



# **New Mexico Wild Turkey Management Plan 2013-2018**

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

**Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Grant W-144-R-8**

## About the Plan

This document differs from a traditional species management plan in that it has been developed and formatted more as an 'Action' Plan. Basic background on the natural history of turkey in New Mexico as well as information on current status has been summarized. This Plan also outlines what the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) plans to accomplish regarding wild turkey management over the next five years. A "Management Needs" section, along with proposed actions, is provided as a guide for addressing those needs.

This Plan builds upon previous work of former wild turkey program managers and earlier versions of turkey management plans. The natural history information is taken directly from previous plans. Much of that information has not changed however where new information has been obtained, it is included in the text. Information used in the narrative is the result of extensive literature searches from previous plans and references can be provided upon request.

This Plan is intended to be a living document. As such, tables that identify specifics regarding survey schedules, translocations and habitat improvements are provided for general reference. Specifics may change as priorities evolve and available resources are made available.

## Background

New Mexico is home to three of the five recognized North American subspecies of wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*). The Merriam's turkey (*M. g. merriami*) is typically associated with areas of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), the Rio Grande turkey (*M. g. intermedia*) principally occupies riparian areas in the northeast, central, and southeast portions of the state, and the Gould's turkey (*M. g. mexicana*) is confined to the woodland-savanna habitat in the Peloncillo and Animas Mountains of southwest New Mexico. The Gould's turkey is state-listed as a threatened species.

The current statewide turkey population estimate is unknown. In 2007, it was estimated at 25,000 to 35,000 birds. These previous numbers as well as distribution information were based primarily upon field observations from Department district personnel in the mid-1990s. The Department does not currently conduct population surveys except gobbling surveys and occasional winter flock surveys for Gould's turkey.

The public has become more aware of wild turkeys and therefore the demand for recreational use has increased. The Department's goal is to meet ecological and recreational expectations of the public, and resolve associated issues to the satisfaction of all interests.

## Natural History

*Physical Characteristics*—the wild turkey is a sturdy and resilient member of the gallinaceous order of upland birds. It is the largest native gallinaceous game bird found in New Mexico. Like other gallinaceous birds, turkeys are characterized by having strong feet and legs tailored for digging, scratching, and running; short rounded wings for brief, rapid flight; a short, fowl-like beak; ten primary wing feathers; a large crop associated with granivorous and herbivorous feeding behavior; and distinct differences between males and females relative to their physical appearance, size, and weight. Both sexes have very few feathers on the head and upper part of the neck. In addition, the skin of this area has many small bumps called caruncles. The mature male, or gobbler, has much larger and more prominent caruncles. Gobblers can have red, white or blue colored heads, while those of hens are typically darker and duller in color. The feathers of the breast and upper back are black tipped on gobblers, but buff colored on the

outer edge for hens. Males will normally develop a bony growth, or spur, on the backside of the lower leg, while females typically do not. However, there have been instances where females have been found with a spur and males either without or with more than one. Finally, males sprout a tuft of hair-like fibers called a beard from the upper midline of the breast.

Subspecies can generally be distinguished based upon feather coloration on the lower back and tail margins. Rio Grande turkeys have tan or buff colored rump and tail feather tips, Merriam's have lighter, ashy-white tipped feathers, and Gould's have almost pure white tail feather margins.

*Distribution*—most mountain ranges in New Mexico support healthy, self-sustaining Merriam's turkey populations. Exceptions include the Peloncillo and Animas-San Luis Mountains of southern Hidalgo County which support relatively small but stable populations of Gould's turkeys. Rio Grande turkeys are considered native to the Canadian River Basin and Dry Cimarron River of northeastern New Mexico. In addition, their historic range includes the Pecos River from the Texas state line to immediately north of Carlsbad (Figure 1).

Rio Grande turkeys have also been transplanted into habitats along the central (Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge) and south-central (near Hatch, New Mexico) Rio Grande. Both areas are outside historic native range of the Rio Grande subspecies. Additionally, Rio Grande turkeys have been documented along the Rio Hondo, west of Roswell, New Mexico apparently the result of an early transplant not sponsored by the Department.

*Habitat Requirements*—suitable habitat must include the three main components of water, roost sites, and summer/brood areas. However, winter and fall habitat can be locally important as well. In New Mexico, free water is essential for turkey survival since vegetation may not be able to meet moisture requirements. Roost sites are comprised of tall trees with layered, widely spaced, horizontal branches. These trees provide food, escape and resting cover, as well as nighttime roosting. Turkeys prefer mesic (moderately moist) summer and brood habitat that is relatively open with a variety of grasses and forbs present. These provide a source of food in the form of seeds and insects for developing poults.

Nest site locations are generally chosen based upon undergrowth characteristics that provide visual obstruction to conceal the nest and hen but still allow the hen to identify potential predators and other threats. Brood rearing habitat will be nearby to allow easy and unrestricted access by poults. One side of the nest is often positioned next to a tree, log, rock, or heavy shrub/grass thicket. Surrounding lateral cover will be such the nest cannot be easily viewed and averages at least 18 inches in height.

*Food Habits*—during spring and summer wild turkeys feed mostly on herbaceous vegetation such as dropseed grasses (*Sporobolus* spp.), *Muhlenbergia* grasses, *Panicum* grasses, grama grasses (*Bouteloua* spp.), pine dropseed (*Blepharoneuron tricholepis*), nutsedge (*Cyperus* spp.), wild onions (*Allium* spp.), wild rye (*Elymus* spp.), wild oats (*Avena* spp.), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), and beggarweed (*Desmodium purpureum*). However, insects are readily consumed by developing poults and by adults when available. If sources of mast (acorns, nuts, and fruit) are accessible, wild turkeys will also take advantage of this food source.

Habitat use by wild turkeys varies considerably during the fall and winter as food availability fluctuates. Vegetative diversity remains a common theme for cold season habitat. Mast is the primary food during fall and winter. Forest cover plays a more important role,

compared to open areas. Herbaceous growth still provides valuable nutrition, especially in late winter. However openings, or areas with open canopies, may be utilized to a greater extent in years of poor mast production.

*Reproduction*—the beginning of mating season is principally determined by change in photoperiod between late winter and early spring. Gobbling can begin in mid-February and may run through late May. Wild turkeys develop social hierarchies for males and females. As such, they display polygamous breeding behavior where the dominant male will mate with most of the females.

Turkey poults are precocial meaning they hatch with a coat of downy feathers, imprint to the first living thing to provide parental care, are able to move around freely within 24 hours of hatching, and will peck at food items while following the hen. Most poults are capable of flight within two weeks following hatch. Flight ability is instrumental as young birds begin to roost with hens within the first three weeks. Roosting behavior is important in reducing poult predation.

*Population Dynamics*—as with most gallinaceous birds, turkeys can experience dramatic population fluctuations between years. Annual mortality rates can average 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 and hen mortality is highest between March and June, which coincides with the peak of incubation when hens are most vulnerable.

Predation can be a significant source of mortality for wild turkeys. Mountain lions, bobcats, bears, hawks, owls, and eagles will actively pursue adult, juvenile, and newly hatched turkeys. Nest predators include coyotes, foxes, raccoons, skunks, snakes, ravens and crows.

Physiological and behavioral adaptations to minimize the effects of predation include large clutch sizes, large body size, flocking behavior, and night roosting in trees. In quality habitat, turkeys can withstand predation and even flourish. However, predation may have a significant influence on local turkey populations when populations are low; nesting cover is poor; inadequate food and/or water force turkeys into unfavorable habitat; other prey species are less available; birds are exposed to severe weather for prolonged periods of time; and/or predator populations are abnormally high.

Spring hunting, if managed properly, typically does not have a long-term impact on population numbers. Studies have shown the harvest of up to 30% of adult gobblers leaves enough for effective breeding and quality hunting the following season.

Conversely, fall hunting can have a significant influence on local populations and is therefore the most useful in terms of population management. Turkey population growth can be depressed due to sensitivity of populations with removal of adult hens, especially those that have nested successfully.

Herbicide and pesticide applications may reduce the ability of areas to support wild turkeys. Insecticides may reduce or remove turkey insect food sources while herbicides can diminish insect cover. In addition, herbicides can remove forbs essential for nutrition. Finally, turkeys may be poisoned thus predisposing them to predation, reducing reproductive output, and causing direct mortality.

Turkeys are subjected to a number of bacterial and/or viral infections. The three most important bacterial and viral infections are avian pox, Mycoplasmosis, and Salmonellosis. Many

diseases that potentially threaten wild turkeys are associated with domestic poultry and captive gamebirds.

Wild turkeys can, and often do experience infestation of some degree by a number of endo- and ecto-parasites including flatworms (flukes), tapeworms, roundworms, acanthocephalans (thorny-headed worms), and protozoan blood parasites (*Haemoproteus*, *Leucocytozoon*, *Plasmodium*) transmitted by blood-feeding arthropods. Most parasites typically cause only a nuisance, although particularly heavy infestations may cause physical impairment or secondary infections (e.g. Histomoniasis, or blackhead disease).

Significant disease and parasitic infections have not been documented in New Mexico. This is very likely because the dry climate is not as productive for insect vectors. Also, turkeys are naturally more disbursed therefore significantly large numbers of birds are not routinely in close proximity to one another to facilitate transmission. In addition, birds incapacitated by disease and/or parasites are likely removed by predators and scavengers.

### **Monitoring**

Because turkeys are so elusive and widely distributed among a variety of different habitats, individual survey techniques can be unreliable, impractical or cost prohibitive. However, they may be useful when these techniques are combined and further incorporated with harvest data. Population surveys, when conducted in the past, have not been consistent.

Annual hunter harvest surveys have been relied upon to infer population trends over time however, with the Department's hunter harvest survey being absent from 2007 through 2010, no trend information was provided through that technique. The Department began conducting post-season harvest surveys again in 2011.

### **Transplant Efforts**

Transplants have occurred in New Mexico since 1939 with the most recent transplants occurring in 2008 (Appendix A). With the advent of better technology for capturing wild birds, transplants have successfully reestablished wild turkeys in many parts of New Mexico. The Department continues to collaborate with federal and state agencies, tribal communities, non-profit organizations, and private citizens to implement its' trap and transplant program.

Recently, a number of transplants were conducted as a remedy for resolving depredation by turkeys. These transplants involved Rio Grande turkeys from northeast New Mexico near Tucumcari. Release sites for these turkeys included areas along the Rio Grande which are outside the native historic range of this subspecies.

The Department's revised Trapping and Translocating Wildlife Policy (RM-103) explicitly states that translocations are confined to a species' native historic range, except in extraordinary cases necessary to conserve state or federal threatened and endangered species or where the State Game Commission deems it appropriate. As a result, future trap and transplant efforts should strictly adhere to the provisions of this policy.

### **Subspecies Management**

Department policy has been to manage for three distinct subspecies in habitats that are best suited to each. Maintaining New Mexico's reputation for managing three subspecies of wild turkey increases the attractiveness to hunters from across the country to come to New Mexico.

Hybridization can and does occur in wild turkey populations because subspecies are physiologically similar and often have adjacent ranges. Similar issues may arise when pen-

reared wild subspecies and/or domestic strains of turkeys escape or are released into the wild. Several states have adopted laws that prohibit, or at least impose strict requirements on the sale, possession and/or release of pen-reared wild subspecies. Although hybridization between wild turkeys and domestic or pen-reared turkeys can occur, the viability and survival of these hybrids is considered minimal. To address this concern in New Mexico, legislation to better regulate or eliminate this practice should be explored.

### **Hunter Harvest**

New Mexico offers both spring and fall seasons for turkey and most licenses are issued through general over-the-counter or online sales. The spring season is a male only season with a two bird bag limit while the fall season is either-sex with a one bird bag limit. Both Merriam's and Rio Grande turkeys may be hunted in these seasons. The spring season has been consistent with dates from mid-April to early May (26 days). Until 2011, the fall season was 9 days in length during the month of September. In 2011, the fall season was expanded to 60 days with the entire month of September for archery only and the entire month of November for any legal weapon.

In 2007, New Mexico established a special spring season for Gould's turkeys administered through an Enhancement License Program that allows for the annual take of up to two males (one each through an auction and raffle license). Funds generated from these licenses are used exclusively for habitat management for this subspecies.

Annual harvest surveys are conducted to analyze and summarize hunter harvest trends. This is a voluntary survey and previously been administered through mail-in questionnaires. Some past years' harvest information was not collected for either one or both seasons with license years 2007 through 2010 having no survey at all. Beginning in 2011, the harvest survey was re-established and administered through a voluntary online survey.

According to harvest trend information for the last 20 years (1992 through 2011) when estimates were made for both seasons, the statewide turkey harvest averaged 2,679 (range 1,016—4,234). For spring seasons, average harvest was 2,430 (range 908—3,868) while the fall averaged 260 (range 157—502). The estimate for fall 2011 was appreciably higher at 502 and is likely the result of expanded season length.

For this same 20 year period, the number of New Mexico turkey hunters averaged 8,763 (range 5,243—12,900). For the spring season, average hunter numbers was 7,648 (range 4,710—11,898) and, for the fall, average number of hunters was 864 (range 454—1,896). Again, the highest value of 1,896 was fall 2011 when previously the average was 761.

### **Habitat Management**

Wild turkey habitat improvements depend largely upon continued regeneration of mast-producing trees and shrubs through proper forest management practices; enhancement of existing habitat by incorporating favorable land management approaches for wild turkeys into commercial forestry, agriculture, mining, industrial development, and housing development; encouragement of programs to preserve Open Spaces through expanded use of conservation easements and acquisition; development of brood habitat with the creation of wet meadows through the development of natural watering areas that would promote vegetative growth and insect colonization; and maintaining existing roost sites and encouraging management practices that promote development of future roost sites in nesting and wintering habitat.

Non-profit organizations provide considerable money, manpower, and support for on-the-ground projects aimed at enhancing habitat. Projects range from habitat enhancement and turkey restoration to educational programs and research.

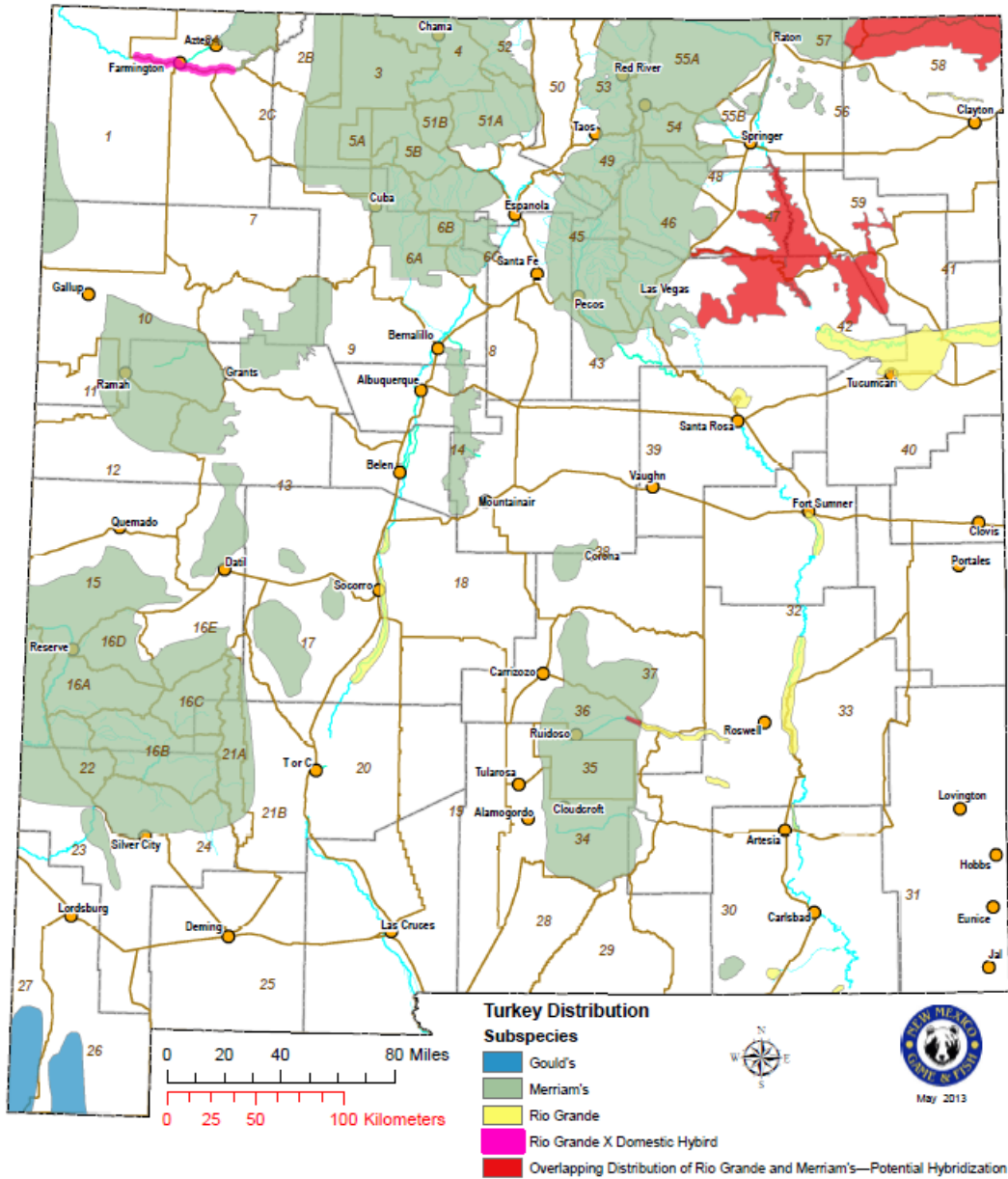


Figure 1: Distribution of wild turkey subspecies in New Mexico, 2013.

## **ACTION PLAN**

**Management Need 1:** Data regarding wild turkey populations and habitat status are necessary to make informed management decisions.

*Action 1:* Implement surveys that provide reliable information for monitoring population distribution and abundance trends as well as habitat use information.

- Establish protocol and schedule gobbling, brood, and winter flock surveys of turkey populations in selected regions of the state (Tables 1 and 2).

**Table 1: Proposed Schedule for Monitoring Wild Turkeys in New Mexico**

<u>Survey Type</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Methodologies</u>
Winter Flock	November-January	Aerial, Roads, Hunter Survey
Gobbling	April-May	Roads, Trails
Brood	June-August	Roads, Trails

**Table 2: Wild Turkey Survey Regions and Proposed Surveys in New Mexico**

	<u>Region</u>	<u>Survey Type</u>
Northwest:	Northwest Plateau (GMU 2)	Gobbling/Brood
	Jemez Mountains (GMU 6)	Gobbling/Brood
	Mount Taylor (GMU 9)	Gobbling/Brood
	Zuni Mountains (GMU 10)	Gobbling/Brood
Southwest:	Mogollon and San Mateo Mountains (GMU16)	Winter flock/Brood
	Black Range (GMU 21)	Gobbling/Brood
	Pinos Altos (GMU 24)	Gobbling/Brood
	Peloncillo Mountains (GMU 27)	Winter flock/Gobbling
Southeast:	Guadalupe Mountains (GMU 30)	Gobbling/Brood
	Sacramento Mountains (GMUs 34, 36, and 37)	Winter flock/Brood
Northeast:	Sangre de Cristo Mountains (GMU 45)	Gobbling
	San Juan Mountains (GMU 51)	Gobbling

- Determine interest from interested groups to assist in participating with surveys.

*Action 2:* Monitor annual turkey harvest, hunter numbers, and hunter success at a level sufficient to make informed management decisions.

- Improve harvest survey to obtain necessary information.
- Implement mandatory harvest reporting for turkey.

*Action 3:* Utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to assess the extent and status of turkey habitat.

*Action 4:* Utilize Radio Telemetry and Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to assess turkey distribution, movements, and habitat use.



**Management Need 2:** Harvest management provides maximum sustainable opportunity commensurate with resource limitations.

*Action 5:* Develop and implement sport-hunting regulations that include biological, ecological, social, and economic considerations.

- Work with Area Operations and Wildlife Area staff to develop recommendations.
- Incorporate public involvement processes through meetings, press releases, etc. into the development and review of proposed regulations.

*Action 6:* Seek alternatives for access to private land such as the Department's Open Gate Program to increase turkey hunting opportunities.

*Action 7:* Employ law enforcement operations sufficient to ensure compliance with turkey hunting regulations.

**Management Need 3:** Habitat is managed to maintain and/or improve turkey populations and their distribution in accordance with appropriate prescribed practices.

*Action 8:* Establish cooperative agreements with land management agencies to protect and improve turkey habitat where needed on public lands.

- Meet with Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Districts to identify landscapes and strategies where turkey habitat can be improved.
- Where necessary, develop Memorandums of Understanding, Project Agreements, etc. to facilitate habitat improvement on publicly managed lands.

*Action 9:* Evaluate, develop, and encourage outreach projects to enable private landowners to protect and improve turkey habitat where needed.

*Action 10:* Develop plans to manage habitat for increased turkey hunting opportunities on State Game Commission owned properties (Waterfowl and Wildlife Management Areas).

*Action 11:* Employ additional sources of funding and volunteer assistance such as Habitat Stamp fund, Enhancement Licenses, landowner incentive programs, National Wild Turkey Federation, private organizations, and other groups to accomplish recommended habitat management projects.

**Management Need 4:** Transplants are used to establish and/or augment turkey populations throughout suitable habitat.

*Action 12:* Establish population abundance and distribution targets throughout suitable range.

*Action 13:* Trap and relocate wild turkeys into areas not likely to become occupied naturally.

*Action 14:* Identify desired locations and schedule for releasing turkeys for introduction and/or augmentation (Table 3).

- Work with land management agencies and interested publics to identify practical and desired locations for transplants.

**Table 3: Schedule of Proposed Transplants**

<u>2013</u>	Guadalupe Mountains (GMU 30—Merriam’s)
<u>2014</u>	Guadalupe Mountains (GMU 30—Merriam’s) Delaware River (GMU 31—Rio Grande) Pelona Mountain (GMU 16—Merriam’s)
<u>2015</u>	TBD
<u>2016</u>	TBD
<u>2017</u>	TBD

*Action 15:* Conduct transplant operations in accordance with the Department’s Trapping and Translocating Wildlife Species Policy (RM-103).

- Relocation sites will occur in suitable habitat for the historically correct subspecies and where possibility of hybridization is minimized.
- Relocated turkeys will be monitored to evaluate progress toward abundance and distribution targets.
- Turkeys originating outside New Mexico will be tested and certified free of pathogenic disease or parasitic infestation prior to release.
- Release stock will be selected to preclude potential hybridization of subspecies.

**Management Need 5:** Special management issues exist and need to be addressed for successful management of wild turkeys in New Mexico.

*Action 16:* Educate the public of the risks to wild turkey populations from the introduction and illegal releases of domestic and pen-reared wild turkeys.

*Action 17:* Employ the Department’s regulatory authority to restrict and/or prohibit the importation, propagation, and release of domestic and pen-reared wild turkeys.

- Propose legislation providing the legal foundation for preventing activities that pose risks to wild populations of turkey.

*Action 18:* Work with private landowners in southwest New Mexico to gain greater access into Gould’s turkey range.

*Action 19:* Work with interested entities (land management agencies, private landowners, Native American tribes, etc.) to simplify turkey management in Game Management Unit 2.

- Schedule meetings to identify concerns and issues with current turkey management in GMU 2.
- Develop recommendations to simplify GMU 2 for the new four-year rule that becomes effective April 1, 2015.

**APPENDIX 1: Transplants of Wild Turkey in New Mexico; 1939-2008 \*\***

Year	Month	Capture Location	Release Location	Success Y/N/Unk	Male		Female		Unk.	Total Birds	Subspecies
					Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile			
1939		Hall Peak Game Refuge Ocate, NM	Animas Pk, south of Lordsburg, NM	Unk.						10	Merriam's
1939		Hall Peak Game Refuge Ocate, NM	Northeast of McGaffey Ranger Station	Unk.						11	Merriam's
1939		Hall Peak Game Refuge Ocate, NM	Conchas River north of Tucumcari	Unk.						9	Merriam's
1947	Feb. 23	Near Carlsbad, NM	Guadalupe Mts., Lincoln NF	Y	2					2	Merriam's
1948	Feb. 28	Private land in Sacramento Mts.	Pinyon Mt. NE of Springer, NM	Y			9			9	Merriam's
1948	Mar. 21	Private land in Sacramento Mts.	Pinyon Mt. NE of Springer, NM	Y	1		3			4	Merriam's
1950	Feb. 15	Curtis Canyon, Sacramento Mts.	Pinyon Mt. NE of Springer, NM	Y	2		3			5	Merriam's
1950	Mar. 11	Curtis Canyon, Sacramento Mts.	Private ranch near head of Yeso creek	Y	2		1			3	Merriam's
1950	Mar. 12	Curtis Canyon, Sacramento Mts.	Near Bull Canyon SE Santa Rosa, NM	Y	2		2			4	Merriam's
1951	Mar. 7	Private land near Mt. Taylor	SW of Grants, NM on game refuge on Mt. Sedgwick	Y	3		12			15	Merriam's
1951	Mar. 8	Private land near Mt. Taylor	Near Monica Canyon, San Mateo Mts.	Y			6			6	Merriam's
1951	Mar. 9	Private land near Mt. Taylor	Sauble Ranch, Colfax County	Y	1		3			4	Merriam's
1951	Mar. 9	Private land near Mt. Taylor	Near Monica Canyon, San Mateo Mts.	Y	1					1	Merriam's
1951	Oct. 28	Private land SE of Nara Visa, NM in TX	Along Canadian River, NE of Tucumcari, NM	Y	7		13			20	Rio Grande

**APPENDIX 1: Transplants of Wild Turkey in New Mexico; 1939-2008 (Continued) \*\***

Year	Month	Capture Location	Release Location	Success Y/N/Unk	Male		Female		Unk.	Total Birds	Subspecies
					Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile			
1951	Oct. 28	Private land SE of Nara Visa, NM in TX	Private land NE of Conchas Dam	Y	1	1	1			3	Rio Grande
1953	Feb. 20	Coots Ranch, Quay County	Libby Ranch on Ute Creek	Y		1		5		6	Rio Grande
1953	Mar. 17	Matador Ranch, Texas	Libby Ranch on Ute Creek	Y		2		3		5	Rio Grande
1953	Mar. 17	Matador Ranch, Texas	Mitchell Ranch, Harding County	Y		3		6		9	Rio Grande
1955	Feb.	Mosca Springs, Mt. Taylor	Muleshoe Ranch, Magdalena Mts.	Y		4		10		14	Merriam's
1956	Feb. 20 Mar. 10	Gallinas Mts.	Near Tusas Mt., Rio Arriba County	Y		4		4		8	Merriam's
1956	Mar. 3	Bates Ranch, Gallinas Mts.	Tusas Mt., Rio Arriba County	Y		4		4		8	Merriam's
1957	Jan. 8	Floyd Lee Ranch, Chokecherry Canyon	Near Sheep Springs, Chuska Mts., San Juan County	Y		1		8		9	Merriam's
1957	Jan. 14	Floyd Lee Ranch, Chokecherry Canyon	Near Sheep Springs, Chuska Mts., San Juan County	Y		2		4		6	Merriam's
1957	Jan. 25	Floyd Lee Ranch, Chokecherry Canyon	Near Sheep Springs, Chuska Mts., San Juan County	Y			4	24		28	Merriam's
1957	Feb. 9	Martinez Ranch, Harding County	Near Conchas Dam on Canadian River	Y		3		11		14	Rio Grande
1957	Feb. 28	Mosca Springs, Mt. Taylor	Near Sheep Springs, Chuska Mts., San Juan County	Y		2				2	Merriam's
1960	Feb. 28	Sacramento Mts.	La Cueva	Y			2	3	1	6	Merriam's
1961	Feb. 23	West Red Canyon, Point of Rocks Canyon, Pine Tank	San Mateo and Jemez Mts., Cibola NF	Y	3	1	8	1	2M, 1F	16	Merriam's
1961	Feb. 28	Pine Tank, West Red Canyon	San Mateo Mts., Cibola NF	Y	1		5	3	1F	10	Merriam's

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Year	Month	Capture Location	Release Location	Success Y/N/Unk	Male		Female		Unk.	Total Birds	Subspecies
					Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile			
1961	Mar. 9	San Pablo Canyon	Jemez Mts., Cibola NF	Y		2		8		10	Merriam's
1961	Mar. 24 Apr. 14	Bear Trap Canyon	San Mateo Mts., Cibola NF	Y	3	1	3	1		8	Merriam's
1961	Mar. 26-30	Bear Springs, Borrego Canyon, La Cueva	Jemez Mts., Cibola NF	Y	6	2		1		9	Merriam's
1961	Aug. 29	Rivera Ranch	Jemez Mts., Cibola NF	Y				2		2	Merriam's
1962	Mar. 28 through Apr. 19	West Red Canyon, :Point of Rocks Canyon	San Mateo Mts., Cibola NF	Y		5	12	11		28	Merriam's
1964	Jan.	Maloya Canyon	Santa Rosa, Caprock Area	Y	5					5	?
1964	Feb.	Russian Canyon, Sacramento Mts.	Oscura Mts.	Y						25	Merriam's
1964	Feb. 22	Sacramento Mts.	Oscura Mts.	Y		4	2	3		9	Merriam's
1964	Feb. 28	Cloudcroft, Sacramento Mts.	Oscura Mts.	Y		4	2	3		9	Merriam's
1964	Feb. 28	Cloudcroft, Sacramento Mts.	La Cueva Ranch, Mora County	Y		2	3	1		6	Merriam's
1971	Jan. 23	Penasco River, Sacramento Mts.	Rabbit Springs, Oscura Mts.	Y	4	6	11	3		24	Merriam's
1975		Aransas, TX	Bosque del Apache NWR	Unk.	2		5			7	Rio Grande
1983	Jan.	Kaiser Steel		Y		14	76			90	Merriam's
1983	Jan. 27	Canyon area, TX panhandle	Dark Canyon, Guadalupe Mts.	Y	8	3	20	34	1F	66	Rio Grande
1983	Feb. 10	Big Springs, TX	Bosque del Apache NWR	Y	4		15			19	Rio Grande
1983	Feb. 28	Bosque del Apache NWR	Bernardo State Game Refuge	Y	6	5	16	5		32	Rio Grande
1983	Mar. 3-4	Bosque del Apache NWR	Black River Recreations Area near White City	Y	3		14			17	Rio Grande

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Year	Month	Capture Location	Release Location	Success Y/N/Unk	Male		Female		Unk.	Total Birds	Subspecies
					Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile			
1983	Mar. 3-4	Bosque del Apache NWR	Rio Grande south of Los Lunas	Y	2		10			12	Rio Grande
1989	Jan. 23	Private land west of Folsom, NM	Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson NF	Y	5	2	25	8		40	Merriam's
1989	Jan. 23	Private land west of Folsom, NM	Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson NF	Y		1	15	6		22	Merriam's
1989	Feb.	Private land near Raton, NM	Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson NF	Y	2	4	15	8		29	Merriam's
1990	Feb. 8	Private land west of Folsom, NM	Cabresto Mesa area of Jicarilla Ranger District, Carson NF	Y	4					4	Merriam's
1990	Feb. 10	Bosque del Apache NWR	Bernardo State Game Refuge	Y	6	5	14	5		30	Rio Grande
1992	Feb. 8	Private land west of Folsom, NM	Questa Ranger District, Carson NF	Y	7	2	14	12		35	Merriam's
1992	Mar.	Mills Canyon, and private ranch, Sixteen Springs Canyon, Lincoln NF	Manzano Mts., Cibola NF	Y	2		13	2		17	Merriam's
1992	Mar.	Vermejo Park Ranch	Canadian River near Mills Canyon	Y	1	1	22	3		27	Merriam's
1992	Feb. 23	Cross L Ranch	Perico Creek, SW of Clayton, NM	Y		1	7			8	Merriam's
1992	Mar.	Vermejo Park Ranch	Mills Canyon, Cibola NF	Y			12	2		14	Merriam's
1992	Mar.	Vermejo Park Ranch	Mills Canyon, Cibola NF	Y	1	1	10	1		13	Merriam's
1993	Jan.	Kaiser Steel	SW of Armstrong Camp	Y		4	33			37	Merriam's
1993	Jan.	Kaiser Steel	South of Armstrong Camp	Y			8			8	Merriam's
1993	Jan.	Kaiser Steel	Head of Big Crow	Y		6				6	Merriam's
1993	Jan.	Kaiser Steel	Mid Big Crow	Y		4	35			39	Merriam's

**APPENDIX 1: Transplants of Wild Turkey in New Mexico; 1939-2008 (Continued) \*\***

Year	Month	Capture Location	Release Location	Success Y/N/Unk	Male		Female		Unk.	Total Birds	Subspecies
					Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile			
1993	Jan. 27	Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, NM	Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque	Y	1	2				3	Merriam's
1993	Jan. 27	Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, NM	Near Gas Buggy, Carson NF	Y		8	16	9		33	Merriam's
1993	Feb. 13	Private land west of Folsom, NM	Gallinas Mts.	Y	1	1	24	3		29	Merriam's
1993	Feb. 25-26	Vermejo Park Ranch, Cimarroncita Ranch, and Private land on Ute Park	Near 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Canyon, Manzano Mts.	Y	7		15	11		33	Merriam's
1993	Mar. 3-4	Bosque del Apache NWR	Black River Recreation Area (BLM) near White City	Y	2	1	8	6		17	Rio Grande
1993	Mar. 3-4	Bosque del Apache NWR	Rio Grande south of Los Lunas	Y	2		6	4		2	Rio Grande
1995	Feb. 13	Private land west of Folsom, NM	Gallinas Mts.	Y	2	7	6	2		17	Merriam's
1995	Feb. 23	Private land west of Folsom, NM	Perico Creek, SW of Clayton, NM	Y		1	6			7	Merriam's
1995			Jicarilla Ranger District, Carson NF	Y							Merriam's
1995	Feb. 25	Crow Canyon, Vermejo Park Ranch	Near 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Canyon, Manzano Mts.	Y			15	14		29	Merriam's
1996	Jan. 27	Cimarroncita Ranch, Ute Park	Near 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Canyon, Manzano Mts.	Y	2					2	Merriam's
1996	Jan. 27	Ute Park	Near 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Canyon, Manzano Mts.	Y	6					6	Merriam's
1996	Jan. 23 & Feb. 8	Private land west of Folsom, NM	Tres Piedras and Questa Ranger Districts, Carson NF	Y	16	5	52	35		98	Merriam's

**APPENDIX 1: Transplants of Wild Turkey in New Mexico; 1939-2008 (Continued) \*\***

Year	Month	Capture Location	Release Location	Success Y/N/Unk	Male		Female		Unk.	Total Birds	Subspecies
					Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile			
1996	Feb. 25		Manzano Mts.	Y							Merriam's
1999	Feb. 5	Near Cheyenne, OK	SW of Hatch, NM	Unk.	6	4	16	9		35	Rio Grande
2000	Feb. - Mar.	Vermejo Park Ranch	Pelona Mt.	Unk.		17	5	6		28	Merriam's
2002	Mar.	Texas	Near Roswell	Y						102	Rio Grande
2004	Feb.	Chama	Luera's							20	Merriam's
2004	Feb.	Chama	Double H Ranch							19	Merriam's
2004	Feb.	Chama	Sandia Mts.							22	Merriam's
2005/2006	Winter	Private land in Sacramento Mts.	Monticello Canyon, Horse Mt., and NE of Farmington, NM							45	Merriam's
2006/2007	Winter	Sacramento Mts.	Guadalupe Mts.							18	Merriam's
2006/2007	Winter	Chama, NM	Magdalena Mts.							17	Merriam's
2007/2008	Winter	Private land near Mayhill, NM	Guadalupe Mts.							10	Merriam's
2008	Summer	Huey WMA	Delaware River S. of Carlsbad, NM	Y	33	5	9			47	Rio Grande
2008/2009	Winter	Private land near Mayhill, NM	Guadalupe Mts.							15	Merriam's

\*\* Trap and releases of nuisance/depredation Rio Grande turkeys occurred during the mid-2000s. The capture sites were in northeast New Mexico near Tucumcari. Locations of releases include the Middle Rio Grande Valley and southeast New Mexico near Carlsbad. No records of dates captured nor numbers moved were documented.