

STATE OF WASHINGTON

2012 pamphlet edition

# WILD TURKEY

## *Spring Season*



Photo by Bob Inouye



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**

Special Note: See Page 1 for  
Youth Turkey Season Information

Special Note: See Page 4 for  
mandatory reporting information

# 2012 Wild Turkey Season

Since 1960, three subspecies of wild turkey have been introduced in Washington: the Merriam's, Rio Grande, and eastern.

Currently, the Merriam's subspecies occupies portions of Ferry, Klickitat, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Stevens, Spokane, Okanogan, Chelan, Kittitas, and Yakima counties. Rio Grande turkeys can be found in Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Lincoln, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties. Turkeys of the eastern subspecies can be found west of the Cascades in Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Thurston, and Wahkiakum counties.

## 2012 Spring Season

Area	Dates Open	Restrictions	Bag/Possession Limit
Statewide	April 15 - May 31, 2012 Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset during spring seasons	Gobblers and Turkeys with visible beards ONLY	A total of three (3) turkeys in the spring season with following restrictions: Only two (2) turkeys may be taken in eastern Washington and only 1 of those may be taken in Chelan, Kittitas, and Yakima counties (combined); only (1) turkey may be taken in western Washington per year outside of Klickitat County. Two (2) turkeys may be taken in Klickitat County.

**Additional turkey tags may be purchased at any time. In appropriate areas, two turkeys can be harvested in one day.**

### Special Regulations

- Spring turkey season is open for shotgun (10 gauge or under capable of holding 3 or fewer shells – a plug may be used to meet this requirement – or muzzleloader with shot) and bow-and-arrow hunting only.
- A valid hunting license and an unaltered, unnotched turkey transport tag are required for hunting turkey.
- Immediately after killing a turkey, hunters must validate their own tag by completely removing notches for month and day of kill and securely attach tag to carcass.
- It is unlawful to use dogs, electronic calls or electronic decoys to hunt turkeys.
- Baiting game birds is illegal.
- Turkey hunters must report hunting activity (see page 4).
- Turkey hunters must use #4 shot or smaller (eg. #6 shot).
- It is illegal to possess in the field or transport game birds unless a feathered head is left attached to each carcass, except falconry-caught birds.

### Youth Turkey Season

A youth spring turkey season for hunters under 16 years of age will be held on April 7-8, 2012:

The youth season is open in ALL GMUs.

Standard hunting methods (shotgun or bow and arrow only) and all other turkey hunting regulations apply to the youth season.

### WAC Summary Information

This pamphlet is a summary of the hunting regulations and seasons (chapters 232-12 and 232-28 of the Washington Administrative Code) adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. This pamphlet does not contain all department regulations. Regulations specific to the hunting seasons described in this pamphlet are found in section 232-28-342 of the Washington Administrative Code.

### Wild Turkey License Fees

	Resident	Non-Resident	Youth*
Small game license	\$38.50	\$181.50	\$15.50
Small game, with combined purchase of big game license**	\$22.00	\$96.80	\$8.80
Three-day small game	n/a	\$66.00	n/a
Primary turkey tag	\$15.40	\$44.00	free
Additional turkey transport tags	\$15.40	\$66.00	\$11.00

\* Youth hunters are defined as under 16 when they buy a license.

\*\*License needs to purchase at the same time as any big game license.

### Reward

The Washington Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will pay \$250.00 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals responsible for illegal taking of wild turkeys.

Stop Washington Poachers! To report poaching in progress dial 911. Individuals that witness and would like to anonymously report a fish or wildlife violation can call toll free 1-877-933-9847 (1-877-WDFW-TIP). Remember this is not an information hotline. Other reporting tools can be found at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/poaching/>.

It could pay in more ways than one. The Department of Fish and Wildlife pays rewards for the arrest of people violating wildlife laws.

### Advisory on Emergency Regulations

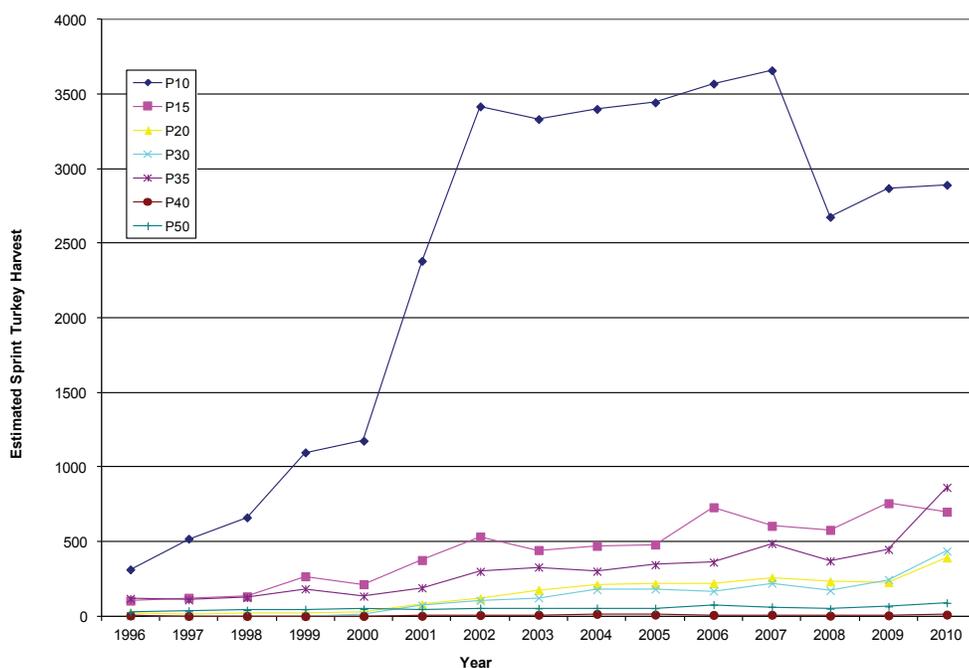
**Caution:** Emergency regulation changes may occur while the seasons described in this pamphlet are in effect and will supersede information contained herein. Area news media will be informed of changes as they occur.

# Estimated Spring Turkey Harvest

PMU	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>P10</b>	313	519	662	1098	1,176	2,382	3,418	3,333	3,401	3,445	3,571	3,660	2,677	2,870	2,892
<b>P15</b>	104	123	132	267	214	376	533	443	471	480	730	605	578	757	700
<b>P20</b>	21	11	20	21	32	78	119	176	209	215	220	258	232	228	393
<b>P30</b>	2	1	0	1	10	73	105	123	178	182	169	221	172	245	436
<b>P35</b>	118	109	125	183	134	190	300	329	301	345	362	487	370	447	863
<b>P40</b>	4	1	1	0	1	2	7	9	15	10	8	9	3	5	10
<b>P50</b>	26	36	40	46	48	47	54	52	54	53	77	62	50	65	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>1,615</b>	<b>3,148</b>	<b>4,536</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>4,629</b>	<b>4,730</b>	<b>5,137</b>	<b>5,302</b>	<b>4,082</b>	<b>4,617</b>	<b>5,383</b>

## Population Management Unit Description

<b>P10 (Northeast):</b>	GMUs 101-136	<b>P35 (Klickitat):</b>	GMUs 382, 388, 578, 574, 572, 568
<b>P15 (Southeast):</b>	GMUs 139-186	<b>P40 (Northwest):</b>	All 400 GMUs PLUS GMUs 601-627
<b>P20 (North Central):</b>	All 200 GMUs	<b>P50 (Southwest):</b>	All 500 GMUs EXCEPT 568, 572, 574, 578, 588 PLUS GMUs 633-681
<b>P30 (South Central):</b>	All 300 GMUs, EXCEPT GMU 382, 388		



**NOTE:** Turkey populations in PMU 40 and 50 have low densities and are often found on private land. Make sure you have appropriate landowner permission when hunting these units.

## Fall Turkey Season

Fall seasons may change, so it is important to check with WDFW after the April meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Commission each year to see what the fall turkey season regulations will be during any particular year. Fall season information will also be made available in the big game pamphlet.

## The Land and Landowners

A true sportsman respects the land and demonstrates this respect and appreciation while in the field. Remember to obtain permission from the owner before entering upon his or her land to hunt or fish. And, while in the field, conduct yourself in a way that will ensure a welcome to those who follow after you.



# IMPORTANT NOTICE:

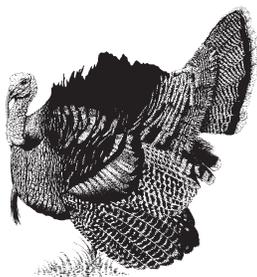
## – Mandatory Reporting –

**Hunters are Required to Report Last Years Hunting Activity Prior to Purchasing a New License.**

Turkey hunters must report their hunting activity whether or not they harvest an animal. Hunters not reporting by January 31 will be subject to a \$10 penalty which must be paid before they can purchase a license for the following year. One hunter report is required for each tag acquired.

Hunters can file reports two ways: by telephone (toll free at 1-877-945-3492) or on the internet at [www.fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov](http://www.fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov); there are no longer paper harvest report cards. Hunters who harvest an animal should file a report within 10 days of taking the animal. Unsuccessful hunters must also report their hunting activity, including location and days hunted. The information will be used by WDFW to better monitor hunter effort, distribution, harvest, and trends.

**Special note for turkey hunters:** Having a spring and fall season can make hunt reporting confusing. If you do not intend to apply for a fall turkey permit or hunt in general fall season, you should report spring turkey hunting activity after May 31st. If you do intend to hunt in the fall, you should wait to report spring activity or fall activity until after the fall season.



You will need the following information to file your report for turkey hunting.

Do **NOT** mail this information to WDFW; reports can **ONLY** be accepted through the toll free number or internet.

1. Whether or not you hunted turkeys.
2. For each turkey tag:
  - a. The number of the GMUs you hunted in (2 most hunted GMUs). Please refer to a Big Game pamphlet or other source for a GMU map.
  - b. The number of days hunted in each GMU.
3. For each turkey you harvest:
  - a. Number of the GMU where turkey was harvested.
  - b. Month, day, and year of harvest.
  - c. Sex of the turkey.
  - d. Age of the turkey: adult, yearling, or juvenile (fall season only)

### 2012 Spring Turkey Season Hunting Hours

– adjusted to be ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

Date	Eastern Washington		Western Washington	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
April 7-8	5:52	7:34	6:05	7:49
April 8-14	5:44	7:39	5:57	7:54
April 15-21	5:31	7:49	5:43	8:04
April 22-28	5:19	7:58	5:31	8:14
April 29-May 5	5:07	8:08	5:19	8:23
May 6-12	4:57	8:17	5:09	8:33
May 13-19	4:48	8:26	5:00	8:42
May 20-26	4:40	8:34	4:52	8:50
May 27-31	4:36	8:40	4:47	8:57

Colville Wild Turkey Daze

April 15  
to  
May 31



**2012**

Youth Hunt  
Under 16  
April 7 & 8  
First Tag Free for Youth!

Wild Turkey Capital of Washington

#### Turkey hunting location map!

Want to hunt turkeys but don't know where to go? Go to <http://www.mapmet.com/Game/TractsMap.html> and find a spot! The map, which you can download into Google Earth or use as a stand-alone, displays areas on public land that offer good opportunities for finding turkeys during the spring hunting season. All these areas are open to public hunting. Some of the areas border private land and the owners might or might not allow hunting. Respect private property: do not trespass on private land without the landowner's permission. The site was built in cooperation with all public land wildlife biologists in Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille Counties.

Hunters can go to [www.colville.com](http://www.colville.com) for information on accommodations, sporting goods and supplies, restaurants, family events, current weather conditions and guide services.

For more information: Colville Chamber of Commerce  
121 E. Astor Ave.  
Colville, WA 99114  
509-684-5973  
[www.colville.com](http://www.colville.com)



## Access to State Recreation Lands



The **Discover Pass** is your ticket to nearly 3 million acres of state lands managed by WDFW, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and Washington State Parks. Your purchase of a Discover Pass helps to keep recreation access open on these state lands.

You don't need a Discover Pass to hunt and fish on WDFW-managed lands. When you purchase a hunting or fishing license, you also receive a complimentary Vehicle Access Pass that gives you access to hunt and fish on WDFW-managed lands.

However, to hunt on many DNR managed lands and to fish on DNR managed lands AND state parks, you will need a Discover Pass. (Hunting is not allowed in state parks)

Learn more about when and where you need a Discover Pass and how to purchase the pass at:

[www.discoverpass.wa.gov](http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov).

The Discover Pass is just \$30 per year or \$10 for a day-use pass.

(Transaction fees may apply)



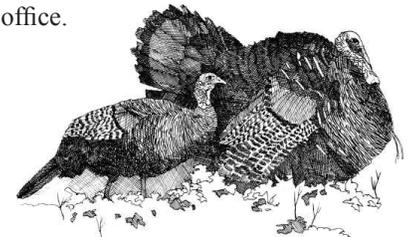
## Vehicle Access Pass

You must clearly display a Vehicle Access Pass (VAP) to park a vehicle at all posted WDFW wildlife areas and water access sites. The VAP must be visible from outside the vehicle (they can be placed on the dash or hung from the rear-view mirror) and can be switched between two vehicles. You can get a rear-view mirror hanger from your local license dealer. VAPs are free with an annual Combination, Saltwater, or Freshwater license.

For a list of locations requiring the VAP, visit:

[wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/)

or visit a WDFW regional office.



## Sex and Age of Wild Turkeys

### Outer Wing Feathers

**Hen**  
Middle toe less than 4 inches long



**Adult**  
**Immature Hen**



**Adult**  
**Immature Tom**

**Gobbler**  
Middle toe greater than 4 inches long



### Breast Feathers



**Hen**  
**(Buff Tip)**



**Tom**  
**(Black Tip)**



**Hen**



**Tom**

**Spur**

### Tail Feathers



**Mature Tom**  
**(Adult)**



**Immature Tom**  
**(Juvenile)**

# Safe and Ethical Turkey Hunting

1. **Be absolutely positive of your target.** After you pull the trigger, it's too late.
2. **ALWAYS ask permission to hunt on private land.** Most landowners are cooperative if you ask.
3. **Do not attempt to stalk a turkey.** That gobbler you're stalking may be another hunter.
4. **Unless absolutely necessary, don't use a gobbler call.** This call can be productive, but also very dangerous. Use this call when all else fails and then sparingly.
5. **Never wear any red, white, or blue clothes.** These are the colors of the gobbler's head, the primary target of the turkey hunter.
6. **Never presume what you hear is a turkey.** Many hunters are convincing callers.
7. **Select a calling site that gives at least 40 yards of vision in all directions and sit with your back to a large tree.**
8. **If another hunter is working a bird, don't spoil it by calling or spooking the bird.**
9. **Make sure that the gobbler is within sure range of the shotgun and shoot only the neck and head.**
10. Should you see another hunter (especially if he/she is close to your "line of sight") call out to the hunter in a **loud, clear voice.**

## Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

*Phil Anderson, Director*

*Nathan Pamplin, Assistant Director, Wildlife Program*

### Olympia Office

Mailing Address  
600 Capitol Way N  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091  
(360) 902-2200

### Visitors - Natural Resources Bldg

1111 Washington St SE

### Region One - Spokane

315 N. Discovery Pl  
Spokane, WA 99216  
(509) 892-1001

### Region Two - Ephrata

1550 Alder St NW  
Ephrata, WA 98823-9699  
(509) 754-4624

### Wenatchee Office

3860 Chelan Hwy N  
Wenatchee, WA 98801-9607  
(509) 662-0452

### Region Three - Yakima

1701 S 24th Ave  
Yakima, WA 98902-5720  
(509) 575-2740

### Region Four - Mill Creek

16018 Mill Creek Blvd  
Mill Creek, WA 98012-1296  
(425) 775-1311

### Region Five - Vancouver

2108 Grand Blvd  
Vancouver, WA 98661-4624  
(360) 696-6211

### Region Six - Montesano

48 Devonshire Rd  
Montesano, WA 98563-9618  
(360) 249-4628

## Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

*Miranda Wecker, Chair, Naselle*

*Gary Douvia, Vice Chair, Kettle Falls*

Larry Carpenter, Mount Vernon

David Jennings, Olympia

Jay Kehne, Omak

Conrad Mahnken, Ph.D., Bainbridge Island

Chuck Perry, Moses Lake

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Bradley Smith, Ph.D., Bellingham

### Washington Department

of Fish and Wildlife

Commission Phone:

**(360) 902-2267**



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: WSFR-4020, Arlington, VA 22203

# Washington Slam

The Washington Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Wildlife is sponsoring brass pins in recognition of achieving the "Washington Slam."

The eastern, Merriam's, and Rio Grande subspecies of wild turkey currently inhabit Washington state. For the purposes of the "Washington Slam," subspecies are defined by county of kill. Merriam's: Ferry, Klickitat, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Chelan, Kittitas, Okanogan, Yakima, Spokane and Stevens; Rio Grande: all eastern Washington counties except Ferry, Klickitat, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Chelan, Kittitas, Okanogan, Yakima, Spokane and Stevens; eastern: all western Washington counties

except Klictitat and Skamania. The taking of 1 of each of these subspecies constitutes a "Washington Slam." This achievement will be verified by successful hunters returning their game harvest report cards to WDFW and completion of record forms available upon request from the Washington Chapter of NWTFF. These forms will also be used for submission of information to establish Washington state turkey records.

**For Record Information only:  
Washington State Chapter  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Rich Reathaford  
(509) 279-2030**



## Single Season Pin

(all 3 subspecies taken in spring season)

### 1995

Dick Finch

### 1996

Dan Blatt, Sr.  
Glen Richard

### 1997

Dick Finch  
Ted Fleckner  
Vincent Fulginitti  
Russell Kuehn

### 1998

Quincy Atchley  
B. Ray Bjork  
Jeff Bolt  
Eric Braaten  
Ted Fleckner  
Steve Hanson, Jr.  
Russell Keuhn  
Matt Mimnaugh  
Brad Richard

### 1999

Ron Brockavich  
Ted Fleckner (archery)  
Russell Kuehn  
George Martin  
Art Meikel  
Brad Richard  
Mike Vaughn  
Harry Williamson

### 2000

Quincy Atchley  
Lee Atkins  
Jay Brightbill  
Douglas Burnett  
Larry Harness  
Ryan Kilbury  
Gary Meade  
Kathleen Neault  
Mike Vaughn

### 2001

Jay Brightbill  
Ted Fleckner  
Randy Wherrett

### 2002

Quincy Atchley  
Mike Cloke  
Chase Olson

### Alan Poe

Debbie Ruble-Lycan  
Mike Tuthill  
Zachary Wearstler

### 2003

B. Ray Bjork  
Thomas Bostrom  
Ron Brockavich  
Raymond Lampers  
Stephan Rose  
Ronald Stoller  
Zachary Wearstler

### 2004

Thomas Bostrom  
Esteban Calderon  
Andy Cloke  
Andy Grunewald  
Paul Hite  
David Hoel  
Darwin Koistinen  
John McKeever  
Kathleen Neault  
Mark Simonson  
Zachary Wearstler

### 2005

Esteban Calderon  
Michael Crowder

### David Hoel

Larry Kukes  
Ray Lampers  
John McKeever  
Kathleen Neault

### 2006

Esteban Calderon  
Ted Fleckner  
Paul Hite  
David Hoel  
Ray Lampers  
Matt Mimnaugh  
Kathleen Neault

### 2007

Thomas Bostrom  
Esteban Calderon  
Jeff Cannon  
David Hoel  
John Hunter  
Ray Lampers  
Kathleen Neault

### 2008

Thomas Bostrom  
David Hoel  
Ray Lampers  
John McKeever  
Bob Shaw

### 2009

Thomas Bostrom  
Seth Bynum  
Esteban Calderon  
David Hoel  
Ray Lampers  
Kathleen Neault  
Dennis Olsen  
Bob Shaw

### 2010

Steve Hanson  
David Hoel  
Ray Lampers  
Brad Richard  
Bob Shaw  
Marc Shaw

### 2011

James Allan  
David Hoel  
Colby Longshore  
Alan Poe  
Brad Richard  
Glen Richard  
Bob Shaw

## Washington Slam Award Winners



## Multiple Season Pin

(all 3 subspecies taken in 2 or more seasons)

### 1995

William Olson

### 1996

Jay Brightbill  
Scott Comstock

### 1997

Dan Blatt, Sr.  
Julie McCellan  
Chris Wagemann

### 1998

Ron Brockavich  
Charles Laier  
Gary Meade

### 1999

Cecil Bailey, Jr.  
Dan Blatt, Jr.  
Vincent Fulginiti  
Robert Hirst  
Chris Wagemann

### 2000

George Martin  
Lance Steele

### 2002

B. Ray Bjork  
Larry Bowers  
Ron Brockavich  
Randy Hensley  
Ambrose Ott  
Mark Stahl

### 2003

Rhonda Toompas  
John McKeever

### 2004

B. Ray Bjork  
R. Scott Dixon  
Jerry Prescott  
Mark Stahl  
Jim White

### 2005

Jay Brightbill

### 2006

Jay Brightbill

### 2007

B. Ray Bjork

### 2008

B. Ray Bjork  
Joseph Lipczynski  
Dennis Olsen

### 2009

Jay Brightbill

### 2010

Joseph Lipczynski  
Alan Poe

### 2011

Gregory Anderson  
Travis Arnott