

# Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife

## PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Wildlife Program Revenues  
Hunting/Trapping License Fees

December 2014



*We Bring You Delaware's Great Outdoors  
through Science and Service*

# Agenda

- Revenue and Fee Presentation
- Questions
- Comments



*Assawoman Wildlife Area*

# Economic Importance of Hunting

Hunters and trappers in Delaware generate approximately \$4.2 million/year for wildlife management, research and public hunting lands through...

- License Purchases
- Federal Excise Taxes (Equipment)

Hunters spend \$61.7 million each year in Delaware, adding to the state's economy and supporting 549 private sector jobs.



# The Business of Fish & Wildlife

The Division provides wildlife program services to include:

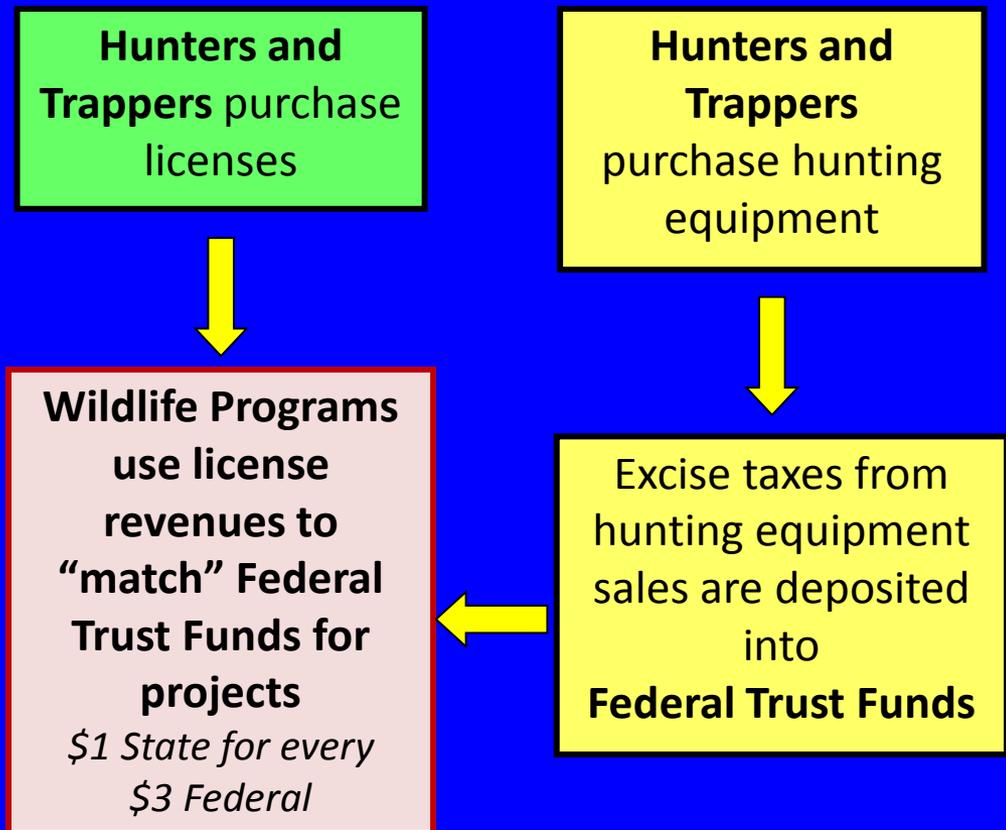
- Wildlife population and habitat management
- Wildlife species and habitat research
- Public wildlife areas for hunting, trapping and wildlife
- Hunter education
- Shooting sports facilities



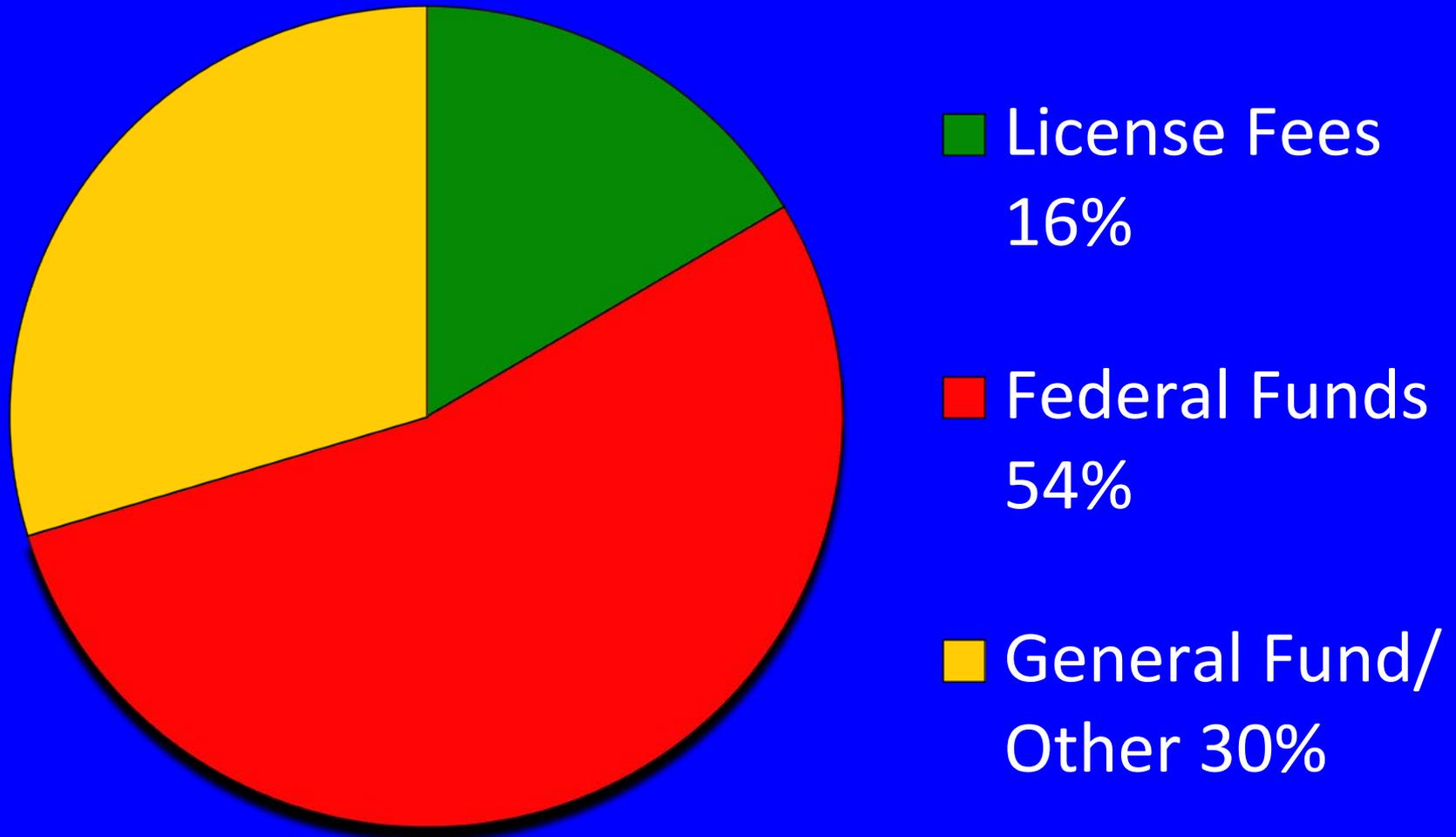
# Fish & Wildlife as a Business

**Revenues** → **Services**

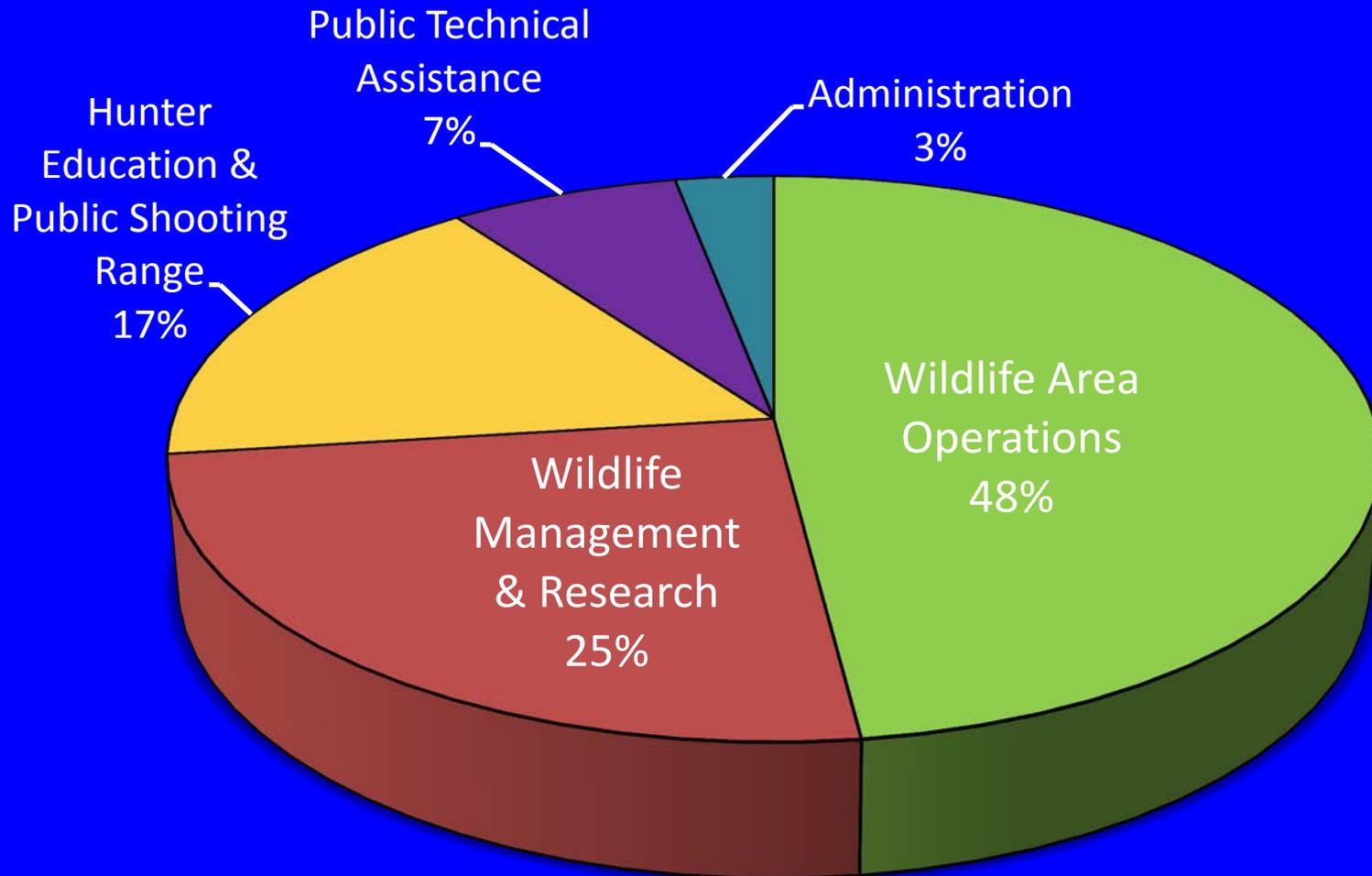
50-75% of Wildlife Program operation revenues depend on hunting and trapping license funds combined with matching Federal funds.



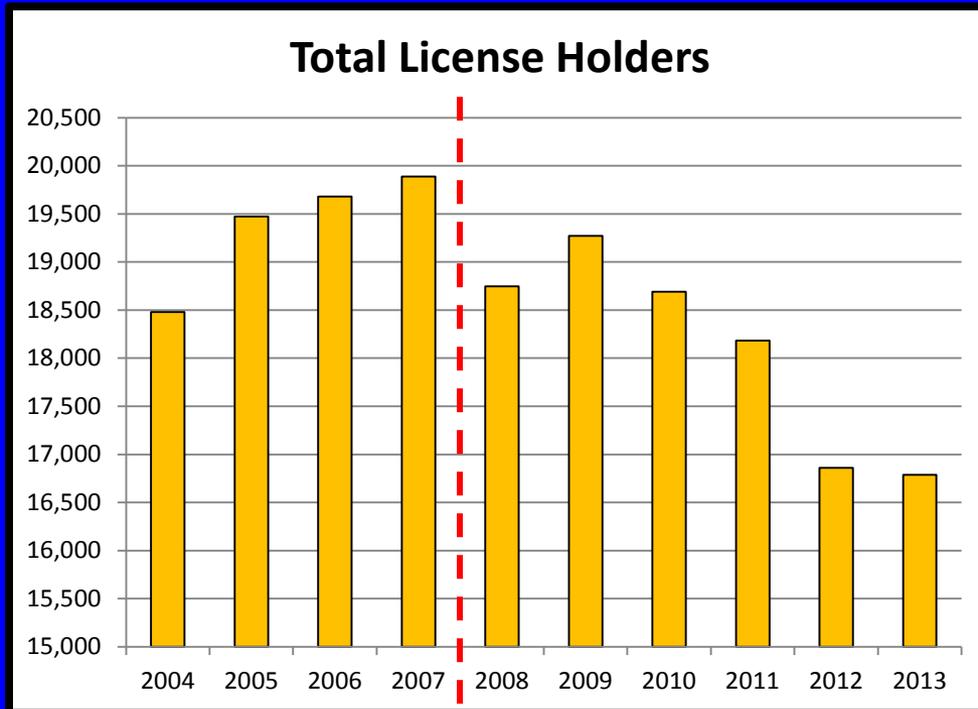
# Sources of Wildlife Program Revenues (FY13)



# Wildlife Program Spending



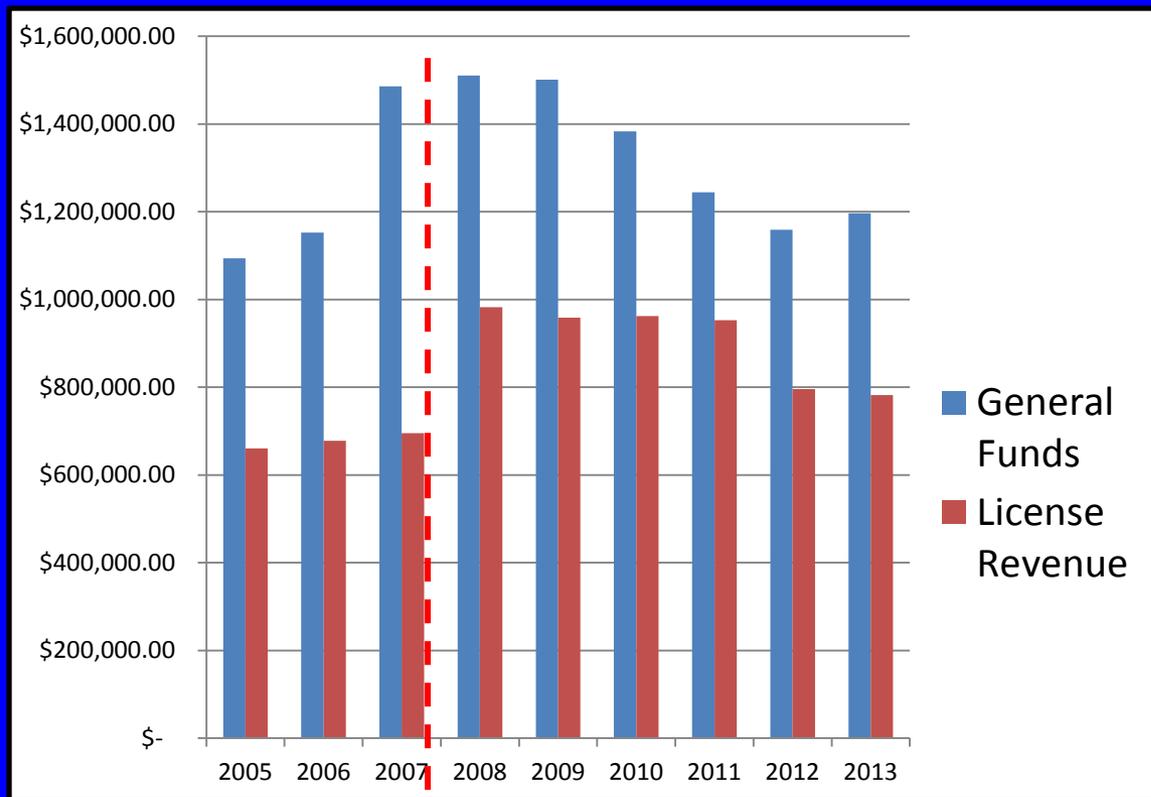
# Trends in Hunting License Sales



Last license fee increase was in 2007.

- 16,860 licensed hunters
- Generally a 3-8% decrease/year (exemptions, recruitment)

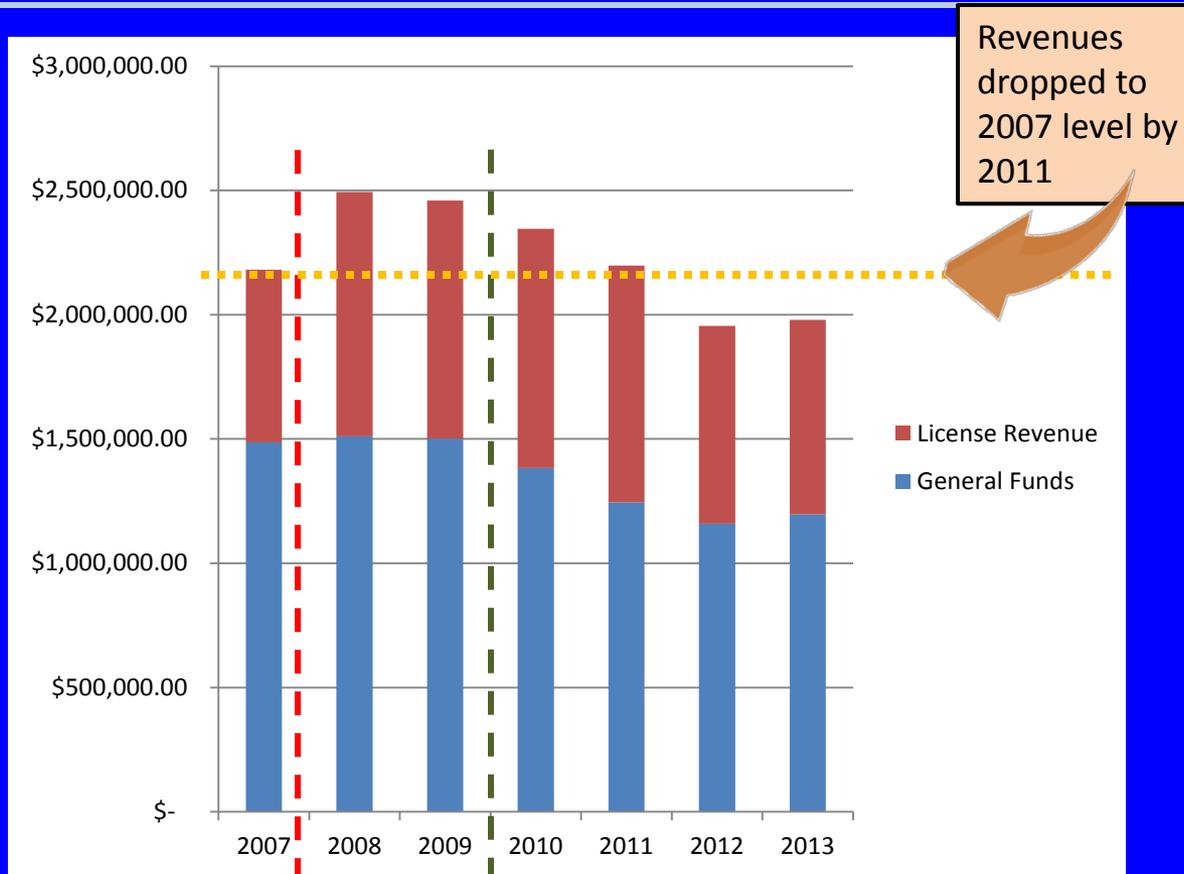
# Wildlife Program State Revenue Trends



Last license fee increase was in 2007.

- Decrease in license revenues since 2008
- Decrease in General Funds since 2008
- 20% inflation over last 10 years (less purchasing ability)

# Wildlife Program State Revenue Trends



- License increase in 2007 generated approximately \$280,000 in additional revenue
- General Fund decrease beginning in 2008 resulted in approximately \$430,000 loss
- Net result of approximately **\$150,000** fewer state dollars available to match Federal funds

Last license fee increase

GF begin declining

# Hunting/Trapping License Revenue Shortfall

Current hunting and trapping fee revenues are not sufficient to maintain the Wildlife Program's current level of service and wildlife/habitat conservation.

- Wildlife Program has had revenue shortfalls since 2009 due to decreased license revenues and General Fund reductions
- **\$429,674** projected shortfall for FY15 (July 2014 - June 2015)
- Prevents matching \$1.29 million in Federal funds
- Total lost funding opportunity = \$1.72 million/yr



# Reducing Costs

To reduce costs, the Wildlife Program has implemented:

- Implemented accounting procedures generating \$200,000/year in additional match to Federal funds
- Service Reductions
  - Did not fill five full-time vacant positions
  - Hired 70% fewer seasonal employees for wildlife area management
  - Eliminated wildlife food plots and reduced sunflower plantings
  - Closed wildlife area access roads between hunting seasons
  - Reduced number of permit hunting days on wildlife areas
  - Reduced days/hours at the Ommelanden shooting range
  - Reduced other maintenance/operational activities at wildlife areas

# Authority and Process to Increase Fees

New Fee Authority Granted by the 147<sup>th</sup> General Assembly House Bill 425 Epilogue (excerpt with emphasis added):

“Section 93. Revenues. The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, *following adequate opportunity for public comment and the approval of the appropriate public advisory council(s)* and Secretary, may establish...such appropriate fees as shall approximate and reasonably reflect costs necessary to defray the expenses of each such activity or service...but *no fee shall be charged for a purpose not specified in...the Delaware Code...*”



Woodland Beach Wildlife Area

# Authority and Process to Increase Fees

## Fee Process:

- Opportunity for public comment
- Consider public comment
- Develop fee proposal for Wildlife Council
- Wildlife Council votes on fee proposal  
*December 9, 2014 at 6:30pm in the DNREC auditorium (in Dover)*
- Any fee increases would be effective July 1, 2015



# Overview of Proposed Fee Increases

- Similar % increase for most license categories
- Similar % increase for most resident and non-resident license categories
- **NO CHANGE** for
  - Junior hunting license
  - Public Wildlife Area Deer Stand/Waterfowl Blind Lottery Permit

## Fun Facts:

Box of Duck/Goose Loads: \$18 - \$25

Remington 870 Slug Shotgun: \$469.99

Dinner for 2 in a nice restaurant: \$50+

Dozen Duck Decoys: \$80 - \$140

A single adult ticket to a NASCAR race: \$65 - \$96.

A trip to the movies (with food & drink) for a family of 4: \$80+

A successful hunting trip: **PRICELESS!**



# Proposed Fee Increases

License Type	Existing Fee Amount	New Fee Amount
Resident Hunt (Age 16-64)	\$25.00	\$45.00
Resident Junior Hunt (Age 13-15)	\$5.00	No Increase
Resident Guide/Hunting (Age 16-64)	\$100.00	\$225.00
Nonresident Hunt (Age 16 and Over) (Minimum of \$130.00 or other state reciprocal value)	\$130.00	\$225.00
Nonresident Junior Hunt (Age 13-15)	\$50.00	No Increase
Nonresident 3-Day Hunt (Age 16 and Over) (3-Day not valid for Deer or Turkey)	\$50.00	\$85.00
Nonresident Guide /Hunting (Age 16 and Over)	\$300.00	\$525.00
Resident Hunters Choice/Quality Buck Tags	\$10.00	\$20.00
Antlerless Tag	\$10.00	\$20.00
Nonresident Quality Buck Tag	\$25.00	\$50.00
Nonresident Antlered Tag	\$25.00	\$50.00
Public Blind/Deer Stand Permit	\$20.00	No Increase
Resident Waterfowl Stamp (Age 16-64)	\$9.00	\$15.00
Nonresident Waterfowl Stamp (Age 16 and Over)	\$9.00	\$15.00
Resident Fur Dealers	\$28.75	\$60.00
Nonresident Fur Dealers	\$287.50	\$450.00
Breeders Permit	\$11.50	\$15.00
Propagating Permit	\$25.00	\$40.00
Resident Trapping	\$3.50	\$10.00
Nonresident Trapping	\$25.00	\$75.00

# How Increased Revenues Would Be Used

- Balance budget
- Restore services
- Avoid further service reductions
- Continue to provide wildlife conservation, research and management
- Continue to manage public wildlife areas to provide access to hunters and trappers
- Sustainable? Continue to evaluate fee revenues, program operations and wildlife user base



# Questions and Comments

- **Questions and comments are welcome.** Please use the microphone provided. Comments limited to 3 minutes per person.
- **Questionnaire** – Please complete and return questionnaire tonight.



***Thank you for your input and support of  
wildlife conservation and hunting and  
trapping in Delaware!***



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through Science and Service*

*Ted Harvey Wildlife Area*