



# YOUR STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY FISCAL 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT



JULY 1, 2020-JUNE 30, 2021





**Bryan Burhans,**  
Executive Director, Pennsylvania  
Game Commission

**Stanley I. Knick Jr.,**  
President, Pennsylvania  
Game Commission/Board of  
Commissioners

## OPENING MESSAGE

I am proud to present the Pennsylvania Game Commission's 2021 Annual Report.

In this report, you'll learn more about the agency's accomplishments over the past year, and the extent to which we are focused on achieving our mission of managing and protecting wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations. This entails managing 480 wild birds and mammals, preserving over 1.5 million acres of state game lands, and providing opportunities to hundreds of thousands of hunting and trapping license buyers.


Despite the challenges over the past year and the unprecedented demand on the resources we provide and oversee, we've also experienced significant accomplishments. This is a testament to the commitment of our talented professionals, Board of Commissioners, and those who donate their time as volunteers. It also requires leveraging the partnerships we have forged over the last 125 years within the hunting and trapping community, the General Assembly, municipal governments, and federal and state agencies.

It hasn't always been easy. But the result of all that effort is undeniable. Our collective passion and combined efforts are making a big difference for the future of wildlife conservation.

I invite you to learn more about our work, our partners, and our stewardship, and join with us in conserving the Commonwealth's wildlife resources for generations to come.

I also encourage you to keep up with our activities throughout the year by following us on Facebook, @PennsylvaniaGameCommission, and Instagram, @pagamecomm.

Despite our accomplishments, there is still plenty to do. Wildlife needs, and always will need, our help.



**Bryan J. Burhans**  
Executive Director,  
Pennsylvania Game  
Commission



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President, Pennsylvania  
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of Commissioners





### MISSION:

Manage and protect wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.

### VISION:

Recognized and respected as the leader in innovative and proactive stewardship of wildlife and their habitats.

### STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. Manage Wildlife
2. State Game Lands and Habitat Management
3. Hunting, Trapping and Wildlife Viewing
4. Staff Recruitment, Development, Retention, and Support
5. Agency Sustainability, Operations and Customer Experience
6. Agency Communications and Branding



## ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ALL HUNTING IN PENNSYLVANIA 2020:

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| RETAIL SALES.....          | \$1,163,000,000 |
| JOB.....                   | 13,600          |
| SALARIES AND WAGES .....   | \$584,000,000   |
| STATE AND LOCAL TAXES..... | \$99,000,000    |
| FEDERAL TAXES.....         | \$145,000,000   |

## ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ALL RECREATIONAL SHOOTING ACTIVITIES IN PENNSYLVANIA 2020:

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| RETAIL SALES.....          | \$676,000,000 |
| JOB.....                   | 10,600        |
| SALARIES AND WAGES .....   | \$424,000,000 |
| STATE AND LOCAL TAXES..... | \$70,000,000  |
| FEDERAL TAXES.....         | \$98,000,000  |

Information provided to the Association of Fish and Wildlife agencies by Southwick Associates



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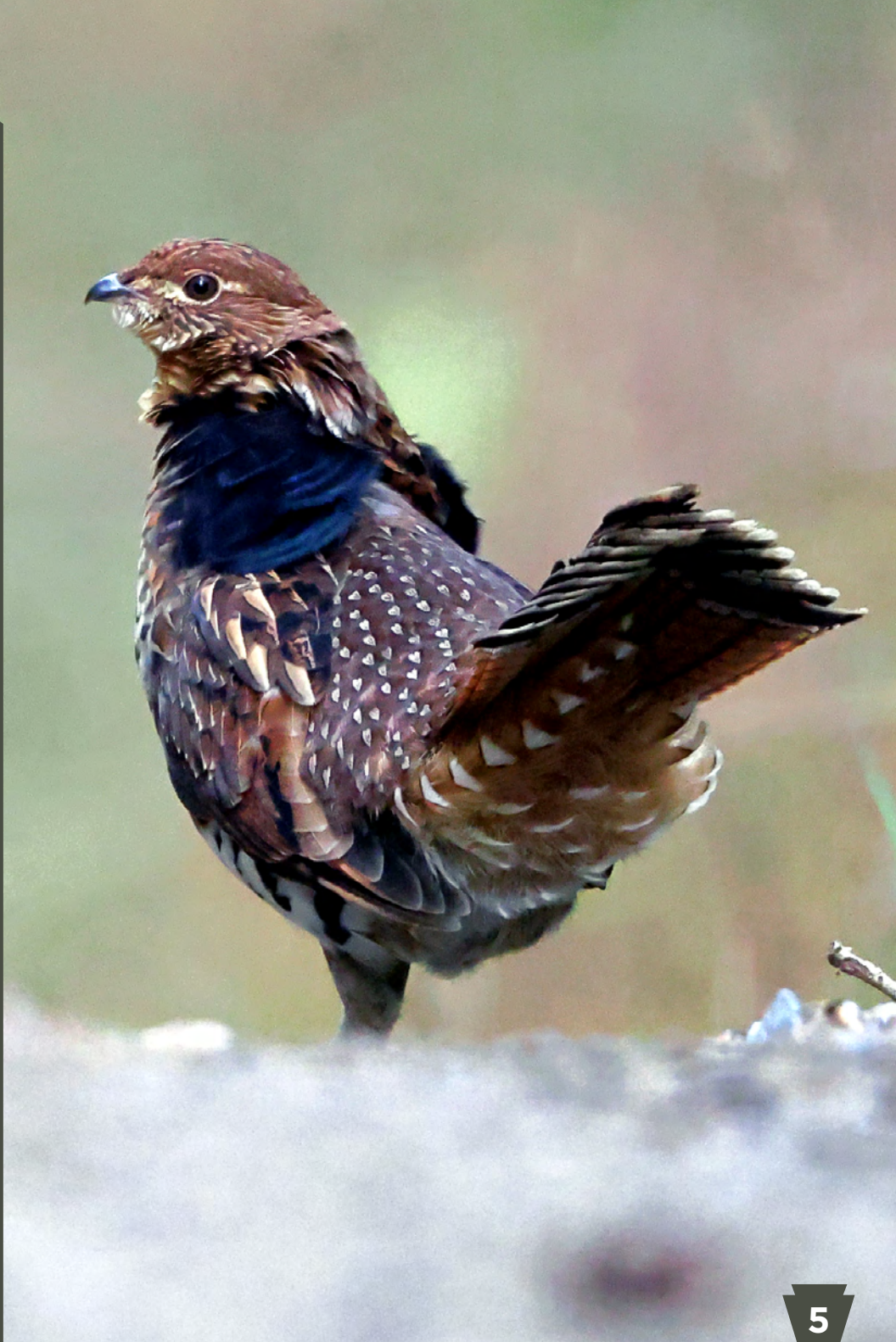
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# STATE GAME LANDS AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT

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# 23,000 ACRES OF HERBACEOUS OPENINGS ACTIVELY MANAGED ON GAME LANDS IN FY 2020-21

## HIGHLIGHTS:

**PLANTING FORBS & GRASSLANDS | CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES | IMPROVING SHRUBLANDS | MOWING GOOSE PASTURES & ELK FORAGING AREAS**

Despite scaling back the use of intensive agriculture across game lands to instead focus on managing for native grass/forb meadows, old fields and reverting shrubland habitats, the Game Commission continued to administer about 2,100 acres of sharecropped lands. These were primarily focused in areas where such habitat is a targeted goal in a particular game lands' Comprehensive Management Plan.

Game Commission staff also focused on maintaining nesting structures for wildlife. That included constructing and managing about 11,000 brush piles, nest boxes and other brooding structures.



## PRESCRIBED FIRE USED TO TREAT MORE THAN 18,000 ACRES OF SGLS MORE THAN DOUBLE THE ACREAGE TREATED THE YEAR PRIOR

The direct impacts of controlled burns are quite small, but the benefits of using fire as a management tool are large, far outweighing potential negatives.

### BENEFITS OF PRESCRIBED FIRE

- Increases soft-mast production in shrubs such as blueberry, huckleberry, and blackberry.
- Rejuvenates browse plants preferred by deer and elk.
- Promotes oak habitats.
- Maintains grasses and broad-leaf plants sought by brooding turkeys and grouse.
- Often reduces the risk of wildfires.

Threats to wildlife, meanwhile, are few. While spring burns may disrupt a few nests of ground-nesting birds such as turkeys and grouse, hens often re-nest and some nests are unharmed in the burn area. Animals often are seen returning to burned areas before the smoke even clears. Most importantly, burns occur on less than 1% of the landscape and burn ignition patterns are designed to provide wildlife with escape routes as the fire progresses.

Additionally, the Game Commission continues working with Letterkenny Army Depot to improve habitat for a quail restoration project. For that, 412 acres were treated with prescribed fire.

Carrying out this work is a large group of well-trained, highly qualified staff who continue to maintain and advance their qualifications. This year, 22 Game Commission employees officially qualified to fill various firefighter roles.







## FORESTRY PROGRAM IMPROVES 26,000 ACRES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT

- 10,013 acres of timber harvested through timber sales
- More than 11,300 acres of non-timber sale forest improvements
  - Crop tree release
  - Aspen cutting and thinnings
  - More than 5,690 acres treated with selective herbicides to promote vegetation valuable to wildlife for providing food and cover.

Associated services received by the Game Commission in lieu of cash from timber sales included:

- 10.8 miles of new roads built
  - 89.8 miles of roads improved
  - 120 culverts placed
  - Two new stream crossings constructed
  - Eight parking lots either built or improved
  - 11 new gates installed
  - 67 acres of new manageable openings of non-woody plants built
- Additionally, deer fencing was removed from 1,002 acres and installed on a different 821 acres.

## GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING

In an effort to protect wildlife habitat, the Pennsylvania Game Commission treated 50,125 acres of state game lands in the spring of 2021 for gypsy moths.

Treatment occurred on 25 different state game lands during late April and May. That work coincided with the hatch of gypsy moth egg masses.

To fund the spraying, the Game Commission transferred more than \$800,000 from its Pittman-Robertson Federal Wildlife Grant funding to the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which oversees the Statewide Cooperative Spray Program for gypsy moths.

Gypsy moths are non-native species that, left untreated, can cause substantial damage to Pennsylvania's forests.



## SHOOTING RANGES

The Game Commission continues to provide resources for shooters – hunters and non-hunters alike – by maintaining shooting ranges on state game lands.

Game Commission staff rehabilitated and upgraded rifle and pistol ranges in Pike, Greene and York counties during the past year. That work included creating and improving shelters, upgrading backstops, creating accessible benches, improving berms, adding new backstop material, and improving parking lots.

Coming up next, new shooting ranges are planned for game lands in Elk County, while new archery ranges will be installed on game lands in Lancaster and Lehigh Counties.





## HOWARD NURSERY PRODUCES CLOSE TO 9,000 NESTING STRUCTURES AND ONE MILLION TREE AND SHRUB SEEDLINGS

### NESTING STRUCTURES:

- 6,900+ built and distributed for SGLs and cooperator properties
- 1,967 Sold to customers

### SEEDLINGS:

- 122,425 To the Seedlings for Schools Program
- 600,000+ SGLs Projects and Hunter Access Cooperators
- 280,000+ Sold to customers



## LAND ACQUISITIONS ADD CONTINUED GROWTH TO STATE GAME LANDS SYSTEM

- 1,904 acres added through 18 land purchase contracts and donations, including:
  - Two interior holdings
  - One indenture
  - Six access improvements
  - One new SGL 336 in Taylor and Shenango townships in Lawrence County.

Ten donations of land were accepted during the fiscal year.



## INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

More than 30 miles of access roadways on game lands were created or maintained through grading, road base installations and the construction of culverts and bridges over the past fiscal year. Most of the roads are designed for hunter access and habitat improvement projects.

Additionally, three crew headquarters buildings were constructed in practical locations. That improved efficiency, allowing crews to complete habitat management projects in the best time possible.



## PAYMENT IN LIEU-OF-TAXES

The Game Commission paid \$1,814,115.83 in payment in lieu-of-taxes, in equal amounts, to the counties, townships, and school districts where state game lands are located.

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board paid an additional \$3,628,231.42.

That added up to \$5,442,347.25 paid to these local governments.



A male wild turkey stands in a forest, its tail feathers fanned out. The turkey has dark, iridescent feathers on its body and a large, colorful wattle. The background is a blurred forest scene with trees and foliage. The text "MANAGING WILDLIFE" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# MANAGING WILDLIFE



# DETERMINING WILD TURKEY POULTS ARE NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO WEST NILE VIRUS

Researchers are finding wild turkeys with West Nile Virus (WNV) antibodies, which is good news because it suggests turkeys are surviving WNV infections. A recent study found that Pennsylvania's wild turkeys are not highly susceptible to experimental WNV and they are not likely to serve as a reservoir host for mosquito transmission of WNV to other vertebrate species.

The research project, conducted by the Game Commission and its partners, included collecting wild turkey eggs from across Pennsylvania in 2019, hatching the eggs, and inoculating the poults – as well as game farm-produced bobwhite quail chicks – with the virus at two ages (7 and 16 weeks).

Phase two of the research, which ran through 2021, involves conducting three years of antibody testing of fall-harvested turkeys to determine WNV infection rates and distribution across the state. This is also part of a larger study assessing antibody levels of WNV in wild turkey, ruffed grouse, greater sage grouse and American woodcock across the United States.

Results so far have shown higher percentages of individuals with antibodies to WNV in American woodcock (31% of those sampled) and wild turkey (28%), versus ruffed grouse (13%) and sage grouse (0%). Those results suggest woodcock and turkeys may survive WNV infection at greater rates than the other species.

The research was conducted at the University of Georgia and funding was provided by a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Multistate Conservation Grant, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, University of Georgia Research Foundation Inc, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and Pennsylvania Chapter NWTF.



*Game Commission Wild Turkey Biologist Mary Jo Casalena is pictured on the left with a shipment of carefully packaged, incubated wild turkey eggs, that were included in the WNV study. NWTF Wild Turkey Biologist Mitch Blake is shown carefully packaging wild turkey eggs in foam, inside a cardboard box, to be driven from Pennsylvania to the University of Georgia. Fall turkey hunters, like Ralph Martone and Reed Johnson, pictured here, provided blood samples from their fall turkey harvests to include in phase two of the study. This is a prime example of how state wildlife agencies can partner with related wildlife organizations and hunters to ensure the wellness of a species for current and future generations*





## PROTECTING PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE BIRD

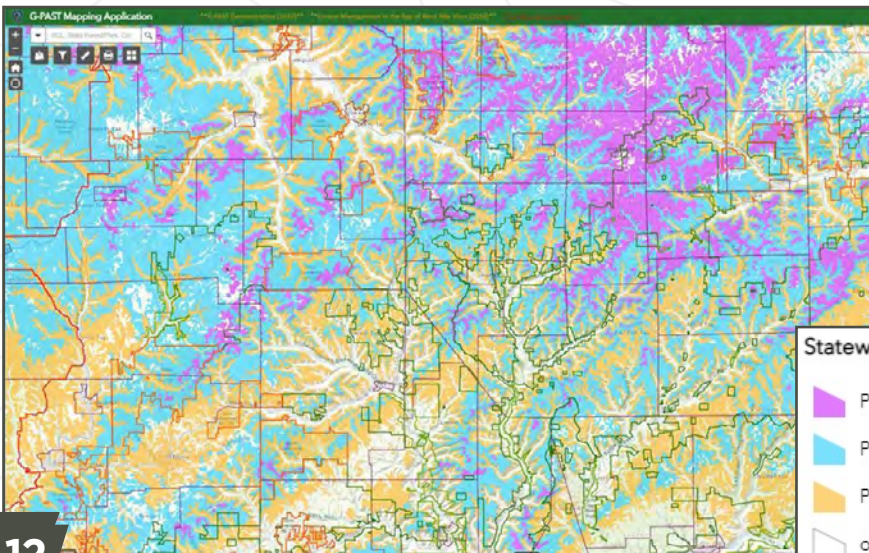


Research by the Pennsylvania Game Commission to help Pennsylvania's state bird, the ruffed grouse, recover from dramatic population declines, was recently the recipient of the Governor's Award for Excellence.

Game Commission research has identified West Nile Virus (WNV) as an important driver in grouse declines. In response, this team quickly collaborated on the Grouse Priority Area Siting Tool (G-PAST), which combines cutting-edge GIS analysis with the agency's wildlife disease research findings.

G-PAST identifies areas where grouse populations are most buffered from disease risk and the best chance to survive and thrive long-term. Such knowledge is crucial in helping landowners decide where to focus habitat work for grouse. It's available online at <http://bit.ly/PGCG-Past>.

The tool doesn't eliminate the impacts of West Nile Virus. Instead, it identifies areas of low disease risk where improvement in young forest habitat will maximize benefits to grouse and other species impacted by West Nile Virus. Putting the "best habitat in the best places" is the key to recovering our state bird.



*The ruffed grouse was selected as Pennsylvania's state bird 90 years ago in 1931. Its beauty is admired by hunter and non-hunter alike. A visual of the G-PAST mapping tool can be seen here, where colors indicate best places to restore habitat.*

### Statewide Grouse Priority Areas

- Priority 1
- Priority 2
- Priority 3
- others

## COLLARING CANADA GEESE TO STUDY HABITAT USAGE AND MOVEMENT

Seven Canada geese were marked with GPS/GSM neck collars at Middle Creek and Pymatuning in June 2020 as part of the Game Commission's study to determine how Canada geese use the habitats at those locations and to learn how hunting impacts habitat use and goose movement. In 2021, 63 more geese were collared, and as of September, 60 of the birds remained alive; 10 were shot or found dead.

Every 5-10 minutes, the collars digitally report information related to location, temperature, flying speed and their activity (for example: flying, feeding, resting or nesting). One bird left Pymatuning for central West Virginia in 2020 and was shot by a first-time hunter. Another bird moved from Pymatuning to a summer molting location on the Ungava Peninsula in northern Québec.



*Pennsylvania Game Commission Waterfowl Biologist Nate Huck is pictured here with a Canada Goose he collared at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in June 2021.*



# WORKING TO KEEP COMMON NATIVE SPECIES COMMON

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF STATE WILDLIFE GRANTS PROGRAM

The State Wildlife Grants Program (SWG) is a federal initiative celebrating 20 years of working to prevent species from becoming listed as federally endangered. The program invests in voluntary, preemptive action for imperiled species.

Pennsylvania receives \$1.6 million annually (split between the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission) to benefit 664 species identified in greatest need of conservation in the State Wildlife Action Plan. Passage of the U.S. Recovering America's Wildlife Act, complementary federal legislation, would provide increased, dedicated annual funding to fully implement our State Wildlife Action Plan, which directly benefits those 664 species, and can be viewed at <https://www.pgc.pa.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeActionPlan/Documents/State%20Wildlife%20Grants%20Program%2020%20Years%20Retrospective.pdf>



*The Game Commission and its partners have recovered three state-listed species, including the osprey, pictured left, bald eagle, pictured center, and peregrine falcon, pictured right. The agency engaged more than 4,000 volunteers in population monitoring and provided free technical assistance to nearly 1,800 private landowners managing species of greatest conservation need.*

## REMOVING PEREGRINE FALCONS FROM THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTS

After more than 40 years of conservation recovery action, the peregrine falcon is back! In 2021, the species was removed from the state's threatened and endangered species lists.

Due to the widespread use of the pesticide DDT, the falcon had disappeared from most of the eastern U.S. between the mid-1940s-1965. After DDT was banned, the Game Commission was part of a national recovery effort, focused on releasing captive-bred peregrines into the wild through the 1980s and 1990s. The population grew rapidly from these early efforts and proves that recovery is possible with thoughtful, science-based species management.



## RESTORING NATIVE HABITATS FOR THE NORTHERN BOBWHITE

Northern bobwhites were native residents of Pennsylvania for centuries, but have disappeared due to lack of suitable habitat, which includes native grasses, plants and shrubs. This type of habitat was once abundant when primitive farming practices were in use. The Game Commission is currently working with Letterkenny Army Depot, in Franklin County, to create more of this type of native habitat to benefit all types of wildlife.

Wild bobwhites, captured from other states, will be released when enough quality habitat is available at Letterkenny, which is scheduled to begin in spring 2023. The 2021-2030 northern bobwhite quail management plan was recently approved and is available online at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).





## INCREASING OTTER POPULATION AND EXPANDING TRAPPING OPPORTUNITIES

River otters, nearly extirpated from Pennsylvania during the first half of the 20th century, have climbed back to the point that they now occupy much of the state, especially in the state's northeast and northwest regions.

The 2020-2021 trapping season was the sixth consecutive year in which permitted trappers were able to legally harvest an otter during a seven-day February season. Prior to 2016, the otter season had been closed since 1952. Three additional Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) in northwestern Pennsylvania were open for otter harvest.

Biologists continue to track a stable to increasing otter population trend throughout the Commonwealth, as the species spreads into even the smallest mountain streams and spring creeks. A multi-year research project monitoring river otters using remote cameras is underway. The results will enhance the Game Commission's ability to ensure population sustainability and harvest opportunity.

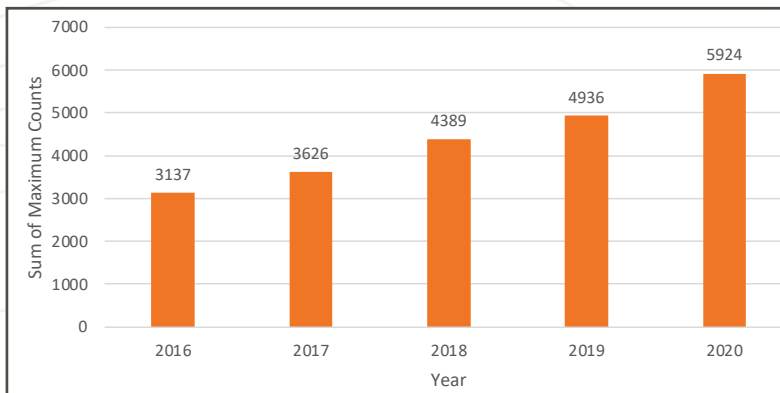
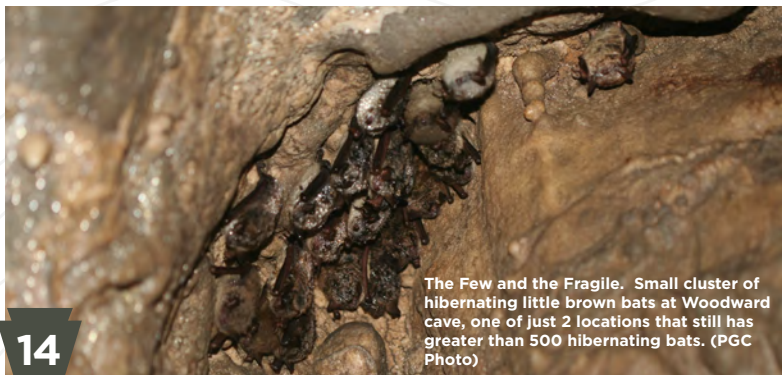


Figure 1. Sum of maximum annual counts at 15 verified little brown sites with surveys in each of the past five years.



The Few and the Fragile. Small cluster of hibernating little brown bats at Woodward cave, one of just 2 locations that still has greater than 500 hibernating bats. (PGC Photo)

## WHITE NOSE SYNDROME IN BATS

White nose syndrome (WNS) was first confirmed in Pennsylvania in 2008. Within four years it occurred state-wide and quickly killed 99% of all hibernating bats in the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) immediately took leadership of a coordinated research response: publishing the first mortality rates by species, identifying the critical biological impairments leading to death, and developing real-time tools for use in caves to diagnose disease and assess severity. Thirteen years into the epidemic, we have now shifted our focus to managing and protecting survivors.

The impacts of White Nose Syndrome are almost impossible to comprehend, with 99% mortality of all hibernating bats in the Commonwealth. Currently, there remains just one known colony of Indiana bats in Pennsylvania. Once the most plentiful bat in the East, little brown bats have been reduced to just 2 dozen colonies. These surviving colonies carry the hope for the future of these species. PGC research indicates they seek out the presence of other survivors in winter and summer, gathering at just a few critically important sites. This gathering of survivors provides opportunity to actively protect key sites and to deploy management activities that can further enhance survival. We're continually developing and testing cutting-edge field techniques that decrease disease impacts and support recovery of even the most highly impacted species, such as cooling sites to inhibit disease and testing the active treatment of sites to limit disease prevalence. Our work is paying off, as there is some evidence in Pennsylvania that some juveniles born to these survivors are themselves surviving WNS - good news for recovery (Figure 1).



# CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE RESPONSE PLAN AND DASHBOARD

Many changes in Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management have come about within the last year, since the Game Commission's Board of Commissioners approved the agency's CWD Response Plan in July of 2020. One of the agency's goals, as outlined in the Response Plan, is to determine the extent of CWD infection in areas around a new CWD detection located at the leading edge of disease expansion.

To accomplish this goal, the Game Commission created eight Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) units, all of which surrounded locations where a CWD positive had recently been detected. Hunters in those units could purchase additional antlerless tags to help meet surveillance goals. Results from these efforts help to guide future management actions in each area.

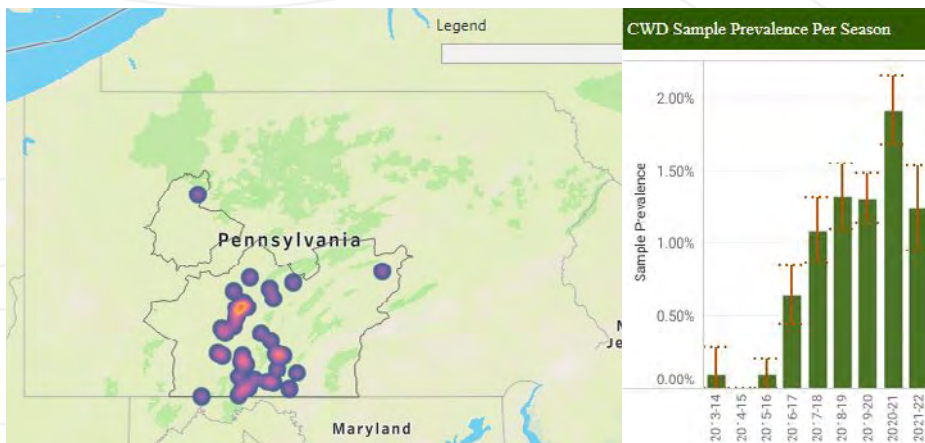
New regulations, meanwhile, ban the import of cervid high-risk parts from anywhere outside Pennsylvania. The Established Area, within which over 90% of Pennsylvania's CWD positive free-ranging deer cases have been found, was also created, along with regulations banning the export of high-risk parts from the area.

In cooperation with Timmons Group, the Game Commission developed an interactive CWD Surveillance Dashboard that displays past and current information related to CWD, including CWD testing data organized by season, species (white-tailed deer or elk), age, collection method, sex, and collection site (down to the township level). The dashboard is used to help measure agency progress toward planned goals and objectives while offering a transparent way to tell various stakeholders the story of CWD in Pennsylvania.

## ASSISTING HUNTERS WITH NEW CWD MAP

In September of 2020, the Game Commission debuted a new mapping tool for hunters, particularly those who hunt in areas with Chronic Wasting Disease, with the most updated information.

The interactive map - available at [www.bit.ly/PGC-CWDMap](http://www.bit.ly/PGC-CWDMap) - shows Disease Management Area boundaries, the location of head collection bins, high-risk parts dumpsters, cooperating deer processors and taxidermists, and CWD Deer Management Assistance Program units.



## WILDLIFE FUTURES

The Wildlife Futures Program is a partnership between the Game Commission and the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, aimed at creating a robust, science-based wildlife health program to improve disease surveillance, support more comprehensive disease management, and promote innovative research aimed at enriching wildlife resources in the Commonwealth.

The program helped establish a state-of-the-art diagnostic laboratory for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance at the University of Pennsylvania. This lab has substantially decreased the turnaround time for testing samples submitted by hunters, reducing it by half since 2017.

Projects include a collaboration with Cornell University to design a CWD surveillance plan with comprehensive disease prevalence modeling capabilities coupled to real-time budgetary analysis. Another project is training dogs to detect CWD-infected animals through scent. The Wildlife Futures Program is also engaging stakeholders such as the National Deer Association to help educate hunters about CWD.

Non-game species are vital for cultivating healthy and diverse ecosystems. The Wildlife Futures Program has developed and validated COVID-19 testing for bats. The program recently hired several wildlife health technicians throughout the state to help coordinate field activities. Veterinarians have created training protocols, reviewed wildlife disease surveillance plans, helped streamline research requests, and assisted in drafting threat assessments for diseases.

This collaboration will serve as a model for wildlife disease surveillance, research and communications for the Commonwealth and other states striving to maintain balanced and diverse ecosystems throughout the United States.



# HUNTING, TRAPPING & WILDLIFE VIEWING

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## PREMIERE WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING

In recent years, Pennsylvania deer hunters have harvested more deer per square mile than any state in the nation. Pennsylvania hunters harvested an estimated 435,180 white-tailed deer during the 2020-21 hunting seasons, which is an increase from the estimated 389,431 harvest during the 2019-20 hunting seasons.

Of the antlered deer harvested, 64% were two years of age or older. This represents a significant change from the late 1990s, when only 20% of the antlered harvest was older than two years of age.

In 2020-21, 20% of all licensed hunters took a buck, while 28% of antlerless licenses were used to tag an antlerless deer. The consistency of the harvest and success rates demonstrates the resiliency and sustainability of Pennsylvania's deer population.



Link to State of Deer Address- <https://youtu.be/pkozJmFeTY0>

## STATEWIDE CONCURRENT FIREARMS SEASON

Beginning in 2021, hunters were able to harvest antlerless deer during the entire firearms season, expanding the opportunity for hunters to harvest antlerless deer.

In the past, most Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) were antlered only for the first week of the 2-week season.

The concurrent season allows greater flexibility and choice for when hunters can harvest antlerless deer, and the harvest is less influenced by adverse weather. The WMU-specific antlerless allocations remain the primary driver for the harvest and were adjusted to account for the additional days.



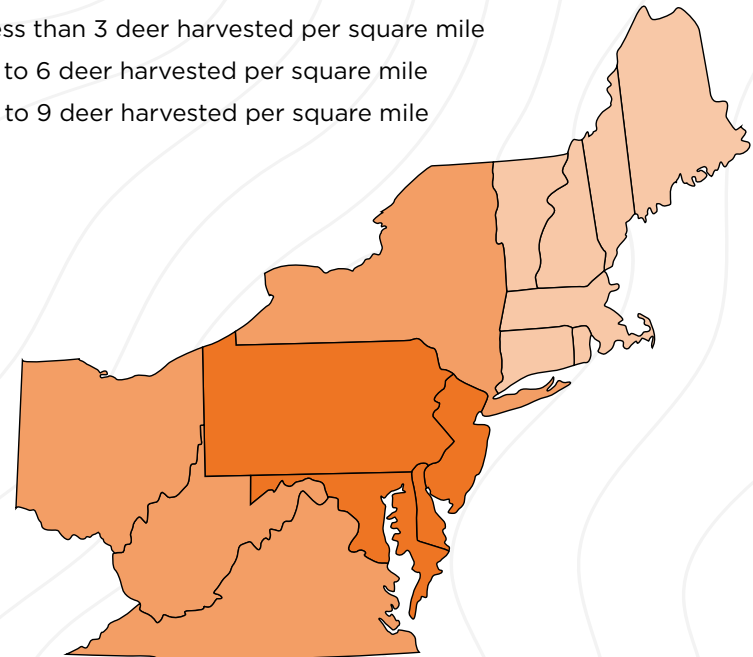
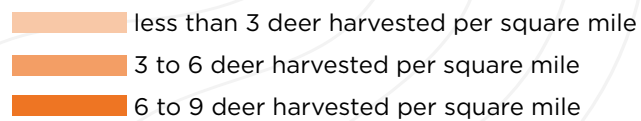
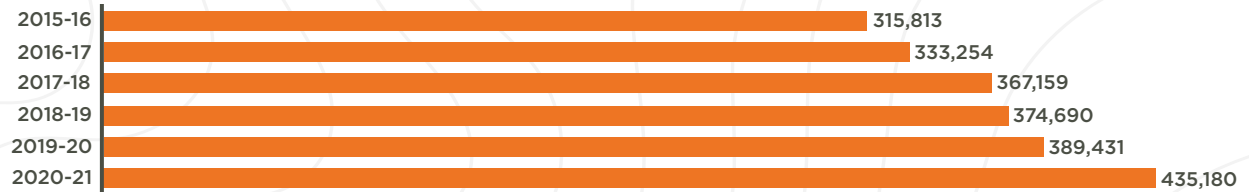




## DEER HARVEST DENSITY

Pennsylvania has consistently been in the top three states in the entire country for both deer harvest and harvest density (size of the state is factored in) for antlered and antlerless harvest in recent years.

### ESTIMATED TOTAL ANNUAL WHITE-TAILED DEER HARVEST IN PENNSYLVANIA



## HARVEST MONITORING

Pennsylvania's deer harvest is a critical part of the deer management program. Every year, more than 75 trained deer agers visit more than 400 deer processors throughout the Commonwealth. Data are collected on days following the top harvest days during the two weeks of firearms season.

During 2020, 31 aging teams collected harvest data from more than 24,400 deer. These data are critical, but only part of the information used to make management recommendations for the following year's deer seasons.





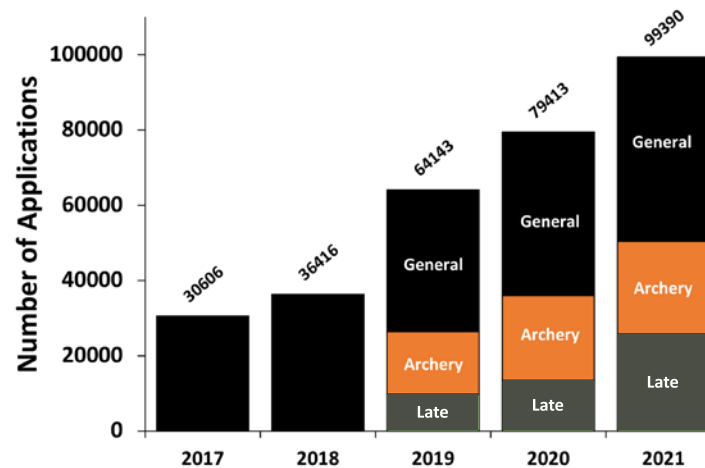
## EXCEPTIONAL ELK HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

The resurgence of Pennsylvania's elk population is a conservation success story that has created some amazing hunting opportunities.

In Pennsylvania, elk licenses are awarded via a lottery system. Hopeful hunters can enter the lottery during June and July each year. Licenses are then drawn around the middle of August.

Each year the general hunting season takes place around the first week of November. In 2019 the Game Commission approved two additional hunting seasons; an early archery season that overlaps the September rut and a late season around the first week of January.

The number of elk licenses awarded has also increased, from 118 in 2017 to 187 for the 2021 season. Hunter response to these additional opportunities was unprecedented, with application sales more than tripling over the past 5 years.





# SUCCESSFUL PHEASANT STOCKING PROGRAM LEADS TO INCREASE IN PHEASANT HUNTERS

Landscape-level habitat changes in Pennsylvania over the past 50 years have negatively impacted many species of small game birds, including ring-necked pheasants.

To compensate for that, the Game Commission raised and stocked 221,231 pheasants on more than 230 stocked properties (state game lands, other public lands, and select Hunter Access cooperator locations) in 62 of the Commonwealth's 67 counties.

## STOCKING ALLOCATIONS

- **Youth Season:** 16,451
- **Regular Fall Season:** 180,335
- **Late Season:** 24,445

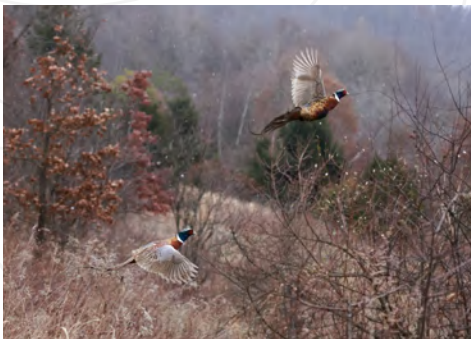
The Game Commission issued 62,997 pheasant hunting permits in the 2020-21 license year (49,751 adults and 13,246 juniors); the total was up almost 30% from 2018-19, the first year when both adult and junior permits were required. According to the Game-Take Survey, about 265,000 hunter-days were spent pursuing pheasants during the 2020-21 seasons.

## ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Procurement contracts were updated to gradually increase day-old chick purchases from 268,000 to 298,000.
- Game farm infrastructure was upgraded to accommodate additional production.
- Logistical arrangements were completed to initiate two new late-season stockings in the 2021-22 season.

## LOOKING FORWARD

- Increase pheasant production.
- Add pheasant stocking days.
- Extend late-season pheasant hunting opportunities.



## WILD TURKEY HUNTING

The fall 2020 harvest of approximately 8,500 turkeys was down slightly, by about 8%, compared to the previous three-year average of 9,200.

The fall turkey hunter success rate of 8% was average, though, and hunter participation of approximately 100,900 has been stable during the last four years. About 12% of all hunting license buyers participated in the fall turkey season, a number that was similar to the previous three-year average.

The spring 2021 gobbler harvest of approximately 28,000 turkeys represented a decline of 19% from 2020. The total number of spring 2021 turkey hunters was approximately 193,600.

Sales of the special turkey licenses, which allow hunters to harvest a second turkey, hit 25,210. That was similar to 2020's sales total of 25,524 and about the norm. Sales have exceeded 20,000 annually since 2017. Of those who hunted a second bird, 50% were successful.



# NEW BLACK BEAR HUNTING SEASONS AND RESEARCH UNDERWAY

Pennsylvania bear hunters took advantage of added muzzleloader, special firearms and extended statewide archery seasons in fall 2020.

## 2020 BEAR HARVEST

**Total:** 3,621 – sixth best in PA history

- **Early season:** 13
- **Statewide archery season:** 955
- **Muzzleloader/Special firearms season:** 1,041
- **Regular firearms season:** 1,177
- **Extended season:** 435

The largest bear harvested in 2020 was a 719-pound male taken with a crossbow on Nov. 7 in Ayr Township, Fulton County.

The advent of these new seasons created a need to understand how they would affect bear populations and variations in harvest vulnerability. In the summer of 2019, Game Commission staff began capturing and putting GPS collars on female black bears on the Sproul State Forest to understand how these season changes – among other factors such as mast availability and hunter effort/landscape use – affect female harvest vulnerability. Preliminary results from this project are expected by fall 2022.

Additionally, we started another project in partnership with some of the leading population analysis researchers in the country. The goal is to develop a new model for evaluating our bear populations on an annual basis. This new population estimation method will help the Game Commission more economically allocate its resources while still achieving some of the best black bear population monitoring standards in the country.



## NIGHT VISION OPTICS NOW LAWFUL FOR HUNTING FURBEARERS

Furbearer hunters now have the option of using handheld and sporting-arm-mounted night vision and infrared (thermal) optics.

The law permitting these devices became effective in November of 2020, following a regulation change adopted by the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners. The board acted following the passage of state House Bill 1188, which was sponsored by Representative Parke Wentling. It gave the Game Commission authority to regulate night vision and infrared optics.

The new regulation was drafted by the Game Commission's Bureau of Wildlife Protection, based on a review of data from other states that permit the use of night vision equipment. That review determined there were no safety concerns regarding night vision's use for hunting furbearers in Pennsylvania.

There are hunting seasons for the following furbearers: raccoons, foxes, coyotes, opossums, striped skunks, weasels, bobcats and porcupines. Porcupines may not be hunted at night.





# SUSTAINABILITY, OPERATIONS & CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

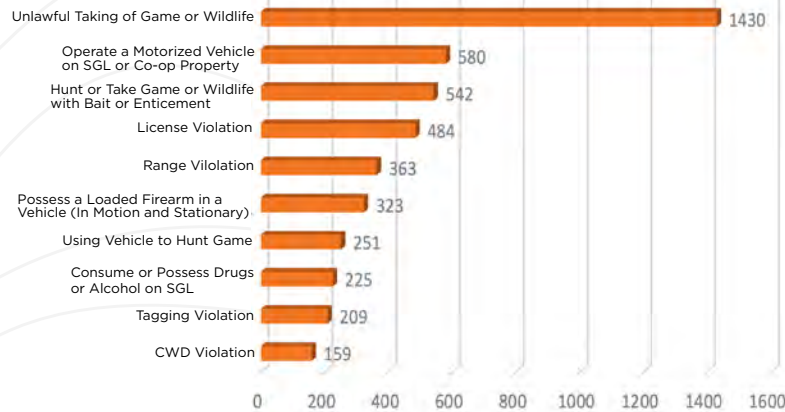
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# WILDLIFE PROTECTION— CITATIONS, WARNINGS, PROSECUTIONS

Game wardens issued 4,199 warnings and conducted 6,810 prosecutions in the Pennsylvania court system this past fiscal year. The agency was successful in 6,359 of those prosecutions. That's a successful prosecution rate of 97.3%, demonstrating the professionalism and judgment used by wardens when bringing charges.

FISCAL YEAR 20-21 TOP VIOLATIONS



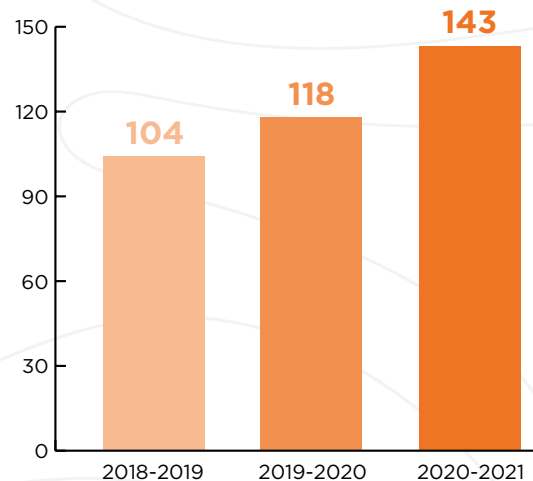
## K-9 UPDATE

The Game Commission K-9 unit continues to play an important role in wildlife law enforcement throughout the Commonwealth. The program, which was re-established nearly seven years ago starting with three dogs, has grown to six K-9s. Currently there is a K-9 dedicated to each of the six Game Commission regions.

The PGC K-9s are requested and deployed to assist region state game wardens with wildlife violations. The K-9s are specifically trained and certified to detect firearms, weapons, and other discarded items such as spent shell casings. They are also skilled in wildlife detection and human tracking. The use of the K-9 provides the field force with the ability to find evidence faster and evidence that may go undetected. The PGC K-9s are also frequently requested by local, state and federal law enforcement to assist in searching for firearms and ammunition discarded in serious crimes or search for missing persons and fleeing suspects.

Each K-9 is paired with an Overt Special Investigator that acts as the K-9 handler. The Overt Investigators also provide assistance to field wardens in complex investigations that involve social media investigations and computer and cell phone evidence recovery. The dual role of Overt Investigators and K-9 handlers adds a unique specialty to the effectiveness of solving wildlife crimes.

## K-9 DEPLOYMENTS



K-9 Ayla & handler Shawn Barron



K-9 Kya & handler Steven Brussese



K-9 Cali & handler William Kreider



## NEW GAME WARDENS ADDED TO THE RANKS

Twenty-seven new game wardens were assigned to districts across Pennsylvania in 2021.

The 32nd Class of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Ross Leffler School of Conservation graduated on Feb. 13, following 45 weeks of intensive training.

Members of the 32nd Class faced many unique challenges along the way, having enrolled in March of 2020, just in time to deal with many closures, uncertainty, and virus-related mandates across the nation.

They overcame all that, and the 27 graduates are commissioned as officers and have been assigned to their new districts.

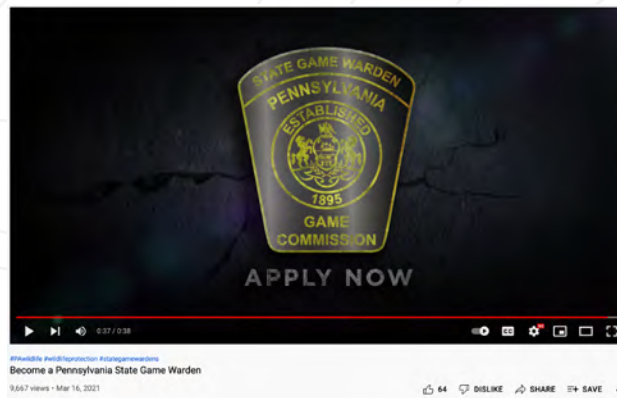
Currently, a new class of cadets are enrolled in the Ross Leffler School of Conservation and are undergoing their training, with a graduation date set for 2022.



## GAME WARDEN RECRUITMENT

Starting with the 32nd class, a minimum of 60 semester college credit hours became a prerequisite for applying to the Ross Leffler School of Conservation. This, in addition to less interest in law enforcement centered careers across the country, led to a substantial decline in application numbers. As recruitment numbers across the country have been on a steady decline, the Pennsylvania Game Commission capitalized on digital platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and its agency podcast, Call of the Outdoors to recruit new candidates for the 33rd and 34th class, which contributed to a substantial increase in applications for the 33rd and 34th classes.

| CLASS | # OF APPLICANTS |
|-------|-----------------|
| 30TH  | 622             |
| 31ST  | 610             |
| 32ND  | 454             |
| 33RD  | 625             |
| 34TH  | 714             |







## WOODLAND TRACKING TEAM

The Game Commission's Woodland Tracking Team continues to prove beneficial, saving one person's life in 2021.

The specialized unit was formed in 2013. It's made up of 18 game wardens specially trained in the art of tracking lost or missing persons in the woods of Pennsylvania. To qualify to serve, each operator must complete advanced training that can take up to two years to complete.

These wardens, known as "Team Operators," can track people through various landscapes. They use their skills to identify and recognize disturbances caused by a human footprint or other evidence – called "spoor" – left behind.

The Team has been involved in countless search and rescue missions, found missing persons, and conducted criminal investigations. The unit's ability to operate day or night has also attracted the attention of other law enforcement agencies, such as the Pennsylvania State Police, FBI and the U.S. Secret Service.

The team participates in high-profile and high-risk scenarios. Its primary mission, though, is finding missing or lost persons. The team is called out quite frequently to track elderly persons who strayed from home, children gone missing, and lost hunters and hikers.



The Tracking Team was deployed 24 times during the 2020-21 fiscal year. It even participated in four security details tied to presidential visits to the Commonwealth.

Its most notable mission, though, took place in February of 2021. At that time, Tracking Team Operators Andy Hueser and Cody Jones responded to a call about a car semi-submerged in a frozen pond. The occupant of the vehicle was missing.

Hueser and Jones began looking for any signs indicating which direction the vehicle's occupant might have gone. That was not obvious, as it had snowed since the car became submerged.

Finally finding evidence of an old foot track, they painstakingly followed it for more than 300 yards until they found an individual, partially clothed and unconscious, covered by snow, and suffering from extreme hypothermia and frostbite.

Hueser and Jones immediately administered first aid to the victim, thereby saving the individual's life.





## PRIVATE LANDS

Private lands are important to the Game Commission because the majority of Pennsylvania's landscape is privately owned and wildlife doesn't recognize land ownership boundaries.

To aid wildlife on private lands, the Game Commission and its partners use federal programs, like the farm bill, and other grant programs to provide technical assistance and project funding to private landowners to improve habitat.

The Game Commission partners with Pheasants Forever to assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service in implementing various farm bill programs. Those efforts improve wildlife habitat while sustaining agricultural production.

The Pheasants Forever partnership employs seven farm bill biologists, who work in 21 counties throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Farm bill biologists conducted outreach to more than 16,000 people, contacting 1,313 landowners and visiting more than 517, and developing or modifying 392 conservation plans. That work impacted 14,000 acres.

The Game Commission's private lands forester, meanwhile, covers 22 counties in northeastern Pennsylvania. That forester assists the Natural Resources Conservation Service with implementing farm bill forestry projects that benefit golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, ruffed grouse and other healthy-forest-dependent species.

During FY 20-21, the farm bill forester conducted 52 site visits, completed or reviewed 20 forestry plans on 571 acres, and conducted data collection, monitoring, timber marking, project layout, inspections, and certifications on 1,044 acres.

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## HUNTER ACCESS PROPERTY

The Game Commission's Hunter Access Program continues to be one of the nation's largest truly voluntary access programs, with more than 12,000 parcels encompassing about 2.16 million acres enrolled.

The Game Commission provides cooperating landowners with a complimentary wildlife calendar, a subscription to the agency's magazine *Pennsylvania Game News* magazine, annual seedlings and wood products. It also strives to make participation in the program convenient. The Game Commission developed an online seedling and wood product ordering system for cooperating landowners, as well as an online mapping system for forest game cooperators to verify their property boundaries.

Meanwhile, for the sake of hunters, landowner agreements and property information are updated regularly to ensure accurate content is available on the agency's public Mapping Center. There's even a means for reporting bad locations on the mapping center.





**LAUNCHED** In January of 2021, HuntFishPA, a portal for hunters, trappers, anglers and boaters to purchase licenses and permits was launched. The new system has a modern look and feel, provides a streamlined user experience, offers enhanced features and tools, and – most importantly – supports a seamless transition from the former licensing system. All customer historical purchase and licensure data were moved to HuntFishPA to make it easier for customers.

**SITE USAGE** Since go-live, HuntFishPA has been accessed by over 1.5 million users and supported nearly 50 million page views. Users are accessing the site over 60% of the time via a mobile device (phones/tablets). The responsive design of the solution enables an equitable user experience regardless of device.

## LICENSE CHANGES

**NEW COLOR** Beginning in the 2021/22 license year, fishing and hunting licenses are printed on durable green paper, replacing the yellow license color that was used previously.

**DIGITAL LICENSE OPTION** Unlike Pennsylvania's former hunting and furtaker licensing system, the new system, HuntFishPA, is equipped to issue digital licenses. In early 2021, The Pennsylvania Game Commission authorized hunters and trappers to carry digital licenses and permits, though paper harvest tags still must be carried and used in any season where harvests must be tagged. Hunters and trappers who already have purchased their 2021-22 licenses can download PDF copies of their licenses and permits by logging in to their profile on HuntFishPA.





# COMMUNICATIONS & BRANDING

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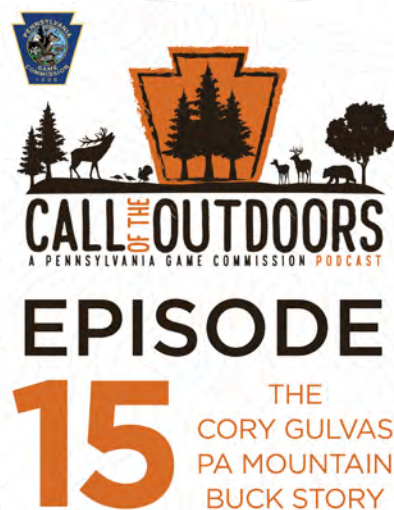


## CALL OF THE OUTDOORS



Call of the Outdoors is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's podcast, hosted by Marketing Bureau Director Matt Morrett. New episodes featuring guests from within the agency, as well as hunters, public figures and more, are published each month.

The episodes feature unique and relevant issues, explaining Pennsylvania hunting and wildlife-related subjects and provides listeners with better ways to explore, promote and understand our natural resources. Call of the Outdoors episodes are available on [www.calloftheoutdoorspgc.com](http://www.calloftheoutdoorspgc.com), Apple Podcasts, Google Play Store, iHeartRadio, Spotify and Stitcher.



[Calloftheoutdoorspgc.com/Spotify/Stitcher/Apple Podcasts/Google Podcasts](http://Calloftheoutdoorspgc.com/Spotify/Stitcher/Apple Podcasts/Google Podcasts)

## GOVDELIVERY

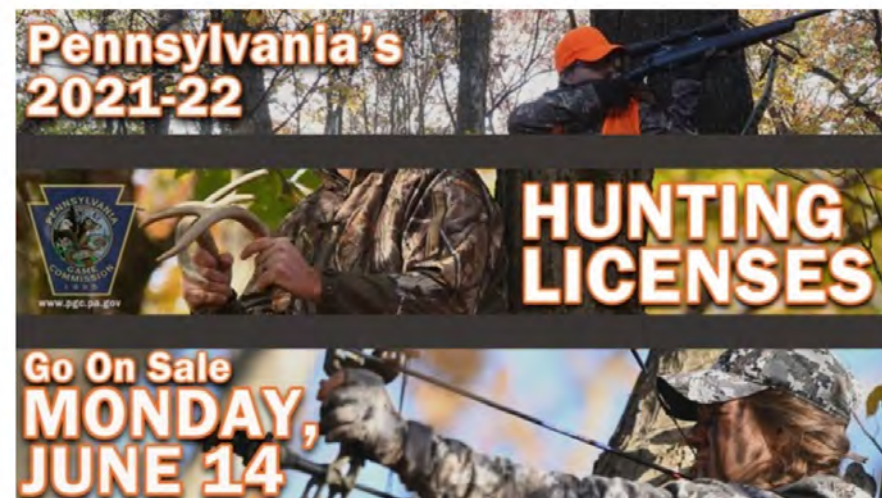
# govDELIVERY



In fall of 2020, the Pennsylvania Game Commission transitioned to a new email communication platform. This has allowed the Game Commission to strengthen and expand its email communication efforts to its constituents. GovDelivery is a web-based e-mail subscription management system that allows users to select specific topics that interest them.



### Pennsylvania Hunting Licenses To Go On Sale Monday, June 14!





## GAME NEWS

For more than 90 years, Pennsylvania *Game News* has served to inform, educate and entertain hunters, trappers and others interested in wildlife and the outdoors. As the official monthly magazine of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, *Game News* keeps readers connected with the agency and its goals. But more than that, countless hunters have come to view *Game News* as a familiar friend they might have grown up reading in their school library or by the fireplace light at their hunting camp. Today, many loyal *Game News* subscribers have been reading the magazine for decades and continue to look forward to each issue, filled with stories by hunters, expert insight, agency news, brilliant photos and wildlife artwork. The magazine is as vibrant and useful now as ever, and much like hunting and trapping in Penn's Woods, packs tradition throughout.

To assist new hunters on their first season afield, the Game Commission provided a free yearly subscription to *Game News* to the approximately 35,000 individuals who successfully completed a Hunter-Trapper Education course in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.



## WILDLIFE LIVESTREAMS

In the spring of 2021 Game Commission was once again able to provide a livestream of a Pennsylvania black bear den.

Viewers were treated to the sights and sounds of a female bear with three cubs. The bears were located under a porch of a home in Monroe County. That's the same location that another sow used as a den in 2019.

The Game Commission livestreamed that bear, too.

The sow that people watched in 2021 – believed to be different than the one using this den in 2019 – departed with her three cubs on the evening of March 24.

The Game Commission also provided livestreams of two bald eagle nests; of the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, so that viewers could watch the snow goose migration; and of a game lands in the heart of Pennsylvania's elk country during the elk rut.

All of these livestream cameras are proving incredibly popular in providing an unfiltered look at wildlife in their natural settings.



## HUNTER-TRAPPER EDUCATION



Individuals 12 and older who want to hunt or trap in Pennsylvania must complete a certification course before they're permitted to purchase a hunting or furtaker license.

Pennsylvania offers free in-person classes across the Commonwealth, as well as two online courses.

Due to restrictions in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Game Commission was able to provide only limited in-person class offerings during fiscal year 2020-21. A total of 205 Basic Hunter Education courses were conducted. Still, they certified 4,553 students to hunt and trap. Another 21,993 students graduated from an online course.

The Commission also provides advanced Hunter-Trapper Education courses. More than 500 individuals completed the online or in-person course necessary to use cable restraints in Pennsylvania, and more than 450 completed the online or in-person Successful Bowhunting certification course.

In June of 2021, the Game Commission created a new online Archery Safety course to promote tree stand safety and safe, ethical archery shot placement. It was made available for free to the public.

The success of the Commission's Hunter-Trapper Education program is evident in the number of hunting related shooting incidents (HRSIs). The number of recorded HRSIs during calendar year 2021 was the lowest on record in Pennsylvania. There were only 23 incidents, one of which resulted in a fatality.

Of those incidents, 17 were inflicted by others and six were self-inflicted.

## NATIONAL AWARDS RECOGNIZE GAME COMMISSION FOR EXCELLENCE

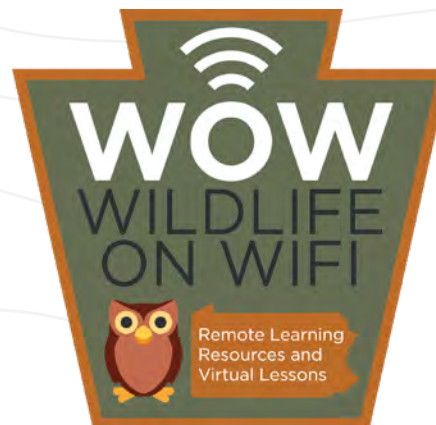
The Washington, D.C.-based Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognized the Pennsylvania Game Commission for excellence, presenting the agency with two national awards at its annual meeting.

The Game Commission and its grouse biologist, Lisa Williams, were named recipients of the 2020 Ernest Thompson Seton Award. It's presented to the state, provincial or federal agency that best promotes public awareness of the need to support the science and practice of wildlife management.

A companion award is presented to the individual deemed by the agency as the one most responsible for its successful and award-winning program.

The Game Commission's new Wildlife on WiFi program, meanwhile, was named winner of the 2020 Stephen Kellert Award. It recognizes a distinguished individual or group effort for outstanding service in advancing connections between humans and the natural world to all people in a diverse and inclusive manner.

Launched during a period when schools statewide were closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wildlife on WiFi connects Pennsylvanians to their state's wildlife from anywhere by providing innovative remote-learning opportunities, virtual lessons and online educational resources focused on wildlife and its conservation.







*KEEP PA ELK WILD*



## ELK SMART

**ELK SMART** is a communications campaign to encourage those who visit and recreate within Elk Country to be mindful of their actions and to help keep the elk wild. The goal is to encourage target audiences to do their part to preserve the wild nature of Pennsylvania's elk herd and to educate about the negative impacts of habituation.

### KEY MESSAGES

**DO YOUR PART TO HELP KEEP PA ELK WILD**

**PRESERVE THE WILD NATURE OF PA ELK**

**HOW TO BE ELK SMART:**

- 1. Give Elk Space.** Keep a distance, of at least 100 yards, between you and the elk. Never approach them. Elk are wild animals that are unpredictable, and sometimes aggressive, especially during the fall breeding season. Cows are also known to defend their young when they feel threatened.
- 2. Never Feed Elk.** Not only is it illegal to feed elk in Pennsylvania, but it teaches them to associate people, cars or homes with food. This could cause them to approach people looking for more. Feeding also promotes the spread of infectious diseases by having them unnaturally congregate into small areas.
- 3. Don't Name Elk.** Characterizing elk, or any wildlife, by naming them degrades their wild essence. The very reason people are drawn to the elk is their unaltered independence from humans. Personifying elk as humans takes away from their truly wild nature.
- 4. Do Your Part.** The welfare of the elk herd is a shared responsibility. If you see someone being disruptive or careless, whether intentional or not, ask them to stop or report it. We all have a duty to ensure the safety of people and the long-term welfare of the elk.

### TARGET AUDIENCES

- Elk viewers (hundreds of thousands, annually)
- Outdoor recreators (camp owners, hikers, hunters, anglers, etc.), near the elk herd
- Local landowners and residents
- General public (subliminal and general awareness of PA's elk herd, reinforcing the notion that the elk are truly wild, educating about the dangers of habituation)



## VIDEOS

The Game Commission continues developing video content to help connect the public with the wildlife.

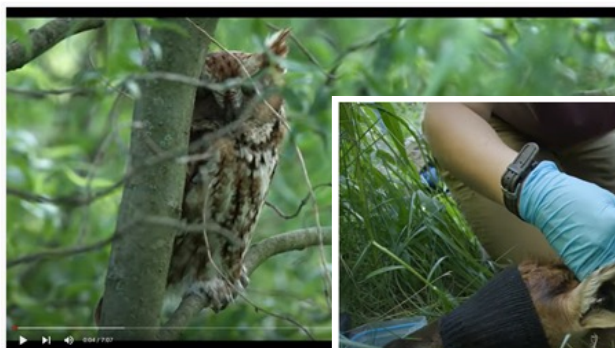
Several of the videos produced this year include:

*Wildlife Notes: Screech Owl* – This is part of a new series modeled after the agency’s popular *Wildlife Notes* publications, but in video form. This particular video focuses on a pair of screech owls that are raising their young in a nest box. Basic natural history information appears as text on the screen, and the agency’s Howard Nursery nest box sales are promoted.

*Elk Calf Capture* – This allowed viewers to follow the Game Commission elk biologist and his team as they set out to capture elk calves as part of a long-term research project. Calves are collared, measured, and released back to their mothers. Their collars communicate with those already on the mothers and will determine the cow’s level of maternal investment and what role that plays in calf survival.

*Wild Pennsylvania Trail Cam parts 1 & 2* – These are compilations of video clips gathered in Pennsylvania woods. Viewers can watch deer, turkeys, squirrels, foxes, birds, and a bear going about their day-to-day lives.

*#ElkSmart* – This short video was developed to educate visitors to Pennsylvania’s elk range about how to behave so that no negative encounters, bad for both people and elk living on the range, result from getting too close to these large wild animals.



Wildlife Notes: Screech Owl  
6,340 views • Premiered Mar 19, 2021



Elk Calf Capture #WildSciPA  
4,213 views • Premiered Jan 12, 2021



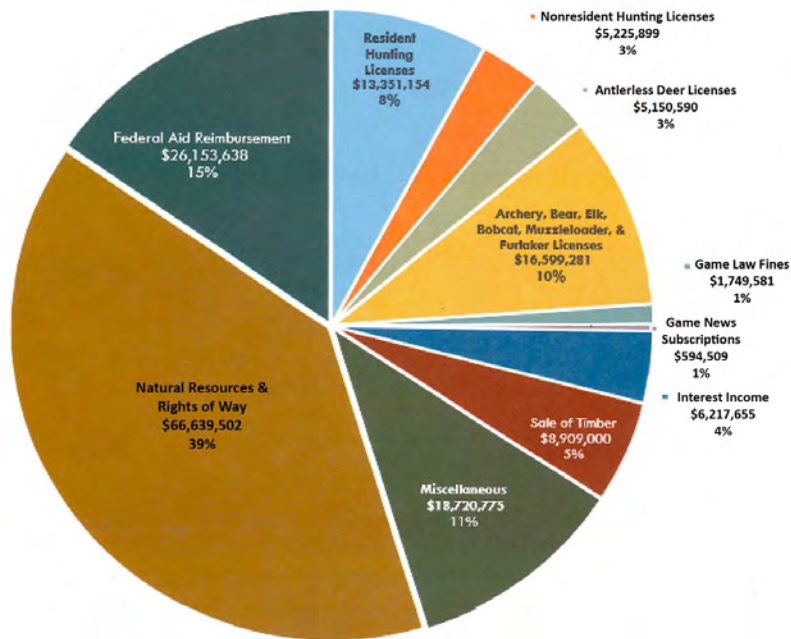
Wild Pennsylvania Trail Cam Part 2 of 2  
26,328 views • Premiered Sep 11, 2020





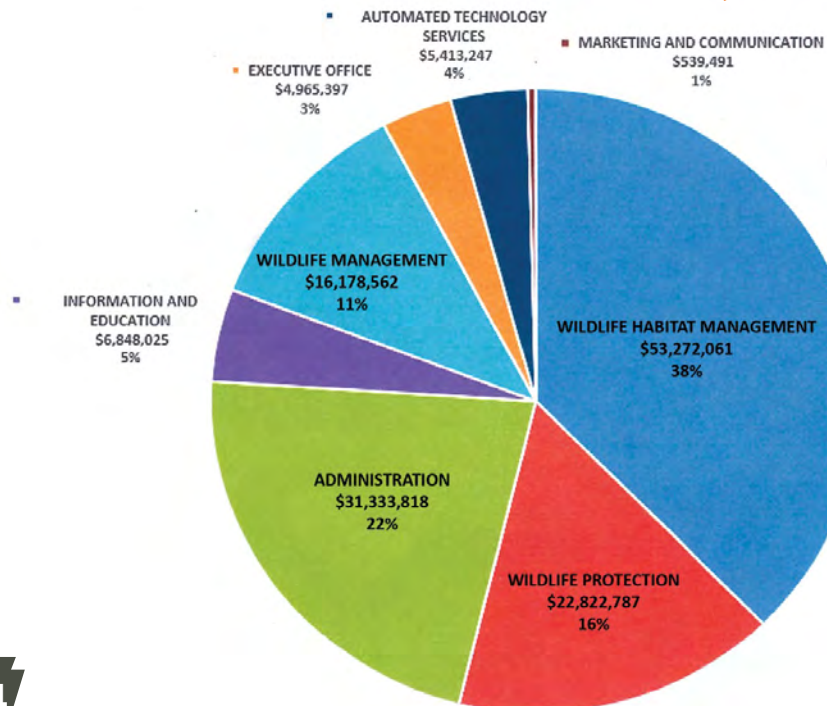
## GAME FUND | 2020-2021 REVENUE

### FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 30, 2021



## GAME FUND | 2020-2021 EXPENDITURES

### FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 30, 2021



Using this method, revenues for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021 were \$169,311,584. This represents an increase of \$12,401,331 (7.94%) from the prior year's revenues of \$156,910,253.

Natural Resources and Right of Ways revenues were down by a total of \$3,667,937 from the previous FY. The majority of these revenues are derived from market-based commodity resources and can be expected to fluctuate tremendously from year-to-year.

Sales of adult nonresident hunting licenses increased slightly this year, up \$92,672, or 1.9%, over last year. Revenue from adult resident hunting licenses rose \$350,726 this year.

Sales from the Federal Duck Stamp (eDuck), which allows residents and nonresidents to hunt migratory waterfowl within Pennsylvania and any other state, were \$781,512 this year, a 20.6% increase from last year's amount of \$647,793.

Total expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 were \$141,373,388. This represents an increase of \$10,396,018 (7.9%) over the prior year's expenditures of \$130,977,370. The increase is attributed to the Game Commission's continued infrastructure initiative for state game lands road maintenance and habitat restoration projects, as well as to the Game Commission's initiative to replace and upgrade aging equipment and machinery. The Game Fund's Restricted Fund Balance was \$142,537,202 at the fiscal year end on June 30, 2021. This represents an increase of \$27,938,196, or 24.4% from the June 30, 2020 balance of \$114,599,006. The increase is mainly attributable to an initiative with the Department of General Services for the Game Commission's capital building project fund.

Act 138 of 2002 amended the Game Code sections relating to mandatory spending. The Game Code stipulates that a minimum of \$4.25 from each resident and nonresident license, and a minimum of \$2 from each antlerless deer license issued for which the full fee has been paid, is to be used for habitat improvement, development, maintenance, protection and restoration conducive to increasing natural propagation of game and wildlife on all lands under the control or operations of the Commission, including lands enrolled in the Commission's Hunter Access program and other public lands open to hunting under agreement with the Commission. The monies collected for the above are deposited into a separate account.

The Game Commission reported that during fiscal year 2020-21, the number of resident and nonresident licenses sold totaled 1,547,559, and the number of antlerless deer licenses sold totaled 921,132. This mandated that a minimum of \$8,419,390 be expended and appropriated into a separate restricted account for the above-mentioned habitat improvement purposes. This year \$9 million was committed in the restricted account, an excess of \$580,610 over the requirement.



## GAME FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

### REVENUES

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Licenses and fees.....                   | \$49,351,253       |
| Intergovernmental .....                  | 26,153,638         |
| Charges for sales and services .....     | 67,582,867         |
| Investment income .....                  | 6,217,655          |
| Miscellaneous revenue .....              | 5,663,350          |
| Operating Transfers In.....              | 14,009,358         |
| Capital Lease/Installment Purchase ..... | 333,463            |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE .....</b>               | <b>169,311,584</b> |

### EXPENDITURES:

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Recreation and cultural enrichment ..... | 127,534,718        |
| Capital outlay .....                     | 3,831,466          |
| Interest .....                           | 7,204              |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....</b>          | <b>141,373,388</b> |

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE.....</b> | <b>27,938,196</b>    |
| <b>FUND BALANCE JULY 1, 2020 .....</b> | <b>114,599,006</b>   |
| <b>FUND BALANCE JUNE 30, 2021.....</b> | <b>\$142,537,202</b> |

## GAME FUND BALANCE SHEET | JUNE 30, 2021

### ASSETS

|                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Cash.....                        | \$6,375,900          |
| Temporary investments .....      | 28,310,246           |
| Long-term investments .....      | 111,821,677          |
| Accounts receivable.....         | 124,533              |
| Due from federal government..... | 45,276               |
| Due from other funds.....        | 14,510,211           |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>        | <b>\$161,187,843</b> |

### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

#### Liabilities:

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities ..... | 9,577,579         |
| Securities lending obligations.....            | 2,008,442         |
| Due to other funds .....                       | 804,032           |
| Due to political subdivisions.....             | 18,036            |
| Due to other governments .....                 | 178,833           |
| Due to fiduciary funds.....                    | 735,062           |
| Unearned revenue.....                          | 5,328,657         |
| <b>Total Liabilities .....</b>                 | <b>18,650,641</b> |

#### Fund Balance:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Restricted Fund Balance-Environmental Protection..... | 142,537,202 |
|---|-------------|

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE .....</b> | <b>\$161,187,843</b> |
|---|----------------------|

## THIRD-PARTY OBLIGATIONS

The Game Commission is the beneficiary of several third-party obligations to mitigate damages or otherwise provide funds for projects or research. In the majority of these instances, the obligation is for land. The obligation listed below as White Nose was an account set up by and between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Consol Coal Company to provide funds for research into white-nose syndrome. Finally, three obligations, PSU, IBAT and White Nose, are specifically subject to United States Fish and Wildlife Service control and approval.

### OBLIGATION: Balance as of June 30, 2021

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| PSU .....   | \$101,582.64   |
| IBAT .....  | \$3,438,586.78 |
| White Nose .....  | \$6494.06      |
| Rice Poseidon (LOC) .....                                   | \$510,000.00   |
| Regency Marcellus Gas Gathering, LLC (Parent Guaranty) .... | \$17,592.89    |
| Appalachia Midstream .....                                  | \$115,000.00   |
| <b>TOTAL \$4,189,256.37</b>                                 |                |





## EXECUTIVE STAFF

**Bryan J. Burhans**, *Executive Director*

**Thomas P. Grohol**, *Deputy Executive Director*

**Richard Palmer**, *Deputy Executive Director*

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**Michael F. Mitrick**, Vice President, *York*

**Kristen Schnepf-Giger**, Secretary, *Warren*

**Scott H. Foradora**, *DuBois*

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**Timothy S. Layton**, *Windber*

**Brian H. Hoover**, *Oxford*



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