

## COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

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Meeting Date: March 20, 2026

Agenda Number: 16

Presenter: Stewart Liley

Corroborator: N/A

Agenda Title: Subsequent discussion of Turkey Rule (19.31.16 NMAC) for the 2027 – 2031 hunting seasons.

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### 1. Summary of Agenda Item

The Department will present proposed changes to the Turkey Rule (19.31.16 NMAC) based on recent survey information, management goals, and public comment.

Proposed amendments focus on:

- Adjust hunts for calendar dates
- Increase up-to permit number for Gould's once-in-a-lifetime hunt in GMU 26 and 27 to 15
- Increase the draw permits in GMU 8 from 15 to 20.

### 2. Background Information

The turkey rule is amended every four years as part of the turkey rule development cycle. The current 4-year rule expires April 1, 2027. Proposed changes to the rule are made based on findings in scientific literature, data collected by Department staff, and public observations and recommendations.

### 3. Strategic Plan References and Possible Impacts of Agenda Item

The process as presented to the Commission meets the Conservation Services Program Objectives 1, 2 and 5 of the Department's Strategic Plan: FY 2019 – FY 2023

### 4. Considerations Regarding Duplications and/or Conflicts with Existing Rules or Statutes

None

### 5. Description and Summary of Public Involvement Process and Results

The Department has posted proposed changes to the turkey rule on the Department's website. Input has been gathered from mail and email. Hybrid public meetings were held March 11<sup>st</sup> in Albuquerque and March 12<sup>th</sup> in Las Cruces, and a presentation was given at a virtual National Wild Turkey Federation meeting to gather public comments on the proposed changes to the turkey rule. Public comments will be presented at the Commission meeting. A final proposal to this rule will be developed and presented at the May 2026 Commission meeting.

### Suggested Motion

This is a discussion item and no motion is necessary, unless Commission discretion dictates otherwise.