

PA NWTF Wild Turkey Management Committee will be working on these issues and topics in 2007-2008 Don Heckman, PANWTF Executive Officer, WTM Committee Chairman, August 21, 2007.

Wild Turkey Management changes require PGC Staff and Commissioner overview.

- 1) Revised PGC Wild Turkey Management Plan – final adoption February 21, 2007 by PGC Executive Staff, **COMPLETE:**
- 2) Getting the revised PGC Wild Turkey Management Plan, 2006-2015, operational, measuring strategies as outlined, and the plan fully funded for 10 years;
- 3) 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;
- 4) Recommendation to extending spring gobbler season to May 31 --- Commissioner's approved May 26, 2008 for final rule making on April 17, 2007 Commissioner meeting;
- 5) Recommendation for Mentored Youth Hunting to including fall turkey hunting season in regulation;
- 6) Recommendation to expanding youth spring gobbler hunting to all day;
- 7) Recommendation to expanding youth spring gobbler to more than one day;
- 8) Recommendation to expanding regular spring gobbler season to all day after 4 year gobbler leg band research project is completed;
- 9) Continued recommendations to reduce WMU fall season lengths as management plan setting fall season guidelines are determined; 2007 recommendation WMU 2A, 2F, 2G be reduced to 2 weeks based on current field data, harvest densities information, population densities and hunter densities, as charted measurements outlined in wild turkey management plan; to increase fall season lengths when management data supports regulation change; Commissioner's approved 2A, 2F for 2 week fall season, 2G remains 3 weeks due to social and political issues, 4D increases to 3 weeks for final rule making on April 17, 2007 Commissioner meeting;
- 10) Additional second spring gobbler regulation – continue review and recommend additional changes as needed;
- 11) State-wide gobbler leg band research – first year 2006 completed, second year 2007 completed, third year for project Winter 2008; first two years funding from NWTF and PANWTF is \$100,000 from NWTF Grant In Aid and PA Chapter NWTF Hunting Heritage Super Fund for research project materials and equipment, PGC funded administrative, staff and transportation requirements;
- 12) Four year state-wide gobbler leg band study will be completed in 2009, submit next research proposal in 2008 and request funding for state-wide hen telemetry study for 4 years.

Legislation changes require Governor signature.

- 1) PGC hunting license fees increase legislation – supporting need for PGC additional revenue, and supporting concept for alternative funding options;
- 2) Turkey Hunting License – continue with our position statement, articles and news release supporting need for combined spring and fall turkey hunting license, [old HB 2601 as baseline]; support fully funded wild turkey management plan to complete yearly objectives and strategies;
- 3) Turkey dogs for fall hunting season, providing support material and reference documents to PA Turkey Dogs Association, **SB580 Signed - Complete;**
- 4) Support Sunday hunting as regulated by PGC [HB 779], required legislation to change Title 34 Game Law;
- 5) 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].

Other PA NWTF Board Committee actions requiring PGC Staff and Commissioner Overview.

- 1) Spring gobbler season Orange regulation, recommendation to remove wording "must be worn at all times while moving", replace with hunters choice wording;
- 2) Comprehensive PGC wild turkey hunter safety module - NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety DVD provided to PGC THE classes and availability to general public; helping PGC reach out to 310,000 turkey hunters with additional turkey hunter safety and ethics information and material; turkey hunter safety education tri-fold pamphlet to be mailed and/or handed out at hunting license POS; included in PGC Huntign Digest as part of our annual ad; NWTF HUNT SAFELY green sticker on firearms and bows; NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety Task Force material;
- 3) Turkey hunter safety and ethics – HRSI 5 year trends are declining, work with hunters and PGC to continue HRSI trending --- PGC Staff HRSI report presented at June 2007 Commissioner meeting;
- 4) NWTF turkey management outreach programs - Wild Turkey Woodlands, fund HHSF Habitat, Safety Education, Land Acquisition, Habitat programs, Conservation seed programs, Project HELP, Operation Appleseed, Operation Oak, and Get In The Game - Hunting Heritage Club.

NWTF Pennsylvania Comprehensive Wild Turkey Management Plan.

- 1) NWTF Wild Turkey Management Plan - support management plan recommendations and funding for management plan criteria as directed by NWTF Wild Turkey Biologist.