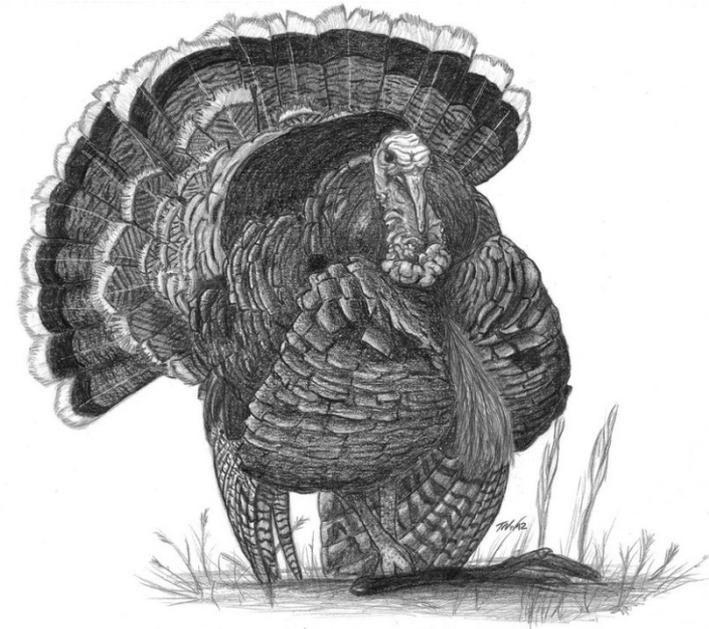


1st Wild Turkey Stakeholder Group Meeting

Pierre, SD

September 10, 2015



Division of Wildlife

- **MISSION GOAL:** The Division of Wildlife will manage South Dakota's wildlife and fisheries resources and their associated habitats for the their sustained and equitable use, and for the benefit, welfare, and enjoyment of the citizens of this state and it's visitors.
- **MISSION STATEMENT:** "Serving People, Managing Wildlife"
- **OUR VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
 - Wildlife enhances the quality of life in South Dakota.
 - Wildlife is a public trust resource.
 - Hunting, fishing and trapping are fundamental wildlife management practices and legitimate recreational activities.
 - Land stewardship and partnerships with private landowners are essential to sustaining wildlife for the future.

Wildlife Management Plan

- Planning is an integrated system of management that includes all activities leading to the development and implementation of goals, program objectives, operational strategies, and progress evaluation.
- Management planning approach:
 - Where have we been?
 - Where are we?
 - Where do we want to be?
 - How will we get there?
 - Did we make it?
- Management plans are used as guiding documents for decision making, implementation of actions, justification to the public as to how wildlife populations and their associated habitats are managed.
 - Management decisions must include all biological information and consider the needs of all stakeholders.

Wild Turkey Stakeholder Group

- Stakeholder Group is a diverse group of citizen stakeholders who have been asked to assist Department of Game, Fish and Parks Staff and the Game, Fish and Parks Commission in conducting a review of the broad range of issues affecting wild turkey management in South Dakota.
- Stakeholder Group will assist GFP Staff and the GFP Commission by offering insight, ideas, and alternatives that could be considered in regard to the Department and Commission positions on various wild turkey management goals, strategies, challenges and related recreational opportunities.

Wild Turkey Stakeholder Group

- The basic objectives of the Wild Turkey Management Stakeholder Group are to:
 - Provide an additional link between the GFP Staff and the GFP Commission and the citizens we serve;
 - Identify challenges and opportunities and develop ideas and suggestions regarding the range of issues affecting the management of wild turkey and associated recreation in South Dakota; and
 - Promote communication, increased awareness and mutual understanding between and among the Stakeholder Group members regarding the diversity of wild turkey management challenges.

Wild Turkey Stakeholder Group

- Stakeholder Group will function in an advisory capacity only and will provide a discussion forum for members to share their personal perspective and the perspective of the group or organization they may represent on a diversity of issues related to wild turkey management.
- Stakeholder Group is granted no authority over rule-making or rule enforcement on public or private land, has no budgetary authority or authority over personnel management, nor is it granted any authority over any state or federal agency or non-governmental organization.

Wild Turkey Stakeholder Group

- Stakeholder Group Member Roles and Responsibilities – Working Group members will:
 - Make a commitment to attend the scheduled Stakeholder Group meetings;
 - Offer their thoughts and ideas and communicate with others in a respectful manner while maintaining an open mind with regard to the views and perspectives of other Working Group members, and;
 - Serve as a sounding board and provide feedback and ideas to GFP Staff and the GFP Commission.

Division of Wildlife Staff

- GFP Staff Roles and Responsibilities – GFP Staff will:
 - Provide a diversity of information regarding wild turkey management to the Stakeholder Group;
 - Serve the role of facilitator for the meetings, including keeping order, achieving the meeting agenda and providing a comfortable working atmosphere for Working Group members to share ideas and opinions;
 - Schedule and arrange meeting room facilities, including providing all necessary communication related to the meetings;
 - Listen attentively and respectfully to all viewpoints; and
 - Gather meeting notes and make them available to the public via the GFP website.

Questions?



A Review of the Expired Wild Turkey Management Plan



**South Dakota Statewide
Turkey Management Plan
2001 – 2010**

**Game Program
Division of Wildlife
Department of Game, Fish and Parks**

Expired Wild Turkey Management Plan

GOAL

Goal for turkey management in South Dakota is to maximize user opportunity while maintaining populations consistent with ecological, social, aesthetic, and economic values of the people of South Dakota.

OBJECTIVES

The following objectives were identified to implement the goal of this management plan:

Objective 1: Annually determine status of turkey populations.

Objective 2: Annually review and set turkey management unit population goals by subspecies, and take appropriate steps to achieve population goals for all management units including areas not currently defined as a hunting unit.

Objective 3: Address turkey depredation on private land to reasonably satisfy the majority of annual complaints.

Objective 4: Monitor the effectiveness of reestablishing eastern wild turkeys in South Dakota and continue to evaluate potential for additional releases.



Expired Wild Turkey Management Plan

- Objectives (cont.)
- Objective 5: Attempt to resolve wild/domestic turkey conflicts.
- Objective 6: Increase recreational opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive users while addressing management goals.
- Objective 7: Involve various publics in turkey management planning and issues, annually evaluate turkey management, and up-date management plans as needed.

Expired Wild Turkey Management Plan

Objective 1. Annually determine status of turkey populations.

Strategy a. Implement surveys (e.g., brood surveys, winter counts, harvest surveys) that detect annual changes in turkey population status.

Strategy b. Trap, sex, age, mark and release turkeys at various sites to determine poult recruitment and migration patterns from winter range to summer range (for Black Hills turkeys).

Expired Wild Turkey Management Plan

- **Objective 2.** Annually review and set turkey management unit population goals by subspecies, and take appropriate steps to achieve population goals for all management units including areas not currently defined as a hunting unit.
- **Strategy a.** Evaluate information on population status of each subspecies, habitat conditions, depredation problems and recreational demands.
- **Strategy b.** Produce document of population goals (increase, decrease or maintain) by subspecies for each turkey management unit.
- **Strategy c.** Allocate types and numbers of turkey hunting licenses which result in a harvest directed at manipulating the turkey population toward management unit population goals.
- **Strategy d.** Use other tools (e.g., trap and transfer within state and from other states) and strategies (e.g., habitat manipulation) to meet population management goals by unit.

Expired Wild Turkey Management Plan

- **Objective 3.** Address turkey depredation on private land to reasonably satisfy the majority of annual complaints.
- **Strategy a.** Review and evaluate depredation policy and guidelines.
- **Strategy b.** Respond to depredation complaints in a timely manner as set forth in guidelines. Evaluate effectiveness annually.
- **Strategy c.** Continue evaluation of new methodology used to combat complaints.
- **Strategy d.** Insure sufficient materials are on hand to address depredation complaints.
- **Strategy e.** Acquire critical winter range for turkeys in depredation areas.
- **Strategy f.** Establish winter food plots on private lands in depredation areas.
- **Strategy g.** Continue aggressive trapping and removal programs.
- **Strategy h.** Concentrate Walk-In Program sign-ups in depredation areas.

Expired Wild Turkey Management Plan

- **Objective 4.** Monitor the effectiveness of reestablishing eastern wild turkeys in South Dakota and continue to evaluate potential for additional releases.
- **Strategy a.** Continue research and evaluation on experimental transplants of eastern wild turkeys to determine population dynamics.
- **Strategy b.** Evaluate other habitat areas for potential transplants.
- **Strategy c.** Develop a map or list of landowners interested in having eastern wild turkeys along with a map of available habitat for eastern turkeys.

Expired Wild Turkey Management Plan

- **Objective 5.** Attempt to resolve wild/domestic turkey conflicts.
- **Strategy a.** Review and evaluate Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) position statement.
- **Strategy b.** Educate the public concerning the GFP position on wild/domestic turkeys.

Expired Wild Turkey Management Plan

- **Objective 6.** Increase recreational opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive users while addressing management goals.
- **Strategy a.** Reduce hunter access complaints by continued use of Walk-In Program.
- **Strategy b.** Develop projects to increase user access to private lands.
- **Strategy c.** Develop aggressive land acquisition program in areas of need.
- **Strategy d.** Encourage hunters to take a more active role in securing access to private lands.

Expired Wild Turkey Management Plan

- **Objective 7.** Involve various publics in turkey management planning and issues, annually evaluate turkey management, and up-date management plans as needed.
- **Strategy a.** Develop a process to keep internal staff informed of turkey management issues in South Dakota.
- **Strategy b.** Develop a process to keep the public informed of turkey management issues in South Dakota.
- **Strategy c.** Develop a process to work with interested publics in turkey management planning and projects in South Dakota.
- **Strategy d.** Develop a process to ensure public input in turkey management planning and issues in South Dakota and a process to get public feedback in the evaluation of turkey management in general and on specific projects in South Dakota.

Questions?

