

Regional Biologist Report
Bob Eriksen, NWTf Regional Biologist
August 1- September 30, 2010

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended September state chapter meetings in Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware
- Met with University of Delaware graduate student to discuss an ongoing research project and provide lost poult tapes
- Attended September PA NRCS Technical Committee and GRP subcommittee meetings in Harrisburg
- Presented power points on all day spring hunting, Super Fund procedures and the final gobbler banding and harvest report for the Pennsylvania Chapter Presidents' Weekend
- Arranged for judges and tabulators and served as emcee for the North Jersey Open Turkey Calling Contest at the State Fair
- Attended the Spruce Run Chapter JAKES Fishing Day in New Jersey
- Provided input on fall turkey hunting season change proposals at a stakeholders meeting with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Met with timber operators to sign contracts for the Bobbs Fork Forest Stewardship Agreement on Allegheny National Forest
- Attended a field meeting with USFS biologists, foresters and botanists and PGC land managers on site to flesh out the schedule for field work on the Beanfields Project on Allegheny National Forest
- Worked at the National Hunting and Fishing Day "Outdoor Wild" Expo organized by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Participated in a training session for Wildlife Conservation Officer Trainees on the new "Successful Turkey Hunting" curriculum developed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Represented the New Jersey Chapter at a National Hunting and Fishing Weekend Expo at a mall in New Jersey
- Conducted sessions on careers in wildlife for the Bradford County (PA) Green Career Day

Writing Projects

- Prepared articles on fall hunting safety, Super Fund budgets and the Anadarko Petroleum donation for "Pennsylvania Turkey Talk"
- Drafted an article on turkey hunting safety for "Pennsylvania Game News" and began to work on an article on all day spring hunting for that publication
- Prepared an article on the biological considerations for fall turkey hunting seasons for "Turkey Country"
- Prepared letters in support of timber harvest plans on the Raystown Lake Army Corps of Engineers property in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

- Prepared letters of support for changes to hunting regulations on Cape May National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey designed to open part of the refuge to turkey hunting

Special Projects

- Provided advice to Indiana DNR on agricultural damage by wild turkeys and discussed damage to commercial apples by wild turkeys with Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Completed a review of the final version of a manuscript I prepared for the Tenth National Wild Turkey Symposium
- Considerable time was spent working on plans for the Stewardship Agreement and a National Forest Foundation Grant on Allegheny National Forest which includes early successional habitat and grasslands management
- Discussed wild turkey introduction and management options with interested parties in the Canadian province of New Brunswick
- Continued developing budget reductions for FY 2010 and monthly expense projections for FY 2011 for the Northeast Region
- Assisted regional biologists with issues in their respective regions
- Prepared invoices for contributions to regional biologist support from US Forest Service, state agencies and state chapters
- Revised and sent second drafts of Nation Wild Turkey Technical Committee Resolutions on supplemental feeding, agricultural damage and residential problems associated with abundant wild turkeys to committee members
- Considerable time was spent managing the PA Department of Community and Economic Development grant in southwestern Pennsylvania
- Provided advice to Maryland DNR on mycoplasma in wild turkeys and test comparisons
- Provided advice to Pennsylvania Game Commission on techniques for summer trapping of wild turkeys, marking late-hatched poults and methods of determining sex and age of turkey poults
- Conducted an oak mast survey on SGL 35 for the Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Provided a review and advice to University of Delaware researchers on determining percent survival of turkey poults in telemetry studies
- Reviewed a paper submitted to the Journal of Wildlife Management on band retention in Rip Grande wild turkeys
- Reviewed and commented on a proposal for an early squirrel hunting season in west Virginia
- Met with contractor and approved a brood habitat improvement project on the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area in New Jersey

Super Fund Requests

- Processed 19 Pennsylvania Super Fund request forms, 4 New Jersey forms, 3 Delaware projects and 1 Maryland request

Information Requests

- Handled 19 requests for information on gobbling, wild turkey nesting, aging wild turkeys, odd-colored wild turkeys, habitat management and wild turkey ecology