

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

(DRAFT of Progress to June 2008 listed at bottom of each page – Final report to be presented at PGC/PANWTF annual meeting, June 9, 2008)

Objective and Strategies	By End of Year									
	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:

- 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 – Complete for 2007 and ongoing for 2008. – On Schedule.
- 1.4 - Complete for 2007 and ongoing for 2008, beginning to use as trend data. – On Schedule.
- 1.5 - Not started yet. On hold until POS is implemented (we are currently doing a general turkey hunter survey, Strategy 3.1).
- 1.6 – In progress. Working with B.Eriksen, VT's turkey biologist & model author, J.McQhee to customize model for PA & VT. – On Schedule.
- 1.7 – In progress. Began, 2008, collecting productivity data to use for proper model functioning. – On Schedule.
- 1.8 – In progress. – On Schedule.
- 1.9 – Future strategy (2010), but study design began in Dec. 2007. ERROR in table – should begin project proposal in 2008, working with PSU. - Ahead of Schedule.
- 1.10 – Not started yet. Plan to begin this June – information needed for hen study proposal.
- 1.11 – Not started yet. Waiting for data from 2008-spring season. – Anticipate being on schedule.
- 1.12 – Began, but not completed. Attempt completion in 2008. Was not priority & beyond time commitment of turkey biologist. – Behind Schedule.
- 1.13 – Postponed. Was not able to incorporate into PGC standard bear complaint system. Not priority & beyond time commitment of turkey biologist.
- 1.14 – To be completed by B.Eriksen.
- 1.15 & 1.16 – Future strategies.

Objective and Strategies	By End of Year									
	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	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
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:

- 2.1 – 2.8 – To be completed by Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management (BWHM). Report will be provided at PGC/PANWTF annual meeting, 07/09/08.
- 3.1 – In progress, even though we do not have a biometrician. Survey to be mailed on July 28, 2008. – On Schedule.
- 3.2 – Ongoing. Annual reports in website, news releases, TMA 7B study research paper was published in NWT Symposium. In cooperation with NWTF Reg'1 Bio.
- 3.3 – Ongoing. 6 news releases in 2007, Turkey FAQs published as spring 2008 Game News article. In cooperation with NWTF Reg'1 Bio.
- 3.4 – Ongoing. Turkey FAQs published as spring 2008 Game News article. In cooperation with NWTF Reg'1 Bio.
- 3.5 – Not started yet. In cooperation with PGC WCO's, Reg'1 Biol, NWTF Reg'1 Bio. – Behind schedule – not a top priority & beyond time commitment of turkey biologist.

Objective and Strategies	By End of Year									
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Hunting Heritage/Hunter Safety Objective										
Strategy:										
4.1 Evaluate the option of expanding hunter education to include an optional and separate course on wild turkey hunting and safety			•							
4.2 Determine participation rates of the 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:

- 4.1 – (to be completed by BI&E). Postponed due to lack of funds. Federal Assistance Program funding will be requested. Begin 2009, implementation in 2010 the earliest.
- 4.2 – (to be completed by BI&E). Contingent on Point-of-sale licensing.
- 4.3 – Spring opportunities on hold until completion of gobbler study. PANWTF working on fall turkey mentored youth program.
- 4.4 - Postponed until completion of gobbler study.
- 4.5 - Postponed until completion of gobbler study.
- 4.6 & 4.7 – Ongoing (to be completed by BWHM).
- 4.8 – Postponed until implementation of Point-of-Sale system for hunting licenses.
- 4.9 – Future (2010).
- 4.10 & 4.11 & 4.13- Ongoing (BI&E & BWP).
- 4.12 – Completed at April 2008 Board of Commission meeting.

Objective and Strategies	By End of Year									
	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:

5.1 - Ongoing. (BWP) 220 wild turkey violations in 2007. Added species code to PGC prosecution database (02/2008).

5.2 – Ongoing. Used decoys 4 times in 2007, 1 citation written, 14% of vehicles that stopped discharged a firearm/box at decoy. Unsuccessfully attempted funding partnership with PANWTF to purchase decoys (BWP).

5.3 – In progress since Jan 2007; HB 2205 currently in committee (BWP).

6.1 – Ongoing. In 2008 transferred 44 wild turkeys to S. Dakota, trapped from nuisance flocks in the Pittsburgh area.

6.2 – Ongoing, especially through NWTF Grant-in-Aid research funding, PGC grant to NWTF for Regional Biologist & strong relationship with PANWTF.