

WDNR Turkey Advisory Committee
June 4, 2019
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM
DNR Satellite Service Center- Wisconsin Rapids
473 Griffith Ave
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Attendance

- Alaina Gerrits- DNR WM (Central office)
- Travis Anderson- DNR WM (Dodgeville)
- Ralph Fritsch- WWF
- Matt Weegman- NWTF
- Dean Edlin- DNR NHC
- Carrie Milestone- DNR WM (Sandhill)
- Keb Guralski- WCFA
- Steve Easterly- DNR WM (Lake MI area)
- Kevin Morgan- DNR WM (St Croix area)
- Chris Pollentier – DNR OAS
- Brian Dhuey – DNR OAS
- Mark Witecha – DNR WM (Central office)

2019 Spring Turkey Harvest Update

- Many over-the-counter (OTC) harvest authorizations leftover for zones 1, 3 & 4
- Spring harvest is almost identical to last year (2017)
- 84% of birds harvested were adult males, compared to 88% in 2018, may suggest although we had a snowstorm during peak in the nesting season brood conditions were favorable
- Waiting for results from turkey hunter survey
- Raw success rate including non-active hunters was ~18%

Turkey Stamp Committee Recommended Allocations

- This biennium the committee has approximately \$950,000 available for stamp project allocation

Project ID	Stamp Request \$	Committee's Recommendation \$
1	35,000.00	35,000.00
2	165,000.00	0.00
3	10,000.00	10,000.00
4	133,046.52	0.00
5	134,100.00	134,100.00
6	210,000.00	210,000.00
7	49,500.00	49,500.00
8	8,000.00	0.00
9	115,726.00	80,000.00
10	28,320.00	0.00
11	43,300.00	43,000.00
12	18,000.00	18,000.00
13	7,775.00	7,775.00
14	27,500.00	27,500.00
15	116,180.00	58,000.00
16	16,580.00	0.00
17	4,376.00	0.00
18	34,200.00	34,200.00
19	116,980.00	116,980.00
20	149,686.00	0.00
21	100,833.00	80,000.00
22	50,000.00	50,000.00
SUM	1,571,102.52	954,055.00

Fall 2018 Turkey season and suggestions for Fall 2019 season

- One harvest authorization issued with purchase of fall turkey hunting license
- Permits success in fall ~5%, this includes non-active hunters
- No bonus authorizations were offered for zones 5, 6 or 7
- Zone 2 sold issued all OTC bonus harvest authorizations

- Committee recommends allocating more bonus authorizations for zone 2 for upcoming fall 2019 season

Zone	Bonus authorizations available Fall 2018	Unissued bonus authorizations Fall 2018	Recommended bonus authorizations for Fall 2019
1	5,000	4,189	5,000
2	1,000	0	2,000
3	5,000	3,952	5,000
4	2,000	1,364	2,000
5	0	0	0
6	0	0	0
7	0	0	0
FM	0	0	0
Total	13,000	9,505	14,000

Partner Updates

- WWF (Wisconsin Wildlife Federation): looking to increase fees, especially on stamps but having a hard time getting approval on the legislative end. There is concern that there is not enough harvest occurring in the southern portions of the state where deer populations are highest, some believe it is a problem with hunters being unable to get access to hunt private lands
- NWTF: NWTF and NRCS have an agreement to hire several foresters throughout the country, one will be stationed in Wisconsin and will provide technical assistance, especially to private landowners, wishing to improve wildlife habitat on their land
- DNR NHC: It has been a challenging wet burning season, but we are persevering!
- DNR WM (Sandhill): Struggling with burning as well, conducting extensive invasive species treatments
- WCFA: Successful burning season so far, ongoing timber sales and TSI (timber sale improvement) projects for oak stands underway
- DNR WM (Lake MI area): unable to conduct prescribed fire as plan due to wet weather, finished planting 6000 oak trees with previous turkey stamp allocation
- DNR WM (St Croix area): busy with sampling bear hair snares for genetics survey
- DNR OAS: Still working on ruffed grouse occupancy surveys and ruffed grouse management plan

Public Comments

- Public Comment: The committee should consider increasing first period tags by 1,000 because most hunters prefer to hunt the first periods
- Public Comment: the OTC tag process is confusing, and hunters should be able to select whether they would like bonus harvest authorizations for other periods during the spring application process to avoid having to wait in line at a service center or having to go online later in the spring
- Public Comment: There should be a continuous spring turkey hunting season and there should be an archery turkey season that begins one week before the regular turkey season
- Public Comment: turkey zones 2, 3, and 4 should be further divided into smaller zones based on county lines so areas that are more populated have less competition for OTC tags, also there could be potentially many different landscapes included in one zone
- Public Comment: Turkey hunting should close at 12 pm
- Public Comments: 3 people in total suggested the spring turkey season should be a continuous season without periods or a drawing system.