

UNIFIED SPORTSMEN of PA

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Legislation is on the Way

By Wayne Haas, USP President

There is legislation directed towards deer management and habitat that has been introduced in Harrisburg. It contains pretty much the same language as the last legislative sessions bills that were not brought up for vote. This time we have been told that will not be the case. We shall see. Right now the bill has not been numbered but by the time you receive this publication, hopefully it will.

This bill is needed, important, and has some legislators intended on making it happen. It is needed to stop the loss of over 200,000 hunters and a loss of revenue that is now needed by the PGC. The lost revenue is staggering! A legislative report of November 2012 has said the loss of hunters was a loss of \$285 Million a year. But, if Pennsylvania had the 6% increase that the National average had during the same period Pa lost 200,000 hunters, the loss now amounts to around \$400 Million a year which equals over \$5 Billion during the last 15 years due to deer reductions.

The PGC now needs money and are asking legislators to pass a license fee increase. The PGC acts like this loss of revenue does not exist and do not intend to make changes to deer management. Let me say this. The lost revenue is real and until legislation is passed to change deer management, we will not support a license fee increase. Former head of the House Game and Fish Committee Ed Staback told the PGC exactly that the last time the PGC asked for an increase and currently there are many legislators of the same opinion. We know costs go up for the PGC. People need raises, health benefits go up, products cost more but until the PGC comes to grips with losing Millions a year, there is no support for a license fee increase.

2016 Spring Membership Meeting

The Spring USP Membership meeting will be held on Sunday March 20, 2016 at the Sinnemahoning Sportsmen's Club, located on 15 Club Road, Sinnemahoning PA.

A light lunch starting at 12:30 PM with the meeting beginning at 1:00 PM. Membership meeting is open to the public please attend and bring a guest. Guest speakers will be posted on our web site when finalized. Visit www.gouasp.org/meetings for map and driving directions.

PA State Game Lands

The State Game lands were purchased by PGC with revenue from PA hunting license and Pittman Robertson funds, which are taxes on our sporting goods. No money was used from the state's general tax dollar fund. This land is owned by the Pa hunters not the state of Pa. Secondary users are causing damage to these lands through use of mountain bikes, horses, atvs, dirt bikes, hikers etc... which venture off the designated trails. Repair for this damage is costing Pa hunter revenue and these secondary users feel they should get a free ride. USP Chairman of the Board Randy Santucci is on a focus group as a USP representative regarding secondary use/abuse of game lands, working with the PGC correcting this problem

Get out and vote Protect our Constitution and 2nd Amendment Rights

The current administration has declared war on gun owners. Please get out on vote otherwise the anti-gun groups will push their agenda by electing the antigun liberals.

More gun laws do nothing to stop the criminals who in most instances steal the weapons they use, the laws only hurt the honest citizens.

“A few reasons from Randy Santucci, USP Board Chairman
why we do not support a hunting license increase”

By Randy Santucci

Regarding the PGC License increase request. Under Carl Roe in 2012 the PGC donated \$250,000.00 (1/4 million) to The Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Albany Township East PA for an amphitheater. They donated \$250,000.00 (1/4 million) to the Ned Smith Center for the Arts Millersburg PA. They continue to spend millions purchasing new game lands in the face of a rapidly diminishing hunter interest, in part because game on existing habitat starved game lands is so poor? Game land purchase prices exceed allowable Title 34 limits..... so Maybe we should be spending \$ on fixing and improving what we have?

I would investigate these topics and the likelihood of more questionable expenditures before laying more burden on sportsmen to support bad decision making from a much maligned agency. Perhaps they do need an increase, but any increase amount should be closely scrutinized based on their track record of management practices for game and operations, responsiveness to hunter opinion and an overall audit possibly managed in part by legislation. They adamantly fight legislation coming from Senate and House Game and Fisheries Committees whose job it is to safeguard our blood sports. There is an obstinate autonomous attitude prevailing like a good ole boys club behind many of the problems between the PGC, sportsmen and many legislators as well. They should be forced to sit down with groups like the Unified Sportsmen and legislative committees, to come to decisions where sporting groups have stronger input in game management, especially since sportsmen pay most of the freight. Plus guess what, we are the primary customers and we spend the most time afield....we might just have some good suggestions or know something!

USP'S WEBSITE

The Unified Sportsmen of PA is now on facebook. And, our website is gousp.org on the website you can:

- join the USP online using Credit Card
- discuss any aspect of interest
- Align yourself with the leading statewide sportsmen's group fighting for your hunting, shooting, fishing and outdoor heritage.
- Send feedback to USP at talkback@gousp.org

Visit USP on facebook, or our website. Mark our website as a "favorite". And, Refresh on each visit to keep it updated.



For additional information USP outdoor events please visit <http://www.unifiedsportsmenpa.org/events.htm>

Membership application

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
County _____ Phone _____
Email _____
Email address for alerts only

Membership			
Individual 1 year	\$20___	Lifetime	\$250___
2 Year	\$35___	Junior	\$5___
3 Year	\$50___	Hunting Camp	\$25___
Sportsmen Club	\$100___	Business	\$50___

Please Remit To:
USP Membership
530 4th Ave.
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Questions? Contact:
membership@gousp.org