



# NEWS RELEASE

## NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

770 Augusta Road • Edgefield, S.C. • 29824 • Phone: 803/637-3106 • Fax: 803/637-0034  
E-mail: [nwtf@nwtf.net](mailto:nwtf@nwtf.net) • Web Site: [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact: C.J. Davis, 803/637-3106, ext. 3098.

#### Wild Turkey Super Fund supports Keystone State conservation

The Wild Turkey Super Fund is the best thing to happen to wild turkeys in the Keystone State since Pennsylvania was admitted to the Union in 1787. The Pennsylvania Game Commission and the dedicated volunteers of the National Wild Turkey Federation have used the Super Fund to help restore wild turkeys in the state and educate thousands of hunters annually.

"The NWTF's efforts to compliment the Pennsylvania Game Commission have been a model for our work with other government wildlife resource agencies and for other conservation organizations. Significant money and manpower have distinguished our chapter volunteers as "can-do" volunteers," said Rob Keck, NWTF vice president and CEO.

Established in 1985, the Wild Turkey Super Fund pools money raised at NWTF membership banquets, donated by corporate sponsors and given by private donors for the benefit of wildlife conservation. The Super Fund is jointly administered by the NWTF, its state chapters and their respective wildlife agencies.

Each state has a Super Fund, but few NWTF chapters have been as active as the Pennsylvania state and local chapters. Since 1985, NWTF volunteers in Pennsylvania have spent more than \$1.6 million on nearly 800 projects.

The projects range from hard, scientific research to fun, outdoor educational opportunities for women and children. Pennsylvania local chapters also have purchased 42 pieces of equipment—wild turkey trapping equipment, tractors, grain drills, mechanical turkey decoys for law enforcement, etc.—and donated it to state and local conservation offices. In Pennsylvania, the Super Fund has funded 329 land management and enhancement projects to the tune of \$770,900. In addition, the Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Super Fund has been used to purchase more than 16,400 acres of critical wildlife habitat—each acre open to public hunting and other outdoor sport enjoyment.

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*National Wild Turkey Federation's mission—The conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of the turkey hunting tradition.*



"The Super Fund has enabled our state and local chapters to improve wild turkey habitat throughout the state, expand the wild turkey's range and to help our partner agencies take advantage of land acquisition opportunities," said Don Heckman, executive officer of the Pennsylvania State Chapter of the NWTF and member of the Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge's Sportsman's Advisory Council.

Chapters in Pennsylvania also have been very strong supporters of conservation and hunter education and the NWTF's JAKES and Women in the Outdoors programs, which are the NWTF's education programs for children and women. Throughout the state, NWTF chapters have spent more \$110,000 on hunter education. In addition, NWTF chapters in Pennsylvania have spent nearly \$100,000 supporting nearly 150 JAKES and Women in the Outdoors events.

"The Super Fund also paid for conservation and hunting education materials that have been distributed to schools and hunting safety seminars and clinics, which have helped increase safety awareness and decrease hunting incidents throughout the Commonwealth," said Heckman.

The Wild Turkey Super Fund is paying for similar work in each state and in Canada. As a result, the number of wild turkeys in the United States and Canada number more than 5 million and the number of wild turkey hunters is greater than 2.5 million.

**Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Super Fund expenditure highlights**

1987	\$885	Stein Mountain turkey habitat enhancement project
1988	\$750	Donation toward purchasing 730 acres on State Game Lands #305 near Mt. Holly, Cumberland County
1989	\$10,800	Create winter and spring wild turkey habitat on Allegheny National Forest
1990	\$10,000	"Be sure, look for the beard" holographs to promote hunter safety in state
	\$30,000	Donation to Pa. Game Commission toward acquiring 715.8 acres in Elk County adjacent to State Game Lands #25
1991	\$2,892	Support Wild Turkey Hunter Safety Task Force and action plan implementation
	\$2,345	Reseed 9.2-acre wildlife opening at Shagger's Inn Pond on Bureau of Forestry Land

1992	\$400	Seven billboard signs promoting hunter safety
	\$2,450	Mower for use by Bureau of Forestry and Pa. Game Commission
1993	\$3,602	Establish two permanent wildlife openings on Michaux State Forest
	\$1,200	5-foot brush hog mower for Tioga State Forest
1994	\$5,287	Create 4.6 acres of herbaceous openings, maintain .8 acres and installation of one gate on Forbes State Forest
	\$1,063	Provide seed for strip mine planting tests
1995	\$5,300	Purchase Truax Flex drill for planting state game lands
	\$1,750	Develop Little Drummer Historical Environmental Education Pathway through Bear Creek/Clarion River Management Area on the Allegheny National Forest
	\$500	Support youth outdoor education event
1996	\$463	Plant 250 shrubs and establish one-acre wildlife opening on Hemlock Hollow Public Recreation Area
	\$2,344	Purchase four wild turkey trapping rocket nets
	\$3,100	Purchase tractor for habitat enhancement projects in Elk, Cameron, Clinton and Clearfield counties
1997	\$4,628	Create five-acre wildlife opening on Bald Eagle State Forest
	\$5,000	Help purchase 1,000 acres of public hunting land in Lancaster
	\$290	Purchase materials to conduct NRA turkey hunter education clinics
1998	\$2,590	Plant 9,000 seedlings on 10 acres of abandoned and reclaimed gas well sites on Moshannon State Forest
	\$11,232	Purchase 72 youth shotguns for use at hunter education seminars and JAKES field days around the state
	\$6,037	Lime, fertilize and seed 23 acres of wildlife openings on State Game Lands #51, #138 and #296
1999	\$2,000	Send four children to Penn State Conservation Leadership School
	\$6,288	Lime existing wildlife openings on 96 acres on State Game Lands #35, #140 and #175
	\$5,000	Support 4-H Shooting program
	\$500	Donation to Make-A-Wish Foundation
	\$49,974	Purchase DART interactive video-target system for use at JAKES events, PGC youth days and hunter training seminars

### **Pennsylvania Wild Turkey Super Fund Since 1987**

<b>Type project</b>	<b># projects</b>	<b>amount</b>
research	2	37,838
education	97	109,590
equipment	42	132,237
habitat enhancement	326	765,428
hunter safety	80	159,362
JAKES	122	65,035
Land purchase	21	212,150
management	3	5,450
other	15	77,276
rewards	9	1,665
travel	34	14,960
Women in the Outdoors	11	12,750
<u>Hunting Heritage</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>35,850</u>
<b>totals</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>1,629,590</b>

**About the NWTf:** In the last 26 years, more than \$102 million NWTf and cooperator dollars have been spent on over 10,345 projects benefiting wild turkeys throughout North America. In 1973, there were an estimated 1.3 million wild turkeys and 1.5 million turkey hunters. Today, there are an estimated 5 million wild turkeys and approximately 2.5 million turkey hunters.

The NWTf is a 215,000-member grassroots, nonprofit organization with members in 50 states, Canada and 11 foreign countries. It supports scientific wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands as well as wild turkey hunting as a traditional American sport.

For more information on the National Wild Turkey Federation, call (803) 637-3106, check out our web site at [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org) or e-mail questions to [nwtf@nwtf.net](mailto:nwtf@nwtf.net).

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# 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](http://www.go2pa.com/panwtf) E-mail: [panwtf@go2pa.com](mailto:panwtf@go2pa.com)

*PGC \$596,000 1985-1999*

PA Chapter partnership with PGC is best described by our common goals. The Legacy Sculpture in the lobby is a symbol of our partnership, and our turkey hunting heritage.

Additional revenues generated through a turkey hunting license will enable our wildlife managers to fund and complete all the strategies as outlined in the PGC Wild Turkey Management Plan.

Over the next 25 years Pennsylvania could double wild turkey population, have a 4 bird limit, created new habitat for wild turkeys and all wildlife, and greatly improve hunting safety, information, and education for turkey hunters.

On behalf of the PA Chapter, our 60 Local Chapters and volunteers, this check represents our expenditures in Pennsylvania, \$1,630,000, for the wild turkey resource and wild turkey management in the past 15 years of the PA Chapter Super Fund.

Attached: NWTF News Release - PA Chapter Super Fund 1985-1999 . . .

January 11, 2000

Don Heckman

Executive Officer,  
PA Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation.



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There is a tremendous success story to tell about wild turkey in PA and the United States.

Through conservation and wildlife management the wild turkey has made a comeback in Pennsylvania, due to the efforts on behalf of the PGC to manage the resource.

NWTF established it's Super Fund banquet program to generate money for the wild turkey management and partner with state wildlife management agencies.

PA Chapter Super Fund started in 1985. In fifteen years the PA Chapter has completed 786 projects totaling \$1,630,000. Habitat, land acquisition, equipment, safety and education, wild turkey information, NWTF Target 2000, PA Chapter web page.

As a resource first conservation organization, we support efforts through wildlife management to improve wild turkey populations, efforts like trap and transfer, closing turkey game farm, TMA7B wild turkey task force, wild turkey management plan.

This check represents partnerships with: seed companies, tree nurseries, land trust conservancy's, conservation organizations, ANF, DCNR BOF, PGC

PGC signed the Wild Turkey Management Plan in 1999, this is the road map to the future of wild turkey management in Pennsylvania.

Wild turkey populations in 40's and 50's were very low, The success story begins with trap and transfer, closing the turkey game farm, seasons and bag limits, establishing Turkey Management Areas, and vital habitat diversity across Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania has changed in the past fifty years, the wild turkey has adapted with these changes and learned to survive with humans. That is a tremendous success story in itself.

The 25 year snapshot, 1975-1999, turkey populations doubled even tripled in certain TMA's from the 60's-70's.

Next 25 years, 2000 - 2025, what will be the legacy of the wild turkey and wild turkey management. The Wild Turkey Management Plan leads the way. This plan will provide a bright future for Pennsylvania's wild turkey flocks well into our new century.