

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

*(Progress to December 2008 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			■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
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	●	●	●	●						
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			●	●						
1.12 Develop standard solutions to nuisance turkey complaints		■		■						
1.13 Quantify turkey complaints by season, type and location		■	■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1.14 Train personnel in identifying agricultural damage caused by turkeys	■	■		■	■					
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:** ■ - Delete for years specified. ■ - Add for years specified.

1.1, 1.2, 1.3 – Completed for 2008 and ongoing. – On Schedule.

1.4 - Completed for 2008, beginning to use as trend data. – Full implementation with Point-of-Sale.

1.5 - Not started. Postponed until POS is implemented (conducted a general turkey hunter survey, 2008, Strategy 3.1).

1.6 – In progress. Working with B.Eriksen, VT’s turkey biologist & model author, J.McQhee. – On Schedule to be completed by June 2009.

1.7 – In progress. Began, 2008, collecting productivity data to use for proper model functioning of recruitment variable. – Data analysis behind schedule.

1.8 – In progress. – On Schedule.

1.9 – Ahead of Schedule - Future strategy (2010), but study design began Dec. 2007 with PSU. Proposal submitted to PGC (declined until funds available) & NWTF (being reviewed) .

1.10 – In progress. – On Schedule.

1.11 – Not started. To begin July 2009 once receive 2008 spring harvest data from Game-Take Survey.

1.12 – Began, draft SOP completed. Behind schedule – postpone final SOP to end of FY2009. Three-year pilot study began Jan 2008 in SW Region to be completed June 2010. Purchased net gun & drop net for SW Region.

1.13 – Postponed. Was not able to incorporate into PGC standard bear complaint system. Not priority & beyond time commitment of turkey biologist.

1.14 – 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:** • Delete for years specified. • Add for years specified.

2.1 – Ongoing. On schedule. Increase from 16 SGL habitat plans drafted to 20.

2.2 – In progress. On schedule. Developed tracking system to track turkey habitat improvements on SGLs to record # acres planned & # acres implemented.

2.3 – In progress. On schedule. Habitat being improved since '06 with vegetative response. Revised Habitat Mgmt Manual's outline & supporting materials sections.

2.4 – Behind schedule. Developing large multi-area demo on SGL 252 showcasing habitat mgmt for many habitats. Developed & distributed criteria for establishing demo areas.

2.5 - To begin 2009, once Strategy 2.4 is underway.

2.6 – Ongoing. On schedule via partnership with PANWTF habitat superfund projects, other large conservation organizations & projects with many local sportsmen clubs.

2.7 – Ongoing. Turkey habitat management presentations (>8) reached >220 individuals. Also via regional biologists (Biologist Supervisor, CREP and Diversity biologists).

2.8 – Ongoing. As of July 2008, field personnel trained (25), attended 6 policy meetings, approx. 200 acres burned on SGLs. Prescribed Fire Council created & participated at Prescribed Fire Conference (2/08).

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			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

**Progress:** ■ -Delete for years specified. ■ Add for years specified.

- 3.1 – In progress. Behind schedule (no Biometrician). Survey completed with 70% response rate (9,105 mailed). Final report to be completed for Ap. 2009 Commission meeting.
- 3.2 – Ongoing. Annual reports on website, 9+ news releases, 15+ news releases from general media, TMA 7B study research paper published in scientific journal, preliminary gobbler study results presentations (9+), gobbler legband retention rate research paper in press in scientific journal. In cooperation with NWTF Reg'1 Bio.
- 3.3 – Ongoing. 9+ news releases in 2008, Turkey FAQs published as spring 2008 Game News article, & updated on website, responded to >65 inquiries from public, 12 public programs on wild turkeys by turkey biologist & many programs by WCOs and NWTF Reg'1 Bio. In cooperation with NWTF Reg'1 Bio.
- 3.4 – Ongoing through 2011. Turkey FAQs published as spring 2008 Game News article & updated on website. In cooperation with NWTF Reg'1 Bio.
- 3.5 – Limited progress. Not top priority & beyond time commitment. In cooperation with PGC WCO's, Reg'1 Bio's, NWTF Reg'1 Bio. PGC NW RWMS & NWTF Reg'1 Bio handled suspected turkey damage to silage bags in NW PA which they proved, via field investigation and trail cameras, was caused by coyotes preying on rodents in bags. Turkey Biol. Assisted with 2 nuisance turkey complaints. Purchased net gun & drop net for SW Region nuisance turkeys.

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			•	■	■					
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	•	•	■							
4.13 Assure that complete information on turkey hunting related shooting incidents are included in all International Hunting Education Association reports	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

**Progress:** ■ Delete for years specified. ■ Add for years specified.

4.1 – Federal Assistance Program funding will be requested. Begin curriculum development in 2009, implement in 2010 earliest.

4.2 – Postponed. Contingent on Point-of-sale licensing.

4.3 – PANWTF working on fall turkey mentored youth program. Spring opportunities postponed until completion of gobbler study.

4.4 - Postponed until completion of gobbler study.

4.5 – Progress: Beginning Spring 2008, season extended to Memorial Day. Recommending extend to May 31 in 2010, which is Memorial Day, then maintain May 31 closure. Asses extension for 3 years prior to another change.

4.6 – Ongoing. As of May 2008: 1,095 new agreements added = 7,676 properties in Public Access programs. Visited each cooperator in 2008 to determine what type of cooperator each is, what species can be hunted & if restrictions. Information posted on website.

4.7 – Ongoing. As of June 1, 2008: 18 tracts involving 652 acres.

4.8 – Postponed until implementation of Point-of-Sale system for hunting licenses.

4.9 – Future (2010), but contingent on POS.

4.10 – Ongoing, cooperative effort with NWTF. PANWTF turkey hunting success & safety tri-fold brochure published & distributed, published in PA Hunting/Trapping Digest, PANWTF website & will be mailed with every special spring turkey license in 2009.

4.11 – Ongoing. Calendar Year 2007 Fall; 29 violations prosecuted. Spring : 181 violations.

4.12 – Completed (slightly behind schedule) at April 2008 Board of Commission meeting.

4.13 - Ongoing Oversight provided by PGC within the agency to ensure reports are complete.

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:**

5.1 - Ongoing. 220 wild turkey violations in 2007. Added species code to PGC prosecution database (02/2008).

5.2 – Ongoing. Used decoys 4 times in 2007, 1 citation written, 14% of vehicles that stopped discharged a firearm/box at decoy. Unsuccessfully attempted funding partnership with PANWTF to purchase decoys.

5.3 – In progress since Jan 2007; HB 2205. Commissioners now possibly to amend Title 58 to quantify prices of game species. PGC appreciates PANWTF assistance.

6.1 – Completed for 2008. Ongoing. In 2008 transferred 44 wild turkeys to S. Dakota, trapped from nuisance flocks in the Pittsburgh area. No requests for 2009.

6.2 – Ongoing. PGC grant to NWTF for Regional Biologist, NWTF Grant-in-Aid research funding (2006-2009), PANWTF habitat superfund & other Hunting Heritage projects especially I&E, cooperative events (JAKES, WITO, Wheelin’) & strong relationship with PANWTF.