



Michigan Wild Turkey Strategic Plan Synopsis



MATTHEW McMEANS/NWTF

The wild turkey (*meleagris gallapova*), the largest gallinaceous bird in North America, exists in a variety of habitats throughout its range. This now abundant bird was almost forced in extinction in the early 1900's through unregulated hunting and improper land management. Today, the wild turkey population is more than seven million birds strong thanks to state, federal and provincial agencies and hunters across North America who supported restoration efforts. Currently, wild turkeys can be found in 49 states, seven provinces and across Mexico.

As the need to trap and transfer wild turkeys becomes less necessary, it is important to look toward the future of North America's greatest game birds and work to make sure that future is bright. The North American Wild Turkey Management Plan: An Integrated Approach to Wildlife Management, is designed to do just that.

Mission: To ensure that wild turkey populations and their habitats are managed and conserved to benefit all associated wildlife species through collaborative conservation.

The North American Wild Turkey Management Plan is a compilation of regional and state/provincial plans that will outline goals to help wildlife management agencies and the NWTF's dedicated volunteers target the most important factors in wild turkey conservation and protecting our hunting heritage.

In support of the North American Wild Turkey Management Plan and the continued efforts of wild turkey conservation and the preservation of the hunting tradition, since 1985, the National Wild Turkey Federation's Michigan State Chapter and its members have spent more than \$2.9 million in Michigan. The money has been raised through Hunting Heritage Super Fund banquets and direct deposits to the Michigan Hunting Heritage Fund from supportive individuals and businesses. This fund is administered jointly by the NWTF, its state chapters and state

wildlife agencies. The Michigan State Chapter's priorities fall into three major categories: Habitat Enhancement, Education and Outreach and Hunting Heritage.

Habitat Enhancement

- Goal** Support efforts on Michigan's three national forests to maintain and improve early successional wildlife habitats.
- Goal** Support prescribed fire efforts on state and federal agency lands across Michigan.
- Goal** Continue to establish winter wildlife food sources by planting fruit-bearing trees, shrubs and annual grains, especially in snow-belt country.
- Goal** Increase openings on all national forests, on a forest-wide scale.
- Goal** Make comments concerning habitat enhancement on agency lands as projects are proposed.
- Goal** Support management projects suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources with the use of dedicated turkey dollars.

Education and Outreach

- Goal** Encourage every local NWTF chapter to hold outreach programs for youth, women and people with disabilities through the NWTF's JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship), Women in the Outdoors and Wheelin' Sportsmen outreach programs.
- Goal** Support a least two Wild Turkey Woodlands programs within the Michigan each year.
- Goal** Furnish at least one NWTF Wild About Turkey Education Box to each chapter per annually.
- Goal** Offer each local chapter monetary support to fund a scholarship.



P.J. PEREA

Hunting Heritage

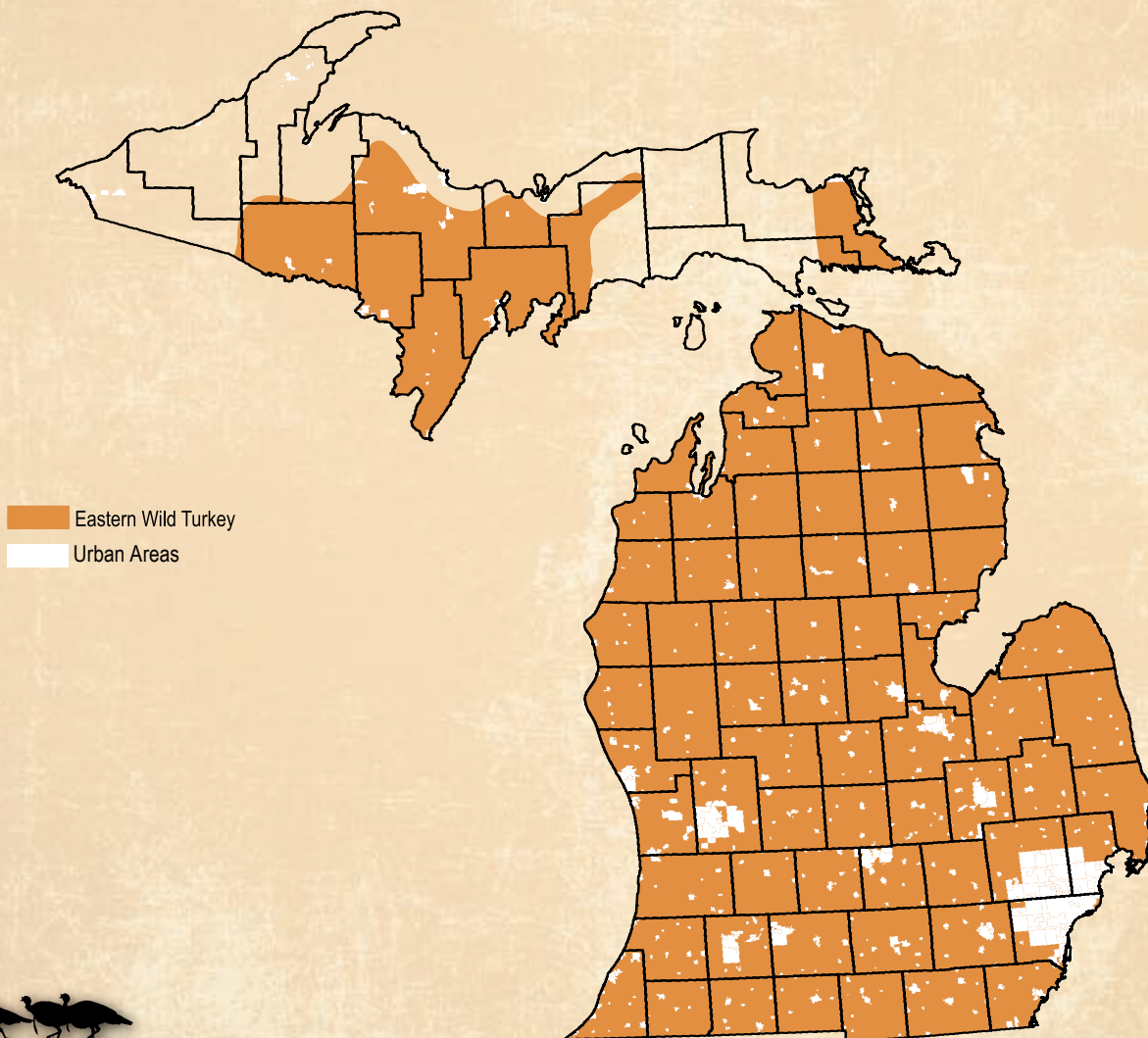
- Goal** Support the shooting sports other than 4-H, which can include groups like Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, etc.
- Goal** Support the the 4-H shooting sports at local and state levels.
- Goal** Contribute annually to the National Archery in the Schools Program.
- Goal** Support the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance on an annual basis.
- Goal** Support of pro-hunting issues as they arise in Michigan.



NANCY BRANDT/NWTF

Michigan is home to the Eastern wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*), which can be found in every mainland Michigan county. The Eastern wild turkey is the most widely distributed, abundant and hunted turkey subspecies of the five distinct subspecies found in the United States. It inhabits the eastern half of the country and is primarily found in hardwood and mixed forests from New England and southern Canada to northern Florida and west to Texas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota.

Michigan Wild Turkey Distribution Map



National Wild Turkey Federation

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