

PA Chapter NWTF  
WTM Committee Report

Saturday-Sunday, January 6-7.

1. Revised Wild Turkey Management Plan – final adoption January 2007 by PGC Executive Staff;
2. Getting the revised wild turkey management plan, 2006-2015, functional, strategies defined, and the plan fully funded;
3. Northeast Wild Turkey Population Model – implement in wild turkey management plan – PA NWTF has \$15,000 invested in the development; model data and modeling results are requirements for future wild turkey management decisions;
4. Extending spring gobbler season to May 31;
5. Expanding youth spring gobbler hunting to all day;
6. Expanding youth spring gobbler to more than one day;
7. Expanding regular spring gobbler season to all day;
8. Mentored Youth Hunting, including fall turkey hunting season in regulation;
9. Continued recommendations to reduce WMU fall season lengths, this coming fall season WMU 2A, 2F, 2G; or to increase fall season lengths when management data supports decision; based on current field data, information from harvest densities, including population densities and hunter densities, and charted measurements outlined in the wild turkey management plan;
10. Additional second spring gobbler regulation – continue review and recommend and additional change;
11. State-wide gobbler leg band research – first year 2006 completed, starting work on second year of project; first year was funded (approximately) \$40,000 from NWTF Grant In Aid and PA Chapter NWTF \$14,000 for PGC research project materials and equipment, PGC funded administrative, staff and transportation requirements;
12. When 4 year state-wide gobbler leg band study is completed in 2009, submit next research proposal in 2008 and request funding for state-wide hen telemetry study for 4 years; state-wide are two key words;
13. PGC hunting license increase legislation – supporting need for PGC additional revenue, and supporting alternative funding options supported by PGC and PFSC;
14. Turkey Hunting License – continue with our position statement, articles and news release supporting need for combined spring and fall turkey hunting license, [old HB 1601]; support fully funded wild turkey management plan;
15. Turkey dogs for fall hunting season, providing support material and direction for PA Turkey Dogs Association;
16. Support Sunday hunting as regulated by PGC [old HB 904], required legislation to change Title 34 Game Law;
17. Spring gobbler season Orange regulation, recommendation to remove word " 'mandatory', replace with 'voluntary'";
18. Comprehensive PGC wild turkey hunter safety module - NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety DVD, and helping PGC reach out to 310,000 turkey hunters with additional hunter safety and ethics information and material;
19. Turkey hunter safety and ethics – HRSI 5 year trends are declining, work with hunters and PGC to continue HRSI trending;

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20. NWTF turkey management outreach programs - Wild Turkey Woodlands, fund HHSF Habitat, Safety Education, Land Acquisition, Habitat programs, Conservation seed programs, Project HELP, Operation Appleseed, and Get In The Game;
21. Wild turkey population growth – review charts in revised WTMP – future WMU goals, yearly fluctuations but no dramatic declines like back in TMA 5B when the TMA 7B Wild Turkey Task Force was formed in 1996;
22. 2007 spring gobbler tag application and filing dates – January 1 – April 1, 2007;
- 23) Status of PGC Automated hunting license purchases for 2007-2008 hunting license year, 2008 special second spring gobbler tag could be changing;
23. Pennsylvania Turkey Hunter's Guide designed, funded, and give to every Pennsylvania turkey hunter yearly after automated hunting license purchase is implemented and funding provided by a turkey hunting license.

As of January 5, 2007 previous wild turkey management accomplishments / successes in Pennsylvania since 1958:

1. PGC begins full scale wild turkey trap and transfer to repopulate wild turkey in Pennsylvania;
2. PGC Wild Turkey Biologists Jerry Wunz and Arnie Hayden doing several wild turkey population, habitat, regional research projects;
3. Spring gobbler season started in 1968 with one week season, expanded to two weeks in 1972, three weeks in 1975, four weeks in 1984;
4. Escalating and improving turkey trap and transfer both in-state and out-of-state in the 1970's-1980's-1990's;
5. Closing turkey game farm in 1980;
6. Established turkey management areas [TMA] in 1985;
7. Continuing use of wild turkey in-state trap and transfer;
8. Expanded or reduced fall season lengths 3 times since 1990 to improve wild turkey populations due to bad winters, bad spring hatch, bad recruitment;
9. New turkey hunting blaze orange regulation changes in the early 1990's;
10. Reduced blaze orange regulation changes in 1995;
11. PGC Wild Turkey Biologist Bill Drake completes first 5 year Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania and is incorporated in April 1999;
12. Improving turkey hunting safety portion of PGC HTE course, adding turkey hunting safety questions to HTE test in 2001;
13. Wild turkey transfers into southeast Pennsylvania to complete PGC wild turkey restoration program, 2000-2003;
14. Defining and completing TMA 7B wild turkey research project on Michaux State Forest as a requirement from TMA 7B Wild Turkey Task Force, partially funded by PA Chapter NWTF - \$82,000; Now called WMU 5A Management Unit – WMU 5A Wild Turkey Task Force;
15. PGC Wild Turkey Biologist Mary Jo Casalena coordinates TMA 7B wild turkey research project, prepares executive summary, and completes research presentation for NWTF Wild Turkey Symposium, December 2005.
16. Closing fall turkey hunting seasons in TMA 9A in 2001 WMU 5A], WMU 5B [TMA 9B] in 2003;

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17. Northeastern states commissioned development of a regional wild turkey population model in 2001;
18. PGC completes turkey hunter survey to determine hunter attitudes, characteristics, and satisfaction in 2001;
19. Record number of wild turkey in Pennsylvania in 2001, 410,000 estimated state-wide population;
20. Use of manmade blinds to hunt turkeys is legal in 2002;
21. PGC permit required prior to releasing game-farm pen raised turkeys, to help eliminate release of game-farm turkeys;
22. PGC modified blaze orange recommendations in 2002-3003 not enacted;
23. Wild turkey management now accomplished using 22 Wildlife Management Units starting 2003;
24. Closed WMU 5A [TMA 7B] to fall turkey hunting in 2003, recommendation from Wild Turkey Task Force;
25. Research continued on WMU 5A to determine turkey usage of herbaceous openings on Michaux State Forest;
26. NWTF Wild turkey Biologist Bob Eriksen and PGC Wild Turkey Biologist begin series of informational, educational articles for PGC Game News, PGC Hunting and Trapping Annual , PA Chapter NWTF Turkey Talk;
27. State-wide second spring gobbler tag in 2006, 8,040 licenses tags sold, legislation passed, governor signed in 2004;
28. State-wide gobbler leg band study in 2006, first year completed of 4 year research project, funded by NWTF;
29. Mentored Youth Hunting Program signed into law 2006, turkey hunting starts in 2007 spring gobbler season;
30. PGC Wild Turkey Biologist Mary Jo Casalena completes revisions for updated 2006-2015 Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania.