

Regional Biologist Report
Bob Eriksen, NWTF Regional Biologist
October 1- December 31, 2010

Meetings and Presentations

- Attended the October meeting of the Pennsylvania Game Commission in Wilkes Barre
- Attended funeral services for Wildlife Conservation Officer David L. Grove slain in the line of duty in Pennsylvania representing NWTF and the PA Chapter
- Attended the annual meeting of the Wildlife Management Unit 5A Task Force at Michaux State Forest in Pennsylvania
- Attended an NRCS Partners meeting on Farm Bill Programs in State College, PA in November
- Attended the December Delaware Chapter Board of Directors meeting
- 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 check harvest units twice in October and once in November for the Bobbs Fork Forest Stewardship Agreement on Allegheny National Forest
- Attended a field meeting with USFS biologists, the Pinchot Institute and others evaluating Stewardship Agreement and Contract progress in US Forest Service Region 9. The meeting was held in Warren, PA and included a site visit to the habitat improvement site we are working on at the Beanfields
- Attended a “Hunter and Angler Roundtable” on Marcellus Shale natural gas development in Pennsylvania organized by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Met with the Wildlands Conservancy and Pennsylvania Game Commission representatives to review a 300+ acre piece of property offered for an addition to State Game Lands
- Participated in a training session for Wildlife Conservation Officer Trainees on the new “Successful Turkey Hunting” curriculum developed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Met with a PA Game Commission land management officer to plan habitat enhancement projects on State Game Lands 187 in Luzerne County

Writing Projects

- Prepared an article on the Allegheny National Forest Stewardship Agreement for “Pennsylvania Turkey Talk”
- Drafted an article on turkey hunting safety for “Pennsylvania Game News” and completed 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 an article on biological concerns regarding all day spring hunting for “Turkey Country”

- Prepared an article on accomplishments within the New Jersey Chapter Strategic Plan for the “Jersey Gobbler”
- Prepared three NWTF biologist blogs for our website
- 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
- Prepared a power point presentation on eastern coyotes for the Pennsylvania Chapter Rendezvous seminar schedule
- Attended the annual winter planning meeting for the NWTF Mid-Atlantic Region held in Estill, South Carolina
- Prepared a power point presentation on a gobbler survival and cause specific mortality study in New Jersey for the Tenth National Wild Turkey Symposium

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
- 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
- Set up an opportunity for CBS television to film wild turkeys in the field in southern New Jersey
- Provided information to a free lance writer on the NWTF regional biologist program
- Continued to discuss wild turkey introduction and management options with interested parties in the Canadian province of New Brunswick
- Developed 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
- 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 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 Rio Grande wild turkeys
- Met with biologists from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife to provide assistance with bear hunt planning
- Reviewed and commented on a proposal for an early squirrel hunting season in West Virginia
- Assisted state agency biologists in Maryland and Pennsylvania with plans for the 2011 Conservation Seed and Seed Subsidy Programs
- Provided information to a USDA researcher examining the genetic backgrounds of two domestic turkey breeds

- Worked at a bear check station on the first day of the 2010 black bear season in New Jersey and checked in 92 bears
- Coordinated efforts by Boone and Crockett Television to film a bear hunt in New Jersey

Super Fund Requests

- Processed 11 Pennsylvania Super Fund request forms, 1 New Jersey form, 1 Delaware project and 42 Maryland requests

Information Requests

- Handled 30 requests for information on gobbling, wild turkey nesting, aging wild turkeys, odd-colored wild turkeys, habitat management and wild turkey ecology