



17 Edison Drive  
South Hadley, MA 01075

Chairman, Fisheries and Wildlife Board  
c/o Wayne MacCallum  
MassWildlife  
1 Rabbit Hill Road  
Westborough MA 01581

June 10, 2011

RE: Proposed Regulation Change for Mentored Youth Spring Turkey Hunt

Dear Chairman Darey;

The members of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (MA Chapter) are pleased with the fine working relationship between the employees of the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) and our chapter. We hold in high regard the professional biologists, technicians, land managers and law enforcement officers with whom we regularly work. Their dedication to the wildlife resources in Massachusetts is apparent in the quality of their work.

On behalf of the MA NWTF state chapter membership, the State Chapter Board of Directors supports the proposal to issue licensed youth hunters age 12-14 a permit with two tags that can be utilized through the spring season. However, we also feel it would be advantageous for the Division to consider allowing youth hunters to use one unfilled tag during the fall wild turkey season when accompanied by a duly licensed adult. This addition would provide great consistency in the regulations.

We thank MassWildlife and the Fisheries and Wildlife Board for recognizing the importance of increasing hunting opportunities for younger hunters in a way that will also provide an educational opportunity for participants.

The MA Chapter is grateful for the hard work and dedication of the MassWildlife staff and past and present Fisheries and Wildlife Board members, particularly for ensuring the successful restoration of wild turkeys. We are pleased to support turkey habitat and population management and the preservation of our hunting tradition as outlined in the NWTF's Massachusetts Section of North American Wild Turkey Management Plan. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Scott Cushing*

Scott Cushing, President  
Massachusetts State Chapter  
National Wild Turkey Federation

*Doug Little*

Doug Little, Senior Regional Wildlife Biologist  
Certified Wildlife Biologist  
National Wild Turkey Federation

Cc: Mary B. Griffin, Commissioner  
Wayne MacCallum, Director  
David Scarpitti, Wild Turkey and Upland Game Project Leader