

Don Heckman, PA Chapter NWTF Executive Officer Report – January 8, 2012
Report of committee interactions, activities, action items, ideas, and completed items

Participated in several phone calls, conference calls, with Evan Heusinkveld from USSA on opportunity for mailing Sunday Hunting postcard to NWTF members in Pennsylvania. Worked with Evan and other Pennsylvania conservation and sportsmen's organization leaders on Sunday Hunting legislative solutions.

Worked with PANWTF Board on final approval of postcard wording to be mailed to NWTF members in Pennsylvania. Gave Evan approval to go with postcard v3 and get approval from NWTF, Edgefield for printing and mailing process.

Attended PGC WMU 5A Wild Turkey Task Force/Michaux State Forest meeting on October 11 at Michaux State Forest District Office. Mary Jo Casalena will once again send out the meeting minutes for approval.

Attended Special PGC Commissioner Meeting on December 20 in Harrisburg on final adoption of Commissioner Policy Manual. Policy manual is online on the PGC web site.

Attended Governor Corbett's Policy Meeting on December 21 for establishing Governor's Sportsmen's Advisory Councils for Adult and Youth Councils. Sent PANWTF Board email requesting the Board to support a representative for the Adult Sportsmen's Advisory Council. Dale Butler will be the PANWTF Representative to send in his letter of interest and resume.

Additional note worthy news

Return of women's outdoors programs: After a year's absence, National Wild Turkey Federation Women In the Outdoors programs were held regionally at Cabela's in Hamburg and Ontelaunee Fish and Game in New Tripoli. Also, Women's Outdoors Day, sponsored by the Schuylkill County Sportsmen's Association, was held at Friedensburg Fish and Game after a year's absence.

Credit: Doyle Dietz, RepublicanHerald, January 1, 2012

Continued expansion of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program and extending many hunting seasons to benefit youth by the Pennsylvania Game Commission: Several hunting seasons were extended for the 2011-12 license year by the Pennsylvania Game Commission board of game commissioners, with the primary goal of providing youngsters with additional opportunities afield. However, the biggest news came when state legislators gave the board the authority to permit licensed hunters to transfer one antlerless deer permit per year to a youngster in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.
Credit: Doyle Dietz, RepublicanHerald, January 1, 2012

Today we have more black bears and more wild turkeys than we have ever had. Deer populations seem to be picking up again too. Another change we have seen over the years is the rise of special interest conservation groups. Each group specializes raising funds to do habitat improvement for its target group and education programs for hunter

safety. These groups have contributed to and partnered with the Game Commission in projects and programs that benefit various wildlife.

The National Wild Turkey Federation does habitat and research work on a national basis to the tune of millions of dollars. The Ruffed Grouse Society is celebrating 50 years as an organization this year. There are elk societies, Trout Unlimited, whitetail deer organizations and others, all with an aim to promote safe and ethical hunting, and habitat and research projects for all the kinds of wildlife. Credit: Shirley

Grenoble, Altoona Mirror, January 1, 2012