

From: Priester, Nicole <NicolePriester@gov.sc.gov>
Required: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
Adams, Chaney <ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov>
Packard, Clark <ClarkPackard@gov.sc.gov>
Pippin, Zach <ZachPippin@gov.sc.gov>
Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>
Subject: National Wild Turkey Federation National Headquarters Visit
Location: National Wild Turkey Federation National Headquarters, 770 Augusta Road,
Edgefield, S.C.
When: 3/30/2015 11:00:00 AM - 12:00:00 PM
Attachments: ATT28523

Advance: Sidney Rainwater
(843)616-4042

ATTIRE: Wear walking shoes for the field tour.

APPROVED BY: NH

EVENT: National Wild Turkey Federation Visit

DATE: Monday, March 30, 2015

TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 770 Augusta Road, Edgefield, S.C.

LOCATION SET-UP:

Boardroom at NWTF, walk through the NWTF museum, tour the new shooting sports facility

ON-SITE LOCATION CONTACT:

Cathy Marks
Direct: (803) 637-7608
Cell: (706) 832-6898

Beth Christie
803-637-7612

SCHEDULING CONTACT:

Col. Taylor
Cell: (803) 360-7725
taylor@dnr.sc.gov

PRIMARY STAFF: Ashton Lee

ADVANCE STAFF: Zach Pippin

PURPOSE: The Governor will visit the National Wild Turkey Federation National Headquarters to tour the new shooting sports facility which DNR and the NWTF partnered to build. Col. Taylor is excited for the Governor to see first-hand the state-private collaboration on outdoor activities. George Thorton, CEO of NWTF, will give the Governor an overview on the "Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt" Initiative in the NWTF boardroom prior to the facility tour.

PRESS: No.

PUBLIC: Yes.

INVITED BY: Col. Taylor

INTRODUCED BY: N/A

LENGTH OF SPEAKING: No formal speaking.

SPEAKING ORDER/LINE-BY-LINE:

11:00 AM Gov. Haley Arrives

11:00- 11:15 AM George Thorton will give an overview of the NWTF and state joint project- "Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt" in the boardroom.

11:15-11:25 AM Walk through the NWTF Museum

11:25-11:30 AM Move to the Shooting Sports Facility

11:30 AM-12:00 PM Tour the Palmetto Shooting Complex

12:00 PM Gov. Haley Departs

ABOUT NWTF:

- The NWTF — a national nonprofit organization — is the leader in upland wildlife habitat conservation in North America.
- Founded in 1973, the NWTF is headquartered in Edgefield, S.C., and has local chapters in every state.
- The NWTF is dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage.
- Through vital partnerships with state, federal and provincial wildlife agencies, the NWTF and our members have helped restore wild turkey populations throughout North America — from a mere 30,000 in the entire United States to more than 7 million across the United States, Canada and Mexico.

NWTF Mission:

"The NWTF is dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and preservation of our hunting heritage."

"Proud to call Edgefield, S.C., home since 1973."

George Thorton

BACKGROUND ON "SAVE THE HABITAT, SAVE THE HUNT":

When the NWTF was founded in 1973, there were approximately 1.5 million wild turkeys in North America. After 40 years of dedicated work, that number hit a historic high of almost 7 million turkeys.

In recent years, however, national turkey populations have been declining – just one of the challenges the hunting community faces today.

We are at a critical juncture in the future of wildlife habitat conservation and the preservation of our hunting heritage. The NWTF is ready for the challenge and will be a leader for the next 40 years, standing as one team with one mission. Your continued support is essential.

Hunting and habitat go hand-in-hand. We can't have quality hunting without quality wildlife habitat. And the past has proven we won't have sustainable wildlife habitat unless hunters are involved. Hunters pay for 80 percent of the budgets for state wildlife agencies, which drive the research and work to restore essential habitat for game and nongame species.

We could sit idle and watch fields go fallow and our hunting rights crumble, or we can begin saving our lifestyle now.

The NWTF isn't going to let it happen on our watch. That's why we launched the Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. initiative. It's an aggressive charge that mobilizes science, fundraising and our devoted volunteers not only to keep the NWTF alive but also to give it more purpose than ever.

We're committed to raising \$1.2 billion to conserve or enhance more than 4 million acres of essential upland wildlife habitat, create 1.5 million hunters and open access to 500,000 acres for hunting, shooting and outdoor enjoyment.

It's an effort we must all stand behind to accomplish. Its success depends equally on unity and urgency. We must work together and we must do it now if we want to even begin to counteract the challenges to our

lifestyle.

BACKGROUND: A turkey bill—H.3118 (Pitts)—was just in conference committee. Senate conferees were Campsen, Coleman, S. Martin; House conferees were Pitts, Ott, and Hixon.

- Current law allows hunters to bag up to 5 male wild turkeys per year.
- The current season depends on the game zone, but is either March 15-May 1 or April 1-May 1.
- The bill would set a statewide season of March 20 through May 5.
- The bill would cap the bag limit to 3 male wild turkeys per year.
- The Senate amendment that was non-concurred with in the House established a daily bag limit of one male turkey before April 1, and two after April 1.
- The conference committee reached an agreement on a daily bag limit of 2 birds.
- The Senate agreed to the conference committee's positions, but the House adjourned before it got on the calendar.
- DNR and National Wild Turkey Federation did not have an opinion on the daily bag limit, but were very supportive of lowering the yearly bag limit from 5 to 3.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION

Edgefield County

Announced investment: \$11.9 million

Announced jobs: 61

Announced Date	Company Name	Objective	Product or Service	Announced Investment	Announced Jobs
2012-09-26	Bondex, Inc.	Expansion	Textiles	\$6,400,000	13
2012-05-09	USFibers	Expansion	Plastic Recycling and Reproduction	\$5,500,000	48

Between January 2011 and February 2015, the unemployment rate in Edgefield County has decreased by 2.4 percentage points from 9.2 percent to 6.8 percent.

EDGEFIELD DELEGATION

	Edgefield County:
	Senate Delegation
R	Shane Massey
	House Delegation
D	Bill Clyburn
R	Bill Hixon