



Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen & Conservationists

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On the front lines, so you can be in the woods, on the water or at the range!

January 24, 2021

Executive Director Burhans, Deputy Executive Directors Grohol & Palmer, Commissioners, and Staff:

Thank you for this opportunity to address the agency on behalf of the members of PFSC.

The Federation's membership, officers and staff continue to strongly approve of this Board's commitment to being inclusive and to driving additional opportunity for Pennsylvania's outdoor enthusiasts. Our primary request is that this Board maintain the "resource first" commitment in all decisions and allow the optimization of opportunity whenever possible when the resource can sustain that opportunity.

2020 has been a very challenging and, in many ways, an unpleasant year for many of us. However, our view of 2020 relative to our outdoor heritage and lifestyle is that it was a phenomenal year.

While some of our members continue to feel rushed by the Saturday opener, the majority of our membership reported support for the change and appreciated this 2nd year of that opportunity. And of course, the addition of the Sunday, allowing a full weekend of rifle deer hunting when many of our families are traditionally gathering together, was a tremendously popular addition.

Our members and especially our affiliated state organization – The PA Trappers Association – welcomed the expansion of bobcat and otter opportunity in some WMU's and the increase in beaver harvest limits.

Our members and especially our affiliated state organization – The United Bowhunters of PA – greatly appreciated and participated in the extra time offered to enjoy archery hunting for both deer and bear.

Unfortunately, there was one area where our membership strongly disagreed with a Commission decision. That was in regards to the species permitted to be hunted on those precious Sundays ~~that~~ we were granted by legislation in 2020. Over 90% of our members expressed they wanted full inclusion on those precious Sundays. We are pleased to see the preliminary reports indicating the commissioners are looking to do precisely that in 2021-22. We thank you all for that

PFSC membership is encouraged by the perceived cooperation our state agencies and departments appear to be developing regarding the CWD issue. Our membership surveys have indicated that our membership is concerned with secondary use of our game lands, especially during hunting seasons. We would support legislation that would allow the PGC to distribute antlerless permits via PALS.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and thank you all for serving Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Daub

Executive Director

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