

**PA Chapter NWTF Wild Turkey Management Committee Report  
January 9, 2011 PANWTF January Board Meeting  
Submitted by Don Heckman, WTM Committee**

**Wild Turkey Management changes requiring PGC Staff and Commissioner overview.**

- 1) Support PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania, 2006-2015, goal, 8 objectives 47 strategies, with measurement timeline outlined, plans needs to be fully funded over the 10 years; management plan objectives and strategies are not being fully funded or followed.
- 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; no current update on data or model implementation.
- 3) Recommendation to extend last day of spring gobbler season to May 31, permanently ---  
**FINAL COMMISSIONER APPROVAL – BOC Meeting April 20, 2010.**
- 4) Recommendation for Mentored Youth Hunting to including fall turkey hunting season in regulation starting in 2011. HB 281 Mentored Youth Fall Hunting passed House. Legislation needs to be introduced and start over in 2011-2012 Legislative session. .  
PANWTF needs to continue to support “tag sharing” with Mentored Youth Hunters and then work with PGC to get their support to including fall turkey hunting with fall deer[doe] hunting.
- 5) Recommendation to expand youth spring gobbler season and regular spring gobbler season to all day hunting after 4 year gobbler leg band research project is completed in 2009, project evaluation will be completed in 2010, and recommendations will be documented. **At April 20, 2010 PGC Commissioner meeting they voted 8-0 to expand spring gobbler season for last two weeks of spring season to all day hunting starting Spring 2011.**
- 6) Recommendation to expand youth spring gobbler to more than one day.
- 7) Continue recommendations to reduce or increase WMU fall season lengths as management plan setting fall season guidelines are determined; using management data based on current field data and indices, harvest densities, population densities, and hunter densities, as charted measurements outlined in the wild turkey management plan; when management data supports regulation change. Fall turkey hunting regulations for season start and end date changes were adopted by PGC BOC at April 20 Meeting. PANWTF articles have been distributed documenting our disapproval of these fall turkey hunting season regulations.
- 8) PGC Gobbler Leg Band Research Study (2006-2009) has been completed. Study results have been documented by Dr. Duane Diefenbach and Mary Jo Casalena, and handed out to PA Chapter NWTF Board. What will be the PGC recommendations coming out of this research study and how will they be presented to PGC executive Staff, Commissioner’s, PA Chapter NWTF?
- 9) PGC submitted Fall Hen Harvest Rates Study to NWTF Technical Committee requesting funding for state-wide hen research/telemetry study for 4 years – 2010-2013. Bob Boyd resubmitted and presented NWTF Grant-In-Aid proposal for 2011-2013. NWTF Tech Committee is reviewing proposal. Mary Jo or Bob can update Board on final decision and payment schedule. Mary Jo presented Hen Harvest Rate Study Executive Summary at January 2010 Board meeting and update at March 7, 2010 Board meeting. PANWTF continues evaluation for state chapter project funding for remaining 3 years. With major changes adopted for 2010 fall turkey hunting season dates Hen Harvest Rate Study will continue as scheduled with changes to Objectives. PGC and NWTF Wild Turkey Biologists are reviewing research study and will update PANWTF Board. PGC Executive Summary for research project is being rewritten.
- 10) PA Chapter NWTF submitted position statement on 2010 Fall Turkey Hunting Season date changes to PGC Commissioners and Executive Staff. PA Chapter NWTF has also submitted position statement for news release across Pennsylvania, and submitted articles in Turkey Talk. NWTF Dr. James Earl Kenamer submitted support letter to PGC, Aug, 11, 2010. What will be the Board position statement and Commissioner Meeting comments for the 2011 Fall Season?
- 11) Wild Turkey Biologists Spring Options white paper has been finalized for PGC Executive Staff and Commissioner’s review. No report back from Commissioner’s or Staff on white paper document on possible suggestions outlined in white paper.
- 12) June 10, 2010, PGC Staff meeting with PA Chapter NWTF representatives in Harrisburg Headquarters building was held. Final meeting minutes were distributed on September 29, 2010. Time to review action items to see what is currently being done and what is still on the back burner before June 2011 meeting.

**Legislation changes that require Governor signature.**

- 1) Spring Turkey Hunting License proposed by PA Chapter NWTF Board of Directors. Support statement and benefits talking points will be distributed to several key Legislator’s, PGC Executive Staff, PGC Commissioner’s, and Local Chapter Presidents.

- 2) PGC hunting license increase legislation – no legislative action was taken on legislative bill introduced in 2009-2010 session. Waiting decision to introduce a new PGC Hunting License Increase Package and those licenses, tags, stamps that will be included for 2011-2012 session.
- 3) Support Sunday hunting as regulated by PGC, required legislation to change Title 34 Game Code. No Legislative was taken on legislative bill in 2009-2010 legislative session. Legislative bill will be introduced in 2011-2012 legislative session.
- 4) Do not support legislation [Title 34 Game Code] through legislative wording that changes PGC hunting seasons, bag limits, and shooting hours. PGC hunting seasons, bag limits, and shooting hours are changed by Board of Commissioners through PGC Regulation [Title 58 Code].

**Other Committee actions requiring PA Chapter NWTF Board participation and overview.  
PANWTF Spring Turkey Hunter Cooperative Program for Spring 2011 will be scheduled.**

**Other Committee actions requiring PGC Staff and Commissioner participation and overview.**

- 1) Turkey hunter safety and ethics – Comprehensive PGC wild turkey hunter safety - NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety DVD provided to PGC HTE classes and availability to general hunting public; helping PGC reach out to 300,000+- turkey hunters with additional turkey hunter safety and ethics information and material; PA Edition NWTF Turkey Hunting Success and Safety brochure; NWTF Turkey Hunter Safety Task Force material;
- 2) Annually review of meeting minutes from PGC Executive Staff and PA NWTF June meeting as provided by PGC Wild Turkey Biologist Mary Jo Casalena. Final June 2010 meeting minutes will be forwarded to PGC Staff and PANWTF Board. Important wild turkey management criteria and decision making changes have been accomplished since these joint partnership yearly meetings started back in the mid 1980's. Continue request for PGC wild turkey biologist to update PA Chapter Board at the January and June board meetings on status of Objectives and Strategies as outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania.
- 3) NWTF wild turkey management outreach programs - Wild Turkey Woodlands, Habitat Management, Safety Education, Land Acquisition, Conservation Seed programs, Project HELP, Operation Appleseed, Operation Oak, other budgeted NWTF outreach programs and HHSF Super Fund expenditures, support funding for NWTF's Pennsylvania Comprehensive Wild Turkey Management Plan, continue distributing PANWTF news releases and articles in Turkey Talk, Tell The Story – Pass It On.

**NWTF North American Wild Turkey Management Plan.**

- 1) Pennsylvania Comprehensive Wild Turkey Management Plan - support management plan objectives and recommendations, provide for fully funded management plan criteria as directed by NWTF Wild Turkey Biologist and NWTF Conservation Programs.