

STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING AND RULE MAKING NOTICE

The New Mexico State Game Commission (“Commission”) will be hosting a meeting and rule hearings on Friday October 14, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Farm and Ranch Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Rd, Las Cruces, NM 88011. The purpose of this meeting is to hear and consider action as appropriate on the presentation of proposed changes to the following five rules: Turkey, Deer, Elk, Manner and Method of Taking, and Licensing and Application.

Synopsis:

The proposal is to amend the following rules: 1) Turkey Rule 19.31.16 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2023. The most recent version of the rule will expire on March 31, 2023; 2) Deer Rule 19.31.13 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2023. The most recent version of the rule will expire on March 31, 2023; 3) Elk Rule, 19.31.14 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2023. The most recent version of the rule will expire on March 31, 2023; 4) Manner and Method of Taking 19.31.10 NMAC, which will become effective on April 1, 2023. This rule does not expire; and 5) Licensing and Application 19.31.3 NMAC, which will become effective April 1, 2023. This rule does not expire.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TURKEY RULE: 1) Extend the spring season, including Entry Permit hunts, to close on May 15; 2) Adjust hunt dates by calendar date; 3) Evaluate the potential to open certain closed GMUs based on turkey population status; 4) Add a once-in-a-lifetime Entry Permit hunt for Gould’s Turkey in GMU 26 and 27 with up to 5 permits. The hunt will occur from May 1 - 30 to reduce potential impacts of hunting on breeding activity and to accommodate later breeding activity of Gould’s turkeys compared to other NM turkey subspecies; 5) Remove W.S. Huey WMA youth hunt due to low turkey numbers; 6) Define dates and permit numbers for the Washington Ranch Youth Hunt and add BLM Black River Management Area to the hunt area; 7) Add the LBar acquisition to the Marquez WMA entry hunt; 8) Prohibit shooting turkeys on the roost.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE DEER RULE:

General Statewide Proposed Changes: 1) Modify the definition of a muzzle-loader only hunts to include only those muzzle-loading firearms that do not have a scope (for all big game species); 2) Adjust season dates to account for calendar shift. For example, if a hunt normally starts on a Saturday, this date shift would be maintained throughout the rule so the hunts continue to start on a Saturday; 3) Adjust some hunts to minimize overlap of weapons used or species hunted; 4) Adjust draw license numbers based on biological data and management goals: a) Reductions in GMUs: 2B, 12, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 39, and 55; b) Slight increases in GMUs: 5B, 6A/6C, 7, 8, 9, 14, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 40, 42, 43, 45, 47, 48, 49, 53, 56, 58, 59.

Specific Proposed Changes: 5) Create an October youth hunt in GMUs 2A and 2B; move most of the youth licenses from November into October: a) GMU 2A: 25 licenses in October, 15 licenses in November; b) GMU 2B: 125 licenses in October, 25 licenses in November 6) Create a November rifle hunt on L Bar/Marquez WMA in GMU 9 (10 licenses); 7) Designate GMU 8 as a Quality Unit; 8) Add a second hunt code for White Sands Missile Range (Rhodes Canyon and Stallion Range hunts; 5 licenses each); 9) Create new hunts where deer populations have increased: a) January FAD archery hunts in GMUs 7 and 9 (15 licenses each); b) December FAWTD rifle hunts in GMUs 21 and 26 (25 licenses each); c) September FAMD and FAWTD archery hunts in GMU 27 (30 FAMD and 15 FAWTD licenses); d) November ESWTD hunt in GMU 55A, 55B (private land, unlimited licenses); 10) Open River Ranch, Double E, and Pipkin Ranch WMAs to deer hunting for those with valid licenses for the GMU; 11) Remove language “Excluding Fort Stanton” for the GMU 36 deer hunts; 12) Reduce youth licenses on Huey WMA in GMU 33 from 2 hunts of 10 licenses each to 2 hunts of 5 licenses each.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ELK RULE:

General Statewide proposed changes: 1) Modify the definition of a muzzle-loader only hunt to include those muzzle-loading firearms that do not have a scope (for all big game species); 2) Adjust season dates to account for calendar shift. For example, if a hunt normally starts on a Saturday, this date shift would be maintained throughout the rule so the hunts continue to start on a Saturday; 3) Adjust some hunts to minimize overlap of weapons used or species hunted; 4) Adjust draw license numbers based on biological data and management goals: a) Reductions in GMUs: 9, 16A, 16B/22, 16C, 16E, 19, 50, 53, 54 (Colin Neblett), & 55A (Valle Vidal); b) Slight increases in GMUs: 2, 4, 6B, 13, 23, 30, 34, 36, 42/47/59, 51, & 57/58.

Specific Proposed changes: 5) Increase antlerless elk licenses in GMU 2 to address expanding elk population; 6) Increase antlerless elk licenses on the Rio Chama WMA to address a more resident elk population; 7) Increase antlerless elk licenses in GMU 6B in the Valles Caldera and eliminate the mobility impaired hunt because it has not been drawn in the last 4 years and will not be in the next 4 years; 8) Increase elk licenses on Marquez WMA and combine the hunt with the newly acquired LBar property: a) Acquisition of the LBar by NMDGF shifts public ownership from 65% to 69% of Primary Management Zone within GMU 9; 9) Decrease elk licenses overall in GMU 9; 10) Shift late season antlerless elk hunt in GMU 10 to begin earlier in December; 11) Expand Primary Management Zone boundary in GMU 13 to reflect elk use: a) This expansion would shift public land ownership proportion from 58% to 63%; public license numbers will increase slightly to reflect this change; 12) Expand Primary Management Zone boundary in GMU 17, to reflect elk use; a) This expansion would shift public land ownership proportion from 86% to 83%; however, public license numbers will remain unchanged; 13) Decrease some mid and late-October mature bull rifle hunts in GMUs 16A, 16B/22, 16C, and 16E; 14) Eliminate the elk hunt of 3 licenses in GMU 19 (White Sands Missile Range); 15) Create a new antlerless elk hunt in GMU 23 south of NM highway 7; 16) Shift a hunt to later dates in GMU 24; 17) Increase licenses in GMU 30 and open GMU 29 to be hunted in conjunction; 18) Create two new antlerless elk hunts in GMU 34 to occur in late January and early February, and increase Youth Encouragement licenses; 19) Create a new antlerless elk hunt in GMU 36 in late January and increase Youth Encouragement licenses. Additionally, change all MB bag limits to ES; 20) Increase licenses in the combined elk hunts in GMUs 42/47/59 to address an increase in public land access; 21) Include GMU 39 with GMU 43 in a draw hunt - this would not increase licenses; 22) Shift the zone designation in GMU 46 from Special Management Zone to Secondary Management Zone; 23) Shift 25 archery licenses in GMU 48 into the muzzleloader and rifle hunts; 24) Re-distribute the Youth Encouragement licenses in GMU 50 to GMU 51; 25) Eliminate the antlerless hunt north of Sunshine Valley Road in GMU 53; 26) Decrease licenses on Colin Neblett WMA; 27) Decrease licenses on Valle Vidal; 28) Establish an archery hunt in the combined GMU 57/58 area; 29) Re-define "Encouragement Hunts" to be available to resident youth who did not draw a big game hunt in the draw for the first 14-days of availability, then offer to any youth after the first 14-days. This recommendation would remove the ability for seniors to purchase encouragement hunt licenses.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MANNER AND METHOD RULE: Several changes will be made to conform with changes to other NMAC Rules, or to codify changes that were agreed upon during those rule development processes. The changes are: 1) Change the requirement that female ibex with horns that are 15 inches or longer retain the external genitalia naturally attached to the hide or carcass and be visible until arriving at a residence, taxidermist, meat processing facility or place of final storage, to female ibex with horns 20 inches or longer; 2) Include a requirement that female Barbary sheep with horns 18 inches or longer retain the external genitalia naturally attached to the hide or carcass and be visible until arriving at a residence, taxidermist, meat processing facility or place of final storage; 3) Change the definition of muzzle loader hunts to preclude the use of scopes; 4) Prohibit shooting turkeys from a roost.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LICENSING AND APPLICATION RULE: Change the requirement for proving veteran status prior to applying for the new veteran-only oryx draw hunt.

A full text of changes for all rules will be available on the Department's website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes to the rules as follows: 1) Turkey Rule at DGF-Gamebird@state.nm.us; 2) Deer Rule at DGF-Deer-Rule@state.nm.us; 3) Elk Rule at DGF-Elk-Rule@state.nm.us; 4) Manner and Method of Taking Rule and 5) Licensing and Application Rule at Elise.Goldstein@state.nm.us. Individuals may also submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 8:00 a.m. on October 13, 2022. The final proposed rules will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on October 14, 2022. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearings to be held on October 14, 2022.

Full copies of text of the proposed new rules, technical information related to proposed rule changes, and the agenda can be obtained from the Office of the Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507, or from the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/. This agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the Director's Office at (505) 476-8000, or the Department's website at www.wildlife.state.nm.us for updated information.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Department at (505) 476-8000 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Department at 505-476-8000 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

Legal authority for this rulemaking can be found in the General Powers and Duties of the State Game Commission Sections 17-1-14, et seq. NMSA 1978; Commission's Power to establish rules and regulations Sections 17-1-26, et seq. NMSA 1978.

TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 16 TURKEY

19.31.16.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico department of game and fish.
[19.31.16.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.1 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in turkey management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978, and Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.16.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.2 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Sections 17-1-14, 17-1-26, 17-3-16.4, and 17-3-16.5 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds, and fish.
[19.31.16.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.3 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.4 DURATION: April 1, 20192023 through March 31, 20232027.
[19.31.16.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.4 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 20192023, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.16.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.5 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing open hunting seasons, rules and procedures governing the distribution and issuance of turkey permits and licenses by the department.
[19.31.16.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.6 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. “Bearded turkey” shall mean a turkey with a visible beard.

B. “Bearded Gould’s turkey” shall mean a turkey with a visible beard of the species *Mmeleagris gallopavo mexicana*.

BC. “Department” shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.

CD. “Director” shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.

DE. “Entry permit” shall entitle the holder of a valid turkey license to hunt areas otherwise closed to turkey hunting.

EF. “Game management unit” or “GMU” shall mean those areas as described in state game commission rule 19.30.4 NMAC, Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.

G. “Gould’s turkey permit” as used herein, shall mean a document issued by the department that authorizes the holder to participate in the activity as specified on the permit.

FH. “Wildlife management areas” or “WMAs” shall mean those areas as described in rule 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.

[19.31.16.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.7 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.8 ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES, PERMITS, AND AUTHORIZATIONS: The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of licenses, permits, or authorizations, for turkey up or down by no more than twenty percent to address significant changes in population levels or habitat availability. This adjustment may be applied to any or all of the entry hunt codes for turkey.
[19.31.16.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.8 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.9 TURKEY ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME-HUNTS: It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for or hold a once-in-a-lifetime turkey entry permit if he or she has held a once-in-a-lifetime entry permit to hunt turkey.
[19.31.16.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.9 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.910 TURKEY HUNTING SEASONS: The 2019 20202023-24 through 2022 232026-27 hunting seasons shall be as indicated below, listing the GMUs or areas open, eligibility requirements or restrictions, hunt dates, hunt codes, legal sporting arms, number of permits, and bag limits. All WMAs, except as listed in Subsection

A of 19.31.16.910 NMAC, are open to both spring and fall over-the-counter turkey hunting if the GMU where they are located is open to turkey hunting or unless specifically closed in rule or are restricted to entry permit holders as listed in Subsection B of 19.31.16.910 NMAC.

A. Over-the-counter hunts: All over-the-counter turkey licenses shall be valid for any legal sporting arms, except turkey hunting in the Sandia ranger district portion of GMU 14 and Sugarite canyon state park in GMU 57 are restricted to bow and crossbow only. The number of licenses for these hunts shall be unlimited.

(1) Spring seasons:

Open GMUs or areas	hunt dates	bag limit
Statewide except the following GMUs or areas are closed to over-the-counter turkey hunting: GMU: 2A areas east of NMUS 550 and north of NM 173, 2B areas in the Carson national forest, 2C areas in the Carson national forest, 6B, 8, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31 Bernardo WMA, Bill Evans WMA, Double E WMA, Jackson lake WMA, La Joya WMA, Lake Roberts WMA, Marquez/LBar WMA, Prairie Chicken WMAs, Red Rock WMA, River ranch WMA, Valle Vidal, W.S. Huey WMA	4/15-5/4/15	2 turkeys with visible beards
Statewide except as listed above, youth only	4/12-14/2019 4/10-12/2020 4/9-11/2021 4/8-10/2022 4/7-9/2023 4/12-14/2024 4/11-13/2025 4/10-12/2026	2 turkeys with visible beards

(2) Fall seasons:

Open GMUs or areas	hunt dates	bag limit
Statewide except the following GMUs or areas are closed to over the counter turkey hunting: GMU: 2A areas east of NMUS 550 and north of NM 173, 2B areas in the Carson national forest, 2C areas in the Carson national forest, 6B, 8, 14, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 38, 43, 49, 50, 53 Bernardo WMA, Bill Evans WMA, Double E 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, River ranch WMA, Sugarite canyon state park, Valle Vidal, W.A. Humphries WMA, W.S. Huey WMA	bow only: 9/1-30 any legal sporting arms: 11/1-30	any 1 turkey

B. Entry permit hunts: All entry permits shall be valid for any legal sporting arms except turkey hunting in the Sandia ranger district portion of GMU 8. An entry permit authorizes the holder to hunt in the area, for the bag limit, and for the season dates listed on the permit. In addition, holders of a turkey entry permit may hunt in any open over-the-counter area during the spring season for a second turkey (if applicable) or if unsuccessful in their entry hunt area. In no circumstance may any turkey hunter take or attempt to take more than 2 bearded turkeys during the spring season, except the holder of a Gould's turkey enhancement permit as described in 19.31.16.112 NMAC. Holders of an entry hunt permit must also purchase a turkey hunting license prior to hunting. The maximum number of permits is listed below.

Open GMUs or areas	2019-2020 2023-2024 hunt dates	2020-2021 2024-2025 hunt dates	2021-2022 2025-2026 hunt dates	2022-2023 2026-2027 hunt dates	hunt code	permits	bag limit
2B (Carson national forest) 2C (Carson national forest)	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	TUR-1-100	115	1 turkey with visible beard
2B (Carson national forest)	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	TUR-1-101	50	1 turkey with visible beard

2C (Carson national forest), youth only							
2A (areas east of NMUS 550 and north of NM 173), youth only	4/15-5/10/15	4/15-5/10/15	4/15-5/10/15	4/15-5/10/15	TUR-1-102	5	1 turkey with visible beard
6B-the Valles Caldera national preserve	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	TUR-1-103	20	1 turkey with visible beard
8 (bow and crossbow only in Sandia ranger district)	4/15-5/10/15	4/15-5/10/15	4/15-5/10/15	4/15-5/10/15	TUR-1-104	15	2 turkeys with visible beard
9 Marquez/LBar WMA	4/15-5/10/15	4/15-5/10/15	4/15-5/10/15	4/15-5/10/15	TUR-1-105	5/15	21 turkeys with visible beard
26 and 27 once-in-a-lifetime	5/1-5/30	5/1-5/30	5/1-5/30	5/1-5/30	TUR-1-106	up to 5	1 turkey with visible beard
30 Washington ranch (private land) and Black river management area (BLM), youth only	TBD 4/28-4/30	TBD 4/26-4/28	TBD 4/25-4/27	TBD 4/24-4/26	TUR-1-1067	up to 40	1 turkey with visible beard
30 Washington ranch (private land) and Black river management area (BLM), youth only	5/5-5/7	5/3-5/5	5/2-5/4	5/1-5/3	TUR-1-108	up to 4	1 turkey with visible beard
33W.S. Huey WMA, youth only	4/12-4/14	4/10-4/12	4/9-4/11	4/8-4/10	TUR-1-107	up to 4	1 turkey with visible beard
33 W.S. Huey WMA, youth only	4/19-4/21	4/17-4/19	4/16-4/18	4/15-4/17	TUR-1-108	up to 4	1 turkey with visible beard
55 Valle Vidal and Greenwood areas (only the east side is open from 5/1-15)	4/15-4/30/5/15	4/15-4/30/5/15	4/15-4/30/5/15	4/15-4/30/5/15	TUR-1-109	20	1 turkey with visible beard

[19.31.16.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.9 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.101 TURKEY POPULATION MANAGEMENT HUNTS:

A. The director or their designee may authorize population management hunts for turkey when justified in writing by department personnel.

B. The director or their designee shall designate the sporting arms, season dates, season lengths, bag limits, hunt boundaries, specific requirements or restrictions, and number of licenses to be issued.

C. In the event that an applicant is not able to hunt on the dates specified, the applicant's name shall be moved to the bottom of the list and another applicant may be contacted for the hunt.

D. In those instances where a population management hunt is warranted on deeded private lands, the landowner may suggest eligible hunters of their choice by submitting a list of prospective hunters' hunter's names to the department for licensing consideration. No more than one-half of the total number of licenses authorized shall be available to landowner-identified hunters. The balance of prospective hunters shall be identified by the department.

[19.31.16.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.10 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.12 GOULD'S TURKEY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

A. The director ~~of the department~~ shall collect all proceeds generated through the auction or lottery or both, of not more than two special Gould's turkey enhancement entry permits annually. ~~These and such~~ monies shall be deposited into the game protection fund, ~~and made~~ These monies shall be available for expenditure by the department to be used exclusively for activities, projects, and programs aimed at ~~the restoration and management of benefitting~~ Gould's turkeys and Gould's turkey habitat, ~~and for costs incurred in carrying out these programs.~~

B. Requirements for issuance, sale and use of Gould's turkey enhancement permits:

(1) **Issuance:** The director ~~of the department~~ may issue up to two Gould's turkey enhancement entry permits annually. ~~Prior to permit issuance each year, the director must document that the prospective harvest of up to two bearded Gould's turkeys will not jeopardize the prospects for survival and recruitment of Gould's turkeys in New Mexico or conflict with the Wildlife Conservation Act, 17-2-37 NMSA 1978.~~

(2) **Sale:**

~~(a) — The auction or lottery or both shall may be conducted by an incorporated non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of wildlife, in cooperation with and overseen by the department.~~

~~(b) — Selection of an organization to administer the auction or lottery or both of the Gould's turkey enhancement permits shall be pursuant to procurement code regulations described in 1.4.1.31 NMAC.~~

(3) **Use:**

~~(a) The successful purchaser recipient(s) shall will be allotted an authorization for a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit, which may be transferred through sale, barter, donation, or gift to other individuals qualified to obtain purchase a license and hunt. Once an authorization is converted to a permit, the permit will be non-transferable.~~

~~(b) Individuals hunting pursuant to a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit must purchase obtain and have in their possession a valid turkey hunting license and any other stamps, tags, or permits required by rule.~~

~~(c) Unless their hunting privileges have been revoked pursuant to law, any person resident of New Mexico, nonresident, or alien is eligible to bid on and purchase a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit.~~

~~(d) Individuals holding a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit shall not be prohibited from hunting other subspecies of turkeys in New Mexico as allowed in 19.31.16 NMAC.~~

~~(e) The entry permit shall be valid for any legal sporting arms, and the bag limit for each permit shall be one bearded Gould's turkey.~~

~~(f) The season dates for each entry permit shall be no more than 30 consecutive days between April 1 and May 31 as specified by the entry permit each license year.~~

~~(g) The harvest of one bearded Gould's turkey shall not count against the license holder's spring turkey bag limit.~~

~~(h) The hunt area for each entry permit shall be any legally accessible public lands in GMUs 26 and 27 where hunting is allowed, and private land with written permission.~~

~~(i) Gould's turkey enhancement entry permits granted through auction or lottery, as described above, shall not be considered 'once-in-a-lifetime' permits.~~

~~(i) All manner and method restrictions and requirements set forth in 19.31.10 NMAC shall apply to individuals hunting turkey pursuant to Gould's turkey enhancement permits.~~

[19.31.16.12 NMAC -Rp , 19.31.16.11 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

HISTORY OF 19.31.16 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History: The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under:

Regulation No. 482, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 5/31/1967;

Regulation No. 487, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Javelina And Barbary Sheep, filed 12/15/1967;

Regulation No. 489, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1968, filed 3/1/1968;

Regulation No. 491, Establishing Big Game Seasons For 1968 For Jicarilla Reservation, filed 3/1/1968;

Regulation No. 492, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/6/1968;

Regulation No. 495, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 10/2/1968;

Regulation No. 496, Establishing An Elk Season In The Tres Piedras Area, Elk Area P-6, filed 12/11/1968;

Regulation No. 502, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1969, filed 3/5/1969;

Regulation No. 503, Establishing 1969 Deer Seasons For Bowhunting Only And Big Game Seasons For The Jicarilla Indian Reservation, filed 3/5/1969;

Regulation 504, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/4/1969;

Regulation No. 507, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 8/26/1969;

Regulation No. 512, Establishing Turkey Season For The Spring Of 1970, filed 2/20/1970;

Regulation No. 513, Establishing Deer Season For Bowhunting Only In Sandia State Game Refuge, filed 2/20/1970;

Regulation No. 514, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1970;

Regulation No 520, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1971, filed 3/9/1971;

Regulation No. 522, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/9/1971;

Regulation No. 523, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1971;

Regulation No. 531, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/17/1971;

Regulation No. 532, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1972, filed 3/20/1972;

Regulation No. 534, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/20/1972;

Regulation No. 536, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/26/1972;

Regulation No. 542, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/1/1972;

Regulation No. 545, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1973, filed 2/26/1973;

Regulation No. 546, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 2/26/1973;

Regulation No. 547, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, And Javelina, filed 5/31/1973;

Regulation No. 554, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1974, filed 3/4/1974;

Regulation No. 556, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/14/1974;

Regulation No. 558, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex, filed 5/29/1974;

Regulation No. 565, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1975, filed 3/24/75;

Regulation No. 567, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Deer, Bear, And Turkey On The Jicarilla Apache And Navajo Indian Reservations And On Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/24/1975;

Regulation No. 568, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 6/25/1975;

Regulation No. 573, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/1976;
Regulation No. 583, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/11/1977;
Regulation No. 590, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/15/1978;
Regulation No. 596, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/1979;
Regulation No. 603, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1980 through March 31, 1981, filed 2/22/1980;
Regulation No. 609, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1981 through March 31, 1982, filed 3/17/1981;
Regulation No. 614, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1982 through March 31, 1983, filed 3/10/1982;
Regulation No. 622, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1983 through March 31, 1984, filed 3/9/1983;
Regulation No. 628, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1984 through March 31, 1985, filed 4/2/1984;
Regulation No. 634, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1985 Through March 31, 1986, filed 4/18/1985;
Regulation No. 640, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1986 through March 31, 1987, filed 3/25/1986;
Regulation No. 645, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1987 through March 31, 1988, filed 2/12/1987;
Regulation No. 653, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1988 through March 31, 1989, filed 12/18/1987;
Regulation No. 663, Establishing Opening Spring Turkey For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/28/1989;
Regulation No. 664, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/20/1989;
Regulation No. 674, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1990 through March 31, 1991, filed 11/21/1989;
Regulation No. 683, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1991 through March 31, 1992, filed 2/8/1991;
Regulation No. 689, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1992 through March 31, 1993, filed 3/4/1992;
Regulation No. 700, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1993 through March 31, 1995, filed 3/11/1993.

History of Repealed Material:

19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game, filed 3/1/2001 - duration expired 3/31/2003.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 3/3/2003 - duration expired 3/31/2005.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 12/15/2004 - duration expired 3/31/2007.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 12/1/2006 - duration expired 3/31/2009.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 2/26/2009 - duration expired 3/31/2011.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 9/15/2010 - duration expired 3/31/2015.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 3/17/2015, repealed 3/31/2016.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 2/29/2016, duration expired 3/31/2019.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 7/2/2018, duration expired 3/31/2023.

NMAC

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Volume: Issue: Publication date: Number of pages: (ALD Use Only) Sequence No.

Issuing agency name and address: Agency DFA code:

Contact person's name: Phone number: E-mail address:

Type of rule action: New Amendment Repeal Emergency Renumber (ALD Use) Recent filing date:

Title number: Title name:

Chapter number: Chapter name:

Part number: Part name:

Amendment description (If filing an amendment):

Amendment's NMAC citation (If filing an amendment):

Are there any materials incorporated by reference? Yes No Please list attachments or Internet sites if applicable.

If materials are attached, has copyright permission been received? Yes No Public domain

Specific statutory or other authority authorizing rulemaking:

Notice date(s): Hearing date(s): Rule adoption date: Rule effective date:

Concise Explanatory Statement For Rulemaking Adoption:

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Findings required for rulemaking adoption:

Findings MUST include:

- Reasons for adopting rule, including any findings otherwise required by law of the agency, and a summary of any independent analysis done by the agency;
- Reasons for any change between the published proposed rule and the final rule; and
- Reasons for not accepting substantive arguments made through public comment.

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The following changes are being made to the existing rule. 1) Extend the spring season, including Entry Permit hunts, to close on May 15; 2) Adjust hunt dates by calendar date; 3) Evaluate the potential to open certain closed GMUs based on turkey population status; 4) Add a once-in-a-lifetime Entry Permit hunt for Gould's Turkey in GMU 26 and 27 with up to 5 permits. The hunt will occur from May 1 - 30 to reduce potential impacts of hunting on breeding activity and to accommodate later breeding activity of Gould's turkeys compared to other NM turkey subspecies; 5) Remove W.S. Huey WMA youth hunt due to low turkey numbers; 6) Define dates and permit numbers for the Washington Ranch Youth Hunt and add BLM Black River Management Area to the hunt area; 7) Add the LBar acquisition to the Marquez WMA entry hunt; 8) Prohibit shooting turkeys on the roost.

There were no changes made between the published proposed rule and the final rule. A wide array of public comments were submitted. To view public comments, please visit www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/ and click on the Hearing Archive tab. It was not possible to incorporate all of the comments into the final rule as many of the comments were mutually exclusive. The resulting rule was based on what was best for the resource and overall hunter satisfaction.

Issuing authority (If delegated, authority letter must be on file with ALD):

Name:

Michael B. Sloane

Check if authority has been delegated

Title:

Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Signature: (BLACK ink only OR Digital Signature)

Date signed:

Michael B. Sloane

Digitally signed by Michael B. Sloane

Date: 2022.10.21 08:07:10 -06'00'

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TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 16 TURKEY

19.31.16.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico department of game and fish.
[19.31.16.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.1 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in turkey management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978, and Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.16.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.2 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Sections 17-1-14, 17-1-26, 17-3-16.4 and 17-3-16.5 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds and fish.
[19.31.16.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.3 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.4 DURATION: April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2027.
[19.31.16.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.4 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2023, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.16.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.5 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing open hunting seasons, rules and procedures governing the distribution and issuance of turkey permits and licenses by the department.
[19.31.16.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.6 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.7 DEFINITIONS:

- A. **"Bearded turkey"** shall mean a turkey with a visible beard.
 - B. **"Department"** shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.
 - C. **"Director"** shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.
 - D. **"Entry permit"** shall entitle the holder of a valid turkey license to hunt areas otherwise closed to turkey hunting.
 - E. **"Game management unit" or "GMU"** shall mean those areas described 19.30.4 NMAC Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.
 - F. **"Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs"** shall mean those areas described in 19.34.5 NMAC Wildlife Management Areas.
- [19.31.16.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.7 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.8 ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES, PERMITS AND AUTHORIZATIONS: The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of licenses, permits or authorizations for turkey up or down by no more than twenty percent to address significant changes in population levels or habitat availability. This adjustment may be applied to any or all entry hunt codes for turkey.
[19.31.16.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.8 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.9 TURKEY ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME-HUNTS: It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for or hold a once-in-a-lifetime turkey entry permit if he or she has held a once-in-a-lifetime entry permit to hunt turkey.
[19.31.16.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.9 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.10 TURKEY HUNTING SEASONS: The 2023-24 through 2026-27 hunting seasons shall be as indicated below, listing the GMUs or areas open, eligibility requirements or restrictions, hunt dates, hunt codes, legal sporting arms, number of permits and bag limits. All WMAs, except as listed in Subsection A of 19.31.16.10 NMAC, are open to over-the-counter turkey hunting if the GMU where they are located is open to turkey hunting or are restricted to entry permit holders as listed in Subsection B of 19.31.16.10 NMAC.

A. Over-the-counter hunts: All over-the-counter turkey licenses shall be valid for any legal sporting arms, except turkey hunting in the Sandia ranger district portion of GMU 14 and Sugarite canyon state park in GMU 57 are restricted to bow and crossbow only. The number of licenses for these hunts shall be unlimited.

(1) Spring seasons:

Open GMUs or areas	hunt dates	bag limit
Statewide except the following GMUs or areas are closed to over-the-counter turkey hunting: GMU: 2A areas east of US 550 and north of NM 173, 2B areas in the Carson national forest, 2C areas in the Carson national forest, 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, W.S. Huey WMA	4/15-5/15	2 turkeys with visible beards
Statewide except as listed above, youth only	4/7-9/2023 4/12-14/2024 4/11-13/2025 4/10-12/2026	2 turkeys with visible beards

(2) Fall seasons:

Open GMUs or areas	hunt dates	bag limit
Statewide except the following GMUs or areas are closed to over the counter turkey hunting: GMU: 2A areas east of US 550 and north of NM 173, 2B areas in the Carson national forest, 2C areas in the Carson national forest, 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, W.S. Huey WMA	bow only: 9/1-30 any legal sporting arms: 11/1-30	any 1 turkey

B. Entry permit hunts: All entry permits shall be valid for any legal sporting arms except turkey hunting in the Sandia ranger district portion of GMU 8. An entry permit authorizes the holder to hunt in the area, for the bag limit, and for the season dates listed on the permit. In addition, holders of a turkey entry permit may hunt in any open over-the-counter area during the spring season for a second turkey (if applicable) or if unsuccessful in their entry hunt area. In no circumstance may any turkey hunter take or attempt to take more than two bearded turkeys during the spring season. Holders of an entry hunt permit must also purchase a turkey hunting license prior to hunting.

Open GMUs or areas	2023-2024 hunt dates	2024-2025 hunt dates	2025-2026 hunt dates	2026-2027 hunt dates	hunt code	permits	bag limit
2B (Carson national forest) 2C (Carson national forest)	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	TUR-1-100	115	1 turkey with visible beard
2B (Carson national forest) 2C (Carson national forest), youth only	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	TUR-1-101	50	1 turkey with visible beard
2A (areas east of US 550 and north of NM 173), youth only	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	TUR-1-102	5	1 turkey with visible beard
6B Valles Caldera national preserve	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	TUR-1-103	20	1 turkey with visible beard

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8 (bow and crossbow only in Sandia ranger district)	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	TUR-1-104	15	2 turkeys with visible beard
9 Marquez/LBar WMA	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	TUR-1-105	15	1 turkey with visible beard
26 and 27 once-in-a-lifetime	5/1-5/30	5/1-5/30	5/1-5/30	5/1-5/30	TUR-1-106	up to 5	1 turkey with visible beard
30 Washington ranch (private land) and Black river management area (BLM), youth only	4/28-4/30	4/26-4/28	4/25-4/27	4/24-4/26	TUR-1-107	up to 4	1 turkey with visible beard
30 Washington ranch (private land) and Black river management area (BLM), youth only	5/5-5/7	5/3-5/5	5/2-5/4	5/1-5/3	TUR-1-108	up to 4	1 turkey with visible beard
55 Valle Vidal (only the east side is open from 5/1-15)	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	4/15-5/15	TUR-1-109	20	1 turkey with visible beard

[19.31.16.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.9 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.11 TURKEY POPULATION MANAGEMENT HUNTS:

- A.** The director or their designee may authorize population management hunts for turkey when justified in writing by department personnel.
 - B.** The director or their designee shall designate the sporting arms, season dates, season lengths, bag limits, hunt boundaries, specific requirements or restrictions and number of licenses to be issued.
 - C.** In the event that an applicant is not able to hunt on the dates specified, the applicant's name shall be moved to the bottom of the list and another applicant may be contacted for the hunt.
 - D.** In those instances where a population management hunt is warranted on deeded private lands, the landowner may suggest eligible hunters of their choice by submitting a list of prospective hunters' names to the department for licensing consideration. No more than one-half of the total number of licenses authorized shall be available to landowner-identified hunters. The balance of prospective hunters shall be identified by the department.
- [19.31.16.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.10 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.12 GOULD'S TURKEY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

- A.** The director shall collect all proceeds generated through the auction or lottery or both, of not more than two special Gould's turkey enhancement entry permits annually, and such monies shall be deposited into the game protection fund. These monies shall be available for expenditure by the department to be used exclusively for activities, projects and programs aimed at benefitting Gould's turkeys and Gould's turkey habitat, and for costs incurred in carrying out these programs.
- B.** Requirements for issuance, sale and use of Gould's turkey enhancement permits:
 - (1) **Issuance:** The director may issue up to two Gould's turkey enhancement entry permits annually.
 - (2) **Sale:** The auction or lottery or both shall be conducted by an incorporated non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of wildlife, in cooperation with and overseen by the department.
 - (3) **Use:**

(a) The successful recipient(s) shall be allotted an authorization for a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit, which may be transferred through sale, barter, donation or gift to other individuals qualified to obtain a license and hunt. Once an authorization is converted to a permit, the permit will be non-transferable.

(b) Individuals hunting pursuant to a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit must obtain and have in their possession a valid turkey hunting license and any other stamps, tags or permits required by rule.

(c) Unless their hunting privileges have been revoked pursuant to law, any person is eligible to bid on and purchase a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit.

(d) Individuals holding a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit shall not be prohibited from hunting other subspecies of turkeys in New Mexico as allowed in 19.31.16 NMAC.

(e) The entry permit shall be valid for any legal sporting arms, and the bag limit shall be one bearded Gould's turkey.

(f) The season dates for each entry permit shall be no more than 30 consecutive days between April 1 and May 31 as specified by the entry permit each license year.

(g) The harvest of one bearded Gould's turkey shall count against the license holder's spring turkey bag limit.

(h) The hunt area for each entry permit shall be any legally accessible public lands in GMUs 26 and 27 where hunting is allowed, and private land with written permission.

(i) Gould's turkey enhancement entry permits granted through auction or lottery, as described above, shall not be considered 'once-in-a-lifetime' permits.
[19.31.16.12 NMAC -Rp , 19.31.16.11 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

HISTORY OF 19.31.16 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History: The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under:

Regulation No. 482, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 5/31/1967;
Regulation No. 487, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Javelina And Barbary Sheep, filed 12/15/1967;
Regulation No. 489, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1968, filed 3/1/1968;
Regulation No. 491, Establishing Big Game Seasons For 1968 For Jicarilla Reservation, filed 3/1/1968;
Regulation No. 492, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/6/1968;
Regulation No. 495, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 10/2/1968;
Regulation No. 496, Establishing An Elk Season In The Tres Piedras Area, Elk Area P-6, filed 12/11/1968;
Regulation No. 502, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1969, filed 3/5/1969;
Regulation No. 503, Establishing 1969 Deer Seasons For Bowhunting Only And Big Game Seasons For The Jicarilla Indian Reservation, filed 3/5/1969;
Regulation 504, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/4/1969;
Regulation No. 507, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 8/26/1969;
Regulation No. 512, Establishing Turkey Season For The Spring Of 1970, filed 2/20/1970;
Regulation No. 513, Establishing Deer Season For Bowhunting Only In Sandia State Game Refuge, filed 2/20/1970;
Regulation No. 514, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1970;
Regulation No 520, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1971, filed 3/9/1971;
Regulation No. 522, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/9/1971;
Regulation No. 523, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/1971;
Regulation No. 531, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/17/1971;
Regulation No. 532, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1972, filed 3/20/1972;

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Regulation No. 534, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/20/1972;

Regulation No. 536, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/26/1972;

Regulation No. 542, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/1/1972;

Regulation No. 545, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1973, filed 2/26/1973;

Regulation No. 546, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 2/26/1973;

Regulation No. 547, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, And Javelina, filed 5/31/1973;

Regulation No. 554, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1974, filed 3/4/1974;

Regulation No. 556, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/14/1974;

Regulation No. 558, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex, filed 5/29/1974;

Regulation No. 565, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1975, filed 3/24/75;

Regulation No. 567, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Deer, Bear, And Turkey On The Jicarilla Apache And Navajo Indian Reservations And On Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/24/1975;

Regulation No. 568, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 6/25/1975;

Regulation No. 573, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/1976;

Regulation No. 583, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/11/1977;

Regulation No. 590, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/15/1978;

Regulation No. 596, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/1979;

Regulation No. 603, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1980 through March 31, 1981, filed 2/22/1980;

Regulation No. 609, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1981 through March 31, 1982, filed 3/17/1981;

Regulation No. 614, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1982 through March 31, 1983, filed 3/10/1982;

Regulation No. 622, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1983 through March 31, 1984, filed 3/9/1983;

Regulation No. 628, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1984 through March 31, 1985, filed 4/2/1984;

Regulation No. 634, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1985 Through March 31, 1986, filed 4/18/1985;

Regulation No. 640, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1986 through March 31, 1987, filed 3/25/1986;

Regulation No. 645, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1987 through March 31, 1988, filed 2/12/1987;

Regulation No. 653, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1988 through March 31, 1989, filed 12/18/1987;

Regulation No. 663, Establishing Opening Spring Turkey For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/28/1989;

Regulation No. 664, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/20/1989; Regulation No. 674, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1990 through March 31, 1991, filed 11/21/1989; Regulation No. 683, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1991 through March 31, 1992, filed 2/8/1991; Regulation No. 689, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1992 through March 31, 1993, filed 3/4/1992; Regulation No. 700, Establishing Open Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx, And Ibex For The Period April 1, 1993 through March 31, 1995, filed 3/11/1993.

History of Repealed Material:

19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game, filed 3/1/2001 - duration expired 3/31/2003.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 3/3/2003 - duration expired 3/31/2005.
19.31.8 NMAC, Big Game and Turkey, filed 12/15/2004 - duration expired 3/31/2007.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 12/1/2006 - duration expired 3/31/2009.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 2/26/2009 - duration expired 3/31/2011.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 9/15/2010 - duration expired 3/31/2015.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 3/17/2015, repealed 3/31/2016.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 2/29/2016, duration expired 3/31/2019.
19.31.16 NMAC, Turkey, filed 7/2/2018, duration expired 3/31/2023.

Turkey

19.31.16 NMAC

October 14, 2022

Stewart Liley

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

Las Cruces, NM



S. Liley October 14, 2022

Hunting Results (Harvest Estimates)

Year	Total Spring Harvest	Spring Harvest Success	Spring First Turkey	Spring Second Turkey	Total Fall Harvest	Fall Harvest Success	Hens Harvest
2014	2,395	26.3%	1,977	398	675	26.3%	420
2015	2,607	25.8%	2,117	490	680	23.9%	424
2016	3,036	29.0%	2,431	605	536	19.3%	263
2017	3,281	29.9%	2,590	691	1,030	29.7%	624
2018	4,007	28.2%	3,149	858	508	16.1%	252
2019	2,960	26.4%	2,352	608	824	26.3%	571
2020	2,600	20.9%	2,147	453	837	19.7%	476
2021	3,201	23.8%	2,553	648	661	17.7%	409



Public Comment

- Hosted 2 Hybrid in-person/virtual public meetings
 - Albuquerque (July 12) - 4 in person, 4 virtually
 - Las Cruces (July 13) - 3 in person, 3 virtually
- 25 comments received as of October 13, 2022:

Subject	Number of Comments
Overall support for proposed rule changes	13
Change spring bag limit to 1	7
Support adding a limited number of Gould's permits	6
Reduce fall season length/make male only	5
Prohibit Roost Shooting	3
Do not lengthen spring season	2
Do not prohibit roost shooting	1
Consider changing legal shooting hours	1
Remove Youth Season	1
Change Non-Resident Tags to Draw Only	1
Do not open GMU 43 for Fall Hunting	1
Remove Huey Hunt	1



Amend: Turkey 19.31.16 NMAC

Proposed Changes

- Increase Spring Season and Draw Entry hunts to close on May 15
- Adjust hunts based on calendar dates
- Open GMUs 20 and 43 for fall turkey hunting based on population status
- Change Washington Ranch Hunt TBD (dates and tags) to defined hunt periods and permit numbers



Amend: Turkey 19.31.16 NMAC

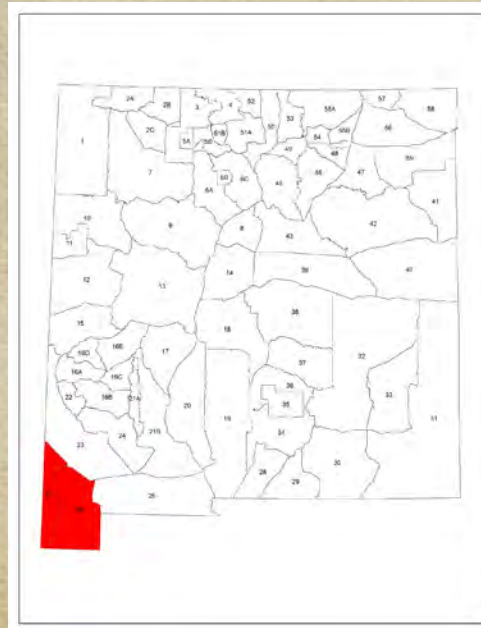
Proposed Changes

- Include Black River Management Area (BLM) in Washington Ranch Youth Hunt Area
- Remove W.S. Huey Youth from Entry Permit hunt
- Add GMU 26 and 27 to the Entry Permit hunt
- Add Lbar acquisition to Marquez WMA entry hunt
- Prohibit shooting turkeys on the roost



Add a Once in a Lifetime Draw hunt for GMU 26 & 27

Area	Open	Close	Permits	Bag Limit
GMU 26 & 27	May 1	May 30	Up to 5	1 Bearded Turkey

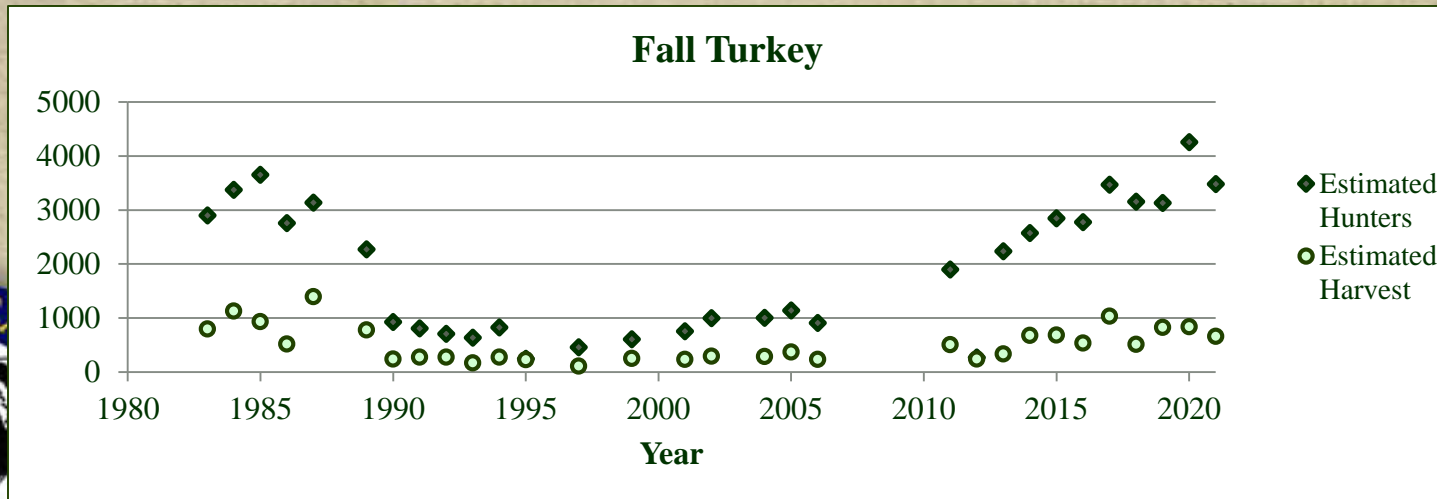
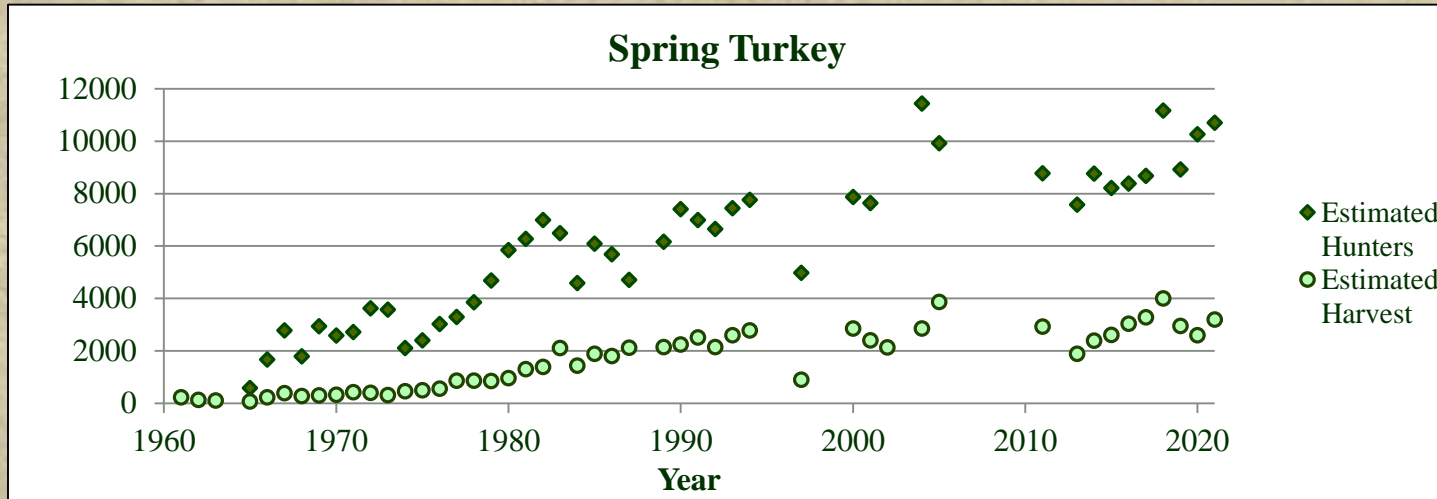


Questions?



S. Liley October 14, 2022

Long-term Turkey Harvest Information



Washington Ranch/Black River Management Area Hunts

Washington Ranch & BLM Black River Management Area Youth Hunt- 3 Permits each hunt

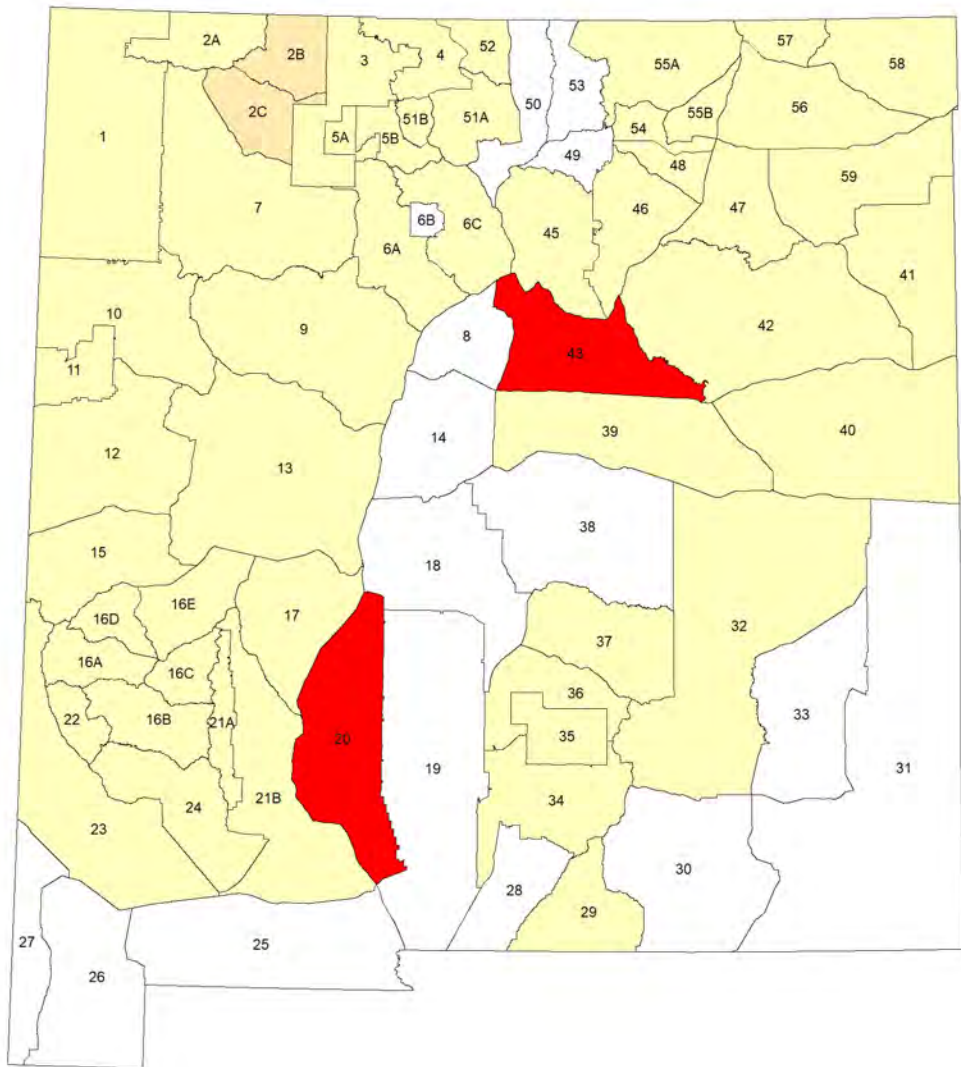
Year	First Hunt	Second Hunt
2023	April 28-30	May 5-7
2024	April 26-28	May 3-5
2025	April 25-27	May 2-4
2026	April 24-26	May 1-3



Adjust hunts by Calendar

Youth Seasons	
Year	Dates
2023	April 7-9
2024	April 12-14
2025	April 11-13
2026	April 10-12





Evaluate Closed GMU list

Proposed Changes
Fall: Open 20, 43

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



TURKEY PROPOSED RULE CHANGES SUMMARY (7/26/2022)

PURPOSE

Maintain current turkey populations and offer hunting opportunity that does not negatively impact turkey populations across the state.

TURKEY BIOLOGY & BACKGROUND

Wild turkey populations are characterized by annual fluctuations, largely dependent on environmental conditions. Wild turkeys exhibit a moderate potential for population growth. Reproduction is seasonal and the mating system is polygamous; males play no role in rearing young. All males ≥ 2 years old can breed. Females are capable of reproducing at 1 year of age, but adult hens are usually more successful at hatching nests than are yearlings. Spring gobbler hunting is biologically the most conservative hunting approach, and is unlikely to result in overharvest. Fall harvest has the potential to depress population growth and therefore hunting should be lighter during this time. Turkey hunting in New Mexico is structured so that it does not negatively impact the turkey population.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TURKEY RULE

- 1) Extend the spring season, including Entry Permit hunts, to close on May 15
- 2) Adjust hunt dates by calendar date
- 3) Evaluate the potential to open certain closed GMUs based on turkey population status
- 4) Add a once-in-a-lifetime Entry Permit hunt for Gould's Turkey in GMU 26 and 27 with up to 5 permits. The hunt will occur from May 1 - 30 to reduce potential impacts of hunting on breeding activity and to accommodate later breeding activity of Gould's turkeys compared to other NM turkey subspecies.
- 5) Remove W.S. Huey WMA youth hunt due to low turkey numbers
- 6) Define dates and permit numbers for the Washington Ranch Youth Hunt and add BLM Black River Management Area to the hunt area
- 7) Add the LBar acquisition to the Marquez WMA entry hunt
- 8) Prohibit shooting turkeys on the roost

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Department is inviting public comment. If you would like to comment on the proposals, please send an email to: DGF-Gamebird@state.nm.us

TECHNICAL INFORMATION FOR TURKEY RULE DEVELOPMENT



PURPOSE

Maintain current turkey populations and offer hunting opportunity that does not significantly impact turkey across the state.

TURKEY BIOLOGY AND BACKGROUND

New Mexico is home to three subspecies of wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*): Merriam's (*M. g. merriami*), Rio Grande (*M. g. intermedia*), and Gould's (*M. g. mexicana*).

Wild turkey populations are characterized by annual fluctuations, largely dependent on environmental conditions. Annual mortality rates can range from 30% to 55%, with most mortality occurring the first year of life. Rates decline after this time and remain somewhat stable for older birds. Most juvenile or yearling mortality occurs during winter. Hen mortality is highest between March and June. This coincides with the peak of incubation when hens are most vulnerable.

Wild turkeys exhibit a moderate potential for population growth. Reproduction is seasonal and the mating system is polygamous; males play no role in rearing young. All males ≥ 2 years old can breed. Females are capable of reproducing at 1 year of age, but adult hens are usually more successful at hatching nests than are yearlings.

Spring gobbler hunting is biologically the most conservative hunting approach, and is unlikely to result in overharvest. Studies have shown the harvest of up to 30% of adult gobblers leaves enough for effective breeding and quality hunting the following season (Healy and Powell 1999). Fall harvest has the potential to depress population growth and therefore hunting should be lighter during this time.

Turkey hunters will regulate themselves to a degree. Fewer hunters will go afield when population numbers are low, though hunters that do go at this time are more efficient. Turkey hunting in New Mexico is structured so that it does not negatively impact the turkey population.

Population Monitoring

The current statewide wild turkey population is unknown, but based on calculations from Eriksen et al. (2015), the population could be estimated to be 18,500 birds. The Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) can be used to understand broadscale changes in bird populations and distribution. BBS data can be used to summarize population change and relative species abundance (Sauer et al. 2013). Wild turkey population trends often follow weather patterns, with populations increasing in years with good environmental conditions, and declining during bad years.

Since 2006, the Department has conducted spring Gould's turkey walking survey routes within the Coronado National Forest. Initial survey focused on surveying roost locations identified in the 1980s and 1990s, where surveyors would record all birds seen and categorize birds according to age, sex, and group size. A new survey protocol was established in 2019 which involve surveying locations received from deployed GPS transmitters.

Literature Cited

- Eriksen, R. E., T. W. Hughes, T. A. Brown, M. D. Akridge, K. B. Scott, and C. S. Penner. 2015. Status and distribution of wild turkeys in the United States: 2014 status. Proceedings of the National Wild Turkey Symposium 11:7-18.
- Healy, W. M. and Sm. M. Powell. 1999. Wild turkey harvest management: biology, strategies, and techniques. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BTP-R5001-1999.

Figure: BBS trend data for wild turkey in New Mexico.

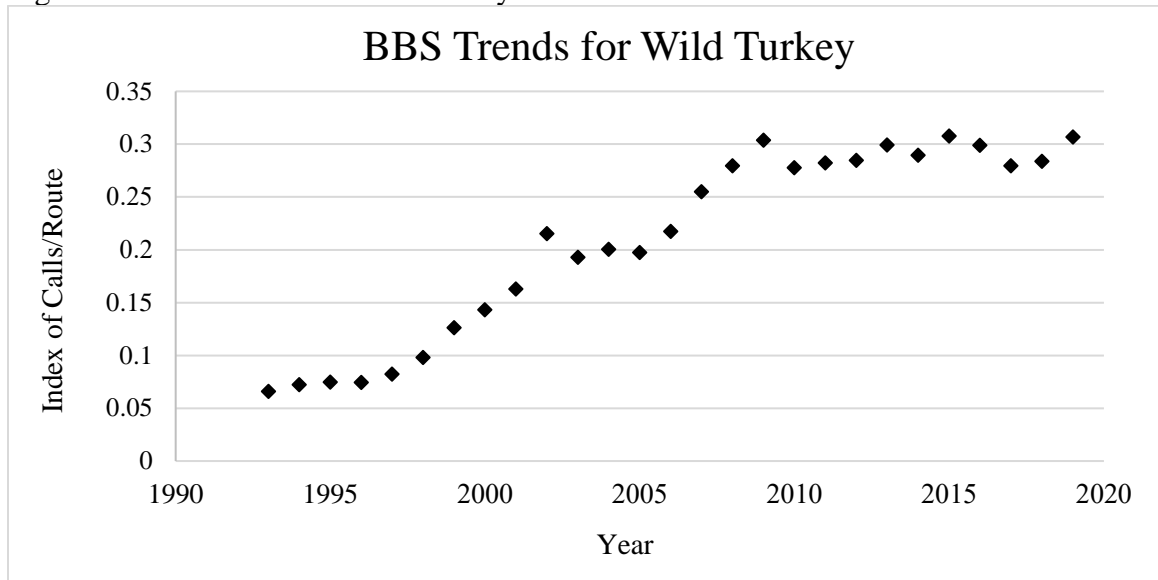
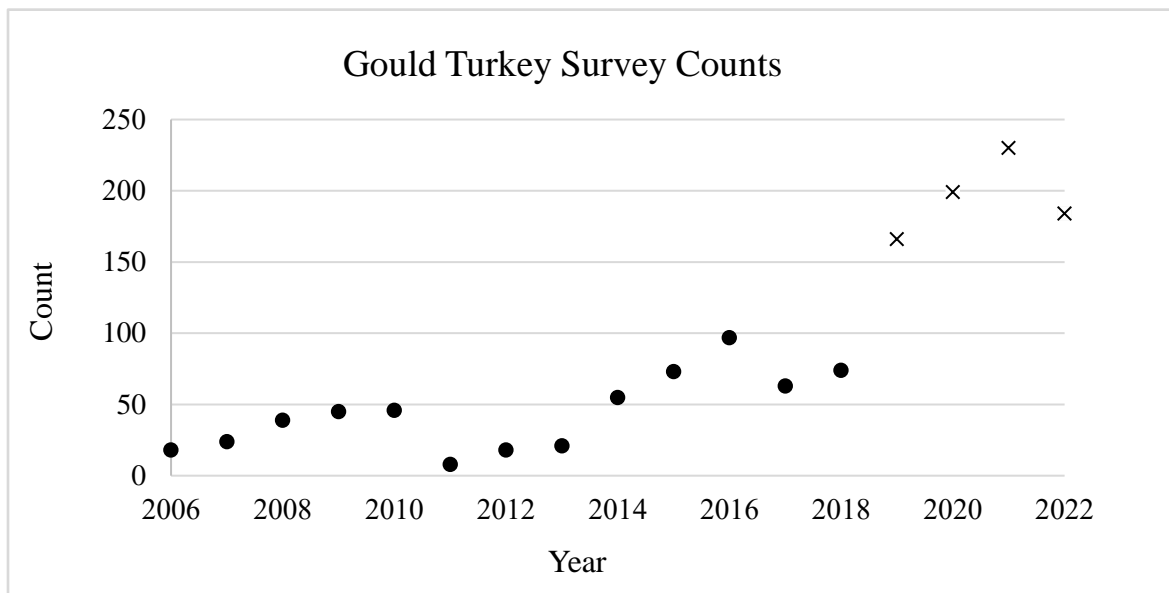


Figure: Counts from Gould's surveys in the Peloncillo Mountains, New Mexico. New survey method started in 2019, denoted by Xs on figure.



Hunter and Harvest Estimates

The Department monitors wild turkey populations using hunter harvest index information.

Figure: New Mexico wild turkey spring harvest

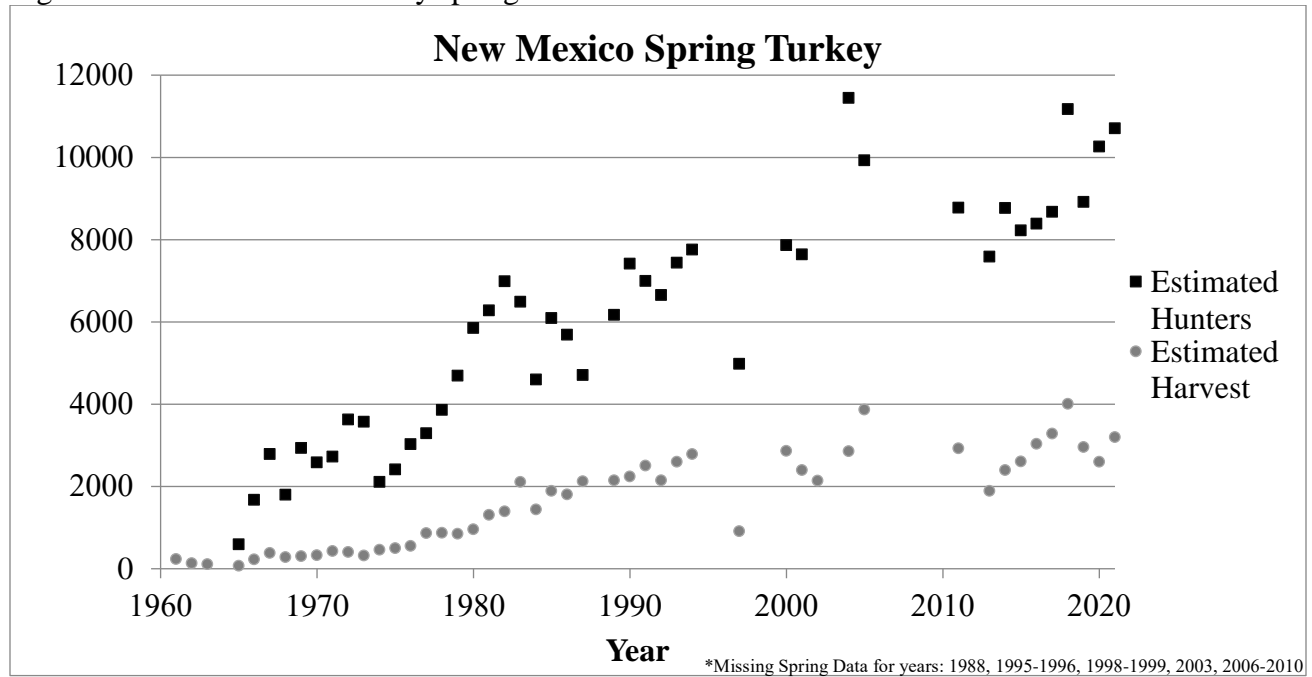


Figure: New Mexico wild turkey fall harvest

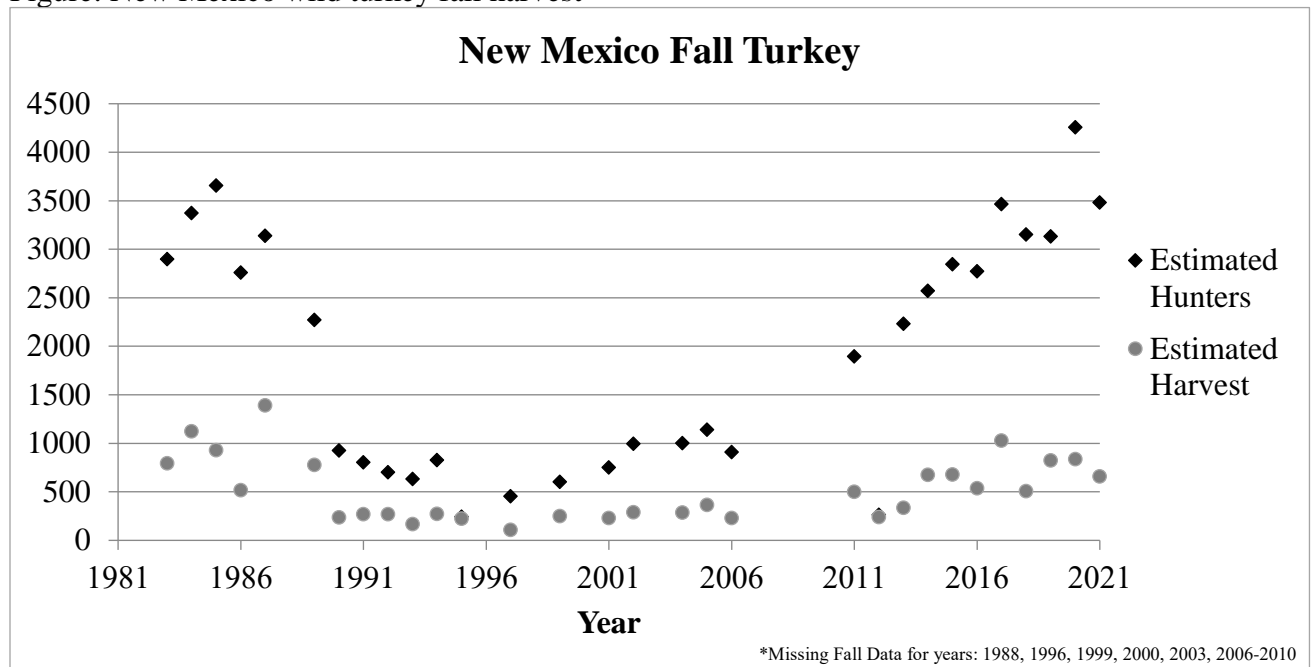


Table: Summary of harvest reporting, reported turkey harvest, and total estimated turkey harvest for spring and fall hunting seasons in New Mexico, 2011–2021.

Year	# of Spring License Holders Reporting	Reported Spring Harvest	Estimated Total Spring Harvest	# of Fall License Holders Reporting	Reported Fall Harvest	Estimated Total Fall Harvest
2011*	1,094	624	2,926	286	45	502
2012*	1,800	540	n/a	957	240	n/a
2013	6,782	1,459	1,894	2,221	258	335
2014	7,297	1,960	2,395	2,742	555	675
2015	7,823	2,155	2,607	3,101	556	680
2016	7,827	2,339	3,036	3,062	427	536
2017	8,362	2,611	3,281	3,696	848	1,030
2018	8,473	2,541	4,007	3,267	383	508
2019	8,093	2,220	2,960	3,329	654	824
2020	12,717	2,125	2,600	4,839	701	837
2021	10,156	2,422	3,201	4,105	512	661

* Online reporting was not mandatory in 2011 or 2012.

2021 Spring Harvest Report Summaries

<i>GMU</i>	<i>Hunters</i>	<i>Days Hunted</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>First Harvest</i>	<i>Success on First Turkey</i>	<i>Second Turkey</i>	<i>% of Beards >4"</i>	<i>Hunter Rating</i>
1*	45	178	5	5	11%		5	3.2
2	284	1059	99	85	30%	14	76	3.6
3*	4	11	0	0	0%			2.8
4	103	321	36	29	28%	7	27	3.6
5	225	832	37	34	15%	3	34	3.3
6	917	3578	113	97	11%	16	85	3.2
7	17	58	3	3	18%		1	3.2
8**	11	82	1	1	9%		1	3.2
9	232	937	34	29	13%	5	26	3.1
10	416	1761	83	72	17%	11	79	3.3
11	7	31	0	0	0%			2.3
12	19	57	5	4	21%	1	4	3.4
13	73	233	13	13	18%	0	11	3.5
14	365	1366	60	52	14%	8	52	3.2
15	377	1604	87	69	18%	18	76	3.3
16	761	2947	192	158	21%	34	176	3.4
17	160	481	40	34	21%	6	37	3.2
18	95	343	33	26	27%	7	19	3.4
19**	7	39	0	0	0%			3.4
20	58	194	21	14	24%	7	15	3.6
21	130	468	37	31	24%	6	35	3.4
22	27	94	14	10	37%	4	14	3.3
23	166	697	49	38	23%	11	47	3.3
24	298	1214	72	57	19%	15	68	3.2
25**	2	11	1	1	50%		1	4.0
26**	1	8	1	1	100%		1	4.0
28**	1	8	0	0	0%			2.0
30**	11	29	4	3	27%	1	4	3.6
31**	6	18	0	0	0%			2.7
32	92	229	48	35	38%	13	35	4.0
33*	7	23	3	3	43%		1	3.7
34	1333	4545	317	261	20%	56	286	3.3
35*	10	31	0	0	0%			2.4
36	437	1563	142	110	25%	32	133	3.6
37	197	661	66	47	24%	19	64	3.7
38	71	220	17	14	20%	3	14	3.5

39	52	148	23	20	38%	3	18	3.6
40	35	100	20	15	43%	5	14	3.9
41	13	21	5	5	38%	0	4	3.5
42	135	291	78	51	38%	27	72	3.9
43	76	293	29	23	30%	6	23	3.6
44	4	20	0	0	0%			2.8
45	552	2199	123	103	19%	20	106	3.4
46	136	458	60	49	36%	11	56	3.9
47	51	111	20	12	24%	8	20	3.9
48	72	246	16	14	19%	2	16	3.3
49	190	856	59	44	23%	15	51	3.6
50	10	20	3	2	20%	1	3	4.2
51	323	1192	53	41	13%	12	46	3.3
52	86	319	20	16	19%	4	16	3.4
53	63	308	20	18	29%	2	20	3.3
54	30	63	23	14	47%	9	21	4.5
55	125	326	79	56	45%	23	72	4.3
56	35	102	18	13	37%	5	17	4.1
57	106	329	57	43	41%	14	54	3.8
58	71	127	56	34	48%	22	51	4.3
59	32	66	21	19	59%	2	19	3.9
UNK	8	5	6	4	50%	2	5	3.5
TOTAL	8,104	33,531	2,422	1,932	23.8%	490	88%	3.4

* These GMUs are in Reservation lands, and not under the jurisdiction of New Mexico Game and Fish. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest, or reported a harvest from a Reservation Permit.

** These GMUs are closed to spring turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

2021 Fall Harvest Report Summaries

GMU	Hunters	Days Hunted	Harvest	Success Rates	Hunter Rating	Sex of Harvest		Harvest Month	
						Hens	Gobblers	Sept	Nov
1*	15	51	1	7%	3.1	1	0	0	1
2	54	159	13	24%	3.2	7	6	3	9
3	1	1	1	100%	3.0		1		
4	12	60	4	33%	3.8	2	2	1	3
5	125	456	17	14%	3.1	8	9	3	13
6	415	1444	60	14%	3.3	34	26	0	19
7	8	31	2	25%	2.5	1	1		1
8**	1	1	0	0%	2.0				
9	125	509	20	16%	3.4	12	8	5	15
10	153	710	20	13%	3.2	14	6	1	19
11	2	4	0	0%	3.5				
12	10	33	1	10%	3.2		1		
13	38	173	2	5%	3.1	1	1		2
14**	19	56	2	11%	3.0	1	1	0	2
15	136	676	17	13%	3.1	10	7	1	15
16	281	1086	42	15%	3.1	27	15	2	40
17	74	312	6	8%	3.0	2	4		6
18**	5	20	1	20%	2.4	1			1
19**	3	8	0	0%	3.3				
20**	2	5	0	0%	3.0				
21	37	135	6	16%	2.7	4	2	0	6
22	10	46	2	20%	3.5	2			2
23	59	222	8	14%	3.0	5	3	2	6
24	89	351	7	8%	3.3	3	4		6
31**	1	2	0	0%	3.0			2	10
32	35	81	14	40%	3.6	12	2	0	1
34	498	1634	117	23%	3.4	81	36	5	108
35	3	2	1	33%	3.0	0	1	0	1
36	146	595	38	26%	3.5	22	16	3	35
37	64	256	2	3%	2.8	1	1	1	1
38**	1	5	0	0%	5.0				
39	11	25	2	18%	2.8	1	1		2
40	14	37	4	29%	3.8		4	1	3
41	5	8	1	20%	3.0		1		1
42	22	75	10	45%	4.0	6	4		10
43**	12	49	3	25%	3.3	1	2		3

45	200	875	30	15%	3.5	20	10	5	24
46	28	72	3	11%	3.3	3			3
47	8	17	3	38%	4.5	3			3
48	28	134	4	14%	3.1	1	3	1	3
49**	12	44	2	17%	3.3	1	1	1	1
50**	5	26	0	0%	3.2				
51	138	464	23	17%	3.3	12	11	3	17
52	67	295	6	9%	3.2	6		3	3
53**	8	43	1	13%	3.5	1			1
54	7	22	2	29%	3.7	2		1	
55	14	34	6	43%	3.6	4	2	1	5
56	3	6	0	0%	3.3				
57	12	54	5	42%	4.1	5			5
58	4	6	1	25%	4.0		1		1
59	4	7	2	50%	4.5		2		2
TOTAL	2,891	11,434	512	17.7%	3.3	317	195	49	442

* These GMUs are in Reservation lands, and not under the jurisdiction of New Mexico Game and Fish. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest, or reported a harvest from a Reservation Permit.

** These GMUs are closed to fall turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

2020 Spring Harvest Report Summaries

<i>GMU</i>	<i>Hunters</i>	<i>Days Hunted</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>First Harvest</i>	<i>Success on First Turkey</i>	<i>Second Turkey</i>	<i>% of Beards >4"</i>	<i>Hunter Rating</i>
1*	38	100	3	3	78%	0	100	2.8
2	312	1,205	108	92	30%	16	61.1	3.4
3*	6	19	2	1	17%	1	100	4.2
4	118	411	32	31	26%	1	90.6	3.4
5	241	799	35	31	13%	4	62.9	3.1
6	847	3,283	75	65	8%	10	78.7	3.0
7	16	51	6	5	31%	1	66.7	4.1
8**	18	113	1	1	6%		100	3.1
9	275	1,060	32	27	10%	5	65.6	3.1
10	385	1,784	38	31	8%	7	55.3	2.9
11	4	9	0		0%			1.8
12	25	70	0		0%			2.7
13	82	289	9	8	10%	1	44.4	3.1
14	369	1,369	46	41	11%	5	63.0	3.1
15	402	1,821	57	49	12%	8	63.2	3.0
16	869	3,436	169	142	16%	27	80.0	3.2
17	171	646	28	22	13%	6	67.9	3.1
18	93	379	28	24	26%	4	75	3.4
19**	3	8	1	1	33%		0	3.33
20	34	97	16	14	41%	2	87.5	3.8
21	119	426	21	19	16%	2	100	3.1
22	24	110	4	4	17%	0	100	2.9
23	164	635	42	34	21%	8	64.3	3.0
24	366	1,537	79	68	19%	11	87.3	3.2
26**	2	9	0		0%			2.0
27**	3	5	1	1	33%		100	2.7
29	1	1	0		0%			2.0
30**	10	31	0		0%			2.5
31**	3	12	0		0%			3.0
32	82	220	45	33	40%	12	68.9	3.7
33*	4	12	1	1	25%		100	2.5
34	1578	5,872	321	270	17%	51	81.6	3.3
35	13	40	4	2	15%	2	50	3.5
36	470	1,896	152	121	26%	31	89.5	3.5
37	218	771	51	43	19%	8	.82	3.2
38	38	114	5	4	11%	1	40	2.8

39	48	123	20	15	31%	5	75	3.3
40	33	87	12	8	24%	4	83.3	3.8
41	23	57	12	8	35%	4	58.3	3.3
42	155	349	96	69	45%	27	78.1	4.0
43	88	349	25	20	23%	5	84	3.3
44	2	5	0		0%			4.5
45	510	2,186	108	95	19%	13	76.9	3.4
46	139	564	60	48	35%	12	76.7	3.9
47	48	158	24	20	42%	4	83.3	3.6
48	83	330	23	20	24%	3	73.9	3.2
49	211	996	56	48	23%	8	87.5	3.4
50	11	38	0		0%			2.9
51	305	1,144	58	53	17%	5	77.6	3.3
52	110	419	23	19	17%	4	69.6	3.5
53	58	299	16	13	22%	3	100	3.7
54	8	15	5	4	50%	1	100	4.5
55	71	228	38	32	45%	6	78.9	4.1
56	42	95	26	17	41%	9	96.2	3.8
57	87	268	56	40	46%	16	78.6	4.0
58	34	96	25	17	50%	8	96	4.4
59	39	86	27	19	49%	8	88.8	3.9
UNK	7	11	3	2	29%	1	66.7	3.7
TOTAL	9,515	36,543	2,125	1,755	20.9%	370	78	3.3

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** These GMUs are closed to spring turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

2020 Fall Harvest Report Summaries

GMU	Hunters	Days Hunted	Harvest	Success Rates	Hunter Rating	Sex of Harvest		Harvest Month	
						Hens	Gobblers	Sept	Nov
1*	16	51	2	13%	3.0	0	0	0	0
2	73	273	18	25%	3.5	5	13	2	14
3	2	4	0	0%	2.5				
4	17	60	6	35%	3.6	5	1		6
5	133	485	25	19%	3.5	15	10		23
6	481	1,995	58	12%	3.2	43	15	7	48
7	9	37	2	22%	3.6	1	1	1	1
8**	5	13	1	20%	3.2	1			1
9	147	601	22	15%	3.2	13	9	3	19
10	168	883	4	2%	2.8	4		1	2
11	2	5	0	0%	4.0				
12	22	89	1	5%	2.6	1			1
13	42	183	1	2%	2.5	1			1
14**	19	91	2	11%	2.8	2			2
15	160	743	9	6%	2.9	3	6	3	6
16	363	1,653	23	6%	2.9	14	9	4	18
17	89	337	10	11%	2.8	6	4	2	8
18**	8	24	0	0%	2.8				
20**	5	8	1	20%	2.0		1		1
21	57	233	8	14%	3.2	4	4		8
22	20	94	4	20%	3.3	1	3		3
23	83	375	15	18%	3	7	8		14
24	115	436	11	10%	3.1	6	5	1	10
31**	2	2	0	0%					
32	45	118	23	51%	3.8	14	9	1	21
34	668	2,335	205	31%	3.6	133	72	8	187
35	4	11	0	0%					
36	175	690	36	21%	3.4	16	20	9	25
37	86	314	10	12%	2.8	3	7		10
38**	9	24	0	0%	3.4				
39	10	34	2	20%	2.8		2		2
40	16	42	12	75%	3.9	7	5		12
41	9	19	5	56%	3.8	2	3	1	3
42	54	141	43	80%	4.4	16	27	1	42
43**	7	36	0	0%	3.9				
44	2	10	0	0%	3.5				

45	212	813	34	16%	3.4	20	14	3	28
46	41	168	15	37%	3.8	5	10	2	12
47	17	39	6	35%	4.2	1	5		5
48	50	217	15	30%	3.3	7	8	1	12
49**	8	31	2	25%	3.9	1	1		2
50**	7	22	3	43%	4.3	3			3
51	163	622	43	26%	3.4	27	16	1	41
52	64	275	6	9%	3.3	5	1	3	2
53**	6	35	3	50%	4	2	1	1	2
54	7	28	0	0%	2.7				
55	13	38	3	23%	2.8	2	1	0	3
56	3	8	0	0%	3.3				
57	25	99	8	32%	3.9	1	7	1	7
58	7	28	2	29%	4.0	1	1	2	
59	2	11	1	50%	3.0		1		1
TOTAL	3,565	14,901	701	19.7%	2.4	399	302	58	608

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** These GMUs are closed to fall turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

2019 Spring Harvest Report Summaries

<i>GMU</i>	<i>Hunters</i>	<i>Days Hunted</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>First Harvest</i>	<i>Success on First Turkey</i>	<i>Second Turkey</i>	<i>% of Beards >4"</i>	<i>Hunter Rating</i>
1*	23	60	2	1	4%	1	50%	3.0
2	240	841	79	65	27%	14	81%	3.6
3	3	7			0%			4.0
4	122	335	52	40	33%	12	83%	3.8
5	129	414	26	23	18%	3	89%	3.1
6	700	2,523	64	58	8%	6	87%	3.1
7	17	41	7	5	29%	2	86%	3.8
8	16	85	3	3	19%		100%	3.6
9	203	728	19	16	8%	3	84%	3.0
10	304	1,225	47	40	13%	7	96%	3.1
12	19	83	3	3	16%		67%	3.3
13	45	145	4	4	9%		75%	2.9
14	280	980	48	40	14%	8	88%	3.1
15	334	1,326	54	48	14%	6	91%	3.1
16	703	2,592	196	156	22%	40	94%	3.5
17	100	301	30	25	25%	5	87%	3.1
18	46	137	10	10	22%		90%	3.1
19**	4	16			0%			4.5
20	36	67	19	15	42%	4	100%	3.9
21	107	373	28	25	23%	3	96%	3.1
22	13	43	3	2	15%	1	100%	3.5
23	138	591	44	37	27%	7	91%	3.4
24	301	1,052	110	85	28%	25	91%	3.6
25**	2	5			0%			1.5
26**	3	12			0%			3.0
27**	5	8	3	2	40%	1	100%	4.6
29	2	11			0%			3.5
30**	4	7	4	3	75%	1	100%	5.0
31**	3	4	1	1	33%		100%	4.0
32	58	148	28	21	36%	7	86%	4.0
33*	3	10	1	1	33%		100%	4.0
34	1,207	3,945	350	282	23%	68	94%	3.6
35	13	43	2	2	15%		50%	3.5
36	335	1,136	132	101	30%	31	95%	3.6
37	162	532	49	41	25%	8	94%	3.6
38	17	46			0%			3.5

39	40	91	24	19	48%	5	83%	3.7
40	35	69	19	15	43%	4	89%	3.8
41	20	32	16	12	60%	4	94%	3.9
42	121	274	87	62	51%	25	84%	4.2
43	71	212	20	17	24%	3	90%	3.4
44	4	11			0%			3.3
45	473	1,687	132	105	22%	27	97%	3.5
46	121	435	64	47	39%	17	86%	4.2
47	50	108	26	21	42%	5	88%	3.7
48	60	212	21	19	32%	2	90%	3.6
49	149	658	48	39	26%	9	90%	3.8
50	4	10			0%			3.0
51	211	746	51	44	21%	7	79%	3.4
52	69	213	15	14	20%	1	87%	3.4
53	49	212	13	11	22%	2	92%	3.8
54	24	69	13	10	42%	3	92%	4.4
55	116	289	78	54	47%	24	96%	4.3
56	39	85	31	21	54%	10	94%	4.4
57	118	286	75	52	44%	23	93%	4.2
58	63	98	48	29	46%	19	100%	4.6
59	29	68	21	18	62%	3	90%	4.1
TOTAL	7,563	25,737	2,220	1,764	26.4%	456	91%	3.5

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** These GMUs are closed to spring turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

2019 Fall Harvest Report Summaries

GMU	Hunters	Days Hunted	Harvest	Success Rates	Hunter Rating	Sex of Harvest		Harvest Month	
						Hens	Gobblers	Sept	Nov
1*	14	51	0	0%	3.0				
2	55	151	14	25%	3.6	5	9	2	12
4	4	10	4	100%	4.0		4		4
5	69	266	16	23%	3.3	11	5	1	15
6	255	965	32	13%	3.3	28	4	2	28
7	5	14	1	20%	2.0		1		1
8**	3	15	1	33%	3.7		1		1
9	112	422	17	15%	3.2	10	7	6	10
10	144	540	28	19%	3.3	20	8	3	25
11	2	9	0	0%	3.5				
12	14	33	3	21%	3.6	2	1		3
13	23	80	5	22%	3.5	2	3		4
14**	5	7	2	40%	3.2	1	1		2
15	140	523	43	31%	3.5	32	11	4	37
16	329	1,321	116	35%	3.7	87	29	16	93
17	42	103	16	38%	3.5	8	8	3	13
18**	2	7	0	0%	2.5				
19**	5	16	0	0%	4.4				
20**	2	4	0	0%	1.0				
21	51	184	9	18%	3.2	6	3	1	7
22	17	74	7	41%	4.1	4	3		7
23	63	230	18	29%	3.5	14	4	1	15
24	99	367	28	28%	3.5	22	6	1	26
30**	1	5	0	0%	3.0				
32	34	94	23	68%	4.1	17	6	1	22
34	426	1,453	114	27%	3.5	87	27	6	103
35	3	7	0	0%	3.3				
36	135	430	32	24%	3.5	21	11	3	28
37	96	284	23	24%	3.4	14	9	1	20
38**	5	21	1	20%	3.6	1			1
39	4	9	1	25%	3.5		1		1
40	7	28	5	71%	3.9	3	2		4
41	3	4	2	67%	5.0	2			2
42	39	67	26	67%	4.1	15	11		23
43**	8	25	2	25%	3.9	1	1	1	1
45	134	505	15	11%	3.0	14	1	1	14

46	14	52	3	21%	3.0	2	1	1	1
47	5	10	1	20%	2.8	1			1
48	23	139	3	13%	3.1		3		3
49**	7	37	0	0%	3.6				
50**	2	11	0	0%	1.0				
51	90	313	23	26%	3.4	12	11	3	19
52	33	153	1	3%	3.0	1			1
53**	4	16	1	25%	4.5	1			
54	3	6	0	0%	3.3				
55	11	30	3	27%	3.5	2	1		3
56	8	27	1	13%	2.0		1		1
57	22	77	11	50%	4.1	6	5	2	9
58	3	9	1	33%	4.0	1			1
59	3	4	2	67%	4.3		2	1	1
TOTAL	2,582	9,212	654	26.3%	3.5	453	201	60	562

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2018 Spring Harvest Report Summaries

<i>GMU</i>	<i>Hunters</i>	<i>Days Hunted</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>First Turkey</i>	<i>Success on First Harvest</i>	<i>Second Turkey</i>	<i>% of Beards >4"</i>	<i>Hunter Rating</i>
1*	28	63	2	2	7%		50%	3.6
2	232	880	90	74	32%	16	74%	3.5
3*	4	8	1	1	25%		100%	3.5
4	100	329	46	35	35%	11	78%	3.4
5	177	650	36	30	17%	6	69%	3.2
6	871	3048	119	98	11%	21	80%	3.1
7	15	38	4	3	20%	1	50%	2.9
8***	14	69	1	1	7%		100%	3.8
9	223	830	38	33	15%	5	89%	3.2
10	283	1258	60	49	17%	11	83%	3.2
12	19	71	2	2	11%		100%	2.8
13	55	216	7	7	13%		86%	3.1
14	271	838	38	32	12%	6	84%	3.2
15	312	1251	78	68	22%	10	87%	3.3
16	690	2634	208	165	24%	43	93%	3.4
17	118	455	35	27	23%	8	57%	3.2
18	38	126	7	6	16%	1	57%	3.1
19**	1	10	2	1	100%	1	100%	4
20	32	84	14	12	38%	2	71%	3.5
21	116	364	31	26	22%	5	90%	3.2
22	15	77	4	3	20%	1	100%	3.1
23	138	511	37	32	23%	5	70%	3.3
24	299	1156	106	80	27%	26	86%	3.3
25**	2	4	0	0	0%		0	2
26**	3	8	1	1	33%		100%	3.3
27***	1	4	1	1	100%		0	5
28**	1	7	0	0	0%		0	2
29	1	3	1	1	100%		100%	3
30**	9	28	5	3	33%	2	60%	3.4
31**	10	26	3	2	20%	1	100%	3.1
32	44	110	25	17	39%	8	88%	3.9
33***	2	4	0	0	0%		0	4
34	1102	3823	365	289	26%	76	88%	3.5
35*	8	20	4	2	25%	2	100%	3.8
36	371	1300	145	109	29%	36	90%	3.5
37	169	599	53	43	25%	10	85%	3.5

38	29	92	5	4	14%	1	010%	3.2
39	38	88	20	14	37%	6	75%	3.5
40	26	63	17	15	58%	2	76%	3.9
41	13	22	17	13	100%	4	88%	4
42	104	312	94	66	63%	28	86%	4
43	57	200	29	24	42%	5	86%	3.6
44**	4	13	0	0	0%		0	2.8
45	460	1828	158	130	28%	28	87%	3.5
46	113	388	76	58	51%	18	92%	4
47	47	128	32	24	51%	8	91%	3.8
48	68	262	39	33	49%	6	90%	3.7
49	162	725	73	58	36%	15	100%	3.6
50**	9	27	1	1	11%		100%	3.2
51	231	825	58	52	23%	6	90%	3.4
52	97	307	28	23	24%	5	82%	3.6
53	51	219	26	20	39%	6	81%	3.6
54	22	61	19	12	55%	7	100%	4.3
55	96	265	93	64	67%	29	87%	4.3
56	16	42	19	11	69%	8	84%	4.6
57	105	311	95	65	62%	30	89%	4.4
58	50	114	47	33	66%	14	89%	4.6
59	23	42	24	20	87%	4	88%	4.3
UNK	3	6	2	2	67%		50%	3.5
TOTAL	7,598	27,242	2,541	1,997	28.2%	544	86%	3.5

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** These GMUs are closed to spring turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

*** These GMUs have draw hunts, but are primarily closed to spring turkey hunting. GMU 8 had more hunter reports than tags offered. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

2018 Fall Harvest Report Summaries

GMU	Hunters	Days Hunted	Harvest	Success Rates	Hunter Rating	Sex of Harvest		Harvest Month	
						Hens	Gobblers	Sept	Nov
1*	13	33	0	0%	2.5				
2	71	204	21	30%	3.3	18	3	2	19
3*	1	3	0	0%	3				
4**	3	9	0	0%	2				
5	71	296	11	15%	3.0	2	9	2	9
6	322	1199	30	9%	2.9	11	19	6	24
7	2	9	0	0%	2				
8**	3	18	1	33%	3	1			1
9	152	562	16	11%	3	11	5	2	14
10	120	470	10	8%	2.8	8	2	1	9
12	12	45	2	17%	4	1	1		2
13	22	92	0	0%	2.1				
14**	10	28	1	10%	2.6		1		1
15	100	376	7	7%	3	1	6		7
16	264	1273	36	14%	3.0	12	24	1	35
17	35	123	1	3%	2.5	1			1
18**	1	4	1	100%	5	1			1
19**	3	7	0	0%	2				
21	36	122	7	19%	3.0	2	5	0	7
22	11	35	1	9%	3.5	1			1
23	49	180	8	16%	3.1	2	6	1	7
24	93	368	17	18%	3	11	6	1	16
28	1	4	0	0%	3				
30**	1	2	0	0%	2				
31	2	3	0	0%	2.5				
32	32	62	9	28%	3.4	5	4	1	8
34	438	1409	70	16%	3.2	28	42	6	64
35	1	3	0	0%	5				
36	154	538	32	21%	3.5	17	15	3	29
37	110	371	9	8%	3	3	6	1	8
38**	7	24	1	14%	3	1			1
39**	2	6	0	0%	4.5				
40	12	21	9	75%	4.1	6	3	1	8
41	5	10	1	20%	3.8		1		1
42	26	53	16	62%	3.7	14	2	1	15
43**	6	30	1	17%	3.7	1			1
44	1	7	0	0%	5				
45	156	586	32	21%	3.3	15	17	2	30
46	22	99	8	36%	3.9	4	4	1	7

47	5	8	2	40%	3.6	2			2
48	23	128	3	13%	3		3	1	2
49**	5	19	0	0%	2.4				
50**	1	7	0	0%	1				
51**	18	50	1	6%	3.3	0	1	0	1
52**	12	47	1	8%	2.8	1		1	
53**	10	52	2	20%	3.5	2			2
54	3	7	1	33%	3.3		1		1
55	12	44	2	17%	3.0	2	0	1	1
56	7	27	2	29%	4.3	2			2
57	16	47	7	44%	3.9	3	4		7
58	5	19	3	60%	4.4	3			3
59	1	2	0	0%	5				
UNK	1	2	1	100%	0	1			1
TOTAL	2,489	9,141	383	16.1%	3.1	193	190	35	348

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** These GMUs are closed to fall turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

2017 Spring Harvest Report Summaries

<i>GMU</i>	<i>Hunters</i>	<i>Days Hunted</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>% of Beards >4"</i>	<i>First Turkey</i>	<i>Success on First Harvest</i>	<i>Second Turkey</i>	<i>Hunter Rating</i>
1*	21	67	4	75%	4	19%		2.8
2	232	793	93	73%	79	34.1%	14	3.7
3*	7	33	0		0	0%		3.6
4	100	288	42	88%	34	34%	8	3.8
5	164	524	31	94%	28	17.1%	3	3.3
6	782	2802	151	90%	127	16.2%	24	3.3
7	8	38	1	0%	1	12.5%		2.4
8**	9	46	2	100%	2	22.2%		3.3
9	222	732	43	74%	35	15.8%	8	3.4
10	297	1198	59	71%	49	16.5%	10	3.3
11*	1	2	0		0	0%		3
12	11	46	2	100%	2	18.2%		3.8
13	62	180	12	75%	10	16.1%	2	3.2
14	346	1150	79	66%	64	18.5%	15	3.3
15	347	1289	86	80%	70	20.1%	16	3.4
16	1131	3968	414	99%	326	28.8%	88	3.7
17	97	395	28	75%	23	23.7%	5	3.2
18	24	78	5	60%	3	12.5%	2	3.1
19**	1	3	0		0	0%		1
20	26	49	9	44%	8	30.8%	1	3
21	104	327	40	83%	35	33.7%	5	3.5
22	16	81	4	100%	4	25%		4
23	112	446	38	79%	30	26.8%	8	3.4
24	280	1056	92	82%	76	27.1%	16	3.4
25**	3	5	0		0	0%		2.3
26**	1	2	0		0	0%		5
28**	2	5	0		0	0%		2
29	1	3	0		0	0%		4
30**	5	15	1	0%	1	20%		3.4
31**	3	10	1	100%	1	33.3%		3
32	51	108	31	58%	24	47.1%	7	3.8
33**	5	15	3	67%	3	60%		4
34	1186	3832	345	82%	277	23.4%	68	3.5
35*	5	21	1	100%	1	20%		3.2
36	318	1043	106	86%	82	25.8%	24	3.6
37	212	737	68	82%	58	27.4%	10	3.5

38	26	78	8	88%	6	23.1%	2	3.3
39	50	91	35	71%	25	50%	10	4.3
40	30	56	19	84%	15	50%	4	3.8
41	15	26	13	54%	10	66.7%	3	3.9
42	88	209	67	82%	45	51.1%	22	4.3
43	42	120	14	86%	12	28.6%	2	3.6
44**	3	10	1	100%	1	33.3%		3.3
45	433	1665	134	79%	111	25.6%	23	3.4
46	84	277	49	73%	37	44%	12	4
47	20	41	14	79%	12	60%	2	3.8
48	73	226	42	74%	35	47.9%	7	3.7
49	152	677	67	82%	49	32.2%	18	3.7
50**	3	9	1	0%	1	33.3%		3.7
51	182	700	37	89%	34	18.7%	3	3.4
52	53	193	19	84%	14	26.4%	5	3.4
53	41	174	11	82%	9	22%	2	3.4
54	23	52	13	92%	10	43.5%	3	4.1
55	90	206	66	92%	47	52.2%	19	4.4
56	22	57	16	88%	13	59.1%	3	4.2
57	91	274	53	83%	39	42.9%	14	3.9
58	38	72	30	87%	19	50%	11	4.7
59	22	48	16	69%	13	59.1%	3	4
UNK	7	4	1	100%	0	0%	1	4.3
TOTAL	6,461	24,924	2,339	80.9%	1,873	80.1%	466	3.5

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** These GMUs are closed to spring turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

2017 Fall Harvest Report Summaries

GMU	Hunters	Days Hunted	Harvest	Hunter Rating	Success Rates	Sex of Harvest		Harvest Month	
						Hens	Gobblers	Sept	Nov
1*	8	30	0	2.3	0%	0	0	0	0
2	56	231	20	3.1	35.7%	4	16	0	20
3*	3	18	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
4**	2	5	0	1	0%	0	0	0	0
5	60	297	2	3.1	3.3%	1	1	1	1
6	324	1024	37	3.2	11.4%	18	19	2	35
7	4	24	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
8**	3	5	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
9	142	596	25	3.1	17.6%	13	12	5	20
10	129	532	24	3	18.6%	15	9	2	22
12	3	6	0	3.3	0%	0	0	0	0
13	31	110	1	2.8	3.2%	1	0	0	1
14**	4	8	0	3.5	0%	0	0	0	0
15	109	461	14	3.1	12.8%	6	8	1	13
16	300	1256	52	3.3	17.3%	22	30	3	49
17	22	68	1	2.8	4.5%	0	1	0	1
18**	5	13	1	3.4	20%	1	0	0	1
19**	1	1	0	2	0%	0	0	0	0
20**	2	4	0	3.5	0%	0	0	0	0
21	51	199	8	2.8	15.7%	4	4	2	6
22	11	44	3	2.5	27.3%	2	1	0	3
23	66	305	5	3.1	7.6%	1	4	0	5
24	85	236	23	3.4	27.1%	13	10	0	23
25**	2	7	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
26**	4	11	1	3	25%	0	1	0	1
29	1	3	0	5	0%	0	0	0	0
30**	3	3	1	2.7	33.3%	1	0	0	1
32	19	63	6	3.6	31.6%	1	5	1	5
34	410	1370	85	3.3	20.7%	51	34	7	78
36	108	416	29	3.4	26.9%	11	18	1	28
37	80	298	18	3.3	22.5%	13	5	2	16
38**	4	14	0	2.8	0%	0	0	0	0
39**	3	6	0	2.3	0%	0	0	0	0
40	10	16	6	3.7	60%	0	6	0	6
41	2	4	2	5	100%	1	1	1	1
42	16	38	12	3.8	75%	6	6	0	12
43**	2	5	0	2.5	0%	0	0	0	0
45	112	460	26	3	23.2%	13	13	1	25
46	15	43	5	3.4	33.3%	2	3	0	5

47	1	1	0	2	0%	0	0	0	0
48	22	84	3	2.8	13.6%	1	2	1	2
49**	3	6	0	3.7	0%	0	0	0	0
51**	9	26	1	2.9	11.1%	1	0	0	1
52**	7	21	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
53**	1	3	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
54	6	20	2	3.8	33.3%	1	1	0	2
55	12	58	6	4.3	50%	2	4	0	6
56	4	8	2	4.5	50%	1	1	0	2
57	18	76	6	4	33.3%	4	2	0	6
58	3	11	0	3.7	0%	0	0	0	0
59	1	1	0	5	0%	0	0	0	0
UNK	2	0	0	3.5	0%	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,212	8,545	427	3.18	19.3%	210	217	36	391

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** These GMUs are closed to fall turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

2016 Spring Harvest Report Summaries

<i>GMU</i>	<i>Hunters</i>	<i>Days Hunted</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>% of Beards >4"</i>	<i>First Turkey</i>	<i>Success on First Harvest</i>	<i>Second Turkey</i>	<i>Hunter Rating</i>
1*	21	67	4	75%	4	19%		2.8
2	232	793	93	73%	79	34.1%	14	3.7
3*	7	33	0		0	0%		3.6
4	100	288	42	88%	34	34%	8	3.8
5	164	524	31	94%	28	17.1%	3	3.3
6	782	2802	151	90%	127	16.2%	24	3.3
7	8	38	1	0%	1	12.5%		2.4
8**	9	46	2	100%	2	22.2%		3.3
9	222	732	43	74%	35	15.8%	8	3.4
10	297	1198	59	71%	49	16.5%	10	3.3
11*	1	2	0		0	0%		3
12	11	46	2	100%	2	18.2%		3.8
13	62	180	12	75%	10	16.1%	2	3.2
14	346	1150	79	66%	64	18.5%	15	3.3
15	347	1289	86	80%	70	20.1%	16	3.4
16	1131	3968	414	99%	326	28.8%	88	3.7
17	97	395	28	75%	23	23.7%	5	3.2
18	24	78	5	60%	3	12.5%	2	3.1
19**	1	3	0		0	0%		1
20	26	49	9	44%	8	30.8%	1	3
21	104	327	40	83%	35	33.7%	5	3.5
22	16	81	4	100%	4	25%		4
23	112	446	38	79%	30	26.8%	8	3.4
24	280	1056	92	82%	76	27.1%	16	3.4
25**	3	5	0		0	0%		2.3
26**	1	2	0		0	0%		5
28**	2	5	0		0	0%		2
29	1	3	0		0	0%		4
30**	5	15	1	0%	1	20%		3.4
31**	3	10	1	100%	1	33.3%		3
32	51	108	31	58%	24	47.1%	7	3.8
33**	5	15	3	67%	3	60%		4
34	1186	3832	345	82%	277	23.4%	68	3.5
35*	5	21	1	100%	1	20%		3.2
36	318	1043	106	86%	82	25.8%	24	3.6
37	212	737	68	82%	58	27.4%	10	3.5

38	26	78	8	88%	6	23.1%	2	3.3
39	50	91	35	71%	25	50%	10	4.3
40	30	56	19	84%	15	50%	4	3.8
41	15	26	13	54%	10	66.7%	3	3.9
42	88	209	67	82%	45	51.1%	22	4.3
43	42	120	14	86%	12	28.6%	2	3.6
44**	3	10	1	100%	1	33.3%		3.3
45	433	1665	134	79%	111	25.6%	23	3.4
46	84	277	49	73%	37	44%	12	4
47	20	41	14	79%	12	60%	2	3.8
48	73	226	42	74%	35	47.9%	7	3.7
49	152	677	67	82%	49	32.2%	18	3.7
50**	3	9	1	0%	1	33.3%		3.7
51	182	700	37	89%	34	18.7%	3	3.4
52	53	193	19	84%	14	26.4%	5	3.4
53	41	174	11	82%	9	22%	2	3.4
54	23	52	13	92%	10	43.5%	3	4.1
55	90	206	66	92%	47	52.2%	19	4.4
56	22	57	16	88%	13	59.1%	3	4.2
57	91	274	53	83%	39	42.9%	14	3.9
58	38	72	30	87%	19	50%	11	4.7
59	22	48	16	69%	13	59.1%	3	4
UNK	7	4	1	100%	0	0%	1	4.3
TOTAL	6,461	24,924	2,339	80.9%	1,873	80.1%	466	3.5

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2016 Fall Harvest Report Summaries

GMU	Hunters	Days Hunted	Harvest	Hunter Rating	Success Rates	Sex of Harvest		Harvest Month	
						Hens	Gobblers	Sept	Nov
1*	8	30	0	2.3	0%	0	0	0	0
2	56	231	20	3.1	35.7%	4	16	0	20
3*	3	18	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
4**	2	5	0	1	0%	0	0	0	0
5	60	297	2	3.1	3.3%	1	1	1	1
6	324	1024	37	3.2	11.4%	18	19	2	35
7	4	24	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
8**	3	5	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
9	142	596	25	3.1	17.6%	13	12	5	20
10	129	532	24	3	18.6%	15	9	2	22
12	3	6	0	3.3	0%	0	0	0	0
13	31	110	1	2.8	3.2%	1	0	0	1
14**	4	8	0	3.5	0%	0	0	0	0
15	109	461	14	3.1	12.8%	6	8	1	13
16	300	1256	52	3.3	17.3%	22	30	3	49
17	22	68	1	2.8	4.5%	0	1	0	1
18**	5	13	1	3.4	20%	1	0	0	1
19**	1	1	0	2	0%	0	0	0	0
20**	2	4	0	3.5	0%	0	0	0	0
21	51	199	8	2.8	15.7%	4	4	2	6
22	11	44	3	2.5	27.3%	2	1	0	3
23	66	305	5	3.1	7.6%	1	4	0	5
24	85	236	23	3.4	27.1%	13	10	0	23
25**	2	7	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
26**	4	11	1	3	25%	0	1	0	1
29	1	3	0	5	0%	0	0	0	0
30**	3	3	1	2.7	33.3%	1	0	0	1
32	19	63	6	3.6	31.6%	1	5	1	5
34	410	1370	85	3.3	20.7%	51	34	7	78
36	108	416	29	3.4	26.9%	11	18	1	28
37	80	298	18	3.3	22.5%	13	5	2	16
38**	4	14	0	2.8	0%	0	0	0	0
39**	3	6	0	2.3	0%	0	0	0	0
40	10	16	6	3.7	60%	0	6	0	6
41	2	4	2	5	100%	1	1	1	1
42	16	38	12	3.8	75%	6	6	0	12
43**	2	5	0	2.5	0%	0	0	0	0
45	112	460	26	3	23.2%	13	13	1	25
46	15	43	5	3.4	33.3%	2	3	0	5

47	1	1	0	2	0%	0	0	0	0
48	22	84	3	2.8	13.6%	1	2	1	2
49**	3	6	0	3.7	0%	0	0	0	0
51**	9	26	1	2.9	11.1%	1	0	0	1
52**	7	21	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
53**	1	3	0	3	0%	0	0	0	0
54	6	20	2	3.8	33.3%	1	1	0	2
55	12	58	6	4.3	50%	2	4	0	6
56	4	8	2	4.5	50%	1	1	0	2
57	18	76	6	4	33.3%	4	2	0	6
58	3	11	0	3.7	0%	0	0	0	0
59	1	1	0	5	0%	0	0	0	0
UNK	2	0	0	3.5	0%	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,212	8,545	427	3.18	19.3%	210	217	36	391

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** These GMUs are closed to fall turkey hunting. Hunters may have misreported GMU of harvest.

2015 Spring Harvest Report Summaries

GMU	# of Hunters	Total Harvest	% of Beards >4"	First Turkey	Success on First Harvest	Second Turkey	Hunter Rating
1	31	2	50%	2	7%		2.6
2	172	57	63%	52	30%	5	3.3
3	8	0			0%		2.9
4	90	40	63%	35	39%	5	3.7
5	118	32	63%	28	24%	4	3.3
6	727	153	67%	133	18%	20	3.2
7	13	8	75%	7	54%	1	3.7
8	8	0			0%		2.9
9	205	41	68%	33	16%	8	3.2
10	287	67	75%	57	20%	10	3.2
11	4	0			0%		3
12	15	3	100%	3	20%		3.3
13	47	6	100%	6	13%		3
14	260	59	70%	48	19%	11	3.2
15	310	126	74%	106	34%	20	3.5
16	527	173	82%	148	28%	25	3.5
17	78	21	81%	18	23%	3	3.1
18	24	7	71%	6	25%	1	3.1
19	2	2	50%	2	100%		4
20	14	8	63%	7	50%	1	3.9
21	72	23	83%	20	28%	3	3.3
22	11	4	100%	4	36%		3.9
23	97	30	73%	26	27%	4	3.2
24	271	70	76%	61	23%	9	3.2
27	1	1	100%	1	100%		4
28	1	0			0%		2
30	3	2	50%	1	33%	1	3.3
31	3	0			0%		5
32	27	20	80%	18	67%	2	3.6
33	2	1	0%	1	50%		3
34	1096	342	74%	279	26%	63	3.3
35	12	3	67%	2	17%	1	3.2
36	307	117	70%	93	30%	24	3.5
37	165	47	77%	37	22%	10	3.3
38	18	5	40%	4	22%	1	3.1
39	19	3	67%	3	16%		3.5
40	11	6	83%	5	46%	1	2.8
41	9	3	100%	3	33%		3.4

42	53	21	76%	17	32%	4	3
43	22	8	88%	7	32%	1	2.9
44	2	0			0%		2
45	336	90	63%	74	22%	16	3.3
46	64	26	65%	23	36%	3	3.6
47	18	14	64%	9	50%	5	3.7
48	52	25	80%	21	40%	4	3.6
49	110	48	71%	40	36%	8	3.4
50	5	2	100%	2	40%		3.2
51	153	34	41%	29	19%	5	3.3
52	47	13	54%	9	19%	4	3.6
53	41	17	82%	16	39%	1	3.5
54	20	13	77%	10	50%	3	3.9
55	92	79	66%	58	63%	21	4.3
56	12	9	78%	7	58%	2	3.5
57	85	50	78%	41	48%	9	3.8
58	18	21	71%	15	83%	6	4.4
59	8	6	67%	5	63%	1	3.3
UNK	11	2	100%	2	40%		4.6
TOTALS	6214	1960	36.76	1634	26%	326	3.35

2015 Fall Harvest Report Summaries

GMU	Hunters	Days Hunted	Harvest	Hunter Rating	Success Rates	Sex of Harvest		Harvest Month	
						Hens	Gobblers	Sept	Nov
1	13	47	2	2.7	15%	2	0	0	2
2	49	156	17	3.3	35%	10	7	3	14
3	2	4	0	2	0%				
4	4	8	0	3.3	0%				
5	13	38	5	2.8	38%	2	3	1	4
6	312	1193	65	3.3	21%	49	16	6	58
7	4	10	2	3.8	50%	0	2	0	2
8	1	3	0	3	0%				
9	129	457	29	3.3	22%	18	11	1	28
10	128	681	14	3	11%	7	7	1	13
11	1	1	0	1	0%				
12	7	15	0	3	0%				
13	26	117	1	3	4%	0	1	0	1
14	5	10	2	4	40%	1	1	0	2
15	101	424	17	3.2	17%	6	11	0	17
16	217	947	56	3.4	26%	33	23	9	47
17	28	101	6	3.2	21%	6	0	0	6
19	8	20	0	3	0%				
20	1	4	0	3	0%				
21	40	102	13	3.2	33%	10	3	1	12
22	10	46	4	3.5	40%	4	0	3	1
23	70	293	20	3	29%	6	14	1	19
24	63	234	21	3.5	33%	12	9	4	16
27	2	8	1	4	50%	0	1	1	0
29	1	3	0	3	0%				
30	1	4	0	1	0%				
31	4	9	1	3.8	25%	0	1	0	1
32	14	29	6	4.1	43%	2	4	0	5
33	3	5	2	4.3	67%	0	2	1	1
34	444	1385	145	3.4	33%	104	41	8	136
35	5	8	3	3.3	60%	0	2	0	2
36	95	333	27	3.2	28%	18	9	3	24
37	71	213	22	3.2	31%	13	9	0	22
38	2	6	0	3.7	0%				
39	3	7	0	2.7	0%				
40	4	15	2	3.2	50%	1	1	0	2
41	5	20	2	4.2	40%	0	2	0	2
42	10	21	5	3.1	50%	4	1	0	5
43	4	7	1	3.3	25%	1	0	1	0

44	1	2	0	4	0%				
45	108	400	31	3.1	29%	18	13	3	28
46	19	50	7	3.6	37%	5	2	1	6
47	4	13	2	4	50%	0	2	0	2
48	18	74	2	3.4	11%	1	1	0	2
49	3	7	1	3.3	33%	0	1	0	1
51	11	44	1	3.2	9%	1	0	0	1
52	5	20	1	2.2	20%	0	1	0	1
53	2	5	0	3.5	0%				
54	2	10	1	4	50%	1	0	0	1
55	5	12	2	3.8	40%	0	2	0	2
56	1	2	1	4	100%	1	0	0	1
57	27	112	14	3.9	52%	8	6	1	13
58	1	25	1	5	100%	1	0	1	0
59	2	4	0	4.5	0%				
UNK	4	18	0	4.8	0%	0	1	0	5
TOTALS	2113	7782	555	3.30	26.3%	345	210	50	505

Gould's Wild Turkey **(*Meleagris gallopavo mexicana*)** **Delisting Investigation Report**

Prepared by:

John Bulger and Casey Cardinal
Wildlife Management Division
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Santa Fe, NM

Purpose

The purpose of this Delisting Investigation Report is to evaluate whether there is sufficient evidence that Gould's wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo mexicana*) no longer requires statutory protection as a threatened species in New Mexico and that the objective and related information needs proposed in the Department's Recovery Plan have been satisfied to the extent that the subspecies can be safely removed from the state list of threatened and endangered species.

Introduction

Gould's wild turkey was listed by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish¹ as a state threatened species in 1974 (NMDGF 2020), pursuant to Section § 17-2-41 of the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA; NMSA 17-2-37 to 17-2-46). In 2017, the New Mexico State Game Commission approved the Department's Gould's Wild Turkey Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan hereafter; Cardinal & Bulger 2017). The Recovery Plan identified criteria and data needs that would allow the Department to better assess Gould's wild turkey² prospects for population maintenance or growth in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range in New Mexico (NMSA 17-2-38).

This report was developed under authority of the WCA, which authorizes NMDGF to conduct delisting investigations of wildlife species indigenous to the state based upon new evidence and/or substantial public interest and support for an evaluation of the status of the species. In light of new information gathered since 2017, we evaluate herein the current conservation status of Gould's turkey in New Mexico in relation to goals, objectives, and performance measures established in the Recovery Plan. The report will be used by the NMDGF Director to make a recommendation to the State Game Commission to delist or not delist the species under the WCA. Following public hearings and a public comment period, the State Game Commission will make the final decision on delisting.

As required by the WCA, notice of the investigation was provided to agencies, organizations, and the public at large through electronic mailings, internet announcements, and press releases in November 2021. A public repository was subsequently established for comments and to document the investigation

¹ Hereafter referred to as "the Department" or "NMDGF".

² Hereafter referred to as Gould's turkey.

process. Additionally, one qualified individual from each of the six four-year state universities was invited to serve on a peer review panel. Peer reviews of the Delisting Investigation Report were submitted to NMDGF by: Drs. Martha Desmond, New Mexico State University; Benjamin Duval, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology; William Norris, Western New Mexico University; Kyle Shaney, New Mexico Highlands University; and Blair Wolf, University of New Mexico. No comments were received from Eastern New Mexico University.

Background

Gould's Turkey Distribution and Natural History

Wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) populations occur in all 48 states of the continental United States, north into southern Canada, and south into Mexico as far as Colima. There are five subspecies of *M. gallopavo*, of which Gould's (*M. g. mexicana*) is the southernmost. The historic and current range of Gould's turkey extends from Guanajuato, Mexico, northward along the slopes of the Sierra Madre Occidental and Madrean Sky Island ranges into extreme southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona (Baur et al. 2019). Within New Mexico, Gould's turkeys inhabit the Peloncillo/Guadalupe Mountains (hereafter referred to conjointly as the Peloncillo Mountains) on the west side of the Animas Valley, and the Animas and San Luis Mountains on the east side of the Animas Valley (NMDGF 2020). The occupied range in New Mexico is contiguous with suitable habitats in Sonora and Chihuahua, Mexico.

The biology and natural history of wild turkeys are described in detail in several literature compilations (Dickson 1992, Healy & Powell 1999, McRoberts et al. 2020), and were summarized for Gould's turkey in the Department's Recovery Plan (Cardinal & Bulger 2017). As directly pertinent to the Delisting Investigation, aspects of Gould's turkey ecology and natural history are included in the relevant sections of this report.

Historical Perspective

NMDGF listed Gould's turkey as threatened in New Mexico in 1974 due to its limited range within the state (Peloncillo and Animas Mountains)³ and presumed small population sizes. Subsequent actions undertaken or funded by the Department included:

- 1982-1992: A series of studies undertaken by New Mexico State University professor Sanford Schemnitz and four graduate students (hereafter generically referred to as "the 1982-1992 NMSU studies": Schemnitz and Zeedyk 1982, Potter 1984, Willging 1987, Figert 1989, Schemnitz and Potter 1984, Schemnitz et al. 1990, York 1991, Schemnitz 1992, York and Schemnitz 1993, Zornes 1993, Zornes and Schemnitz 1993, Schemnitz and Zornes 1995). The 1982-1992 NMSU studies were primarily observational in nature and focused on diet, range, and habitat use of Gould's turkeys in the Peloncillo Mountains. The population size during that interval was described as numbering fewer than 50 adults⁴, and was speculated to be growing in size.
- 1996-1998: Surveys of Gould's turkey distribution in the Peloncillo and Animas Mountains (Zeedyk 1996, 1997, 1998).

³ Suitable habitat for Gould's Turkey in New Mexico, both historically and currently, occurs only in the Peloncillo and Animas Mountains.

⁴ In this report, "adults" refers to full-size individuals in the winter/early spring pre-breeding population. Turkeys are capable of reproducing at 1 year of age.

- 2006-present: Annual population surveys conducted by NMDGF and the National Wild Turkey Federation beginning in 2006 (Lerich and Cardinal, in review).
- 2014-2016: Translocation of 60 Gould's turkeys from Arizona to augment the Peloncillo Mountains population as follows: 19 in 2014, 26 in 2015, and 15 in 2016 (Lerich and Cardinal, in review).
- 2017: Gould's Turkey Recovery Plan approved by the New Mexico State Game Commission in 2017 (Cardinal and Bulger 2017).
- 2018 – ongoing: NMDGF GPS telemetry study of range and habitat use, movements, survival, and population size.

Recovery Plan Development

The Gould's Wild Turkey Recovery Plan specified an objective and several actionable performance measures that, if accomplished, might allow for a re-evaluation of the species' status in the state and eventual delisting. These were as follows:

Recovery Plan Goal: Ensure the long-term persistence of Gould's turkey within its historical range in New Mexico.

Objective: Maintain a total population of at least 175 Gould's turkeys in the Peloncillo Mountains either through natural processes alone or in combination with periodic strategic augmentation.⁵

Objective Parameters: Objective parameters are performance measures that are designed to assist in achieving the objective of the Recovery Plan:

- Develop population survey and monitoring methods and protocols to better characterize population distribution and trends.
- Identify and map the full extent of suitable or potentially suitable Gould's turkey habitat in the Peloncillo Mountains.
- Evaluate unoccupied portions of the suitable range for their potential to support a translocated flock if natural colonization seems unlikely.
- Evaluate and map limiting habitat components, such as roost sites, water sources, and brood-rearing habitat.
- Identify and manage, as feasible, current threats to limiting habitat components.
- Where feasible and warranted, identify, prioritize, and implement specific habitat enhancement projects.

NMDGF recovery plans are developed using the best information available at that time. Apart from consulting the broader literature on wild turkeys in general, in writing the Recovery Plan for Gould's turkey in New Mexico we relied primarily on information gathered in the 1982-1992 NMSU studies and the subsequent 2006-2016 population surveys. While the field studies and surveys conducted prior to 2017 comprised the best available information for development of the Recovery Plan, we were aware of the limitations of the data and related interpretations and recommendations. The NMSU studies, in particular, relied primarily on adventitious observations collected over a largely inaccessible study area

⁵ The Animas Mountains were not included because we do not have access to Gould's turkey habitat within the mountain range.

and/or locations from a small number of turkeys outfitted with VHF telemetry backpacks (n = 6 females and 4 males that lived longer than 5 months).

Therefore, as recommended in the Recovery Plan, in 2018 we initiated a GPS radio-telemetry investigation of Gould's turkey habitat and range use, movements, survival, and population size in the Peloncillo Mountains. This study (discussed in detail below) is key to supporting the present Delisting Investigation, and provides multiple lines of evidence which, in the aggregate, suggest that demographic and environmental parameters critical to maintaining and supporting the population are sufficiently robust to ensure population persistence for the foreseeable future.

NMDGF GPS Telemetry Study

This study has been underway since May 2018⁶ and is ongoing. Turkeys are captured and fitted with GPS/Iridium backpack transmitters that are programmed to record the location of each bird once each night (roosting) and three times during daylight hours every other day (mid-morning, noon, mid-afternoon). GPS locations are uploaded to Iridium satellites and subsequently downloaded weekly. The transmitters also have sensors to alert us to bird mortality within 10 hours of the event. Although our sample size fluctuates, we usually have at least 25 turkeys equipped with backpacks, slightly more females than males. We attempt to capture and mark approximately equal numbers of birds from three widely separated sites to control for biases that may arise from use of a single trapping location. The currently deployed transmitters will continue to operate for approximately four years, and we will attach additional transmitters to more turkeys in the future as needed to fill information gaps. Results obtained to date are reported below.

Range and Range Use

Figure 1 shows all GPS locations for all turkeys backpacked to date. The data set comprises more than 53,500 GPS turkey locations, provided over time by 69 different turkeys (30 males, 39 females) between May 2018 and November 2021. The salient results are these:

1. The documented occupied range of Gould's turkeys inhabiting the Peloncillo Mountains extends north/south over a length of at least 87 km, including at least 53 km north of the U.S./Mexico border to the Rough Creek/Big Creek watershed and 34 km south into Sonora in the Cajon Bonito watershed and the Sierra Pan Duro.
2. The turkeys use specific areas within the overall range (hereafter "core use areas"). In Figure 1, the core use areas are named Rough Creek, Horse Camp, Skeleton Canyon⁷, Cascabel, Animas Creek, Foster Draw, Cloverdale, and Guadalupe Canyon. Dunagan Crossing is also a known core use area, but none of our backpacked birds have resided at the site yet. (Mexico is discussed separately later in the document).
3. Large portions of the mountain range appear not to be used at all by Gould's turkeys or are used only for travel to get from one core use area to another.

⁶ The first GPS backpacks were attached during May 2018, but data from a sample size of >20 turkeys are primarily from the period February 2019 – October 2021.

⁷ Core use area includes Skeleton, Pine, and Dutchman canyons and surrounding uplands.

4. The turkeys are highly mobile, and individual birds regularly move between core use areas.⁸ There generally are turkeys present in all these areas year-round, but flock composition changes over time. Consequently, core use areas are not occupied by discrete resident flocks. Examples of individual turkey range use are shown in Figure 2 for birds captured and backpacked at Cloverdale (Fig. 2a), Cascabel (Fig. 2b), and Foster Draw (Fig. 2c).
5. 63.0% of the GPS locations were on private land, and 34.4% on the Coronado National Forest.

GPS telemetry studies have given us a much more complete picture of the distribution and range use of turkeys occupying the Peloncillo Mountains than what was known at the time the Recovery Plan was written. In particular, these studies have expanded our understanding of range use to include several additional core use areas, and have documented Gould's turkey habitat continuity and use well into Mexico. In the 1982-1992 NMSU studies, the Gould's turkey range in the Peloncillos was thought to extend from Skeleton Canyon southward to Cloverdale, with some modest but indeterminate use of Horse Camp, Guadalupe Canyon, and Rough Creek. Turkey use of Foster Draw and Animas Creek was unreported at that time, as was use of the Cajon Bonito and adjacent mountains in Mexico.

In the Gould's turkey Recovery Plan, we discussed evaluating "unoccupied portions of the suitable range". Having now better defined (i) the size and extent of the occupied range, and (ii) the extent to which turkeys move freely about the landscape, including brief forays into little used areas and regular movements between core use areas, we no longer believe that there exists any suitable habitat that is unoccupied because turkeys have yet to discover it.

Habitat Use/Selection

Figure 3 shows turkey locations relative to SW GAP land cover types⁹. Mexico is excluded from the map because we don't have a comparable digital vegetation layer. In the Peloncillos, Gould's turkeys primarily use two land cover types: Apacherian-Chihuahuan Piedmont Semi-Desert Grassland/Steppe¹⁰ (66.4%), and Madrean Encinal¹¹ (23.4%). It is apparent from Figure 3 that the GAP land cover types are too broad to adequately describe turkey habitat use or selection. In general, Gould's turkeys in the Peloncillo Mountains occupy the ecotone where the grasslands of the Animas Valley transition to Madrean Encinal savannas and open woodlands. This transition zone is a mosaic of rolling mid-elevation foothills comprised of oak and/or juniper savanna, punctuated at regular intervals by drainages that support many of the oaks (*Quercus* spp.)¹² or cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides* var. *fremontii*) that are used for roosting; drainages are also used for foraging and often support oaks and other Encinal vegetation farther downslope than do upland areas. Denser woodland habitat types (typically pinyon/juniper) are for the most part avoided by the turkeys and are used only to travel through between core use areas (Figure 3). Pure grasslands with no trees that provide escape cover are similarly avoided. Gould's turkeys will forage

⁸ Although we can only report on movements of individual turkeys equipped with backpacks, we note that turkeys (particularly hens) usually travel and forage in flocks.

⁹ Southwest Regional GAP Analysis Project <http://earth.gis.usu.edu/swgap/>

¹⁰ The Piedmont Grassland/Steppe is a broad land cover type. On the eastern slope of the Peloncillos it is characterized by stands of diverse perennial grasses; the western slope of the range tends to be a grass/shrub mix.

¹¹ *Encinal* is a Spanish designation for evergreen woodlands composed primarily of oaks or of some combination of oak/pinyon/juniper. These are more open woodlands and savannas, with canopy cover generally ranging from 5-25%; denser stands on north-facing slopes may approach 50% overstory canopy cover (Brown 1994, USDA 2018).

¹² Emory oak (*Q. emoryi*) and gray oak (*Q. grisea*) are used for roosting and, along with Toumey oak (*Q. toumeyii*) and silver-leaf oak *Q. hypoleucoides*, produce mast crops that are important food items for Gould's turkey.

many kilometers outward from roost sites provided there are at least small trees in the landscape. The lack of trees across the broad Animas Valley likely limits movement of turkeys between the Peloncillo and Animas ranges.

Turkey diets vary seasonally by availability of forage. Approximately 50 plant species were identified in York's (1991) analysis of Gould's turkey feces in the Peloncillo Mountains. Mast-producing trees and shrubs are particularly important food sources. These include alligator juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*), pointleaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pungens*), sumac (*Rhus* spp.), four oak species, border pinyon (*Pinus cembroides* var. *discolor*), and canyon grape (*Vitis arizonica*). Gould's turkeys also eat a variety of grass seeds, the primary grasses being pinyon ricegrass (*Piptochaetium fimbriatum*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), Orcutt's threeawn (*Aristida schiedeana* var. *orcuttiana*), and barnyard grass (*Echinochloa* spp.). Insects are an important food source for poults and are also readily consumed by adult turkeys. Although the pinyon-juniper woodlands include major mast-producing resources, Gould's turkeys in our study for the most part foraged only at the edges of this vegetation association. Only 2.3% of all GPS locations occurred in the Madrean Pinyon-Juniper Woodland land cover type (Figure 3).

Roosting

Except when brooding pre-flight chicks, Gould's turkeys roost at night in large trees with relatively open crowns that contain branches of sufficient size to support a 5-15 kg bird. Roost sites are usually located adjacent to an open area that functions as a takeoff and landing site used for flying into and out of the roost trees. Although a single large tree can accommodate several dozen birds, most roost sites are comprised of two or more trees in close proximity to one another. Gould's turkey roosting flock sizes vary by season and sex, and are largest during winter (January-early April) when more than 100 birds may aggregate at a single roost site.

The 1982-1992 NMSU studies documented 39 roost sites used by Gould's turkeys in the Peloncillo Mountains (Figure 4; Zornes 1993). Of these, 32 were within groves of Chihuahua pine (*Pinus leiophylla* var. *chihuahuana*). Due to the small number of roost sites reported in those studies, the preponderance of Chihuahua pine roosts in the sample, and the relative scarcity of Chihuahua pine in the Peloncillos¹³, it was proposed that roost sites were a limiting feature of Gould's turkey habitat in the study area (Schemnitz 1992) -- limiting in the sense that the restricted distribution of Chihuahua pines rendered areas of otherwise suitable foraging habitat inaccessible to the turkeys.

Figure 4 shows all locations where GPS-backpacked turkeys have roosted during our telemetry study. To date, we have documented turkeys using approximately 250 roost sites that sustained ≥ 3 turkey roost nights and an additional 450 that had < 3 use nights throughout the range of Gould's turkey in the Peloncillo Mountains. The designations "high", "medium", and "low" in Figure 4 refer to relative frequency of use for the ≥ 3 roost nights category. The vast majority (>90%) of tree species used for roosting are either oaks (*Q. emoryi* and *Q. grisea*) or cottonwoods, with remaining <10% being in the aggregate Arizona sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*), Chihuahua pine, Arizona walnut (*Juglans major*), or alligator juniper. Use of GPS transmitters has provided us with an unbiased record of Gould's turkey roosting habits in the Peloncillos. Whether this technological advantage alone accounts for the

¹³ Chihuahua pine occurs almost exclusively in drainages at mid- to high elevations in the Peloncillos. In their vegetation mapping, the 1982-1992 NMSU studies identified only 19 locations where groves of Chihuahua pine were present (Schemnitz 1992).

differences between our results and those of the 1982-1992 NMSU studies or whether the birds have shifted their roosting habits is uncertain.

In view of our better understanding of roost site distribution and availability in the Peloncillo Mountains, we have found no evidence that roost sites restrict use of otherwise suitable habitat for Gould’s turkeys. The birds walk distances of 10-15 km in a single day when moving between core use areas, and even in the course of daily foraging they travel on average 4-5 km (Gross et al. 2015). It is therefore unlikely that the distribution and number of suitable (as defined by the turkeys themselves) roost sites limits their ability to forage broadly through the general occupied range. While there are some hard edges to the occupiable range that are defined in part by lack of roosts (e.g., most of Animas Valley, large areas of mesquite and desert scrub, areas north of Rough Creek/Big Creek), these are simply natural vegetation types that don’t produce big trees due to soil type, moisture and other factors.

Nesting and Brood Rearing

Nesting:

Turkeys nest on the ground, typically selecting sites with moderately dense overhead cover and at least some degree of horizontal cover (Lehman et al. 2008, Fuller et al. 2013). Prior to our study only two Gould’s turkey nests had been described for the Peloncillos (Zornes 1993). We have to date discovered 31 additional nests.¹⁴ Nests have been placed against tree trunks (oaks and junipers), beneath beargrass clumps (*Nolina* spp.), in tall grasses of open wetland or grassland, beneath chaparral vegetation, atop cliff-like rock outcroppings, and a variety of other situations. At the nest scale, appropriate habitat is ubiquitous. In terms of broad land cover types most nesting has occurred in savanna habitats associated with grassland-steppe and Madrean Encinal (Figure 5), but nests have also been situated in woodland, chaparral, and wetland land cover types (Table 1). There is no indication at any scale that nesting habitat is limiting.

Table 1. Number of nests found per SW GAP land cover type.

Grassland & Steppe	Madrean Encinal	Madrean Juniper Savanna	Madrean Pinyon/Juniper Woodland	Riparian Woodland
12	13	3	2	1

As is typical of wild turkeys in general (Healy and Powell 1999), nesting rates and nesting success have been variable over the three breeding seasons comprising our study (Table 2). Nesting rates in our sample of backpacked hens have ranged from 100% in 2019 to 13% in 2021 during severe drought. The percentage of backpacked hens that produced chicks (successfully hatched >1 egg) has ranged from 100% in 2018, to 9% in 2021. By way of comparison, Collier et al. (2019) reported the following for Gould’s turkeys in Arizona during the 2017 nesting season: nesting rate of 23 backpacked hens was 65% (15/23), and 10 of 23 backpacked hens (43%) produced chicks (hatched).

¹⁴ Nesting chronology over three years of study is as follows: initiation of incubation of first clutch (n= 26) May 11 -- June 11; second clutch (n=5) June 7 – June 27. The incubation period is 28 ± 1 days.

Table 2. Nesting and hatching rates of hens fitted with GIS backpacks in this study.

Year	# Backpacked Hens	# Hens that Nested (%)	# Nesting Attempts (# Renests)	# Nests Hatched	% of Backpacked Hens that Produced Chicks
2019	12	12 (100)	15 (3)	12	100%
2020	16	11 (69)	13 (2)	6	38%
2021	23	3 (13)	3 (0)	2	9%

Brood Rearing:

Gould’s turkey chicks (poults) are flightless until approximately 14 days post-hatching, a critical life history stage during which most poult mortality occurs (Schemnitz et al. 1990, Chamberlain et al. 2020). Arthropods and herbaceous vegetation form the bulk of the newly hatched poults’ diet (Healy 1985). Females brood chicks on the ground during this two-week period, after which brood hens and poults rejoin flocks and roost in trees with other turkeys.

Data on brood rearing from our study are somewhat limited, due largely to the relative lack of nesting in 2021. Figure 5 shows GPS locations used by brood hens (n = 20) during the first 14 days after hatching. At coarser scales there was again a strong association with the grassland-steppe and Madrean Encinal landcover types, although young broods also used various woodland, scrub, and chaparral communities as well (Table 3).

Table 3. Early brood rearing GPS locations (n = 707) by SW GAP land cover type. Relative frequency.

Grassland & Steppe	Madrean Encinal	Riparian Woodland	Madrean Pinyon/Juniper Woodland	Madrean Juniper Savanna	Mixed Scrub	Mogollon Chaparral	Salt Desert Scrub	Pine-Oak Woodland
58.3%	25.5%	5.8%	4.5%	4.2%	0.8%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%

Based on very small sample sizes, the 1982-1992 NMSU studies reported that riparian habitats appeared to be of key importance to brood rearing in the Peloncillo Mountains, and considered the low availability of riparian habitats in comparison to other vegetation types in the study area to potentially be a limiting habitat feature to Gould’s turkey population growth. We are still gathering data on habitat use during the early brood rearing period, but to date see no indication that habitats appropriate to this stage of the life history are limiting in the study area. Although broad, well-vegetated drainage bottoms and wetland sites are indeed often used by hens and their young broods, rolling savanna type grasslands are also routinely and more commonly used during the brood rearing period. Using satellite imagery to reanalyze our data at a finer scale than the SW GAP land cover types presented in Table 3, we found that 22.5% of 707 total brood locations were in riparian or wetland habitats¹⁵, the remainder in upland habitats. Upland savanna/grassland sites usually include oaks and/or junipers at sparse to moderate densities, and beargrass is frequently also present. Thus, as has been reported by other wild turkey researchers (Healy and Powell 1999, Chamberlain et al. 2020), sites selected for brood rearing are, generically, open habitats

¹⁵ Wetland habitats include the Cloverdale Cienega and portions of Animas Creek; riparian habitats were delineated using the flood-prone zone adjacent to all drainages.

that support graminoids and forbs sufficiently dense to provide cover but not so dense as to impede the poult's ability to move about freely while foraging. Such areas occur broadly throughout the occupied range in the Peloncillos.

Adult Survival

Annual survival rates reported for wild turkeys of all subspecies are highly variable, ranging from 15% to 75% for 15 studies (Healy & Powell 1999). For the GPS backpacked birds in our study (n = 63 in this analysis), average annual survival rates for 2019-2021 were estimated to be 0.698 (95% CI = .0.569 - 0.796; Kaplan and Meier 1958), including a year of extreme drought. Mortality rates in wild turkeys are countered by evolutionary traits that contribute to high potential fecundity, including large clutches, nesting by yearling hens, and reneating after initial failure (Healy and Powell 1999, Baur et al. 2019).

Population Size

Statistically robust population estimates for wild turkeys are nearly impossible to achieve due in large part to the expansive spatial scales over which population dynamics operate (Healy and Powell 1999, Bauer et al. 2019). Moreover, high variability in annual survival, migration rates, and reproductive success can result in annual fluctuations of up to 50% of the long-term mean population size (Mosby 1967). In consequence, wildlife management agencies usually adopt one or more index measures in an attempt to allow for trend assessment. Various methods are reviewed by Locke (2007).

Our Recovery Plan objective was to maintain a total population of at least 175 Gould's turkeys in the Peloncillo Mountains either through natural processes alone or in combination with periodic strategic augmentation. This numeric target was based in part on assuming a female biased sex ratio (F:M ratio = ca. 60:40), as is found in most turkey populations¹⁶ (Healy and Powell 1999): a population of 175 adults would be expected to contain approximately 100 reproductive females, which we suspected would be sufficient for long-term population persistence barring catastrophic events. At that time, we were not certain that the total Peloncillos Gould's turkey population numbered more than about 100 birds, and to achieve our objective we suspected it might be necessary to either improve habitat conditions in some areas and/or proceed with another translocation to augment the existing population. Schemnitz and Potter (1984) had previously estimated if all potential habitat was improved and occupied, the Peloncillo Mountains could support up to 150 turkeys.

From 2006-2018, NMDGF undertook annual spring surveys of turkeys in the Peloncillos using fixed routes at dawn, a method where observers intersected turkeys after they came off the roost. Results of these surveys were highly variable from year to year and were unreliable for the purpose of confidently discerning population trends (summarized in Lerich and Cardinal, in review). Despite our uncertainty in the relationship between number observed and number present, we suspect that the 2014-2016 translocation of birds from New Mexico contributed to population growth in the short-term: survey counts from 2006-2013 never exceeded 46 birds; counts obtained from 2014-2018 ranged from 55-97 birds.

Beginning in 2019, we implemented a new survey method to improve our counting technique in the Peloncillo Mountains. This method capitalizes on the fact that Gould's turkeys roost in large aggregations

¹⁶ Female bias has also since been observed in our study.

during the winter and early spring (Caveny et al. 2013). These roosting aggregations are concentrated in a small number of locations, and the GPS transmitters deployed on the birds allow us to know locations of roost sites being used at that time.¹⁷ We can then count birds as they fly into (evening) or out of (morning) the roost sites, covering the accessible survey area on two successive days with multiple observers making simultaneous counts. This increases the probability that we are not missing flocks and reduces the probability of counting the same birds twice. We will be evaluating turkey detectability on surveys in future years.¹⁸

Due to land ownership patterns and road or trail access, we are unable to survey turkey numbers over much of the occupied range. We can, however, achieve a good result for the Cascabel, Animas Creek, Foster Draw and Cloverdale core use areas (see Figure 1), which we refer to as the primary survey area. We can additionally count turkeys that regularly roost at Dunagan Crossing, which we treat separately from the primary survey area. A complete minimum count for the entire Gould’s turkey range in the Peloncillo Mountains would require access to additional private lands.

Counts using the new survey method for winter (late January/early February) and spring (late March/early April) are given in Table 5. The lower counts obtained in Spring 2019 and Winter 2020 do not necessarily reflect a smaller population size because we were still in the process of refining the survey method at those times.

Table 5. Results of winter and spring survey counts of Gould’s turkeys in the primary survey area (see text) and at Dunagan Crossing, spring 2019 through winter 2022.

Year	Primary Survey Area		Dunagan Crossing		Total Minimum Count	
	Winter Survey	Spring Survey	Winter Survey	Spring Survey	Winter Survey	Spring Survey
2019	n/a	166	n/a	14	n/a	180
2020	166	199	26	25	192	224
2021	207	230	17	16	224	246
2022	184	184	36	23	220	207

Turkey numbers presented in Table 5 reflect a minimum count for only a portion of the occupied range. Clearly the Gould’s turkey population size in the Peloncillos Mountains is considerably larger than was previously known. We have documented that the primary survey area alone is capable of supporting at least 230 adult turkeys, and counts at Dunagan Crossing have ranged from 14-36 birds on our surveys. Additionally, we know from the distribution of our backpacked turkeys and from landowner information that turkeys are also present during the winter and spring count intervals in other core use areas on private lands we cannot access: Guadalupe Canyon typically holds 10-15 turkeys, and the Horse Camp area

¹⁷ We visit all roost sites the birds have used within four weeks leading up to the survey.

¹⁸ We evaluated count repeatability in the primary survey area by doing three back-to-back surveys in spring of 2021, obtaining a 3-count mean and standard error of 215 ±7.51.

usually supports 30-40 birds in one or two flocks. We are uncertain about turkey numbers in the Rough Creek area¹⁹.

Animas Mountains and Mexico

Animas Mountains:

Gould's turkey presence in the Animas Mountains and adjacent areas²⁰ has been documented since at least 1892 (Mearns 1907). Under contract to NMDGF, Zeedyk (1997b, 1998b) reported on turkey occupancy of these ranges in the late 1990s. The area over which he documented turkeys or turkey sign is shown in Figure 6, comprising upper Double Adobe Creek and the Deer and Indian Creek watersheds in the Animas range, as well as the Smuggler Hills, Whitewater Mountains, and the New Mexico extent of the Sierra San Luis. Based on sightings and the distribution of sign, he proposed that the Gould's turkey population size in this occupied area in 1998 was likely on the order of 100-200 birds. These mountains are in private ownership and we have not accessed them since Zeedyk's study. However, turkey habitat in the Animas Mountains remains intact and the population there has persisted, though in unknown numbers, according to the principal landowner.

Mexico:

In our current GPS telemetry study, 4 of 11 hens backpacked²¹ at the Cloverdale capture site 2018-2020 have occupied ranges that extend from New Mexico into Sonora (Figures 1, 2a). Cross-border connectivity of range use had also been established prior to our study: a male that was translocated from Arizona to the Peloncillos in January 2015 was harvested in Sonora four months later, and two of four males equipped with VHF transmitters in the 1982-1992 NMSU studies had home ranges that included habitat areas in Sonora (Zornes 1993). These observations clearly establish that Gould's turkey population demography and dynamics are not interrupted by the international border.

Available information on Gould's turkey distribution and abundance in northern Mexico is highly limited. The region is sparsely inhabited, there are far fewer recreational birders than there are in the U.S., and large areas are inaccessible by vehicle. There is good evidence, however, that Gould's turkey populations are widespread and well-established in adjacent Sonora and Chihuahua:

1. From 2009-2012, Flesch (2014, 2018) conducted breeding bird surveys in 26 Madrean Sky Island ranges in northeast Sonora and northwest Chihuahua, and documented Gould's turkey occurrence in 16 of them, including 13 ranges where turkeys had not previously been recorded.²² Prior to Flesch's fieldwork, Marshall (1957)²³ and subsequent compilers of bird records from northern Mexico (Howell and Webb 1995, Russell and Monson 1998) reported that Gould's turkey had been essentially extirpated from the Madrean Sky Islands region, and considered the northern extent of the Gould's turkey range to lie approximately 50-75 km south of the U.S. border. Flesch (2014) concluded that: "...montane forests and woodlands, which Marshall visited shortly after or while

¹⁹ Fragmentary information from landowners indicates that the Rough Creek area supports \pm 20 birds.

²⁰ Including Smuggler Hills, the Whitewater Mountains, and the New Mexico portion of the Sierra San Luis.

²¹ Three additional hens backpacked at Cloverdale lived less than a week.

²² This is particularly notable because most surveys involved a single transect visited only once.

²³ Marshall (1957) reported on distribution, abundance, and habitat associations of breeding birds in the Sky Islands region based on his extensive fieldwork conducted from 1951-1955.

they were being commercially logged, have matured to varying extents over the last six decades, and the extensive network of logging roads present in Marshall's time is now largely in disrepair. Thus, many Sky Islands in Mexico are much less accessible today and subjected to much lower levels of exploitation by humans. As a result, species that ... are the focus of hunting by humans such as Wild Turkey seem to be more abundant and broadly distributed today than during the 1950s."

2. Madrean Discovery Expeditions (<https://madreandiscovery.org/>) maintains a flora and fauna database for the Madrean Sky Islands Ecoregion – a geographic area comprised of more than 40 small mountain ranges extending north and northwestward from the main block of the Sierra Madre Occidental. Outside of Mexico, the region includes the Peloncillo and Animas Mountains in New Mexico, and all the Gould's turkey range in Arizona. Gould's turkey observations (including Flesch's) from the Mexico portion of the Madrean Sky Islands are shown in Figure 6. The dataset is compiled from incidental observations²⁴ by biologists, resource managers, and conservationists working on other projects in the region, primarily from 2009 onward. As is evident in Figure 6, Gould's turkeys are well distributed through the Madrean Sky Island ranges of northern Sonora, including the Sierra Pan Duro and Sierra San Luis, which are contiguous with the Peloncillo and Animas mountains, respectively. Although the pertinent observations have not been captured in Madrean Discovery database, Gould's turkeys are also reported to "abound" in the portion of the Janos Biosphere Preserve (Figure 1) that overlaps the central and northern Sierra San Luis in Chihuahua (List et al. 2010).
3. Cajon Bonito drains the Sierra San Luis on the east, and the Sierra Pan Duro on the west, forming a horseshoe of mountainous terrain that is continuous northward through the Peloncillo and Animas Mountains (Figure 6). In their description of various ecological attributes of the Cajon Bonito watershed, Hunt & Anderson (2002, 2004) maintained that the Cajon is the most important corridor for biotic interchange in the Madrean Sky Islands. This watershed has to date facilitated movements of two of our backpacked turkeys.

On the basis of what we know about Gould's turkey ecology and behavior in the Peloncillo Mountains and what we can gather from information sources pertaining to the Animas Mountains and adjacent ranges in Mexico, we propose that it is likely that turkeys occupying the Peloncillos, Sierra Pan Duro, Sierra San Luis, and Animas Mountains form a single demographic population (polygon in Figure 6). We have sound evidence to support this contention from our own observations for the Peloncillo/Sierra Pan Duro ranges, and the information presented above strongly suggests population continuity as well through the Animas/San Luis ranges, and east-west across Cajon Bonito. Additionally, Gould's turkey occupation of other Madrean Sky Island ranges and the Sierra Madre adjacent to the Sierra Pan Duro/San Luis raises the possibility that meta-population dynamics may be operating at a much larger scale.²⁵

Threats to Future Viability

In developing the "threats" section of our Recovery Plan for Gould's turkey, we relied on a catalogue of potential threats that had been proposed in the 1982-1992 NMSU studies. Those included fire, lack of water, poaching, overgrazing by livestock, hybridization with domestic turkeys, and fuelwood and

²⁴ These are not focused turkey surveys.

²⁵ The close proximity of additional turkey populations adjacent to the Sierra Pan Duro/San Luis (Fig. 6) suggests a reasonable likelihood that individuals are able to migrate between somewhat disjunct populations, resulting in gene flow at a larger regional scale and in the possibility of re-occupation of a site after a local extinction event.

beargrass harvesting. Since the 1980s, changes in Forest Service resource utilization policies and private landowner management practices have successfully minimized many of these potential impacts.

Currently Mitigated Threats

Overgrazing by Cattle:

The Coronado National Forest and local landowners have adopted conservative and restorative grazing practices such that overgrazing is no longer an issue that would significantly limit turkey population growth. Guidelines for allotments on the Coronado National Forest are as follows (USDA 2018):

- Forage utilization should be based on site-specific resource conditions and management objectives, but in general should be managed at a level corresponding to light to moderate intensity (15 to 45 percent of current year's growth).
- Burned areas should be given sufficient deferment from grazing, especially during the growing season, to ensure plant recovery and vigor.
- Construction or reconstruction of livestock fencing and replacement of nonpermeable fencing where wildlife movement is restricted should be consistent with the appropriate state wildlife agency standards for safe passage of wildlife and/or species-specific fencing guidelines developed at the local or regional level.
- Grazing management practices should be designed to maintain or promote ground cover that will provide for infiltration, permeability, soil moisture storage, and soil stability appropriate for the ecological zone. Additionally, grazing management should retain ground cover sufficient for the forage and cover needs of native wildlife species.
- Within riparian areas, structures used to manage livestock should be located and used in a way that does not conflict with riparian functions and processes.
- Treatments for restoring rangelands should emphasize the use and perpetuation of native plant species.
- Grazing intensity, frequency, occurrence, and period should provide for growth and reproduction of desired plant species while maintaining or enhancing habitat for wildlife.

The Coronado National Forest also works closely with permittees in the area, particularly the Malpai Borderlands Group (MBG). The MBG was formed in 1991 by a group of ranchers in the Peloncillo area in response to the threat of future fragmentation of the landscape as well as declining productivity of the land (Curtin 2002). The group's goal is "to restore and maintain natural processes that create and protect a healthy, unfragmented landscape to support a diverse, flourishing community of human, plant, and animal life". To that end, MBG has secured conservation easements on more than 75,000 acres (30,350 ha) of private land in the Peloncillos Mountains region, and works with multiple state and federal agencies and institutions to incorporate scientifically-based best management practices. The MBG has also contracted with independent range management consultants to ensure that each of the Coronado National Forest grazing allotments is monitored and remains in good ecological condition (Rich Winkler²⁶, personal communication). Most of the allotments in New Mexico have been monitored on a three-year schedule for more than 15 years. Monitoring reports are filed with the Douglas Ranger District.

²⁶ Rich Winkler, Executive Director, Malpai Borderlands Group.

Fuelwood and Beargrass Harvesting:

Beargrass harvesting was last reported in the Peloncillo Mountains in 1998, and no permits have been issued by Coronado National Forest in recent years for either beargrass or fuelwood harvesting (Lerich and Cardinal, in review). There is no commercial timber harvesting in the Peloncillos.

Hybridization with Domestic Turkeys:

Hybridization with domestic turkeys in the Peloncillo Mountains is no longer a threat. The individual who was releasing domestic turkey poults in Guadalupe Canyon early on in the 1982-1992 NMSU studies ceased doing so 35 years ago and none of the ranchers within the New Mexico portion of the Gould's turkey range keep turkeys (R. Winkler, pers. comm.). We do not know if the potential for hybridization within this population currently exists in Sonora or Chihuahua.

Extant Potential Threats

Below we discuss lack of permanent water sources, fire, extended drought, poaching, and disease as potential threats or limitations to Gould's turkey persistence.

Lack of Permanent Water Sources:

There are no permanent lakes or streams in the Peloncillo Mountains, and few natural springs. Stock tanks and drinkers have been constructed in various locations, and cattle troughs on private ranches in some cases can provide reliable water sources for turkeys and other wildlife year-round, although it is unknown how essential they are. It is noteworthy in that regard, that turkeys produce metabolic water from digestion of carbohydrates and also derive dietary water from leaves, other succulent plant matter, invertebrates, and dew (Baur et al. 2019).

Gould's turkey is an arid country subspecies that successfully occupied its current range long before artificial water sources were available on both sides of the international boundary. Many of the wildlife drinkers that have been erected in the Peloncillos appear (GPS points and cameras) to receive little use, and the turkey population is demonstrably robust under the current distribution of water in the study area. The 1982-1992 NMSU studies mentioned in particular that a lack of free-standing water in brood rearing areas might be a limiting habitat component, but we point out that brood rearing occurs during the summer monsoon season, a time of year when water is available at multiple locations in and out of streams in all but the deepest drought years. We do not believe that provision of additional water sources at this time is necessary to ensure population persistence.

Fire:

Whereas low to moderate intensity fires can provide significant benefits to Gould's turkey habitat, severe wildfire can pose a significant threat. High intensity fires can cause soil damage, kill roost trees, temporarily destroy wet meadow habitat, and kill mast producing plants. Much of the Peloncillo Mountain range is in Fire Regime Condition Class 2 (USDA 2012), in which *"the risk of losing key ecosystem components is moderate. Fire frequencies have departed from historical frequencies by one or more return intervals, resulting in moderate changes to one or more of the following: fires size, intensity and severity, and landscape patterns."* To further reduce the probability of catastrophic fire, one of the goals of the Coronado National Forest management plan is to treat at least 35% of the vegetation in the Peloncillo

Ecosystem Management Area every 10 years using wildland fire (planned and unplanned ignitions), prescribed cutting, and mastication (USDA 2018).

Comprehensive fire management planning and implementation by federal and state agencies in collaboration with private landowners in southeastern Arizona and the bootheel region of New Mexico has significantly reduced the potential for high-intensity fires in recent decades. In concert with federal and state agencies, the Malpai Borderlands Group has been successful in restoring periodic low intensity fire as a key ecosystem process (Allen 2006, Gottfried and Allen 2009, Gottfried et al. 2014). More than 100,000 acres of the Coronado National Forest and adjacent public and private lands in the Peloncillo Mountains have been burned at least once since the early-1990s either by using prescribed fire as a management tool (47,000 acres) or by allowing natural or accidental fires in pre-designated areas to burn and be managed for ecosystem restoration rather than having been immediately suppressed (Ben Brown²⁷, personal communication). In northern Sonora, conservation ranches owned and managed by the Cuenca Los Ojos Foundation adjacent to the U.S. border have been both applying and advocating for prescribed burns to restore grassland and woodland habitat integrity in the Sierra Pan Duro and adjacent lowlands (Barry 2014). Historical and current fire regimes in the Madrean Sky Island region were recently described by Villarreal et al. (2019, 2020), and provide a basis for future collaborative long-term planning and restoration efforts on both sides of the international boundary.

Extended Drought:

Although periodic drought may result in short-term population fluctuations and be a significant factor determining inter-annual forage availability and habitat use by Gould's turkeys (York et al. 2003), multi-year droughts could potentially reduce the population size considerably. In our own brief study, the low nesting rate recorded in 2021 (Table 2) coincided with a drought interval that extended well into the nesting season. However, because drought and other climate variables originate from regional or global processes, there is little wildlife and land managers can do to forestall or mitigate ultimate consequences to turkeys or other wildlife apart from evaluating the need for and potential success of a translocation of additional individuals to the affected population.

Poaching:

The potential for a small amount of opportunistic poaching exists in the Cascabel and Cloverdale areas, where there are primitive campsites that cater to hunters and recreationists. However, in comparison with other areas of New Mexico, the Peloncillos receive only light human visitation and much of the Gould's turkey range is substantially inaccessible to would-be poachers due to the presence of extensive areas of unroaded backcountry and/or private land ownership.

Disease:

Diseases can negatively impact wildlife populations, particularly in species that gather in large flocks like turkeys. Wild turkeys are susceptible to many infectious and noninfectious diseases including viral diseases, bacteria, and internal and external parasites (Davidson and Wentworth 1992, WAFWA 2019). As least 60 different parasites have been associated with wild turkeys (McRoberts et al. 2020). Although some level of disease can be found in populations, disease does not necessarily always result in population

²⁷ Ben Brown, Ph.D., former Science Coordinator, Malpai Borderlands Group, Animas, NM.

declines (Rocke and Yuill 1987). There are not currently large-scale treatments that can be applied when populations are diseased. Individuals that appear ill can be removed from the population in an attempt to reduce disease spread. Additionally, if a translocation is determined as necessary in the future to augment populations numbers, all birds will be tested for common diseases prior to being released in the Peloncillos.

Habitat Enhancement and Population Augmentation

Our 2017 Recovery Plan included the following measure as potentially required to meet our objective: *Where feasible and warranted, identify, prioritize, and implement specific habitat enhancement projects.*

At present, it is inconclusive what habitat enhancement projects might facilitate further population growth (or elevate carrying capacity). Successfully implemented habitat projects might cause the turkeys to use their range differently, but may not necessarily produce a larger population. The current Gould's turkey population is maintaining above the target objective of 175 adults without any active habitat management. It appears that current conditions (water, roosts, brood habitat, etc.) are adequate for sustaining population persistence. Therefore, at this point in time we believe there is no urgency for habitat management, and by extension, no need to augment the population with another translocation project. As we collect additional data from the GPS backpacked birds, we will continue to assess the desirability and need for targeted habitat management.

The Case for Delisting

Decisions about prospects for long-term persistence of threatened and endangered species often rely on simulation models collectively referred to as Population Viability Analysis (PVA). Meaningful PVA, however, requires years of data derived directly from the population under scrutiny on the mean and variance of critical vital rates, range size and trends, connectivity with adjacent populations, and realistic estimates of future environmental variability (Beissinger and Westphal 1998, Flather et al. 2011). Moreover, correct identification of population boundaries can have far reaching conservation and management implications (Waples and Gaggiotti 2008).

The question we ultimately are addressing in this document is: Does Gould's Turkey in New Mexico meet the statutory definition of a threatened species in New Mexico? Under the WCA, "*threatened species*" is defined as "*any species (or subspecies) that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range in New Mexico*". Gould's turkey was listed as threatened in 1974. It has never, even prior to listing, been known to be absent from the state, and in the ensuing 47 years the population has persisted, is demonstrably secure, and has likely increased in size. If the subspecies is delisted, it remains a "Protected Wildlife Species" under NMSA 17-2-3, and will continue to be monitored and managed by NMDGF for long term population viability into the future.

Conformance with the 2017 Recovery Plan

Our GPS telemetry studies 2018-present have produced information responsive to the Recovery Plan objective and objective parameters:

1. Using an improved survey method 2019-2021, we have documented that the Gould's turkey population size in the Peloncillo Mountains exceeds the Recovery Plan objective of at least 175 adults.
2. We have identified the approximate extent of the occupied range, and have now substantiated that the population extends well into Sonora/Chihuahua, Mexico. This ecological and demographic continuity across the international border needs to be factored in when considering prospects for long-term persistence of Gould's turkey in New Mexico. There is not a discrete "Peloncillo Mountains" Gould's turkey population, but rather the Peloncillos are a geo-political management unit for a fluid segment of the total population.²⁸ In consequence, the number of Gould's turkeys present in New Mexico at any given point in time is not solely the result of internal local population dynamics or local habitat conditions.
3. Given our findings pertaining to range use and extensive turkey movements, we have no evidence that there are suitable unoccupied portions of the range that would not already have been naturally 'colonized' by the current population. Additional translocations for this purpose are unwarranted.
4. We have not found roost sites, water sources, or brood-rearing habitat to be limiting habitat components in otherwise suitable turkey range, as was suggested by the prior NMSU studies. It is conceivable that permanent artificial water sources distributed more broadly within the occupied range would alter range use, but a robust population has persisted under the current spatial and temporal configuration of free-standing water.
5. We find no evidence that there are localized anthropogenic threats operating at a scale or intensity that significantly limits Gould's turkey population growth to the extent that the current threatened status is warranted. In contrast, catastrophic fire, disease, and extended drought are inimical forces that could foreseeably impact the population in the future. However, numerical population recovery from such events via internal and external recruitment is highly probable in view of the extensive continuous range occupied by Gould's turkeys in New Mexico and the adjacent states in Mexico.
6. Given the long-term persistence of Gould's turkey in New Mexico (including 47 years post-listing) and the newly documented robust population size and distribution, identification of specific habitat enhancement projects to ensure the future security of Gould's turkey in New Mexico is at present unwarranted.

Recommendation

Delist Gould's turkey throughout its range in New Mexico in accordance with procedures detailed in the WCA, and continue to monitor and manage as a Protected Species under Chapter 17 NMSA to ensure population persistence.

²⁸ This conclusion applies as well to Gould's turkeys inhabiting the Animas/San Luis Mountains.

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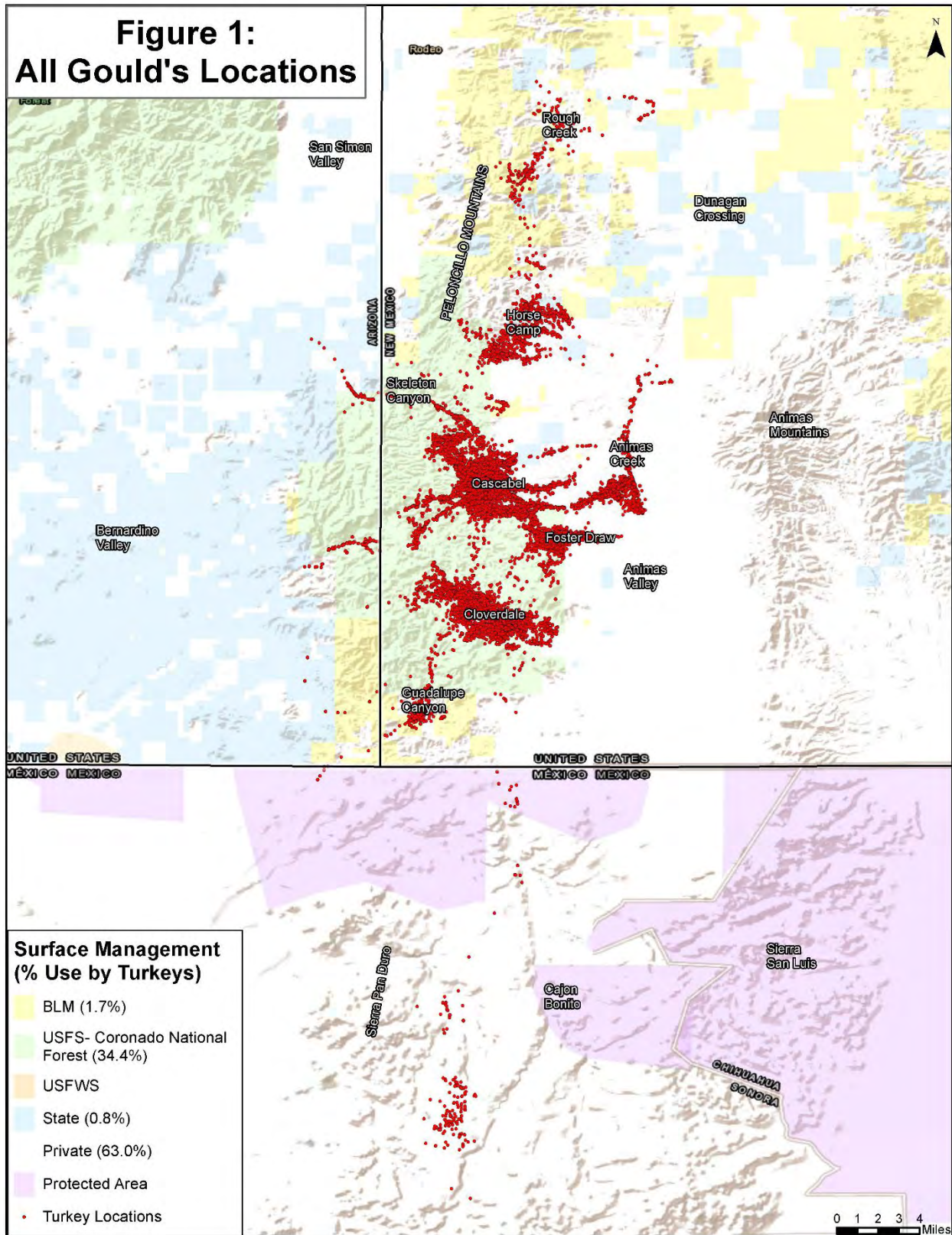
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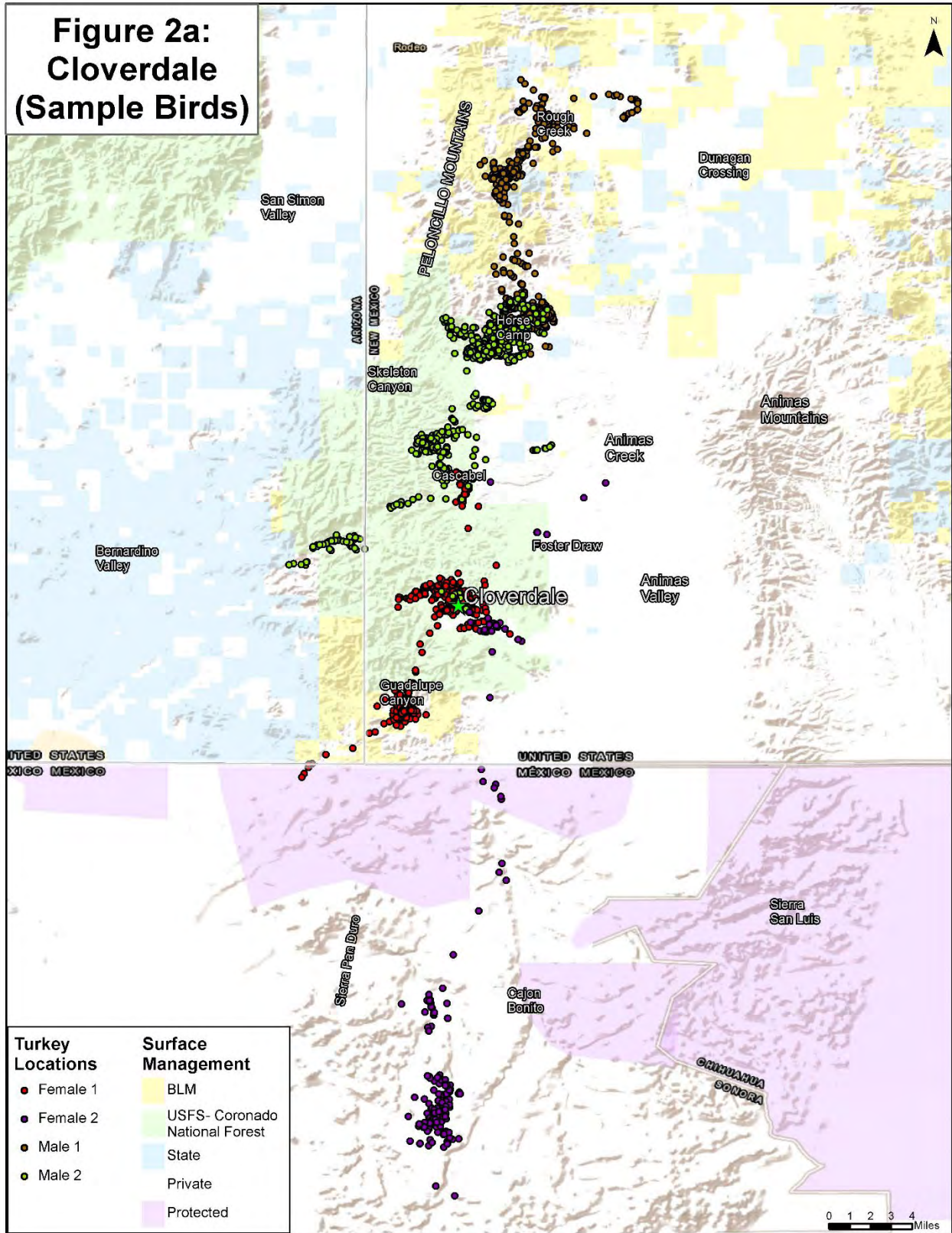
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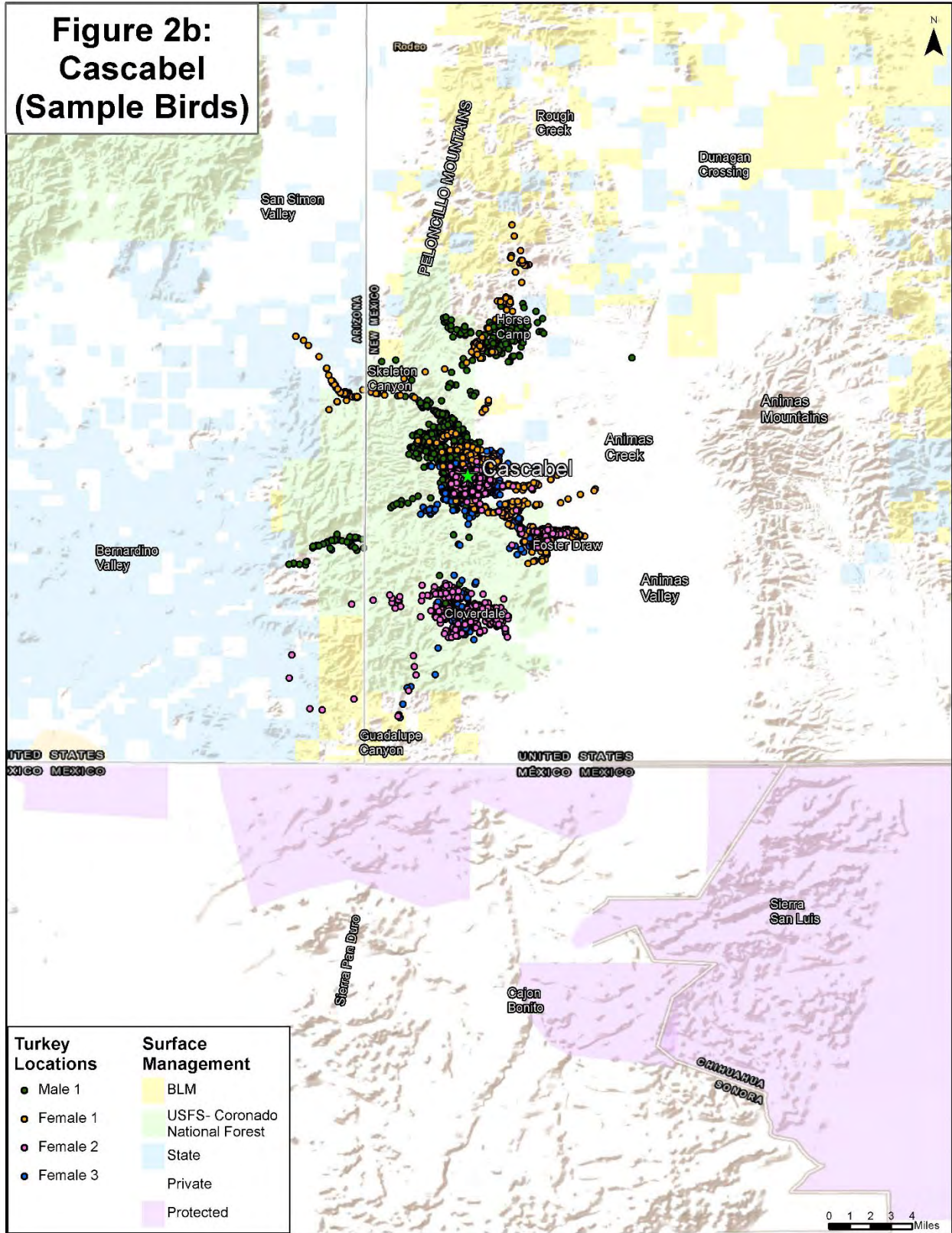
Figures



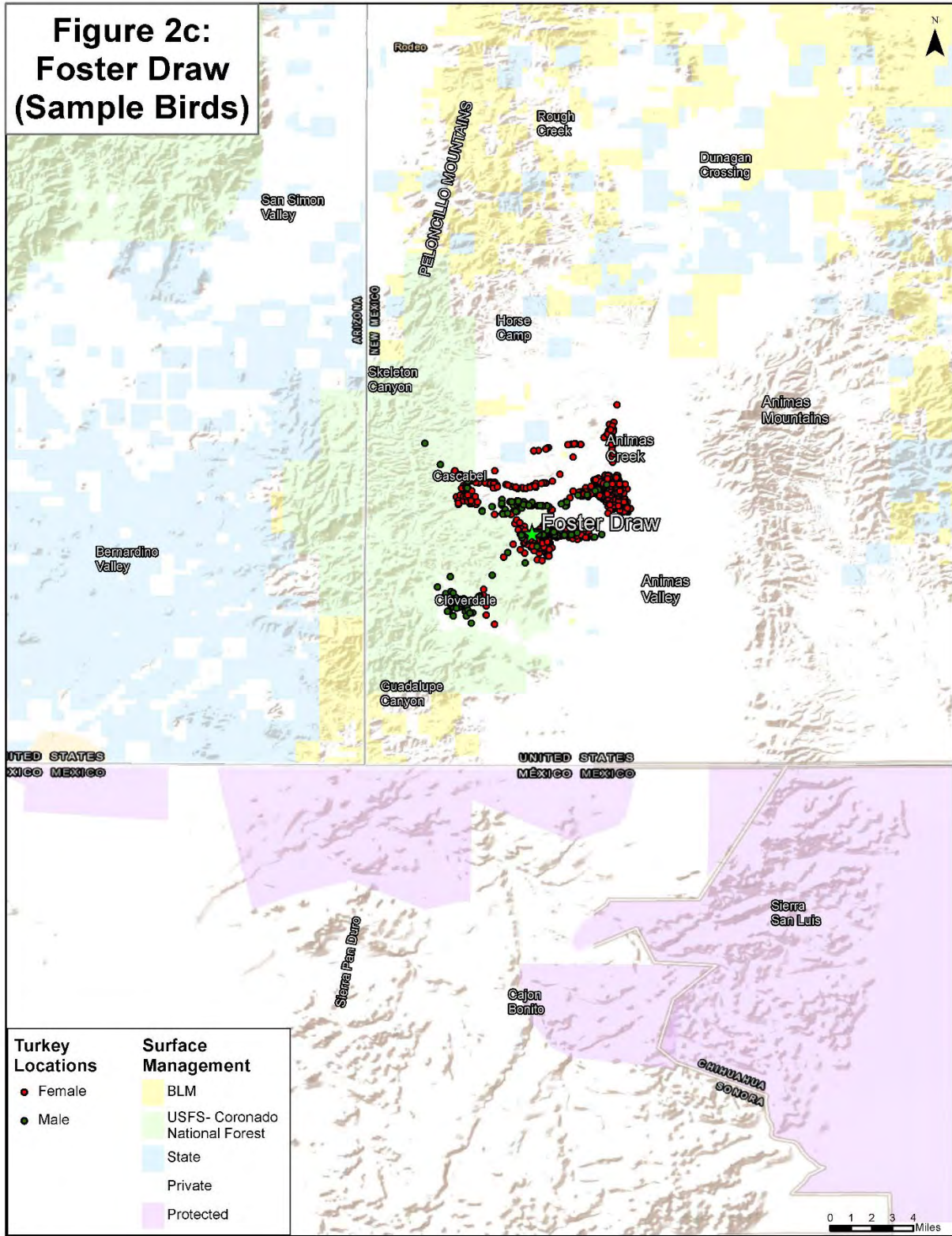
**Figure 2a:
Cloverdale
(Sample Birds)**



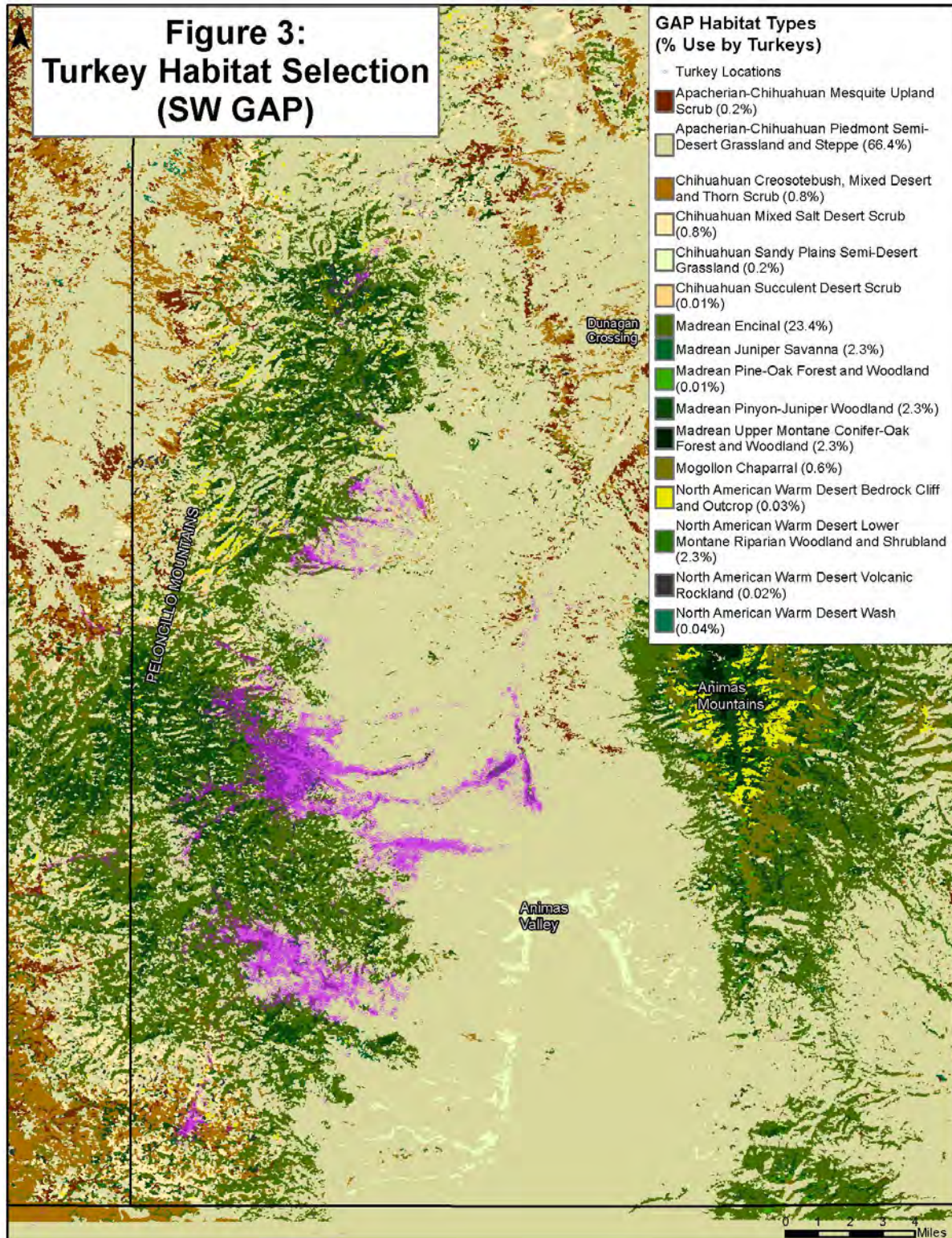
**Figure 2b:
Cascabel
(Sample Birds)**



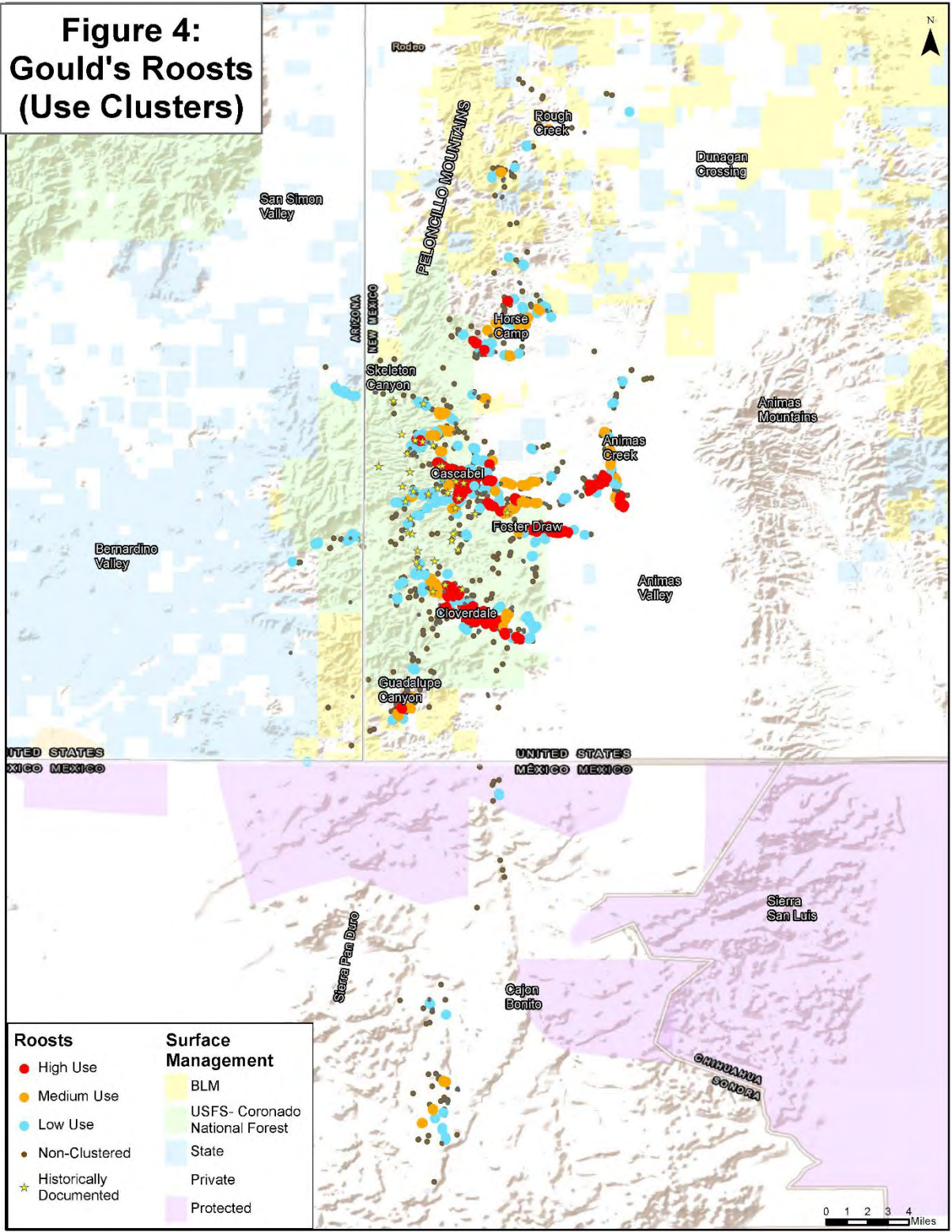
**Figure 2c:
Foster Draw
(Sample Birds)**



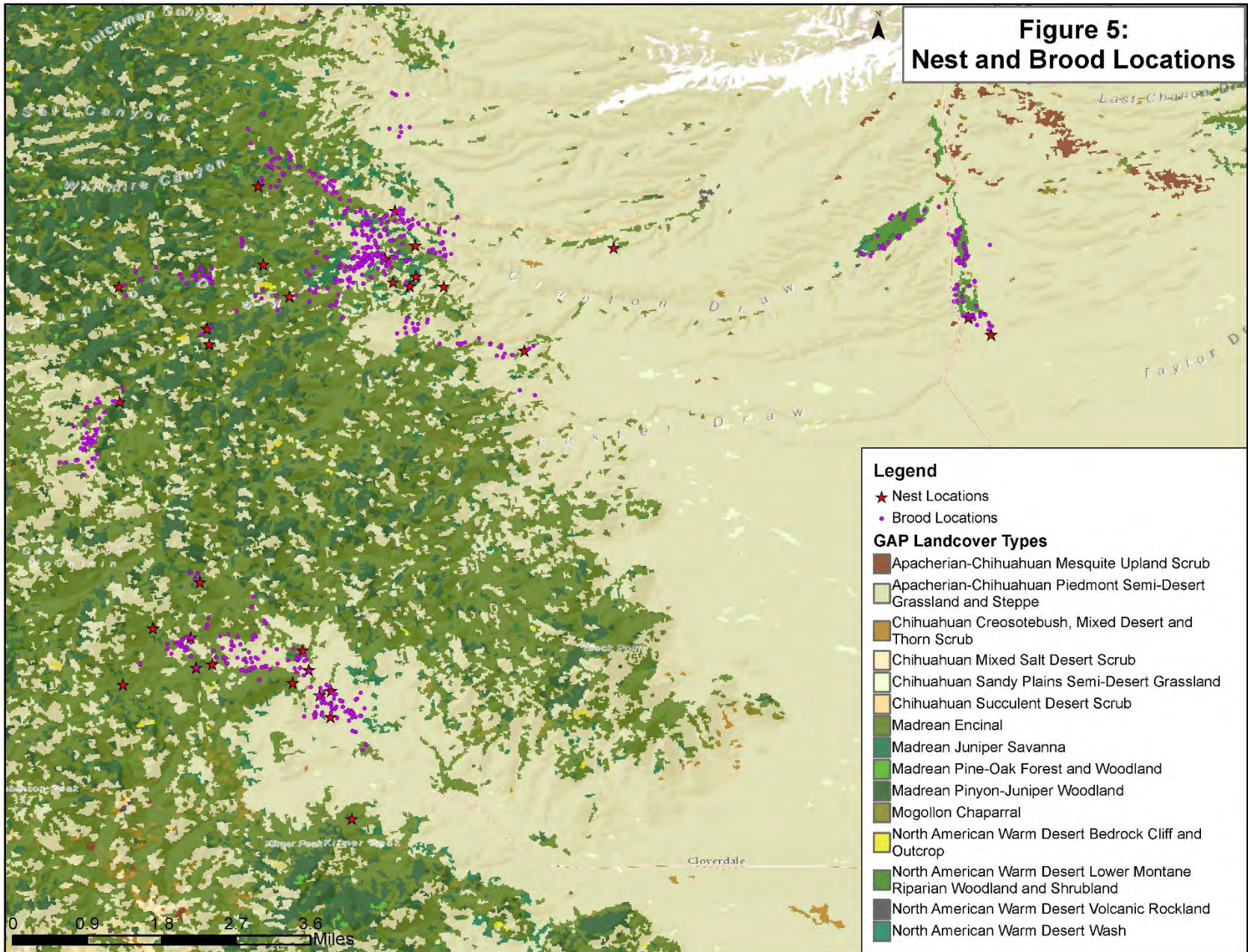
**Figure 3:
Turkey Habitat Selection
(SW GAP)**



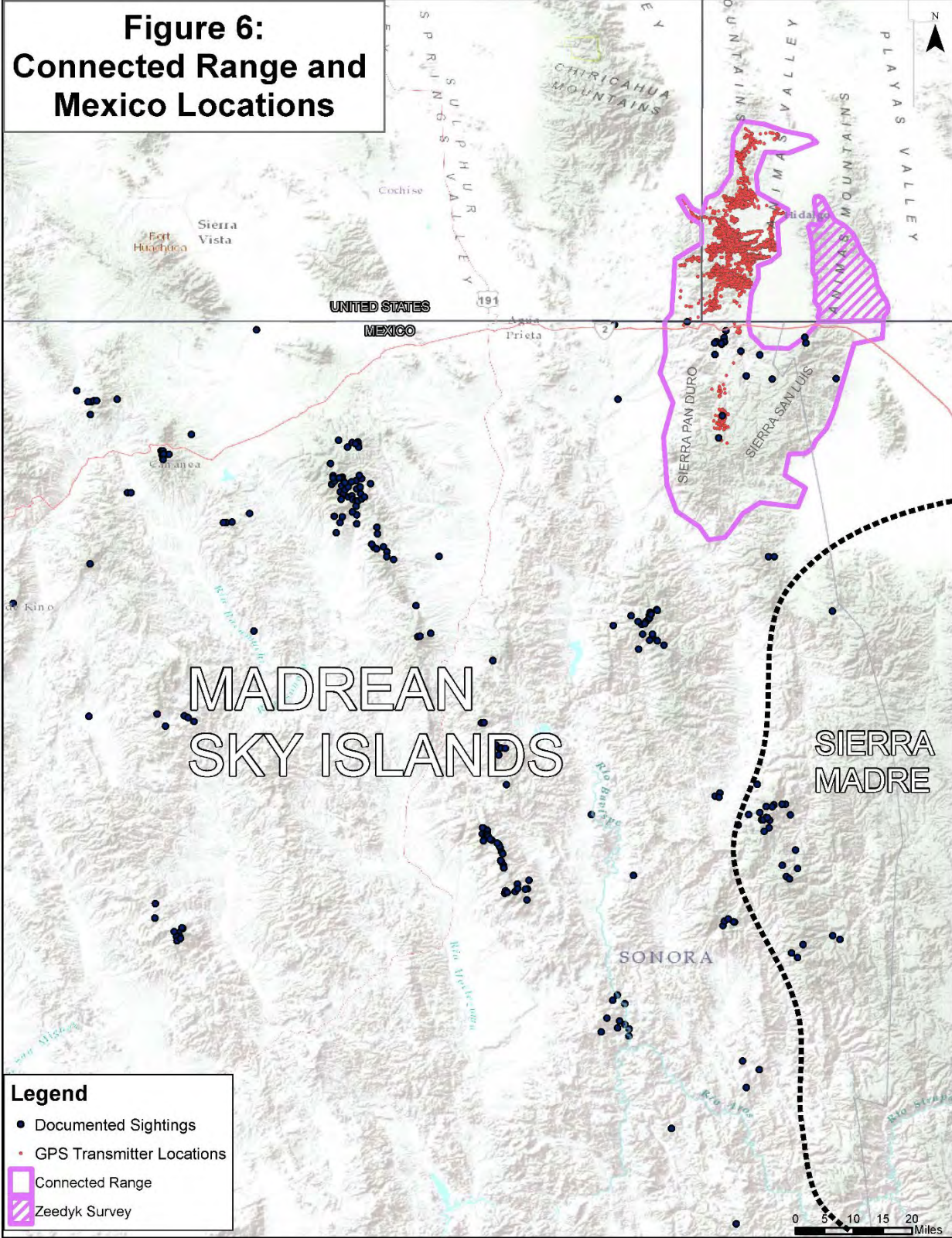
**Figure 4:
Gould's Roosts
(Use Clusters)**



**Figure 5:
Nest and Brood Locations**



**Figure 6:
Connected Range and
Mexico Locations**



From: [Lance Allgood](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment regarding changes to the Turkey Rule
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 12:33:35 PM

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My name is Lance Allgood I am a lifetime resident of NM residing in Gallup Nm. I would ask the Commission to consider limiting the number of turkey that can be taken in GMU 10 to 1 Turkey with a visible beard. The turkey population in GMU 10 has suffered from over harvest and drought and in my opinion cannot sustain a 2 turkey limit. This unit receives a high number of hunters and hunting pressure making the quality of the hunt below standard. Thank you for your consideration.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dick Kreiner](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comments on the proposed turkey rule
Date: Sunday, June 26, 2022 11:07:15 AM

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I have some comments on the proposed changes for turkey hunting regulations. I think our turkeys are not doing very well. The changes that are being proposed do nothing to help our turkey populations. To start with I agree with the delisting of Goulds turkeys. I think we need to reduce the bag limit for spring hunting to 1 turkey. This would be consistant with other states with Merriams populations. If you stay with the 2 bird limit, make it so you can only shoot 1 bird a day. If you hunt turkeys you know that frequently 2 gobblers will hang together and its pretty easy to blast both of them at one time when you call them in. My main concern is the legal harvesting of hens in the fall. Do something to protect our mature hens. One year old hens have limited nesting success and our turkey poult production comes from these mature hens. Some units can sustain fall hunting but to continue to allow the take of mature hens almost everywhere is extremely poor management. I don't really think that the department is capable of managing fall hunting on a unit by unit basis to protect our mature hens. So i am reccomending that the fall turkey hunt be terminated until our turkey populations increase to healthier levels. feel free to call me at 500-363-9044 if you want to discuss my comments further.

Dick Kreiner
Los Lunas

From: [Peter Romero](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fall turkey in 43.
Date: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 1:48:03 PM

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I just wanted to share my concern with Unit 43 having a fall turkey season. I have hunted 43 for many years when it comes to turkey. I do not feel that unit 43 has the population needed to have a fall season as well as a spring season. The number of birds in 43 seems to change from year to year and there are some years that the population is very low. Also unit 43 gets hit pretty hard. It is a unit that is close to both Albuquerque and Santa Fe and it feels the pressure at times. I would like for you to reconsider making a unit 43 fall turkey season.

From: [Tymeson, Chris](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gould's turkey delisting and Turkey season rulemaking
Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 8:48:30 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[NM Gould's Delisting.pdf](#)
[NM Turkey Rule 2022.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please find attached comments from the SCI President on the proposed Gould's Turkey Delisting as well as the Turkey Rulemaking.

Thanks in advance.
Chris



Christopher J. Tymeson, J.D.
State and Local Liaison
Mobile: 785 640 1946
ctymeson@SCIfirstforhunters.org
safariclub.org | safariclubfoundation.org



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From: [Thomas Jenkins](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support this issue
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 1:25:03 PM

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Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tony Otero](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Mexico Turkey Rule 2022
Date: Monday, May 16, 2022 8:42:31 AM

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Thank You for your work in this area. My suggestions for the Turkey Rule changes are listed below.

- Only allow one bearded Turkey during the spring hunt. (Not Two)
- Out of State Turkey Hunters go to a draw hunt for Turkey, no more over the counter for out of state hunters only. Other states don't allow New Mexico residents to hunt over the counter why should we give our Turkey away.
- Remove youth hunt, youth can hunt when everyone else is hunting.

Thank You,

Tony Otero
Tyrone NM.

From: [Helen Butt](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Turkey Rule
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 2:27:44 PM

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I support this Proposal

Helen Butt

From: [Tom Phillips](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Turkey Rule
Date: Thursday, August 4, 2022 8:18:38 PM

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I support the proposed new rule.

Tom Phillips

From: [NICK JARAMILLO](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMDGF NEW TURKEY RULE PROPOSAL
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 1:43:12 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I support this proposal.

From: dsheft82@pvt.net
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed turkey rule
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 9:02:42 AM

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I would like to make the following comments on the proposed turkey rule for the official record. I am a licensed turkey hunter having hunted turkeys in NM for over 40 years. I am also a private property owner in GMU 34 with a resident turkey population.

I do not support adding additional days to the current season.

I would support ending the season on May 15 if the beginning date of the season was changed to April 20. This would be more biologically sound based on the information provided by the Department. Given the current extended drought observed recruitment has been very low for multiple years now. We are still observing birds breeding through the end of April.

I recommend consideration of reducing the bag limit to one turkey for the spring hunt. Again, this is based on observations of reduced recruitment and with no predicted end to the current ongoing extended drought conditions affecting turkey populations. Current sex ratios are extremely skewed in GMU 34 with low male-female ratios even at the beginning of the spring hunt.

I also recommend that the fall turkey archery season be concurrent with the archery deer/elk hunts to alleviate potential law enforcement issues. Based on number of days hunted this will not have any significant impacts to archery turkey hunting opportunity.

David Heft
P.O. Box 13
Mayhill, New Mexico 88339

From: [thomas](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey proposal
Date: Thursday, August 4, 2022 3:32:57 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I support this proposal.

From: [Robert Tafanelli](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey Proposed Rule Changes Summary (7/26/2022)
Date: Saturday, August 6, 2022 12:27:40 PM

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I support this proposal.

Bob Tafanelli

https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/commission/rule-development/turkey/Summary-Proposed-Changes-Turkey-19_31_16-NMAC.pdf

From: [Chance Thedford](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey rule
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 4:26:13 PM

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I support this proposal as written
Chance Thedford
Las Cruces NM

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sam Kreiner](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey rule changes
Date: Sunday, June 26, 2022 10:45:11 AM

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To whom it may concern:

As a life long New Mexican turkey hunter I've seen a gradual decline in turkey population across much of the state. I think three things could help keep our turkey population healthy for our further generations to hunt and enjoy.

1. Only allow one spring turkey to be harvested per year.
2. Allow only male Toms to be harvested in the fall, or eliminate the entire fall season all together.
3. Manage turkey hunting in specific big game units much better. Wether this means closing certain units to all hunting, or opening certain units to fall hunting and not others, etc.

Thank you,

Sam Kreiner

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jim Bates](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey Rule Comments
Date: Thursday, June 9, 2022 10:11:07 AM

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In general, the proposed turkey hunting regulations as outlined are acceptable,...with the following exception:

Spring gobbler recommendation: Return to one-bird bag limit statewide, or alternately, if two-bird limit remains, at least institute a one-per-day limit. (justifications outlined below).

Let me initially state that I am an educated wildlife biologist (degree in wildlife science) who has lived in NM my entire life. I have hunted spring gobblers in the state since the spring season was authorized back in the mid-1960's. I have been actively involved in wild turkey management and hunting-regulation discussions since the late 1970's, including working with the Department and other management agencies on projects and programs involving turkeys. The point being that I am very familiar with the history of wild turkey management in NM.

It is important for me to point out that I was a primary proponent of the institution of the two-bird bag limit in the spring season when the idea was first introduced and discussed. I strongly advocated for the increase. However, I reluctantly must recommend that NM return to a one-bird spring limit, and the reasons for that recommendation follow:

1. Interest in spring gobbler hunting has increased significantly in the last few years, both in resident and nonresident participation. In addition, newly adopted hunting methods and improvements in the associated "gear" has greatly increased hunter effectiveness. In my opinion, and from discussions with many other turkey hunters, it appears that turkey numbers are beginning to decline (a problem being experienced nationally) and that the increased hunting pressure and efficiency is starting to impact both the quantity and quality of our spring gobbler hunting.
2. Nationally, there is continuing evidence and concern that gobbler harvest in the spring may be reaching a tipping point where harvest numbers need to be reduced. It should be noted that many states are reducing their bag limits for spring gobbler hunting, which brings me to the next point:
3. National interest in spring gobbler hunting by nonresidents has significantly increased and NM is beginning to experience an influx of nonresident hunting interest. That interest is being exacerbated by the fact that many other states are reducing hunting opportunity per #2 above. The two-bird limit in NM is attracting more attention nationally. My concern is that nonresident interest in hunting NM is increasing to the point where the added hunting pressure and associated harvest increase is going to very soon have an adverse impact on our turkey population.

In combination, all of the factors above,...increasing hunter numbers, increasing hunter efficiency, declining opportunity in other states, and increasing nonresident interest,...point to only one conclusion for me, although given reluctantly, that it is time for New Mexico to go back to a one-

bird spring limit.

Finally, it should be noted that a significant portion of our wild turkey habitat has been impacted by fires in the last decade or so. That might also come into play in the decision-making process.

Thanks for your attention to these concerns.

Jim Bates, Las Cruces

From: [Brad Jones](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey Rule Proposal Public Input
Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022 8:38:40 PM

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I support all of the proposed turkey hunting changes.

Thank you,
Brad

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Fell Family Adventures](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey Rule Proposal Public Input
Date: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 9:58:07 AM

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Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed rule changes. I live in Silver City and as a member of the NWTF I know the amount of time, money and research has gone into the Gould's project in the bootheel. I am hoping that the fire that started up in that area this past weekend does not do too much damage to roosting and nesting habitat of the Goulds down there. My father was the State President of the NM Chapter of the NWTF for a few years and has helped many of the Gould tag winners of the auction and raffle tags have successful hunts down there. I was the local chapter president, and founding member, of the Gila Gobblers here in Silver City almost 20 years ago. I am happy to see a proposal to add some draw type tags as the population seems to be healthy. I typically do not buy raffle tickets and in no way can afford the auction tag so I am looking forward to having a chance at a draw. I am not sure how many tags are being proposed. The summary reads like there only may be 1. I believe there is a population down there that can support more than 3 tags total. Here is my suggestion; in order to keep pressure down I would not give the draw tag the entire April 15 - May 15 (proposed change) timeframe. Lets say for the sake of example that NM Game and Fish decides to offer 8 draw tags. I would like to see them offered for a week each, 2 tags valid at a time. 2 people draw the tag that is valid from April 15 - April 21, 2 people draw tags that are valid from April 22 - 28, etc. Technically there would be 4 draw codes, 1 for each week of the season. You are allowed 3 choices so by default it is built where there is going to be some spreading out of the odds. If you still allow NWTF to auction and raffle 2 tags then maybe they are allowed to hunt the week prior to the 15th. I would just hate to see 8 tags being given and all 8 hunters down there at once. Although there is a good number of birds down there the amount of public land is definitely limited. A lot of the prime habitat is on private land. Too much pressure on the public may make them stay in private.

I was surprised to see the proposal of making it illegal to shoot a bird off of the roost. I distinctly remember it having been in the rules in the past. When was it removed?!? I fully support putting it back in there. I am aware of 2 occasions here on the Gila where friends heard shots well before fly down and another in the evening after birds were on the roost. It is a problem. Enforcement of that rule is very difficult I would imagine, but nonetheless should be there.

I also support removing the Huey from the youth draw. I was going to put my son in for that tag this year but luckily called ahead of time. I spoke to 2 different people, one out of the Artesia Office and another out of the Roswell office I believe. They both had the same opinion that it would be a waste of time and money to make the trip for that hunt. One of them couldn't remember the last time he had seen turkey on the property. I doubt the majority of parents make calls like that and all I can see happening is frustration and disappointment for the youth when they don't see or hear any turkeys.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

Jeff Fell
575-956-3260

From: [John Crenshaw](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey rule proposal supported
Date: Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:00:15 PM

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I support the NM Game and Fish Department's proposed turkey rule as presented in "Proposals Under Consideration" on the agency website. A very limited hunt for Goulds turkey is reasonable and appropriate. I was unaware that the previous commission had allowed shooting birds of the roost, and very strongly urge repeal of that travesty of fair chase. Roost-shooting is not hunting - it's collecting.
Thank you,

John Crenshaw
1923 Hopi Rd
Santa Fe NM 87505

From: [Storm Usrey](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey Rule suggestions
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 3:45:10 PM

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Dear staff,

I would suggest making the bag limit in the spring a one bird limit. This would be similar to many western states and some states, such as OK, have gone from a three bird bag limit to one bearded turkey in the spring as they have seen a decline in their turkey numbers, and I'm sure an increase in hunters. I realize harvest of a second bird may not seem significant, but it might allow for more of an enjoyable hunt with fewer hunters in the field as they harvest their one bird and are not in the field competing with those still trying to harvest their first. I feel the trend information being gathered could be analyzed, over time, to see if turkey sightings, hunting pressure, and harvest has changed positively or negatively for any particular GMU.

The fall season could be shortened. I know the harvest of turkeys with a bow in the month of September is low and could stay without impacting it too much, but the November hunt should be shortened to a one week season which could coincide with the Thanksgiving holiday. This would put less take on the hens which are imperative for the success of that particular population. Again, teasing out the mandatory harvest report information, over time, for the questions asked could easily see if something like this is needed, or not.

I feel some of this is easily warranted as we have seen an increase in hunting numbers and with drought conditions for the last two years I think we need some changes before it is too late and we are behind the 8 ball with our turkey populations. Also, please get input from regional biologists and local conservation officers on what they are seeing on the ground in regards to turkeys.

Lastly, roost shooting should be illegal, the spring season should not be extended by 5 days to May 15, and allowing a few opportunities for Gould's turkey should not have a negative impact on the population. I would suggest DNA sampling, counting the number of tail fan feathers and taking leg measurements of each harvested Gould's though. This could help future LE investigations as Gould's tend to have or can have 22 tail feathers versus 18, have longer legs, and DNA could link back to a specific population. Just a thought.....

Thanks for your time, Storm Usrey.

From: [Shawn Foster](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey rule
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 4:42:46 AM

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I support the new Turkey rule for the state of NM!

Thanks!
Shawn Foster of Clovis

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Robert Tafanelli](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey rule
Date: Saturday, August 6, 2022 7:47:11 AM

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I support this proposal!

Bob Tafanelli

Sent from my iPad

From: [Joey Vega](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey Rule
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 9:35:00 AM

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I support the proposed changes as listed.

Jose Vega
New Mexico Resident Sportsman

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joe Luna](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey rules
Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 9:33:59 AM

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I Joseph Luna support this proposal.

From: [Cade Lockett](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkey
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 2:48:06 PM

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I am in full support of the proposed changes to turkeys. Please delist the Gould's turkeys.

Cade Lockett

From: [William Coffman](#)
To: [DGF-Gamebird](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turkeys off the roost
Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022 3:45:19 PM

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Hi, I agree with everything else in the turkey changes except shooting them off the roost. I get that it might not be the most sportsman like of moves, but, I believe most people that have shot turkeys of the roost have put in A LOT of work to find birds in that area. Turkeys require a lot of time and effort and I don't think it should all got to waste just because one flies the wrong way, or roosts early in the afternoon. There's no less honor shooting a bird out of a tree than on the ground especially if the work was out in. If it's a safety concern about firing in the air if someone were to be peppered but shot it wouldn't carry enough velocity to do any damage by the time it came back down. Thank you for reading this.

Sent from my iPhone

COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA BRIEFING

Meeting Date: October 14, 2022

Agenda Number: 13

Presenter: Stewart Liley

Corroborator: N/A

Agenda Title: Rule Making Hearing on Turkey Rule (19.31.16 NMAC) for the 2023-2026 hunting seasons.

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.

Proposed amendments include:

- Extend Spring Season and Draw Entry hunts to close on May 15
- Adjust hunts for calendar dates
- Evaluate Closed GMUs based on turkey population status
- Add a Once-in-a-Lifetime Entry Permit hunt for GMU 26 and 27 with up to 5 permits. Proposed hunt dates: May 1–30
- Remove W.S. Huey WMA youth hunt due to low turkey numbers
- Define dates and permit numbers for Washington Ranch Youth Hunt Area and add BLM Black River Management Area to hunt area
- Add the LBar property to the Marquez WMA entry hunt
- Prohibit shooting turkeys on the roost

2. Background Information

The turkey rule (19.31.16 NMAC) is re-evaluated every four years. Proposed changes to the rule are made based on findings in scientific literature, data collected by Department staff, and public observations and recommendations. The current 4-year rule expires April 1, 2023.

Wild turkey populations are characterized by annual fluctuations, largely dependent on environmental conditions. Reproduction is seasonal and the mating system is polygamous; males play no role in rearing young. Spring gobbler hunting is biologically the most conservative hunting approach, and is unlikely to result in overharvest. Fall harvest has the potential to depress population growth and therefore hunting should be lighter during this time. Turkey hunters will regulate themselves to a degree. Fewer hunters will go afield when population numbers are low, though hunters that do go at this time are more efficient. Turkey hunting in New Mexico is structured so that it does not negatively impact the turkey population. The Department's harvest strategy is to maintain current turkey populations and offer hunting opportunity that does not negatively impact turkey populations across the state.

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 has posted proposed changes to the turkey rule on its website. Input has been gathered from mail, email, and public meetings with interested members of the public. The Department received 24 comments (as of 9/19/2022) to the Gamebird rule email account. Hybrid public meetings were held in Albuquerque (8 attendees) and Las Cruces (7 attendees), to gather public comments on the proposed changes to the turkey rule.

Suggested Motion

The Department respectfully suggests the following motion unless Commission discretion indicates a different course of action:

“Move to approve 19.31.16 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.”

TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING
PART 16 TURKEY

19.31.16.1 ISSUING AGENCY: New Mexico department of game and fish.
[19.31.16.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.1 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.2 SCOPE: Sportspersons interested in turkey management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978, and Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.16.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.2 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Sections 17-1-14, 17-1-26, 17-3-16.4, and 17-3-16.5 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds, and fish.
[19.31.16.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.3 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.4 DURATION: April 1, 20192023 through March 31, 20232027.
[19.31.16.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.4 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 20192023, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.16.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.5 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing open hunting seasons, rules and procedures governing the distribution and issuance of turkey permits and licenses by the department.
[19.31.16.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.6 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. "Bearded turkey" shall mean a turkey with a visible beard.

~~**B.** "Bearded Gould's turkey" shall mean a turkey with a visible beard of the species *Mmeleagris gallopavo mexicana*.~~

BC. "Department" shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.

CD. "Director" shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.

DE. "Entry permit" shall entitle the holder of a valid turkey license to hunt areas otherwise closed to turkey hunting.

EF. "Game management unit" or "GMU" shall mean those areas as described in state game commission rule 19.30.4 NMAC, Boundary Descriptions for Game Management Units.

~~**G.** "Gould's turkey permit" as used herein, shall mean a document issued by the department that authorizes the holder to participate in the activity as specified on the permit.~~

FH. "Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs" shall mean those areas as described in rule 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.

[19.31.16.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.7 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.8 ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES, PERMITS, AND AUTHORIZATIONS: The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of licenses, permits, or authorizations for turkey up or down by no more than twenty percent to address significant changes in population levels or habitat availability. This adjustment may be applied to any or all of the entry hunt codes for turkey.
[19.31.16.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.8 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.9 TURKEY ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME-HUNTS: It shall be unlawful for anyone to apply for or hold a once-in-a-lifetime turkey entry permit if he or she has held a once-in-a-lifetime entry permit to hunt turkey.
[19.31.16.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.9 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.910 TURKEY HUNTING SEASONS: The 2019-20202023-24 through 2022-232026-27 hunting seasons shall be as indicated below, listing the GMUs or areas open, eligibility requirements or restrictions, hunt dates, hunt codes, legal sporting arms, number of permits, and bag limits. All WMAs, except as listed in Subsection A of 19.31.16.910 NMAC, are open to both spring and fall over-the-counter turkey hunting if the GMU where they are located is open to turkey hunting or unless specifically closed in rule or are restricted to entry permit holders as listed in Subsection B of 19.31.16.910 NMAC.

A. Over-the-counter hunts: All over-the-counter turkey licenses shall be valid for any legal sporting arms, except turkey hunting in the Sandia ranger district portion of GMU 14 and Sugarite canyon state park in GMU 57 are restricted to bow and crossbow only. The number of licenses for these hunts shall be unlimited.

(1) Spring seasons:

Open GMUs or areas	hunt dates	bag limit
Statewide except the following GMUs or areas are closed to over-the-counter turkey hunting: GMU: 2A areas east of NMUS 550 and north of NM 173, 2B areas in the Carson national forest, 2C areas in the Carson national forest, 6B, 8, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31 Bernardo WMA, Bill Evans WMA , Double E WMA , Jackson lake WMA, La Joya WMA, Lake Roberts WMA , Marquez/LBar WMA, Prairie Chicken WMAs, Red Rock WMA, River ranch WMA , Valle Vidal, W.S. Huey WMA	4/15-5/ 4015	2 turkeys with visible beards
Statewide except as listed above, youth only	4/12-14/2019 4/10-12/2020 4/9-11/2021 4/8-10/2022 4/7-9/2023 4/12-14/2024 4/11-13/2025 4/10-12/2026	2 turkeys with visible beards

(2) Fall seasons:

Open GMUs or areas	hunt dates	bag limit
Statewide except the following GMUs or areas are closed to over the counter turkey hunting: GMU: 2A areas east of NMUS 550 and north of NM 173, 2B areas in the Carson national forest, 2C areas in the Carson national forest, 6B, 8, 14, 18, 19, 20 , 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 38, 43 , 49, 50, 53 Bernardo WMA, Bill Evans WMA, Double E 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, River ranch WMA , Sugarite canyon state park, Valle Vidal, W.A. Humphries WMA , W.S. Huey WMA	bow only: 9/1-30 any legal sporting arms: 11/1-30	any 1 turkey

B. Entry permit hunts: All entry permits shall be valid for any legal sporting arms except turkey hunting in the Sandia ranger district portion of GMU 8. An entry permit authorizes the holder to hunt in the area, for the bag limit, and for the season dates listed on the permit. In addition, holders of a turkey entry permit may hunt in any open over-the-counter area during the spring season for a second turkey (if applicable) or if unsuccessful in their entry hunt area. In no circumstance may any turkey hunter take or attempt to take more than 2 bearded turkeys during the spring season, ~~except the holder of a Gould's turkey enhancement permit as described in 19.31.16.112 NMAC.~~ Holders of an entry hunt permit must also purchase a turkey hunting license prior to hunting. ~~The maximum number of permits is listed below.~~

Open GMUs or areas	2019-2020 2023-2024 hunt dates	2020-2021 2024-2025 hunt dates	2021-2022 2025-2026 hunt dates	2022-2023 2026-2027 hunt dates	hunt code	permits	bag limit
2B (Carson national forest) 2C (Carson national forest)	4/15- 5/ 4015	4/15- 5/ 4015	4/15- 5/ 4015	4/15- 5/ 4015	TUR-1-100	115	1 turkey with visible beard
2B (Carson national forest) 2C (Carson national forest), youth only	4/15- 5/ 4015	4/15- 5/ 4015	4/15- 5/ 4015	4/15- 5/ 4015	TUR-1-101	50	1 turkey with visible beard
2A (areas east of NMUS 550 and north of NM 173), youth only	4/15- 5/ 4015	4/15- 5/ 4015	4/15- 5/ 4015	4/15- 5/ 4015	TUR-1-102	5	1 turkey with visible beard

6B-the Valles Caldera national preserve	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	TUR-1-103	20	1 turkey with visible beard
8 (bow and crossbow only in Sandia ranger district)	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	TUR-1-104	15	2 turkeys with visible beard
9 Marquez LBar WMA	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	4/15-5/4/15	TUR-1-105	515	21 turkeys with visible beard
26 and 27 once-in-a-lifetime	5/1-5/30	5/1-5/30	5/1-5/30	5/1-5/30	TUR-1-106	up to 5	1 turkey with visible beard
30 Washington Ranch (private land) and Black river management area (BLM), youth only	TBD 4/28-4/30	TBD 4/26-4/28	TBD 4/25-4/27	TBD 4/24-4/26	TUR-1-1067	up to 4	1 turkey with visible beard
30 Washington ranch (private land) and Black river management area (BLM), youth only	5/5-5/7	5/3-5/5	5/2-5/4	5/1-5/3	TUR-1-108	up to 4	1 turkey with visible beard
33W.S. Huey WMA, youth only	4/12-4/14	4/10-4/12	4/9-4/11	4/8-4/10	TUR-1-107	up to 4	1 turkey with visible beard
33 W.S. Huey WMA, youth only	4/19-4/21	4/17-4/19	4/16-4/18	4/15-4/17	TUR-1-108	up to 4	1 turkey with visible beard
55 Valle Vidal and Greenwood areas (only the east side is open from 5/1-15)	4/15-4/30/15	4/15-4/30/15	4/15-4/30/15	4/15-4/30/15	TUR-1-109	20	1 turkey with visible beard

[19.31.16.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.9 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.101 TURKEY POPULATION MANAGEMENT HUNTS:

- A. The director or their designee may authorize population management hunts for turkey when justified in writing by department personnel.
- B. The director or their designee shall designate the sporting arms, season dates, season lengths, bag limits, hunt boundaries, specific requirements or restrictions, and number of licenses to be issued.
- C. In the event that an applicant is not able to hunt on the dates specified, the applicant's name shall be moved to the bottom of the list and another applicant may be contacted for the hunt.
- D. In those instances where a population management hunt is warranted on deeded private lands, the landowner may suggest eligible hunters of their choice by submitting a list of prospective hunters' names to the department for licensing consideration. No more than one-half of the total number of licenses authorized shall be available to landowner-identified hunters. The balance of prospective hunters shall be identified by the department.

[19.31.16.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.10 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

19.31.16.142 GOULD'S TURKEY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

A. The director of the department shall collect all proceeds generated through the auction or lottery or both, of not more than two special Gould's turkey enhancement entry permits annually. These and such monies shall be deposited into the game protection fund, and made available for expenditure by the department to be used exclusively for activities, projects, and programs aimed at the restoration and management of benefitting Gould's turkeys and Gould's turkey habitat, and for costs incurred in carrying out these programs.

B. Requirements for issuance, sale and use of Gould's turkey enhancement permits:

(1) **Issuance:** The director of the department may issue up to two Gould's turkey enhancement entry permits annually. Prior to permit issuance each year, the director must document that the prospective harvest of up to two bearded Gould's turkeys will not jeopardize the prospects for survival and recruitment of Gould's turkeys in New Mexico or conflict with the Wildlife Conservation Act, 17-2-37 NMSA 1978.

(2) **Sale:**

(a) The auction or lottery or both shall may be conducted by an incorporated non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of wildlife, in cooperation with and overseen by the department.

(b) Selection of an organization to administer the auction or lottery or both of the Gould's turkey enhancement permits shall be pursuant to procurement code regulations described in 1.4.1.31 NMAC.

(3) **Use:**

(a) The successful purchaser recipient(s) shall will be allotted an authorization for a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit, which may be transferred through sale, barter, donation, or gift to other individuals qualified to obtain purchase a license and hunt. Once an authorization is converted to a permit, the permit will be non-transferable.

(b) Individuals hunting pursuant to a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit must purchase obtain and have in their possession a valid turkey hunting license and any other stamps, tags, or permits required by rule.

(c) Unless their hunting privileges have been revoked pursuant to law, any person resident of New Mexico, nonresident, or alien is eligible to bid on and purchase a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit.

(d) Individuals holding a Gould's turkey enhancement entry permit shall not be prohibited from hunting other subspecies of turkeys in New Mexico as allowed in 19.31.16 NMAC.

(e) The entry permit shall be valid for any legal sporting arms, and the bag limit for each permit shall be one bearded Gould's turkey.

(f) The season dates for each entry permit shall be no more than 30 consecutive days between April 1 and May 31 as specified by the entry permit each license year.

(g) The harvest of one bearded Gould's turkey shall not count against the license holder's spring turkey bag limit.

(h) The hunt area for each entry permit shall be any legally accessible public lands in GMUs 26 and 27 where hunting is allowed, and private land with written permission.

(i) Gould's turkey enhancement entry permits granted through auction or lottery, as described above, shall not be considered 'once-in-a-lifetime' permits.

(i) All manner and method restrictions and requirements set forth in 19.31.10 NMAC shall apply to individuals hunting turkey pursuant to Gould's turkey enhancement permits.

[19.31.16.12 NMAC -Rp , 19.31.16.11 NMAC, 4/1/2023]

Dated at Las Cruces, this 14th day of October, 2022.

STATE GAME COMMISSION


Chair

ATTEST:


Michael B. Sloane, Secretary

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

State of New Mexico)
) ss
County of Dona Ana)

I, Michael B. Sloane, Director of the Department of Game and Fish of the State of New Mexico, do hereby certify that the foregoing amendment or rule 19.31.16 NMAC Turkey rule is a true copy of said amendment of the State Game Commission of the State of New Mexico; that said amendment has been adopted, signed, and filed in the office of the Director in accordance with Section 17-2-5, New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978 Compilation, and in the office of the State Records Center of the State of New Mexico in accordance with Section 14-4-1, New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978 Compilation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Director at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 14th day of October, 2022.


Michael B. Sloane, Director

S E A L