

Wild Turkey Management Committee Special Report for August 2008 Board meeting.

PA Chapter NWTF Supports Wild Turkey Management
by Don Heckman, PA Chapter NWTF - Executive Officer
Wild Turkey Management Committee Chairman

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 determined by PGC wildlife biologists and land managers and NWTF wild turkey biologist. [position statement - on-going recommendation of Wild Turkey management Committee and PANWTF Board Directors]
- 2) purchasing the additional 2nd spring gobbler tag prior to the start of the season. [done can be removed]
- 3) delaying any additional hunting opportunities for all day adult spring gobbler hunting until 2010 when state-wide gobbler leg band research project is completed. [still under consideration - on-going recommendation of Wild Turkey management Committee and PANWTF Board Directors]
- 4) 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. [wild turkey management plan objective and strategies - on-going recommendation of Wild Turkey management Committee and PANWTF Board Directors]
- 5) 22 WMU's and their current boundaries for state-wide wild turkey management as outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania. [on-going, would we support increasing to 28 or 32?]

- 6) 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. [policy statement - on-going recommendation of Wild Turkey management Committee and PANWTF Board Directors]
- 7) PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania guidelines for setting current dates for spring gobbler season and fall turkey hunting season. [policy statement - on-going recommendation of Wild Turkey management Committee and PANWTF Board Directors]
- 8) further research on Fall turkey hunting seasons where in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006, and 2007, turkey hunting incidents have dramatically decreased. What have turkey hunters done right these last 5-6 fall turkey hunting seasons to impact and help decrease turkey hunting incidents? [on-going -- continued support of turkey hunting safety, yes we have eliminated mandatory wearing of orange while moving in spring season -- when do we turn our attention to fall hunting season regulation and what do we say and recommend about overlapping fall hunting seasons, multiple mandatory orange regulations?]
- 9) based recommendations from the NWTF Turkey Hunter Task Force, PA Chapter NWTF supports removing mandatory spring turkey hunter orange regulation. [COMPLETED!!! Can be removed but if removed CAN NEVER BE FORGOTTEN EVER as the years turn into the next decade!!!] [17 year regulation was to high a price to pay. however remembering individual incident shooting victim trauma or death can not be left out or forgotten in the equation when it comes to NWTF Turkey Hunter Task Force evaluation, continued dialogue and improved hunter safety information, recommendations, THINK SAFETY HUNT SAFELY]
- 10) consideration to include a turkey hunting license in the 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. [Recommendation keeps getting lost in "what will PGC take" legislation; on-going recommendation of Wild Turkey management Committee and PANWTF Board Directors]
- 11) Mentored Youth Hunting Program, we support mentored youth being included in fall turkey hunting season regulations. [On-going recommendation of Wild Turkey Management Committee and PANWTF Board Directors]

12) Legislative resolution to research and study Sunday hunting, and support Legislation to allow PGC to set Sunday hunting regulations.
[On-going recommendation of Wild Turkey management Committee and PANWTF Board Directors]

What new position statements will Wild Turkey Management Committee or Board of Directors add?