



Hunt. Conserve. Share.

Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Strategic Plan Synopsis



The wild turkey (*Meleagris gallapavo*), the largest gallinaceous bird in North America, exists in a variety of habitats throughout its range. This now abundant bird was almost forced to extinction in the early 1990s through unregulated hunting and improper land management. Today, the wild turkey population is more than 7 million birds strong thanks to state, federal and provincial agencies and hunters across North America who supported restoration efforts. Currently, wild turkeys can be found in 49 states, 7 provinces and across Mexico.

As the need to trap and transfer wild turkeys becomes less necessary, it is important to look toward the future of North America's greatest game birds and work to make sure that future is bright. The North American Wild Turkey Management Plan: An Intergraded Approach to Wildlife Management, is designed to do just that.

Mission: To ensure that wild turkey populations and their habitats are managed and conserved to benefit all associated wildlife species through collaborative conservation.

The North American Wild Turkey Management Plan is a compilation of regional and state/provincial plans that will outline goals to help wildlife management agencies and the NWTF's dedicated volunteers target the most important factors in wild turkey conservation and protecting our hunting heritage.

In support of the North American Wild Turkey Management Plan and the continued efforts of wild turkey conservation and the preservation of the hunting tradition, since 1985, the NWTF's Pennsylvania State Chapter and its members have spent more than \$4.4 million in Pennsylvania. The money has been raised through Hunting Heritage Banquets and administered jointly by the NWTF, its state chapters and state wildlife agencies. The Pennsylvania State Chapter's priorities fall into five categories: Habitat Enhancement, Hunter Access, Wild Turkey Research, Education and Outreach.

Habitat Enhancement

- Goal** Improve and maintain a minimum of 150 acres of permanent wildlife openings on state and federally owned lands.
- Goal** Support prescribed fire efforts throughout the state.
- Goal** Support efforts to re-establish food-producing hardwood tree stands. (oak, beech)
- Goal** Increase new growth habitat, also known as early successional habitat.
- Goal** Continue to manage brood habitat on state and federal lands.
- Goal** Continue to establish winter wildlife food sources by planting fruit-bearing trees and shrubs.
- Goal** Actively manage spring seeps for wildlife.

Hunter Access

- Goal** Support strategic acquisition of public hunting lands.
- Goal** Promote access and hunting in state, federal and local land management plans.
- Goal** Work with private landowners, corporate partners, industrial landowners and public land management agencies to provide increased public hunting opportunity.
- Goal** Support and influence legislation related to access, hunting and conservation of public and private lands.

Wild Turkey Research

- Goal** Provide up to \$10,000 to purchase equipment and supplies needed by the Game Commission for the Tri-State Gobbler Banding Initiative.
- Goal** Chapter volunteers will assist agency personnel in trapping operations whenever possible, reducing personnel costs and enhancing the cooperative relationship between the agency and NWTF.



Education

Goal Devote more than 15 percent of the Hunting Heritage Super Fund budget towards turkey hunting safety education projects.

Outreach

Goal Offer each local chapter up to \$500 towards JAKES events.

Goal Offer each local chapter up to \$250 towards Women in the Outdoors events.

Goal Offer each local chapter up to \$500 towards Wheelin' events.

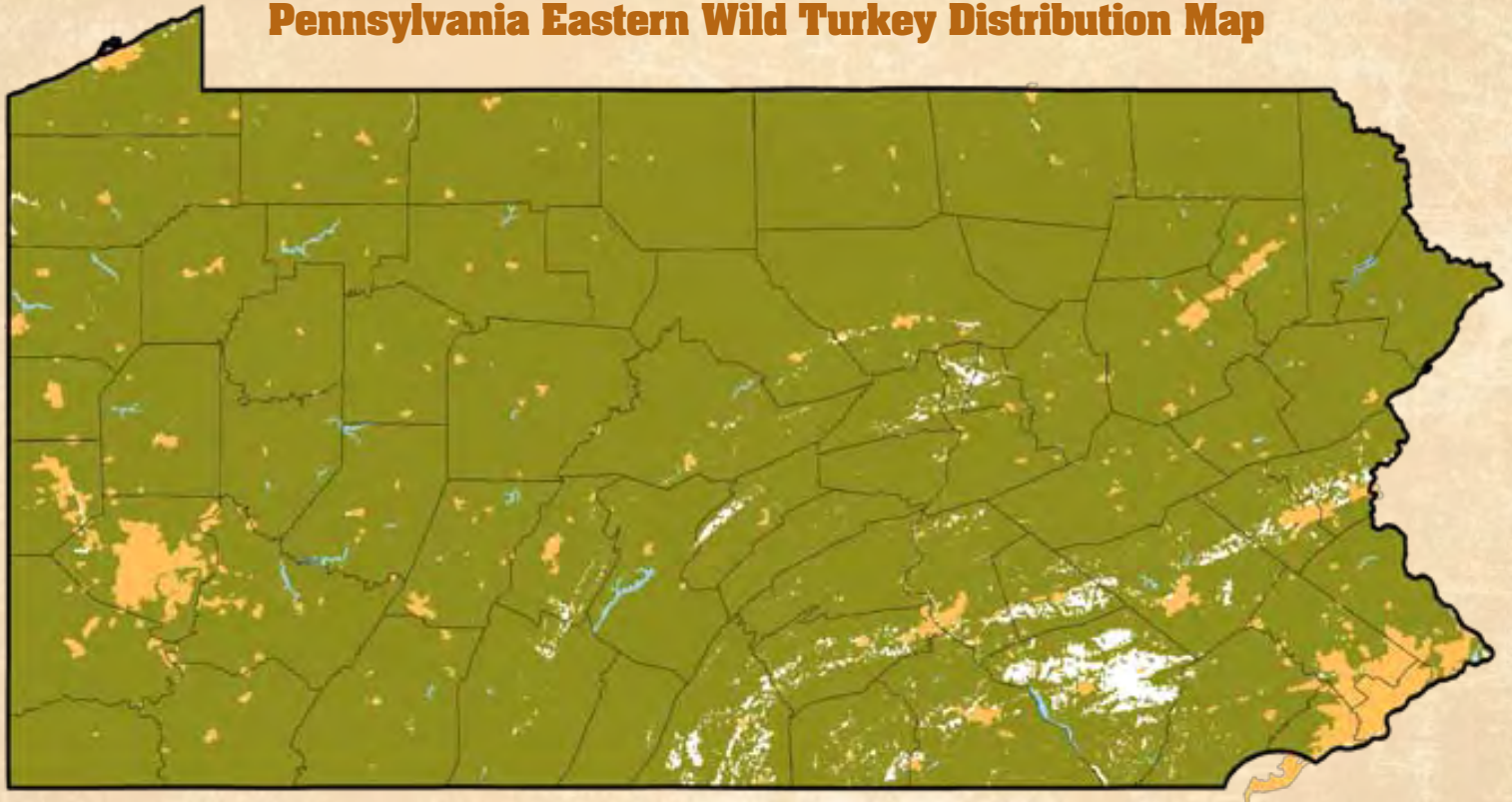
Goal Offer each local chapter up to \$250 towards the local scholarship program.

Goal Offer each local chapter one JAKES education box.

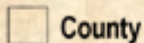
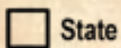


Pennsylvania is home to the eastern wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*), which can be found in every Pennsylvania county. The eastern wild turkey is the most widely distributed, abundant and hunted turkey subspecies of the five distinct subspecies found in the United States. It inhabits the eastern half of the country and is primarily found in the hardwood and mixed forests from New England and southern Canada to northern Florida and west to Texas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota.

Pennsylvania Eastern Wild Turkey Distribution Map



Legend



Suitable Wild Turkey Range



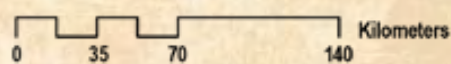
Unsuitable Wild Turkey Range



Urban



Lake



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**NORTH AMERICAN
WILD TURKEY
MANAGEMENT PLAN**