

## **PA Chapter NWTF Wild Turkey Management Report – August 21, 2008**

### **Wild Turkey Management changes require PGC Staff and Commissioner overview.**

- 1) Support revised PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania, 2006-2015, operational with 47 strategies documented, measuring strategies as outlined, and the plan fully funded for 10 years;
- 2) Northeast Wild Turkey Population Model – implement in wild turkey management plan – PA NWTF has \$15,000 invested in development; model data and modeling results are requirements for future wild turkey management decisions;
- 3) Recommendation to extend last day of spring gobbler season to May 31 --- Commissioner's approved Memorial Day, May 26, 2008 as last day of 2008 spring gobbler season under final rule making on April 18, 2007 Commissioner meeting; Commissioner's approved Memorial Day, May 25, 2009 as last day of 2009 spring gobbler season;
- 4) Recommendation for Mentored Youth Hunting to including fall turkey hunting season in regulation;
- 5) Recommendation to expanding youth spring gobbler season and regular spring gobbler season to all day hunting starting 2011, after 4 year gobbler leg band research project is completed in 2009 and project evaluation is completed by 2010;
- 6) Recommendation to expanding youth spring gobbler to more than one day;
- 7) Continue recommendations to reduce WMU fall season lengths as management plan setting fall season guidelines are determined; using management data based on current field data, harvest densities information, population densities and hunter densities, as charted measurements outlined in the wild turkey management plan; and to increase fall season lengths when management data supports regulation change;
- 8) Additional second spring gobbler regulation – continue review and recommend additional changes if/as needed;
- 9) State-wide gobbler leg band research – first year 2006 completed, second year 2007 completed, third year 2008 completed, fourth year for project Winter 2009; first three years of research project funding support from NWTF and PANWTF is \$145,870 from NWTF Grant In Aid and PA Chapter NWTF Hunting Heritage Super Fund for research project equipment and materials; PGC funded administrative, staff and transportation requirements, other agency project expenses; [\[on-going - on schedule\]](#)
- 10) Four year state-wide gobbler leg band study will be completed in 2009 – final project results and recommendations will be compiled by 2010; submit next wild turkey research proposal in 2008/2009 and request funding for state-wide hen telemetry study for 4 years – 2010-2013. [\[telemetry is Wild Turkey Management Committee and PANWTF Board recommendation\]](#)

### **Legislation changes require Governor signature.**

- 1) PGC hunting license increase legislation – supporting need for PGC additional revenue, and supporting alternative funding option recommendations. Turkey Hunting License – continue with our position statement, articles and news release supporting need for combined spring and fall turkey hunting license, support fully funded wild turkey management plan to complete yearly objectives and strategies;
- 2) Support Sunday hunting as regulated by PGC, required legislation to change Title 34 Game Law;
- 3) Do not support legislation [Title 34 Game Code] through legislative wording that changes PGC seasons and bag limits; seasons and bag limits are PGC Regulation [Title 58 Regulation Code].