureau of Wildlife Conference

For the first time in 5 years, the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management held a 3-day conference for all Bureau employees as an opportunity to learn what each other is involved with. During the past 5 years the Bureau has increased over 3 times in size to the point where many Bureau employees do not know each other. Bureau employees are stationed throughout the state and often don't interact, so this Conference was an excellent and enlightening experience for all to not only meet each other, but also to be updated on many new programs administered through Harrisburg. All research biologists had an opportunity to provide a powerpoint presentation regarding their current research and management topics. There were 87 attendees, including two commissioners, all executive and bureau directors and four region directors.