

Wild Turkey Management, Turkey Hunting, and Turkey Hunting Safety Position Statements as part of the WTM Committee Report for January 2009 Board meeting.

PA Chapter NWTF Supports Wild Turkey Management
updated by Don Heckman, member Wild Turkey Management Committee

PA Chapter NWTF position statements supporting wild turkey management, turkey hunting and calling, and turkey hunter safety and ethics.

As part of the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania, PA Chapter NWTF supports:

- 1) PGC "Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania".
- 2) fully funded PGC "Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania".
- 3) turkey hunting license/stamp for a fee.

The Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF Board of Director's supports these additional wild turkey management and turkey hunting position statements:

1) wild turkey management regulations and decision making based on facts, in the field, in the ground/on the ground data, as defined and outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania. We support wildlife management regulations based on scientific wildlife management principles, data, and indices determined by PGC wildlife biologists, land managers, and NWTF wild turkey biologist.

2) delaying any additional hunting opportunities for all day youth and adult spring gobbler hunting until 2010 when state-wide gobbler leg band research project is completed. Could go out to 2013 if spring gobbler season ending May 31 each year is adopted as part of spring season regulations.

3) continued monitoring of relevant data provided by PGC Wild Turkey Biologist's to review fall season lengths across WMU's. We support reducing season lengths or closing certain WMU's where data validates populations are declining.

4) 23 WMU's and their current boundaries for state-wide wild turkey management as outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania.

5) PGC yearly funding of the Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania. We continue to support wild turkey research to collect better data on the wild turkey resource and their habitat, and turkey hunters.

6) PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania guidelines for setting current dates for spring gobbler season and fall turkey hunting season.

7) further research on Fall turkey hunting seasons where as 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 turkey hunting incidents have been decreased. What have turkey hunters done right these last 7 fall turkey hunting seasons to impact and help decrease turkey hunting incidents?

8) continued improvement in reducing all turkey hunting season HRSI's; continued improving NWTF and PA Chapter turkey hunter safety and ethics information and education material and brochures; continued support for "Turkey Hunter's Choice" no mandatory orange while moving for spring gobbler season; review of mandatory orange for fall turkey hunting options.

9) recommendation to include a turkey hunting license in any future PGC hunting license increase package if recommended by PGC and Legislators. We support funding the yearly budget of the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania as part of the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management budget with revenues generated from a turkey hunting license, with excess revenue dollars being available for use in the PGC General Fund.

10) Mentored Youth Hunting Program, we support including fall turkey hunting season regulation in mentored youth hunting.

11) Legislative resolution to research and study Sunday hunting, and support Legislation to allow PGC to set Sunday hunting regulations.