

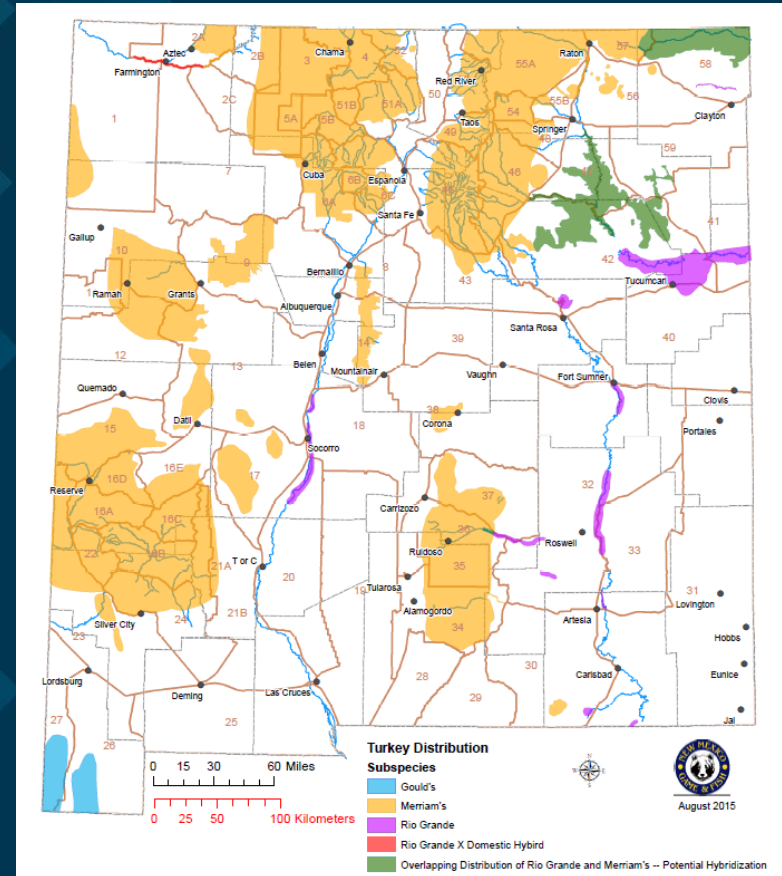


Amend 19.31.16 NMAC Turkey
March 20, 2026 Albuquerque, NM

Turkey Biology

Three Subspecies in New Mexico

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



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Turkey Biology

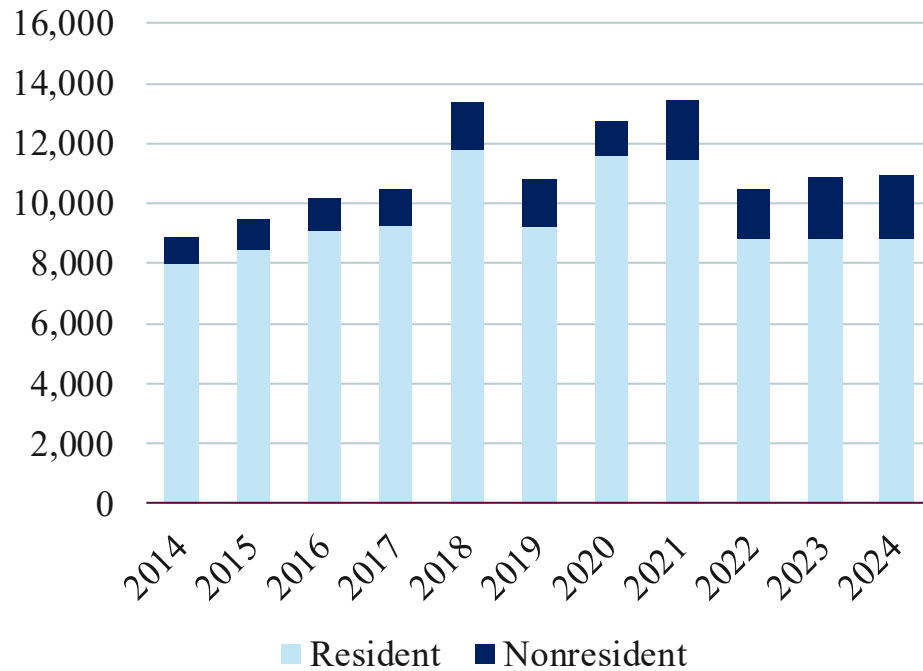
- **Populations vary with environmental conditions**
- **Spring hunting harvest is primarily males and one male can breed many hens**
- **Fall hunting has the potential for additive mortality on hens**

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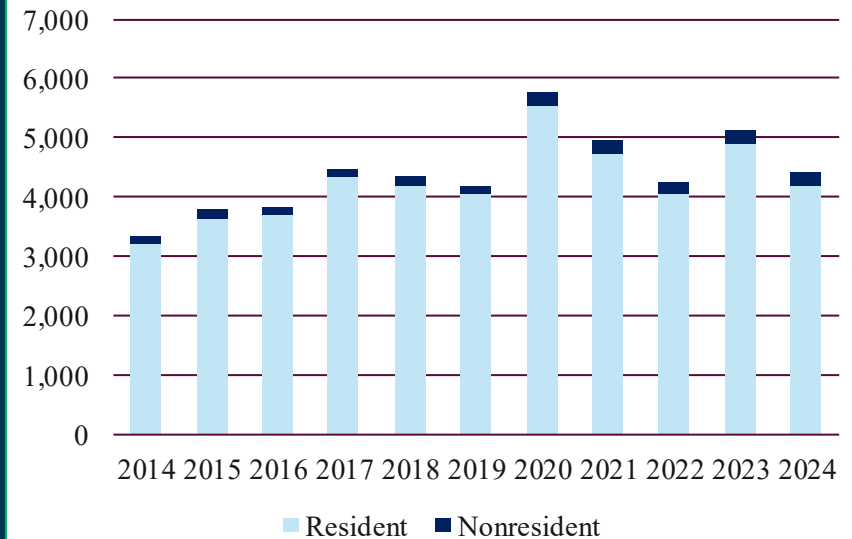


Turkey License Sales

Spring License Sales



Fall License Sales

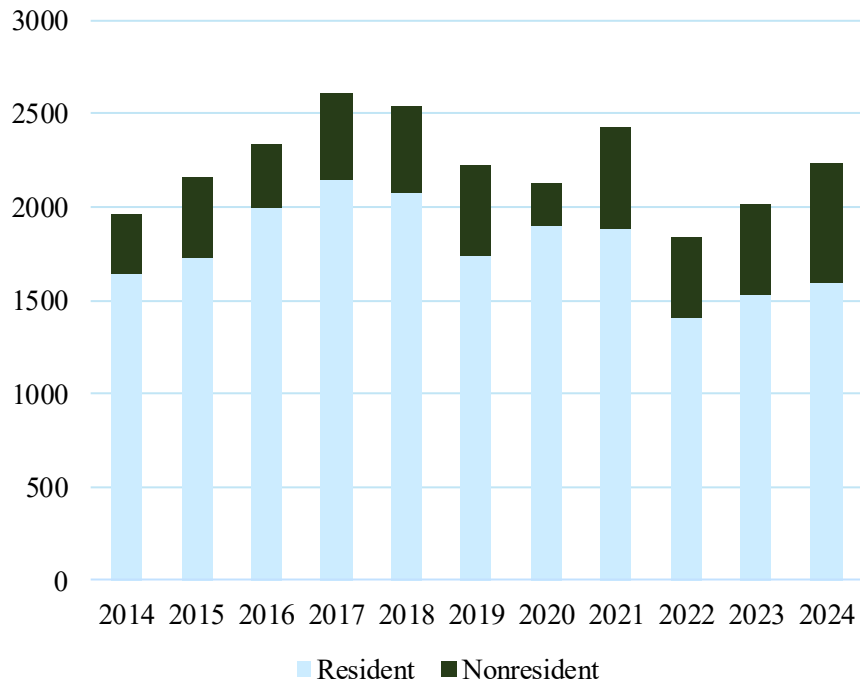


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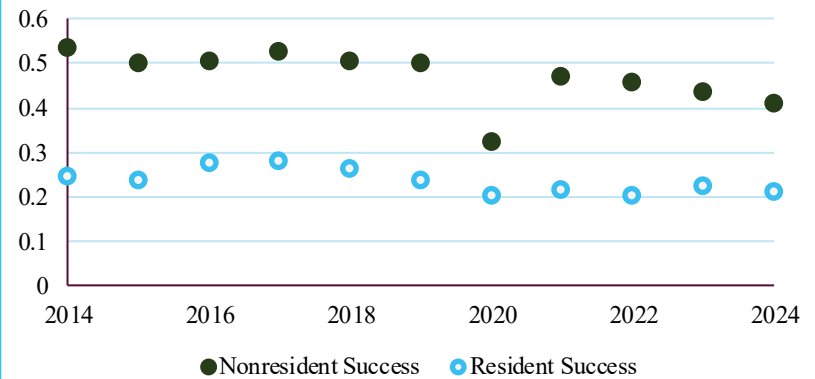


Spring Hunting Season

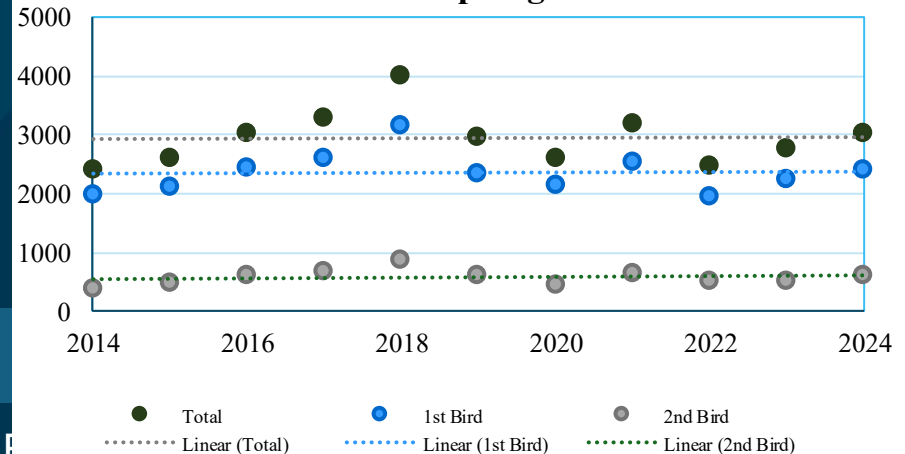
Reported Spring Harvest



Spring Success Rates



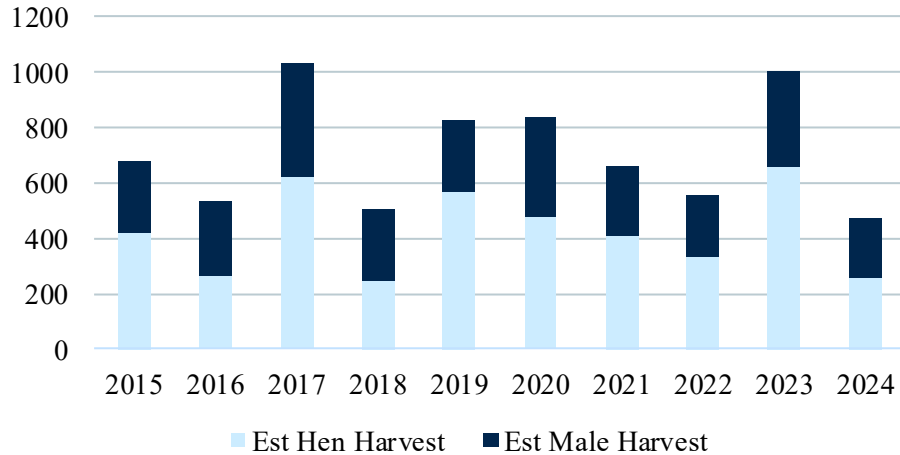
Estimated Spring Harvest



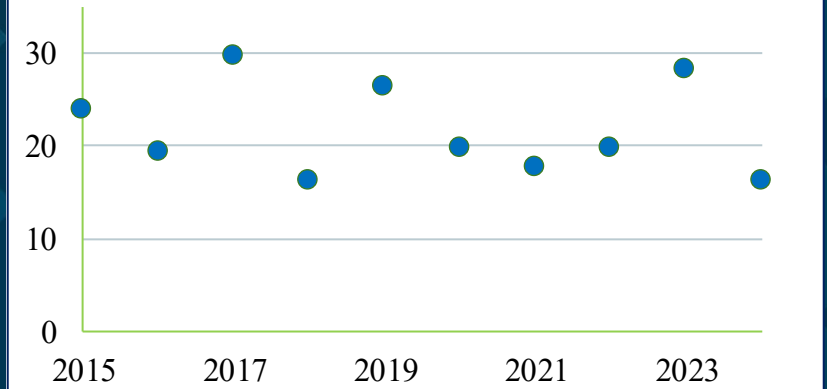
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Fall Hunting Season

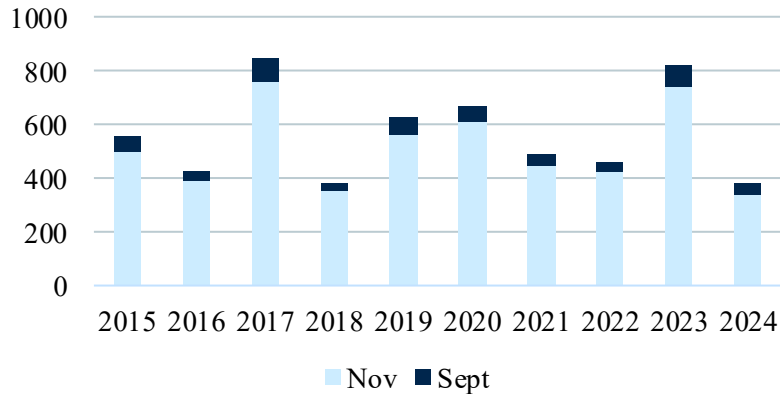
Fall Harvest Breakdown- Sex



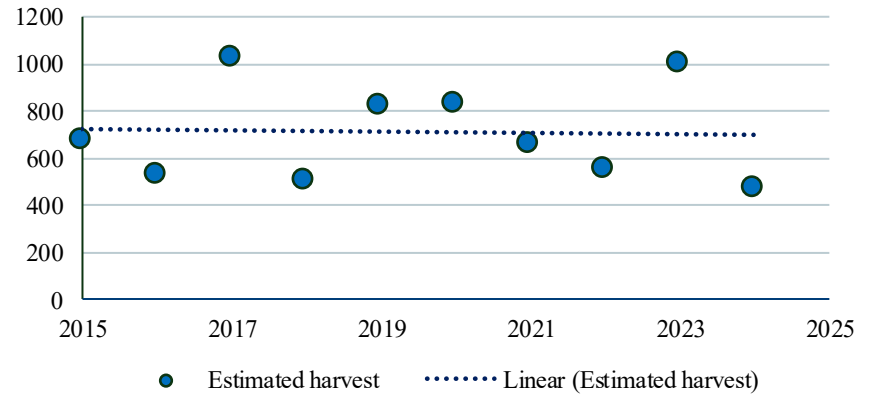
Fall Harvest Success Rates



Fall Harvest Breakdown-Month



Estimated Fall Harvest



Ar



Consider Fall Hen Harvest Closures

Based on harvest reporting and biological assessment, no units are being proposed for closure

GMU	5-Year Average	10-Year Average
Statewide	427	427
34	105	102
16	44	48
6	41	38
36	25	27
45	23	21
24	13	19
9	11	15
10	12	15
15	14	15
51	24	14
5	16	12

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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 to 15**
- **Increase GMU 8 draw tags from 15 to 20**
- **Conducted analysis of fall hen harvest, and this indicated that there are no units for which low-level harvest will negatively impact the population**

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Adjust dates by Calendar Year

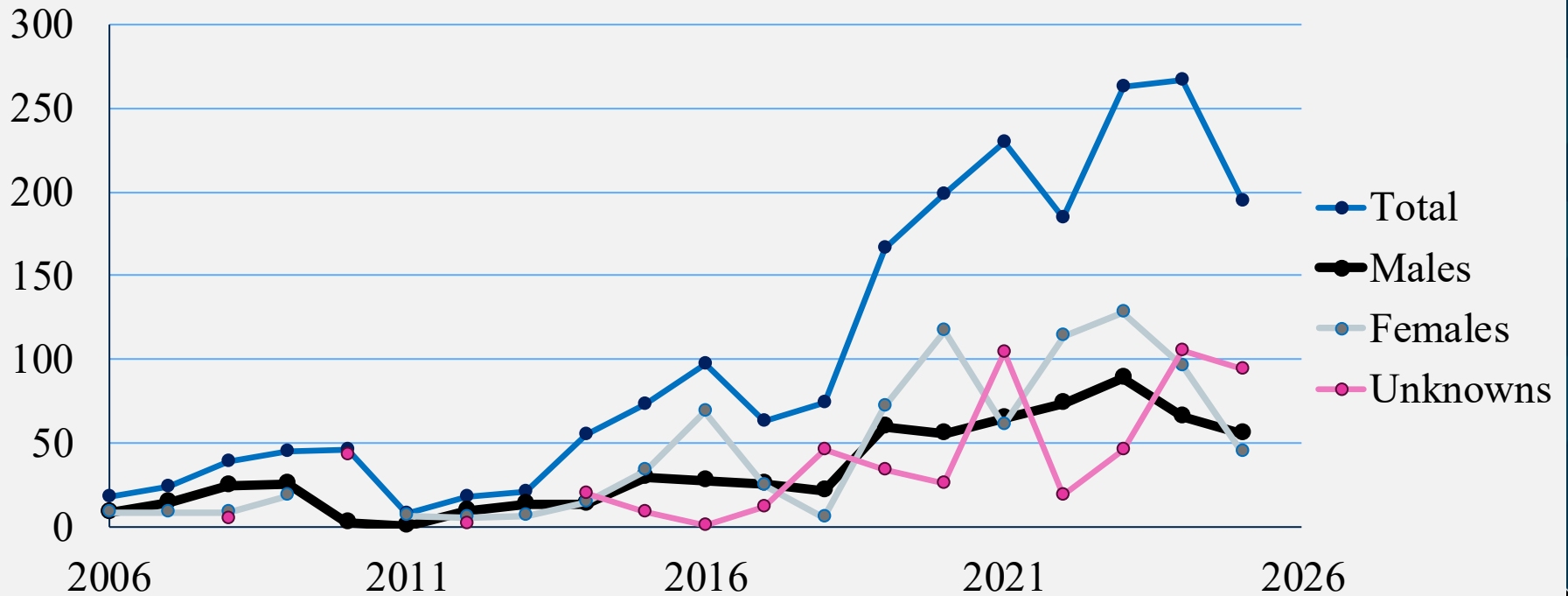
Youth Seasons	
Year	Dates
2027	April 9-11
2028	April 7-9
2029	April 6-8
2030	April 12-14

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Increase up-to OIL Licenses for GMU 26/27 to 15

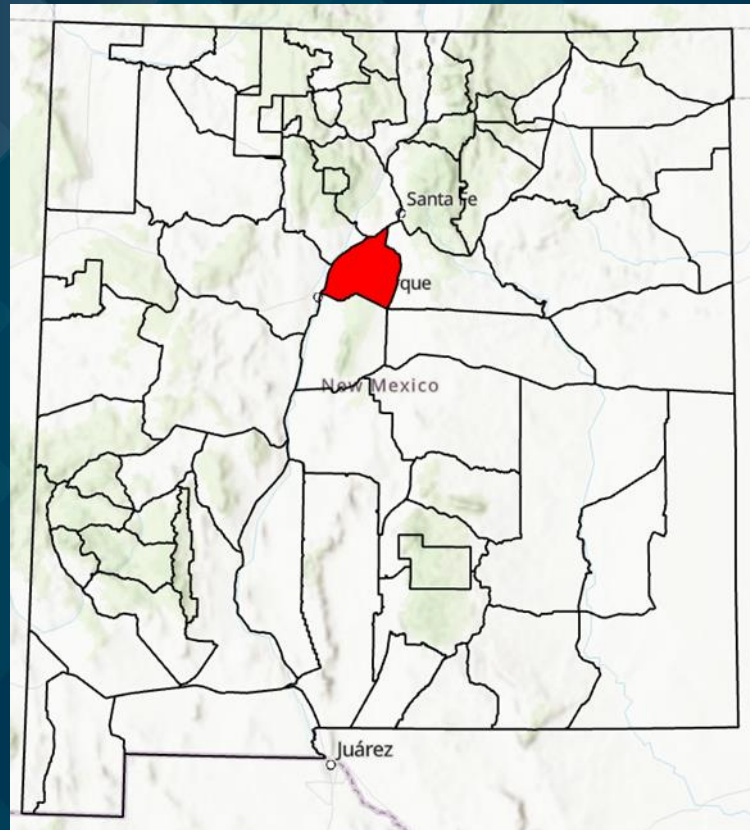
Gould's Turkey Surveys



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Increase GMU 8 draw tags from 15 to 20



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Public Outreach Turkey 19.31.16 NMAC

Hybrid meetings- March 11 & 12

Albuquerque and Las Cruces - 11 online & 9 in-person attendees for both meetings

Virtual Meeting- March 9

**National Wild Turkey Federation Virtual Meeting-
9 in attendance**

20 Emails received

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NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE



Public Comment

Turkey 19.31.16 NMAC

Comments received as of March 16, 2026

Remove/Reduce fall hen harvest (8)

Reduce spring bag limit to 1 VB (7)

Limit non-resident tag numbers (4)

Reduce fall hunt days (3)

Expand Gould's tag numbers (3)

Change turkey to a draw/quota hunt (2)

Change Gould's hunt structure to multiple shorter hunts (2)

Change spring bag to 1 male- not 1 VB (1)

Reduce GMUs open for youth hunt (1)

Add a weekend hunt for Veterans (1)

Add a hunt for seniors over 70 (1)

Keep the closing date in May (1)

Increase predator hunting opportunities (1)

Support for current proposals (1)

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Questions?



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NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

