



P E N N S Y L V A N I A GAME COMMISSION

**YOUR STATE
WILDLIFE AGENCY**

Managing and protecting wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.



**APPLY FOR
THE HUNT OF A
LIFETIME**

**PENNSYLVANIA
ELK APPLICATION
PERIOD BEGINS
FEB. 1**

Here's your chance to hunt the largest game animal in the state! Pennsylvania offers three separate elk hunting seasons: archery, general, and late.

Apply for \$11.97 per season or \$35.91 for all three at huntfish.pa.gov or any in-store hunting license vendor. View hunt zone descriptions at pa.gov/pgc.

Final seasons and bag limits will be approved at the April board meeting. Changes can be made to application preferences until the application period closes on Sunday, July 13, 2025.

The license reveal will be held at the Keystone Elk Country Alliance Elk Expo in Benezette on July 26, 2025.



GROUNDBREAKING WILD TURKEY STUDY ENTERS FINAL YEAR

HELP BY REPORTING FLOCK SIGHTINGS

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is entering its fourth and final year of the state's largest-ever research project on wild turkey reproduction and harvest data. This collaborative study involves several states, creating a large comprehensive regional study to evaluate key factors impacting turkey populations.

The study examines weather patterns, disease, hen and nest predation, habitat, and movement patterns.

In four Pennsylvania Wildlife Management Units, hens are trapped and marked with radio transmitters, then released on site to gather location and movement data. Field crews track these birds throughout the year to monitor movement across the landscape, survival, and nesting.

Pennsylvania has already collected over 3 million GPS locations and 61.5 million activity records from 405 hens equipped with radio transmitters as part of the study.

How you can help: Report turkey flock sightings between January and March. This also helps identify potential flocks for the agency's annual statewide male turkey leg banding.

**REPORT TURKEY
SIGHTINGS HERE**



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SMALL GAME HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES



Small game hunting is in full swing, with squirrels, rabbits, and pheasants all in season through the end of February. For a full list of small game seasons and tips and tricks, visit pa.gov/pgc.

Remember to wear the required minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange on the head, chest, and back combined, visible 360 degrees, when small game hunting.

If you are targeting pheasants, a pheasant permit is required for most hunters. Find up-to-date stocking information and an interactive map at pa.gov/pgc.

Good luck. Have fun. Hunt safely.

APPLY FOR A CAREER IN CONSERVATION

The Pennsylvania Game Commission is always looking for passionate people dedicated to wildlife conservation to join the team.

A career in wildlife conservation may require a certain level of education and/or experience, but not all positions require a degree or prior experience. Explore job openings and begin your path to a rewarding career at pa.gov/pgc.

Still in school? The Game Commission is offering numerous paid internships across the state for the summer 2025 field season. Applications are due in February.

If you have questions or want additional information, reach out to PGCCareers@pa.gov.



HELP WILDLIFE: LET THEM FIND THEIR OWN FOOD

While feeding wildlife during the winter may seem like a kind gesture, it's harmful to them by disrupting their natural behaviors and survival mechanisms. Another concern is disease transmission, primarily chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer and elk.



Why you shouldn't feed wildlife:

- It spreads disease.
- It can create aggressive behavior.
- It causes a loss of fear of humans (habituation).
- It increases human-wildlife conflicts.
- It disrupts natural diets.
- It's illegal to feed deer in Disease Management Areas and Established Areas and always illegal to feed bear and elk.

Rather than feeding wildlife, the best way to help is to enhance their natural habitat that provides both food and cover.

What you can do instead:

- Stop feeding wild animals and encourage others to do the same.
- Place nest boxes around your property. This will provide a place for birds and mammals to nest and rest. You can build your own with free plans or purchase them from the Howard Nursery.
- In the spring, plant trees and plants that produce food like nuts, acorns, seeds, and nectar as well as trees that provide cover like conifer trees. Watch for the Howard Nursery seedling sale in January!
- Reach out to the Game Commission for additional information for creating, preserving, or enhancing wildlife habitat on your property.

STUDENTS TAKE AIM AT STATE'S LARGEST ARCHERY COMPETITION

The arrows are about to fly on March 21, 2025, as students across the state gather for the 2025 National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) state Bullseye and IBO 3D tournaments, hosted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Approximately 1,000 students representing more than 50 schools are slated to compete at Spooky Nook Sports in Manheim, PA.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission, in collaboration with NASP, brings archery curriculum to more than 115,000 students in 315 schools throughout the Keystone State.

Visit pa.gov/pgc to learn more about NASP and how to get your school involved.

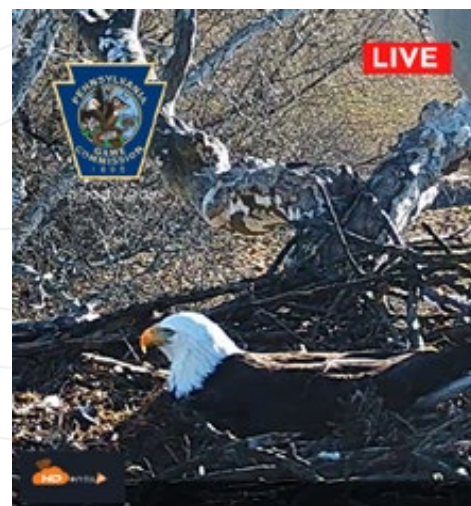


STREAMING LIVE FROM PENNSYLVANIA

Join the Game Commission in celebrating Pennsylvania's growing bald eagle population by watching a live feed of two active nests. Eagles return to the same nest each year, and you may see them return in January. The female will likely lay eggs in mid-February, with hatching expected from mid- to late-March.

Celebrate the snow goose migration in Pennsylvania from Willow Point, located at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lancaster County. The best times to see the geese are at sunrise, before they leave to feed, and at sunset, as they return to roost. Late winter attracts the most birds, with thousands stopping here on their way north to breeding grounds.

Visit pa.gov/pgc to livestream these wildlife cams, available through the Game Commission's partnership with HDOnTap.



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Tune in LIVE to the Board of Game Commissioners meeting on Friday, Jan. 24, and Saturday, Jan. 25, at Game Commission Headquarters in Harrisburg, on YouTube. Follow along as the Board of Game Commissioners works to ensure all wild birds and mammals and their habitats are managed for current and future generations.

EXPLORE THE GAME COMMISSION'S NEW WEBSITE



The Pennsylvania Game Commission's website migrated to pa.gov, joining all other Commonwealth agencies on a single unified platform.

This change comes as part of an executive order signed by Governor Josh Shapiro, aimed at improving accessibility, streamlining services, and providing a more user-friendly experience across all state agencies.

On the new site, you'll find the same trusted resources, tools, and updates you rely on, now integrated into a modern platform designed to serve you better.

Start exploring the site now at pa.gov/pgc.

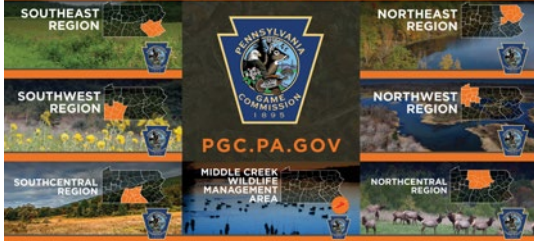
HELP PROTECT PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE

Wildlife crimes affect everyone. The Pennsylvania Game Commission's Operation Game Thief program serves to protect wild birds and wild mammals and encourages those who have information related to wildlife crimes to report details as soon as possible.

Report information to the Operation Game Thief's toll-free hotline – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year – at 1-888-PGC-8001 or fill out an online form. Callers may remain confidential. Learn more about the program at bit.ly/PGCOGT.



FOLLOW THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION



STAY CONNECTED

Follow the Pennsylvania Game Commission on social media to stay up to date on all things related to wildlife, hunting, trapping, and more!

In addition to the Game Commission's official page, each of our six regions as well as Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area have a dedicated Facebook page where you can get the latest news, stories, and information at a local level (like prescribed burns, road and range closures, local habitat improvement projects, and more)!

For more details on all the ways you can connect with the Game Commission, visit pa.gov/pgc.



LISTEN TO CALL OF THE OUTDOORS

Call of the Outdoors, the Pennsylvania Game Commission's podcast, provides an inside look

at statewide habitat projects, the science behind wildlife management, and what drives agency decisions.

Listeners can also learn tips for coexisting with wildlife, expert hunting tactics, and answers to the most common conservation questions. Tune in to new episodes each month on Apple Podcasts, iHeart, Spotify, YouTube, or calloftheoutdoorspgc.com.

JOIN THE LIST

Scan to subscribe to the Game Commission's email newsletter for hunting season reminders, licensing updates, and the latest agency news.



FOLLOW US ONLINE



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION: YOUR STATE WILDLIFE AGENCY

HEADQUARTERS

2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717-787-4250

REGION OFFICES

NORTHWEST REGION - 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323
Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren counties

SOUTHWEST REGION - 4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland counties

NORTHCENTRAL REGION - 1566 South Route 44 Highway, P.O. BOX 5038, Jersey Shore, PA 17740
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Lycoming, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Union counties

SOUTHCENTRAL REGION - 8627 William Penn Highway, Huntingdon, PA 16652
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Snyder, York counties

NORTHEAST REGION - 3917 Memorial Highway, Dallas, PA 18612
Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming counties

SOUTHEAST REGION - 253 Snyder Road, Reading, PA 19605
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill counties

VISIT US ONLINE AT PA.GOV/PGC

CALL US AT 1-833-PGC-WILD