

Wild Turkey Population Restoration:

A Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Success Story in Vermont



Office of
CONSERVATION
INVESTMENT



Wild turkeys are native to Vermont, but by the late 1800s, they disappeared entirely from the state and much of their original range.

Beginning in 1969, the Vermont Fish & Game Department began releasing wild turkeys back into the wild funded, in large part, by grants from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Wildlife Restoration Act grant program as well as revenue from state hunting licenses and permit fees.

Thanks to this long-term partnership, turkeys are once again found throughout Vermont, providing fresh locally sourced food and hunting opportunities for the public to enjoy.

A species conservation investment, by the numbers

\$1.3 million spent to restore wild turkeys between 1969 and 1986.

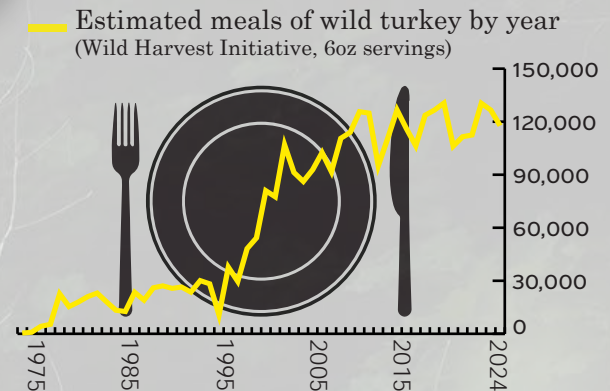
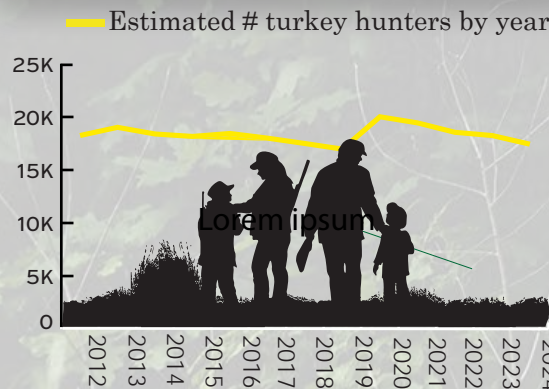
\$9.3 million spent by turkey hunters in Vermont in 2022.

\$75 million contributed to state level GDP between 2012 and 2024.

Hunters, birdwatchers, and many other people benefit from the return of this species:



Locally sourced food feeds families



Turkey hunters in Vermont spent a yearly average of

\$9.8 million

and generate a yearly average of

\$4.8 million

to state level GDP.



187,000
wild turkeys
harvested
since 1993
means

3 million
meals into households
in Vermont