

An NWTF Northeastern Conservation Initiative

PHOTO: DARCY DANIELS

Forests and Flocks Initiative Policy—How to Engage at the State Level

Advocating for the Mission

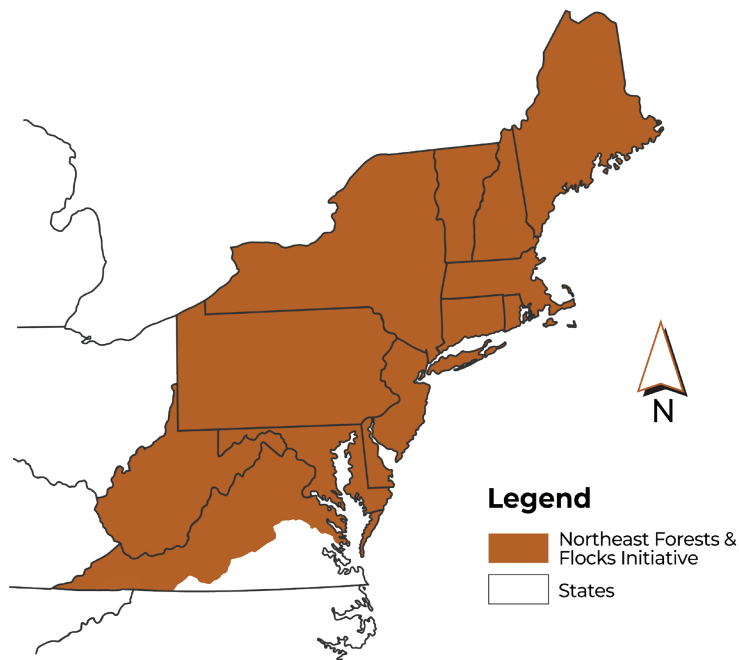
NWTF staff work with our volunteers, partners and policymakers to identify and engage on issues that impact wildlife management, land conservation and hunting rights.

The NWTF's engagement at the policy and rule-making levels is vital to delivering our mission. Working alongside state- and federal-level legislators and agencies, the NWTF can encourage laws and regulations that protect and bolster our rights as hunters and ensure our ability to deliver conservation effectively and efficiently.

Federal policy is led by the NWTF's director of government affairs, who works to drive policy through engagement with numerous partners, conservation and sportsmen coalitions, federal agencies and congressional members and staff to amplify our members' voices in Washington, D.C. State government affairs is led by the NWTF's director of conservation programs, and our directors of conservation operations, along with our district biologists as the points of contact for staff and volunteers.

Forests and Flocks Initiative Policy Priorities

- Support active habitat management through engagement in policy work impacting long-term public land management plans and private lands habitat management (farm bill, etc.).
- Support private-land access laws and programs, including Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program, 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 deployment of the Hunt for Good campaign.
- Engage in policy efforts that reduce barriers for hunters, including minimum age and hunter education requirements.



Power of an Email Address

When members provide the NWTF with an email address, we can reach them to announce important policy issues in their state or at the federal level so that they can participate in the process by expressing their views. If you provide an email address, you will stay informed. In some cases, you may receive an email highlighting the NWTF state chapter's position on an issue and asking you to contact your representative(s), or to simply to raise awareness of an issue. Our campaigns have had significant impacts on the end results of proposed regulations and legislation.

How You Can Help

- A central element of NWTF's conservation and R3 programs is our ability to leverage private funding with public dollars, which are often secured and protected through public policy.
- Other critical policy activities involve ensuring that state and federal tools are available and conducive to our conservation and hunting heritage mission. These policies include active forest management, support for R3 (hunter access and opportunity) and wild turkey management.
- Public policy efforts may also be vital to retaining and protecting important grassroots fundraising tools and activities.

- NWTF has a small but effective policy staff, a large general membership and an enviable corps of volunteers who are strongly committed to our mission and proudly give their time and treasure to support it. This team of volunteers and members represents a potentially formidable force for influencing public policy decisions.

Issues We Are Watching

1. Hunter recruitment-related bills and regulations
 - a. *NY - Making the youth hunter big game opportunity permanent*
 - b. *Non-resident college student licenses at resident costs*
2. Bills impacting common firearms for hunting
 - a. *Semi-automatic shotgun bills in multiple states*
3. Wild turkey management
 - a. *Season-structure-related bills and regulatory proposals in multiple states*
 - b. *Bills restructuring wildlife commissions to allow anti-hunting members to influence hunting regulations in multiple states*

**VISIT THE NWTF'S
FORESTS AND FLOCKS
INITIATIVE PAGE FOR
MORE INFORMATION**



SCAN FOR MORE INFO



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Government Affairs Webpage

We encourage you to visit our Government Affairs page, which will be a hub for policy issues we are actively engaged in at the state and federal level. If you

receive an email from the NWTF related to a policy issue, consider engaging and providing input to your state or federal legislators using our simple and fast online system that will allow you to easily direct a message to your representative.

