

LCMR WORK PROGRAM 1993  
 January 20, 1995

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I. Program Title: Wild Turkey Hunting Safety/Education

Program Manager: Len Holtegaard  
 Agency Affiliation: National Wild Turkey Federation  
 Address: 1590 Whitewater Avenue  
 St. Charles, MN 55972  
 (507) 932-4866

A. Legal Citation: M.L. 93 Chpt. 172, Art. \_\_\_, Sect. 14, Subd. 12(e)

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$39,000.00  
 Balance: \$ 9,661.00

This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a contract with the wild turkey federation to develop a program to promote safety in the sport of wild turkey hunting to minimize accidents and improve hunter/landowner relationships.

II. Narrative:

To promote safety into the sport of wild turkey hunting to minimize accidents and maximize the best in hunter/landowner relationships.

III. Statement of Objective:

- A. Promotion of wild turkey hunting safety and education.
- B. Improve hunter/landowner relations throughout the wild turkey range in Minnesota.

IV. Objectives:

- A. Promotion of wild turkey hunting safety and education
  - A.1 Narrative: To promote safety in the sport of wild turkey hunting through the production and distribution of public service announcements, a safety video, and printed material for the youth and advanced hunter education programs.

A.2 Procedures: Research, produce, and distribute public service announcements (PSA's) for the television media while producing and distributing a safety video for the youth and advanced hunter education programs. (In partnership with the National Wild Turkey Hunting Safety Task Force). There have already been steps taken to make turkey hunters and landowners aware of the safety problems through seminars. Signs reminding hunters to hunt safe have been posted throughout the Whitewater Management Area. Placards have been sent to hunters to be placed in the windows of their vehicles while they hunt to let other hunters know that there is someone in the area and to be careful. At every Wild Turkey Banquet in the state there has been an increasing effort to promote safety while turkey hunting.

A.3 Budget:  
 a. Amount budgeted: \$19,500.00  
 b. Balance: \$ 4,774.00 (October 15, 1994)

A.4 Timeline for Products/Tasks:

	<u>Jul93</u>	<u>Jan94</u>	<u>Jul94</u>	<u>Jan95</u>	<u>Jun95</u>
Produce PSA's	*****				
Distribute PSA's	*****			*****	
Research turkey/hunting safety video	*****				
Produce turkey/hunting safety video	*****				
Distribute turkey/hunting safety video	*****				

- A.5 Status:
- a. Scripts have been written for four PSA's. Filming will be completed by February 15, 1994.
  - b. Materials necessary to complete first phase of project were purchased.
  - c. Funds were made available for the brochure "Hunting Private Land", with approximately 20,000 being printed.
  - d. Twelve videos "Turkey Hunting Success and Safety" were distributed to the six DNR regional office to be used for hunter education.
  - e. Script outline for turkey hunting safety was completed. The script itself will be completed January 15, 1994. Filming will begin as soon as weather permits.

- f. Four more PSA scripts were written and filmed. They were distributed to seven television stations in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.
- g. The script for "Wild Turkey Hunting Safety in Minnesota" was completed and filming has begun.
- h. Shooting scripts for the last two public service announcements have been completed, and the filming is ready to be edited for distribution in the 1995 season.
- i. The filming of "Wild Turkey Hunting Safety in Minnesota" is nearing completion. I feel that more time is needed for adding additional footage to the film. There will be a rule change regarding the use of turkey decoys in Minnesota so adding that to the video is very important. Completion of video will be set for May of 1995, or sooner if weather permits.

A.6 Benefit: Minnesota will be a better/safer place to hunt turkeys.

B. Improve hunter safety through education of landowners on the special features and dynamics of turkey hunting on private land.

B.1 Narrative: To promote a better understanding between the landowner and the turkey hunter regarding hunting safety. Work with local chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation to achieve that goal.

B.2 Procedures: To set up meetings with landowners sponsored by local chapters of N.W.T.F. throughout the turkey range. Explain the importance of limiting the number of turkey hunters on their property at one time. To explain clearly their property boundaries so the hunter does not cross over into others hunting on neighboring property. Hand out a calendar with the turkey seasons marked so when a hunter calls for permission to hunt the landowner can write in that person for that season. Distribute other safety material to landowners, show safety video.

B.3 Budget:

A. Amount budgeted: \$19,500.00  
 B. Balance: \$ 4,887.00 (October 15, 1994)

B.4 Timeline Products/Tasks:

	<u>Jul93</u>	<u>Jan94</u>	<u>Mar94</u>	<u>Jun95</u>
Contact NWTF Chapters	*****			***
Set up meeting sites/NWTF				
Host safety seminars			*****	
Invite landowners/tour NWTF projects				***
Distribute safety materials				*****

B.5 Status:

- a. Local chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation were contacted for their support in landowner meetings.
- b. Landowner meetings were set up to begin February 1, 1994.
- c. Landowner calendar research. The calendar will be mailed to 631 landowners January 15, 1994.
- d. Safety material distributed to hunters, and landowners at N.W.T.F. banquets.
- e. Eight landowner meetings were conducted from February 1 to April 1, 1994. The attendance at those meetings was 10% of the approximate 700 invitations that were sent. In 1995 I will set up some evening meetings in hopes of better attendance.
- f. There were 1000 calendars either mailed or handed out. The landowner acceptance of the calendar approach was excellent.
- g. Safety materials were sent to the DNR for their turkey hunting seminars.
- h. The eight landowner meetings have been scheduled for 1995. They are to begin in February.
- i. Landowner calendars will be mailed to approximately 675 landowners on January 15, 1995.

B.6 Benefits: Better hunting environment for landowner and the turkey hunter.

V. Evaluation:

The success of the wild turkey hunting safety/education program will be in the number of lives saved and accidents prevented through the promotion of the public and media intensive program with a continuing emphasis on long term and improved hunter/landowner relations that will benefit the State of Minnesota and its residents.

VI. Context:

- A. Turkey hunting safety has always been a concern for the State of Minnesota but has not received the attention or support that this program will bring to the people.
- B. This program will supplement and enhance the existing youth and adult firearm safety training programs to avenues whose coverage was not available before.

- C. Since 1957, Minnesota has had a youth firearms safety training program. When turkey hunting started in Minnesota in the spring of 1978, mandatory turkey hunting orientation sessions were given to hunters. In the past few years, these clinics were no longer made mandatory. Although addressed, no concerted effort has been directed towards turkey hunting safety. No LCMR funds have ever been used for a program of this nature. At this time, no plans are being made for an additional request.

## VII. Qualifications:

### 1. Program Manager

Len Holtegaard  
Turkey Safety Committee  
Minnesota Chapter Wild Turkey Federation

Mr. Holtegaard is presently a member of a 38 member National Wild Turkey Hunting Safety Task Force that is dealing with the safety aspect of the sport of turkey hunting on a national level. He is also Head of the Turkey Safety Committee within the National Wild Turkey Federation in Minnesota. Mr. Holtegaard's primary role will be to oversee all aspects of this program.

### 2. Cooperators:

Howard Shepperd  
Regional Wildlife Supervisor  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Rochester, Minnesota

Paul Dyrstad  
Regional Enforcement Supervisor  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Rochester, Minnesota

Dr. James Earl Kennamer  
Director of Research and Management  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Edgefield, South Carolina

## VIII. Reporting Requirements:

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1994, July 1, 1994, January 1, 1995, and a final status report by June 30, 1995.