

# Return Abundant Wildlife to Pennsylvania



Today, closed tree-tops in Pennsylvania's old and aging forests are blocking sunlight from reaching the forest floor -- preventing the regeneration of plant-life as food and cover for wildlife. As a result, according to the Ruffed Grouse Society, at least 60 species of wildlife are rapidly declining.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has failed to address this serious problem, and, instead, mistakenly blamed white-tailed deer (our State Mammal) for deteriorating habitat. Over a 5-year period, the Game Commission directed the slaughter of 2,500,000 deer – mostly pregnant does and fawns.

In so doing, PGC has turned a problem into a crisis. Not only have the agency collapsed the deer herd in many regions of the state, but they still fail to address aging forests, deteriorating habitat, and declining wildlife populations. Legislative studies have determined that these failed policies have cost thousands of family businesses, rural communities, and the Commonwealth's economy over \$7 billion, which is increasing at the rate of \$1.16 billion each year. PGC is also costing the state nearly \$93 million per year in lost tax revenue.

To resolve the crisis, the Pennsylvania Legislature, sportsmen and conservation organizations, independent scientists, and concerned citizens have joined in creating House Bill 1483. HB 1483 is designed to correct failed Game Commission policies, to create critically needed early successional wildlife habitat over the 6,000-square-mile system of Pennsylvania's public forestlands, and return abundant wildlife to Penn's Woods.

From deer, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, snowshoe hares, and our magnificent elk herd, to songbirds, bats, and at-risk pollinators such as honeybees and Monarch butterflies, Pennsylvania wildlife will again flourish and our forests will return to their former reputation as one-of-the-world's healthiest and most productive hardwood forest ecosystems.

**Read more about HB 1483 at [www.friendsofpennsylvaniawildlife.org](http://www.friendsofpennsylvaniawildlife.org).**