

## PA Chapter NWTF Position Paper

### *PA Chapter NWTF Supports Wild Turkey Management*

by Don Heckman

PA Chapter NWTF – Executive Officer

Wild Turkey Management Committee Chairman

As part of the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania, PA Chapter NWTF supports:

- 1) PGC "Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania".
- 2) Funding the PGC "Management Plan for Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania".
- 3) Turkey hunting license/stamp for a fee.
- 4) 2nd bird spring tag with a license/tag for a fee – complete.

The Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF Board of Director's supports these additional wild turkey management and turkey hunting positions.

- 1) Wild turkey management regulations and decision making based on facts, in the field, in the ground/on the ground data, as defined and outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania. We support wildlife management regulations based on scientific wildlife management principles determined by PGC wildlife biologists and land managers and NWTF wild turkey biologist.
- 2) Purchasing the additional 2nd spring gobbler tag prior to the start of the season. We support mandatory 2nd bird tag harvest reporting with appropriate data.
- 3) Delaying any additional hunting opportunities for all day adult spring gobbler hunting until the state-wide gobbler leg band research project is completed.
- 4) Continued monitoring of relevant data provided by PGC Wild Turkey Biologist's to review fall season lengths across WMU's. We support reducing season lengths or closing certain WMU's where data validates populations are declining.
- 5) 22 WMU's and their current boundaries for state-wide wild turkey management as outlined in the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania.
- 6) PGC yearly funding of the Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania. We continue to support wild turkey research to collect better data on the wild turkey resource and their habitat, and turkey hunters.
- 7) PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania guidelines for setting current dates for spring gobbler season and fall turkey hunting season.
- 8) Further research on fall turkey hunting seasons where in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 turkey hunting incidents have dramatically decreased. What have turkey hunters done right these last 5 fall turkey hunting seasons to impact and help decrease turkey hunting incidents?

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- 9) Based recommendations from the NWTF Turkey Hunter Task Force, PA Chapter NWTF supports removing mandatory spring turkey hunter orange regulation.
- 10) Consideration to include a turkey hunting license in the PGC hunting license increase package if recommended by PGC and Legislators. We support funding the yearly budget of the PGC Management Plan For Wild Turkeys In Pennsylvania as part of the PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management budget with revenues generated from a turkey hunting license, with excess revenue dollars being available for use in the PGC General Fund.
- 11) Mentored Youth Hunting game species, we support antlered hunting and fall turkey hunting season by mentored youth.
- 12) Legislative Resolution to research and study Sunday hunting, and support Legislation to allow PGC to set Sunday hunting regulations.