

**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, 4-1-2019]

**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, 4-1-2019]

**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, 4-1-2019]

**19.31.16.4 DURATION:** April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2023.  
[19.31.16.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.4 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

**19.31.16.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 2019, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.  
[19.31.16.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.5 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

**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, 4-1-2019]

**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 *meleagris gallopavo mexicana*.
- C. “Department”** shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.
- D. “Director”** shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.
- E. “Entry permit”** shall entitle the holder of a valid turkey license to hunt areas otherwise closed to turkey hunting.
- F. “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.
- H. “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, 4-1-2019]

**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, 4-1-2019]

**19.31.16.9 TURKEY HUNTING SEASONS:** The 2019-20 through 2022-23 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 19.31.16.9 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 19.31.16.9 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 NM 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 WMA, Prairie Chicken WMAs, Red Rock WMA, River ranch WMA, Valle Vidal, W.S. Huey WMA	4/15-5/10	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	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 NM 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 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 19.31.16.11 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 hunt dates	2020-2021 hunt dates	2021-2022 hunt dates	2022-2023 hunt dates	hunt code	permits	bag limit
2B (Carson national forest) 2C (Carson national forest)	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	TUR-1-100	115	1 turkey with visible beard
2B (Carson national forest) 2C (Carson national forest), youth only	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	TUR-1-101	50	1 turkey with visible beard
2A (areas east of NM 550 and north of NM 173), youth only	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	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	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	TUR-1-104	15	2 turkeys with visible beard
9 Marquez WMA	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	4/15-5/10	TUR-1-105	5	2 turkeys with visible beard
30 Washington Ranch (private land), youth only	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TUR-1-106	up to 10	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	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	4/15-4/30	TUR-1-109	20	1 turkey with visible beard

[19.31.16.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.12 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

**19.31.16.10 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 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.

[19.31.16.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.16.13 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

**19.31.16.11 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 permits annually. These 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 Gould’s turkeys and Gould’s turkey habitat.

**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 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 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(s) will be allotted an authorization for a Gould's turkey enhancement permit, which may be transferred through sale, barter, donation, or gift to other individuals qualified to 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 permit must purchase 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 resident of New Mexico, nonresident, or alien is eligible to bid on and purchase a Gould's turkey enhancement permit.

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

(e) The bag limit for each permit shall be one bearded Gould's turkey.

(f) The season dates for each permit shall be no more than 30 consecutive days between April 1 and May 31 as specified by the 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 permit shall be any legally accessible public lands in GMU 27 where hunting is allowed and private land with written permission.

(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. [19.31.16.11 NMAC -Rp , 19.31.16.14 NMAC, 4-1-2019]

#### **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 5/31/67;

Regulation No. 487, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Javelina And Barbary Sheep, filed 12/15/67;

Regulation No. 489, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1968, filed 3/1/68;

Regulation No. 491, Establishing Big Game Seasons For 1968 For Jicarilla Reservation, filed 3/1/68;

Regulation No. 492, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/6/68;

Regulation No. 495, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 10/2/68;

Regulation No. 496, Establishing An Elk Season In The Tres Piedras Area, Elk Area P-6, filed 12/11/68;

Regulation No. 502, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1969, filed 3/5/69;

Regulation No. 503, Establishing 1969 Deer Seasons For Bowhunting Only And Big Game Seasons For The Jicarilla Indian Reservation, filed 3/5/69;

Regulation 504, Establishing Seasons on Deer, Bear, Turkey, Dusky Grouse, Chickaree And Tassel-Eared Squirrel, And Barbary Sheep, filed 6/4/69;

Regulation No. 507, Establishing A Season On Bighorn Sheep, filed 8/26/69;

Regulation No. 512, Establishing Turkey Season For The Spring Of 1970, filed 2/20/70;

Regulation No. 513, Establishing Deer Season For Bowhunting Only In Sandia State Game Refuge, filed 2/20/70;

Regulation No. 514, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, Elk, Antelope, Dusky Grouse, Tassel-Eared And Chickaree Squirrel, Barbary Sheep And Bighorn Sheep, filed 6/9/70;

Regulation No 520, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1971, filed 3/9/71;

Regulation No. 522, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/9/71;

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 6/9/71;

Regulation No. 531, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/17/71;

Regulation No. 532, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1972, filed 3/20/72;

Regulation No. 534, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/20/72;

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 6/26/72;

Regulation No. 542, Establishing A Season On Javelina, filed 12/1/72;

Regulation No. 545, Establishing Turkey Seasons For The Spring Of 1973, filed 2/26/73;

Regulation No. 546, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 2/26/73;

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 5/31/73;

Regulation No. 554, Establishing Special Turkey Seasons For The Spring of 1974, filed 3/4/74;

Regulation No. 556, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Deer, Bear, Turkey, And Elk On The Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation, filed 3/14/74;

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 5/29/74;

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 3/24/75;

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 6/25/75;

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 2/23/76;

Regulation No. 583, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/11/77;

Regulation No. 590, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/15/78;

Regulation No. 596, Establishing Seasons On Deer, Turkey, Bear, Cougar, Elk, Antelope, Barbary Sheep, Bighorn Sheep, Javelina, Oryx And Ibex, filed 2/23/79;

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 2/22/80;

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 3/17/81;

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 3/10/82;

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 3/9/83;

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 4/2/84;

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 4/18/85;

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 3/25/86;

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 2/12/87;

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 12/18/87;

Regulation No. 663, Establishing Opening Spring Turkey For The Period April 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990, filed 3/28/89;

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 3/20/89;

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 11/21/89;

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 2/8/91;

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 3/4/92;

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 3/11/93.

**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.