

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GAME AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE

MAIN CAPITOL
EAST WING
ROOM 60
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2010,
10:02 A.M.

BEFORE:

HONORABLE EDWARD STABACK, MAJORITY CHAIRMAN
HONORABLE RONALD MILLER, MINORITY CHAIRMAN
HONORABLE GARY HALUSKA
HONORABLE DEBERAH KULA
HONORABLE DAVID LEVDANSKY
HONORABLE MICHAEL MCGEEHAN
HONORABLE BRYAN CUTLER
HONORABLE KEITH GILLESPIE
HONORABLE MARK KELLER
HONORABLE DAN MOUL
HONORABLE MICHAEL PEIFER
HONORABLE JEFFREY PYLE
HONORABLE TODD ROCK
HONORABLE CURTIS SONNEY

ALSO PRESENT:

HONORABLE ROBERT GODSHALL

HILLARY M. HAZLETT, REPORTER
NOTARY PUBLIC

I N D E X

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

WITNESS

PAGE

Carl G. Roe

3

1 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Now 10:00 a.m. having
2 arrived, we'll go on with the hearing. It is the House
3 Game and Fish Committee.

4 Today, we will take testimony on the annual
5 report from the Pennsylvania Game Commission. That
6 report will be given by Executive Director Carol Roe.

7 After his report, Members will be given an
8 opportunity to ask questions of Director Roe.

9 Before we get further started, I would like the
10 Members to introduce themselves and the areas that we
11 represent starting on my far right.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ROCK: Representative Rock, 90th
13 District, Franklin County.

14 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Jeff Pyle, 60th
15 Legislative District, Armstrong, Indiana, the other side
16 of the glacier.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HALUSKA: Gary Haluska, 73rd
18 District, Cambria County, which just told me has the
19 worst roads.

20 REPRESENTATIVE GODSHALL: Bob Godshall,
21 Montgomery County.

22 REPRESENTATIVE SONNEY: Curtis Sonney, Erie
23 County.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MOUL: Representative Dan Moul
25 from Adams County. We still have three and a half feet

1 of snow.

2 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Good morning.
3 Representative Mark Keller, the 86th District, which is
4 all of Perry County and part of Franklin.

5 SUBCHAIRMAN MILLER: Ron Miller, Republican
6 Chairman of the Committee, York County. We do have lots
7 of snow. We can send to the Olympics, if needed.

8 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Ed Staback, Majority
9 Chairman, the 115th, which encompasses Northern
10 Lackawanna and Southern Wayne County.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MCGEEHAN: Mike McGeehan from
12 Philadelphia.

13 REPRESENTATIVE GILLESPIE: Good morning,
14 everybody, Chairman. Keith Gillespie, 47th District,
15 the eastern part of York County.

16 REPRESENTATIVE CUTLER: Good morning. Bryan
17 Cutler, Southern Lancaster County.

18 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Thank you. I would further
19 add that Representative Godshall is sitting in today's
20 hearing. He is a guest of the Committee for today's
21 hearing.

22 I would like to remind the Members that the
23 study of the White Tail Deer Management Program will be
24 released.

25 Our Committee is scheduled to hold a public

1 hearing on that on March 9th. If there are any Members
2 thinking of asking questions today or related to that
3 study, I would ask that you hold your questions back
4 until the March 9th hearing. That will be the more
5 appropriate time to ask those questions.

6 With that, Carl, you have the floor.

7 MR. ROE: Thank you, Chairman Staback, Chairman
8 Miller, members of the House Game and Fisheries
9 Committee. It is a great pleasure to appear before you
10 today to offer the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Annual
11 Report.

12 Before I get started, I would like to formally
13 welcome Chairman Miller to the Committee and we look
14 forward to working with you in the future to tackle our
15 problems with the wildlife resources.

16 I would also like to introduce our
17 Commissioners that we have with us today, President of
18 the Board, Commissioner James Delaney, Commissioner Dave
19 Schreffer, Commissioner Tom Boop, Commissioner Putnam
20 are here with us, including many staff.

21 If you get to a level of detail beyond what I'm
22 able to answer, we'll bring the staff up here to answer
23 some of those questions for you.

24 This has been another productive year for the
25 Game Commission as we faced many challenges and yet were

1 able to continue to improve some of our programs.

2 We were still not able to do all we would like
3 for the Commonwealth's wildlife or the hunters and
4 trappers due to the lack of resources to accomplish our
5 objectives.

6 As you read through the annual report, you
7 will, again, see that in the program accountability
8 section, we built the report on the strategic plan
9 objectives to give you an idea of how we manage towards
10 the goals and objectives of the strategic plan.

11 Our public accountability section again
12 addresses major program areas. The budget
13 accountability is relatively self-explanatory.

14 In the law enforcement accountability section,
15 we had five formal complaints compared to seven in 2008
16 and ten in 2007. Of the five, one was sustained and was
17 a case of unprofessional demeanor.

18 Overall, our wildlife protection efforts were,
19 again, strong as we increased apprehensions for illegal
20 take of game by 5 percent, hunting over bait by 13
21 percent, hunting or taking game with a motorized vehicle
22 31 percent. Overall, we had 19,172 violations detected
23 with 6,948 citations and 12,224 warnings.

24 Next, I would like to offer some comment in
25 more detail on some of our programs. First, I would

1 like to address some administrative programs that
2 started last year where automation was a significant
3 reason for the improvement in the process.

4 The Pennsylvania Automated License Sales System
5 commenced this past year, and it was an unqualified
6 success.

7 Although there were some agent challenges early
8 in the process, for the most part, it was a great
9 success and was very popular with both the agents and
10 the hunters.

11 Additionally, within the PALs system, we
12 initiated a harvest reporting system over the Internet.
13 We do not know the success of the system at this point
14 or if it has increased the reporting rate, but we did
15 receive many comments on the ease of the system.

16 We did have one complaint from a hunter who was
17 frustrated that the system would not work for him. He
18 stated that he tried to put the antler points in the
19 system and it would not take them.

20 He said he could not report his 18-point buck
21 because he had ten points on one side and we had only
22 single digits for each of the numbers. We have fixed
23 that.

24 Another area where we have used automation to
25 increase information flow is the use of eBird. This is

1 a program where our citizen scientists can provide
2 information on bird counts directly to a database being
3 run by Cornell University.

4 This allows citizens who have an interest in
5 birding and wildlife watching to directly participate
6 into providing important information for those programs.
7 This greatly assists the Christmas Bird Count and the
8 Backyard Bird Count Programs.

9 We now provide both our Hunting Digest and Game
10 News via NXTbook. This is a system that allows you to
11 view both publications in an automated manner and allows
12 for the interaction in many of our pages.

13 As you read the publication on the computer,
14 you actually turn the pages. We provide this service
15 free to all libraries and schools.

16 We believe this was particularly good for
17 schools and allows for multiple students to read the
18 Game News at the same time instead of only one person
19 being able to read the hardcover magazine.

20 We also provided this service to all our land
21 cooperators without charge. It is a very unique system
22 that provides broader service at a minimal cost.

23 We continue to move forward with our wild
24 pheasant reintroduction program that is a result of a
25 great partnership with Pheasants Forever.

1 We are introducing pheasants again this year to
2 our third wild pheasant restoration area in Somerset
3 County.

4 Additionally, we had another area nominated for
5 a pheasant restoration area in the southeast part of the
6 state.

7 Although our pheasant management plan calls for
8 four restoration areas, we believe that with continued
9 success and assistance from Pheasants Forever and local
10 landowners, we can exceed that objective.

11 Another program that we increased this year is
12 our support for the Wounded Warrior Program. These are
13 armed forces service members who want to hunt after
14 spending time in Walter Reed or Bethesda Hospital. They
15 want to come to Pennsylvania to hunt as a way of
16 returning to normalcy.

17 We provided support to several groups this year
18 across the state and are looking forward to keeping this
19 program going and expanding with the support of many
20 sportsmen's organizations.

21 Last year's hunting season was pretty good
22 across the board. We do not have the results of the
23 current deer season, but in 2008-2009 season, we had an
24 estimated deer harvest of 335,850. Our bear kill this
25 past fall was the second largest ever with approximately

1 3,499 deer being taken.

2 This past fall's elk season was an interesting
3 challenge. We had the lowest success rate we ever had
4 during our elk season.

5 We believe this was a result of a healthy mast
6 crop in the area that changed the elk's feeding patterns
7 from their normal grazing habitat.

8 They appeared to be able to stay in the woods
9 and eat acorns instead of coming out into the grazing
10 areas. It was much more difficult to pattern the elk.

11 With that in mind, we had the same concern
12 coming into the deer season. It appeared, because of a
13 large mast crop in many areas, it was more difficult to
14 pattern deer this year as they did not have to move very
15 far to get food. Some basically could move less than
16 100 yards and have plenty of eat from their cover areas.
17 We will see how the harvest was this year and see if our
18 concerns were founded.

19 Over the past few years, we have made a
20 concerted effort to improve the communication about our
21 deer program.

22 As we have for the past three years, we will be
23 offering a series of open houses across the state in all
24 of our regions.

25 All of our deer information and data is

1 available for the public to read and understand on our
2 website.

3 Additionally, we publish the Deer Chronicle
4 twice a year to keep the public updated on our program;
5 and last, but certainly not least, is our Ask the
6 Biologist site where the public can ask our biologists
7 any question they have on their mind.

8 As a result of improved habitat in the northern
9 tier, we have had reports of increase in grouse and
10 snowshoe hare populations. The early successional
11 growth has helped to provide adequate cover for these
12 species.

13 Last year, we also introduced a Snow Goose
14 Conservation hunt that ran from the end of February to
15 the end of March. Hunters can apply for a no-fee permit
16 to take snow geese during this period.

17 Preliminary approval for changes in next year's
18 hunting season includes a youth rabbit hunt for our
19 junior license holders.

20 This year, there will be a major change to our
21 bobcat program. We will move from a lottery system to a
22 short, open season for bobcats.

23 Hunters and trappers with a fur taker license
24 and a \$5 permit will be able to hunt or trap bobcats
25 during that time.

1 We are also initiating a fisher season. Our
2 trappers will be able to trap fisher in a short season
3 in specific wildlife management units.

4 On the legislative front, the primary issue
5 continues to be the license increase. It has been 11
6 years since our last increase.

7 As I always mention, I do not know of any
8 company that is still surviving on a revenue stream
9 based on 1999 values.

10 Certainly, the rest of state government has not
11 been held to those levels. In fact, if our budget would
12 have been allowed to increase at the same rate as the
13 rest of the state, we would have been able to spend
14 \$95.2 million instead of the roughly \$68 million we have
15 spent for the last three years.

16 We have had numerous hearings across the state
17 for the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee and all have
18 been positive.

19 I am sure you have heard the expression that we
20 do not deserve an increase. Some may think that a
21 license increase will increase our pay and that not
22 giving an increase is punishment to us.

23 A license increase does not increase the pay of
24 anyone in the Commission. It does not provide any
25 additional funding to individuals. However, without an

1 increase, it does limit how well we can do wildlife
2 programs for the public.

3 A license increase is about funding the
4 wildlife resources of the Commonwealth. It is about how
5 you want to resource our efforts to take care of
6 wildlife for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

7 In addition to no increase in revenues, we were
8 also hampered to perform our mission by the hiring
9 freeze and other actions.

10 We were not allowed to hire key personnel that
11 we needed to address critical problems. Examples of
12 that was not hiring members of our forest inventory team
13 and delaying the hiring of our one geologist that does
14 our oil, gas, and mineral activities.

15 What was difficult to understand was that our
16 budget was approved, and we had monies to hire these
17 important positions.

18 It was very frustrating and the reality is,
19 since we have a separate special fund, it did not affect
20 the bottom line of the general fund budget at all.

21 We were also not allowed to purchase
22 much-needed vehicles last year; and so far this year, we
23 have not been able to purchase vehicles again even
24 though they are in the budget and approved.

25 This just complicates matters as we are

1 delaying needed infrastructure issues that will come due
2 in the future.

3 There is another legislative issue that we
4 would like to see and that is that owners of oil, gas,
5 and mineral rights must notify the surface owner of any
6 pending sale or transfer of those rights.

7 This would preclude a lot of confusion on both
8 public and private lands. We have had several instances
9 where owners of subsurface rights on game lands have
10 sold or moved those rights without us knowing it and we
11 would obviously have liked to have had the opportunity
12 to gain those rights to protect the game lands. The
13 most obvious of these types of subsurface sales occur
14 through the county tax sales.

15 Since we are rapidly approaching the end of the
16 session, we do not anticipate much legislative activity,
17 as I am sure that the general state budget will be the
18 primary focus of the body.

19 However, we do want to thank the Committee and
20 Representative Staback for their strong support of House
21 Bill 1859, more commonly known as the Poaching Bill or
22 Increased Penalty Bill.

23 It is an important piece of legislation that
24 will certainly assist in reducing the illegal take of
25 wildlife.

1 We would also like to thank Representative
2 Cutler for his piece of legislation that improves the
3 understanding of the authority of our wildlife
4 conservation officers and their wildlife protection
5 activities.

6 I am sure there will be questions on Marcellus
7 shale, so I will quickly address the subject.

8 During Fiscal Year 2008, the Commission
9 approved three oil/gas leases within the Marcellus shale
10 development areas of the Commonwealth.

11 These leases totaled 2,693 acres and were worth
12 an average up-front payment of \$907 per acre in the
13 Commission, constituting an additional 10 acres of state
14 game lands acquisition as well as revenues to the game
15 fund. The average royalty per acre of these leases was
16 23.08 percent.

17 During the Fiscal Year 2008, there were no
18 Marcellus wells drilled on any of these leases, but
19 there were four wells planned for drilling during this
20 Fiscal Year.

21 On all other currently active leases on game
22 lands, there were two Marcellus wells commenced and
23 placed into production in 2008.

24 The Commission received a total of \$113,336
25 royalty revenues during Fiscal Year 2008 from Marcellus

1 gas production with the average approximate well
2 production being only 250,000 cubic feet per day rather
3 than the perceived or expressed possibility of 2,000,000
4 3,000,000 cubic feet per day's production.

5 Unfortunately, there have also been two
6 separate environmental degradation incidents which
7 occurred during these wells development causing the need
8 for increased Commission coordination and oversight
9 management scrutiny.

10 We believe we have had a very positive year in
11 the Game Commission. There were many things in our
12 strategic plan that we could not accomplish due to
13 resource constraints, but we did continue to get a lot
14 of things done.

15 We have updated our strategic plan, and that
16 document will drive our programs and the objectives we
17 want to accomplish for the next five years.

18 We continue to update our species management
19 plans that will assist in our integrated state game
20 lands plans.

21 We know what we need to do to improve
22 conditions for wildlife and in turn provide great
23 opportunities for our hunters and trappers.

24 We want to do more. This is not a matter of
25 will, but a matter of resources available to get the job

1 done.

2 We are looking forward to a bright future for
3 the wildlife resources of the Commonwealth; and with
4 your assistance, we can do more.

5 I thank you for your attention, and I will be
6 glad to answer any questions you might have.

7 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Carl, thank you for that
8 presentation. As always, you hit on a number of topics
9 that are of concern to all of us here and to hundreds of
10 thousands of sportsmen across the Commonwealth.

11 For the most part, you did so using straight
12 talking. I appreciate that. I'm sure the Members of
13 the Committee appreciate that as well.

14 Before I start the first round of questioning,
15 I do want to take a moment to draw special attention to
16 the exceptional cooperation that I received from a
17 couple of your staff during the course of the year when
18 we were putting together House Bill 1859, the Penalties
19 and Poaching Bills.

20 Director Richard Palmer and your legislative
21 liaison, Steven Smith, were both good partners in
22 working with my ideas along with the suggestion of the
23 Members of this Committee from both sides of the aisle.

24 It was a pleasure to work with both of them and
25 I certainly believe that both are an asset to your

1 agency.

2 As you know, the Bill that was passed in the
3 House will treat poachers in a different way than they
4 have been treated in the past. I look forward to the
5 Senate passing that Bill in the near future.

6 I'm going to start the questioning today and
7 then open the floor for the Members. We will have as
8 many rounds as necessary to respond to concerns that all
9 of the Members may have.

10 Before we start, I would like to acknowledge
11 the presence of two more of our Members in the likes of
12 Representative Kula and Representative Peifer.

13 Carl, last year in this report, you and I had
14 an extended conversation regarding the mineral rights on
15 the state game lands.

16 I was concerned about the overall number of
17 acres of game lands that we actually had mineral rights
18 to.

19 At that point in time, you were unable to
20 respond to that question, indicating you were in the
21 process of trying to make that determination.

22 Now a year has gone by and I'm wondering, has
23 that study been completed and are you in a better
24 position today than you were last year to respond to
25 that question, which is simply, how many acres of game

1 lands do we have where we actually have the mineral
2 rights to?

3 MR. ROE: We have made marginal progress at
4 best. As I mentioned earlier, it took us a whole year
5 to be able to hire the geologist for our oil/gas/mineral
6 section to be a primary actor in that.

7 But above and beyond that, what we were able to
8 do was hire a limited-term attorney to help us to do the
9 deed research in the area of Marcellus shale. She is up
10 in the northeast part of the state working on those
11 issues right now.

12 We also developed a Request for Proposal to
13 further alternate our real estate data -- there is not
14 even a database for real estate. It is just on paper
15 right now.

16 We put together the requirements for that. We
17 think that may cost us between 1 million and 1.25
18 million fully for that process.

19 In other words, putting reams and reams and
20 reams of paper into a database that will be available in
21 the system.

22 We are moving forward with that slowly,
23 obviously, driven by resources available. Again, the
24 hiring freeze hurt us in many areas. That was one of
25 the areas that hurt us.

1 We are focusing right now in that area where we
2 know there is activity. It, we know in the northeast
3 part of the state, as you know, spreads all the way back
4 to the west part of the state with Marcellus shale. So
5 marginal increase at best, no major leaps.

6 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. So we're still -- I
7 won't say no further ahead. You made some progress, but
8 we still don't know for sure the total number of acres
9 that we have that we have the mineral rights to?

10 MR. ROE: That is correct. Our approach has
11 been when there is activity around game lands, we do the
12 research on that specific game land to find out what we
13 own in that immediate area. It is driven by resources
14 and people that are available to get the job done.

15 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Of the number of acres that
16 we do now know we have the mineral rights to, how many
17 of those acres are under contract?

18 MR. ROE: I would have to go back. That would
19 be by game lands by game lands. We can get that for
20 you. We'll get that for you.

21 CHAIRMAN STABACK: While you're dealing with
22 that, will you determine how many more acres you are
23 anticipating putting under contract in the near future?

24 MR. ROE: We'll put together what we have in
25 play for this year, most certainly.

1 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Can you tell the
2 Committee just how much revenue are you generating from
3 Marcellus shale leases right now overall?

4 MR. ROE: As I have gotten older, I have more
5 notes in my smart book. Let me look real quickly here.
6 Last year -- basically, I can give you the total for oil
7 and gas.

8 Oil and gas came to, on royalties was, I
9 believe -- oil and gas, rental and royalties was a
10 little over five million dollars for oil and gas this
11 year.

12 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Five million?

13 MR. ROE: Yes. That is -- for the rental rate
14 was 2.8 million and royalties were 2.2 million. That is
15 total. That is previous shallow wells and new deeper
16 wells, which we have two of them.

17 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. When you report back
18 to the Committee regarding the number of acres yet that
19 you plan on putting under contract with various
20 drillers, can you also give us the estimated revenue
21 which you hope to generate?

22 MR. ROE: That would be very, very difficult.
23 As you know, the Legislative Budget and Finance
24 Committee just did a study on oil/gas/mineral. It is
25 almost impossible to project revenue in the out years.

1 As an example, 18 months ago, 1,000 cubic feet
2 of natural gas was selling for \$16. This year, it is
3 \$4. If we would have projected \$16 in the out years,
4 that would be 300 percent more than what we were getting
5 today. In reality, it is a fluctuating market.

6 They came to the conclusion, you can not
7 project that. That report will be released this
8 afternoon also.

9 CHAIRMAN STABACK: I think I would be more
10 concerned at that point in time with the amount of
11 dollars you're going to generate from the actual leasing
12 on the property.

13 MR. ROE: Okay. Again, that is -- I mean, we
14 benefit from that; but it is really given as
15 problematic.

16 I know one of our game lands in the northeast
17 we just looked at, we have 34 percent of the minimal
18 rights on it.

19 The question becomes that, leasing efforts, the
20 more acres you can lease in a particular area, the
21 better leasing rate you are going to get.

22 In that case, we may have to go to a
23 unitization process as opposed to a straight leasing
24 process of drilling wells on game lands.

25 In other words, the other 66 percent is leased

1 to somebody else and they drill under our game lands and
2 they don't -- it is a difficult process, but we'll put
3 together a package for you and explain exactly where we
4 are.

5 That five million dollars did not even make up
6 the short fall in our timber revenue from last year. As
7 you know, the timber market is way down across the
8 board.

9 We only brought in 5.7 million dollars of the
10 12 million dollars anticipated in timber. That
11 oil/gas/minerals are barely making up the difference in
12 our timber revenue shortfalls.

13 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Tell me, how is your court
14 case going on Game Lands 57 up in the Wyoming County
15 area regarding ownership of the mineral rights? How
16 many acres are we talking about?

17 MR. ROE: It is either 11,000 or 17,000. Where
18 is Steve? It is around 12,000 acres. I believe there
19 is a hearing this month on that.

20 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Okay. Okay. I have
21 one more and then we're going to open it up.

22 In your opening remarks, Carl, you mentioned
23 four proposed wildlife management areas that now have a
24 split doe hunting season.

25 You and I spoke recently during which I told

1 you my strong support for that proposal. That proposal,
2 I think, is a giant step in the right direction in the
3 eyes of a good many sports groups.

4 It shows the type of flexibility that I think
5 has been missing in the last several years from the
6 Board of Commissioners.

7 I'm wondering, what feedback have you received
8 since the January meeting regarding that division?

9 MR. ROE: In fact, very little. I'm a gluten
10 for punishment, so I spent four days at the Eastern
11 Sports Show.

12 If you want to hear the comments across the
13 board, you get a wide range of them there. There were
14 three or four people that hunt in those wildlife
15 managements that were positive.

16 Generally, there wasn't much said at the sports
17 show. I know the Commissioners received some positive
18 calls in general for those four WMUs, that we will have
19 buck only first five days and antlers only for Saturday
20 to Saturday. I know they have got some positive phone
21 calls.

22 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Was there any consideration
23 given or are you thinking of giving any consideration
24 down the road to the possibility of opening up that
25 second week of doe hunting on the second Monday rather

1 than the first Saturday of that two-week season?

2 So many sportsman that I have talked to have
3 suggested that, simply because of the fact that in their
4 view, that would be like the beginning of a second
5 hunting season for them.

6 As the three-day season, years ago, when we
7 went through the first three weeks of the buck season
8 and then the bow season opened up, the supporting
9 community always viewed that as a new hunting season, if
10 you will.

11 I think if we gave consideration to opening up
12 that split season on Monday rather than the first
13 Saturday, you will go a long way in the lines of
14 supporting the community of referencing that as a new
15 season, if you will.

16 CHAIRMAN STABACK: I would say that that would
17 be problematic in a couple of areas. One is we take
18 most of our deer on the first Monday and the two
19 Saturdays.

20 You also, from our youth hunting point of view,
21 some areas still give Monday off for hunting season.
22 They get one day of buck in. They may not get out for
23 the antler season until the second Saturday.

24 If you take that Saturday out , it really
25 eliminates the possibility of the youth participating,

1 for all intents and purposes. That would be an area of
2 concern that I would have.

3 The other challenge is we are doing a study to
4 see what the antlers harvest is in that five-day buck
5 only season followed by a six-day season.

6 Again, we do not know what the impact would be
7 on the antlers taken by shifting that season. That was
8 the purpose of the study designed as it is now and then
9 keeping those changes and those other four wildlife
10 consistent with the study that we are doing. So we will
11 have a good idea on what it may be.

12 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Thank you, Carl.

13 Representative Miller?

14 SUBCHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 Carl, in your testimony, you referenced two
16 incidents, separate environmental degradation incidents
17 in the Marcellus shale drilling.

18 And in your statement, you say that that caused
19 the need for increased Commission coordination oversight
20 management scrutiny.

21 First of all, also, before that, you said there
22 were only two wells drilled in 2008. Are these the same
23 two situations?

24 And then as a follow-up to that is, how does
25 the Commission become more involved? Does DEP not have

1 that role? How does that require the Commission to be
2 involved more?

3 MR. ROE: We would rather be very proactive in
4 the supervision of game lands, to be very frank with
5 you.

6 Although we have great cooperation and have
7 good partnerships with a lot of gas companies, if you
8 are not out there looking, things seem to happen.

9 In this case, the two incidents were, they were
10 drilling and they cracked an underwater water supply
11 that affected a hatchery downstream. They had to stop
12 drilling. They had to reseal that frapping area before
13 they continued on.

14 They second issues was they put a pipeline
15 under a stream and the sedimentation to set that pipe
16 leached out and rolled downstream also.

17 If you are there watching, you can probably
18 preclude some of those things from happening as opposed
19 to fixing them after the fact, which, in general has
20 been the case. I would offer, in DEP as being
21 reactionary to a problem as opposed to precluding one.
22 We would like to be there to preclude it from happening.

23 SUBCHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you. One last
24 question from me, if I might, for this round. As far as
25 the pheasant reintroduction, I remember fondly hunting

1 pheasants in York County in my younger days. It is very
2 hard to find any pheasants these days.

3 I might have mentioned to you, I had the
4 opportunity this past fall to see the first bobcat on my
5 property in York County.

6 What is the impact of pheasant population that
7 you are seeing from coyotes to other predators? It
8 seems to me that we are sort of fighting a losing battle
9 in some ways. It is just nature. Could you comment on
10 it and where we are headed?

11 MR. ROE: Well, it is nature with man's
12 intervention, unfortunately. That usually always
13 complicates some problems for nature.

14 We are very careful about where we are
15 reintroducing pheasant. We want to make sure we have a
16 sufficient habitat. You have sufficient cover and
17 enough food there that those pheasants will survive okay
18 even in an area where there is predation, including
19 avian predation, which is probably a bigger threat.

20 In the end, if you have good food and cover,
21 those pheasants will survive. In a wildlife
22 preservation area, we are looking for 15 to 20,000 acres
23 of good pheasant habitat before we will reintroduce.

24 The Central Susquehanna has almost 100,000
25 acres up there. We are really excited about that. I

1 know our initial flushing counts this year were very
2 good.

3 Hopefully, this snow doesn't knock down things
4 in the spring. We look for a good habitat first, and
5 then if we have good habitat, we will reintroduce
6 pheasants see if we can make it and take off.

7 Again, we have no hunting for almost six years
8 and that would give a chance for good natural
9 populations to get started.

10 If the habitat is there and they have good
11 cover, the birds will survive, just like they did many,
12 many years ago. Although, they did have a different
13 attitude toward their avian predators.

14 SUBCHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Cutler?

16 REPRESENTATIVE CUTLER: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

17 I just wanted to briefly echo the Chairman's
18 comments earlier in regard to the assistance of the Game
19 Commission and working on House Bill 1881. I
20 appreciated the work of Steve Smith and others. They
21 have been great to work with.

22 I wanted to say that publicly. It was not an
23 easy process shepherding that through Committee and over
24 in the Senate. You certainly were helpful along the
25 way, as needed, and willing to look at all of the

1 information we brought forward to reach a good
2 compromise, and I appreciate that.

3 MR. ROE: Thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE CUTLER: In regards to the
5 fishers, I shared with Representative Gillespie a
6 littler earlier, I for the first time saw two while I
7 was out hunting, in two different areas, which kind of
8 surprised me.

9 Is there, other than probably the nature reason
10 that you alluded to and the intervention of manhood,
11 what is the reason? It had been several years since
12 I've seen fishers in the wild.

13 MR. ROE: As you know, we had a reintroduction
14 program in the northcentral/northeastern part of the
15 state two years ago and southwestern part of the state,
16 where we have the largest population that basically
17 didn't migrate up.

18 We have done a study over the last three years
19 on populations of the fisher. As I mentioned, we will
20 start off with a very conservative season of fishers. I
21 think it is four wildlife management units. As that
22 population expands, we'll expand that opportunity for
23 our trappers.

24 They are a great animal to watch in the woods,
25 but they are also a tremendous predator. We do have

1 some concerns about that. It creates another
2 opportunity for us.

3 REPRESENTATIVE CUTLER: Thank you. And then
4 the other question is, as I shared previously, I've been
5 up in Potter County. I know up there we had horrible
6 weather the last two cycles for the first day of
7 hunting. Generally rain, snow. While I like to hunt in
8 snow, not necessarily when it is actively snowing, which
9 has impacted the season up there.

10 What impact have you noticed across the
11 northern tier or other areas where the weather has
12 impacted the hunting season, and unfortunately, the
13 success rate for hunters?

14 MR. ROE: Yeah. We haven't got the harvest
15 data for this year yet. I know last year, it knocked
16 the harvest down quite a bit on that first day.

17 We didn't fully recover. We usually recover on
18 the next two Saturdays, for the most part. We didn't
19 really recover to the total amount we anticipated
20 getting on that day.

21 REPRESENTATIVE CUTLER: I will note that we did
22 get three deer for nine guys, which was an improvement
23 over prior years. Unfortunately, I wasn't one of those
24 three, but so be it.

25 Thank you Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Pyle?

2 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
3 My question is going to echo that of Chairman Miller
4 here.

5 The Pheasants Forever Program, I know in my
6 area, Armstrong, I know there are quite a few commercial
7 bird farms that are supplying the Game Commission.

8 I just spoke about this with one of my PFSC
9 guys the other day what would it take for us to
10 establish a Pheasants Forever Chapter in Armstrong or
11 even the Westmoreland Butler area as we do have all of
12 these farms, which is something we can talk about later.

13 Sort of to echo what Representative Cutler
14 mentioned earlier, I wanted to pay -- Chairman, a little
15 latitude here. I specifically want to tip your hat to
16 Bill Capouillez.

17 We had an issue with some resource management
18 people and US Fish and Boat Commission, which
19 Mr. Capouillez was key to solving problems. I want to
20 compliment you for hiring him and compliments to him as
21 well.

22 MR. ROE: Thank you. It is always good to lead
23 a good team, if you have a good team. I think we put
24 together a pretty good team.

25 In addition to the Pheasants Forever, we are

1 sensitive that there are a lot of propagators and
2 promulgators out there. We hope to have good success in
3 the restoration areas, but it will still be a great pick
4 and take operation out there, particularly in the
5 northern part of the state because pheasants won't have
6 a large range opportunity to survive there.

7 We address natural areas and put and take
8 areas. As for as raising birds and populating birds,
9 that is not going to impact the industry at all.

10 REPRESENTATIVE PYLE: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Haluska?

12 REPRESENTATIVE HALUSKA: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman.

14 Carl, I just want to thank the Commissioners
15 that are here, obviously, the ones that aren't, for
16 adding those two management units to the limited bow
17 season.

18 I think that really puts a step forward in our
19 area. I really think with the bow season the way it is
20 now, the extended bow season, there are a lot of deer
21 taken in bow season that the rifle hunters don't get to
22 see. They are not seeing the numbers that used to be
23 there, and that is probably one of the problems.

24 Just to touch on something we talked about last
25 year, since we have the PAL system now, has the

1 Commission talked at all about updating the way we get
2 our antler permits?

3 It is such an antiquated area to send in all of
4 those envelopes. We talked last year about getting a
5 lottery system similar to what you do with elk permits
6 and bobcat, that you go to the automated system and you
7 give them one, two, or three management systems that you
8 would like to participate in. Has the Commission talked
9 about that?

10 MR. ROE: We talk about it all of the time. As
11 you know, it is in the statute that requires the county
12 to be sole sellers of the antlers license.

13 We can build a system. In fact, in the first
14 analysis, we talked about a lottery, but there would
15 only be three or four that are even required to be a
16 lottery system. Those would be the ones that sell out
17 in the first, two, or three weeks.

18 Basically, you almost get your first choice of
19 your wildlife management, if it is not 2G, 2F, and 1A, I
20 think it is, and one other one.

21 We will have a lottery and everybody would get
22 their first choice during the first round. So yes, we
23 are looking at it. We are putting together a system
24 requiring us to do that; but again, the law would have
25 to change that to allow all other vendors, not just the

1 County Treasurer.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HALUSKA: And I talked to my
3 County Treasurer. She is a little upset. I said, Barb,
4 you can be in the system, you know, it is just to the
5 point where it is so antiquated now with this new
6 system. We definitely have to open it up. I would be
7 in favor of voting for a piece of legislation. Thank
8 you, Carl.

9 MR. ROE: A system will certainly -- you can
10 get your antler license when you get your general
11 hunting license. The system capability is there.

12 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Moul?

13 REPRESENTATIVE MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 I can attest that you were working very hard
15 fielding the tough questions out there the other day at
16 the Sportsman Show. How many WCOs are we short right
17 now?

18 MR. ROE: I believe that number is 25. It is
19 23 districts and 2 in our special investigations.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MOUL: Is it because of funding
21 or the hiring increase?

22 MR. ROE: We moved the class another year for
23 funding purposes. We are going to start the class in
24 March.

25 As we did the last time, we will figure out a

1 way to pay for that. We have 98 vacancies right now and
2 that includes the WCOs. So we will hold some more
3 vacancies open to pay for that program.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MOUL: Okay. Switching gears, I
5 know we are trying to introduce pheasants back into
6 Pennsylvania. I fully don't expect them to be where
7 they were when I was a kid.

8 Hawks are making a big comeback, especially in
9 my area. We used to have a rabbit population that was
10 actually getting out of control. I was grateful to see
11 the hawks come in and control that for us.

12 What is that going to do to possibly
13 reintroducing pheasants in our area?

14 MR. ROE: Obviously, predation is a concern.
15 Again, if you have a good habitat, you will have a good
16 natural population in that area. Habitat is the key.

17 As we all know, 40, 50 years ago where you had
18 fenced rows and you had corn left in the field, you go
19 through what I call clean farming now where corn is
20 nubbed off at 3 inches above the stalk. There is no
21 food and no cover. It would be great habitat for
22 pheasants out there in small areas if we could have a
23 native population going in.

24 REPRESENTATIVE MOUL: You think the two could
25 survive together?

1 MR. ROE: There is no doubt that the predation
2 will be a challenge for that.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MOUL: Understood. One last
4 thing, Sunday hunting on private land. I know it is a
5 touchy subject. Any thoughts on it?

6 MR. ROE: My thoughts are when you all change
7 the law, we will certainly react to that. It is in your
8 hands right now.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MOUL: Just wanted to know where
10 you were with that.

11 MR. ROE: We took it as increasing
12 opportunities for people to come in, but I can't speak
13 for the Board, but we would certainly like the
14 opportunity to address that issue.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MOUL: Thank you very much. I
16 appreciate it.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Carl, I followed a
19 discussion on the Commission's headquarters regarding
20 the impact of predators on the fawn deer population.

21 During Mr. Rosenberg's presentation, he seemed
22 to say that the coyote population we have in the
23 Commonwealth is not really having much of an impact on
24 the deer population.

25 Did I hear that right? Because back in the

1 northeast, in fact, the entire Commonwealth, there are
2 any number of hunters who are saying that the coyote
3 population is certainly on the rise. The deer
4 population is on the downturn. They're making a
5 one-to-one correlation.

6 Now, in my view, common sense would dictate
7 that because the population is as great as it is across
8 the state, coyotes that is, that they absolutely are
9 having an impact, an adverse impact on at least the fawn
10 population. Could you comment on that?

11 MR. ROE: It is a very complicated issue. In
12 some areas, coyotes are increasing. In some areas,
13 coyotes are decreasing.

14 If there was increased predation on fawns, we
15 would see a difference in the population to fawn to doe
16 ratio.

17 So far, there has not been a significant change
18 in the ratio, which would indicate increased predation.
19 As we build that population model, we build that as a
20 prehunt population, which includes all predation,
21 roadkill, and any other mortality that could be there.

22 To date, we would see the fawn numbers going
23 down in relation to the doe. To date, we haven't seen
24 significant change in that.

25 Two years ago we took -- I'm giving big numbers

1 here. There was 28,000 coyotes two years ago and last
2 year, we took about 23,000 coyotes in hunting and
3 trapping.

4 If the effort was the same, that would indicate
5 that there were fewer out there than the previous year.
6 We have not seen predation as an indicator in the
7 population changes.

8 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Where are you doing those
9 studies? Are they done across the entire Commonwealth
10 or are they specific to an area?

11 MR. ROE: It is part of the population model
12 that we do every year as a result of the hardest data
13 and using the 6-H kill model that we use in Pennsylvania
14 to determine a prehunt population.

15 We do that by wildlife management. Some
16 wildlife management may have a greater impact than
17 others.

18 In reality, across the state, we have not seen
19 predation as a determining factor on any change on the
20 fawn population.

21 CHAIRMAN STABACK: I didn't quite follow you on
22 that.

23 MR. ROE: Okay.

24 CHAIRMAN STABACK: What I am interested in
25 knowing is, are you doing a specific study on fawn

1 mortality?

2 MR. ROE: No. We did a fawn mortality study in
3 2001 and 2002. So the question becomes -- one of the
4 things -- I know the Commissioners had asked that same
5 question and we have sufficient resources that we had
6 done this current study that we are doing, maybe we will
7 go back and look at the fawn study for a couple more
8 years.

9 Right now, the resources are driving towards
10 that study that we are doing on the one week antler,
11 second week concurrent season and because of the
12 resources that he have, that is what we can do for deer
13 right now.

14 CHAIRMAN STABACK: If you had more resources,
15 we could figure on you doing specific fawn mortality?

16 MR. ROE: We could reconfigure the fawn
17 mortality studies in 2001 -- 2000-2001 or 2001-2002.
18 I'm sorry. I'm not sure. I wasn't there.

19 We have data. It is not showing up in our
20 population numbers as compared to the studies done in
21 Georgia. They had a declining fawn population in their
22 population model.

23 Others had a shift in the change of doe to fawn
24 population model that showed where mortality was
25 increasing there. Across the board, we just don't see

1 that yet in Pennsylvania.

2 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Tell me. Several years ago,
3 we had an opportunity to quiz Vernon Russ, who was the
4 director at that point in time regarding the same issue.

5 He told us -- he told us that the Commission at
6 that time was in the process of looking to hire six
7 biologists, one for each of the six regions.

8 His primary duty -- one of his primary duties
9 was supposed to be studying the impact that coyotes were
10 having in the region on the whitetail deer. Whatever
11 happened to that idea? Because that never occurred.

12 MR. ROE: It didn't occur. We did hire a
13 regional biologist for species of special concern in
14 every region. That study was never part of their duties
15 at this point in time.

16 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Godshall?

17 REPRESENTATIVE GODSHALL: Just a couple of
18 observations and some comments. Good morning, Carl. I
19 really appreciate you being here.

20 I do agree with the license proposal that I
21 would be very happy to cosponsor a bill to get rid of
22 the antiquated system that we have, because that was
23 something that should have been done away with.

24 The limited bow season is a little more
25 limited. It is definitely a step in the right

1 direction. It is known as far as I would like to have
2 seen it, especially up in 3-A where I am, above
3 Mansfield where your Game Land 47 is, I don't seem to
4 have a lot of deer on my property or the game lands.

5 On the coyote issue, we were up above Marshalls
6 Creek. They don't have the snow up there. My grandson
7 and another one of the people that was in our party took
8 -- they seen four coyotes going on Route 402 above
9 Marshalls Creek.

10 They saw four -- they traveled four miles and
11 they saw four coyotes. I think they are doing a lot
12 more damage. They have to eat. There are not a lot out
13 there to eat except deer. That is something that is in
14 serious consideration.

15 Carl, I wanted to ask you on your Marcellus
16 wells that you were talking about, do you share those
17 royalties with somebody else?

18 I mean, are you -- is that the full royalty
19 that -- you know, is there a pooling concept that the
20 companies use with 640 acres? Are you sharing the full
21 amount of that lease?

22 MR. ROE: Where we own the rights and we drill
23 on our area, we own our rights and we get the royalty.
24 Then there is the unionization process that you are
25 describing where you share the value of a part that has

1 already been leased.

2 If you want a lot more information, I can get
3 Bill Capouillez up here and explain it to you. What you
4 described is the unionization process where you share
5 that royalty rate where someone who is next to or near
6 the game lands because they own the mineral rights.

7 Where we drill our well on our land, that is going to be
8 --

9 REPRESENTATIVE GODSHALL: You are getting the
10 full royalties, which is a lot less than what a lot of
11 the companies are mentioning that you should be getting
12 from those wells?

13 MR. ROE: No. In fact, royalty rates, we are
14 well above most companies.

15 REPRESENTATIVE GODSHALL: In the amount of
16 dollars -- the input you say is 250 million cubic feet
17 per day is lower than what a lot of the companies are
18 professing that they are getting from their wells?

19 MR. ROE: Well, that is a production rate.
20 That is not a royalty rate.

21 REPRESENTATIVE GODSHALL: Right. But the
22 royalty relates to the production?

23 MR. ROE: Well, yeah. The more production you
24 have, the higher the royalty. That is why we go for
25 higher royalty rates. That is the difference between us

1 and DCNR.

2 REPRESENTATIVE GODSHALL: Where are those two
3 wells located, Carl?

4 MR. ROE: Game Lands 100 and --

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We own the oil and gas on
6 both of those wells.

7 REPRESENTATIVE GODSHALL: You don't share with
8 anybody else?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: That is full compensation.
10 And with regard to what you are seeing for 250 MCF, you
11 hear projections of 200,000 and 300,000 MCF on some
12 wells. Those are high-producing wells.

13 I'm going to tell you there were wells that
14 were abandoned after nine million dollars worth of
15 effort put into it because they didn't produce hardly
16 anything.

17 That is part of the pitch back that we
18 constantly have to go through, that we are not expecting
19 nor are we seeing 2 and 3,000 MCF wells. Although they
20 are out there, we don't have them.

21 REPRESENTATIVE GODSHALL: Where are those two
22 wells? Game Lands 100 doesn't mean anything to me.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Center Clearfield County in
24 the area north of Snowshoe.

25 REPRESENTATIVE GODSHALL: Okay.

1 MR. ROE: That is what I was going to say.
2 Again, the difference in our approach and DCNR, I
3 believe they buy out trying to maximize rentals. We do
4 a fixed rental rate to maximize royalties because one
5 good year in royalties will make up more of a difference
6 than the --

7 REPRESENTATIVE GODSHALL: I'm not arguing with
8 you on that. The only thing I looked at was the 250
9 million cubic feet per day, which is lower than what was
10 projected. That is what I was wondering, you know,
11 where these wells were and I thought maybe you were
12 sharing that royalty with somebody else.

13 MR. ROE: No. Those wells I described, we own
14 the full royalty on those. It is a production issue.
15 We don't control that.

16 REPRESENTATIVE GODSHALL: I understand that.
17 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 Don't forget next year, 3A, if you want to cut
19 back -- I could use a few more deer.

20 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Sonney?

21 REPRESENTATIVE SONNEY: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman. I wonder if you could touch on where we
23 are on sales, and also, second part of my question is
24 going to deal with the condition of the state game
25 lands.

1 We all heard we needed to reduce the deer herd
2 because the state game lands -- Pennsylvania, in
3 general, is being decimated. Are we seeing a
4 rejuvenation in those forests? The deer herd has been
5 knocked down. I'm just curious to hear what the shape
6 of the forests are.

7 MR. ROE: First of all, sales for our general
8 hunting license are up 1 percent. This year they are up
9 4 percent. For at least the near term, we have reduced
10 that downward trend as far as general hunting licenses
11 are concerned.

12 Hopefully, we can continue that trend. As far
13 as regeneration is concerned, we do see regeneration in
14 a lot of the areas that I described earlier, the
15 northern tier, snowshoe hare and grouse because we are
16 able to provide that protection.

17 On game lands, if we think we need to fence, we
18 fence. For the simple reason, our goal is to optimize
19 game on state game lands. That is the purpose of game
20 lands. If we have to fence to ensure regeneration, we
21 do.

22 The challenge we have on game lands is keeping
23 deer on game lands. As you know, it gets hunted much
24 heavier than private land does.

25 On 1,000 acres, I get two good weekends of

1 archery season in. The small game comes in, the deer is
2 done until the late season, late archery and
3 muzzleloader hunters out there.

4 We do need to work with DCNR, how they are
5 using D Map. We are working with them to come to a
6 better understanding of the use of D Map and plan cuts
7 for them. I know Chris Rosenberg met with them and how
8 D Map is being used on state forest.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SONNEY: Do you think the
10 reduction in sale of timber, because that plays such an
11 important part of the regeneration also and the type of
12 cover for especially small games, is that going to have
13 an effect?

14 MR. ROE: Since I have been the Executive
15 Director, I want acres of production. I can't control
16 the revenues coming in. We have a production goal not a
17 monetary goal.

18 We are trying to get between 6,500 and 7,000
19 acres of trees by forest operations every year on game
20 lands. If we get 5 million dollars for that or 12
21 million dollars for that, that is up to the market.

22 Around 10 percent of our game lands is early
23 succession. We need to get about 20 percent early
24 succession for a variety of succession plus the current
25 rate for more cover for other species. So my goal has

1 always been an acreage goal not a monetary goal.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SONNEY: Thank you, Mr.
3 Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Carl, I had an inquiry from
5 a non-Member on our Committee that I promised to bring
6 to your attention at this meeting for a response.

7 Over the years that there has been a
8 restriction in effect, there has been a cry from our
9 senior citizens about the inability to count points on
10 moving deer, along with the difficulty in identifying.
11 Another argument that is sometimes used is the fact that
12 they have been purchasing a Pennsylvania hunting license
13 for decades and decades and they deserve a break from
14 this three- or four-point restriction.

15 Now, what is the sense to older hunters that
16 bring this up? Has the Commission ever given any
17 thought to lifting the point restriction for people over
18 a certain age; 70, 75, 80, 105, whatever?

19 MR. ROE: Well, we would certainly consider the
20 105 mark. In reality, we get that -- we get quite a few
21 notes and letters from our senior hunters.

22 To date, we haven't looked at that very hard
23 because our senior hunters have to approach 70, 80,000
24 plus senior hunters out there. That could have a major
25 impact on how we do our population models and harvest.

1 So from a standpoint of view, we haven't looked at that
2 as being an area where we want to go to.

3 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Peifer?

4 REPRESENTATIVE PEIFER: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman.

6 Thank you, Carl. I got a lot of comments,
7 positive comments about your youth mentor hunters.
8 Having families being able to take children out in the
9 woods at an early age really seems to work.

10 It jogs their interest and there are so many
11 competing forces for children. I have heard a lot about
12 that.

13 I know the rabbit hunt we talked about that,
14 adding that a week early. I am a real strong supporter
15 of that.

16 Rabbit season is a time of year where it is
17 good weather and a lot of actions of being still and
18 watching that. Rabbits coming around are very important
19 for children of that age. I would like to applaud those
20 efforts.

21 The outreach in the hunter education programs
22 have been very good. We had a nuisance bear that was
23 caught. The children got to see that bear and got to
24 see it being tagged. It was really a great program and
25 I thank your conservation office for that.

1 In addition, I had been walking along the
2 street and a conservation officer came up to me and said
3 they had a mistake kill in the back of their truck. It
4 had already been brought to your headquarters. They
5 were looking for a family where they could give that
6 deer, and I thought that was a good program.

7 There is no sense in the way the economy is
8 today to waste good meat. I was able to write down the
9 name of a friend in my cell phone and gave them that
10 number. I still get thank-yous from that family. We
11 appreciate having that gentleman bring the mistake deer
12 over. It helped feed the family.

13 Those are the things that I like to see,
14 practice kindness goes along way. I think you need to
15 be applauded and hear that.

16 The only negatives I have are, please, always
17 goes back to my bear season. Just leave that bear
18 season alone. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday is a beautiful
19 thing.

20 Opening it up on Saturday and hunting Monday
21 and Tuesday and closing before Thanksgiving, I really
22 don't believe in it.

23 I got a lot of negative feedback with that.
24 Wednesday is the day before Thanksgiving, most kids
25 aren't in school that day.

1 The way we hunt bear in Pike County crawling
2 through swamps isn't something you want to take a child
3 through anyway. Thank you.

4 MR. ROE: Just a comment on our program in the
5 mistake kills, we, in fact, have a partnership with
6 hunters sharing the harvest.

7 Last year, we did have quite a few.
8 Interesting enough, we did notice a lot fewer and that
9 is because our conservation officers do have a list of
10 DEA families. We took it to those families directly
11 instead of sharing the harvest.

12 When the numbers came back, it was quite a
13 surprise. After being there the first week, mistake
14 kills, between the WCOs and our Deputies, they deliver
15 that evening, even if it is midnight, putting them on
16 people's back porches.

17 We are very sensitive to that. We don't want
18 to have our wildlife resources go to waste. We think
19 that is a good program that the WCOs do.

20 CHAIRMAN STABACK: The Committee has been
21 joined by another member in the likes of Representative
22 Levdansky.

23 Carl, I have one more question to go over with
24 you. I want to ask you about the game fund and
25 specifically the reserve balance.

1 Can you tell the Committee where you stand
2 financially today and compare those numbers with last
3 year?

4 MR. ROE: Absolutely. It is hard to say today,
5 but I can tell you what our projections are going to be.
6 Last year, our game fund ended with \$39 million. This
7 year is to end with a balance of 37 million.

8 Revenues are down on the timber side. They
9 were down on timber and investments. We lost over two
10 million in investments last year as part of our revenue.

11 We lost money in the first part of this year.
12 We don't control that. That is the Treasury that
13 controls that.

14 If revenue stays the same and our spending
15 stays the same, at the end of the year, the fund balance
16 will be around 37 million.

17 What could affect that, if you get increased
18 Pittman-Robertson funds this year. Right now, the
19 initial projection was around 12 million.

20 We heard in the fall that could be up 40
21 percent. That is federal dollars that we have to spend
22 first and then draw down federal funds to replace it.

23 However, there is a match involved.
24 Pittman-Robertson funds say we get an extra five million
25 dollars. Or make it simpler. If we get an extra four

1 million dollars in Pittman-Robertson, we have to spend
2 one million dollars. We have a 25 percent match, if
3 that math came out right.

4 So in order to spend that four, we need to
5 spend another million. That could affect the fund
6 balance in the end also as being a major area.

7 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Carl, I have heard from some
8 in the sporting community about what they label as slush
9 funds, if will you, or special accounts where money is
10 placed in escrow and used solely for the purchase of the
11 -- purchase of land.

12 The money doesn't show up on the books and
13 doesn't come up as the game fund. The total value, if
14 that is true, is never really correct. I know you
15 probably have heard that.

16 MR. ROE: I have commented on it before many
17 times here.

18 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Can you address this and
19 tell the Committee if the funds are separated out of the
20 game fund and used only for land purchases and if that
21 is true, just how do you account for the funds?

22 MR. ROE: Well, it is quite simple. First of
23 all, there are no slush funds. That is a derogatory
24 term and that is not the case.

25 These escrow accounts are placed there for a

1 specific reason and held by a third party, for the most
2 part, so they never come to the game fund. The purpose
3 of those monies, if we have an oil/gas/mineral
4 operation, let's say it is a coal operation. That will
5 affect the game lands for the next 20 years.

6 We think our first obligation is back to our
7 hunters. We will take some of that advanced royalty
8 money and put it in an escrow account to purchase land
9 to replace that land that may not be available for the
10 next 20 years.

11 About five or six years ago, we had three
12 million dollars in our land acquisition budget. I think
13 that money this year was 150,000 to 200,000 in land
14 acquisition.

15 Those escrow accounts, again, don't come to the
16 game fund. They are a separate account. We use those
17 to replace land taken to from the hunters for
18 oil/gas/mineral operation. That is the purpose of those
19 funds.

20 The biggest one you may be referring to is Penn
21 State. Again, that is Pittman-Robertson money. That is
22 Pittman-Robertson to replace the land that Penn State
23 put some affluent water on that was contaminated, and
24 they got the land, they paid for that land. It was
25 mandated that those monies be used to buy replacement.

1 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Are you saying that the
2 Pittman-Robertson money that you received does not go
3 into the game fund?

4 MR. ROE: No. This specific case. All
5 Pittman-Robertson money that we draw down, we spend it
6 first and then we draw it back out of the federal pool
7 of money that is sitting there.

8 The specific on the land deal that I am
9 referring to, based on your question, was money that
10 Penn State had to pay for destroying that land -- I
11 don't want to destroying -- misusing that land and that
12 money went into an escrow account.

13 It is hampered by Pittman-Robertson in the
14 sense that you have to use that money under federal
15 rules to replace that land that Penn State now owns.

16 Another issue, all of these transactions are
17 approved by the Board. They are done at public
18 meetings. It is stated where the money is going. There
19 is nothing secret about this.

20 I know we have one of our group of detractors
21 that loves to throw this red herring up. This is all
22 done in a public forum. We can show you where all of
23 the money is going.

24 I know another case where we had 90 acres
25 destroyed by a coal operation and never replaced those

1 lands. We did a good job at replacing those lands.

2 CHAIRMAN STABACK: It seems to me, any monies
3 that the Game Commission has control over where it is in
4 a separate fund or not is immaterial, any monies that
5 you have control over, in my opinion, should be a part
6 of the total game fund.

7 Now, how you break it out from there, right,
8 remains to be seen. If you have 50 million dollars in
9 an escrow account that is going to be used totally for
10 the purchase of land, that is fine. That is fine that
11 you have that account but that money should be shown, in
12 my view, as part of the game fund dedicated to the
13 certain use.

14 MR. ROE: And I would argue differently because
15 in the sense it is earmarked for land, it doesn't affect
16 my operational budget one iota.

17 I could be sitting here with 70 million dollars
18 in a restricted account, I can't use that for the
19 day-to-day operations. It doesn't impact the bottom
20 line on what we do.

21 CHAIRMAN STABACK: But because it is money that
22 is controlled by you --

23 MR. ROE: It is not controlled. It is
24 available to us. It is in a third-party escrow account.

25 CHAIRMAN STABACK: All right. I guess you and

1 I can go back and forth.

2 MR. ROE: I would be happy to talk more offline
3 with you on this one.

4 CHAIRMAN STABACK: For the rest of the day, and
5 we won't agree on it. I am the Chairman and I have the
6 final say. I would like to say I wish you would
7 reconsider.

8 MR. ROE: I would be glad to tell you where it
9 is right now. A lady left in her will, I think it was,
10 \$160,000 to purchase game lands.

11 If we bring that into the General Fund of the
12 game fund, it could go someplace on a day-to-day
13 operation, that is why it is held in a separate escrow
14 account.

15 We have a little over two million dollars in
16 escrow accounts to replace the lands affected by
17 oil/gas/mineral. In Penn State, I think there is 5.2
18 million strictly to purchase land. So we can continue
19 to do the same operations, strictly for land purchases.

20 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Okay, Carl.

21 Representative Gillespie?

22 REPRESENTATIVE GILLESPIE: Thank you,
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 Carl, just two points on areas that you had
25 testified on. One regarding the wild pheasant

1 restoration project in Somerset County, how is that
2 going?

3 MR. ROE: Pretty well. We are in our second
4 year of stocking pheasants. So we will see how that
5 goes.

6 The best indicator we have had so far is the
7 Central Susquehanna one where we finished stocking and
8 will get an idea of what that will be for the next two
9 or three years and then we will see what opportunity
10 allows.

11 Again, while we are stocking birds, the
12 population is usually pretty high and might drop off
13 initially. We are in our second year of stocking in
14 Somerset. We will know in a couple of years.

15 REPRESENTATIVE GILLESPIE: Are they tagged with
16 any kind of radar collar?

17 MR. ROE: A certain portion are. In fact, as
18 we see what the mortality is on transferring a captured
19 wild bird, it provides some interesting data. It is an
20 expensive process.

21 This may be the last area we use telemetry on.
22 After two or three, we got a pretty good idea on how far
23 they are going to fly and those sorts of things. While
24 we used telemetry.

25 REPRESENTATIVE GILLESPIE: Where are those

1 birds coming from?

2 MR. ROE: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana.
3 It just depends.

4 REPRESENTATIVE GILLESPIE: Mr. Chairman, if I
5 may, regarding the special snow goose season. The
6 Susquehanna season and the management area, which holds
7 about 100,000 snow geese this time a year, you mentioned
8 there is no need for the special season between February
9 and the end of March.

10 Has Pennsylvania adopted any of the other
11 regulations that are taking place in other states
12 regarding electronic calls or unplugged guns?

13 MR. ROE: We have allowed the electronic calls
14 to be used for snow geese. We haven't used unplugged
15 guns. If they do it for snow geese and then for
16 rabbits, three shots for most people, it should be
17 sufficient and bring down a few birds.

18 REPRESENTATIVE GILLESPIE: Is there a limit on
19 the number of snow geese?

20 MR. ROE: I want to say 15, but let me check.
21 Yes, 15.

22 REPRESENTATIVE GILLESPIE: Thank you,
23 Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Chairman Miller?

25 SUBCHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 To follow up on the Pittman-Robertson, if we might. Do
2 we have to match 25 percent of the funds, or 4 million
3 you got to put 1 million in?

4 The question is, we have been experiencing
5 dealing with the federal stimulus program where we have
6 to do some maintenance of effort in spending, whether it
7 is educational programs or other things.

8 Do you have to maintain a maintenance level of
9 spending? I mean, basically, it sounds to me you could
10 spend one million dollars that you were going to spend
11 anyway and then leverage four million from this program
12 without putting the fund in great jeopardy.

13 MR. ROE: Absolutely. I'm talking from a
14 budgetary point of view earlier. We anticipate 12
15 million dollars a year and meeting our match.

16 We always exceed the requirement for habitat
17 required by law, so that allows us to be the master of
18 Pittman-Robertson.

19 SUBCHAIRMAN MILLER: As far as what you can do
20 with that money, is it strictly for operations or is it
21 also for purchase?

22 MR. ROE: It is also for purchase of equipment
23 that we need. We, in fact, purchased some Caterpillars,
24 I call them lopper machines, to knock pole timber down.
25 We are looking at using some Pittman-Robertson because

1 over the last few years, we burned about 1500 acres and
2 want to decrease the use of fire of game lands and
3 forest lands.

4 You can buy equipment mostly oriented to
5 habitat development. That is the majority of the
6 spending.

7 SUBCHAIRMAN MILLER: And just as a final
8 statement, I would support Chairman Staback, not so much
9 that the money gets counted from escrow accounts as part
10 of the General Fund for the Game Commission but
11 certainly in the era of transparency where we are asked
12 to show money.

13 It might go a long way to dispel some of the
14 rumors if that is part of any report you put out. If
15 the information is laid out there, we could dispel some
16 of this negativity.

17 MR. ROE: We will make sure escrow is included
18 in the annual report next year.

19 SUBCHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Rock?

21 REPRESENTATIVE ROCK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 I just have two brief questions. The first is,
23 I guess it relates to the deer management plan. Over
24 the last six or seven years, we had relatively mild
25 winters and didn't experience a large winter kill. This

1 year could be different.

2 I have three and a half feet of snow on a piece
3 of land and it could be there for a long, long time. I
4 was just wondering if that was figured into the deer
5 management plan and how that would affect doe license
6 allocations in the future?

7 MR. ROE: Again, as we build our population
8 model, that prehunt, which will include winter mortality
9 fawn, we will localize impact, absolutely.

10 When you are dealing with a wildlife management
11 area, it is hard to take into consideration. Those deer
12 going into this winter season now were pretty healthy.
13 I know in the fall a lot of deer have good body fat.

14 Will they have a better survival rate? We just
15 don't know. That is all in the population model,
16 because we build a model end of September, beginning of
17 October instead of one in June where the mortality may
18 come behind you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE ROCK: In an area where the deer
20 numbers are very low can create some problems. I don't
21 know how we would fix it.

22 MR. ROE: We would fix it over time. If you
23 look at winter mortality, it has just the opposite
24 effect. The allocation was pretty steady and had a
25 milder winter and survivability was higher. You would

1 expect an increase. If we didn't see that bed, then it
2 would be adjusted down based upon the population trend.

3 REPRESENTATIVE ROCK: My biggest concern, there
4 are many areas was where the deer numbers are already
5 low. This could take us to the point -- I'm not sure
6 how we recover from that. It is something to keep in
7 mind.

8 My second question is working with habitat
9 restoration for pheasants. We have a local group in my
10 area and one of the questions that I was asked was
11 within their group, their statewide group, they were
12 talking about the idea of a \$20 pheasant stamp. I think
13 there is support within the membership to do that.

14 I heard numbers of up to -- if they would sell
15 what they think they could sell, would raise two million
16 dollars.

17 They would only pursue that if that money would
18 be in addition to the money that was already in the
19 budget currently for pheasant restoration.

20 I mean, they wouldn't want to get their
21 membership to replace pheasants if that was going to be
22 what was already budgeted. And I just wanted to hear
23 what you thought about that.

24 MR. ROE: I mentioned Pheasants Forever. That
25 is a two-edged sword. If you raise two million dollars

1 -- I heard the figure 100,000 pheasant hunters. We have
2 over a million hunters in Pennsylvania.

3 So, the other 900,000 are now paying for a
4 program that they can't utilize. We spend over three
5 million dollars on propagation and pheasant restoration
6 areas now.

7 To get a full production, we think that would
8 be closer to four million dollars. Then it becomes the
9 question that I'm buying a general hunting license and a
10 portion of that is going for pheasants that I can't hunt
11 anymore. If we spend, what is in that pheasant stamp.
12 When you deal with earmarked money, it could become
13 problematic.

14 REPRESENTATIVE ROCK: I think the general
15 thinking there is if we don't -- obviously, we need more
16 money and if we don't get more money, what we are doing
17 currently really isn't going to work. That money isn't
18 well spent, but I can see where you are saying it is a
19 tough spot.

20 MR. ROE: Right now, every hunter has an
21 opportunity to hunt pheasants.

22 REPRESENTATIVE ROCK: There are just not many
23 of them.

24 MR. ROE: 100,000.

25 REPRESENTATIVE ROCK: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Haluska?

2 MR. ROE: If I may address the issue on
3 mortality, and as we go through this, we did a study on
4 our antlerless deer in Wildlife magazine. It is 2G and
5 4B.

6 I want to throw some numbers out to you that
7 were quite startling to me. On 2G, all of the deer of
8 over 400 doe were tagged and radio collared, the
9 survival rate was 90 percent in 2G.

10 It was 70 percent, a little over 70 percent on
11 private land during that study period. In 4B, it was 60
12 percent survival rate on public land and just under 80
13 percent on private land.

14 From all of the data we are gathering on tagged
15 deer and bucks and, in fact, antlerless deer, a lot of
16 them were surviving during our hunting season.

17 I don't know what that indicates, but the
18 reality is we have a lot of deer that we tagged that are
19 still running around. They are still tagged and still
20 collared.

21 You mentioned coyotes earlier. We had 1500
22 deer that were tagged or collared. We only had five
23 predated by coyotes -- by predation. Three were by
24 coyotes, one by bear, and one by bobcat. These are
25 adult deer.

1 When you look at predation, particularly on the
2 adult side, I'm not just saying it doesn't happen. The
3 indications are, at least from the deer we have tagged
4 and they are monitoring, adult predation is not there
5 very much.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HALUSKA: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman.

8 Since we are talking so much about land
9 purchases, in Title 34, is there still a ceiling you are
10 allowed to pay?

11 MR. ROE: \$400 per acre from the game fund.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HALUSKA: From the game fund?

13 MR. ROE: Unless it is an indenture or a
14 special habitat for species of special concern.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HALUSKA: But you can waive that
16 if you are taking that out of the other funds?

17 MR. ROE: The escrow account does not limit us
18 by that.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HALUSKA: Okay. Thanks.

20 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Keller?

21 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman.

23 Thank you for your testimony this morning. I'm
24 going to ask you a question. I have been asked this
25 question by fur takers.

1 They have come to me and said, listen. I
2 purchased a fur taker's license. Why do I have to spend
3 more money if I want to trap fishers or bobcats? What
4 was the reasoning for that?

5 MR. ROE: To control the take. In other words,
6 we want to know who are hunting fishers and bobcats so
7 we can have an estimate of what we anticipate the take
8 to be.

9 It is to follow along with surveys and how you
10 were successful or not successful. The challenge is to
11 determine wide open as we have controlled it in the past
12 through a lottery program. We hope that will control
13 some of that.

14 We don't want to go hog wild on a population,
15 particularly fishers and, in fact, bobcats, we could
16 take a tremendous take and the permit gives us an
17 opportunity to control that.

18 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: I have never got a fur
19 taker's license. I am not knowledgeable on this piece.
20 Do we require fur takers now to provide any type of
21 information on what they have taken?

22 MR. ROE: Absolutely.

23 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Well, then why would we
24 not use that as --

25 MR. ROE: Because we know exactly how many

1 bobcat permits we put out because there is a lottery
2 system.

3 In reality, for those who are hunting bobcat
4 and participate in the lottery previously, there is no
5 additional cost to them.

6 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Okay. Very good.
7 Thank you.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Representative Levdansky?

10 REPRESENTATIVE LEVDANSKY: Thank you, Chairman
11 Staback.

12 Carl, first, I just want to follow up to a
13 point that Representative Haluska raised about the \$400
14 an acre. That is the maximum that an agency can
15 purchase on land with the exception of some of those
16 indenture and some of the special fund allocations. Do
17 you feel a need at this time to have that statutory cap
18 raised?

19 MR. ROE: That is a two-way sword for us also.
20 In many ways, when we purchase land, we can bring \$200
21 to the table and bring the additional monies and I can
22 get to that land.

23 I think it is time to raise that \$400 limit.
24 Again, it would be a two-way sword for us. For \$400 in
25 Pennsylvania anymore, that doesn't get you a whole lot

1 of acreage.

2 REPRESENTATIVE LEVDANSKY: And it hasn't been
3 changed for quite some time?

4 MR. ROE: Quite some time.

5 REPRESENTATIVE LEVDANSKY: Right. That's one
6 issue. I want to switch to oil, gas, and mineral rights
7 on state game lands.

8 I do understand -- I was at a workshop a couple
9 of weekends ago that the Game Commission would be in
10 support of legislation to make it clear as to who owns
11 the title to mineral rights on, principle interest being
12 Marcellus gas, to make sure, if you can't find the
13 owner, at least the surface owner could be notified when
14 those rights are going to expire so the agency would
15 have a chance to purchase those rights. And that would
16 certainly make sense.

17 And we ought to do that in the context of a gas
18 severance tax that I think will be moving through the
19 Legislature.

20 I also want to call attention, again, to the
21 severance tax and my interest in using a small portion
22 of it for fund -- to get some alternative revenue to the
23 Game and Fish and Boat Commissions to fund their ongoing
24 operations, because I think they are at the point to
25 keep asking sportsman to fund all of the things that

1 these two wildlife agencies do in the interest of all
2 Pennsylvanians is not only perpetuating an inequity but
3 doesn't get you the kind of resources to get the job for
4 all of Pennsylvania.

5 One thing real quick I want to shift to is the
6 issue of this is going to be -- there is going to be a
7 report of the budget and finance report, Representative
8 Staback knows and probably most of you, on the bear
9 management audit.

10 We are going to be releasing that in the Budget
11 and Finance Committee this afternoon. I don't have any
12 questions relative to that.

13 One area I am a little interested in is timber
14 inventories. It is my understanding that only about a
15 third of all of the game lands have a timber inventory
16 that has been conducted and only about one fifth of all
17 of the acreage have up-to-date management plans.

18 Why has the Game Commission been so lax about
19 coming up with a really good inventory and a good
20 management plan for those inventories on state game
21 lands?

22 MR. ROE: I can tell you that was one of my
23 areas of concern early on and that is why we integrated
24 a state planning model and we put forward the forest
25 inventory plan at that time.

1 We are four years into the program. We are
2 about a third of the way through on plans. They are
3 quite cumbersome and gets people used to dealing with
4 them but it is an innovative process.

5 In other words, we approach our game lands as a
6 habitat as opposed to a forestry. That is why the game
7 manager and the forester have an interest in this.

8 Our obligations were to buy habitat and to
9 provide timber for the heart of the industry. We are in
10 that process, a slow process.

11 Last spring, we couldn't hire three of our
12 farmers because of the hiring freeze. We fell a little
13 behind.

14 Within five years we anticipate having the full
15 cycle done. As far as game lands plan, there was some
16 forestry plans that were 20 and 30 years old. From my
17 point of view, that wasn't satisfactory. We are going
18 through that process. It will take a few more years to
19 get that done on all of our game lands.

20 REPRESENTATIVE LEVDANSKY: And how many
21 foresters do you have on staff?

22 MR. ROE: I think we have around 30 field
23 foresters and 6 regional.

24 REPRESENTATIVE LEVDANSKY: So you have 30 based
25 out of the Bureau of Land Management?

1 MR. ROE: No. They are in the regions at this
2 point in time. They used to be in the Bureau of
3 Wildlife Habitat Management. Now they are in the
4 regions for that specific purpose of integrating
5 forestry into a Habitat Management Plan on the game
6 lands.

7 REPRESENTATIVE LEVDANSKY: I'm not pointing
8 fingers involving anyone, but one of the other reports
9 that will be released this morning by the Budget and
10 Finance Committee also looks in response to
11 Representative Haluska's ongoing interest in this area.

12 It examines this and it is rather shocking at
13 least to me that only -- you know, you only have
14 up-to-date management plans on about 20 percent of the
15 acreage and about a third of it has a timber inventory.

16 When you face the demands that you get to cut
17 timber, if you don't have an inventory or a management
18 plan, it almost doesn't make any sense to cut anything
19 unless you really know what our inventory is.

20 Yes, you are going to cut for habitat; but the
21 reality is, you need to cut in a way that not only is
22 good for the environment in the habitat but you also
23 have to do it with some long-term, you know, perspective
24 in mind on how you can maximize your revenue without
25 negatively impacting resources.

1 MR. ROE: I would say we do have a general idea
2 as to what we have on our game lands. We know that 10
3 percent is early successional, 10 percent is in
4 large/small timber, that is 12 to 18 inches and that is
5 54 percent of our inventory. And full timber is about
6 another 26 percent.

7 So at the macro level, we certainly know what
8 we have out there. Specific to each game lands, that is
9 the purpose of integrated planning.

10 I'll talk more about this this afternoon if we
11 are given the opportunity, the approach was a forest
12 management program as opposed to a habitat management
13 program.

14 I mentioned that if, in fact, let's say, we
15 have an oak stand that is the only hard mast producing
16 oak stand in the 125-year-old oak tree and the next oak
17 stand is producing four miles away, from a forest
18 management point of view, we take those oak trees out
19 because they are there for the market.

20 From a habitat point of view, we wouldn't take
21 those down for another 30, 40, or 50 years until we have
22 oak regeneration that replaces those mast reproducing
23 trees.

24 Our approach to the habitat environment is
25 quite different than it was on a pure forestry model.

1 Another example is, in fact, we are surrounded by state
2 forest on the state game lands.

3 They are managing for our forest around game
4 lands, why would you want to continue with that forest
5 or integrate different habitats? Why wouldn't we put it
6 in to benefit a variety of species. That won't be a
7 good forestry, but it would a good habitat management.

8 That is the difference between the two
9 approaches between us and DCNR in particular. That is
10 my concern with the study we will hear this afternoon,
11 if we use a habitat approach as opposed to a pure
12 forestry approach.

13 REPRESENTATIVE LEVDANSKY: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. Carl, one last
16 question regarding licensing sales. I have been told
17 that sales are running ahead of last year's numbers. Is
18 that holding true up until now?

19 MR. ROE: Right now, that is correct. Our
20 general hunting license sales are up about 4 percent.

21 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Would you contribute that to
22 archery sales?

23 MR. ROE: No. That is a separate figure.
24 These are just general hunting licenses up to 4 percent.
25 Archery is up about 7 percent. That was about 17,000

1 additional licenses for archery sold this year. That
2 could be crossbow or could be a portion of the general
3 hunting license that went up also. We're not sure.

4 CHAIRMAN STABACK: Okay. One final statement.
5 That is that any dollars that the Gaming Commission has
6 access to for spending purchases should be shown as part
7 of the General Fund so that total value of that fund
8 could never be challenged as not being correct.

9 On that note, that will conclude today's
10 hearing. I want to thank you for being here and the
11 manner in which you conducted yourself and the manner in
12 which you responded to some tough questions. Thank you
13 again. You demonstrated yourself to be very
14 professional in that manner.

15 I want to remind the Members that tomorrow
16 morning, we are back here again at 10:00 a.m. to take
17 the testimony and annual report of the Fish and Boat
18 Commission.

19 (The hearing concluded at 11:38 a.m.)
20
21
22
23
24
25