



# Let's Talk Turkey

## Lesson activity – Wild Turkey Management

### Scenario #1(supplemental Feeding) – Student Activity

**Scenario:** Geraldine Gallopavo has a 640 acre farm located near Mt Airy, North Carolina. In the past she has allowed turkey hunters to use her land. The hunters must report to her and to WRC the number and gender of the turkey(s) shot. She is very strict about making sure they follow the turkey limit regulations. Over the past two years she has noticed fewer and fewer young turkeys even though she sees several egg filled turkey nests in her fields every year. She has talked with the WRC biologist and they assure her that if the hunters are following the take limit requirements her population of turkey should not be affected. And yet there must be something wrong on the farm ...

**Scenario Solution #1:** In an effort to help the wild turkeys, Geraldine begins to put out bags of corn in her yard for the turkeys to feed on. However, instead of helping the turkeys, it appears the population is declining even further! Why did her supplemental feeding seem to have a detrimental effect on the turkey population?



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### Scenario #2 (Predator Removal) – Student Activity

**Scenario:** Geraldine Gallopavo has a 640 acre farm located near Mt Airy, North Carolina. In the past she has allowed turkey hunters to use her land. The hunters must report to her and to WRC the number and gender of the turkey(s) shot. She is very strict about making sure they follow the turkey limit regulations. Over the past two years she has noticed fewer and fewer young turkeys even though she sees several egg filled turkey nests in her fields every year. She has talked with the WRC biologist and they assure her that if the hunters are following the take limit requirements her population of turkey should not be affected. And yet there must be something wrong on the farm ...

**Scenario Solution #2:** In an effort to help the wild turkeys, Geraldine calls on local hunters and trappers to come to her land and remove turkey predators such as skunk, raccoon, opossum and coyotes. However, this doesn't seem to help her turkey population and the predator numbers do not appear to be decreasing much, despite many successful predator removals



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### Scenario #3 Habitat Management) – Student Activity

**Scenario:** Geraldine Gallopavo has a 640 acre farm located near Mt Airy, North Carolina. In the past she has allowed turkey hunters to use her land. The hunters must report to her and to WRC the number and gender of the turkey(s) shot. She is very strict about making sure they follow the turkey limit regulations. Over the past two years she has noticed fewer and fewer young turkeys even though she sees several egg filled turkey nests in her fields every year. She has talked with the WRC biologist and they assure her that if the hunters are following the take limit requirements her population of turkey should not be affected. And yet there must be something wrong on the farm ...

**Scenario Solution #3:** In an effort to help wild turkeys, Geraldine realizes that she needs to do some land management on her property by creating some openings in her forest. As a sensible farmer, she must consider costs, time, and labor to create and maintain openings in the forest for the turkeys for years to come. How should she create and maintain the openings?