

# Turkey

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

## General Information

- You Must Have All of the Following While in the Field (page 8).
- All Turkey Harvests Must Be Tagged (pages 29–30).
- License Requirements and Fees (see pages 8–13).
- Legal Sporting Arms for Turkey Hunting (shotguns, bows or crossbows, see page 29).
- Youth-only Hunts (see page 14).
- It is Legal to Harvest a Marked Animal (see page 5).

## New Gould's Turkey Hunt

Robust Gould's turkey populations have enabled a new Gould's turkey hunt in Units 26 and 27. This is a once-in-a-lifetime hunt.

## Turkey Draw Permits

The deadline to apply for turkey draw permits is Feb. 15, 2023. Up to two people may apply per application. Successful applicants must purchase an over-the-counter turkey license to validate their draw permit. Licenses may be purchased online at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us), by telephone: **1-888-248-6866**, or in person at NMDGF offices or from license vendors. Online and telephone purchases must be made at least 14 days prior to hunt start date to allow mailing of tags unless the E-Tag option is chosen. Tags include instructions for proper tagging. Draw hunt areas are open only during the dates listed on the permit. If planning to hunt within 14 days of online or telephone purchase, hunters may be required to obtain tags at a license vendor or NMDGF office.

## Spring Over-the-Counter (OTC) License Hunts

OTC turkey licenses are available at NMDGF offices, license vendors, online or by telephone: **1-888-248-6866**. Hunters may purchase both spring and fall licenses.

### Areas Open for Spring OTC License Hunts: April 15–May 15

**STATEWIDE:** Except the following **CLOSED AREAS:** Unit 2A (areas east of U.S. Hwy. 550 and north of NM Hwy. 173); Unit 2B (areas in the Carson National Forest), Unit 2C (areas in the Carson National Forest); Units 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.

### Youth-only Spring OTC License Hunt: April 7–9

An early youth-only turkey hunt is available April 7–9 in all open units for spring hunting. Draw-permit areas are not open for youth-only spring OTC hunting, unless specified on the permit.

### Bag Limit for Spring Season

The bag limit is two bearded turkeys, except in permitted areas.<sup>1</sup> The beard and a patch of feathers surrounding the beard must remain on the bird until it is delivered to the place where it will be eaten or placed in final storage.

(1) Turkey draw permit holders may kill only the number of turkeys authorized on their permit in the permitted area. If only one turkey is allowed, they may hunt in any open over-the-counter area during the spring season for a second turkey.

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: **1-888-248-6866**

Turkey Draw Permit Seasons  
(OTC Turkey Permit Required)

	Hunt Dates	Hunt Code	Licenses	Bag Limit
<b>Unit 2A</b> (Areas east of U.S. 550 and north of NM Hwy. 173)				
Any Legal – Youth Only	Apr. 15–May 15	TUR–1–102	5	1 bearded turkey
<b>Unit 2B and 2C</b> (Carson National Forest)				
Any Legal	Apr. 15–May 15	TUR–1–100	115	1 bearded turkey
Any Legal – Youth Only	Apr. 15–May 15	TUR–1–101	50	1 bearded turkey
<b>Unit 6B</b> (Valles Caldera National Preserve)				
Any Legal <sup>1</sup>	Apr. 15–30	TUR–1–103	20	1 bearded turkey
<sup>1</sup> Hunter orientation required.				
<b>Unit 8</b>				
Any Legal <sup>2</sup>	Apr. 15–May 15	TUR–1–104	15	2 bearded turkeys
<sup>2</sup> Shotgun, bow or crossbow, except in Sandia Ranger District which is bow and crossbow only.				
<b>Unit 9 – Marquez/L Bar WMA</b>				
Any Legal – NM Resident Only	Apr. 15–May 15	TUR–1–105	15	1 bearded turkey
<b>Unit 26 and 27 (Gould's Turkey)</b>				
Any Legal – Once-in-a-Lifetime	May 1–May 30	TUR–1–106	4	1 bearded turkey
<b>Unit 30</b> Washington Ranch and BLM Black River Management Area <sup>3</sup> (Youth Only)				
Any Legal	Apr. 28–30	TUR–1–107	3	1 bearded turkey
Any Legal	May 5–May 7	TUR–1–108	3	1 bearded turkey
<sup>3</sup> This is a special hunting opportunity for youth hunters to harvest a Rio Grande turkey on the Black River. Hunter orientation is required and will be held on the Friday afternoon before the designated hunt begins. Youth hunters will be paired with a conservation officer for the hunt. For additional information about this opportunity, contact the Southeast Area office: <b>575-624-6135</b> .				
<b>Unit 55A – Valle Vidal</b>				
Any Legal	Apr. 15–May 15 (east side only from 5/1–5/15)	TUR–1–109	20	1 bearded turkey

# Turkey

Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

## Fall OTC License Hunts

**Sept. 1–30** (bow only) and **Nov. 1–30** (shotgun, bow or crossbow)

**STATEWIDE:** Except the closed areas listed below.

**CLOSED:** Unit 2A (areas east of U.S. Hwy. 550 and north of NM Hwy. 173); Unit 2B (areas in the Carson National Forest); Unit 2C (areas in the Carson National Forest); Units 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 and W.S. Huey WMA.

### Bag Limit for Fall Season

The bag limit is any one turkey. If a hunter does not harvest a turkey during the September bow-only hunt, she/he may hunt again in November using legal sporting arms for turkey.

## Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge Youth Spring Turkey Hunt

The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) will conduct youth spring turkey hunts for hunters 17 years of age and younger. Hunts will be held on weekends during April and May 2023 in conjunction with NMDGF seasons. The bag limit is one bearded turkey. Eligible hunters will be drawn from a pool of qualified applicants. An application fee of \$6 is required per application. More information will be available in January 2023 at: [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/bosque\\_del\\_apache/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/bosque_del_apache/). For more information about hunting opportunities at Bosque del Apache NWR call: **575-835-1828**.



**DON'T SHOOT!**

Most wildlife is legally protected and may be hunted only with a license during open season — this includes occasional visitors such as moose, jaguars, red deer and many other non-native and exotic species.

> If you see a species that is not typically found in New Mexico, it likely is protected and may not be hunted.

**ALWAYS contact your local Game Warden before you hunt or kill an unusual animal seen in the wild.**