



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.



TAKE AIM AT SPRING GOBBLER SEASON

There's something special about the first light of dawn breaking over Penn's Woods. Spring gobbler season is just around the corner!

Spring gobbler season runs statewide from May 3-31, 2025. A special youth hunt takes place on April 26, 2025, for licensed junior hunters and permitted mentored youth.

Turkey hunters can harvest up to two bearded birds, one per day (second spring gobbler may be only taken with a valid special wild turkey license). Hunting hours vary.

Visit pa.gov/pgc or reference the 2024-25 Pennsylvania Hunting & Trapping Digest for all turkey hunting rules and regulations.

Be sure to report your harvest within 10 days: online at pa.gov/pgc, by phone at 1-800-838-4431, or by mailing in a harvest card.

Good luck. Have fun. Hunt safely.

SPRING INTO ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

**THIS SPRING, TAKE SOME SMALL STEPS
TO HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON WILDLIFE IN
YOUR OWN BACKYARD!**

LET WILDLIFE BE WILD

Springtime brings newborn wildlife like rabbit kits, nestling songbirds, and deer fawns. If you spot young wildlife, don't disturb them. Many wildlife parents leave their young alone and hidden to avoid attracting predators and will return only a few times a day to nurse. You can also help wildlife be wild by not feeding them and viewing them from a safe distance.



PLANT NATIVE PLANTS

Planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers provides food and cover for a variety of wildlife species. Native plants support birds, bats, bees, butterflies, and small mammals, which play an important role in sustaining healthy ecosystems. In contrast, non-native or invasive plants can have harmful effects on ecosystems by outcompeting native plants and don't provide nearly as many benefits to wildlife.

**SCAN FOR MORE WAYS
TO HELP WILDLIFE**





NEW STATE GAME WARDENS ADDED TO RANKS

The Pennsylvania Game Commission proudly welcomed 18 new state game wardens to its force when the Ross Leffler School of Conservation graduated its 36th class on Feb. 1, 2025.

These new wardens went through 44 weeks of rigorous training, including game law enforcement principles and methods, public relations, wildlife forensics, conducting wildlife surveys, and hunter education instruction.

They're now working in their assigned districts to help the Game Commission fulfill its mission to manage and protect wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.

PASS IT ON

Become a Hunter-Trapper Education instructor to share your passion for the outdoors while helping the next generation learn how to hunt safely and responsibly.

The Game Commission is looking for experienced hunters and trappers to teach both basic and advanced Hunter-Trapper Education programs.

In addition to the fulfillment of continuing Pennsylvania's hunting heritage, instructors receive a discounted general hunting license, a complimentary subscription to the Pennsylvania Game News, and discounts on gear.



Scan to learn more about becoming an HTE instructor



PRELIMINARY 2025-26 HUNTING & TRAPPING SEASONS

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners gave preliminary approval to the 2025-26 hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits during its January meeting at the agency's headquarters in Harrisburg.

The public can offer comments on board actions before the April meeting, when 2025-26 seasons and bag limits will be finalized and antlerless license allocations will be presented. Visit pa.gov/pgc to review the preliminary seasons and bag limits and share your comments with the board.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Tune in LIVE to the Board of Game Commissioners meeting, held Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 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.



PRESCRIBED FIRE FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT

The Game Commission conducts prescribed fires, or prescribed burns, at the right place, at the right time, and at the right intensity to restore wildlife habitats. These fires remove invasive plants and dead plant matter to promote healthy new growth.

They benefit wildlife in the long term and have little negative impact on wildlife in the short term. In fact, wildlife are attracted to burned areas immediately after the fire to forage on the flush of insect activity and fresh vegetation.

Throughout the spring, highly trained crews will be conducting prescribed fires across select state game lands. Visit pa.gov/pgc to learn more about prescribed fire, view the map of upcoming burns, and sign up for prescribed fire notifications in your county.



EXPLORE STATE GAME LANDS

The first state game lands turns 105 years old in 2025!

The state game lands system began with State Game Lands 25 in Elk County on June 25, 1920. Today, there are over 1.5 million acres of state game lands in 66 of 67 counties, providing critical habitat for wildlife and recreation opportunities for hunters, trappers, and wildlife enthusiasts.

In addition to quality habitat, 66 public shooting ranges on 40 separate game lands across the state provide recreational opportunities to millions of shooters in Pennsylvania.



Scan to find state game lands near you

DID YOU KNOW?

- Some early game refuges purchased later as state game lands kept their refuge numbers, including State Game Lands 12, 13, 14, and 24.
- State Game Land 93 was originally located in Clearfield County. The designation was transferred in 2006 to a 724-acre tract purchased adjacent to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County.

• Largest State Game Lands:

1. SGL 13: 50,742.14 acres (Sullivan and Columbia counties)
2. SGL 57: 45,985.09 acres (Wyoming and Luzerne counties)

• Smallest State Game Lands:

1. SGL 275: 2.89 acres (island in Susquehanna River)
2. SGL 324: 6.14 acres (island in Schuylkill River)

PENNSYLVANIA ELK HUNTING LICENSE

APPLY NOW!
FEB 1 - JULY 13, 2025

HUNT Fish

APPLY ONLINE AT HUNTFISH.PA.GOV
OR AT ANY LICENSE ISSUING AGENT

LEARN MORE: PA.GOV/PGC

APPLY NOW

Pennsylvania's elk application period is open through Sunday, July 13, 2025.

Apply for 11.97 per season or \$35.91 for all three (archery, general, and late firearms) online at huntfish.pa.gov or at a licensing issuing agent.

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

Thank you for being a Pennsylvania hunter and supporting wildlife conservation in the Keystone State.

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has proudly served as a leader in wildlife conservation since 1895. In that time, the agency has accomplished incredible feats for wildlife, including the recovery of species such as the bald eagle, osprey, and peregrine falcon. Thank you to the forefathers, hunters, and wildlife enthusiasts who have supported wildlife conservation efforts in the Commonwealth for the last 130 years.



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.



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.

EXPLORE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in a career in wildlife conservation? The Pennsylvania Game Commission is always looking for passionate people to join the team. Scan to explore current job openings and begin your path to a rewarding career.



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-HUNT OR 1-833-PGC-WILD.