

Wild Turkey Management Report March 2013

Proposed Turkey Season 2013-2014 (to be Approved at April Meeting PGC)

WILD TURKEY (Male or Female): WMU 1B – Nov. 2-9 and Nov. 28-30; WMU 2B (Shotgun and bow and arrow) – Nov. 2-22 and Nov. 28-30; WMUs 1A, 2A and 2D – Nov. 2-16 and Nov. 28-30; WMUs 2C, 2E, 4A, 4B and 4D – Nov. 2-22 and Nov. 28-30; WMUs 2F and 2G – Nov. 2-16 and Nov. 28-30; WMUs 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4C and 4E – Nov. 2-22 and Nov. 28-30; WMU 5A – Nov. 5-7; WMUs 5B, 5C and 5D – CLOSED TO FALL TURKEY HUNTING.

SPRING GOBBLER (Bearded bird only): Special season for eligible junior hunters, with required license, and mentored youth – April 26, 2014. Only 1 spring gobbler may be taken during this hunt.

SPRING GOBBLER (Bearded bird only): May 3-31, 2014. Daily limit 1, season limit 2. (Second spring gobbler may be only taken by persons who possess a valid special wild turkey license.) From May 3-17, legal hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until noon; from May 19-31, legal hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

Report from Bob Eriksen at PGC Meeting

Only PANWTF testified about turkey hunting regulations. Biologists from the Bureau of Wildlife Management presented updates on fall harvests (where data was available) and spoke about the Bureau proposals for regulation changes including season dates and bag limits for a number of game species. Mary Jo did a good job presenting the Bureau proposals for changes to turkey hunting regulations. The proposals were for relatively minor changes; fall season length adjustments for the two study areas involved in the hen survival and fall harvest rates study and a reduction in the fall turkey season length in Wildlife Management Unit 1B where there has been a marked decline in turkey numbers .

Mentor Youth Program (No Minimum Age) Vote was 4-4 ??

We need to keep a close watch on this.

Data provided by Mary Jo on Hen Incubation Period (May 2) indicates that our current Spring season opener is “right on” (the Saturday closest to May 1)

Continue to pursue a Turkey Hunting License