



# PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION FISCAL 2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT



JULY 1, 2021-JUNE 30, 2022

# OPENING MESSAGE



I am proud to present the Pennsylvania Game Commission's 2022 Annual Report. In this report, you will learn more about the work the agency has accomplished in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Pennsylvania has a rich and storied tradition that predates its founding. We have been a leader in wildlife conservation since William Penn founded the state in 1681. More than a century ago, a group of people concerned about the fate of Pennsylvania's wildlife campaigned for a governmental body to protect our state's wild animal populations.

Their efforts led to the state Legislature creating the Pennsylvania Game Commission in 1895.

Today, the mission of the Pennsylvania Game Commission is to manage and protect wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations. Our mission is why we exist and we begin and end each day with it in mind.

We are lucky to call Pennsylvania home and to have many wild and natural resources to promote. The Game Commission is responsible for managing 480 species that can be found across the state. That's 414 species of wild birds and 66 species of wild mammals. A full list of species is available on our agency's website.

Pennsylvania has nearly one million hunters. Pennsylvania hunters largely support wildlife conservation efforts here in our state with the purchase of their hunting and trapping license. Our agency is proud to manage 309 state game lands, which span more than 1.5 million acres in 65 counties. Game Commission crews across the state primarily manage these game lands for wildlife habitat and providing hunting and trapping opportunities. Pennsylvania's first game land was created in 1920. We remain grateful to our agency's forefathers for their vision to dedicate public land for wildlife, hunting, trapping, wildlife watching and outdoor recreation.

Thanks to the collective effort and commitment of the agency's talented professionals, Board of Commissioners, volunteers and partners, we have experienced significant accomplishments. Despite the many accomplishments, there is still plenty to do. Wildlife will always need our help. 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 encourage you to follow the agency on Facebook @PennsylvaniaGameCommission and Instagram @pagamecomm to stay up to date on current projects.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan J. Burhans".

Bryan J. Burhans  
Executive Director,  
Pennsylvania Game  
Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Mitrick".

Michael Mitrick  
President, Pennsylvania  
Game Commission/Board  
of Commissioners

## ONE TEAM. ONE VOICE. ONE PURPOSE.

### 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

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## YOUR STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY

NEARLY   
**1 MILLION**  
HUNTERS

WHO CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN **\$1.5**  
BILLION TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY

**26** GAME  
MAMMALS 

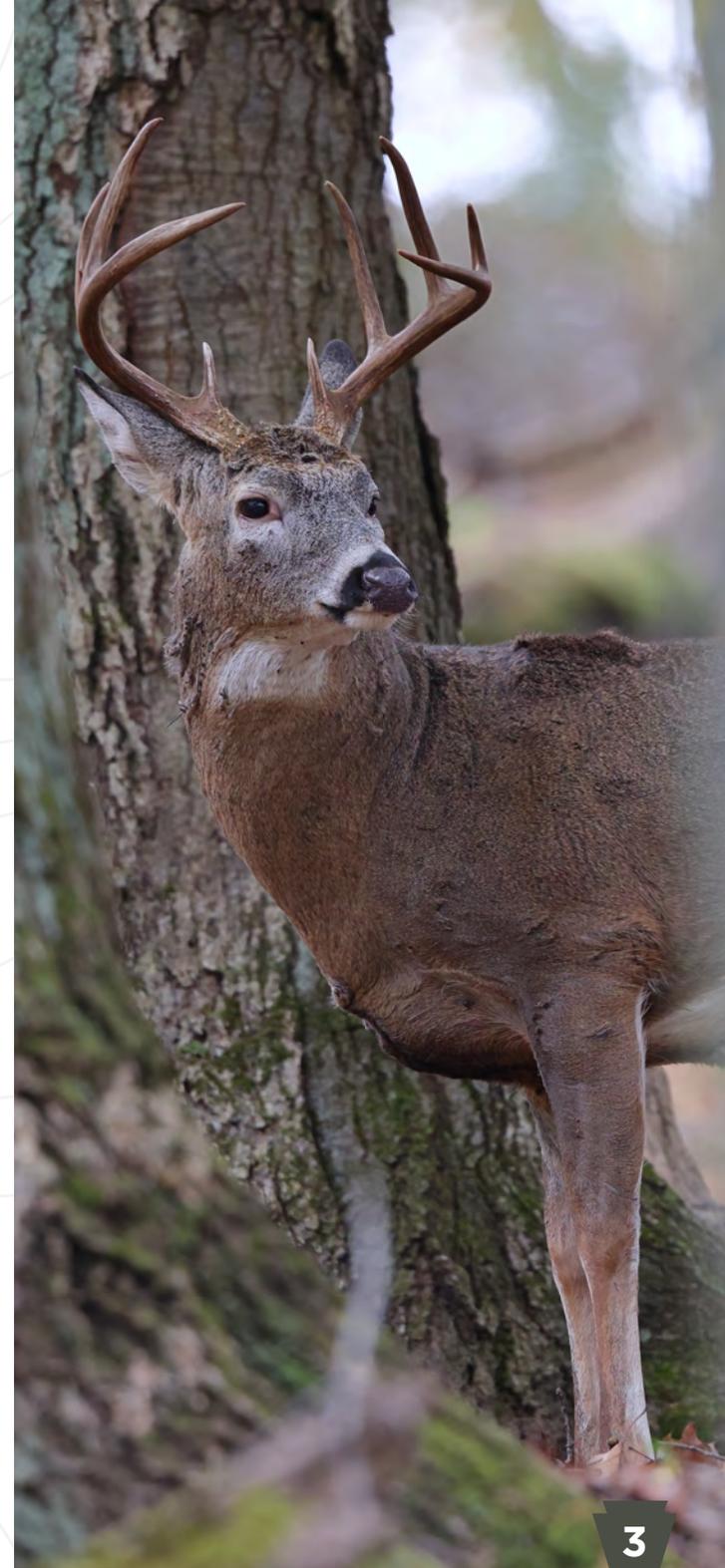
 WILDLIFE  
HABITATS **480**  
FOR SPECIES

MORE THAN  
**1.5 MILLION**  
ACRES OF STATE  
GAME LANDS 

**51** GAME  
BIRDS 

 **34** PUBLIC  
SHOOTING  
RANGES

**309** STATE  
GAME  
LANDS IN **65**  
COUNTIES 



SGL 151

STATE GAME LANDS  
PUBLIC HUNTING  
PENNSYLVANIA  
GAME COMMISSION

# STATE GAME LANDS AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT

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## MANAGED WETLANDS INVENTORY AND PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

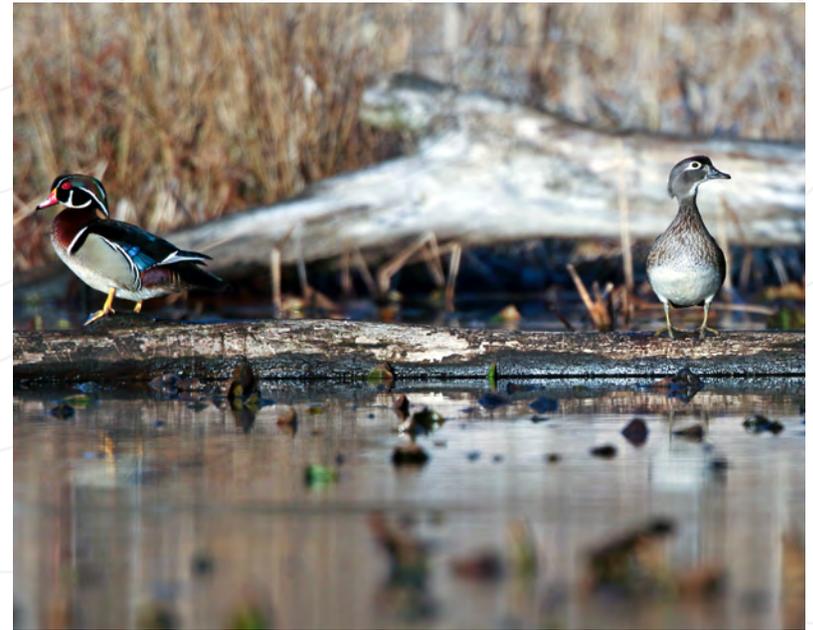
Wildlife habitat management crews from each of the agency's six regions completed a comprehensive inventory of managed wetlands infrastructure on state game lands and cooperating public lands.

Managed wetlands and moist soils areas allow crews to manipulate water levels to produce high-energy food for waterfowl, or mudflats for shorebirds, throughout the year.

Crews tallied 692 existing water control features and identified an additional 60 sites for future managed wetlands installations. Many factors about the water control structures were evaluated, including the specific location, materials, the general condition, dike/berm issues, and beaver and/or muskrat impacts.

This information was used to prioritize funding for future managed wetland rehabilitation projects. Land managers, program specialists and biologists ranked 189 projects throughout the state game lands system to be worked on in upcoming fiscal years.

The agency has partnered with Ducks Unlimited, Inc., to provide expertise on site evaluations, surveying and engineering design and oversight of construction activities.



## PRESCRIBED FIRE USED TO TREAT NEARLY 12,000 ACRES



In fiscal year 2021-22, the Game Commission managed prescribed fires in 359 units on 45 days, totaling 11,852 acres. This is down from 18,020 acres in the previous fiscal year, due to less conducive spring weather and no helicopter burns.

The overall average unit size was 33 acres and crews averaged 263 acres per day.

### ACRES BURNED BY LAND OWNERSHIP

- State Game Lands: 11,366 acres.
- Private Lands: 262 acres.
- Army Corps of Engineers: 203 acres.
- State Parks: 21 acres.
- Letterkenny: 300 acres. *\*The agency continues to work with Letterkenny Army Depot on a quail restoration project.*



# INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

## BUILDINGS

Three wildlife habitat crew headquarters buildings were constructed to allow for a more efficient structure and practical location for crews to manage tasks and responsibilities. Additionally, two habitat maintenance crew storage buildings were completed to shelter habitat equipment from weather and protect costly investments. This will prolong useful life of the equipment in the field.

## ROADS

More than 40 miles of Game Commission access roadways on 17 state game lands were created and/or maintained. The access roads were created and maintained for hunter access, habitat improvement activities and more. The work included grading, road base installations and water control features, such as culverts and bridges, where applicable.



**A habitat crew equipment storage building was built in December 2021 on State Game Lands 046 in Lancaster County.**

# THREE NEW PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGES ADDED TO SGLS

The Game Commission has added three new shooting ranges in fiscal year 2021-22. The agency built a rifle range on State Game Lands 44 in Elk County in late 2021. Archery ranges were built on State Game Lands 46 in Lancaster County and State Game Lands 205 in Lehigh County in fall 2021.

Shotgun patterning ranges were added to State Game Lands 109 and 205. Archery ranges are currently under construction at State Game Lands 203 and 230.

The State Game Lands 109 public shooting range in Erie County was rehabilitated. The rifle and pistol ranges were upgraded, including providing shelters, backstops, accessible benches, higher berms, backstop material, parking and drainage improvements.



**Completed rifle shooting range on State Game Lands 44 in Elk County.**



**Completed archery range on State Game Lands 46 in Lancaster County.**

## FORESTRY FOR WILDLIFE

More than 30,000 acres of forested habitat were improved for wildlife through the agency's forestry program. Nearly 9,300 acres of timber sales were sold in timber sale contracts, more than 15,000 acres of nontimber sale forest habitat improvements, and approximately 7,000 acres treated with selective herbicides to promote native vegetation valuable to wildlife, such as food and cover.

Markets have been uneven and unpredictable at times. We experienced an unusually high number of offered sales receiving one or zero bids. The volatile market poses the biggest challenge to the program in the immediate future. Fifty-three timber sales were offered, but only 46 were ultimately awarded. Six of the unawarded sales occurred from April through July.

### TIMBER REVENUES

**Fiscal Year 2021**

**\$7,187,287**

Bd Ft: 19,879,377.

Tons: 154,042.

Acres harvested: 8,343.



## HOWARD NURSERY

The Game Commission's Howard Nursery, located in Centre County, raises bare-root seedlings for wildlife food and cover on state game lands, as well as participating Hunter Access cooperators, the Seedlings for Schools program and the agency's conservation partners.

Since 1954, the goal of the nursery is to provide the finest tree seedlings available of those species that best provide for the many needs of wildlife. Crews at the nursery also produce wooden wildlife homes that are used on state game lands and are available for the public to purchase.

### FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 TOTALS

SEEDLINGS DISTRIBUTED: 1,350,875

WOOD PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED: 14,982

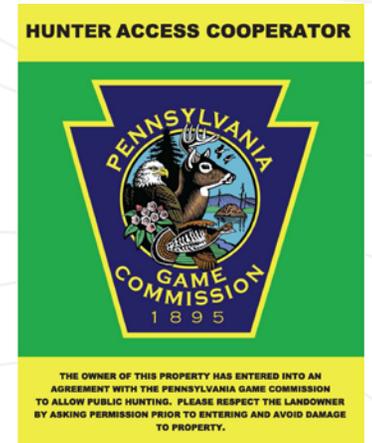


## HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM

The Game Commission's Hunter Access Program continues to be one of the nation's largest truly voluntary access programs, with more than 10,105 landowner agreements encompassing about 1.8 million acres enrolled.

The agency provides cooperating landowners with a complimentary wildlife calendar, a subscription to the agency's magazine, "Pennsylvania Game News," as well as annual seedlings and wood products. It also strives to make participation in the program convenient.

The agency 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. Landowner agreements and property information are updated regularly to ensure accurate content is available on the agency's public Mapping Center.



## MANAGING WILDLIFE HABITAT ON PRIVATE LANDS

More than 80 percent of Pennsylvania's landscape is privately owned. The Game Commission prioritizes wildlife habitats on public and private lands because wildlife doesn't recognize land ownership boundaries. The agency prioritizes partnering with other wildlife and conservation-related government agencies and private organizations to provide technical assistance and project funding to private landowners to improve habitat.

During the 2020-21 fiscal year, the agency partnered with the Ruffed Grouse Society and the Indiana University of Pennsylvania to implement a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to expand healthy forest management of eight Dynamic Forest Restoration Blocks on private lands. Through this effort, forest health projects on nine private landowner properties were funded. More than 700 acres of private forests were impacted, which resulted in healthier forests for wildlife.

## SPONGY MOTH TREATMENTS

In 2021, trees covering more than 90,000 acres of state game lands suffered significant defoliation due to damage from spongy moths. Game Commission staff requested spraying on approximately 60,000 acres to suppress the outbreak.

In spring 2022, Game Commission forestry crews advertised a contract for bid that opened on Feb 15. For the first time, Game Commission crews handled the spraying on their own, (previously it was done by DCNR, on the agency's behalf). Funds totaling \$1,200,000 were allocated to use on state game lands in the northwest, northcentral, northeast and southcentral regions.

Approximately 63,000 acres were treated using airplanes during a 16 day span, from May 16-June 1, 2022, across four regions, with no incidents. There were no reported block failures, for example, no significant defoliations in any spray block.

Forestry crews are currently surveying populations to develop the 2023 spray blocks.



## LAND ACQUISITIONS GROW STATE GAME LANDS SYSTEM

- 1390 acres were added through 12 land purchase contracts and donations, including three indentures.
- Improved access to three state game lands.
- Accepted four donations of land.

## EXPLORING ELK HABITAT

Elk in Pennsylvania need a unique combination of grasslands, young forest and mature forest to meet their daily demands for food and security. To understand these specific habitats, researchers visit places elk are known to forage and collect vegetation data.

During the summer of 2022, researchers from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with PGC staff, collected data from over 5,000 areas frequented by elk. After this information is analyzed and summarized, it will ultimately be incorporated into our habitat management strategies for elk.



## OIL, GAS AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

The Game Commission manages 153 agreements that encompass 200,065 acres on state game lands for development of oil, gas, coal and minerals. During fiscal year 2021-22, OGM revenues deposited to the game fund totaled \$179,039,836.70. This is an increase of \$117,221,286.65 from the previous year. An additional \$417,170.50 was deposited into the restricted account, to be used for the purchase of lands.

## PAYMENT IN LIEU-OF-TAX PROGRAM

The Game Commission paid \$1,816,400.54 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 \$3,636,800.91. That added up to \$5,449,201.45 paid to these local governments.

# MANAGING WILDLIFE

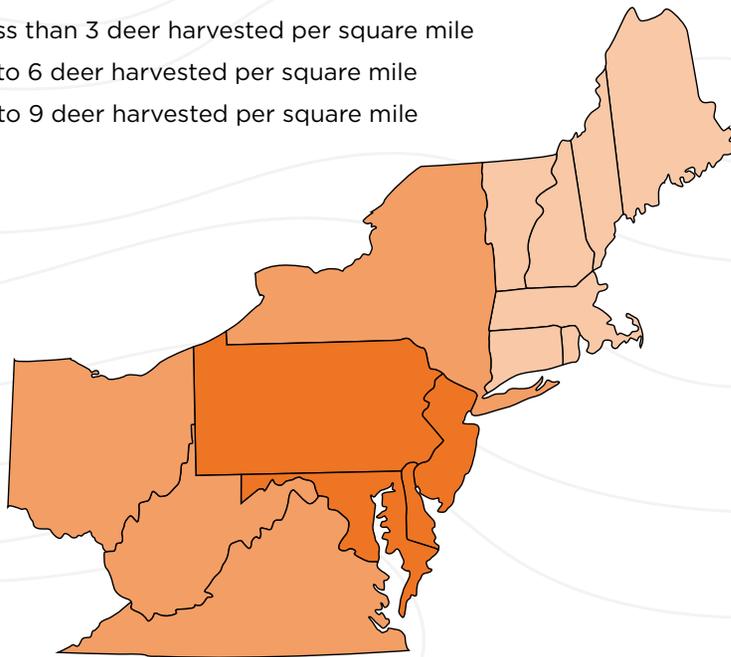
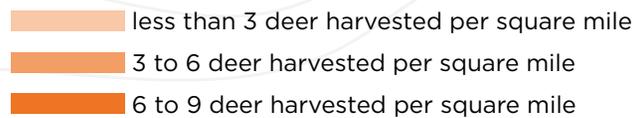
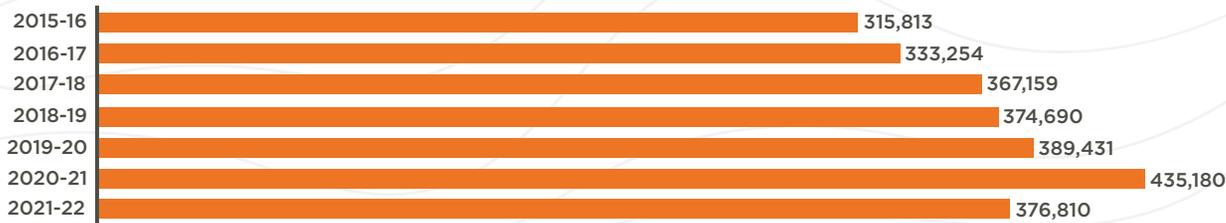
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## DEER HARVEST DENSITY

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

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



## DEER HARVEST MONITORING

Pennsylvania's deer harvest is a critical part of the deer management program. Every year, more than 75 trained deer agers assigned to 31 teams 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 2021, these teams collected harvest data from more than 21,000 deer.

Along with other data sources, the harvest monitoring results are used to make management recommendations for the following year's deer seasons.

## DEER RESEARCH

The Game Commission has been conducting various research projects on deer for the past 23 years. Currently we are in the tenth year of a long-term study to look at the complex interactions of deer and their habitat.

A long-term study is essential because vegetation response is slow. The results will be directly applicable to the deer management program.

This work is being done in collaboration with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Pennsylvania State University.

An informative outlet for some of what has been learned can be found on the Deer-Forest Blog online at [www.psu.edu](http://www.psu.edu).





## WILD TURKEY HARVEST UPDATE

Fall season structures were changed for the 2021 season by eliminating the use of rimfire and centerfire rifles and decreasing the fall season length in 15 Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) to decrease harvest compared to 2020.

Harvests in those WMUs averaged 28 percent lower than 2020 and ranged from zero to 56 percent lower. The 2021 statewide fall harvest of 6,800 was 20 percent lower than 2020 (8,500).

Fall hunter participation (81,500 hunters) was 19 percent less than 2020, however, success rates for both years were 8 percent. The spring 2022 harvest of 35,700 was 27 percent higher than 2021 (28,100). Approximately 19 percent of the 165,000 spring hunters in 2021 harvested a turkey compared to 15 percent of the 159,000 spring hunters in 2020.

## STUDYING WILD TURKEY POPULATIONS

Through a cooperative effort with Pennsylvania State University and the Wildlife Futures Program at the University of Pennsylvania, the agency began a four-year research study to investigate wild turkey populations across four areas of the state.

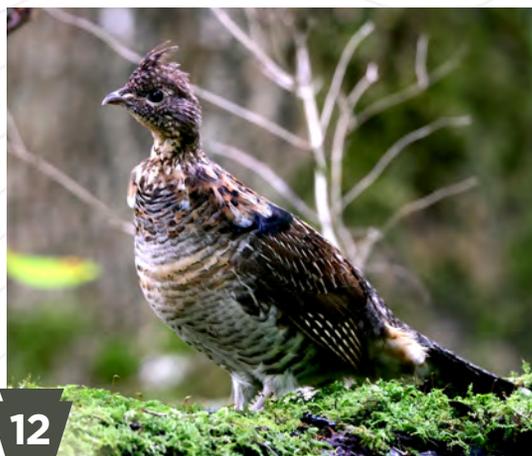
Objectives include monitoring hen turkey movement, survival, nesting and brood rearing activity, and disease prevalence to understand the dynamics and limiting factors of wild turkey populations.

Field crews in each of the four Wildlife Management Units (2D, 3D, 4D and 5C) trapped 106 female turkeys (73 adult, 33 juveniles) during the winter of 2022 and attached transmitters as backpacks on each.

Transmitters record each hen's GPS location and activity multiple times per day. This new technology is allowing the agency to monitor not only the specific habitat a hen is using, but also what she is doing.

Each year an additional 100 transmitters will be deployed. This will be the largest turkey study ever conducted in Pennsylvania.

In 2023, the state wildlife agencies of New Jersey, Maryland and Ohio, as well as Ohio State University, are joining to provide a regional perspective.



## CUTTING-EDGE GROUSE GENETICS RESEARCH

Management of declining wildlife populations is often most effective when we have information about genetic diversity and connectivity of the population. A new research collaboration with Penn State University aimed at investigating grouse genetic diversity across the state will provide that information.

Grouse wings sent in by successful hunters within the last decade have provided a tremendous source of genetic material from across the state. Having recent tissue samples from many different regions

of the state will enable us to determine if there are genetically distinct populations of grouse within PA.

This work will help the agency determine where grouse may be at the greatest risk of disappearing—due to low genetic diversity or lack of connectivity to other grouse populations.

The agency will be able to identify where habitat creation and improvement is most urgently needed to increase connectivity and genetic diversity, supporting long-term population persistence.

## EASTERN MALLARD RESEARCH

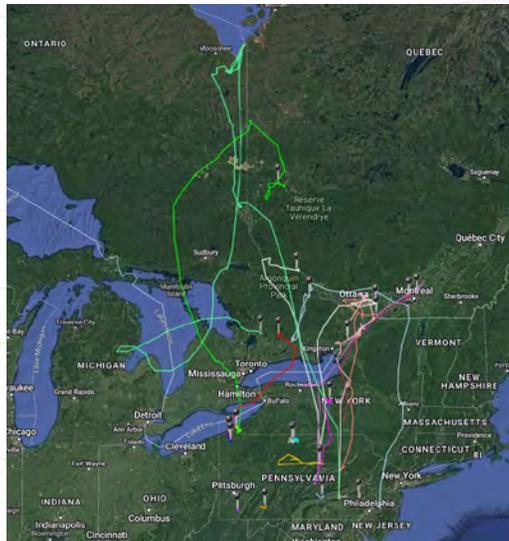
Due to population declines in eastern mallards, the Game Commission, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ducks Unlimited, SUNY Brockport, and the University of Saskatchewan partnered with 22 state, federal, and non-governmental organizations to initiate research on these birds across their range in eastern North America using tracking devices.

This multi-year project aims to learn more about habitat use, breeding success, and how behavior throughout the year, (for example, habitat use or migration timing), can affect survival and breeding success.

In winter 2021-22, 338 transmitters were deployed in 14 states and two Canadian provinces. Within PA, 49 transmitters were deployed. In the first breeding season following deployment, PA-captured mallards remained in the state or moved to New York, Ontario, Quebec, or Vermont.



*Waterfowl biologist Nate Huck and eastern mallard, with backpack transmitter, captured in February 2022.*



*Spring 2022 migration paths of eastern mallards captured and transmitters in PA.*

## RESTORING OLD FIELD HABITAT FOR NATIVE WILDLIFE, INCLUDING NORTHERN BOBWHITE

Old field habitat includes vegetation composition that supports wildlife and 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. Ongoing surveys show early success with increases in woodcock, yellow-breasted chat, eastern meadowlark, and presence of dickcissel for two consecutive years.

The final piece to the puzzle is wild northern bobwhites, which were native residents of Pennsylvania for centuries, but have disappeared due to lack of suitable habitat. Wild bobwhites will be captured from other states and released when enough quality habitat is available at Letterkenny; the current target date to begin reintroduction is spring 2024.



## PHEASANT HUNTING PERMIT SALES INCREASE

The Game Commission's pheasant propagation program continues to fill an important recreational niche, as evidenced by the increasing trend in pheasant permit sales since 2018. For the 2021-22 license year, 54,639 adult and 17,684 junior permits were issued, up 15 percent overall from 2020-21.

The agency's two game farms produced 221,344 ring-necks for release across 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.

Of the total, 17,110 were allocated to the youth season, 161,950 to the regular season, and 42,284 to the late small game season. New for the 2021-22 license year, late season hunting opportunity was enhanced by the addition of two post-Christmas releases on a subset of the locations stocked during the regular season.



## BLACK BEAR RESEARCH & HARVEST MONITORING

During the 2021 seasons, 3,659 bears were harvested, which was the fifth highest harvest ever recorded in the state. Hunters took advantage of all seasons, with 536 bears taken in the muzzleloader/special firearms season, 670 bears in the statewide archery season, 1,315 bears during the general firearms season, and 1,128 bears during the extended season.

Ten bears were harvested during the early season. The extended season, open in most of the bear range, overlapped with the

first weekend of the statewide firearms deer season. The largest bear from 2021 was a 722-pound male, harvested in Letterkenny Township, Franklin County, during the extended season.

The agency's bear research program remains active with two projects concluding, and one beginning, in 2022. This project is focused on improving the ability to sustainability manage Pennsylvania's black bears into the future.



## SNOWSHOE HARES POPULATION TRENDS

Snowshoe hares have experienced population declines and northward range contractions across multiple states on the southern edge of the species' range. A publication in 2016 using hunter surveys suggested that similar contraction may have occurred in Pennsylvania, as well.

In spring 2022, a wildfire and a prescribed fire occurred at the snowshoe hare study site in the Poconos. Hares have been monitored using GPS collars at this study site since March 2020 to determine the response of hares to agency prescribed fire burning activities both immediately and long term. Collared hares were found to continue to use the scrub oak stands that were burned this spring, and new hares were captured in and around burned areas. No mortalities of study hares were caused by the burns. A previous snowshoe hare study at this same site showed that hares were not using scrub oak stands that had been mowed and burned five to seven years prior. This most recent project wrapped up at the end of 2022 and analysis is ongoing. The information the agency has collected over the last two years will be a valuable tool to improve our understanding of the influence of prescribed fire on snowshoe hares in Pennsylvania.

**Pennsylvania Game Commission**  
Wildlife Health Survey

You can play a critical role in wildlife health surveillance!

The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Wildlife Health Survey enables the public to easily report observations of wildlife health issues occurring within the Commonwealth. Any wild birds or mammals that appear abnormal, injured, sick, or are found dead should be reported. Remember to always remain at a safe distance when observing wildlife and do not handle wildlife unless you are hunting, trapping, or authorized to do so.

If you require immediate assistance, please call the Game Commission at 1-833-PGC-WILD (1-833-742-9453).

Thank you for helping the Game Commission track and respond to wildlife health events! More information can be found at [pgc.pa.gov/wildlifehealth](http://pgc.pa.gov/wildlifehealth).

[Submit an Observation](#)

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## WORKING WITH THE PUBLIC ON WILDLIFE HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

The Game Commission made it easier than ever for the public to continue to play a critical role in wildlife health surveillance. Launched in June, the Wildlife Health Survey - [www.pgcapps.pa.gov/WHS](http://www.pgcapps.pa.gov/WHS) - enables the public to report observations of wildlife health issues in the state.

The agency encourages the public to report any wild birds or mammals that appear abnormal, injured, sick, or are found dead. This tool has proved invaluable during multiple wildlife health issues that have emerged in the past year, including highly pathogenic avian influenza and rabbit hemorrhagic disease.

It provides an avenue through which the agency can engage with the public and respond to wildlife health events in a timely manner.

## WILDLIFE RECOVERY

The Game Commission's Wildlife Recovery Division identifies threats, protects survivors, and creates regionally and globally innovative management tools to conserve the state's most-imperiled species for future generations. While early intervention is always preferred, the most rapidly declining species may require quick implementation of dramatic actions.

The agency developed a first-of-its-kind test to verify injured and rehabilitated bats were free of Sars-CoV2 before releasing them back into wild breeding populations. A new tool was also developed to identify white nose syndrome in bats and is now being used across the world for disease surveillance.

The agency pioneered a way to reduce the severity the disease inflicts

on bats. Reducing the temperature in hibernation sites is one example. Crews completed a fifth site modification in summer 2022, which created a new opening that draws cold air into the opening while venting heat out of the site. This site engineering reduces internal temperatures below white nose syndrome's preferred growth zone, thereby decreasing disease progression and increasing bat survival.



Recovery Division Biologist Greg Turner and machine operator inspect a vent bore hole after creation.

*A finished bore hole, gated to safeguard humans and wildlife while allowing bats and air to freely move through it.*



## BANNER YEAR FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S MOST ENDANGERED SHOREBIRD



The Great Lakes piping plover is Pennsylvania's rarest shorebird and up to 15 pairs through 1955 were hosted at Presque Isle State Park, in Erie County, before losing the entire population.

A few plovers finally returned in 2017, but the situation remains precarious. With only 72 nesting pairs detected in 2022 throughout the Great Lakes basin, PA's three nesting pairs on Lake Erie represented four percent of this federally endangered population.

Five chicks fledged from the Presque Isle State Park shore, representing three percent of 150 wild chicks fledged basin wide. An unusual nest of seven eggs, (four eggs is typical), required intervention. Agency staff salvaged the eggs from the beach, and four were hatched in captivity in Michigan and released.

In total, nine PA piping plover chicks joined the population, representing nearly six percent of all Great Lakes chicks fledged in 2022! PA's program supports the federal goal of 50 nesting pairs outside of Michigan and one and a half chicks per breeding pair.

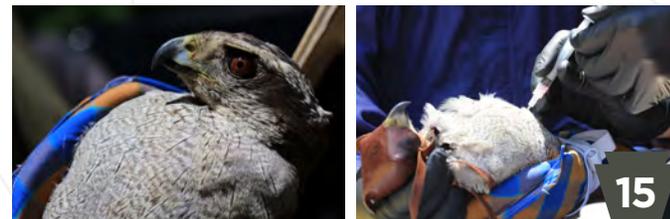
The Game Commission is proud to lead a multi-partner effort that supports federal goals and brings this imperiled bird closer to recovery! Each piping plover adult can be identified by individual numeric and colored leg bands without the need to recapture.

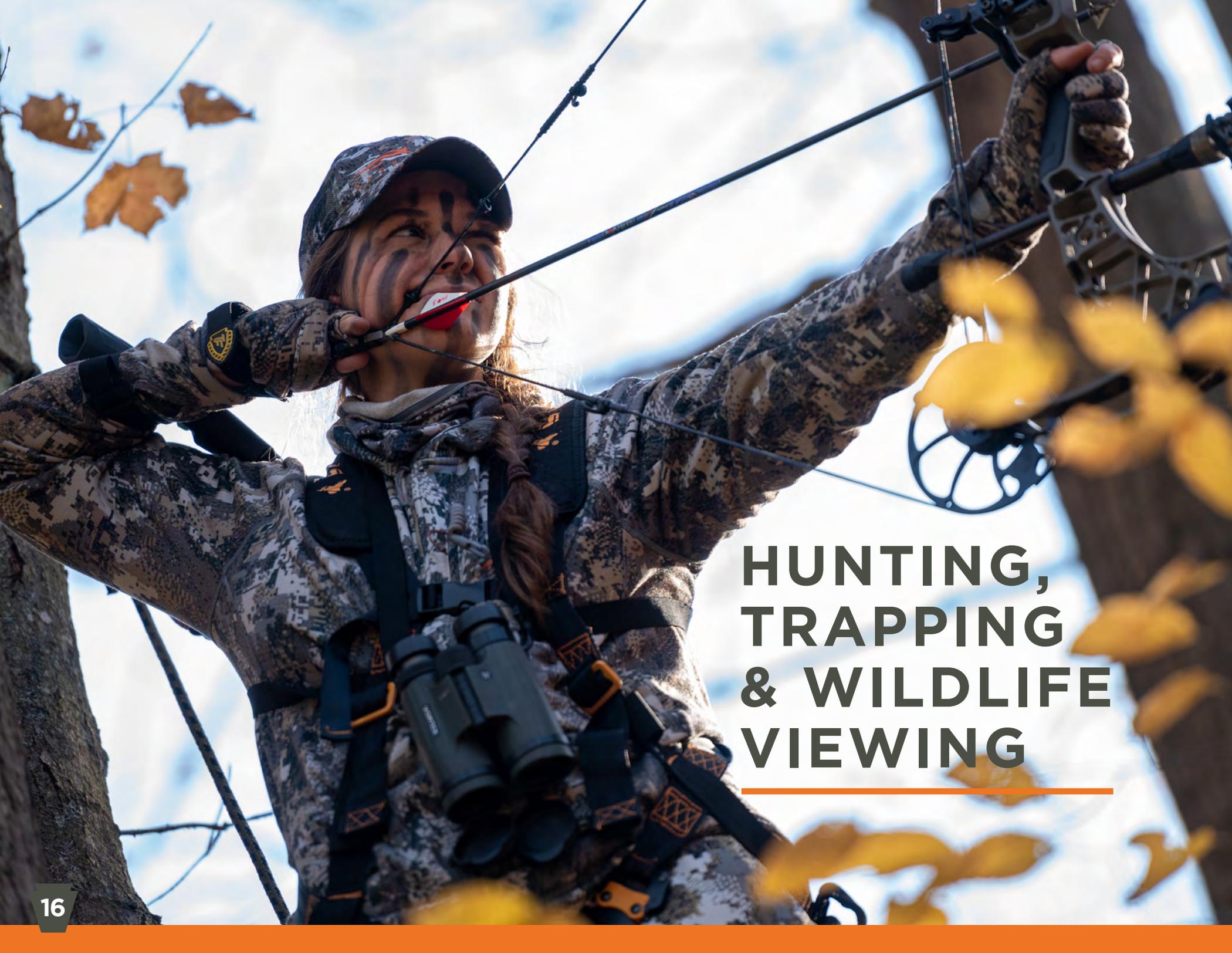
## PROTECTING NORTHERN GOSHAWKS FROM WEST NILE VIRUS

Following the addition of northern goshawks to the state's list of endangered wild bird species in October 2021, the Game Commission conducted autonomous recording unit (ARU) surveys to identify goshawk nesting sites.

Thirty surveys identified three territories and a single nest that produced two fledglings. The Game Commission partnered with David Brinker, a wildlife ecologist from Maryland, to trap and band the adult female at the nest site and inoculated her against West Nile virus (WNV), a pathogen that poses a significant threat to the health and resiliency of many wild bird species including raptors.

To the agency's knowledge, this was the first time that a wild, free-ranging northern goshawk has received a WNV vaccine. Additional research is planned.





# HUNTING, TRAPPING & WILDLIFE VIEWING

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## WHITE-TAILED DEER HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

In recent years, deer hunters have harvested more deer per square mile in Pennsylvania than any other state in the nation. The consistency of the harvest and success rates, even with newly expanded seasons, demonstrates the resiliency and sustainability of the state's deer population.

Deer hunters harvested an estimated 376,810 white-tailed deer during the 2021-22 hunting season; although this was a decrease from the estimated 435,180 harvest during the 2020-21 hunting seasons, it was similar to 2017-2019 harvests.

Of the antlered deer harvested, 62 percent were two years of age or older. This represents a significant change from the late 1990s (prior to antler restrictions) when only 20 percent of the antlered harvest was older than two years of age.

During the 2021-22 season, an estimated 17 percent of all hunting license buyers took a buck, while 25 percent of antlerless licenses were used to tag an antlerless deer; however, only an estimated 78 percent of license buyers reported hunting deer.

## STATEWIDE CONCURRENT FIREARMS SEASON

Beginning in 2021, hunters were able to harvest antlerless deer during the entire 14-day firearms season statewide, significantly expanding hunting opportunity. In the past, most WMUs were antlered-only for the first week of the two-week season.

The concurrent season provides hunters with greater flexibility and choice for when to harvest antlerless deer, simplifies regulations, and reduces the

influence of adverse weather on the overall harvest.

The WMU-specific antlerless allocations, which remain the primary mechanism to increase or decrease antlerless harvest levels, were adjusted to accommodate the additional days.

## EXCEPTIONAL ELK HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

The resurgence of the elk population in Pennsylvania represents a conservation success story that has created amazing hunting opportunities.

Elk licenses are awarded via a lottery system. Hopeful hunters can enter the lottery during June and July each year. Licenses are then drawn in 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 178 for the 2022 season. Hunters' responses to these additional seasons were unprecedented with application sales more than tripling over the past five years.





## HUNTER-TRAPPER EDUCATION

### HUNTER-TRAPPER EDUCATION CLASSES

Total: 464 classes.

Certified: 12,113 students

Independent study students: 24

Internet certifications: 14,776

### CABLE RESTRAINT CLASSES

Classroom: 93 students

Internet: 319 students

### SUCCESSFUL FURTAKING CLASSES

Total: 20

Course includes cable restraint certification and is only offered in-person.

### BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

Classroom: 27 (Successful Bowhunting)

Internet: 346

### BEGINNER'S ARCHERY SAFETY

Internet (only): 257

\*Voluntary course began in June 2021.



### HUNTING-RELATED SHOOTING INCIDENTS (2021)

Total: 18

Nonfatal: 15

Fatal: 3



## LEARN TO HUNT

In an effort to provide resources to new and potential hunters, the Game Commission created a virtual Learn to Hunt program for the 2021 hunting seasons. The program included free webinars to teach people of all ages how to hunt, with information on where to hunt, the necessary gear, tips and tactics, and preparing game for the table.

The webinars included details to hunt for squirrel, pheasant, turkey and deer, and were approximately an hour in length, followed by a question-and-answer period. The live webinars were recorded and then made available on the agency's YouTube channel. Thousands of new hunters viewed this content and gained the resources they need to be successful.



## MENTORED HUNTS AT JOHN HEINZ NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Since 2019, the Game Commission has been partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide mentored deer archery hunts at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia.

These hunts provide individuals with limited or no hunting experience an opportunity to learn under the guidance of an experienced mentor.

All participants attended a full-day orientation to prepare for the hunt, where they learn about deer behavior, shot placement, blood trailing, setup of ground blinds, and crossbow shooting. In 2021, more than 30 new hunters from the Philadelphia area participated, with twelve deer harvested.

## NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY AT MIDDLE CREEK

The agency hosts its annual Hunting and Fishing Day event at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. At the 2021 event, 35 vendors were in attendance to engage with nearly a thousand attendees.

Highlights included an interpretive habitat hayride, live animal ambassador talks, free fishing and venison cooking. People enjoyed the hands-on demonstrations the most and the weather was perfect.



## NEW BOONE AND CROCKETT & POPE AND YOUNG CLUB SCORERS



Pennsylvania welcomed 25 new official Boone and Crockett Club and Pope and Young Club scorers who can score big game for those two clubs, as well as for the state's big-game records.

The class took place the week of May 9, 2022. The Game Commission staff members all passed the intensive training and now there are scorers in all regions of the state.

## PENNSYLVANIA BIG GAME RECORDS



The Pennsylvania Big Game Record Book is updated annually and new additions to the 2022 records once again surpassed expectations. Highlights in the 2022 book include a new score for the No. 1 whitetail in the typical firearms category. After being panel scored by the Boone and Crockett Club, the Frederick Kyriss buck, replica pictured, gained nearly two inches, now scoring 204-6/8.

There were 182 deer added to the four categories in the 2022 records, including a new No. 9 in the nontypical firearm category with a whitetail harvested in 2021 in Centre County that scored 203-3/8.

A black bear taken in Armstrong County in 2021 and scoring 23-5/16 inches took over the No. 2 spot in the bear firearms category.

With the increased opportunity during the archery elk season, a new No. 1 bull in the typical archery category was taken last year in Centre County scoring 381-1/8; and a new No. 1 bull in the nontypical archery category was harvested in 2021 in Cameron County scoring 400-2/8.



# INVESTING IN PENNSYLVANIA'S WILDLIFE WATCHERS



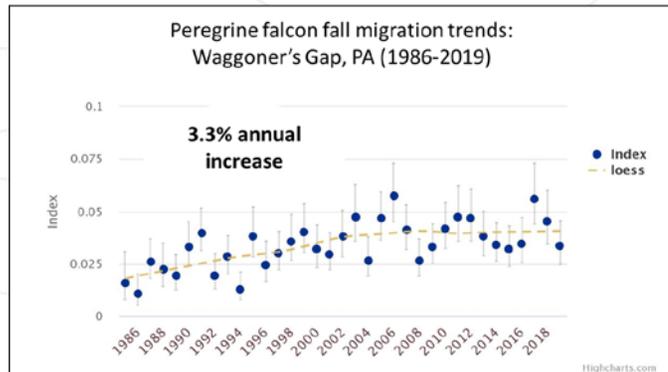
Dan Mummert looks out from the Bake Oven Knob hawk watch (SGL 217), a long-term site for North American raptor migration counts.

Nothing compares to watching a peregrine falcon soar overhead, knowing that your observation contributes to the protection of the species. Bird conservation in the state relies heavily on extensive volunteer-based data collection.

The agency is broadening this essential conservation partnership with wildlife viewers by providing more opportunities for wildlife enthusiasts to contribute to conservation.

As a start, the agency is increasing its management attention and public programming at two historic hawk watches on state game lands. This expanded outreach to new audiences also serves to actively increase the agency's public recognition and relevancy among non-traditional audiences.

Hawk watch data provides the agency with long-term population trends among migratory raptors, which supports conservation decision-making and progress toward State Wildlife Action Plan objectives. The agency plans to expand "conservation cooperator" opportunities into new arenas where volunteer data can inform management decisions protecting birds of the Commonwealth. Every single bird recorded by a Pennsylvanian helps the agency advance its conservation mission!



Volunteer-collected observation data are used to track long-term changes in Peregrine Falcon populations (data provided by Raptor Population Index, 2019).

# WILDLIFE VIEWING PROJECTS

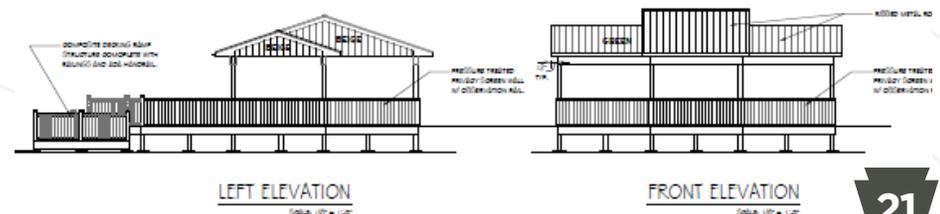
In accordance with the agency's strategic plan, enhanced wildlife viewing opportunities are being added on two high-profile state game lands.

## SHOHOLA VIEWING PLATFORM PROJECT STATE GAME LANDS 180, PIKE COUNTY



## HALDEMAN VIEWING PLATFORM PROJECT STATE GAME LANDS 290, DAUPHIN COUNTY

The Game Commission has designed a 1,000 square foot wildlife viewing platform on State Game Lands 290, Haldeman Island, Dauphin County, as part of the vision for the wildlife management area. A viewing platform overlooking one of the larger water impoundments of the island is planned, once permitting is acquired. This project will serve as a destination for the recently installed walking path.



# SUSTAINABILITY, OPERATIONS & CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

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## JUNIOR GAME WARDEN CAMPS HELD STATEWIDE

The Pennsylvania Game Commission hosted a Junior Game Warden Camp, for youths ages 11-15, in each of its six regions from June to August of 2022. Junior game wardens spent the day with game wardens, gaining insight into the job and the agency's mission of managing and protecting the state's wildlife and habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.

At each of the events, campers joined game wardens in light physical fitness, activities, confidence-building exercises and at hands-on learning stations. Participants learned about wildlife forensics and methods used by wardens to catch poachers and solve wildlife-related crimes. Other activities included wildlife-capture techniques, woodland tracking and outdoor survival. More camps are being planned for summer of 2023.



## TWENTY-FOUR NEW GAME WARDENS ADDED TO THE RANKS

The Pennsylvania Game Commission proudly assigned 24 new game wardens to districts in Pennsylvania. The 33rd Class of the Ross Leffler School of Conservation graduated on Feb. 5, 2022, following 45 weeks of intensive training.

Currently, a new class of cadets are enrolled in the Ross Leffler School of Conservation in Harrisburg and are undergoing their training, with a graduation date set for 2023.



# PROTECTING PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE



## WILDLIFE PROTECTION - CITATIONS, WARNINGS AND PROSECUTIONS

During fiscal year 2021-22, game wardens issued 4,719 warnings and initiated a total of 5,797 prosecutions in the Pennsylvania court system. 309 were dismissed or withdrawn. The agency was successful in 5,338 prosecutions; providing a prosecution rate of 97.2%, and demonstrating the professionalism and judgment used by wardens when bringing charges.

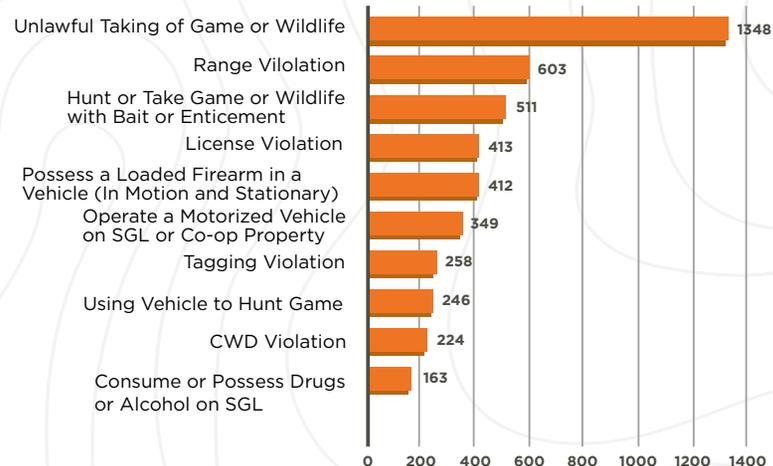
The eyes and ears of the public are crucial to wildlife protection efforts across the state.

### PROSECUTIONS FOR 2021-2022

Total for 2021: 5,797  
 Total successful: 5,338  
 Unsuccessful: 148  
 Dismissed and withdrawn: 309  
 Prosecution rate: 97.2%



### FISCAL YEAR 21-22 TOP VIOLATIONS



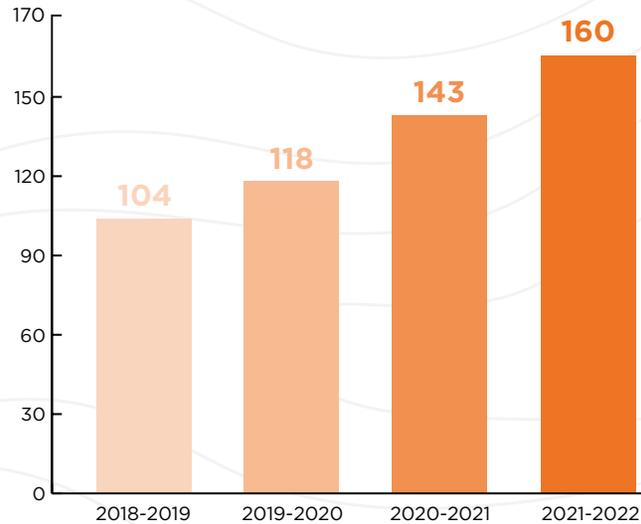
## K-9 TEAM UPDATE



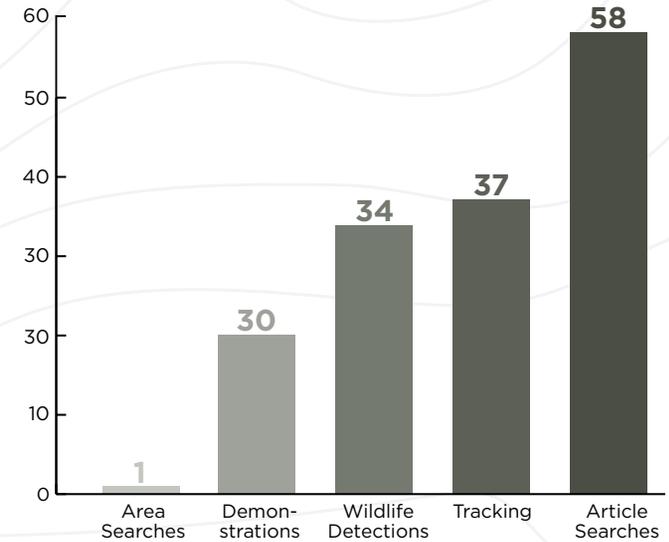
K-9 Rowdy and OSI Derek Daly serve the state's northcentral region. The team did a demonstration at the Junior Game Warden Camp at the Scotia Range on State Game Lands 176 in Centre County.

## K-9 DEPLOYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22

The total number of deployments for fiscal year 2021-22 was 160. This number continues to annually grow.



## BREAKDOWN OF DEPLOYMENTS



## FOLLOW OPERATION GAME THIEF CASES ONLINE

In October 2021, the agency relaunched its Operation Game Thief (OGT) program, which seeks to protect wild birds and wild mammals by encouraging those with information related to wildlife crimes to report it as soon as possible. The campaign included the promotion of a new program logo, a Facebook page, an agency podcast episode, a news release, marketing promotional items and more.

With more than 1,500 submissions per year, Pennsylvania's OGT program is the third-busiest in the nation behind Texas and Florida. The agency averages a less than 20-minute

turnaround from when an OGT tip comes in until an officer is dispatched to the incident.

Wildlife crimes affect everyone and reporting illegal wildlife activity helps to protect wildlife for current and future generations. To confidentially 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>. Follow the "Operation Game Thief, Pennsylvania Game Commission" Facebook page for current cases.





## SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is continuing to strengthen its involvement and professionalism in search and rescue incidents. Every year, game wardens across the state are involved with searching for lost or injured people in the wild areas of Pennsylvania and the frequency in which game wardens are involved with searches is increasing every year.

The requirement for game wardens to have the technical skills to properly address these incidents is critical for the safety of those who are in need. To ensure the game wardens are efficacious, additional training has been provided.

Currently, all full-time game wardens are trained in “Lost Person Behavior,” which helps to predict the location of a missing person by utilizing statistical data from search and rescue incidents from around the world. The training was developed by Dr. Robert Koester and is considered a keystone training in the realm of search and rescue. It also helps game wardens become more proficient with map reading skills, search documentation, and search techniques.

This training has been incorporated into the agency’s academy curriculum for game warden cadets and includes a mock search and rescue scenario to practice their skills. Additionally, advances in technology are providing game wardens with the ability to increase search incident oversight and personnel accountability, thereby providing for the safety of everyone involved. Additional specialized training has also been conducted for a group of game wardens who serve as “search managers” on complex search and rescue incidents. Search managers have received more than two weeks of additional training on how to properly manage a large-scale search and provide assisting game wardens with direction, oversight, and how to properly utilize resources from outside the agency.

Search managers also provide a great degree of planning and documentation of the entire search effort. Relationships with local volunteer search and rescue groups have been fostered and have provided the agency with the ability to increase the amount of trained personnel at the scene of a search when needed.

The agency’s Woodland Tracking Team has continued to increase their involvement in search and rescue incidents. Their specialized training in human tracking has been critical in resolving several search and rescue incidents. The team also furthered its skills by participating in a week-long training of integration techniques with the agency’s K-9 team. This joint training allowed game wardens to be educated on the specialized techniques that each resource provides to an incident and to practice working seamlessly with each other.



# ESTABLISHING CENTRALIZED DISPATCH CENTER



The Pennsylvania Game Commission's new Centralized Dispatch Operations Division (CDOD) was constructed at its headquarters location in Harrisburg and began its initial operations on July 6, 2021.

Dispatchers at the center are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week,

to provide great operational coverage and support to game wardens and field staff across the state, while providing great customer service to Pennsylvania hunters, trappers and wildlife enthusiasts.

During fiscal year 2021-22, centralized dispatchers received and processed 111,164 calls from the public about everything from sick or injured wildlife,

to game law violations, and general wildlife and agency inquiries.

Prior to the centralization, the agency's dispatch centers were located in each of its six region offices. The agency began evaluating the efficiency of that model in 2017 with the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO). The yearlong study inevitably found more pros to establishing a centralized center. In 2018, the agency began moving forward with the consolidation.

Along with centralizing the location of the dispatch center came many important equipment upgrades, including transitioning the use of the P-25 radio system. Due to new technology available to law enforcement, including updated mapping software, in-vehicle Internet capabilities and computer-aided dispatch, centralized dispatchers can monitor wardens across the state and be in constant contact.

## WE HAVE A NEW NUMBER

CONTACT THE PENNSYLVANIA  
GAME COMMISSION

**1-833-PGC-HUNT**  
(1-833-742-4868)

**1-833-PGC-WILD**  
(1-833-742-9453)

BOTH NUMBERS CONNECT CALLERS  
IN PENNSYLVANIA WITH THE  
CENTRALIZED DISPATCH CENTER.

HUNTERS REPORTING BIG-GAME  
HARVESTS BY PHONE SHOULD  
CALL **1-800-838-4431**.

[WWW.PGC.PA.GOV](http://WWW.PGC.PA.GOV)



Contacting the Game Commission got easier in June 2022. Callers anywhere in state can now use either of two, easy-to-remember phone numbers to contact the agency's Centralized Dispatch Operations Center, which will direct calls appropriately.

Callers can dial 1-833-PGC-HUNT (1-833-742-4868) or 1-833-PGC-WILD (1-833-742-9453). Press "1" for wildlife violations or wildlife emergencies. Press "2" for licensing. All other calls remain on the line for a dispatcher.

Region offices can be contacted through the Dispatch Center or reached by mail.

## "ASK A GAME WARDEN" AT THE GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOOR SHOW



Hunters, trappers and wildlife enthusiasts at the 2021 Great American Outdoor Show, held in February at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo in Harrisburg, had the opportunity to "Ask a Game Warden" in a town hall-style event.

Three state game wardens were present to explain their various roles in wildlife protection and answered their hunting- and wildlife-related questions. Those in attendance appreciated the opportunity to have a one-on-one opportunity to engage with the wardens.

# COMMUNICATIONS & BRANDING

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## REDEDICATING STATE GAME LANDS 93

### HONORING THE HEROIC PASSENGERS AND CREW MEMBERS OF UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93

On the morning of Sept. 10, 2021, forty American flags stood tall and the sound of bagpipes rang out on State Game Lands 93 in Somerset County as the Pennsylvania Game Commission rededicated a memorial to honor the 40 heroic passengers and crew members of United Airlines Flight 93. The ceremony was held in advance of the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The agency dedicated a new wooden game lands sign; two stone, engraved benches, one honoring all 40 men and women on board and one honoring U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologist and Law Enforcement Officer Richard J. Guadagno; and two informational kiosks with the 40 names, the Flight 93 story, the history of the game lands and more in the memorial area of the game lands. A keystone was also cut into the landscape on the grassy hillside overlooking the memorial with the number 93 painted in the middle.

State Game Lands 93 is located across U.S. Route 30, almost directly adjacent to the entrance of the National Flight 93 Memorial in Stoystown.

The agency originally dedicated the game lands at a ceremony in 2010 and a stone and sign were placed in the memorial area.

Due to Flight 93 passenger Richard Guadagno's lifelong passion and commitment to nature, wildlife and conservation, the agency constructed a special memorial for him including the "Guadagno Trail" and a wetlands habitat. In 2001, he was serving as a Project Manager at the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge in northern California. On Sept. 11, he was flying back to California after spending the weekend in New Jersey with his family to celebrate his grandmother's 100th birthday.

Guadagno's father, Jerry, his sister, Lori, as well as several of his close family and loved ones attended Friday's ceremony. Jerry and Lori assisted with the release of a rehabilitated juvenile bald eagle on the game lands at the end of the ceremony. The family sponsors two fellowships in Richard's name through the Student Conservation Association; one is stationed at the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the other is at the National Flight 93 Memorial.

***"The Pennsylvania Game Commission is honored to protect and maintain State Game Lands 93 ensuring all who visit remember the 40 brave men and women whose actions saved an untold number of lives 20 years ago. State Game Lands 93 spans more than 700 acres and preserves the sacred land surrounding the Flight 93 National Memorial while providing quality wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities."***

***- Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Bryan Burhans.***

# CELEBRATING PENNSYLVANIA'S HUNTING HERITAGE AT THE STATE CAPITOL



When it comes to Pennsylvania's hunting heritage, there is so much to celebrate. Pennsylvania Game Commission staff visited the state Capitol on Oct. 25, 2021, to share the mission of the agency with state legislators, staffers and Capitol visitors. Information about several agency initiatives, including Operation Game Thief, ELK SMART, National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), the K-9 team, and more was

available. Instructors were on site to teach interested archers how to safely shoot a bow and K-9 Cali and Overt Special Investigator William Kreider were also present.

Game Commission staff also made it possible for legislators to record a safe hunting-themed public service announcement video to share on their social media pages and emails to constituents to help ensure hunting remains one of the safest forms of outdoor recreation. State Rep. Tom Mehaffie, member of the House Game and Fisheries Committee, pictured here, was one of more than 40 legislators to record a video that day.



## WATCHING LIVE WILDLIFE

The agency offered four wildlife livestreams this past year. More than 900,000 viewers tuned in to the popular cameras for an unfiltered look at wildlife in their natural settings.

We watched as two bald eagle pairs built nests and tended eggs. We watched as those eggs hatched and the eaglets grew and took their first flights. We watched as hundreds of thousands of snow geese and other waterfowl stopped over at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area on their northward migration. And, we watched the antics of woodchucks, turkeys, deer and elk on game lands in the heart of Pennsylvania's elk country during the elk rut in autumn.



# PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVATION HERITAGE MUSEUM OPENS AT MIDDLE CREEK



What started as a retired game protector’s passion for collecting Pennsylvania Game Commission memorabilia has now become a destination to learn about Pennsylvania’s conservation story. The Conservation Heritage Museum, which was built on the north end of the existing Visitors Center at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, opened its doors to the public on June 25, 2022.

The museum features artifacts dating back to the formation of the Game Commission in 1895 and showcases the history of the agency through today. A variety of learning platforms, interactive displays and hands on exhibits provides visitors with an understanding of conservation history in Pennsylvania, the role of the Game Commission, and actions they can take to further conservation in their lives.

Visit the museum Tuesday-Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. The address is 100 Museum Road, Stevens, PA 17578. Learn more at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov).

# GET THE “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 2021-22 fiscal year.

## TUNE IN TO "CALL OF THE OUTDOORS"



### EPISODE

**24** FIRST YEAR AS A STATE GAME WARDEN



**NOW AVAILABLE**

Call of the Outdoors is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's podcast, hosted by Bureau of Marketing Director Matt Morrett. New episodes featuring guests from within the agency, as well as hunters, public figures and more, are published each month. All episodes are available online at [www.calloftheoutdoorspgc.com](http://www.calloftheoutdoorspgc.com), Apple Podcasts, Google Play Store, iHeartRadio, Spotify and Stitcher.

## ASK QUESTIONS ON PGC LIVE



**FACEBOOK Q&A WITH PA GAME COMMISSION'S WATERFOWL BIOLOGIST**

2022/23 PROPOSED WATERFOWL SEASONS AND BAGS

**MARCH 9, 2022 @ 1:00 P.M.**

PGC LIVE is a new Facebook LIVE series the agency launched in March 2021 on its official Facebook page. Each month, a Game Commission employee is featured to discuss a timely or relevant issue to provide updates, address hot topics and provide a live engagement opportunity. View recordings of past PGC LIVES at [www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaGameCommission](http://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaGameCommission).



## FOLLOW THE GAME COMMISSION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on social media to stay up to date on the latest information from our agency, as well as wildlife photos and videos, hunting tips, news releases, contests and other fun and important content. We have accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn.



# NASP STATE TOURNAMENTS RETURN



Imagine the sight and sound of 50,000 arrows being shot throughout the process of one day. That's what Pennsylvania's National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Bullseye state tournament participants experienced on March 11, 2022, at the Penn State Multi-Sport Facility in State College.

More than 850 students, from grades 4-12, competed in this year's state competition. It was clear that NASP students, coaches and parents were very excited to be back at the state competition following a two-year hiatus, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Congratulations to all the teams and individuals who competed at states. We were proud to distribute more than \$12,000 in scholarships and prizes to the top performers. Since the state tournament, ten new schools have joined NASP.



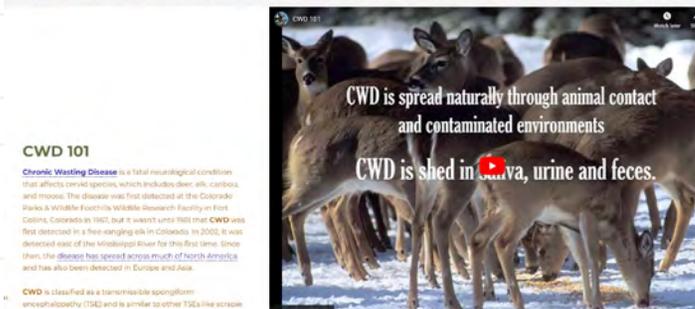
## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE STORYMAP AND COMMUNICATIONS

The agency's Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) information page has received a user-friendly update. In Fall 2021, the CWD StoryMap, available online at [www.arcg.is/1G4TLr](http://www.arcg.is/1G4TLr), was launched to provide information in an easily accessible format that can be viewed on both desktop and mobile devices.

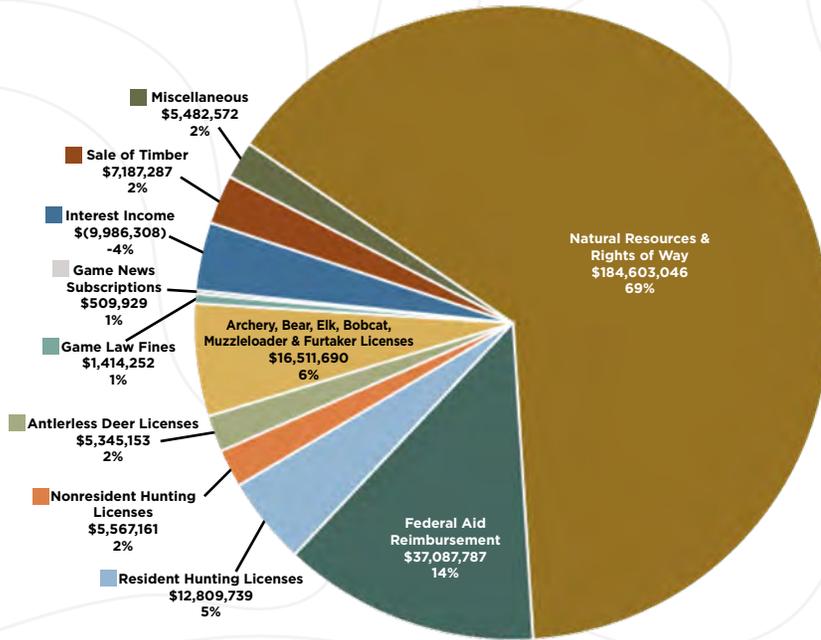
Sections were created to take the user right to the information they are looking for and includes what hunters should know, including Disease Management Areas, CWD testing results and more.

Starting in 2022, the Game Commission's CWD team began implementation of a comprehensive CWD communications plan aimed at increasing both public and staff knowledge on CWD.

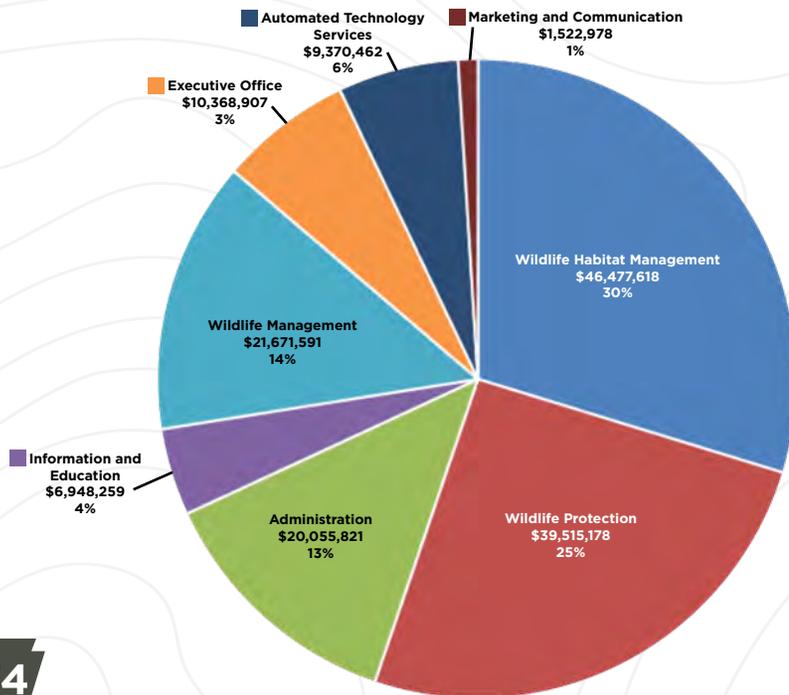
The CWD communications plan combines human dimensions information with wildlife management actions to identify communications objectives and initiatives, target audiences, engagement with those audiences, key messages, a timeline for programming and collateral development, and evaluation methods. Public relations and communications are key to understanding success of these efforts and management strategies.



## GAME FUND | 2021-2022 REVENUE FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 30, 2022



## GAME FUND | 2021-2022 EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 30, 2022



## PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022

The accompanying Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance, as well as the Balance Sheet, were prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenues are reported when they become both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. Expenditures are recognized when the fund liability has been incurred; that is, they will be paid with current financial resources.

Using this method, revenues for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 were \$266,532,308. This represents an increase of \$97,220,724 (57.42%) from the prior year's revenues of \$169,311,584.

Revenues from gas and oil lease royalties were \$171,899,459 this year, up \$117,105,786 from the prior year revenue amount of \$54,793,673. The increase correlates with the rise in energy prices and is also attributable to the drilling of new wells and increased production from existing leases.

Sales of adult nonresident hunting licenses increased this year, up \$319,948, or 6.42%, over last year. Revenue from adult resident hunting licenses fell \$652,319 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 \$829,025 this year, a 6.08% increase from last year's amount of \$781,512.

Total expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 were \$155,930,814. This represents an increase of \$14,557,425 (10.3%) over the prior year's expenditures of \$141,373,389. The increase is mainly attributed to an increase in specialized services, which is the result of additional wildlife habitat restoration work completed by the agency. The Game Commission was apportioned \$38,340,930 Federal Pittman Robertson funding for Federal Fiscal Year beginning Oct. 1, 2021, a 62% increase from the previous year's apportionment. Much of this funding was spent in this category on wildlife habitat restoration.

The Game Fund's Restricted Fund Balance was \$253,138,696 at the fiscal year end on June 30, 2022. This represents an increase of \$110,601,494, or 77.59% from the June 30, 2021 balance of \$142,537,202. The increase is attributable to the increase in revenues from gas and oil lease royalties.

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 2021-22, the number of resident and nonresident licenses sold totaled 1,500,705, and the number of antlerless deer licenses sold totaled 924,590. This level of sales mandated that a minimum of \$8,227,176 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 \$772,824 over the requirement.

## GAME FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

### REVENUES

Licenses and Fees.....	50,082,907
Intergovernmental.....	37,087,787
Charges for sales and services.....	188,158,764
Investment income.....	(9,986,308)
Miscellaneous revenue.....	1,088,848
Capital Lease/Installment Purchase.....	100,310
<b>TOTAL REVENUE.....</b>	<b>\$266,532,308</b>

### EXPENDITURES:

Recreation and cultural enrichment.....	144,386,157
Capital outlay.....	11,537,759
Interest.....	6,898
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....</b>	<b>155,930,814</b>

<b>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE.....</b>	<b>110,601,494</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE JULY 1, 2021.....</b>	<b>142,537,202</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE JUNE 30, 2022.....</b>	<b>\$253,138,696</b>

## GAME FUND BALANCE SHEET | JUNE 30, 2022

### ASSETS

Cash.....	\$6,454,125
Temporary investments.....	170,592,914
Long-term investments.....	101,547,443
Accounts receivable.....	252,544
Due from federal government.....	62,665
Due from other funds.....	204,980
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$279,114,671</b>

### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

#### Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities.....	14,516,932
Securities lending obligations.....	4,237,861
Due to other funds.....	1,530,743
Due to political subdivisions.....	14,524
Due to other governments.....	251,646
Due to fiduciary funds.....	1,061,426
Unearned revenue.....	4,362,843
<b>Total Liabilities.....</b>	<b>25,975,975</b>

#### Fund Balance:

Restricted Fund Balance-Environmental Protection.....	<b>253,138,696</b>
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE.....</b>	<b>\$279,114,671</b>
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## 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 obligations Listed below as White Nose was an account set up by and between The United State Fish and Wildlife Service and Carmal 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, 2022

PSU.....	\$99,484.83
IBAT.....	\$2,069,997.33
White Nose.....	\$5499.95
Rice Poseidon (LOC).....	\$510,000.00
<b>TOTAL \$2,684,982.11</b>	



## EXECUTIVE STAFF

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

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

**David Mitchell**, *Deputy Executive Director*

## BOARD OF GAME COMMISSIONERS

**Michael F. Mitrack**, President

**Kristen Schnepf-Giger**, Vice President

**Dennis R. Fredericks**, Secretary

**Scott H. Foradora**

**Haley Sankey**

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