

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Blaine Toy

I attended the January 27, 2024, quarterly meeting of the PA Game Commission. The auditorium was overflowing, 63 individuals signed up to speak in the public's comments session. 52 spoke in the morning session, and 11 were scheduled to speak after lunch, however, 1 left after the morning session.

25 testifying in favor of Pine Martin's re-introduction, no one opposed it, 16 spoke for return to Monday while only 3 were in favor of Saturday. 3 union officers of fraternal order police lodge 114 regarding unfair labor practices of PGC. The other 15 testifiers talked about various issues in PGC.

It is my opinion the commissioners need to be replaced with a commission that listens to hunters' input and follows Title 34, Game and Fisheries Code.

The fiscal year ended on June 30, 2023; however, PGC took 7 months to release its financial report. If you have not seen this report, I will bring attention to only the income and expenses pie chart.:

Income:

1. 73% received from Natural Resources & right of way, \$326,286,426.
2. 18% listed as miscellaneous, sale of Timber, Game News subscriptions, Game Law fines, and Federal Aid Reimbursement, \$53,383,714.
3. 9% received from the sale of Resident, Non-Resident, antlerless deer, archery, bear, elk, bobcat, muzzleloader, and furtaker licenses, \$40,210,134.

Expenses:

1. 28% Wildlife Habitat Management \$56,503,680.
2. 29% Wildlife Protection \$58,340,589.
3. 12% Wildlife Management \$23,569,961.
4. 17% Administration \$34,601,711.
5. 4% Information and Education \$,923,449.
6. 4% Executive Office \$7,867,463.
7. 5% Automated Technology Services \$10,713,585.
8. 1 % Marketing & Communications \$1,647,254.

We sportsmen/sportswomen have no say in the management of our hunting heritage. Income shows 91% (\$379,670,140) that is not license sales. Our License sales accounted for only 9% (40,210,134). Is this no wonder that they ignore our input? With over 10 times income from other than license sales hunters should see a reduction in what we pay for our licenses, not screaming for an increase. PGC is running wild, acting like a private enterprise, not wanting to answer to anyone, even our Legislators.

Looking at the expense side 69% (\$138,414,230) was spent on Wildlife with no explanation of where this was spent, I know I have not seen any habitat improved on our Game Lands.

My opinion is our State Game Lands should be closed to non-hunters during any hunting season, our money was used to purchase these game lands.