

# **Turkey**

## **19.31.16 NMAC**

**January 9, 2026**

**Stewart Liley**

**New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting**

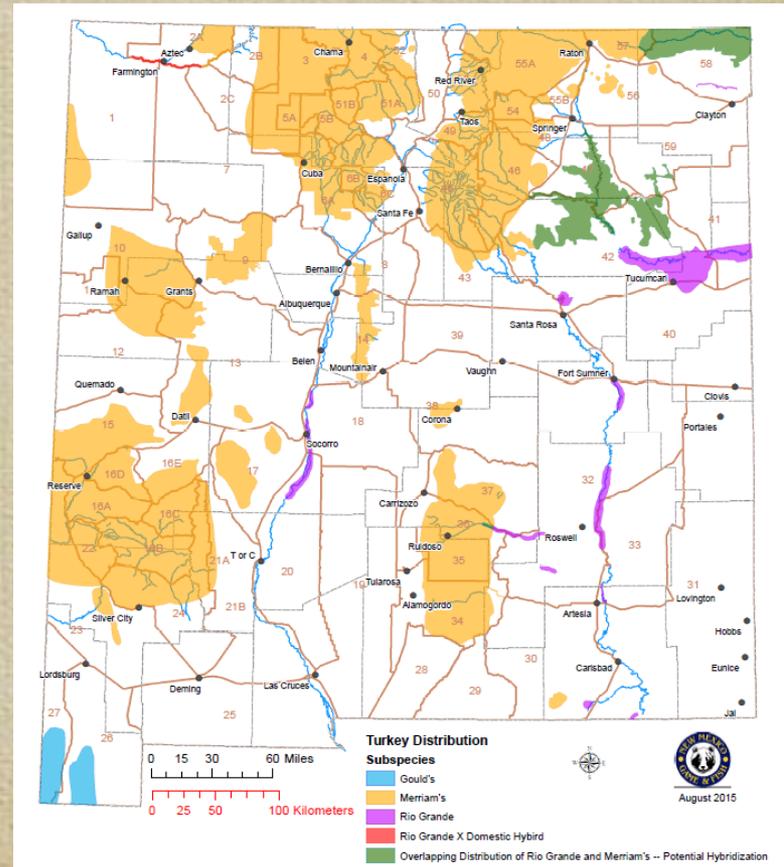
**Santa Fe, NM**



# Turkey Biology

## Three Subspecies in New Mexico

- Merriam's (Mountainous)
- Rio Grande (River valleys)
- Gould's (Bootheel)

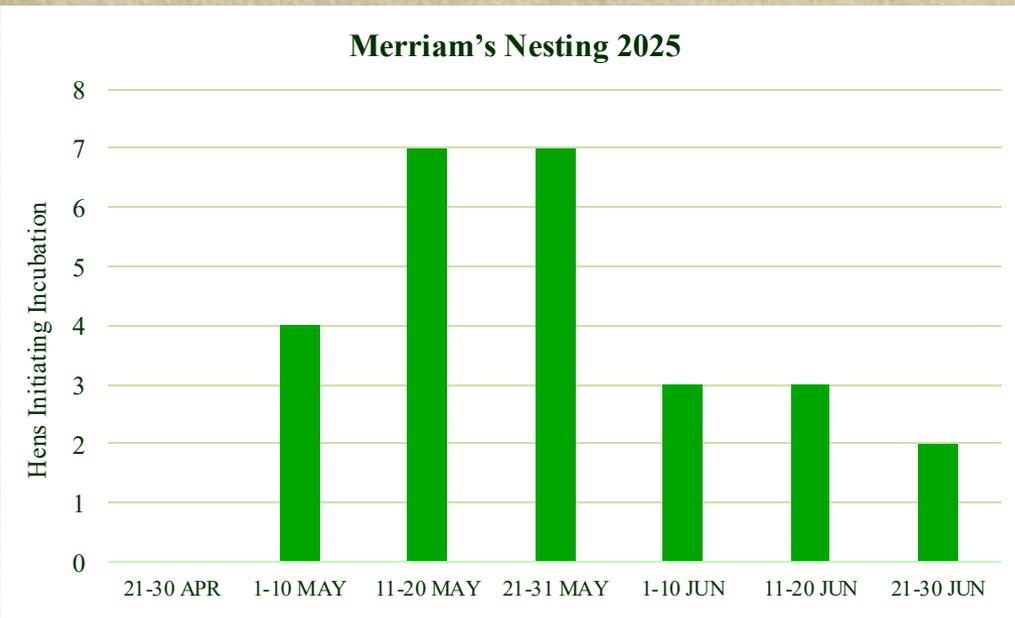


# Turkey Biology

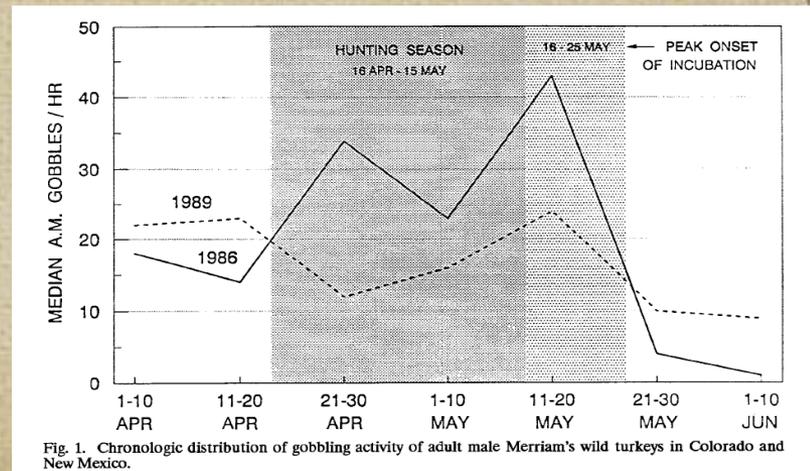
- **Populations vary with environmental conditions**
- **Spring hunting harvest is primarily males and one male can breed many hens**
- **Fall hunting has the potential for additive mortality on hens**



# Breeding Activity- New Mexico

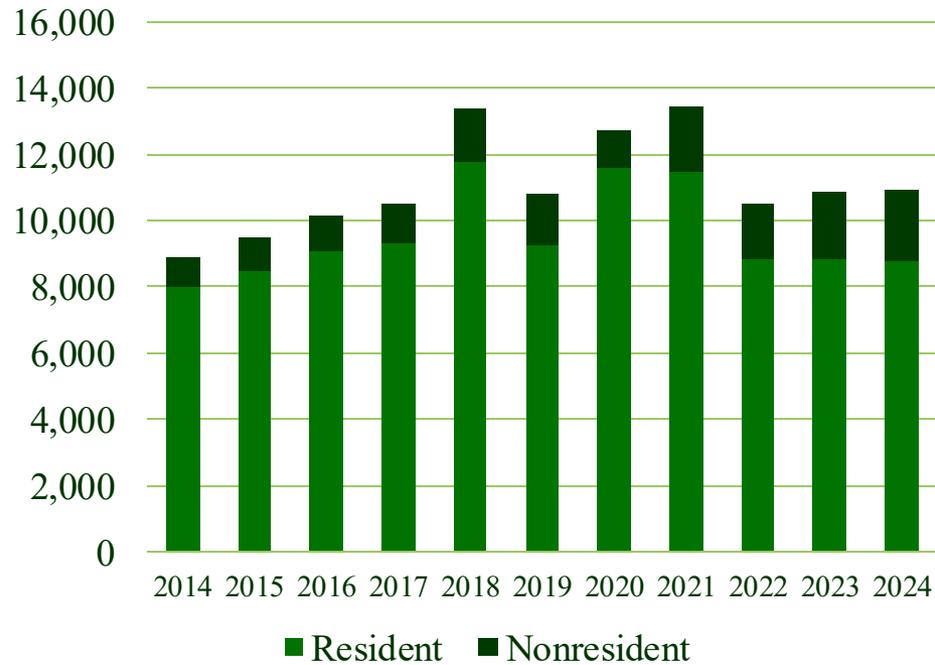


## 1980s Gobbling Activity Study

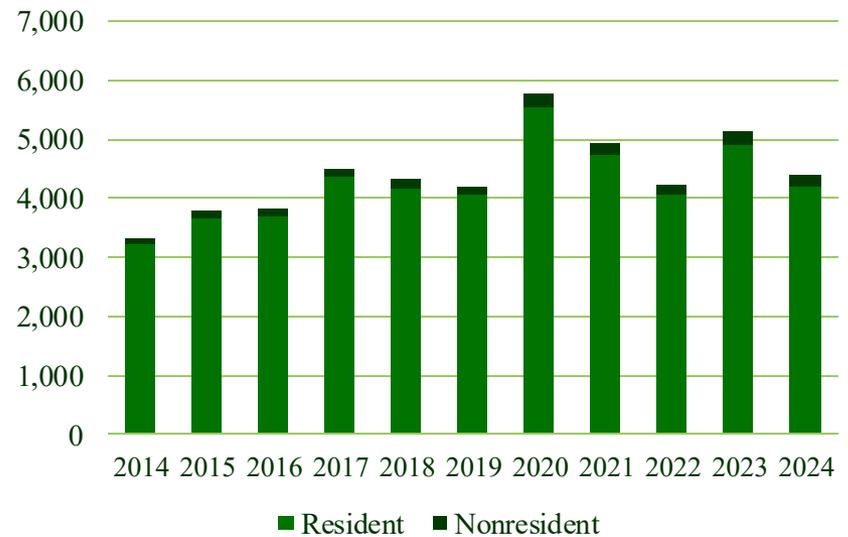


# Turkey License Sales

## Spring License Sales

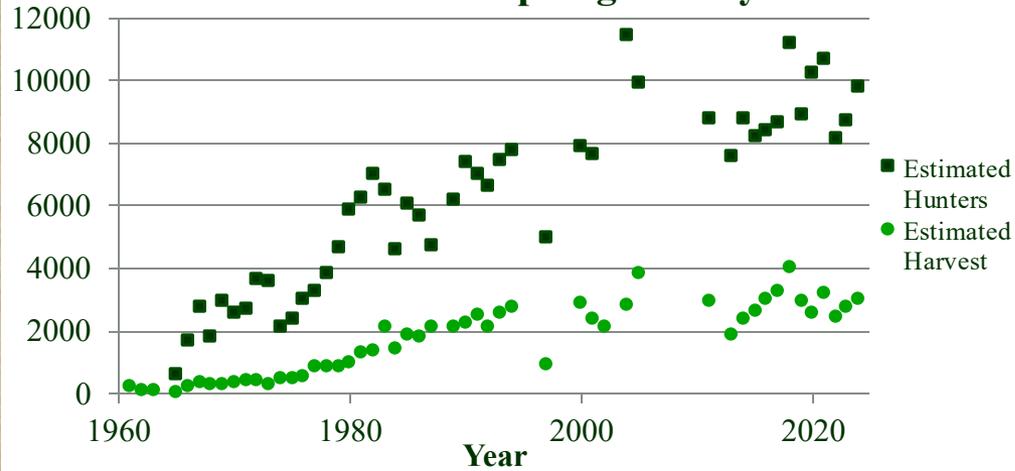


## Fall License Sales

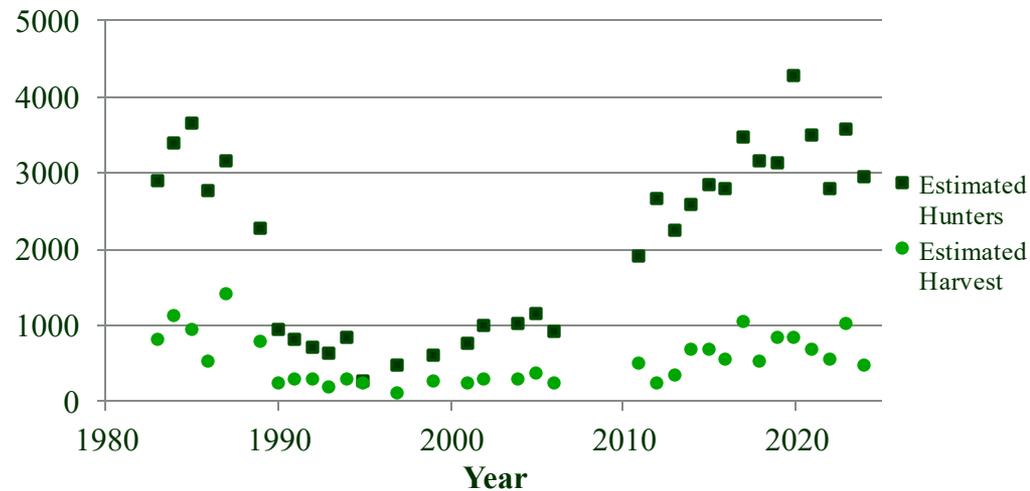


# Long-term Overview

## New Mexico Spring Turkey



## New Mexico Fall Turkey



# Recent Hunting Results

Fish

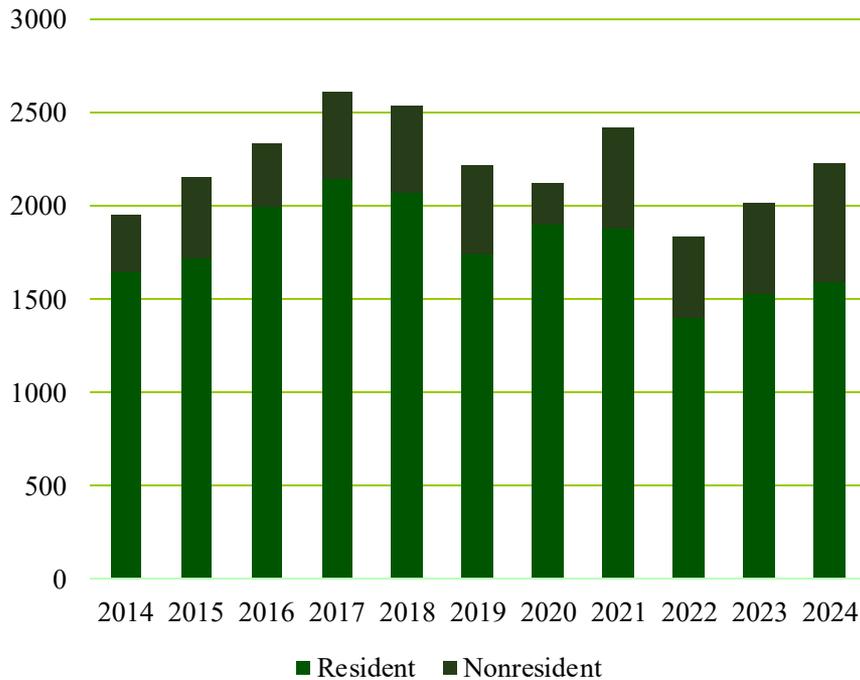
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| Year | Estimated Spring Harvest | Spring Harvest Success | Spring First Turkey | Spring Second Turkey | Second Turkey Success | Spring Satisfaction |  | Total Fall Harvest | Fall Harvest Success | Hens Harvest | Fall Satisfaction |
|------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 2014 | 2,395                    | 26.3%                  | 1,977               | 398                  | 20.0%                 | 3.4                 |  | 675                | 26.3%                | 420          | 3.3               |
| 2015 | 2,607                    | 25.8%                  | 2,117               | 490                  | 23.1%                 | 3.4                 |  | 680                | 23.9%                | 424          | 3.5               |
| 2016 | 3,036                    | 29.0%                  | 2,431               | 605                  | 24.9%                 | 3.5                 |  | 536                | 19.3%                | 263          | 3.2               |
| 2017 | 3,281                    | 29.9%                  | 2,590               | 691                  | 26.7%                 | 3.6                 |  | 1,030              | 29.7%                | 624          | 3.5               |
| 2018 | 4,007                    | 28.2%                  | 3,149               | 858                  | 27.2%                 | 3.5                 |  | 508                | 16.1%                | 252          | 3.1               |
| 2019 | 2,960                    | 26.4%                  | 2,352               | 608                  | 25.9%                 | 3.5                 |  | 824                | 26.3%                | 571          | 3.5               |
| 2020 | 2,600                    | 20.9%                  | 2,147               | 453                  | 21.1%                 | 3.3                 |  | 837                | 19.7%                | 476          | 2.4               |
| 2021 | 3,201                    | 23.8%                  | 2,553               | 648                  | 25.4%                 | 3.4                 |  | 661                | 17.7%                | 409          | 3.3               |
| 2022 | 2,462                    | 22.8%                  | 1,964               | 498                  | 25.4%                 | 3.3                 |  | 544                | 19.6%                | 333          | 2.2               |
| 2023 | 2,769                    | 24.8%                  | 2,248               | 521                  | 23.2%                 | 3.4                 |  | 1,003              | 28.1%                | 658          | 3.5               |
| 2024 | 3,037                    | 24.0%                  | 2,411               | 626                  | 26.0%                 | 3.5                 |  | 473                | 16.1%                | 258          | 3.2               |

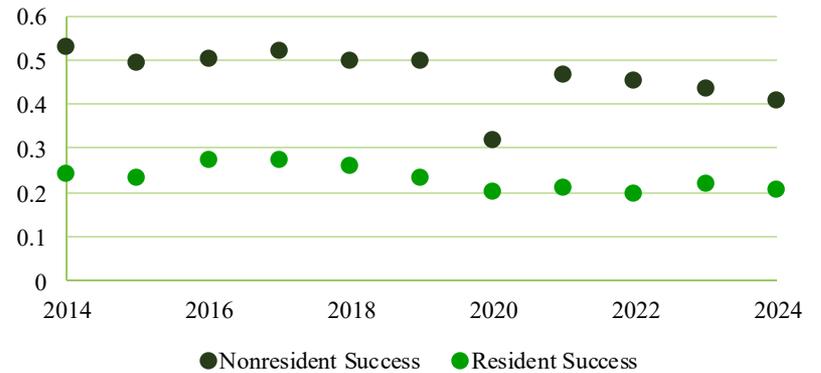


# Spring Hunting Season

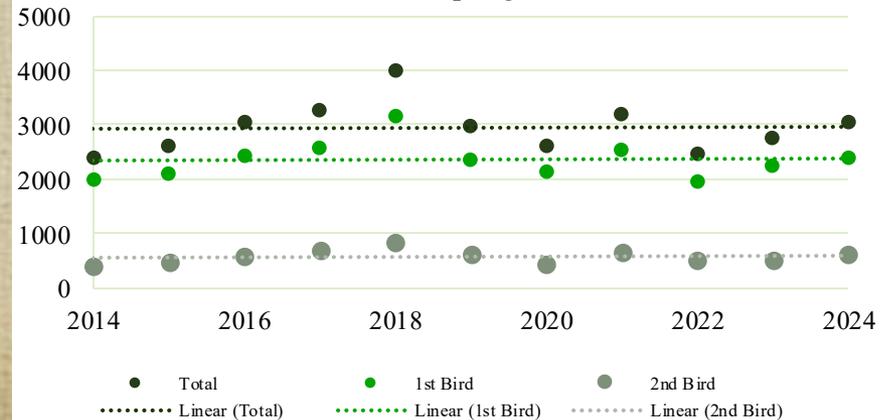
### Reported Spring Harvest



### Spring Success Rates



### Estimated Spring Harvest



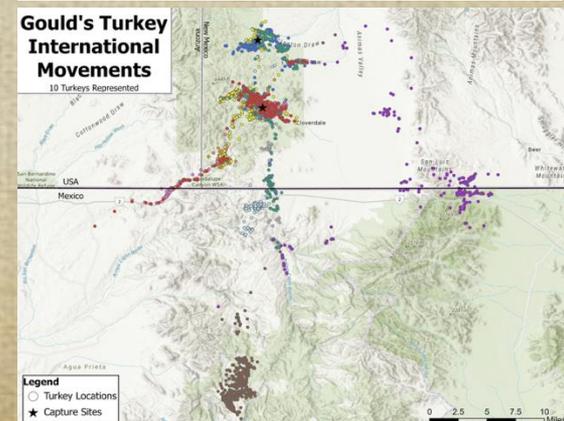
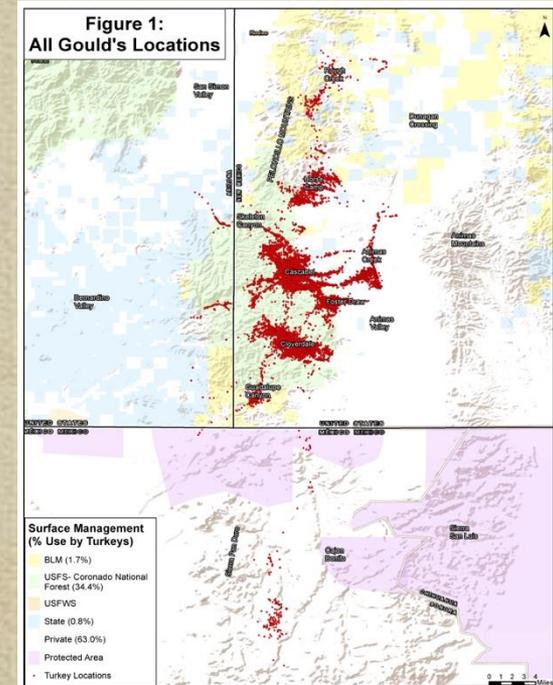
# On-going Research

- Merriam's hen reproduction study
  - GPS mark hens across NM
  - 42 hens marked in 2025
- National turkey brood survey
  - Document turkeys in July and August



# On-going Research

- Gould's turkey monitoring following delisting
  - Continued population counts
  - Monitoring nesting and brooding success
  - Movement and habitat use



# **Amend: Turkey 19.31.16 NMAC**

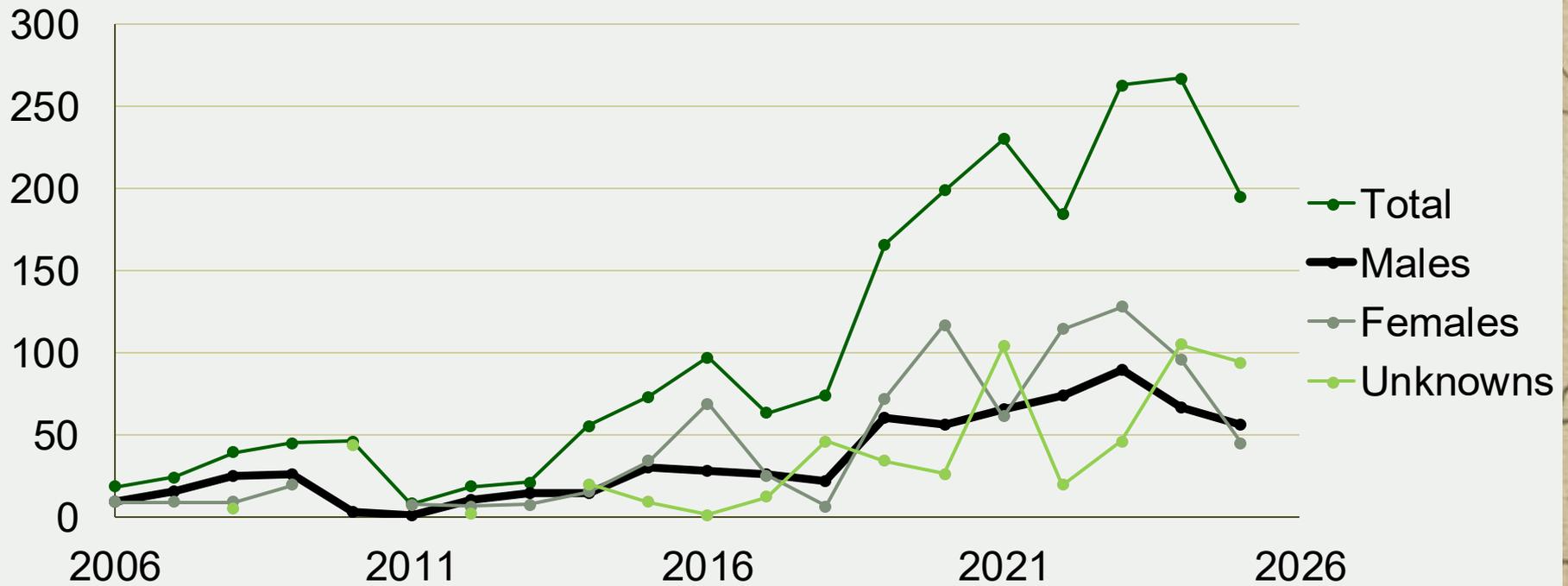
## **Proposed Changes**

- **Adjust hunts based on calendar dates**
- **Increase up-to permit numbers for OIL GMU 26 and 27 hunt**



# Increase up-to OIL Licenses for GMU 26/27

## Gould's Turkey Surveys



# *Questions?*

