



Turkey Rule 19.31.16 NMAC

May 28, 2026

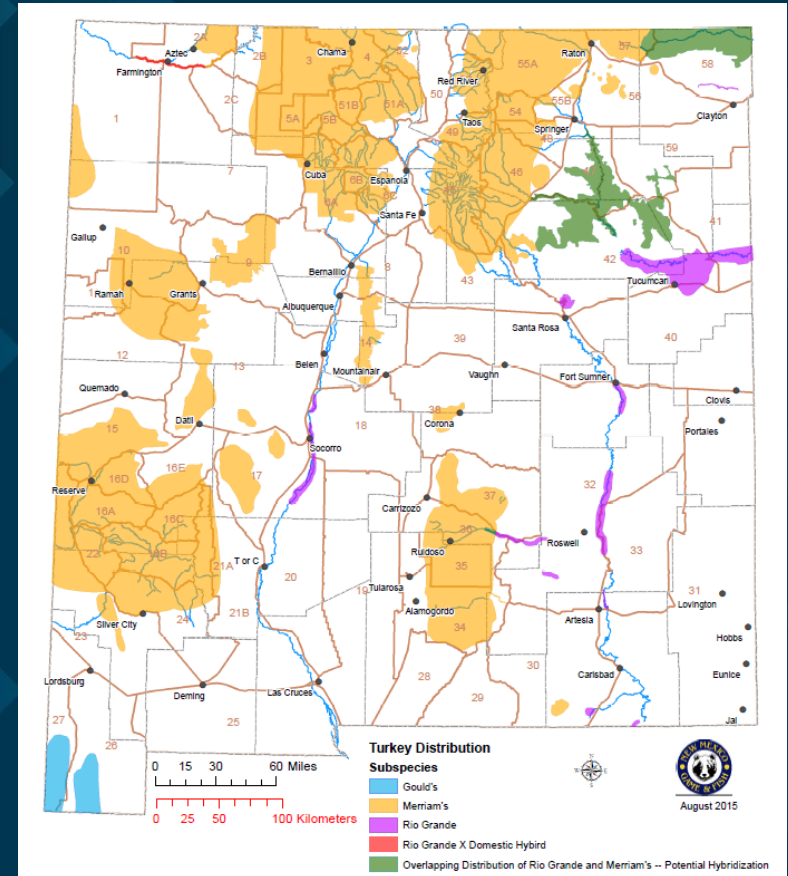
New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting
Socorro, NM



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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Recommendations

- **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**
- **Require the purchase of a license at least 1 day prior to hunting**

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Adjust dates by Calendar Year

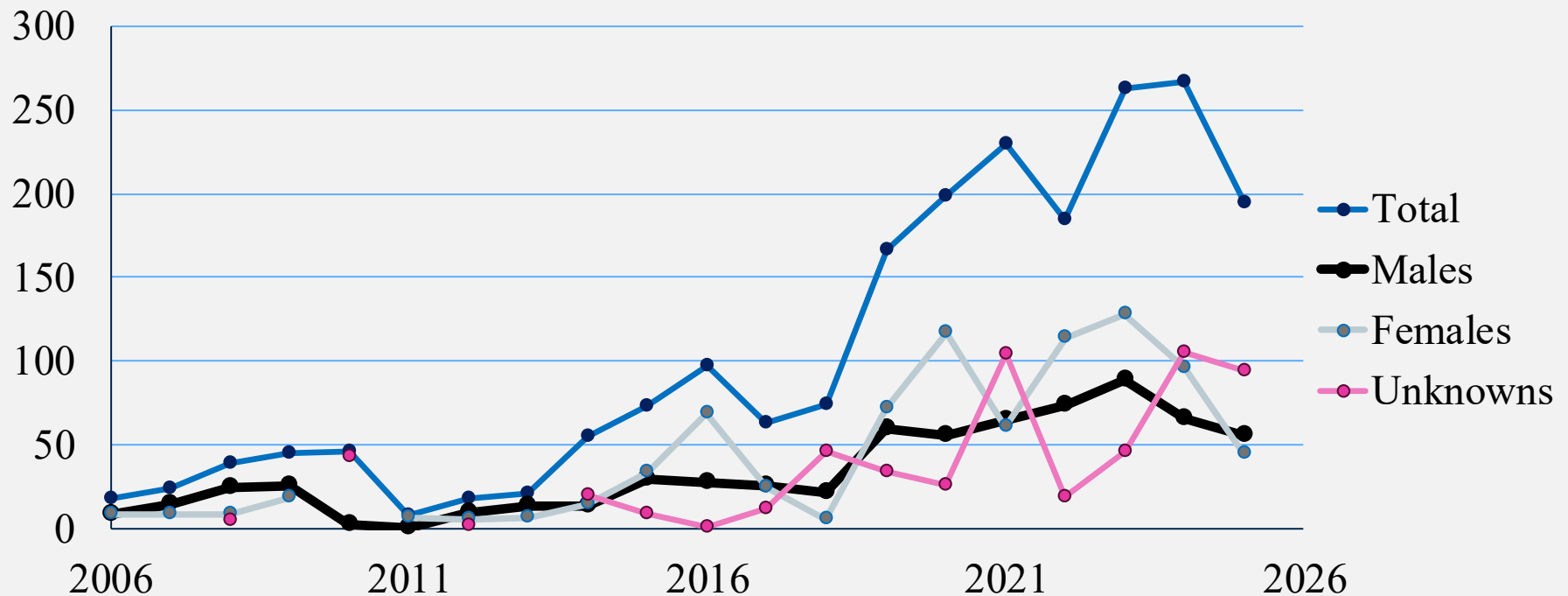
Youth Seasons	
Year	Dates
2027	April 9-11
2028	April 7-9
2029	April 6-8
2030	April 12-14

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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

26 written comments from 23 organizations/individuals

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Public Comment

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Comments received as of May 26, 2026

- Remove/Reduce fall hen harvest (8)
- Reduce spring bag limit to 1 VB (8)
- Limit non-resident tag numbers (5)
- Remove/Reduce fall hunt days (4)
- Expand Gould's tag numbers (4)
- Limit non-residents to 1 VB (2)
- Change turkey to a draw/quota hunt (2)
- Shorten/Stratify the spring season (2)
- Change Gould's hunt structure to multiple shorter hunts (2)
- Support for current proposals (2)
- End legal hunting hours at sunset (1)
- Increase GMU 8 Tags (1)
- 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)

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Questions?



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