

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: January 9, 2026

Agenda Number: 13

Presenter: Stewart Liley

Corroborator: N/A

Agenda Title: Initial Discussion of Turkey Rule (19.31.16 NMAC).

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. We are currently analyzing data and reaching out to turkey hunters to evaluate alternatives and to help inform the rule development process.

Preliminary proposed changes include:

- Adjust hunts for calendar dates
- Increase up-to permit number for Gould's once-in-a-lifetime hunt in GMU 26 and 27

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 is at the beginning of the public involvement process. Proposed changes to the turkey rule will be posted on the Department's website. Input will be gathered from mail, email, and public meetings with interested members of the public. Public meetings will be held with a virtual component, to gather public comments on the proposed changes to the turkey rule.

Suggested Motion

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