

NWTF Technical Committee Representatives' Report - PA Chapter NWTF

Board of Directors Meeting, January 6, 2013

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Harvest Management

The number of fall turkey season harvest report cards received is still being tallied by our Data Resources Division. The approximate number of harvest reports is 9% above the number received by the same time last year, but 36% below the previous 10-year average for number reported by the same time period, which demonstrates that fall turkey harvests have been trending down. Hunters now have 3 ways to report their turkey and deer harvests: mail in the postage-paid postcard located in the Hunting/Trapping Digest, report on-line, or call the toll-free phone system.

Now that the Game Commission conducts a spring gobble hunter survey annually in June, final spring harvest results are available prior to the deadline for season recommendations in early autumn. The final 2012 spring wild turkey harvest, including second harvests from the special turkey license, was 35,392, which was similar to 2011 (35,465), but 12% below the previous 3-year average (40,317) and 13% below the previous 10-year average (40,790). Spring and fall harvests from 2006 to present, by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU), are provided in Table 1.

Wild Turkey Summer Sightings & Reproduction, 2012

Turkey summer sighting results, as determined from Wildlife Conservation Officer surveys, were 17% below the previous 3-year average and 23% below the previous 10-year average. Overall poult production was similar to last year, but decreased from the previous 4-year average. The declining productivity in Pennsylvania may be indicative of density-dependent effects on reproduction, especially in some WMUs and is a topic the Northeast Upland Gamebird Technical Committee is addressing.

PRELIMINARY Fall 2012 Turkey Hunting-Related Shooting Incidents

Currently, no fall turkey hunting incident reports for 2012 have been submitted. Reports for spring and fall will be finalized by April 2013.

SB 274 – Tag Transfer Legislation

Beginning with the 2012 fall turkey season mentored youth are now permitted to harvest a wild turkey by the mentor transferring their own fall turkey tag to the mentored youth. This regulation is consistent with the Wild Turkey Management Plan, strategy 4.3; annually assess and explore opportunities for continued development of the turkey hunting aspect of the youth mentored hunting program in Pennsylvania. The harvest is unlikely to significantly affect the fall harvest and the current hen turkey harvest and survival rate study. Harvests are being monitored via harvest reporting and the annual fall turkey hunter survey, both of which include a section to check if the harvest was by a mentored youth. Additionally, we are initiating an annual mentored youth hunter survey to more closely monitor harvests and participation.

Wild Turkey Season Recommendations, Fall 2013 & Spring 2014

The Bureau of Wildlife Management is proposing no changes to the fall 2013 season except for the 7 WMUs within the hen turkey survival and harvest rate study. In accordance with the cross-over study design, to determine the effect of season length on hen harvest rates, we are proposing the fall season in Study Area 1 (WMUs 2C, 2E, 4A, 4B and 4D) be increased to 3 weeks (from 2 weeks), while simultaneously decreasing to 2 weeks (from 3 weeks) the fall seasons in Study Area 2 (WMU 2F and 2G). These season changes are to remain in place for 2 years (2013-2014) for the duration of the study, to provide adequate sample size for analyses. We propose maintaining the 3-day Thanksgiving holiday season; i.e., Thanksgiving Day, Friday and Saturday for the duration of the

study to adequately assess the harvest from this additional season. Our proposal includes maintaining the 3-day fall season in WMU 5A for the fourth consecutive year to adequately assess the trend in spring productivity with the 3-day fall season. We continue to monitor harvest and population trends to determine if this season can be maintained or expanded in the future. We also propose continuation of season closures in WMUs 5B, 5C and 5D because harvest and population trend data show that, although portions of these WMUs have healthy turkey populations, at the WMU level these units cannot support fall seasons. The Bureau of Wildlife Management is proposing no changes to the 2014 spring season regulations. An all-day youth season is not being recommended at this point due to potential negative biological impacts, in compliance with the Wild Turkey Management Plan. The youth season occurs at least one week before the majority of turkey hens have initiated nest incubation and, therefore, the majority of hens are still prone to nest abandonment and accidental harvest. With approximately 4,200-5,800 participants plus at least that many adults assisting the youth, an all-day season has strong potential for increased hen disturbance, particularly to incubating hens that typically remain on their nests during morning hours then leave their nests to feed in the afternoon. These hens in their early stage of nest incubation are most prone to nest abandonment.

Hen Turkey Survival and Harvest Rate Study

This study's main objective is to determine if and how season length affects hen harvest rate. The objective is accomplished via maintaining a 2-week fall turkey hunting season in SA1 and 3-week fall turkey hunting season in SA2 for two years (2011 & 2012), then flip-flopping seasons between Study Areas for two additional years (2013 and 2014) such that SA1 will have a 3-week season and SA2 will have a 2-week season. The study began in 2010, but because the 2010 fall turkey season structure was vastly different than the current season, the study was extended an additional year to 2014 to facilitate the cross-over design.

Late summer turkey trapping concluded October 26. Agency personnel trapped and leg-banded 55 hens (29 in SA1, 26 in SA2), 15 of which also received backpack style satellite transmitters (11 in SA1, 4 in SA2). We accomplished only 37% of our trapping goal because of poor trapping weather (heat/rain), and the early drop of acorns. To date we leg banded 1,174 female wild turkeys (649 in SA1, 525 in SA2), 195 of which also were equipped with backpack style satellite transmitters (110 in SA1, 85 in SA2).

There are currently 32 transmitters active as of 31 December (18 in SA1, 14 in SA2). Some hens in SA2, the northern area, began moving back to wintering areas close to last winter's trapping locations. Some of this movement seemed prompted by hunter activity during rifle bear and deer seasons. One hen that moved during rifle bear season has since moved back. From mid-October through 31 December we recovered 9 transmitters; 6 in Study Area 1 (2 avian predation, 1 mammalian predation, 1 to be recovered, 1 equipment failure – bird may still be alive and 1 censored - died during the acclimation period after trapping) and 3 transmitters in Study Area 2 (1 legal harvest but not reported, 1 illegal harvest and 1 unknown cause). The equipment failure was from a transmitter deployed over one year ago, prior to the redesign of harness attachments; this type of transmitter loss has stopped now with the improved harness design.

Winter trapping runs from mid-January to mid-March when we will leg band 155 wild turkey hens in each Study Area. Approximately 28 also will be fitted with backpack style satellite transmitters to determine survival rate from winter to fall turkey hunting season. Please report flocks of female wild turkeys within the two Study Areas to Mary Jo Casalena, Bob Eriksen or your local Wildlife Conservation Officer.

Final results from the fall turkey season were 12 leg banded females reported harvested. This was a decrease from 24 leg-banded hens reported in 2011, and similar to the 11 females reported in 2010. In 2012, 3 were reported harvested from SA1 with the shorter turkey season (10 last year and 7 in 2010), and 9 from SA2 with the longer turkey season (13 last year and 4 in 2010). In 2012 during the first season segment before Thanksgiving 3 were harvested in SA1 (9 last year) and 5 were harvested in SA2 (12 last year). During the second season segment (Thanksgiving weekend) none were harvested in SA1 (1 last year) and 4 were harvested in SA2 (1 last year); one was harvested with a shotgun on Friday after Thanksgiving and 3 with rifles on Saturday after Thanksgiving. We did

not ask hunters if they were scouting for deer. Harvest rate and survival data are being analyzed. Interestingly, of the 16 hunters reporting this season (including 3 males reported and one hen found dead) 8 were aware of the study as opposed to only 2 of 23 hunters reporting last year. Thus far hunters have not targeted leg banded turkeys. The break down between public and private land was 8 harvested on private land (3 in SA1 and 5 in SA2) and 4 on public land (all in SA2). In 2011 harvests were more evenly distributed between public and private lands: 13 hens were harvested on public land (6 in SA1, 7 in SA2); 11 were harvested on private land (4 in SA1, 6 in SA2, 1 unknown).

To help determine fall turkey hunter participation, recruitment, and satisfaction with the fall turkey hunting season structure, the BWM in conjunction with the BI&E is again mailing a fall turkey hunter survey to 10,000 general hunting license holders, similar to the previous two years. Survey data will be analyzed and reported prior to the April Board of Commissioners meeting. The survey, which can be completed online or via written response and returned via US postal service, will sample a cross-section of the hunting population. We plan to conduct the survey each fall during the hen study.

Northeast Wild Turkey Population Model

This model is being used in conjunction with the creation of a Structured Decision Making (SDM) process to develop a formal framework for decision making regarding fall wild turkey hunting seasons. We are collaborating with the New York Department of Conservation (NYDEC) to develop a regional approach that may be used by other northeastern states. The process began with a 3-day workshop this fall with staff from PGC, the NYDEC, the Pennsylvania & New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, and the Human Dimensions Research Unit at Cornell where we developed a rapid prototype framing of a draft decision model, which also identified and improved inputs into the wild turkey model.

NYDEC also has recently initiated a hen wild turkey harvest rate study, similar to ours, with results to be used in the SDM. Last month we attended a training session at the NYDEC to discuss different aspects of our study and demonstrate satellite transmitter attachment for their biologists.

Update on Implementation Schedule of Turkey Management Plan for Pennsylvania, 2006-2015

The plan's tables and figures were updated with current data and will be posted on the turkey webpage as time permits during the winter trapping season.

The sixth year's implementation of the 10-year wild turkey management plan continues to progress successfully. Five strategies are completed (Appendix 1); spring season fluorescent orange requirements were rescinded, the two-bird spring bag limit was determined to have no effect on the turkey age structure, the tri-state gobbler study was completed, a Successful Turkey Hunting course was created and the annual gobbler hunter survey was initiated. Of the remaining 42, 32 strategies (76%) are in progress, 24 of which are ongoing and on schedule. Of the other 8 that are in progress 3 are on schedule, but 5 strategies are behind schedule due to lack of available time. For the 10 strategies that are not in progress, 2 are postponed until full implementation of the PALS system, 3 are to begin in the future, 1 was postponed until we can evaluate the effects of the all-day season and 4 are postponed due to personnel time commitments and low priorities. Partnerships (monetary and personnel) become more important each year to assist with accomplishing the plan on schedule and we appreciate the support from PANWTF and NWTF. This Plan provides an important guide for programmatic annual budgets.

Table 1. Pennsylvania spring and fall wild turkey harvests, by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU), determined from Game-Take Surveys, 2006 - 2012. Spring harvests include initial harvest + second bird harvests. Second bird allowed with purchase of special spring license beginning 2006. Beginning spring 2011 season open through May 31 and all-day hunting permitted last two weeks of season.

2	3,183	2,878	3,372	2,650	2,504	1,331	1,626	1,006	1,598	1,634
5	1,692	2,293	3,321	1,382	2,637	2,342	1,321	1,208	533	613
3	1,385	2,168	1,605	996	1,266	1,173	1,117	805	319	714
3	2,357	2,191	1,752	2,246	2,143	2,553	915	1,309	1,065	1,634
2	2,490	3,166	4,153	2,281	3,200	2,602	2,641	1,611	2,130	1,532
4	335	1,163	1,035	559	1,221	1,288	609	1,006	1,065	919
0	1,679	1,462	1,520	1,351	1,882	1,749	1,219	805	639	817
7	2,302	3,061	2,566	1,754	2,038	2,569	2,539	2,315	2,342	1,634
4	1,212	992	1,538	1,705	1,445	1,503	1,117	1,510	958	306
8	2,175	2,533	3,129	2,260	1,578	1,641	711	1,409	958	1,327
5	2,028	3,680	2,988	1,844	2,752	2,777	1,524	2,617	2,982	2,043
7	2,467	2,006	2,525	1,275	1,377	834	711	704	958	511
8	1,507	1,276	1,954	1,268	1,115	1,189	1,828	2,315	1,172	1,634
7	1,397	1,097	1,548	1,355	876	1,052	1,321	1,006	1,065	511
0	2,687	2,744	2,362	1,379	1,565	2,215	1,015	603	958	511
3	2,180	2,830	2,467	2,725	2,139	1,769	1,524	2,315	3,088	1,430
8	2,561	3,064	2,767	2,189	1,836	2,023	1,321	1,811	1,598	1,634
2	774	730	314	451	462	356	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
1	491	425	509	270	722	815	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
5	797	1,242	830	992	975	598	387	201	107	102

APPENDIX 1. Implementation schedule for turkey management plan for Pennsylvania, 2006-2015

(Progress listed at bottom of each page.)

Objective and Strategies	By End of Fiscal Year (e.g., FY 2006 = July 06 – June 07)										
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Population Objective											
Strategy:											
1.1 Provide spring and fall hunting opportunities while maintaining or enhancing populations at or below social carrying capacity	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.2 Use fall season lengths as primary means for managing populations	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.3 Assess turkey population status and trends	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.4 Collect age and sex information of harvested turkeys for spring and fall seasons		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.5 Implement spring gobbler hunter survey			•	•	•	Compl	•	•	•	•	
1.6 Evaluate the new mid-Atlantic turkey population model for application in Pennsylvania, and implement in 2008		•	•	•	•	•	•				
1.7 If necessary, develop and implement research to collect data to validate the new population model			•	•	•	•	•				
1.8 Conduct the 4-year multi-state gobbler harvest and annual survival rate study	•	•	•	•	Compl						
1.9 Conduct a hen harvest and annual survival rate study.			•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
1.10 Determine if the sample units of WMUs provide reliable trends for harvest and summer sighting data			•	•	•	•					
1.11 Determine if the two-bird spring bag limit has any effect on the turkey age structure and, if needed, recommend regulation changes			•	Compl							
1.12 Develop standard solutions to nuisance turkey complaints		•		•	•	low priority					
1.13 Quantify turkey complaints by season, type and location		•	•	•	•	low priority	•	•	•	•	
1.14 Train personnel in identifying agricultural damage caused by turkeys	•	•		•	•	low priority					
1.15 Define wild turkey social carrying capacity by WMU							•	•			
1.16 Develop a habitat suitability model as a tool in harvest and habitat management								•	•	•	

Progress from July - December 2012: • Delete for years specified. • Add for years specified.

1.1, 1.2, 1.3 – Completed for 2012; ongoing. – On Schedule.

- 1.4 - Completed for FY2011. Compare reported age/sex data with Game-Take Survey data to determine accuracy of GT data – no progress, behind schedule.
 1.5 - Completed, June 2012; ongoing annually. Web-based survey with option to mail back, 10,000 randomly sampled hunters.
 1.6 – In progress. – Behind Schedule. Assistance provided by turkey biologist aide & biometrician. Postponed due to hen study commitments & loss of biologist aide.
 1.7 – In progress. – On Schedule. Since 2008, collecting data on turkey reproduction (recruitment). Female fall harvest rates being collected 2010 - 2014.
 1.8 – Completed. – Final reports, presentations & manuscript completed.
 1.9 – In progress – On Schedule. Federal & NWTF funding received. 3 of 5 years completed; 1,174 female turkeys leg banded, 195 of which also equipped with satellite transmitters.
 1.10 – In progress. – To be completed FY2012. Initial assessment is YES. Data needed for structured decision making process and hen harvest rate study. Continued on next page.
 1.11 – Completed. – No effect; no regulation changes needed.
 1.12 – In progress - Behind schedule. Low priority. Three-year pilot study conducted 2008-2010 in Pittsburgh area. Final report completed 2011. Draft SOP must be revised using study results.
 1.13 – Postponed unless issue becomes higher priority. Was not able to incorporate into PGC standard bear complaint system. Low priority, beyond time commitment.
 1.14 – No progress. - Low priority. To be completed by B.Eriksen,
 1.15 & 1.16 – Future strategies.

Objective and Strategies	By End of Fiscal Year (e.g., FY 2006 = July 06 – June 07)										
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Habitat Objective Strategy:											
2.1 Determine turkey habitat management priorities for State Game Lands while considering habitat on adjacent properties	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.2 Quantify habitat management practices that benefit turkeys on State Game Lands			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.3 Evaluate efficacy of habitat management practices on State Game Lands, and recommend adjustments	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.4 Develop at least two demonstration areas per Region to promote habitat management to other public agencies and private landowners	•	•	•	•							
2.5 Conduct at least one workshop or field trip per Region at a demonstration area				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.6 Develop and/or continue partnerships for habitat funding	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.7 Provide technical information and assistance regarding turkey habitat management to other public land managers and private landowners	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.8 Promote use of prescribed fire	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Progress from July 2011- Dec 2012 to be completed by BWHM: • Delete for years specified. • Add for years specified.

- 2.1 – Ongoing. ___ Game lands habitat management plans drafted. GIS coordinator in each of the 6 Regions.
 2.2 – Ongoing, On Schedule. Habitat implemented: Timber sales: ___ acres; Regeneration: ___ ac; Intermediate/Thinning: ___ ac; Herbaceous plantings: ___ ac; Herbaceous maintenance: ___ ac; Tree plantings/release: ___ trees; non-commercial forest cutting; ___ ac; Hydro-Ax & Cats: ___ ac; Early successional: ___ ac. Additionally, PGC Groups 3-1 and Group 4-1 assisting with 3 habitat projects on ANF in cooperation with ANF and NWTF.
 2.3 – In progress. Completed ___ draft chapters of Habitat Management Manual.

- 2.4 – Behind schedule. Guidelines drafted FY2010 for creating demonstration areas. ___ of ___ SGL plans have identified wild turkey as a management priority.
- 2.5 - To begin once Strategy 2.4 is underway. June 2012 - 79 PGC habitat managers and biologists being given a field tour of SGL 252, our primary demonstration area.
- 2.6 – Ongoing. CY2011, PANWTF funded 72 habitat projects across PA = \$98,929, including 51 projects (\$72,622) on SGLs.
CY2012, PANWTF funded 77 habitat projects across PA = \$144,913, including 54 projects (\$104,211) on SGLs. Of this, \$10,276 – 18,000 will be captured as match for Pittman-Robertson funds.
- 2.7 – Ongoing. Presentations conducted: ___; Individuals reached: ___.
- 2.8 – Ongoing. PGC continues to expand prescribed fire program. Personnel trained: ___ (up from 91 three years ago); Acres burned: As of June 1, 2012: ___ ac.
Equipment acquired: ___ slip-on pumps to convert PGC trucks to Type 6 engines, ___ Type 7 UTV, personal protective equipment for all staff engaged in prescribed fire.

Objective and Strategies	By End of Fiscal Year (e.g., FY 2006 = July 06 – June 07)										
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Information & Education Objective Strategy:											
3.1 Survey hunters and other stakeholders regarding turkey populations and management issues		•	•	•	•		•				
3.2 Report research and management findings to the public through all forms of media	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
3.3 Provide educational information through all forms of media and speaking engagements	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
3.4 Develop and publish fact sheets		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
3.5 Provide information to landowners about turkey behavior and depredation			•	•	•	low priority	low priority	•	•	•	

Progress from July - Dec 2012: • Delete for years specified. • Add for years specified.

3.1 – FY2008 survey completed. Manuscript of statewide results published in *Proceedings of the 10th National Wild Turkey Symposium*. Analyses at WMU level conducted; report behind schedule. FY2012 survey postponed until completion of hen study due to annual fall turkey hunter survey through 2014. Results of 2011 fall turkey hunter survey analyzed & reported to BOC; report for website behind schedule. Fall 2012 turkey hunter survey to be distributed Jan. 7, 2013; on schedule. PGC annual web-based spring gobbler hunter survey implemented spring 2012. Since 2009, PANWTF conducts annual spring turkey hunter cooperators survey.

3.2 – Ongoing. 4 annual reports completed - to be posted on website, 2 news releases, 2008 PA Turkey Hunter Survey results being posted on website, and published in *Proceedings of the 10th National Wild Turkey Symposium* (in Game News in 2012). Hen study information updated on website & provided as a Field Note to Game News. Conducted annual meeting of the WMU5A Wild Turkey Task Force. 25 responses to inquiries via emails, phone calls and letters from the public & news media. In cooperation with NWTF Reg'l Biologist.

3.3 – Ongoing. In cooperation with BI&E, revised the Wild Turkey Wildlife Note, recorded 2 Radio PA segments regarding fall turkey seasons, and 2 news releases. Guest lecturer for 2 wildlife management classes at California University. Responded to 25 inquiries from public and news media. Provided 2 public programs on wild turkeys. Programs also regularly provided by WCOs and NWTF Reg'l Bio. Provided technical assistance to 3 landowners, made contact with > 12 landowners regarding the hen study.

3.4 – Ongoing with annual updates of FAQs on website. In cooperation with NWTF Reg'l Bio and BI&E for website updates.

3.5 – Postponed, not many inquiries, booklet low priority, beyond time commitment. In cooperation with PGC WCO's, Reg'l Bio's, NWTF Reg'l Bio. Pilot nuisance turkey study in SW Region completed. Final report completed FY2011.

Objective and Strategies	By End of Fiscal Year (e.g., FY 2006 = July 06 – June 07)										
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Hunting Heritage/Hunter Safety Objective Strategy:											
4.1 Evaluate expanding hunter education to include optional & separate course on turkey hunting & safety			•	■	■	Compl, ongoing	■	■	■	■	
4.2 Determine participation rates of various age segments of hunters and develop ways of increasing participation				■	■	■	■				
4.3 Assess and explore opportunities for continued development of the youth mentored hunting program	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
4.4 Consider expanding the youth spring gobbler season to an all-day season	■	■				■	■		■		
4.5 Consider implementation of expanded spring hunting opportunities	•	■	•	■	•	•	•	•	•	•	
4.6 Maintain and expand the Game Commission's public access programs to promote and protect these privately owned lands open to public hunting	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
4.7 Acquire turkey habitat to expand hunting opportunities	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
4.8 Develop and distribute educational and hunter safety materials directly to turkey hunters		■	■	■	■	■	•	•	•	•	
4.9 Investigate relationships between spring and fall hunter density and turkey hunter safety, and recommend regulation changes if necessary					■	■	■				
4.10 Conduct information and education programs to control turkey hunting related shooting incidents and promote wild turkey hunter safety/ethics	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
4.11 Monitor compliance with fluorescent orange turkey hunting regulations	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
4.12 Review orange requirements, evaluate regulatory alternatives, and, if appropriate, recommend changes to the spring season fluorescent orange turkey hunting regulations	•	•	Compl								
4.13 Assure that complete information on turkey hunting related shooting incidents are included in all International Hunting Education Association reports	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Progress from July - Dec 2012: ■-Delete for years specified. ■ Add for years specified.

4.1 – Completed - Successful Turkey Hunting course created using Federal Assistance grant. Implementation is ongoing.

- 4.2 – Postponed. To be completed using PALS, by BI&E personnel.
 4.3 – Ongoing. Fall turkey mentored youth program via transfer of harvest tag approved & began with fall 2012 season.
 4.4 - Postponed until evaluate 3 years of all-day spring hunting during the second 2 weeks of the season.
 4.5 – Ongoing: Spring 2006 - special turkey license; spring 2008 - season extended to Memorial Day; spring 2011 - season extended to May 31, and all-day spring hunting during the second 2 weeks of season.
 4.6 – Ongoing. Received 3-yr grant from Farm Services Agency to increase enrolled acres by 20%. 14,000 new private land cooperator acres enrolled, 81 private lands habitat projects by May 2012, totaling 3,854 acres.
 4.7 – Ongoing. To be updated by BWHM.
 4.8 – Postponed until FY2012 and will be completed by BI&E personnel. 4.9 – Future (2012), obtain via PALS & Game-Take Survey, and will be completed by BI&E personnel.
 4.10 – Ongoing, cooperative effort with NWTF. Successful Turkey Hunting curriculum also will address this. PANWTF turkey hunting success & safety brochure is on PANWTF website.
 4.11 – Ongoing. Fluorescent orange regulation only for fall season, since 2008. Fluorescent orange violations – fall season, Calendar Year 2011: 1, compared to 11 in 2008, 4 in 2009, and 0 in 2010.
 4.12 – Completed (slightly behind schedule) at April 2008 Board of Commission meeting. 4.13 - Ongoing. HRSI data for all species entered into IHEA incident database and is current since the year 2000.

Objective and Strategies	By End of Fiscal Year (e.g., FY 2006 = July 06 – June 07)										
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Wild Turkey Protection Strategy:											
5.1 Assess compliance with laws and regulations to protect the wild turkey resource	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
5.2 Use wild turkey decoys and other appropriate law enforcement tools to discourage road hunting and poaching, and utilize partnerships to assist with purchasing equipment	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
5.3 Seek legislation to increase penalties for serious violations	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Cooperative Partnerships Objective Strategy:											
6.1 Assist states and Canadian provinces with wild turkey restoration through trap and transfers where feasible	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
6.2 Continue the partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	

Progress from July 2011- Dec 2012 to be completed by BWP:

- 5.1 - Ongoing. wild turkey violations in CY 2011, compared to 147 in CY 2010. Species code is part of PGC prosecution database (02/2008).
 5.2 – Ongoing. Used decoys 12 times in CY 2011, spring season; 3 citations issued, 2 warnings issued, 24% of vehicles stopped to observe decoy. No new decoys purchased in 2011.
 5.3 – Ongoing, Penalty structure for violations of the Game and Wildlife Code was increased by state legislature, HB97, 2011.

Progress from July 2011- Dec 2012

6.1 – Completed and Ongoing. No requests for 2009, 2010, 2011 or 2012. 2006-2008 total transfers to South Dakota: 113.

6.2 – Ongoing. PGC grant to NWTF for Regional Biologist, NWTF Grant-in-Aid research funding for hen study (2011-2013), PANWTF research funding for all wild turkey research studies since 1999, PANWTF habitat superfund & other Hunting Heritage projects especially I&E, cooperative events (JAKES, WITO, Wheelin' Sportsmen) & strong relationship with PANWTF.