

WILD TURKEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Raised by Working Group April 10, 2000

Population

- Need to annually monitor population status, especially if the Department implements a fall season.

Habitat

- Identify suitable habitat and expand the population into all suitable habitat.
- Habitat improvement, increasing habitat suitability.

Hunting Opportunities

- Hunter interference - hunter questionnaire needs a better measure of interference and its effect on a quality turkey hunting experience (consult with Vermont)
- Hunter concentrations and landowner conflicts
- Increasing hunting opportunity.
- Eliminate the spring season lottery (or set the level of permits such that everyone who applies would receive one) while ensuring a sustained yield and minimizing interference.
- Concerns expressed by some landowners that they are feeding turkeys but never receive a permit to hunt them.
- Consider implementing a fall season (bow, firearm).
- Illegal hen harvest.
- Expand turkey hunter education (safety, hunter interference, quality hunting experience, landowner relations, etc.)

Nuisance Complaints

- Strawberries, other crops, apple orchards, manure piles, silage, hay bales.

Wild Turkey Issues and Concerns

- Provide greater assistance to landowners to resolve nuisance complaints

Pen Reared Birds

- Continue to monitor the presence of pen-reared birds and eliminate them when located.