

Pennsylvania Chapter NWTf Turkey Hunting License Position Statement:

Turkey Hunting License Benefits, March 1, 2011

By Don Heckman, PA Chapter Executive Officer, Wild Turkey Management Committee

PA Chapter NWTf supports the need for a turkey hunting license. We continue to inform our members and all turkey hunters of the benefits of supporting a turkey hunting license. Turkey hunting license will identify the number of turkey hunters in order to support communications and safety initiatives, improve methods to provide better wild turkey management data, support increased habitat management programs, and support the future for the wild turkeys in Pennsylvania. [Spring and Fall Turkey Hunting License will identify number of turkey hunters in each hunting season.]

How Will a Turkey Hunting License Help?

- . Turkey hunter safety material can be provided directly to turkey hunters.
- . Determine how many turkey hunters there are in Pennsylvania, allowing biologists to make wild turkey management decision recommendations based on actual turkey hunter density numbers.
- . Turkey hunter opinions and satisfaction levels can be acquired more efficiently because the Game Commission will be able to contact turkey hunters directly.
- . As state-wide wild turkey populations increase better research data will provide additional information biologists need to make future management decisions.
- . Improved and more detailed information on wild turkey harvest densities will be available.
- . Better law enforcement aimed specifically at wild turkey violations.

How Will the Turkey Hunter Benefit?

- . Will provide turkey hunters with specific turkey hunting and wild turkey biology information, turkey hunting safety and ethics material.
- . Turkey hunter surveys will give you the ability to express your concerns and opinions about wild turkey management in Pennsylvania.
- . Better research data and hunting information about our wild turkey populations could result in expanded hunting opportunities in the future.

Why Should Turkey Hunters Support a Turkey Hunting License?

- . Wild turkey populations peaked above 400,000 in 2001; spring 2010 population is 360,000, above the previous 6 year average of 318,000.
- . With more than 258,000 estimated turkey hunter's additional state-wide wild turkey research needs to be completed, obtaining better data on state-wide population and harvest densities, hunter densities, and improved turkey hunter safety education and informational material needs to be developed.

Our wild turkey resource is a valuable asset to Pennsylvania. During the past 20 years Pennsylvania Game Commission has completed wild turkey restoration throughout the Commonwealth. Wild turkey management is now shifting focus to acquiring additional wild turkey population and turkey hunter management data helping Pennsylvania be a leader in wild turkey research and management.

For further PA Chapter NWTf information on wild turkey management look on:

www.panwtf.org

PGC web site link for wild turkey management plan:

http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/pgc/lib/pgc/wildturkey/turkey_plan.pdf