



# P E N N S Y L V A N I A GAME COMMISSION

**YOUR STATE  
WILDLIFE AGENCY**

*Managing and protecting wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.*



## IMPROVING WILDLIFE HABITAT WITH PRESCRIBED FIRE

## 2022-23 HUNTING LICENSES GO ON SALE MONDAY, JUNE 13

Pennsylvania hunters, mark your calendars! The 2022-23 hunting licenses will go on sale **Monday, June 13**, at various vendor locations across the state, including the Game Commission's region offices and headquarters.

Licenses can also be purchased online at [www.huntfish.pa.gov](http://www.huntfish.pa.gov), the state's user-friendly licensing platform for hunters, anglers and boaters.

The 2022-23 seasons and bag limits will be available online at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) following the Board of Game Commissioner's meeting on April 8-9.

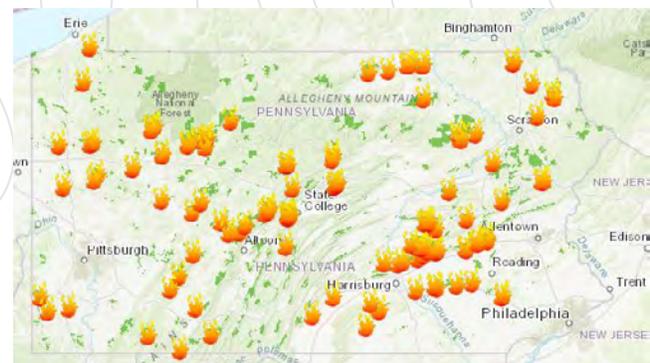
A prescribed fire is an organized, coordinated effort that works to safely apply fire at the right place, at the right time, and at the right intensity to improve the health and resilience of forests, grasslands and shrublands.

Prescribed fires are good because they reduce the severity of unplanned wildfires by removing leaves, thick grasses and forest debris that accumulates without regular fire. Prescribed fires also provide:

- Increased soft mast production in shrubs like blueberry, huckleberry and blackberry.
- Rejuvenated succulent browse plants, preferred by deer and elk.
- Support for oak habitats and their vitally important acorns.
- Maintained grasses and broadleaf plants sought by brooding turkeys and grouse.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission conducts prescribed fires on state game lands to improve wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities. They are typically planned for March, April, May and November.

A virtual map and updated schedule, as well as more tools and information are available online at <http://bit.ly/PGCprescribedfire>.



# STRUTTING INTO SPRING



Pennsylvania's only springtime big-game season, Spring Gobbler Season, runs statewide from **April 30-May 31, 2022**. The Youth Hunt is on **Saturday, April 23, 2022**.

Only bearded birds may be harvested during the spring season, and hunting is permitted by calling only. There is no requirement for hunters to wear fluorescent orange during the spring turkey season; however, it is recommended that orange be worn while moving.

Turkey hunters should not wear clothing that contains black, like the color found on a turkey's, or red, white or blue, like those on the turkey's head. Always identify your target.

Visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) or reference the Pennsylvania Hunting & Trapping Digest for turkey hunting rules and regulations. Good luck in the woods! Have fun and hunt safely.

## REPORT YOUR HARVEST THIS SPRING

Successful turkey hunters must immediately tag the bird before moving it from the harvest site and required by law to report it to the Game Commission. There are three ways to report: Online at [pgc.pa.gov](http://pgc.pa.gov), by calling 1-800-838-4431 or by mailing in a harvest card.

## THINK SAFETY. HUNT SAFELY.

Pennsylvania's statewide spring turkey seasons on Saturday, April 30, 2022. Here are some important tips to help you stay safe while hunting:

- Positively ID your target. Be sure the turkey, and it's beard, are plainly visible before pulling the trigger.
- No stalking. Any movement, (or sounds), you think are a turkey, could be another hunter.
- Protect your back. Select a large tree, rock or other natural barrier to place at your back while calling.
- Alert approaching hunters by shouting "STOP." Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert others of your position.
- Make sure you are seen. Wear or display fluorescent orange, especially when moving.
- Don't wear red, white or blue. These are the colors found on mature gobblers.

Visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) for more information. Good luck. Have fun. Hunt safely. Thank you for being a Pennsylvania hunter.

## PENN'S WOODS' 'OLD HEN'

When talking about turkeys in the spring, it's usually the jakes and gobblers that get most of the attention. And it's usually frowned upon to mention a lady's age, but when you discover the OLDEST female turkey ever recorded in Pennsylvania, it's something to celebrate!

In January, the Pennsylvania Game Commission began its largest wild turkey research project, which aims to monitor reproduction and harvest rates. Through this study, a previously leg banded hen was captured on Feb. 2, 2022, in Clearfield County, who was originally captured as an adult on March 3, 2012.

After comparing data collected from both captured, her age was estimated to be at least 12.5 YEARS OLD! To put her age in perspective, in Pennsylvania if a hen reaches her first birthday, she has an average life expectancy of 1 to 3 more years. This hen still appeared very healthy, so she was fitted with a GPS transmitter to continue to monitor her in the future.



## INTRODUCING, K-9 ROWDY

The Pennsylvania Game Commission recently grew by four feet when the newest puppy, K-9 Rowdy, joined the ranks in March. He's a five-month-old Labrador Retriever who will be working with Overt Special Investigator (OSI) Derek Daly in northcentral Pennsylvania.

The Game Commission's K-9 puppies come to work with their partners when they are about two months old. Rowdy will soon learn how to track humans and detect scents of certain articles, as well as Pennsylvania's big game species – deer, elk, bear and turkey – and waterfowl!

Rowdy's introduction and training is unique because he will get to spend some quality time with K-9 Gunner, who is also currently partnered with OSI Daly. K-9 Gunner is a 7-year-old Labrador retriever who will likely retire when K-9 Rowdy is certified in early 2023.

# SPRING CLEANING CHECKLIST AND TRASH TALK

Black bears have recently emerged from their winter hibernation, and with cubs in tow, they are on the prowl for food.

These creatures are omnivores, which means their diet is made up of both meat and plant material. Natural food sources can be low this time of year, so bears are more likely to help themselves to food that is easily accessible.



Bird feeders, trash cans and pet food left outside within a bear's reach are all free game to a hungry bear. Once a bear finds easy access to those kinds of food, they are likely to come back for more. Why spend energy searching the woods for food when people are handing it out for free, right?

Unfortunately, with each returning trip, a bear can slowly lose his or her fear of people and make bolder attempts to access food. This can lead to property damage, or worse, dangerous human-bear interactions.

Help prevent negative human-bear conflicts and keep Pennsylvania bears wild by:



Removing potential bear snacks, like pet food or bird feeders, and putting them inside overnight. If bears continually return, remove the bird feeders entirely.



Keeping trash cans and recycling in a secure area until the morning of collection day.



Regularly cleaning and removing grease, fat and food particles from outside grills. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area that keeps bears out.

## THE BABIES ARE COMING

The next generation of wildlife will soon be making their debut in Penn's Woods! With spring comes an abundance of newborn wildlife from rabbit and fox kits, to nestling songbirds, to deer fawns and elk calves.

If you spot newborn or young wildlife, please do not disturb them. While some young animals might appear to be abandoned, many wildlife parents will leave their young alone and hidden to avoid attracting predators, only coming back to nurse them a few times a day.

Fox kits are born in dens following a 51-day gestation period for red foxes and a 63-day period for grays. Litters range from 4-10 young, weighing about 8 ounces at birth, and their eyes are closed for the first 80-100 days. They are nursed by the female in the den for around a month. When the pups emerge, both mother and father keep them supplied with solid food until they are completely weaned after two or three months.

If you find fox kits that appear to be healthy and unharmed, please don't disturb the litter and walk away. The mother will not return as long as you are nearby. If you truly believe the litter to be abandoned or if the kits are injured, please contact your local Game Commission region office. (Information on back page or online at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov)).



## TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR WILDLIFE THIS SPRING

Earth Day is Friday, April 22, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission has compiled a list of ten things YOU can do to help wildlife this spring. From building nest boxes to planting seedlings, every little bit helps to protect our wild resources. Visit [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov) for more information.







 RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT	 DON'T POLLUTE OR LITTER	 BUILD NEST BOXES	 PLANT SEEDLINGS	 PROMOTE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
 CONSERVE WATER	 LEAVE YOUNG WILDLIFE ALONE	 FEED BIRDS IN WINTER	 LEARN & OBEY GAME LAWS	 SUPPORT "WORKING TOGETHER FOR WILDLIFE" PROGRAM

## HELP PROTECT PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE

Wildlife crimes affect everyone. The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Operation Game Thief program serves to protect wild birds and wild mammals and encourages those who have information related to wildlife crimes to report details as soon as possible.

To report information, call the Operation Game Thief's toll-free hotline – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year – at 1-888-PGC-8001 or fill out an online form at <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>.

Calls to the Operation Game Thief hotline are always answered by a secure recording device. Although it is beneficial to provide contact information in case game wardens have follow-up questions, callers may remain confidential. Learn more about the program here: <http://bit.ly/PGCOGT>.



## TUNE IN TO 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.callofthe-outdoorspgc.com](http://www.callofthe-outdoorspgc.com), Apple Podcasts, Google Play Store, iHeartRadio, Spotify and Stitcher.



## REMOTE LEARNING RESOURCES AVAILABLE: WILDLIFE ON WiFi

Wildlife on WiFi (WoW) is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's award-winning virtual wildlife education program and is available [by clicking here](#) or visiting [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov). The program's vision is to connect Pennsylvania residents to their state's wildlife agency from anywhere.

WoW provides wildlife enthusiasts – especially educators, students, parents and high-risk health communities – with home-based conservation and wildlife science education activities and lessons, virtual field trips and events, and social media games.



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Pennsylvania Game Commission

# PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION: YOUR STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY

### HEADQUARTERS

2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797  
Phone: 717-787-4250

### REGION OFFICES

**NORTHWEST REGION:** Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren counties  
1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323  
Phone: 814-432-3187

**SOUTHWEST REGION:** Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland counties  
4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923 | Phone: 724-238-9523

**NORTHCENTRAL REGION:** Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Union counties  
1566 South Route 44 Highway, Post Office Box 5038, Jersey Shore, PA 17740-5038 | Phone: 570-398-4744

**SOUTHCENTRAL REGION:** Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York counties  
8627 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon, PA 16652  
Phone: 814-643-1831

**NORTHEAST REGION:** Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming counties  
3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas, PA 18612-0220  
Phone: 570-675-1143

**SOUTHEAST REGION:** Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill counties  
253 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605 | Phone: 610-926-3136

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