

Pennsylvania Game Commission

Annual Report, 2011-12

THE Game Commission is proud to present this 2011-12 annual report, highlighting many of the agency's accomplishments over the last fiscal year, July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

Conserve, protect and restore wildlife populations for their many public values.

As the Commonwealth's wildlife management agency, the Game Commission (PGC) is responsible for managing all of Pennsylvania's wild birds and wild mammals. Of the 480 species of wild birds and wild mammals in PA, primary attention is necessarily limited to select game species and our most imperiled species due to funding sources and limitations.

Research on white-tailed deer survival and harvest rates in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 2D, 2G, 3C, and 4B was completed. In these 4 WMUs, the firearms season was changed from a 12-day antlered and antlerless concurrent season to a 5-day antlered only season followed by a 7-day antlered and antlerless concurrent season beginning in 2008. We investigated the effect of this season change on deer harvests and populations, and we completed a series of hunter surveys to monitor hunter activities, success and satisfaction. We sent daily hunting diaries to nearly 2,400 hunters prior to the 2011 firearms season. Although deer populations in each WMU increased, hunter satisfaction with their hunting experience, opinion of the deer abundance, and rating of the deer program changed little. This research was conducted in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (PCFWRU) at The Pennsylvania State University (PSU).

A new study in WMU 5C was initiated this past winter to determine survival and harvest rates of antlered and antlerless deer in this more developed area of Pennsylvania. At the end of the 2011 trapping season, 245 deer had been captured and marked with ear tags or radio collars. More than 90 radio-collared deer were being monitored as the fiscal year ended.

During the 2011-12 firearms season, 33 PGC deer aging teams were deployed for seven days to collect sex, age and kill (SAK) data from a sample of harvested deer. PGC personnel examined 25,996 deer (9,747 antlered and 16,249 antlerless). Each team checked an average of 443 antlered deer and 739 antlerless deer per WMU. Age data from more than 16,000 antlerless deer were used to assess the proportion of juveniles in the antlerless harvest. Proportion of juveniles in the antlerless harvest ranged from a low of 0.32 in WMU 5A to a high of 0.49 in WMU 5D. All WMUs exhibited stable trends from 2003 to the present.

SAK data were used to estimate deer harvests from the 2011-12 hunting seasons. Based on hunter harvest reports and SAK data, hunters harvested 336,200 deer (127,540 antlered and 208,660 antlerless). The 2011-12 antlered harvest was an increase of four percent from the 2010-11 harvest. The 2011-12 antlerless harvest was an increase of eight percent from the 2010-11 harvest.

Antlered harvests were composed of 50 percent 1.5-year-old males and 50 percent 2.5-year-old and older males. Compared to years prior to implementation of antler restrictions during the 2002-03 hunting seasons, the age structure of the antlered harvest has increased, as has the number of 2.5-year-old and older bucks harvested. Antlerless harvest composition has changed little since the 1997-98 hunting seasons.

In WMUs 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B and 2D, the change in antler restriction from 4 points to a side to 3 points not including the brow tine allowed a few more antlered deer to be harvested. At most, seven percent of the antlered harvest in these WMUs would not have been legal with the antler restriction in 2010.

Results of this year's deer harvest were incorporated into deer population trend assessments. Deer population trends were stable in 18 WMUs and increasing in 4 WMUs from 2006 to 2011.

For 2012-13 antlerless deer allocations, allocation options were prepared that would increase, decrease, or stabilize the deer population with either a 5-day antlered and 7-day concurrent firearms season or a 12-day concurrent firearm season. Antlerless allocations that increased allocations from 2011-12 to 2012-13 season in seven WMUs, remained the same in six WMUs, and decreased in nine WMUs.

For 2011-12, the Commission approved 766 DMAP applications, which was lower than the 870 in 2010. Enrolled acres declined from 1,658,732 in 2010 to 1,448,521 in 2011. Number of coupons requested and approved remained similar with 27,588 in 2010 and 27,519 in 2011. Hunters redeemed 23,915 DMAP coupons. While all

DMAP harvest permit holders are required to submit a report card regardless of harvest success, only 52 percent reported. DMAP reported harvest was 3,933 antlerless deer.

An annual population survey was conducted in the winter of 2012 to determine a minimum count of the elk population. Elk marked with radio-collars were used to complete a Minimum Number Alive (MNA) count and to monitor elk movements, reproduction, survival and habitat use. There were 824 elk recorded during the MNA count, which included 461 adult cows, 145 calves, 138 branched bulls, and 80 spikes.

Elk hunting seasons were held from September to November 2011 with 57 elk licenses (19 antlered, 38 antlerless) issued. Hunters harvested 53 elk (19 antlered and 34 antlerless). Included in this harvest was a new state record nontypical bull that scored 442-6/8, which the Boone & Crockett Club ranks in the top 10 in the world.

Wildlife health activities focused on chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance, risk factor mitigation and response planning. The PGC's CWD Operational Plan and the Commonwealth's Interagency CWD Response Plan were updated to prescribe response activities to be taken as CWD is detected closer to Pennsylvania. Revisions to the regulation giving the Executive Director authority to make Emergency Orders in various CWD scenarios were approved at the April 2010 Commission meeting.

Subsequently 3,768 CWD samples were collected over three days from heads collected by deer aging teams across the state. These samples were forwarded to University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center for testing and CWD was not detected. Another 42 deer and 4 elk were tested in the course of cause of death investigations, and 56 were obtained from road-killed deer. USDA WS personnel culled deer on the Valley Forge National Historic Park; 233 were tested, and CWD was not detected.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) was documented in numerous captive and one wild deer in Northampton County. It was also confirmed in a captive deer in Erie County. Vector traps were deployed in the vicinity of the Northampton County cases to determine which species of the midge was carrying the virus, and if other virus serotypes were present. No exotic species of either were found.

Bear populations were monitored using several sources of data, including: a statewide capture and tagging program; mandatory check stations during the hunting season; aging of teeth collected from roadkilled, captured or harvested bears; assessment of reproduction during visits to dens of hibernating bears fitted with radio-collars; and a statewide wildlife food survey.

In all, 801 bears from 52 counties were captured and ear-tagged during 2011 in advance of the fall hunting seasons. Based on the ratio of tagged-to-untagged bears observed in the harvest, the 2011 statewide bear population was estimated at 17,831 bears, almost identical to the previous year's estimate. Sufficient data were collected to estimate bear population size in the 14 WMUs that comprised the entire primary bear range.

Several changes to the bear hunting season were implemented in 2011: the extended bear season, which had been closed in 2010, was reopened; WMU 3A was added to the extended season; and the general bear season was lengthened to four days. Season expansions implemented the previous year also were kept in place, and as a result a record 162,170 bear licenses were sold during 2011. Yet, license sales only increased a small amount relative to previous years, which suggests that recruitment of additional bear hunters may be stabilizing despite expanding opportunity.

Hunters killed a record 4,350 bears, including 304 bears taken in the archery bear season, 3,168 in the general season and 878 in the extended season. Statewide, the harvest rate was 2.2 percent during the archery season, 17.7 percent during the general season, and 21.2 percent in the area open to extending hunting. The average age of harvested bears was 2.4 years for males and 3.5 years for females.

Cub production and survival was monitored by visiting the dens of 49 radio-collared bears during February and March. In all, 48 adults, 57 cubs and 30 yearlings were handled and tagged in nine counties. Average number of cubs per litter was 2.7. The sex ratio of cubs was 46 percent female to 54 percent male.

As FY11 closed we completed the sixth successful year of the 10-year (2006-2015) wild turkey management plan. Four strategies have been completed (spring season fluorescent orange requirements were changed in 2008; in 2009 the 2-bird spring bag limit was determined to have no effect on the turkey age structure; in 2010 the 4-year tri-state gobbler study was completed (with results published in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*); and in 2011 a Successful Turkey Hunting course was created). Partnerships (monetary and personnel) become more important each year to assist with accomplishing the plan on schedule, particularly via support from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (PANWTF), the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and Pittman-Robertson (P-R) funding.

Fall turkey season length continues to be our primary means of managing turkey populations; season lengths vary from a closed season to three weeks, depending on WMU.

The fall 2011 turkey harvest was 14,300 birds, which was 10 percent below the 2010 harvest and 36 percent below the previous 5-year average. The number of fall turkey hunters decreased 11 percent from 2010, but was only

3 percent below the previous 5-year average. However, the number of hunter days continues its long-term declining trend. One reason for the addition of the 3-day Thanksgiving turkey hunting season was to encourage more hunting participation. Although such an effect is not yet evident, it should be noted that when new hunting seasons are established it typically takes at least three years before full participation is achieved.

Hunting hours during the second half of the 2011 spring gobbler season were extended to allow all-day hunting, providing increased hunting opportunity at a time when risks of hen mortality and nest disturbance are low. Afternoon harvests comprised 5 percent of the total reported harvests for the entire season, and 22 percent of harvests during the all-day portion of the season.

The half-day youth turkey hunt on the Saturday prior to the regular season accounted for 6 percent of the total statewide harvest in 2011, demonstrating the popularity and importance of this youth opportunity.

The 2011 spring gobbler harvest (based on the Game Take Survey and including youth and second bird harvests) was 34,972. This was a 3 percent increase from the 2010 harvest, but 12 percent below the previous 5-year average. The number of spring turkey hunters in 2011 (234,031) was slightly below 2010 (237,037), but above 2009 (228,903), and three percent higher than the previous 3-year average of 227,484.

The third year of the hen turkey harvest and survival rate study continues. Knowledge of fall harvest rates and annual survival rates will help us develop a more systematic and transparent process for determining fall turkey hunting season recommendations, which will allow for more explicit incorporation of uncertainty (spring weather, reproduction) into decision making and help us address the competing objectives of optimizing hunting recreation and turkey abundance. As of early July 2012, we were monitoring 37 transmittered hens. The highest mortality rates have occurred during the nesting season (primarily from predation). In 2012, despite the early spring, temporal patterns of nesting behavior were similar to 2010 and 2011. This confirms that the timing of nesting is controlled more by photoperiod than by weather, and supports the current timing of our spring season.

A new disease has emerged, or is now being recognized, in turkeys in Pennsylvania, as well as other mid-Atlantic and southeastern states. It can resemble avian pox externally, but is caused by a different virus. The first case has been confirmed in samples from a hen found dead this spring. Descriptive disease information concerning Lymphoproliferative Disease (LPDZ) in turkeys and sampling instructions were provided to region staff.

Game Take Survey estimates indicated that 79,687 hunters harvested 52,243 ruffed grouse during the 2011-12 season. The estimated number of hunters declined 12 percent, and the estimated harvest decreased 21 percent from 2010-11. The number of days afield per hunter decreased 3 percent, and harvest per hunter day decreased 13 percent.

The annual Grouse and Woodcock Cooperator Survey tracks effort and flush rates for avid hunters of these species and serves as a long-term index to the quality of grouse and woodcock hunting and the status of “hunnable” populations (i.e. those in good habitat) across the state. The grouse cooperator survey indicated that cooperators averaged 30 hours hunted, 39 grouse flushed, and 2.4 grouse bagged during the 2011-12 hunting season. The statewide flushing rate of 1.32 flushes per hour was the same as the 2010-11 rate, but six percent below the long term average.

USFWS Harvest Information Program (HIP) estimates indicate that Pennsylvania continues to have the most woodcock hunters (7,500) of the 17 states in the Eastern Management Region. Woodcock harvest at the state level was 14,200 birds, up 11 percent from 2010. Participants in Pennsylvania’s woodcock cooperator survey experienced mixed results, with flush rates below 2010 levels (1.1 versus 1.3 flushes per hour), yet improved success rates (3.5 versus 3.0 birds bagged per hunter).

The 2012 Woodcock Singing Ground Survey was conducted in cooperation with the USFWS between mid-April and early May. There were no statistically significant changes from 2011 for either Pennsylvania or the Eastern Region, and for the ninth consecutive year, the 10-year trend in the Eastern Region was statistically stable. Over the long term (1968-2011), however, populations have declined significantly due to decreased amounts of young forest habitat. Populations of ruffed grouse and numerous other species that rely on this habitat type also have declined as a result of the loss of young forest. In light of these habitat and population trends, increasing the amount of young forest habitat on Pennsylvania’s landscape is a central objective in the statewide management plans for grouse and woodcock.

The USFWS HIP estimated that 13,500 mourning dove hunters took 158,800 doves in Pennsylvania during the 2011-12 seasons. This was a 32 percent decrease in the number of hunters and a 30 percent decrease in doves bagged compared to 2010-11.

The Ring-necked Pheasant Management Plan is being used to guide pheasant recovery efforts in the state. Wild Pheasant Recovery Areas (WPRAs) have been designated in areas of suitable habitat within the Commonwealth, with the goal of establishing populations of at least 10 hens/mi² in the spring through habitat improvement and the release and temporary protection of wild trapped and transferred ring-necked pheasants. Five WPRAs have been

established to date: Pike Run (Washington County), Central Susquehanna (Montour, Northumberland and Columbia counties), Somerset (Somerset County), Hegins-Gratz (Schuylkill and Dauphin counties), and Franklin (Franklin County). All WPRAs have regulations in place prohibiting the release of pen-raised pheasants, dog training and most small game hunting from early February through July 31, and the hunting and harvesting of pheasants at any time.

The 6-year evaluation period for the Pike Run WPRAs concluded in spring 2011. The estimated hen density in 2011 was only 1 hen/mi². Habitat analysis showed that although the WPRAs contained adequate nesting cover, it did not meet the other four targets in the habitat model. Because Pike Run did not meet the criteria to be considered successful, the Board of Commissioners eliminated it from the list of WPRAs and re-opened the area to cocks-only pheasant hunting and the stocking of birds for the 2012-13 hunting season.

The Central Susquehanna WPRAs contains two study areas: Turbotville-PPL and Greenwood Valley. Spring 2011 hen densities were eight hens/mi² in Turbotville-PPL (meets all five of the habitat targets) and four hens/mi² in Greenwood Valley (meets four of the five habitat targets).

In the Somerset WPRAs, wild pheasants were released from 2009-11. Spring 2011 hen densities in the Somerset WPRAs were one hen/mi². This area meets three of the five habitat targets. Pheasants and habitat will be monitored for an additional two years and a final evaluation of success or failure will occur in 2014.

The Hegins-Gratz Valley WPRAs contains two study areas: Hegins Valley and Gratz Valley. Initial wild pheasant releases in this WPRAs occurred in winter 2011 with 298 birds (274 females and 24 males) transferred from South Dakota. Spring 2012 was the first year for hen density calculations; results were not available at the time of preparation of this report. Each study area met three of the five habitat targets during the 2011 growing season. This WPRAs was due for two additional years of releases (300 birds/year), but we suffered a setback when the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks informed us that due to declining pheasant populations in their state, they would not be providing us with wild pheasants for transfer to Pennsylvania WPRAs in 2012, and we were unable to locate a suitable backup source. We are working with South Dakota and other potential partners in an effort to resume trap and transfer efforts in 2013.

The Franklin County WPRAs was scheduled for its first wild pheasant releases in winter 2012, but these efforts were delayed by our inability to acquire pheasants. We intend to release 300 birds each year for three years once a source of wild birds is again available, and monitor populations during the transfer/release period, and for an additional three years after trap and transfer is completed. Meanwhile, we will continue to monitor habitat in this WPRAs, which in 2011 met four of the five habitat targets.

Pheasants Forever chapters have expressed interest in establishing additional WPRAs elsewhere in the state, but current projects strain our capacity to obtain and monitor pheasants, and analyses of existing WPRAs should be completed to evaluate the possibilities of success and guide future management. Therefore, we informed these partners that no additional WPRAs can be approved until we complete analysis of existing WPRAs.

The PGC's four game farms continued to operate with a reduced production quota of 100,000 due to fiscal cutbacks since 2005. Propagated birds remain popular with sportsmen and provide many hours of hunting recreation, as well as a junior hunting opportunity. Due to recent revenue increases from Marcellus Shale leases on SGLs, we'll be doubling production in autumn 2012.

PGC staff released 79,961 birds (26,198 hens and 53,763 cocks) for hunting in FY 2011-2012. Shipments for the junior pheasant hunt consisted of 15,730 birds, which were released at designated advertised sites throughout the Commonwealth in early October. Also 25 clubs received 1,706 birds to hold mentored junior hunts for 791 registered participants. For the regular fall season 62,525 birds were stocked in October and November during a preseason and 2 in-season releases. The winter release was canceled due to birds lost to flooding in September.

The Game Take survey indicated that 4,778 resident junior hunters harvested 3,201 pheasants during the 2011 youth hunt. During all pheasant seasons, 88,307 hunters harvested 116,828 pheasants.

Populations of northern bobwhite quail have declined by 75 to nearly 100 percent over the last 40 years across most of their historic range in North America, including a 97 percent decline in Pennsylvania. We completed a Northern Bobwhite Quail Management Plan for Pennsylvania, 2011-2020 to guide efforts to respond to this decline.

Estimates of active duck and goose hunters in Pennsylvania from the federal HIP survey were 24,200 and 27,900, respectively; these numbers remain the highest in the Atlantic Flyway, but were below the 1999-2010 long-term averages by 15 percent and 25 percent, respectively. The HIP estimate of total Pennsylvania duck harvest for 2011-12 was 81,500, 49 percent below the long-term average (LTA). The top five duck species harvested were mallard (40,900), wood duck (16,400), black duck (4,700), green-winged teal (4,000) and bufflehead (3,700). Estimated harvests for most species were significantly below the LTA; this was also true for most other AF states and can likely be attributed to the mild weather through the hunting season, which influenced the timing of waterfowl migration and reduced vulnerability to hunter harvest.

The HIP estimate for Canada goose harvest in Pennsylvania for 2011-12 was 75,100, 59 percent below the LTA. This was the lowest harvest estimate for Pennsylvania since HIP estimates began in 1999. Pennsylvania ranked third among AF states for total Canada goose harvest. The mild weather conditions during late fall and winter likely hampered Canada goose harvest in those hunting seasons.

Harvest estimates for “light geese” (combined greater and lesser snow goose and Ross’s geese) in Pennsylvania during 2011-12 were 21,738 during the regular season and 3,420 during the snow goose conservation season, which was again held following the close of other waterfowl seasons (January 26-April 27 in the Atlantic Population and Southern James Bay Population Goose Zones, February 27-April 27 in the Resident Population Goose Zone) in an effort to increase harvest of this overabundant species. The conservation season allows for additional hunting methods of extended hours, electronic calls and electronic decoys. Although the conservation season harvest was down 34 percent from 2011, overall light goose harvest increased substantially because Pennsylvania’s regular season harvest was triple the LTA, and ranked first among AF states. In contrast to the effects of weather on harvest of other waterfowl species, the mild weather likely increased light goose harvest in Pennsylvania by inducing a higher than usual number of light geese to stage or winter in the state through the regular hunting season.

We recorded observations of sandhill cranes, coots, snipe and other webless migratory game birds reported by the state’s birding network to track use of Pennsylvania wintering, migration stopover, and breeding locations by these species. We also worked to coordinate future sandhill crane monitoring efforts in the state.

PGC staff continued efforts to monitor geographic distribution and numeric changes in important furbearer populations with the most intensive work focused on fisher, bobcat and river otter.

Fisher populations continue to expand throughout the Commonwealth. We estimated that 1,632 fishers were captured and released by Pennsylvania trappers during 2011-12 season.

There were 2,613 fisher permits sold and 138 harvest reports received by online reporting and phone reporting systems during Pennsylvania’s second regulated fisher harvest season. The fisher management plan is being implemented to achieve five goals related to population monitoring, habitat assessment, population enhancement, and development and implementation of a harvest management program. The 6-day fisher harvest season was expanded into two additional WMUs (2G & 4D) for the 2012 season.

River otter populations have expanded throughout the Commonwealth, too. Numbers of incidental otter captures, primarily by beaver trappers, have increased during recent years. The majority of these captures occur in the Northeast Region, but recent reports indicate continued population expansion throughout the Susquehanna River drainage. Staff biologists have begun developing a river otter management plan to guide research and management efforts in the years ahead.

During 2011, 13,134 bobcat permits were purchased by furtakers. Hunters and trappers reported 969 bobcat harvests from within all WMUs that were open to harvest. This harvest was 14.7 percent lower than the previous season, but the reduction in the harvest roughly was proportional to the reduction in the number of permits issued. The number of bobcat permits issued declined by 17.7 percent during 2011. Of the 969 harvested bobcats, 729 were trapped and 240 were taken by hunters. The number of bobcats harvested per 100 permit holders (7.38 bobcats per 100 permits issued) was almost identical to last season.

Pennsylvania passed a major conservation milestone in 2011, with more than 200 known bald eagle nests in 51 counties.

Pennsylvania is a key state in the Appalachian Mountain region for the future of the golden-winged warbler, a national watch-list species. As a young-forest species, this warbler overlaps in its habitat with several other species of high priority for the Game Commission, including the American woodcock and ruffed grouse. The agency plays an important role by coordinating monitoring of this species with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and promoting its management with many partners.

White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats is an epidemic of unprecedented proportion in North American wildlife. Its rapid spread and virulence threaten the continued existence of the most common cave-dwelling bat species, primary predators of night-flying agricultural and forest insect pests. Since its discovery in upstate New York in February 2006, WNS has spread to 21 states and 4 provinces, with mortality greater than 90 percent at many hibernation sites. First found in Pennsylvania in December 2008, WNS was known to affect sites in 29 of the state’s 67 counties at the end of the 2011-12 hibernation season, and nearly every hibernaculum is believed to be contaminated. This catastrophic loss of bats has the potential to destabilize ecosystems and increase reliance on chemical alternatives. In addition to leading a federally supported response effort by Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, the Game Commission’s Diversity Division was actively involved in development of multiple sections of the WNS National Plan and is actively involved in its implementation. No effective treatment for WNS, either natural or pharmaceutical, has been identified to date.

The northern flying squirrel was listed as a state endangered species in 2007. During the period leading up to the listing, research supported by a federal State Wildlife Grant found that red spruce is a vital component of active northern flying squirrel sites in Pennsylvania. Their primary food source is a fungus that grows symbiotically with tree roots, and red spruce is associated with more genera of this type of fungus than any other tree species. In 2011, nearly 2,500 red spruce seedlings, raised at the Howard Nursery, were planted in active northern flying squirrel habitat in and around State Game Lands. The agency hopes to make landscape-level changes in key areas to benefit the northern flying squirrel for decades to come.

The most encouraging results regarding the reclusive and largely solitary Allegheny woodrat, a state threatened species, continue to come from the state's central counties. Management implemented on a Dauphin County SGL in 2009 and 2010 resulted in five times more fresh woodrat sign in 2011. An active habitat site was found in a new metapopulation area on a ridge in adjacent Northumberland County. A captive breeding program, formerly housed at Purdue University but relocated to Pennsylvania's Delaware Valley College, provides the potential to improve the genetic diversity of woodrats on managed habitat.

The primary responsibility of the PGC six regional wildlife diversity biologists is the habitat-based Private Landowner Assistance Program (PLAP). During 2011-12 fiscal year, regional diversity biologists prepared 127 plans for 17,890 acres. Since program inception in 2004, more than 1,090 plans have been produced for more than 163,000 privately owned acres. Regional diversity biologists also contribute to comprehensive planning for the state's more than 1.4 million acres of State Game Lands.

We provided many wildlife related presentations to the public during the year, and routinely updated the agency website to expand the availability of wildlife information.

Manage and protect a network of public and private lands and waters to provide habitat for wildlife.

Providing hunting and furtaking opportunity are among State Game Lands mandates. During the fiscal year, 4,200 miles of roads were maintained for hunter and habitat management access; 10,000 parking lots were maintained; 109 bridges repaired; 6,461 culverts replaced; and 288 miles of trails maintained.

During the fiscal year, 11,332 acres were added to the State Game Lands system, bringing the agency's total Game Lands acreage to 1,462,086. These are comprised of 305 tracts in 65 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. The single largest acquisition was 9,197 acres in Bell and Greenwood townships, Clearfield County, which was added to SGL 87. Funding for this large tract was made possible by third party commitments for compensation of habitat and recreational losses from previously approved Commission actions on oil/gas and mineral recovery leases.

The Game Commission provided local government bodies much needed funding in support of local and county governments and programs where Game Lands are located. Eligible recipients of local municipalities received \$1.20 per acre from the Game Fund for payment in-lieu-of taxes that amounted to \$1,739,090 divided into three equal payments and sent to the recipient counties, school districts and townships last fiscal year.

Last year there were more than 10,000 signs distributed on State Game Lands highlighting wildlife habitat techniques, food plots, prescribed fire treatments, deer fence enclosures, forest management areas and other management practices.

Maintaining identifiable boundary lines is among the many tasks of Food & Cover Corps crews. This year, 1,955 miles of boundary lines on Game Lands were cleared, inspected and marked.

Shooting ranges are located on several tracts of Game Lands for use of holders of range permits or valid state hunting or furtaking licenses. Food & Cover Corps staff conducted 1,266 range visits with major safety upgrade projects completed on one range.

Early successional habitats are in decline across the state, causing them to be listed as key habitats in the Wildlife Action Plan. There were 3,922 acres of early successional habitat treatments conducted by Game Commission Food & Cover Corps crews last year. An additional 2,199 acres were treated through third party contracts. Many of these acres will be maintained through the agency's prescribed fire program.

One of the most significant habitat developments of the past several years was passage of the Prescribed Burning Practices Act. The Game Commission is working closely with the Bureau of Forestry, Bureau of State Parks, DMVA, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Forest Service to train personnel and develop landscape scale prescribed fire plans. There were 61 burn plans submitted and reviewed, resulting in prescribed fire treatment on 1,222 acres on Game Lands.

Grasslands are another key habitat, and many of the state's largest grasslands occur on strip-mined sites. The Game Commission embarked on a grassland conservation initiative late in the year. Thus far, 1,523 acres of

stripmines were reclaimed to native herbaceous habitat. In addition to stripmines, 327 acres of native grasses were established on Game Lands.

Invasive plants present an ongoing problem on State Game Lands. Invasive species that negatively impact wildlife habitat were detected and addressed on 2,402 acres of Game Lands.

Tree and shrub seedlings totaling 305,991 were planted to improve habitat diversity on Game Lands.

Maintaining optimum habitat diversity on Game Lands is an important goal of our Forest Habitat Management Program. Timber contractors harvested 6,327 acres that yielded more than 18.4 million board feet of logs and 152,733 tons of pulpwood. These operations generated \$6,597,810. The increase in harvesting activity seems to indicate a stability returning to the timber markets, but the dollar values attached to the timber will likely not increase much over the next few years as the industry recovers from the economic slump.

With the stabilization of more balanced deer populations, positive impacts are being noted in forest habitats. The Game Commission is actively removing deer enclosure fencing in areas where habitats have successfully regenerated. During the last fiscal year, 396 acres of fencing were removed.

The Howard Nursery produced and distributed 2,670,525 tree and shrub seedlings for wildlife food and cover plantings, and 961,125 of the seedlings were sold to the public and other wildlife partners for \$187,021. The nursery wood shop produced and shipped 28,694 wood products that included: 3,315 bluebird boxes; 14,705 bluebird box kits; 385 wood duck boxes and kits; 175 bat houses; 73 custom signs; 121 boundary line signs; 287 bulletin boards; and 5,300 sign backboards for use on Game Lands and Hunter Access properties. Wood products are available for purchase by the public on the agency's website.

Coordination on non-Game Commission public lands provides additional hunting and habitat management opportunity. There are 78,523 acres of Army Corps of Engineers land managed by the agency through cooperative agreements. An additional 37,000 acres of State Forest and State Park lands are cooperatively managed by Game Commission crews across the state.

The Game Commission provided technical assistance and habitat management expertise to DCNR for implementation of American woodcock habitat improvements on 700 acres in Susquehannock, Lackawanna, Cornplanter, Gallitzin, Michaux, Buchannan, Forbes, Tuscarora and Tioga state forests.

The agency's Hunter Access programs provide hunting opportunity on private lands. This year, 15,399 Hunter Access cooperators allowed access on more than 2,666,007 acres of private land.

Through a Voluntary Hunter Access and Habitat Improvement Program (VPA-HIP) grant from the USDA, 121 new habitat projects were planned and implementation has begun on 6,445 acres on private lands, and 17,511 new acres were enrolled into the Hunter Access program as a result of this grant. In addition, the grant paid for *Game News* magazine subscriptions to all Hunter Access cooperators.

Considerable wildlife habitat was improved on private lands via Farm Bill Programs. This included 303 CREP plans that were written and became contracts. This year an additional 7,589 acres of habitat were included into the PA CREP, bringing the total to 205,794 acres and making Pennsylvania a leader in the program. An additional 70 landowners offered to enroll 1,348 acres in young forest created habitat through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and Working Lands For Wildlife Program. In addition, more than 80 Forest Management plans were written, and \$1,024,613 was spent to implement wildlife habitat related practices using the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP – Forestry).

Since the creation of the Game Commission's Wind Energy Voluntary Cooperative Agreement, 33 wind development companies have become cooperators, agreeing to avoid, minimize and potentially mitigate any adverse impacts from development of wind energy on private lands that may occur to the state's wildlife resources. Staff continued to work with wind companies to mitigate endangered bird and bat species mortality that has been documented at operational wind facilities.

During the past fiscal year, the Oil/Gas and Mineral Development Section reviewed 96 oil or gas well locations and their affiliated access ways on Game Lands. Of these, 70 were Marcellus Shale oil and gas well locations at which only three were under PGC oil/gas development leases whereas 67 were on Game Lands' surfaces where the PGC does not own the subsurface gas rights. These reviews and coordination resulted in improvements to parking lots and roads, as well as maintenance on related Game Land infrastructure at the expense of the developer. Total revenues received from oil/gas and mineral recovery operations in 2011-2012 were \$21,334,570, which includes oil/gas royalties (\$3,872,593) coal royalties (\$1,254,670), rental and lease bonus payments (\$15,726,068), sand gravel and stone operations (\$113,943) and surface damages (\$367,296).

The Game Commission Engineering Division has been focused on helping the agency recover from the devastating flooding as a result of Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011. The flooding caused \$5,104,712 in damage to agency facilities. The Loyalsock and Northcentral game farms in Lycoming County were particularly

hard hit by the flooding. Repairs to buildings and holding fields were completed in time to have both game farms achieve full production levels for the spring 2012 brooding season.

Construction of the new Northwest Region Office in Franklin was completed in March 2012. The Northwest Region staff moved into the new building in early April. Installation of a new roof on the Southwest Region Office in Ligonier was also completed.

Nine new bridges were constructed on Game Lands during the fiscal year using Pittman-Robertson funds. A dam renovation on SGL 282 in Warren County was completed during the fiscal year and involved installation of a new outlet structure. The project was completed using PGC labor and rented equipment at a reduced cost. The engineering staff also conducted the required safety inspections on the seven high hazard dams owned by the agency. All seven dams were found to be in excellent condition. The Emergency Action Plans (EAP) for all seven PGC-owned high hazard dams are complete.

The Engineering Division has a large backlog of projects to complete in the next decade to keep the infrastructure of the agency intact. Infrastructure failures can have negative affects on all other agency programs, and construction and repair project funding must continue so that vital services and programs are not jeopardized.

Promote and perpetuate our hunting and trapping heritage.

The Hunter-Trapper Education Division was responsible for producing and distributing copies of the following printed training guides and materials that promote hunting and trapping:

“Today’s Hunter and Trapper in Pennsylvania student guide” – 43,330

“IHEA Hunter’s Handbook” – 41,600 copies

“IHEA Hunter and Shooting Sports Education Journal” – 7,800 copies

“Today’s Bowhunter student guide” – 500

“Today’s Crossbow student guide” – 25

“NBEF’s 3-in-1 Responsible Hunting Guide” – 500

“Successful Furtaking student guide” – 100

“Cable Restraint student manuals” – 550

These materials are distributed as part of the various hunter education programs and instructor training workshops with numbers paralleling trends in class enrollments.

A total of 964 basic Hunter-Trapper Education courses were conducted statewide during this reporting period. The total is comprised of 812 traditional multi-day courses, and 152 two-hour independent study classes. This compares to 908 statewide courses during FY2010-11; 759 traditional and 149 independent study classes and marks a 6.2 percent increase in the number of courses.

HTE program policy requires all proposed HTE classes for the calendar year be scheduled by April 1. An internal review is then conducted and recommendations are made to improve course scheduling with particular emphasis on the months of September through November. The policy also requires that all classes are posted on the Internet and include online registration capabilities.

To gain a better measure of public demand for training, the agency continues to use web analytics to measure and track the public’s use of the Internet in searching for hunter education classes. By measuring the number of users, the course types in demand, the users’ ISP-generated hometowns, time of the year and more, we are able to quantify demand by time and locale. In response, we can schedule classes in those areas and at those times of the year matching the demand suggested by the analytics. By using these tools, coupled with strategic scheduling, we are beginning to see increased enrollments in HTE classes.

The Junior Pheasant Hunt program was coordinated by the Bureau of Wildlife Management. On October 8, 2011, 25 events were held with 790 hunters registered.

The Mentored Youth Hunting Program Permit continued for the 2011-2012 hunting season. 33,514 permits were sold, an increase of 8.13 percent over the previous 30,790 sold in 2010-2011.

The Game Commission continued coordination of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). In the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the program surmounted enrollment of 100 schools and was identified by the national NASP organization for the greatest percent increase in school numbers of all participating states (48). Approximately

15,000 students were reported by schools to have participated in the program in the 2011-2012 school year. The agency once again coordinated a statewide tournament in March at the Penn State Multi Sports Facility and welcomed 500 archers representing 23 different schools to compete. Seventy of those students traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, in May to attend the National NASP tournament. The Game Commission continues to offer \$1,500 to offset the cost of an equipment kit for each school to enroll in the NASP program, and secured more than \$20,000 in additional grant funding to help the schools further defray the cost. The agency hosted 16 Basic Archery Instructor trainings and certified 116 Basic Archery Instructors. The agency renewed contracts with four different Basic Archery Instructor Trainers for the new fiscal year and will continue to facilitate trainings for the program.

The Game Commission completed a third year of a Cooperative Agreement with the National Wild Turkey Federation to promote and provide Women in the Outdoor (WITO) events. The agreement required the NWTF to hire a new WITO event coordinator for the state in December 2011 and, partially using agency PR funds, fund this position for the remaining part of the fiscal year. The partnership required a minimum of 25 events to be conducted from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012 with a minimum of 1,000 participants. In addition to the PR funds, the agency required events to be registered through the Event Manager system and in turn the agency extended use of marketing tools, such as publicity in *Game News*, press releases and social media. Upon completion of the fiscal year, both parties agreed to discontinue the Cooperative Agreement for the 2012-2013 fiscal year because of differences in ideas concerning the instruction and purpose of the program.

During the reporting year the first Successful Turkey Hunting classes were conducted. The curriculum is designed to provide the knowledge, skills and ability for students to be successful early in their turkey hunting careers. More classes are being scheduled for later in 2012. Current advanced training courses now include Successful Bowhunting, Successful Furtaking, Successful Turkey Hunting and Cable Restraint Certification. Curriculum development has begun for a new Successful Muzzleloading training program to be launched in 2013.

During the reporting year of July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2012, 35 hunting-related shooting incidents occurred at a rate of 3.57 incidents/100,000 license buyers. This included one fatality. The same number of incidents was recorded the previous reporting year. The total number recorded during FY2011-12 remains below the current 10-year average of 51.1 incidents per year with a rate of 5.15 incidents/100,000 license buyers.

Improve the public's appreciation of wildlife, and their awareness and understanding of wildlife resource management.

The Human Dimensions Specialist completed a second year in the Bureau of Information and Education. This individual is responsible for supervising the Outreach and Education Specialists, in addition to the following research:

One mail survey was conducted and overseen by the HD Specialist: A survey of license buying hunters about *Game News* magazine. Additionally, the HD specialist was responsible for coordinating a telephone survey of Pennsylvania residents about deer with Responsive Management that was completed in early 2012. The results of this general public survey have been presented in front of various groups of stakeholders in Pennsylvania.

The HD Specialist also was frequently consulted by the Bureau of Wildlife Management to consult on the question wording, methodology and analysis of mail surveys conducted by biologists in that bureau, and taught a monthly class to BWM staff members about survey research using Dillman's Internet, Mail and Mixed-Mode Surveys: The Tailored Design Method and other texts. The HD specialist was also involved in the development of six focus groups of lapsed hunters throughout Pennsylvania. These focus groups will be conducted by Responsive Management. After the completion of these focus groups the HD specialist will be responsible for writing another lapsed hunter questionnaire.

With three years of PALS data now available, the HD specialist and other I&E Bureau staff have met regularly to review the license buying habits of Pennsylvania hunters through various data requests to the Bureau of Administration.

The HD Specialist also upgraded the SPSS software to include a regression package and was thus able to conduct additional analyses on the FY2010-11 lapsed hunter survey using logistic regression and other multivariate analyses. Results from the analysis of this questionnaire will be used to inform the question development for the focus groups of lapsed hunters.

Game News continues to be the primary voice of the Game Commission, and the hunting stories, natural history content and, as always, Field Notes, remain popular with many readers, not just in Pennsylvania, but throughout the country and to our servicemen and women throughout the world. *Game News* also features articles about Game Commission research and management projects, law enforcement accounts by our WCOs, and agency news.

Game News “Crossings” columnist Ben Moyer captured first place in the “Column” category in the 2012 Outdoor Writers Association of America Excellence in Craft writing awards competition for his work in 2011 issues of *Game News*.

We’re in our fifth year of posting entire *Game News* issues online through Nxtbook. The online version allows users to conduct searches, go directly to particular features and, by using a zoom feature, make the type larger and easier to read. Accessing *Game News* in digital formats is a top priority to accommodate our younger readers. *Game News* remains popular on newsstands throughout the state and is now offered in all Wal-Mart stores in Pennsylvania.

In addition to *Game News*, many other brochures and publications, including the Connect with Wildlife calendar, the annual Digest, the annual *Pennsylvania Big Game Records* book are produced by *Game News* staff.

The Game Commission continues to offer a wide variety of news releases and features about wildlife, hunting and trapping to the news media and public.

The Game Commission continuously updates and adds information to its website to expand and improve the content related to the wildlife resources and agency’s management.

In the radio market, we have entered our fourth year of an agreement with RadioPA to provide daily, three-minute broadcasts consisting of one minute and 50 seconds worth of agency content, coupled with one minute and ten seconds of RadioPA-generated commercial content. This programming is then provided to nearly 45 radio stations that subscribe to RadioPA’s service.

The Bureau launched a “PGC Wild Cam” that provides the public worldwide with opportunities to watch live-streaming video of wildlife in varied settings that normally cannot be accessed. Two such locations were in the propagation area off Willow Point at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area to observe snow geese and in a barn owl box located on a Perry County farm. More than 150 people at one time were viewing the barn owl livestream. In total, more than 300,000 people have viewed these images.

Enhance the public's understanding of the Pennsylvania Game Commission's mission and its responsibilities.

The Bureau moved forward with posting a number of videos on the popular “YouTube” websites, and has continued to webcast all Quarterly meetings of the Board of Game Commissioners that are held in Harrisburg and the annual elk drawing. In 2011-12, the agency added the Board’s Working Group Meetings to the line-up of live webcasts.

In addition, three Facebook pages were created that now have “Likes” of more than 3,300 people. A Twitter site was also opened and is followed by more than 700 people. These sites have educational and informational material posted on them every day and have a “reach” of more than one million people.

PGC personnel conduct programs for students throughout the state. All programs conducted in schools address the Environment and Ecology State Education Standards. Programs include adaptations, wildlife and their habitats, predator/prey relationships, ecosystems and their interactions, mammals and birds of PA, wildlife forensics, and endangered and threatened species. Conservation Education also worked with Howard Nursery on the Seedlings for School program. This program offers free seedlings to schools along with education resource materials.

The PGC offered instructional courses relating to different aspects of wildlife and the outdoors through the Wildlife Conservationist Certificate Program. Just some other outreach programs included: billboard advertising throughout Pennsylvania; Connect with Wildlife magnets, posters, bumper stickers; Bald Eagle Restoration 200 Nest Milestone patch; Working Together for Wildlife patches, Field Note patches; Elk Hunt patches; Mentored Youth patch with safe-t plug; Time Collectible Wild Turkey Heritage and Upland Game Bird Series patches; and waterfowl stamp and print.

Develop and enforce laws and regulations to protect wildlife populations and habitat.

The Bureau of Wildlife Protection continues to work toward its mission of protecting Pennsylvania's wildlife through law enforcement, seeking effective legislation and developing regulations.

House Bill 1859 sponsored by Representative Edward Staback passed into law as Act 54. An intensive statewide training was conducted for all officers and several major poaching cases were prosecuted during this reporting period that included the first ever felony charges and jail sentences for poaching. Numerous cases are still being adjudicated in the court system; however, it appears both district attorneys and judges are very supportive of these increased penalties.

In addition, SB 1200, introduced by Chairman Richard Alloway, passed into law as Act 60 and was implemented January 1, 2011. To date, 7,092 violation records were received from other member states and reviewed; 1,055 of those violations were serious enough to be applicable to Pennsylvania's standards and the violators were placed on license revocation in Pennsylvania due to the offense that occurred in another member state. This includes two Pennsylvania residents who shot hunters in other states who would not previously have been revoked in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has submitted 177 violators in calendar year 2011 and 271 in calendar year 2012 who met the criteria into the compact to be evaluated for revocation by other member states.

Anecdotal evidence, as well as actual intelligence gathered by the special operations division indicates that these two pieces of legislation are having a deterrent effort on commercial poachers and chronic offenders.

Game Commission officers encountered 20,144 violations during this fiscal year through high visibility patrol, selective enforcement operations, overt and covert investigations, surveillance operations and complaint response. The enforcement action taken by officers encountering those violations resulted in 13,607 warnings and 6,537 citations being issued. It should be noted that the officers issued more warnings than citations, a rate of almost two to one, indicating officer discretion in a balanced enforcement effort to focus efforts on the violations with the most impact to the wildlife resource. Of the violations cited, the conviction rate was 96 percent and attests not only to the discretion, but also the technical competence and professionalism of Game Commission officers. The ratio of appeals of initial convictions was less than one percent, actually .87 percent. The final measurement indicator of the dividends of the training investment was the significantly low citizen complaint to enforcement contact ratio that has been consistently maintained since the inception of the complaint tracking system, with less than 1/1000 of a percent of enforcement contacts filing complaints against officers. Only six complaints were received against officers this year, one of which was sustained.

In the fall of 2011 the Bureau of Wildlife Protection conducted a data analysis of our prosecution data base to determine peak night-time poaching activity. Then a statewide task force was coordinated called Operation Talon that focused officers of the PGC, PFBC, DCNR and PSP, including PSP air support, across the commonwealth focusing on poaching activity for a 2-week period. More than 500 officers participated in the operation and resulted in 313 enforcement contacts, 192 citations or arrests and 94 warnings. Several other criminal violations detected were turned over to PSP for prosecution, including 5 DUIs, 2 felons not to possess firearms and several drug or drug paraphernalia charges.

The top 10 violations prosecuted this year also indicate that officers are focusing their efforts on violations with the most impact to the wildlife resource. They are:

- Unlawful taking or possession of Game or Wildlife — 496 prosecutions
- Possession of a loaded firearm in a motorized vehicle — 407 prosecutions
- Operating vehicles on State Game Lands in areas closed to travel, primarily ATV violations — 379 prosecutions
- Hunt or take wildlife through the use of bait or enticement — 294 prosecutions
- Cast a light after 11 p.m. — 197 prosecutions

Resident Junior	34,122	
Resident Junior Combination	49,534	
Mentored Youth Permit	33,514	
Resident Senior	20,864	
Resident Landowner	954	
Resident Military	3,628	
Nonresident Adult	47,632	
Nonresident Junior	1,621	
Nonresident Junior Combination	768	
Nonresident 7-Day	2,369	
Resident Archery	285,549	
Nonresident Archery	12,243	
Resident Muzzleloader	172,395	
Nonresident Muzzleloader	6,164	
Resident Migratory Game Bird License	94,853	
Nonresident Migratory Game Bird License	3,518	
Resident Antlerless Deer	844,274	
Resident Armed Forces Antlerless Deer	2,789	
Resident Disabled Veteran Antlerless Deer	1,634	
Nonresident Antlerless Deer	20,737	
Resident Adult Furtaker	34,828	
Resident Junior Furtaker	89	
Resident Senior Furtaker	369	
Nonresident Adult Furtaker	290	
Nonresident Junior Furtaker	1	
Resident Bear	156,750	
Nonresident Bear	5,414	
Senior Lifetime Hunting	5,049	
Senior Lifetime Combination	5,584	
Senior Lifetime Combination (Upgrades)	591	
Senior Lifetime Renewal Hunting	80,826	
Senior Lifetime Furtaker	5	
Resident Spring Turkey	12,678	
Nonresident Spring Turkey	464	
Elk (18,253 applications)	55	
Bobcat	13,373	
Fisher Permits	2,613	Resident DMAP (coupons received) 22,711
Nonresident DMAP	1,201	
Total Revenue Received:	\$34,342,873	

PGC FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2011 TO JUNE 30, 2012

The accompanying Balance Sheet and Statement of Changes in Fund Balance were prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting, whereby revenues earned and available and amounts expended or payable at June 30, 2012, are reported. On this basis of accounting, the June 30, 2012, Restricted Fund Balance in the Game Fund was \$51,180,554, an increase of \$5,345,301 compared to the June 30, 2011, balance of \$45,835,253. Fiscal year 2011-12 revenues earned and prior year lapses exceeded expenditures, resulting in the increase in the Game Fund's Restricted Fund Balance.

All other schedules included in this report were prepared on a cash basis combined with a budgetary encumbrance system. Actual cash receipts reported and credited to the Game Fund during the 2011-12 fiscal year were \$93,935,721, an increase of \$10,948,352 over the previous year’s actual cash receipts. During the year, interest on securities and deposits decreased \$5,338,533 or 82.32% due to large gains realized in the previous fiscal year as a result of the restructuring of the investment pools in the 2010-11 fiscal year by the Treasury Department.

Adult resident and nonresident hunter licenses decreased \$23,116 or 0.19% and \$93,773 or 1.93%, respectively. However, resident senior lifetime and senior lifetime combination licenses increased by \$24,555 or 12.65% and \$113,225 or 25.88% respectively in association with more customers reaching the required age and recognizing the benefit of purchasing these licenses. Range permit sales increased \$119,040 or 111.18% on account of more people using public ranges for their target shooting. Timber and wood product sales decreased by \$1,086,486 or 14.09% due to the current economic conditions and declining demand for wood products. Ground rentals and royalties from oil and gas leases increased \$15,405,771 or 329.15% as a result of bonus payments received during the 2011-12 fiscal year in connection with four agreements approved by the PGC in April 2011 involving oil and gas leases on State Game Lands (SGLs) in Lycoming, Bradford and Tioga counties. Right-of-way (ROW) revenues also decreased by \$2,020,496 or 39.60% partly due to a decline in 3D seismic surveys approved on SGLs in the 2011-12 fiscal year compared to the 2010-11 fiscal year. 3D seismic surveys result in one-time payments compared to recurring annual payments as is typical with ROW licenses for pipelines and electrical lines. PALS transaction fees increased \$485,808 or 36.68%.

Expenditures and commitments for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012, as of October 31, 2012, totaled \$92,062,322, an increase of \$13,208,674, or 16.75%. Legal and specialized services increased \$1,984,297 or 52.33%. Purchase of equipment and machinery also increased \$2,670,035 or 169.61% due to the continuing replacement of existing outdated equipment. Purchase of motor vehicles rose by \$1,584,581 or 789.80% on account of 58 SUVs/trucks being purchased to replace existing vehicles in poor condition. Purchase of uniforms for Game Commission personnel totaled \$472,284, an increase of \$271,692 or 135.45%, a contributing factor being the purchase of new uniforms and equipment for a record class of 36 cadets who began their training to become Wildlife Conservation Officers in March 2012. Electronic data processing contractual services, rentals, and purchases increased \$1,131,338 or 30.60% due in part to the CAD Initiative, a new system being implemented to automate the agency’s dispatch and records management system. Salary, benefits and training costs totaled \$56,257,795, an increase of \$2,680,981 or 5.00%.

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 public access programs 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 number of resident and nonresident licenses sold during the 2011-12 fiscal year, as reported by the Game Commission, totaled 815,174. Antlerless deer licenses sold during the 2011-12 fiscal year, as reported by the Game Commission, totaled 867,800. This mandated that a minimum of \$5,200,090 be expended for the above-mentioned purposes. The actual amount expended and committed in the restricted account during the fiscal year for these purposes was \$7,500,000, an excess of \$2,299,911 over the requirement.

**GAME FUND
BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 2012**

ASSETS

Cash	\$111,668
Temporary investments	16,327,477
Long term investments	42,630,053
Accounts receivable	117,365
Due from other funds	272,668
Due from federal government	4,267,736
TOTAL ASSETS	\$63,726,967

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,909,373
Securities lending obligations	862,397
Deferred revenue	2,653,808
Due to other funds	1,973,709
Due to political subdivisions	10,227
Due to other governments	59,086
Due to fiduciary funds	77,813
TOTAL LIABILITIES	12,546,413

Fund balance:

Restricted FB-Environmental Protection	51,180,554
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	51,180,554

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES \$63,726,967

**GAME FUND
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012**

REVENUES:

Licenses and fees	\$41,045,066
Intergovernmental	17,780,656
Charges for sales and services	32,090,724
Investment income	1,270,438
Other - Middle Creek donation	4,485

TOTAL REVENUE **92,191,369**

EXPENDITURES:

Recreation and cultural enrichment	85,642,150
Capital outlay	1,203,918

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **86,846,068**

NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE **5,345,301**

FUND BALANCE JULY 1, 2011 **45,835,253**

FUND BALANCE JUNE 30, 2012 **\$51,180,554**

**GAME FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUE
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012**

LICENSES AND FEES:

Resident hunting—adult	\$12,290,814
Resident hunting—junior	172,455
Resident hunting—senior	251,335
Resident lifetime hunting—senior	218,717
Resident junior combination licenses	401,459
Resident senior lifetime combination licenses	550,689
DMAP harvest permit (residents)	205,277

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Nonresident hunting	4,768,316
Nonresident hunting—junior	65,065
Nonresident junior combination licenses	38,555
Resident bear	2,358,504
Nonresident bear	189,805
Antlerless deer	4,256,975
Nonresident antlerless deer license	519,825
Resident archery	4,299,869
Nonresident archery license	306,778
Resident Muzzleloader hunting	1,732,101
Nonresident muzzleloader license	123,485
Landowner hunting license	2,885
Nonresident 7-day hunting	71,335
Resident furtaker license—adult	664,283
Resident furtaker license—junior	445
Resident furtaker license—senior	4,443
Senior lifetime furtaker license	241
Nonresident furtaker—adult	23,210
Nonresident furtaker—junior	785
Issuing agents' application fee	13,701
Special game permits	172,674
Right-of-way	3,081,592
Migratory game bird license	190,083
Nonresident migratory game bird license	17,569
Elk license application	185,510
Resident elk license	1,350
Nonresident elk license	250
Resident military personnel hunting	1,743
DMAP harvest permit (nonresidents)	40,852
Resident special wild turkey	254,567
Nonresident special wild turkey	18,620
Agent fee for hunting licenses	134,813
Mentored youth permit licenses	33,960
PALS transaction fees	1,810,116
Fisher permit	13,190
Range permit	226,110
Bobcat permit	67,529
Transfer to general habitat improvement	(7,500,000)
TOTAL LICENSES AND FEES	32,281,880
FINES AND PENALTIES:	
Game law fines	1,222,066
TOTAL FINES AND PENALTIES	1,222,066
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE:	
Interest on securities and deposits	1,146,344
Sale of timber & other wood products	6,623,668
Ground rentals & royalties from oil and gas lease	20,086,241
Sale of <i>Game News</i>	700,713

Sale of coal, gravel, hay	1,568,389
Wildlife promotional publications and materials	158,440
Wildlife nongame fund	59,722
Waterfowl management: stamp sales and art print royalties	17,980
Sale of skins and guns	21,395
Other (Game Land map sales, promotional publications, Howard nursery seedling sales, prior year expenditure refunds, shipping fees and miscellaneous revenue)	2,339,280
TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	32,722,172
TOTAL NONTAX REVENUE	66,226,118
RESTRICTED RECEIPTS & REVENUE:	
Resident licenses fee - natural propagation of wildlife - general habitat improvement	7,500,000
TOTAL RESTRICTED RECEIPTS & REVENUE	7,500,000
AUGMENTATIONS:	
Federal aid	19,579,119
State augmentations (sale of vehicles, PA Conservation Corps, donations, PennDOT reimbursement)	630,484
TOTAL AUGMENTATIONS	20,209,603
TOTAL REVENUES	\$93,935,721

GAME FUND

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES AND COMMITMENTS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

EXPENDITURES & COMMITMENTS

Salaries and wages	\$37,484,563
State share employee benefits and training costs	18,773,232
Land purchases and acquisition costs	150,200
Printing and advertising	487,186
Automotive repairs, supplies, and transportation rentals	3,996,216
Payments to local municipalities in-lieu-of-taxes	1,744,907
Maintenance, rental and improvements of building, grounds, and machinery	1,439,784
Payments to other state agencies for specialized services	2,824,755
Agriculture and maintenance material supplies	3,207,377
Purchase of motor vehicles	1,785,211
Travel and special conference expenses	550,334
Telephone expenses	926,998
Postage and freight expenses	498,331
Heating, electric and water	503,105
Legal and specialized services	5,776,426
Other supplies and services	298,447
Uniforms for Game Commission personnel	472,284
Office equipment, maintenance, rentals, and supplies	979,187
Purchase of equipment and machinery	4,244,241
Electronic data processing contractual services, rentals and purchases	4,828,178

Educational supplies, literature, memberships and classroom training equipment	460,781
Insurance - auto, liability, fidelity	150,227
Clinical services, laboratory and medical supplies	86,315
Payments to nonprofit institutions	344,315
Payments to institutions/individuals for research projects	44,025
Purchasing card expenses	5,697
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & COMMITMENTS	\$92,062,322

GAME FUND
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES AND
COMMITMENTS BY PROGRAM AREA
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012

EXPENDITURES & COMMITMENTS

Executive Office	\$2,102,442
Assisting Other Agencies/ Organizations	58,432
Public Works Program	13
Flood Related Costs	1,431,409
General Administration	18,224,388
Personnel Costs	884,152
Warehousing	597
Agency Purchasing	651,213
Automotive Acquisition/Maintenance/ CC Cost	3,191,541
Office Maintenance	827,279
Training Costs	2,994,144
Licensing Program	1,835,354
Public Education and Information Services	2,156,090
Publications	1,086,281
Hunter-Trapper Education Program	871,594
Bowhunter Education Program	12,350
Remedial Hunter Education	5,657
Furtaker Education	8,964
Hunter-Trapper Recruitment & Retention	332,331
Turkey Hunting Education	18,640
Muzzleloading Education	1,221
Audio-Visual Program	84,850
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	364,428
Game Farm Operations	3,769,814
Wildlife Health Activities	428,746
Wildlife Research Support Services	1,395,822
Forest Wildlife Research Program	2,012,196
Furbearer & Farmland Wildlife Research	525,021
Migratory Game Bird & Waterfowl Research	534,243
Endangered/Threatened/Nongame Wildlife Mgmt. Prog.	437,319
CARA Activities	3,308
State Wildlife Grants	1,127,293
Law Enforcement Program Management & Planning	49,467

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General Law Enforcement	9,799,631
Endangered Species	30,936
Data Center Operation	606,352
Computer Mainframe Applications	668,123
Data Communications Networking	267,010
Desktop Computing	1,698,025
GIS Administration and Support	176,568
Land Management Administration	8,830,294
Environmental Review Program	578,873
Land Acquisition	150,200
Wind Energy Development	166,849
Howard Nursery Management	757,639
Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	2,188
Herbaceous Openings	3,479,125
Public Access Program	631,508
Forest Management	5,110,882
Food Producing Improvements	684,796
Game Lands Construction and Maintenance	10,218,623
Shooting Range Construction	381,421
VIP-HIP Monitoring and Performance Reporting	396,680

TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND COMMITMENTS
\$92,062,322