



# Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

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Providing leadership and advocacy for the enhancement of our fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of all hunters, trappers, anglers and conservationists. Protecting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights.

## PFSC Club Proxy Voting Form

General Session Date: 9/15/2018

Your club must send a delegate to cast your proxy votes at the next general session.

This may be a representative from your club specifically or you may give your club's proxy votes to your county delegate to cast on your behalf. A county delegate may only cast votes for clubs within their designated county. **Please send 2 copies of this form with your delegate. (Exclude copies of attached info pages.)**

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Club Delegate will be Voting for Club - Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ County Delegate will be Voting for Club - Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Our club gives our delegate our proxy votes on:

\_\_\_\_\_ All Issues and policy statements coming before the general session

\_\_\_\_\_ Only on the issues below (Other issues may arise and be discussed during the meeting.)

Club Officer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Issues: (See attached for more details on each question.)

1. Do you support SB1202 - legislation that would allow the PGC to have regulatory authority of Sunday Hunting via seasons and bag management regulations, and raise the level of trespass while hunting to a primary violation?	Passed 52 Yea 32 Nay 1 Abst
2. Should PFSC support a General Fund Appropriation to aid the Department of Agriculture and the PA Game Commission in the fight to address the Chronic Wasting Disease crisis facing our commonwealth?	Passed 74 Yea 11 Nay 0 Abst
3. Should PFSC support a voluntary habitat stamp for anglers with the funds going towards habitat improvements?	Passed 60 Yea 24 Nay 1 Abst
4. Should PFSC support a voluntary wild trout stamp with funds going towards wild trout fisheries?	Passed 57 Yea 26 Nay 2 Abst

5. Should PFSC support allowing private landowners to stock Hungarian (gray) partridges for dog training and limited hunting purposes on private lands?	Passed 67 Yea 15 Nay 3 Abst
6. Should PFSC support urging the PGC and the PFBC do more to promote the VOLUNTARY use of non-lead bullets in ammunition and the use of non-lead sinkers?	Failed 30 Yea 55 Nay 0 Abst
7. Should the PFSC be encouraging federal legislators and the PFBC to support federal funding to prevent further expansion of Asian carp upstream in the Ohio River and across remaining open pathways to the Great Lakes?	Passed 78 Yea 6 Nay 1 Abst

**Note: Please check the website to see if any additional issues have been added for proxy voting. (Additional issues will be posted by September 1<sup>st</sup>.)**

### **#1: SB1202: Sunday Hunting & Trespass**

Senator Laughlin (R-Erie) has introduced **Senate Bill 1202** that would permit the PGC to have authority to regulate Sunday hunting. The bill also includes language that makes trespassing while hunting a primary violation, which Game Wardens could cite for. This is not a broad trespass bill that mandates the PGC to enforce all trespass. It just raises the level of the charge to a primary violation, if the violation takes place while hunting.

By amending the Game Code, it makes the language similar to that of Agricultural Trespass in the Crimes Code, but with more suitable summary and misdemeanor penalties. Also, by making trespassing while hunting a primary offense, it will be enforceable by Game Wardens, as well as other law enforcement.

Bryan Burhans, PGC Executive Director, said the PGC supports the legislation.

PFSC is on record in support of legislation that would give the PGC regulatory authority of Sunday hunting. However, our membership has also been on record of opposition to broad language legislation that would mandate the Game Wardens enforce all trespass. However this bill's language only increases the level of the violation, thus giving it more bite, but does not make it a mandate.

**Here is a link to the co-sponsor memo & bill:**

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2017&slnd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=1202>

### **#2: Support for general fund appropriation in response to the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) crisis**

- **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**, is a 100% fatal disease in captive and free-range deer. In recent years an increasing number of wild and captive deer have been detected with this disease.
- **While the PGC has no regulatory authority over captive deer farms, they are still spending millions of dollars from the game fund (sportsmen's dollars) on both wild and captive CWD related issues.**
- **Information provided by the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC)** indicates the PGC has spent well over \$6 million combating CWD. Specific expenditures for CWD surveillance, control and research since 2013 are:

2013 - \$518,247	2014 - \$640,732	2015 - \$603,782
2016 - \$775,724	2017 - \$1,772,595	

**Total spent since 2003 = \$6,606,116**

- Although the General Rule of the Game Code states the Game Fund shall be used for “contingent expenses,” those expenses shall also be “reasonably necessary.” The crisis known as CWD is not a reasonable condition, and is not just a wildlife problem.
- Our Commonwealth’s wildlife is the property of all our citizens. The Pennsylvania Game Commission serves as the steward. Since CWD poses such a risk to the entire wild and farmed cervid population, a special general fund appropriation should be considered to help address this crisis.

### **#3 & 4: Habitat and Wild Trout Stamps for Anglers**

Some commissioners within the PFBC have proposed the idea of a VOLUNTARY habitat stamp for anglers to purchase and the funds would be dedicated to habitat improvements. Some commissioners have proposed the idea of a VOLUNTARY Wild Trout Stamp with the funds to be dedicated to expenses associated with wild trout fisheries.

### **#5: Stocking Hungarian Partridge for Dog Training on Private Lands**

Hungarian (gray) partridges are strong fliers, liking agricultural landscapes, and decades ago were stocked in PA. These birds are native to Europe but have become naturalized in some areas of the western US. Some hunters have proposed to the PGC they be allowed to release these birds for dog training. As of right now, the state does not allow the release of Hungarian partridge – only mallards, quail, pheasants, and chukars can be released.

### **#6: Use of Non-Lead Ammunition and Non-Lead Sinkers**

The use of lead bullets for hunting has been implicated in the poisoning of bald eagles and the use of lead sinkers has now been implicated in the poisoning of loons. Non-lead shells are already required for waterfowl hunting. Examples of non-lead bullets for game hunting would be copper bullets. Examples of non-lead sinkers for fishing would be tin or tungsten sinkers.

### **#7: Stop Further Expansion of Asian Carp up the Ohio River and Great Lakes**

The federal government, in cooperation with other agencies, is proposing to upgrade the Asian carp deterrent facilities near Chicago, Illinois to prevent Asian Carp from entering Lake Michigan. The upgrade will cost an initial \$275 million for construction with annual operating costs of \$20 million a year in order to protect the \$7 billion fishing industry and \$16 billion boating industry in the Great Lakes. Asian carp could conceivably infest Lake Erie, the Ohio, Monongahela, and Allegheny Rivers and tributaries. Asian carp have been found in the Ohio River in Wheeling WV, just a few miles downstream of Pittsburgh. Once the carp reach the Great Lakes anywhere, it’s an entirely open system to Lake Erie, where suitable habitat for spawning has been identified at Presque Isle Bay. There is nothing to stop Asian carp from traversing run-of-river dams and locks in the Ohio River. Asian carp could conceivably move up the Allegheny to Freeport, PA, and up the Monongahela to Fairmont, WV.

**If you are an individual, please email Mary Hosmer at: [wlahab@windstream.net](mailto:wlahab@windstream.net) with your feedback on these issues.**

**If you are a PFSC affiliated club, please fill out and sign this form, and forward it to your county delegate or a club delegate who will be attending the meeting to cast your vote. Delegates, please bring 2 copies to the meeting.**