



An NWTF Northeastern Conservation Initiative



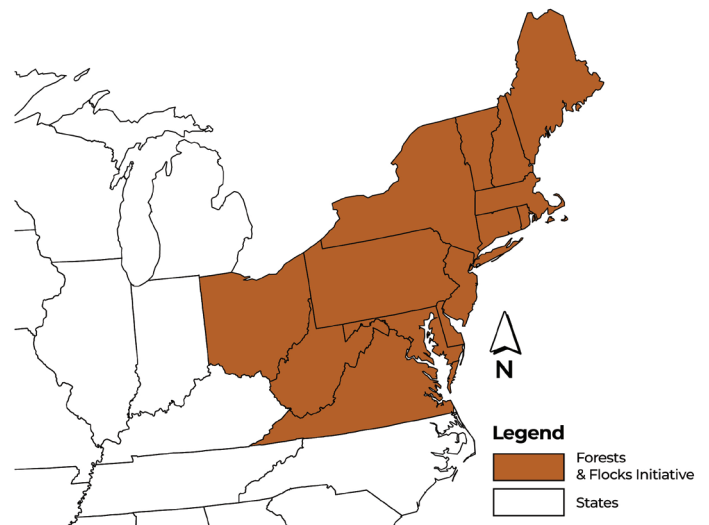
PHOTO: MONTE LOOMIS

Join us in support of this groundbreaking initiative as we work to conserve our forests and flocks for this generation and the next.

The Northeast region boasts a rich history of wild turkey conservation. The NWTF's Forest and Flocks Initiative will build upon historic restoration efforts and ensure the health and vigor of the Northeast's wild turkey population for the future.

At the heart of the initiative is the NWTF's dual mission to conserve the wild turkey and preserve our hunting heritage. Forests and Flocks will establish critical nesting habitat in the spring, brood-rearing habitat in the summer, and management practices that benefit hard and soft mast-bearing trees and shrubs that help wild turkeys make it through the winter in good condition.

The initiative, launched in summer of 2024, also focuses on the NWTF's mission to preserve our hunting heritage. This will boost regional support for hunting and increase our voice against recurring proposed legislation that is antithetical to the NWTF's mission.



The Landscape

Forests and Flocks encompasses Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

NWTF CONSERVATION INITIATIVE STAMP SERIES

This second offering in the collectable stamp series will help fund critical wild turkey habitat research and much more. Artwork for the stamp is by designer Melissa Ball, a Pennsylvania artist known for her detailed turkey feather art. She's worked with the NWTF for years, winning the 2001 Grand National Art Contest and earning multiple honors, including Featured Artist of the Year.



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Today

Goals and Objectives

CONSERVATION

The NWTF will improve 100,000 acres over 10 years in the initiative area through habitat management and support of research to increase the effectiveness of our conservation work. This will be accomplished through the following objectives:

- Establish young forest, early successional and grassland habitats that increase nesting and brood cover.
- Prioritize forest health through work favoring mast-producing tree species to ensure adequate fall forage.
- Establish an NWTF-endowed wild turkey professorship position in the Northeast.
- Allocate research funding to identify limiting factors and provide a better understanding of habitat use.
- Support active habitat management through engagement in policy work impacting long-term public land management plans and private lands habitat management (farm bill, etc.).

HUNTING HERITAGE

The NWTF will increase our Education and Outreach impact in the recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters. This will further elevate the NWTF as a champion for hunters through our on-the-ground local and state chapter events and through our policy efforts. This will be accomplished through the following objectives:

- Identify partnerships that will address key issues limiting hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation.
- Support private-land access laws while enhancing public land access and acquisition efforts.
- Increase support for hunting, emphasizing retention events.
- Increase hunting and shooting sports access across the region through strategic use of the Hunt for Good campaign.



FUNDING NEEDS

NWTF estimates a need of \$30 million – with partner collaboration – by the year 2034 to improve over 100,000 acres of habitat on public and private lands. To accomplish this work, along with research and hunting heritage needs, the NWTF has a fundraising goal of \$10 million in addition to the projected \$4 million of Super Fund raised for conservation work during the initiative. We have matched funds at a rate of 5:1 in the region.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Through Year 2 as of September 2026)

Year 2 Policy Wins:

Supported additional Sunday hunting opportunities in Pennsylvania for the 2027 spring turkey season, and helped advance West Virginia SB 886, which was signed into law to replace outdated restrictions that had discouraged prescribed burning on private lands.

Education & Outreach

In year 2, NWTF chapters hosted 314 events, an increase from the 306 hosted in year 1.

Research Contributions

Initiative funds supported research including studies examining disease prevalence in reproductive success (RI) and survival, harvest rates and disease (NH) in Eastern wild turkeys. Several state chapters also funded research equipment and the Wild Turkey DNA Project.

13,011.45 Acres Conserved/Enhanced

507.70	Acres Through National Forestry Initiative Efforts
7,206.50	Acres Through NWTF Seed Programs
2,470.00	Acres Through Equipment Donated to Partners
2,827.25	Acres Through Super Fund and Grants



Our conservation goals require a landscape-scale approach, with local and state projects creating significant cumulative impacts. NWTF state and local chapters will play a key role by prioritizing financial resources for habitat and research efforts. Scan to learn more.