



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

**Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition**

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.go2pa.com/panwtf E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

January 21, 2001

President Shaffer, Commissioners, Executive Director Ross, PA Game Commission Staff, fellow conservationists, my name is Don O'Brien, President of the PA Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

In anticipation of Seasons and Bag limits recommendations, the PA Chapter NWTF recommends the following:

- We support the same seasons and bag limits as last year with the following exceptions:
 - Turkey Management Area (TMA) 7A be reduced to a two week fall season because the Bureau of Wildlife Management has demonstrated a history of adverse effects related to a three week fall season. Turkey populations and turkey hunters would benefit from a shorter season.
 - TMA 9B be reduced to a 6 day fall season. This TMA first had a six day season in 1999 and was increased in 2000 to a 7 day season contrary to the recommendation set forth in the Wild Turkey Management Plan. The Wild Turkey Management Plan recommends that a season length remain the same for a minimum three year period in order to collect data for proper evaluation of the season length on the population.
 - TMA 9A be a closed fall turkey season. We support the in-state trap and transfer of wild turkeys into TMA 9A as long as the fall season remains closed to hunting until the spring harvest density reaches 1 gobbler per forested square mile. Currently the spring harvest density is less than 1/2 gobbler per forested square mile.
- The PA Chapter NWTF encourages the Board of Commissioners to approve the Executive Office's proposal to financially support the NWTF hiring a full-time biologist for Northeast United States to work closely with PGC Bureau of Wildlife Management staff in furtherance of Pennsylvania's Wild Turkey Management Plan. Furthermore, we support the recommendation from the MAT Report for PA Game Commission Regional Wildlife Biologists.

- The PA Chapter NWTf recommends that fluorescent orange requirements be simplified in fall turkey seasons to be consistent with the current spring regulations.
- We encourage the Board of Commissioners to review the goal, objectives, and strategies of the Wild Turkey Management Plan when considering any changes to seasons and bag limits regarding the wild turkey resource.
- To properly reach the goals of the wild turkey research study in TMA 7B, we continue to financially support this research study by providing an additional grant of over \$14,000 beyond the original grant of \$53,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Don O'Brien, President
PA State Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation