

Turkey

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: wildlife.dgf.nm.gov

General Information

- License Requirements and Fees (see pages 12–17).
- All Turkey Harvests Must Be Tagged (pages 37).
- Legal Sporting Arms for Turkey Hunting (shotguns, bows or crossbows, see page 30).
- Youth-Only Hunts (see page 19).
- It is Legal to Harvest a Marked Animal (see page 9)
- **It is illegal to shoot a turkey on a roost.**

Turkey Draw Permits

The deadline to apply for turkey draw permits is Feb. 11, 2026. Up to two hunters may apply per application. Successful applicants must purchase an over-the-counter Turkey License to validate their draw permit. Licenses may be purchased online at <https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us>, by telephone: **1-888-248-6866**, or in person at NMDOW offices or from license vendors. Online and telephone purchases must be made at least 14 days prior to hunt start date to allow mailing of tags unless the E-Tag option is chosen. Draw hunt areas are open only during the dates listed on the permit. If planning to hunt within 14 days of online or telephone purchase, hunters may be required to obtain tags at a license vendor or NMDOW office.

Spring Over-the-Counter (OTC) License Hunts

OTC turkey licenses are available at NMDOW offices, license vendors, online or by telephone: **1-888-248-6866**. Hunters may purchase both spring and fall licenses.

Turkey hunts in the Sandia Ranger District portion of GMU 14 and in Sugarite Canyon State Park are bow and crossbow only.

Areas Open for Spring OTC License Hunts: April 15–May 15

STATEWIDE: Except the following **CLOSED AREAS:** Unit 2A (areas east of U.S. Hwy. 550 and north of NM Hwy. 173); Unit 2B (areas in the Carson National Forest), Unit 2C (areas in the Carson National Forest); Units 6B, 8, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31; Bernardo WMA, Jackson Lake WMA, La Joya WMA, Marquez/LBar WMA, Prairie Chicken WMAs, Red Rock WMA, Valle Vidal and W.S. Huey WMA.

Youth-Only Spring OTC License Hunt: April 10-12

An early youth-only turkey hunt is available April 10-12 in all open units for spring hunting. Draw-permit areas are not open for youth-only spring OTC license holders.

Bag Limit for Spring Season

The bag limit is two bearded turkeys, except in permitted areas. Turkey draw permit holders may kill only the number of turkeys authorized on their permit in the permitted area. If only one turkey is allowed, they may hunt in any open over-the-counter area during the spring season for a second turkey. The beard and a patch of feathers surrounding the beard must remain on the bird until it is delivered to the place where it will be eaten or placed in final storage.

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Turkey Draw Permit Seasons (Purchase of OTC Turkey License Required)

	Hunt Dates	Hunt Code	Licenses	Bag Limit
Units 2B & 2C Carson National Forest				
Any Legal	Apr. 15-May 15	TUR-1-100	115	1 bearded turkey
Any Legal - Youth Only	Apr. 15-May 15	TUR-1-101	50	1 bearded turkey
Unit 2A (Areas east of Hwy. 550 and north of NM Hwy. 173)				
Any Legal - Youth Only	Apr. 15-May 15	TUR-1-102	5	1 bearded turkey
Unit 6B Valles Caldera National Preserve¹				
Any Legal	Apr. 15-30	TUR-1-103	20	1 bearded turkey
¹ Hunter orientation required				
Unit 8				
Any Legal ²	Apr. 15-May 15	TUR-1-104	15	2 bearded turkeys
² Bow and crossbow only in Sandia Ranger District portion.				
Unit 9 Marquez/LBar WMA Only				
Any Legal - NM Resident Only	Apr. 15-May 15	TUR-1-105	15	1 bearded turkey
Units 26 & 27 (Gould's Turkey)				
Any Legal - Once-in-a-Lifetime	May 1-30	TUR-1-106	4	1 bearded turkey
Units 55A Valle Vidal				
Any Legal	EAST SIDE: Apr. 15 - May 15 WEST SIDE: Apr. 15 - Apr 30	TUR-1-109	20	1 bearded turkey

Fall OTC License Hunts

Sept. 1-30 (bow only) and **Nov. 1-30** (shotgun, bow or crossbow)

STATEWIDE: Except the closed areas listed below.

CLOSED: Unit 2A (areas east of U.S. Hwy. 550 and north of NM Hwy. 173); Unit 2B (areas in the Carson National Forest); Unit 2C (areas in the Carson National Forest); Units 6B, 8, 14, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 38, 49, 50, 53; Bernardo WMA, Bill Evans WMA, Edward Sargent WMA, Jackson Lake WMA, La Joya WMA, Lake Roberts WMA, Marquez/LBar WMA, Prairie Chicken WMAs, Red Rock WMA, Rio Chama WMA, Sugarite Canyon State Park, Valle Vidal and W.S. Huey WMA.

Bag Limit for Fall Season

The bag limit is any one turkey. If a hunter does not harvest a turkey during the September bow-only hunt, she/he may hunt again in November using legal sporting arms for turkey.

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge Youth Spring Turkey Hunt

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) will conduct youth spring turkey hunts for hunters 17 years of age and younger. Hunts are held in April and May 2026 in conjunction with NMDOW seasons. Eligible hunters will be randomly drawn from a pool of qualified applicants. An application fee of \$6 is required per application. More information will be available in February 2026 at: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/bosque-del-apache>. For more information about hunting opportunities at Bosque del Apache NWR call: **575-835-1828**.

New Mexico Turkey Distribution

