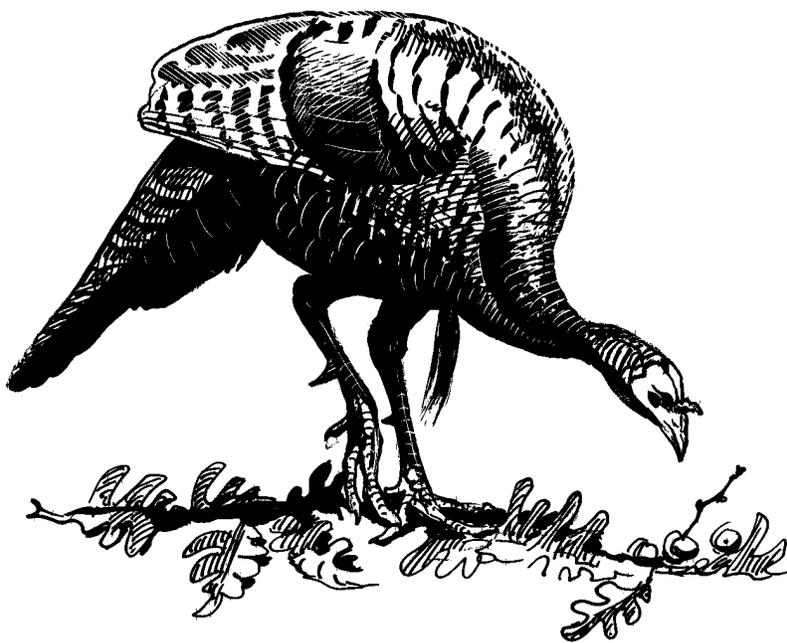


2008 Pennsylvania Turkey Hunter Survey Results



February 2010

Conducted by Pennsylvania Game Commission's Bureau of Wildlife Management

www.pgc.state.pa.us

INTRODUCTION AND METHODS

This survey was conducted to better understand Pennsylvania turkey hunters' knowledge, characteristics, and attitudes regarding current status and future direction of Pennsylvania's wild turkey management program. We selected Turkey Hunter Survey participants from the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Game Take surveys (hunting license years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08). Game Take surveys annually survey a 2% random sample of purchasers of Pennsylvania's general hunting license. Our Turkey Hunter Survey sample included respondents of Game Take surveys who hunted turkeys and a random sample of non-turkey hunters and non-respondents to the Game Take surveys. We conducted this survey using standard mail survey protocols (Dillman 1979), by sending a post card announcement one week in advance of the first mailing, and a follow-up mailing to nonrespondents after the first mailing.

Completion of this survey involved numerous bureaus within the Pennsylvania Game Commission including; Bureau of Wildlife Management (survey design and analysis), Bureau of Automated Technology Services (database design and data entry), and Bureau of Administrative Services (mailroom services).

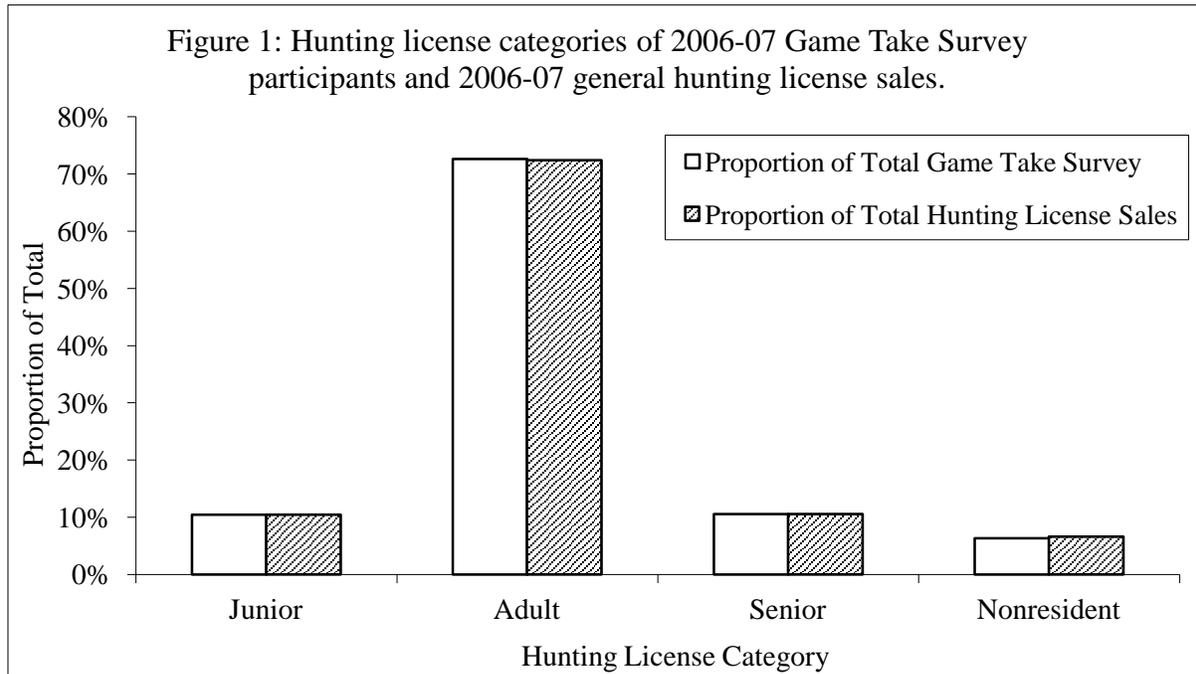
RESPONSE RATES

We sent surveys to a total of 9,105 individual hunters, including 8,605 turkey hunters and 500 non-turkey hunters or non-respondents of the Game Take surveys. Our mailings resulted in 146 non-deliverable (i.e., undeliverable, deceased) or incomplete surveys and 6,313 usable responses for a response rate of 70%. We present results as a single number (e.g., 55%). These estimates have an associated 95% confidence interval of approximately $\pm 1\%$. For example, if 55% of the respondents agreed with a statement, statistically, we would be 95% confident that the interval from 54% (55-1) to 56% (55+1) would include the actual percent of hunters who agreed with the statement.

REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THIS SURVEY

This survey was conducted to gather information from a representative group of Pennsylvania turkey hunters. Given that not every Pennsylvania turkey hunter received a survey, how representative were the participants of this survey compared to the general turkey hunting population? To evaluate representativeness, a known characteristic of all Pennsylvania hunters, such as type of hunting license purchased, is needed. Based

upon license sales for the 2006-07 hunting license year, the Turkey Hunter Survey appears to have provided a representative sample of Pennsylvania hunters (Figure 1).



RESULTS

OVERALL SAMPLE OF TURKEY HUNTERS

Turkey Hunter Characteristics, Behaviors, and Attitudes

The average Pennsylvania turkey hunter was 50 years old and had hunted turkeys for 20 years. Although the average is 20 years of turkey hunting, 34% of hunters have hunted turkeys 10 years or less, which shows considerable recruitment into the sport. Most turkey hunters were males (97%) who lived in rural areas or small towns (68%), and have completed high school or equivalent (46%) or higher (32%, college or graduate/professional degree). Professions vary, with about half being either a skilled worker (27%) or retired (24%).

Eighty-nine percent of the turkey hunters surveyed hunted during the 2007 fall and 2008 spring seasons. Of those who hunted, 60% hunted both spring and fall, 18% hunted fall only and 22% hunted spring only. Seven percent of those who hunted turkey during the 2007-08 license year indicated they purchased the special spring license in 2008 to harvest a second spring gobbler (93% did not). This license was available for purchase only from January 1 – April 1.

Most fall turkey hunters hunted for 3 to 5 days (45%) and 16% harvested a turkey. Reported sex structure of the fall harvest was 61% female and 37% male (2% unknown); unverified data. Male turkeys taken during 2007 fall averaged a 6 inch beard and a spur of 0.77 inch.

Most spring turkey hunters hunted for 3 to 5 days (36%) and 20% harvested a turkey with average beard and spur lengths of 8 inches and 0.9 inch, respectively. Reported sex structure of the spring harvest was 99% male and 1% female (bearded females are legal); unverified data. Average beard and spur lengths for the second bird in spring 2008 were 8 inches and 0.93 inch, respectively. Average beard and spur lengths for the spring youth season were 7 inches and 0.67 inch, respectively. Days hunted for second bird averaged 6+ days, with 35% success. Success for the youth hunt was 16%, with 84% hunting 1-2 days.

Seventy-three percent of fall turkey hunters used a shotgun during the fall season and 20% used a rifle or rifle/shotgun combination. Even so, 50% of fall turkey hunters disagreed that rifles should be illegal for fall hunting (37% agreed, 13% undecided). Of spring turkey hunters, 46% disagreed that rifles should be illegal for fall hunting (39% agreed, 15% undecided). When asked if they support the use of crossbows for turkey hunting both fall and spring turkey hunters gave similar responses; 46% agreed, 28% disagreed and 26% were undecided.

When hunting fall turkeys, more than one-third (38%) of fall turkey hunters hunt other in-season species as well. Turkey hunters supported use of decoys (78%), but actual use of decoys varied between seasons. Fifteen percent of turkey hunters used a decoy in the fall, whereas 61% used decoys in the spring. Most turkey hunters did not use a blind during the fall (93%) or spring (86%) seasons.

Pennsylvania turkey hunters spend most of their time hunting on land that is not posted (39% hunt public lands, 30% hunt private land that is not posted). Even though Pennsylvania has more turkey hunters and higher turkey hunter densities (hunters per square mile) than most states, turkey hunters do not have trouble finding a place to hunt (65%), nor do they think there are too many hunters (63%). However, turkey hunters differed according to season when asked if there are too many hunters in the woods. Most spring turkey hunters did not think there are too many hunters in the woods (63%), compared to 49% of the fall hunters. For both fall and spring seasons, approximately 28% of turkey hunters were undecided as to whether there were too many

hunters. Given these results, it is not surprising that 57% disagreed that turkey hunter numbers should be managed to increase turkey hunter safety and satisfaction.

Currently, less than a third of successful turkey hunters send in harvest report cards, as verified by our annual Game-Take Survey (Boyd and Weaver 2009). When asked why successful hunters did not report their harvest, 67% thought hunters simply forgot and 45% thought hunters did not realize the importance of report cards. When asked if they would report their harvest over the Internet if possible, 61% indicated they would, although 13% indicated they did not have access to the Internet.

The majority (93%) of Pennsylvania turkey hunters hunted in Pennsylvania only. Three times as many Pennsylvania turkey hunters also hunted turkeys in New York as in any other state. Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia, and New Jersey rounded out the top 5 other states.

Fifty-nine percent of turkey hunters knew about the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Turkey Management Plan, and 24% had read the plan.

Hunter Safety and Education

Although turkey hunter opinions differed by season in terms of whether there are too many turkey hunters in the woods, 40% would feel safer if there were fewer hunters in the woods during either season. However, only 16% agreed the number of turkey hunters should be managed to increase safety and satisfaction of turkey hunters (57% disagreed, 27% undecided). In general, fluorescent orange clothing was acceptable to turkey hunters. Pennsylvania has had fluorescent orange requirements for fall turkey hunters since 1992. Sixty-nine percent favored use of 100 square inches fluorescent orange during fall, and only 25% thought current fall fluorescent orange regulations reduced their chance of killing a turkey. However, 52% disagreed (27% agreed, 21% undecided) with requiring 250 square inches when moving during the fall season. Even though we no longer require hunters to wear fluorescent orange during spring (regulation was in effect from spring 1993 to 2008), 57% agreed spring turkey hunters should be required to wear 100 square inches when moving (34% disagreed, 9% undecided). The majority of turkey hunters agree (61%) that compliance with bag limits and lawful methods of taking by turkey hunters is very good (11% disagreed).

Half the turkey hunters agreed (51%) the Game Commission should offer a voluntary turkey hunter education course, but support dropped to 16% if the course was mandatory.

Turkey seasons and bag limits

Even though the spring 2008 season was the third consecutive year hunters could purchase the special turkey license to allow harvest of a second spring turkey, hunters did not express a large majority agreement with this new opportunity; 48% supported taking a second bird with the purchase of a special turkey license, whereas 37% oppose (15% undecided; Appendix 1). Seven percent of turkey hunters purchased a special turkey license in 2008. Additionally, turkey hunters are not very supportive of being able to purchase the special turkey license anytime, including during the spring season (48% agree, 37% disagree, 15% undecided). Hunters generally supported the current spring mentored youth hunt (69%) and would support a fall mentored youth hunt (61%). The MYH became available for spring turkey hunting during 2006, which allows a youth under 12 years old to hunt certain species with a licensed adult hunter, at a 1:1 ratio and one firearm between the two, which the mentor holds until the two hunters are at a stationary hunting location. Only 10% of respondents mentored youth <12 years old during the spring 2008 season. Opinions about extending the youth hunt to 2 days, to include Sunday, were split (42% agreed, 44% disagreed, 14% undecided). Turkey hunters were not generally supportive of extending the youth hunt to a full day (31% agreed, 48% disagreed, 28% undecided), and were evenly split on all-day spring hunting for the regular season (43% agreed, 43% disagreed, 14% undecided). A majority of turkey hunters (55%) did not think the spring season was too short. More turkey hunters agreed the spring season should start earlier (54% agreed, 26% disagreed), the spring season should start on May 1st (42% agreed, 27% disagreed), and should be extended to May 31 (48% agreed, 22% disagreed) but in each instance, 20-31% of hunters were undecided.

Results concerning fall seasons were generally ambiguous with many results being about 33% in favor, 33% against, and 33% undecided (e.g., is fall turkey season too short, should fall season start earlier, should fall season end later). When asked if fall turkey season lengths should all be 3 weeks with harvests managed by regulating hunter numbers, 46% disagreed, 20% agreed and 34% were undecided. Even though regulation

change made it legal to use a dog during the fall 2007 season, the majority of turkey hunters surveyed disagreed (59%) with this regulation (18% agreed). Only 1% of hunters used a turkey dog in 2007.

Hunters were split on whether they think Sunday turkey hunting should be legal (45% opposed, 46% in favor, and 9% undecided). We did not split the question between spring and fall seasons. Most hunters (57%) did not want turkey seasons to start on Mondays.

Impact of Hunting on Turkey Populations

Turkey hunters are a bit confused in terms of how fall season length is our primary tool for managing turkey population size because when we asked if fall turkey harvests need to be controlled to prevent overharvest of hens 40% disagreed, only 35% agreed, and 26% were undecided. The topic of the potential impact of the fall season on turkey populations continues to be an educational challenge. When asked if fall turkey hunting season lengths and/or bag limits should be continued even if turkey populations are in decline, 68% did disagree (14% believe they should, and 18% are undecided). More importantly, about half (54%) would be willing to give up one week of fall turkey hunting if future populations, harvests, and season lengths would increase (27% were undecided, and only 19% disagreed). Hunters were more aware of the lack of spring season impacts; 76% disagreed the spring turkey hunting suppresses turkey populations (13% agreed, 11% undecided). A small majority of hunters would like the spring season to start earlier (54%), suggesting they do not consider an earlier season to have an impact on breeding activity.

Transferring and Releasing Turkeys

Turkey hunters generally supported trap and transfer of turkeys for turkey population restoration. The least amount of support occurred when Pennsylvania turkeys were trapped and transferred to other states (40% agreed, 23% undecided, 37% disagreed). If these turkeys were trapped on private lands or unhuntable lands, support increased to 54%. A large majority (76%) agreed with trap and transfer within Pennsylvania, and 66% agreed fall seasons should be closed where turkeys are released. Now that turkey populations have been restored in Pennsylvania and most of its range, this issue is becoming a lower priority.

Satisfaction with Turkey Management Program

Turkey hunters were generally satisfied with the Pennsylvania Game Commission's wild turkey management program. Sixty-three percent indicated an "excellent" or "good" level of satisfaction with the overall program, 29% "fair" and 3% "poor". Satisfaction with seasons and regulations, hunter safety information and education, and WMUs were generally "good" and "excellent" (55-66%), with 26-27% "fair" and 5-13% "poor". Satisfaction with information on turkey behavior and hunting, and Wildlife Protection Program were lower with 48% "good" and "excellent", 30-36% "fair", and 8-10% "poor". Satisfaction with the Wild Turkey Management Plan and turkey habitat management on Game Lands were lowest with only 39% "good" or "excellent", but 17-30% "don't know", indicating education is needed for these programs. Some of this dissatisfaction may be related to road access during the spring hunting season. Many gated roads are opened during fall hunting seasons, but not during spring to help protect nesting hens. Also, hunters often do not realize the Game Commission does not manage State Forests and State Parks, only State Game Lands. Hunters may not know that 42% of the Game Commission budget is spent on wildlife habitat management of our Game Lands, with most management practices benefiting turkey.

COMPARISONS AMONG WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS

By receiving responses from more than 6,000 turkey hunters, we were able to evaluate responses by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). Hunters from WMU 5D were not included in this analysis because of small sample size.

Fall 2007 turkey hunting was dispersed fairly well across open WMUs, with each WMU accounting for between 3-7% of the hunting, except WMU 2G which accounted for 11% of fall hunting. WMU 2G, in north-central Pennsylvania, is our traditional fall turkey hunting region, with 49% of the WMU public owned land open to hunting. Due to the amount of access hunter density remains relatively low at 3.5 fall turkey hunters per square mile. Hunter density averaged 3.6 turkey hunters per square mile across the state (range; 0.8 in WMU 5C to 6.5 in WMU 3B). Hunter success ranged from 7% (WMU 5C), with only a 6-day season to 23% (WMU 4E), with a 3-week season and hunter density of 4.3. Other WMUs with high fall hunter success were WMUs 4A

(22%), with a 2-week season and hunter density of 5.5, and 3C (21%), with a 3-week season and hunter density of 4.4.

Spring 2008 youth and regular season hunters also were dispersed fairly well across WMUs, with most WMUs accounting for between 3-7% of the hunting, except WMU 2G which again contained the majority of spring hunters (9% for both seasons), with 15% hunter success and 5.2 hunters per square mile. Hunter density averaged 4.9 turkey hunters per square mile across the state (range; 2.4 in WMU 5A to 7.1 in WMU 2D). Spring hunter success ranged from 13% (WMU 5C, with 3 hunters per square mile) to 29% (WMU 1B, with 5.4 hunters per square mile). Other WMUs with high spring hunter success were 3C and 4E (26%, with hunter densities of 5.2 and 6.0 hunters per square mile, respectively). Sample sizes of hunter success for the youth season were too small for analysis.

WMU 2G again was the most commonly hunted WMU for a second spring 2008 turkey (8%), and pressure ranged from 2% to 7% by WMU. WMUs 3D and 4C each accounted for 7.5% of this hunting. Sample sizes of hunter success were too small for reporting.

Opinions about turkey abundance differed across WMUs. Although most hunters thought turkey populations were “about right” where they hunted (63% for fall and 64% for spring populations), more hunters in WMU 3C than in any other WMU thought turkey populations were “too high” (11% for fall and 9% for spring populations, whereas hunter opinions in other WMUs ranged from 1-5% for fall and 1-7% for spring populations). Between 30 and 43% of turkey hunters in WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2F, and 5C thought turkey populations were “too low”. In WMU 5A, where the fall season is closed, 87% of the respondents who hunt there (n=7) thought the fall turkey population there was “about right”, but when asked about the spring population 40% thought it was “too low” (n=22) and 47% thought the spring population was “about right” (n=26).

The vast majority of hunters saw or heard less than 6 other hunters not in their party. During the fall 2007 season only in WMU 2E more than 15% of respondents saw or heard 6-10 other hunters. Seeing 6-10 hunters not in their party was more common during the spring 2008 season where 15–18% of these respondents saw or heard 6-10 other hunters in WMUs 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 5A.

Even though the use of rifles for fall turkey hunting is permitted across almost 70% of the Commonwealth, more than 60% of hunters in all WMUS used shotguns. Rifles or rifle/shotgun combinations were used most often by hunters in our large WMUs with ample public access; 2G (37%) and 3B (30%). Based on these results, it is not surprising WMUs 2G had the smallest percentage (27%) of hunters who thought rifles should be illegal. Hunters in these WMUs also used bows/crossbows infrequently (1–6%). Bows/crossbows were used most frequently in WMUS with restrictions on rifles; WMU 5C where 22% of hunters in used bows/crossbows, and WMUs 1A, 2A and 2B where 10-12% of hunters used these implements. Fifty percent of hunters in WMU 5C thought rifles should be illegal for fall turkey season, and 66% thought crossbows should remain legal, whereas only 42% of hunters in WMU 2G agree with crossbows for fall turkey.

More fall hunters in WMUs 2G (67%) and 2F (66%) than in other WMUs hunted public-owned lands, where public land comprises over 50% of these WMUs. Likewise, more fall hunters in WMUs 5C (53%), 3C (52%), and 4E (40%) than in other WMUs hunted posted, privately owned land where private land comprises 97-99% of the land. Results were similar for the spring 2008 season.

Most hunters (54–84%) did not appear to have a difficult time finding places to hunt; however, over half of hunters in metropolitan areas by Philadelphia (56%) and Pittsburgh, (51%) did have trouble finding a place to hunt.

Opinions about bag limits varied across TMAs. Hunters were more likely to favor a 2-bird fall bag limit in TMAs 1A (41%), 1B (39%), 5 (37%), and 2 (36%) than in any other TMA (range 26-34%). When asked about a 2-bird spring bag limit, hunters in TMAs 5 (39%) and 1A (37%) favored a 2-bird spring limit more than other TMAs (range 26-33%). Generally about 20% (range 17-25%) of hunters favored a 2-bird spring bag limit with the second bird taken in the last half of the season except in TMAs 7A (15%) and 6 (14%) where hunters indicated this bag limit was less favorable.

Responses to questions about fall season lengths varied such that hunters of WMUs with shorter fall seasons desired longer fall seasons and hunters who hunt units with 3-week seasons were satisfied. Responses to questions about starting dates were relatively similar across WMUs.

COMPARISONS BETWEEN 1995, 2001 AND 2008 TURKEY HUNTER SURVEYS

Results from the 1995, 2001 and 2008 Pennsylvania Turkey Hunter Surveys were generally similar, but some differences were evident. Most turkey hunters still hunt both spring and fall seasons (60% in 2008, 66% in 2001, 63% in 1995), but there is a growing population of turkey hunters who hunt the spring only (22% in 2008, 13% in 2001, 11% in 1995), compared to fall only (18% in 2008, 21% in 2001, 26% in 1995). About 4 out of 10 turkey hunters continued to hunt most often on public-owned land, but the percentage that hunted posted, privately-owned land has varied between one-quarter and one-third (28% in 2008 vs. 24% in 2001, versus 32% in 1995). Even though number of hunting days has decreased over the years, about one-quarter of fall turkey hunters consistently hunt 6+ days since the 1995 survey, as well as about 30% of the spring turkey hunters. Turkey hunters continue to disagree with managing the number of turkey hunters; although the percentage has decreased (78% disagreed in 1995 versus 61% in 2001 and 57% in 2008). More spring turkey hunters now use decoys (25% in 1995, 51% in 2001, 61% in 2008).

Type of sporting arm used for fall turkey hunting has not changed much with the vast majority using shotguns (71-75%) and 19-22% using a rifle or rifle/shotgun combination. Interestingly, hunters' attitude regarding the use of rifles in the fall season has shifted slightly toward maintaining rifles as an option (39% in 1995 disagreed that rifles should be illegal for fall hunting, 44% in 2001 and 50% in 2008). Turkey hunters continue to be unsupportive of crossbows for turkey hunting even though crossbows are now legal; 48% disagreed with crossbow use in 2001 and 45% disagree in 2008. Since the 1995 survey, fall turkey hunters have become less interested in harvesting other species (47% harvested other species when possible in 1995, 42% in 2001 and only 38% in 2008). Membership in the National Wild Turkey Federation remained the same (10% in 2008 and 10% in 2001) since the increase from 5% in 1995, as well as memberships in other statewide sportsmen groups. As expected, more hunters in 2008 would report their harvest via internet (61%) than in 2001 (43%). The Game Commission instituted on-line reporting in the fall of 2009, which may prove useful because for both the 2001 and 2008 surveys, when asked which factors keep successful hunters from returning their postage-paid harvest report cards more than 96% believe the reasons are because they forget to mail their

harvest report cards, they lost the report card or do not have any remaining (report cards are for deer or turkey harvests).

Attitudes towards fluorescent orange regulations remained similar for the last two surveys including only 20% of hunters in 2008 and 2001 agreeing there should be no fluorescent orange requirement for turkey hunters. This is a change from 37% in 1995. Most hunters continue to believe there should be some fluorescent orange requirement during (69% in 2008, 71% in 2001 and 50% in 1995) even though, since 2008, hunters no longer are required to wear fluorescent orange for the spring season. There still are about one-quarter of all hunters who believe fluorescent orange reduces hunters' chances of harvesting a turkey, but the percentage of hunters who are undecided regarding this question has increased from 24% in 2001 to 30% in 2008.

Support for a second spring bird has increased over the years; 20% in 1995, 30% in 2001 and 48% in 2008). Even though we continue to stress to hunters the importance of not opening the spring season until the peak of nest incubation (around May 1st) the percentage of hunters who believe the spring season should open earlier has increased (36% in 1995, 48% in 2001 and 54% in 2008). Attitude toward Sunday turkey hunting has not changed. About half the respondents still disagree with Sunday turkey hunting. Attitudes towards other season lengths also have not changed among survey periods.

Support for transferring Pennsylvania turkeys to other states to assist in their restoration efforts has increased to about 40% in 2008 and 2001, from 33% in 1995. Satisfaction in program areas of hunter safety information and education has declined from 72% Good/Excellent in 1995 to approximately 60%. Satisfaction with overall turkey management also has declined (63% Good/Excellent in 2008, 70% in 2001 and 77% Good/Excellent in 1995). The section on program satisfaction was expanded for the 2008 survey from 6 questions to 11 to include satisfaction with habitat management on State Game Lands, the Law Enforcement Program and the Turkey Management Plan. These added areas showed some low satisfaction ratings, which may have influenced the overall satisfaction, but we will know more during the next survey scheduled for approximately 2013.

Hunter demographics also has changed during the years; hunters are older (average age in 1995 was 43, in 2008 was 50), have more education (17% possessed a college graduate/professional degree in 1995 versus

33% in 2008), have professional (doctor, engineer) occupations (5% in 1995 versus 17% in 2008), have a larger income (9% made over \$70,000 in 1995, versus 33% in 2008) and many more are retired (1% in 1995 versus 24% in 2008).

APPENDIX 1: 2008 Pennsylvania Turkey Hunter Survey – Summary Results

For additional information contact: Bureau of Wildlife Management, Pennsylvania Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110

***** **PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD UP TO 100% DUE TO ROUNDING** *****

Response Rate Information:

$$\frac{6,313 \text{ Surveys Returned}}{9,105 \text{ Surveys Mailed} - 146 \text{ Nondeliverable Surveys}} = 70\% \text{ Response Rate}$$

1. Do you hunt turkeys in Pennsylvania? (includes only those who hunted turkeys)

18% YES, I HUNTED IN FALL 2007 ONLY
22% YES, I HUNTED IN SPRING 2008 ONLY
60% YES, I HUNTED IN BOTH FALL 2007 AND SPRING 2008

2. Did you purchase a Special Turkey License in 2008 for harvesting a second spring gobbler? (Circle one number)

7% YES **93%** NO

3. For each season you hunted, record the Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) where you did most of your hunting, number of days hunted, and whether you harvested a turkey. Also indicate sex of the turkey, and beard/spur measurements.

Percent Hunters by Wildlife Management Unit:

	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT										
	1A	1B	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F	2G	3A	3B
Fall	3%	4%	4%	3%	5%	7%	3%	5%	11%	5%	7%
Spring	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	7%	3%	4%	9%	4%	6%

	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT										
	3C	3D	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	5A	5B*	5C	5D*
Fall	5%	5%	5%	6%	5%	7%	5%	<1%	<1%	2%	<1%
Spring	6%	5%	4%	5%	6%	6%	5%	2%	1%	2%	<1%

Days hunted during 2007 FALL season:

	WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT										
	1A	1B	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F	2G	3A	3B
1 to 2 days	27%	41%	31%	35%	26%	28%	27%	30%	31%	33%	35%
3 to 5 days	52%	38%	45%	45%	52%	52%	47%	46%	46%	44%	46%

6+ days	21%	20%	24%	21%	21%	20%	26%	24%	23%	23%	18%
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT											
	3C	3D	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	5A	5B*	5C	5D*
1 to 2 days	41%	45%	34%	39%	28%	30%	28%	57%	67%	47%	33%
3 to 5 days	43%	35%	46%	42%	46%	46%	45%	29%	0%	48%	67%
6+ days	16%	21%	19%	19%	26%	24%	27%	14%	33%	5%	0%

* - Sample of 3 hunters

Days hunted during 2008 SPRING season:

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT											
	1A	1B	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F	2G	3A	3B
1 to 2 days	29%	31%	30%	33%	26%	25%	34%	38%	31%	37%	35%
3 to 5 days	38%	32%	39%	42%	40%	38%	38%	30%	37%	34%	39%
6+ days	33%	36%	30%	26%	34%	37%	27%	32%	32%	29%	26%

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT											
	3C	3D	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	5A	5B	5C	5D*
1 to 2 days	38%	39%	30%	28%	28%	33%	33%	28%	34%	34%	33%
3 to 5 days	38%	31%	34%	41%	34%	36%	35%	35%	39%	33%	0%
6+ days	24%	29%	37%	30%	38%	31%	31%	37%	37%	34%	67%

* - Sample of 3 hunters

Did you kill a turkey during FALL season?

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT											
	1A	1B	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F	2G	3A	3B
Yes	11%	19%	15%	19%	15%	18%	19%	10%	12%	18%	15%
No	89%	81%	85%	81%	86%	82%	81%	90%	88%	82%	85%

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT											
	3C	3D	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	5A	5B*	5C	5D*
Yes	21%	15%	22%	16%	11%	17%	23%	0%	100%	7%	100%
No	79%	85%	78%	84%	89%	83%	77%	100%	0%	93%	<0%

* - Sample of 3 hunters

Did you kill a turkey during SPRING season?

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT											
	1A	1B	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F	2G	3A	3B
Yes	24%	29%	23%	21%	14%	19%	22%	20%	15%	19%	23%
No	76%	71%	77%	79%	86%	81%	78%	80%	85%	81%	77%

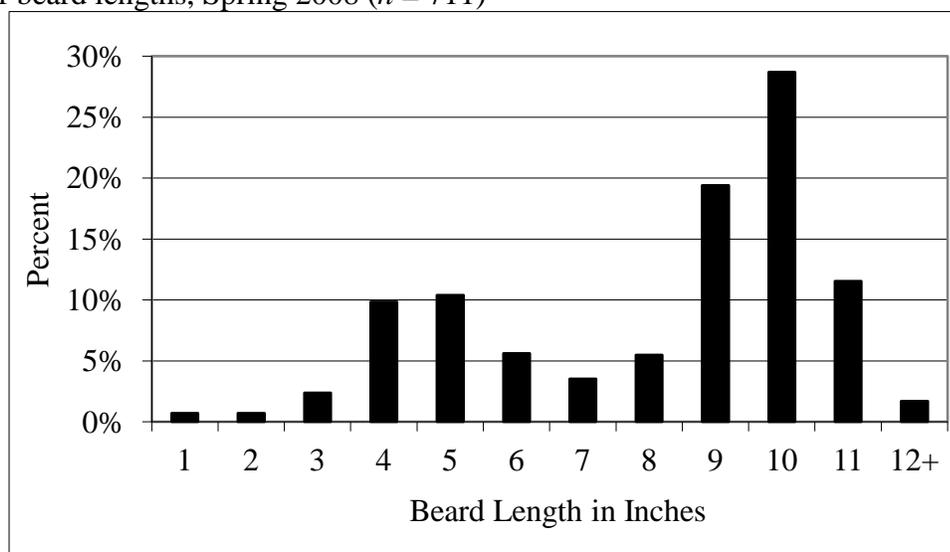
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT											
	3C	3D	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	5A	5B	5C	5D*
Yes	27%	22%	16%	16%	24%	20%	26%	14%	18%	13%	0%
No	73%	78%	84%	84%	76%	80%	74%	86%	82%	87%	100%

* - Sample of 3 hunters

3. If you harvested a turkey in Spring 2008, please answer the following questions.

How long was its beard? **7.9 INCHES** (average)

Distribution of beard lengths, Spring 2008 ($n = 711$)



Was it a bearded hen?

1% YES
99% NO

4. Turkey populations where you did most of your hunting are:

FALL 2007
3% TOO HIGH
63% ABOUT RIGHT
24% TOO LOW
10% DO NOT KNOW

SPRING 2008
3% TOO HIGH
64% ABOUT RIGHT
24% TOO LOW
10% DO NOT KNOW

5. How many turkey hunters, other than those in your party, did you see or hear while hunting?

	Fall 2007	Spring 2008
0 Hunters	53%	48%
1-3 Hunters	28%	30%
4- 5 Hunters	12%	13%
6-10 Hunters	6%	9%
Average No. Hunters Seen	2	2

6. Did you mentor any youth under 12 years old in Spring 2008?

10% YES

84% NO

6% DID NOT HUNT SPRING 2008

7. Did you see any violations?

FALL 2007

2% YES

98% NO

SPRING 2008

2% YES

98% NO

Did you report the violation? (for those reporting "YES" to seeing)

19% YES

81% NO

8. Do you hunt turkeys in other states?

7% YES

93% NO

If YES, which states?

Rank	State
1	NEW YORK (n=132)
2	OHIO (n=39)
3	MARYLAND (n=32)
4	WEST VIRGINIA (n=23)
5	NEW JERSEY (n=22)
6	VIRGINIA (n=15)

Second other state hunted:

Rank	State
1	NEW YORK (n=9)
2	WEST VIRGINIA (n=7)
3	MARYLAND (n=5)
4	FLORIDA/SOUTH DAKOTA (n=4)

9. Which type of sporting arm do you use the most for **FALL** hunting?

9% I DO NOT HUNT TURKEYS DURING THE FALL

11% RIFLE

67% SHOTGUN
7% COMBINATION RIFLE AND SHOTGUN
5% BOW (Compound or Longbow)
<1% CROSSBOW
<1% HANDGUN
<1% MUZZLELOADER

10. How many years have you hunted TURKEYS in Pennsylvania? **20 YEARS** (average)

Years	Percent
No Response	3%
1-5 Yrs	17%
6-10 Yrs	17%
11-20 Yrs	24%
21-30 Yrs	18%
31-40 Yrs	12%
40+ Yrs	7%

11. How many turkeys have you harvested in Pennsylvania during these years?

7 TURKEYS in **20** years of hunting (average)

Turkeys	Percent
No Response	26%
1-5	38%
6-10	16%
11-15	8%
15+	12%

12. On what type of area do you do most of your turkey hunting?

27% STATE GAME LANDS
12% PUBLIC OWNED LANDS, NOT SGLs
3% HUNTING CLUB
28% PRIVATE-OWNED, NOT A HUNTING CLUB, BUT POSTED
30% PRIVATE-OWNED, NOT A HUNTING CLUB, NOT POSTED

13. Do you use a decoy when hunting turkeys?

FALL TURKEY SEASON

15% YES
85% NO

SPRING TURKEY SEASON

61% YES
39% NO

14. Do you use a blind of man-made materials when hunting turkeys?

FALL TURKEY SEASON

7% YES
93% NO

SPRING TURKEY SEASON

14% YES
86% NO

15. When fall turkey hunting, do you harvest other in-season game species?

38% YES
62% NO

16. When fall turkey hunting in 2007, did you use a turkey dog?

1% YES
99% NO

Did you harvest a turkey with the use of a turkey dog? **33% YES (n=4); 67% NO (n=8)**

17. Would you report your turkey harvest on the Internet or by toll-free telephone if available?

<u>INTERNET</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
61% YES	65% YES
18% NO	20% NO
8% DO NOT KNOW	14% DO NOT KNOW
13% NO INTERNET ACCESS	

18. Do you belong to any of the following organizations?

9% NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION
5% PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS
2% UNIFIED SPORTSMEN OF PENNSYLVANIA
19% OTHER, (33% of which belong to NRA)
65% NO or NO RESPONSE

19. Which factors keep successful hunters from returning their report cards? (Total is >100% because responders checked all that apply.)

11% DO NOT HAVE ONE FOR SPRING SEASON BECAUSE BOTH REPORT CARDS WERE USED FOR FALL DEER AND TURKEY SEASONS
16% LOSE REPORT CARDS
45% DO NOT REALIZE REPORT CARDS ARE IMPORTANT
20% DO NOT WANT THE GAME COMMISSION TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR TURKEY HARVESTS
67% FORGET TO MAIL REPORT CARDS

20. Did you know that the Pennsylvania Game Commission has a Turkey Management Plan?

59% YES
41% NO

If YES, have you read the Turkey Management Plan?

24% YES
76% NO

We would like your opinion on turkey management issues, many of which have been brought to our attention by sportsmen.

	AGREE	UNDECIDED	DISAGREE
21. I have trouble finding a place to hunt.	31%	9%	60%

22. There are too many turkey hunters in the woods during the fall season.	9%	28%	63%
23. There are too many turkey hunters in the woods during the spring season.	23%	28%	49%
24. Rifles should not be legal during fall turkey season.	39%	14%	47%
25. Fall turkey hunters should not be required to wear any amount of fluorescent orange clothing even when moving.	20%	11%	69%
26. Fall turkey hunters should be required to wear 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material when moving.	69%	10%	21%
27. Fall turkey hunters should be required to wear 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material when moving.	27%	21%	52%
28. Spring turkey hunters should be required to wear 100 square inches of fluorescent orange material when moving.	57%	9%	34%
29. Current fall regulations regarding use of fluorescent orange unnecessarily reduce my chances of killing a turkey.	25%	30%	46%
30. I support the use of crossbows for turkey hunting.	46%	26%	28%
31. The Game Commission should offer a voluntary turkey hunter education course.	51%	35%	14%
32. The Game Commission should require a turkey hunter education course to hunt turkeys.	16%	25%	59%
33. The Spring Youth Hunt legal hunting hours should be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, rather than one-half hour before sunrise to noon.	31%	21%	48%
34. The Spring Youth Hunt should be extended to a 2-day hunt, to include Saturday and Sunday.	42%	14%	44%
35. I would feel safer if I encountered fewer turkey hunters while hunting.	40%	27%	33%
36. I support mentored youth under 12 years old hunting turkeys in the spring..	69%	12%	20%
37. I support adding fall turkey for mentored youth under 12 years old.	61%	14%	25%
38. Current fall turkey season in the WMU I hunt the most is too short.	29%	38%	34%
39. Fall turkey seasons should start earlier.	33%	30%	38%
40. Fall turkey seasons should end later.	38%	28%	34%
41. Current spring turkey season is too short.	25%	20%	55%
42. Spring turkey season should start earlier.	54%	20%	26%
43. Spring turkey season should start on May 1 st each year (if Sunday then May 2 nd).	42%	31%	27%
44. Spring season should be extended to May 31.	48%	30%	22%
45. Legal hunting hours for spring turkey season should be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, rather than one-half hour before sunrise to noon.	43%	14%	43%
46. I support the taking of a second spring turkey with the purchase of a Special Turkey License.	48%	15%	37%
47. Hunters should be able to purchase the Special Turkey License anytime, including through the spring season.	45%	17%	38%
48. Sunday turkey hunting should be legal.	46%	9%	45%
49. Fall turkey hunting season lengths and/or bag limits should be continued even if turkey populations are in decline.	14%	18%	68%
50. I would be willing to give up one week of fall turkey hunting if future populations, harvests, and season lengths would increase.	54%	27%	19%
51. The spring and fall turkey seasons should begin on Monday rather than Saturday to reduce opening day hunting pressure.	25%	18%	57%
52. The number of turkey hunters should be managed to increase safety and satisfaction of turkey hunters.	16%	27%	57%
53. Spring turkey hunting suppresses turkey populations.	13%	11%	76%
54. Fall turkey harvests need to be controlled to prevent overharvest of hens.	35%	26%	40%

55. I support trap and transfer of Pennsylvania turkeys to other states to assist them with turkey population restoration.	40%	23%	37%
56. I support trap and transfer of Pennsylvania turkeys to other states, but only when turkeys are trapped from unhunted areas or areas where property owners give permission.	54%	21%	25%
57. I support trap and transfer of Pennsylvania turkeys within the state to increase low populations.	76%	12%	12%
58. Fall turkey seasons should be closed where turkeys are being released to increase low populations.	66%	20%	14%
59. Winter feeding of turkeys should be illegal.	13%	23%	64%
60. Use of decoys while turkey hunting should be illegal.	10%	12%	78%
61. I support the use of dogs for fall turkey hunting.	18%	23%	59%
62. Compliance with bag limits and lawful methods of taking by turkey hunters is very good.	61%	28%	11%
63. Fall season length should be the same (3 weeks) in all WMUs; harvests should be managed by adjusting hunter numbers in each.	20%	34%	46%

Level of satisfaction with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, by program area:

	<u>EXCELLENT</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	<u>POOR</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
64. Fall turkey seasons and regulations	8%	57%	26%	5%	4%
65. Regular spring turkey season and regulations	9%	56%	26%	6%	2%
66. Youth Hunt for spring turkey	16%	49%	19%	5%	10%
67. Mentored Youth Hunt program for spring turkey	17%	44%	18%	8%	13%
68. Wildlife Management Units	9%	46%	28%	13%	4%
69. Turkey hunter safety information and education	9%	52%	28%	5%	5%
70. Information on turkey behavior and hunting	5%	43%	36%	8%	7%
71. Turkey habitat management on Game Lands	5%	34%	31%	13%	17%
72. Game Commission's Turkey Management Plan	4%	35%	26%	5%	30%
73. Wildlife Protection (law enforcement) Program	6%	42%	30%	10%	11%
74. Overall wild turkey management	8%	55%	29%	3%	4%

The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people who hunt turkeys. Be assured all responses will be kept confidential.

75. What is your age? **50 YEARS** (average)

76. What is your gender? (**Circle one number**)

97% MALE
3% FEMALE

73. Please select the response that best describes the area where you live. (**Circle one number**)

51% RURAL AREA

12% SMALL CITY (5,000 to 50,000 people)

16% SUBURB	3% LARGE CITY (50,000 to 500,000 people)
17% SMALL TOWN (less than 5,000 people)	1% VERY LARGE CITY (> 500,000 people)

74. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (**Circle one number**)

6% SOME HIGH SCHOOL	22% COLLEGE
46% HIGH SCHOOL OR EQUIVALENT	10% GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL DEGREE
16% TRADE OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL	

75. What category best describes your occupation? (**Circle one number**)

5% SERVICE WORKER	17% PROFESSIONAL (doctor, engineer, etc.)
27% SKILLED WORKER	2% FARMER
5% STUDENT	<1% HOUSEWIFE
8% LABORER	24% RETIRED
3% CLERICAL AND SALES	1% UNEMPLOYED
9% SELF-EMPLOYED BUSINESS	

76. What is your approximate total (gross) household income? (**Circle one number**)

3% LESS THAN \$10,000	14% \$40,000 TO \$49,999
5% \$10,000 TO \$19,999	14% \$50,000 TO \$59,999
9% \$20,000 TO \$29,999	10% \$60,000 TO \$69,999
13% \$30,000 TO \$39,999	33% OVER \$70,000