

Director's
Delisting Recommendation for
Gould's Turkey (17-2-40 NMSA 1978)



Las Cruces, NM
October 14, 2022

Gould's Turkey Delisting Recommendation Background

- Gould's Turkey was listed as threatened under the WCA in 1974
- Recovery plan was approved by the Commission in early 2017
- Field research project was initiated in 2018

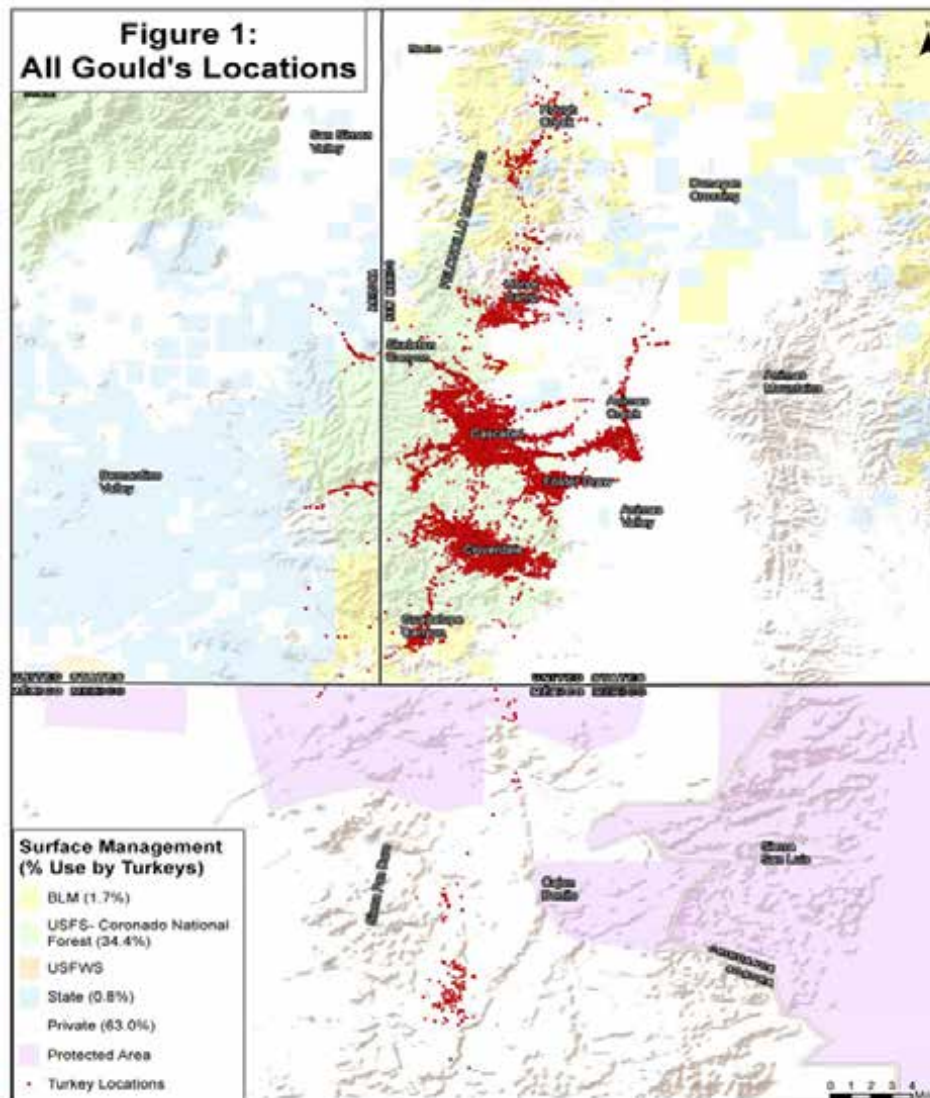


Gould's Turkey Recovery Plan Overview

- Recovery Plan Goal:
 - Ensure the long-term persistence of Gould's turkey within its historical range in New Mexico
- Objective:
 - Maintain a total population of at least 175 Gould's turkeys in the Peloncillo Mountains



Gould's Turkey Field Research: Principal Findings



Gould's Turkey Delisting Investigation

- Delisting Investigation was initiated by the Director on November 1, 2021
- Emails were sent to notify interested parties and to solicit additional data to potentially include in the Investigation Report.
- Delisting Investigation Report underwent peer review in March, 2022



Peer Review Panel Evaluation

- On the basis of evidence provided in the Delisting Investigation Report, the peer review panel unanimously supported the Department's recommendation to delist Gould's Turkey



Public Involvement & Comment on Delisting Investigation Report

- 160-day Public Comment Period Opened April 12, 2022 (SGC Meeting April 11)
 - 13 comments received
 - 10 in favor of delisting
 - 3 in opposition (wildfire and drought as continued threats to habitat viability; unknown turkey numbers in Mexico)
- Public Meetings/Other Presentations:
 - April 8- Malpai Borderlands Group Science Conference, Rodeo
 - July 12- Hybrid public meeting, Albuquerque (8 attendees)
 - July 13- Hybrid public meeting, Las Cruces (6 attendees)
 - July 14- In person public meeting, Animas (0 attendees)
 - July 20- Hidalgo County Public Land Advisory Committee, Lordsburg



Rationale for Delisting

- Under the WCA, a *threatened species* is defined as *“any species (or subspecies) that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range in New Mexico”*
- Based on historical information and results of the Department’s ongoing field research, threatened status is no longer justified or warranted



Gould's Turkey Delisting Recommendation

- Suggested Motion:
 - Move to approve the delisting of Gould's turkey as authorized under the Wildlife Conservation Act (17-2-40 NMSA)



Questions?



S. Liley, October 14, 2022

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