

STATE OF WASHINGTON

2017 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

# 2017 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. The Eastern subspecies can be found west of the Cascades in Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Thurston, and Wahkiakum counties.

## 2017 Spring Season

Area	Dates Open	Restrictions	Bag/Possession Limit
Statewide	April 15 - May 31, 2017 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 one (1) of those may be taken in Chelan, Kittitas, or Yakima counties (combined); only one (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.**

## Youth Turkey Season

- Youth license holders may hunt during a special youth only spring turkey season on April 1 and 2, 2017.
- The youth season is open statewide.
- Must be accompanied by adult, 18 years or older.
- Standard hunting methods and all other turkey hunting regulations apply to the youth season. (The combined youth/spring season bag limit is the same as listed for spring seasons above.)

## 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), bow-and-arrow, and crossbow hunting only. Hunters with disabilities who qualify for special use permits under WAC 220-414-070 may use a crossbow.
- 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, live birds, 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 (e.g., #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.

## WAC Summary Information

This pamphlet is a summary of the hunting regulations and seasons (chapters 220-400-640 and 220-415-417 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 220-416-010 of the Washington Administrative Code.

## Wild Turkey License Fees

	Resident	Non-Resident	Youth*	Disabled***
Small game license	\$40.50	\$183.50	\$18.50	\$18.50
Small game, with combined purchase of big game license**	\$22.00	\$96.80	\$8.80	\$8.80
Three-day small game	n/a	\$68.00	n/a	n/a
Primary turkey tag	\$15.90	\$44.50	\$0.50	\$15.90
Additional turkey transport tags	\$15.90	\$66.50	\$11.50	\$15.90

- \* Youth hunters are defined as under 16 when they buy a license.
- \*\* License needs to be purchased at the same time as any big game license.
- \*\*\* Refer to Big Game or Migratory Waterfowl and Upland Game Pamphlets for requirements.

## 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

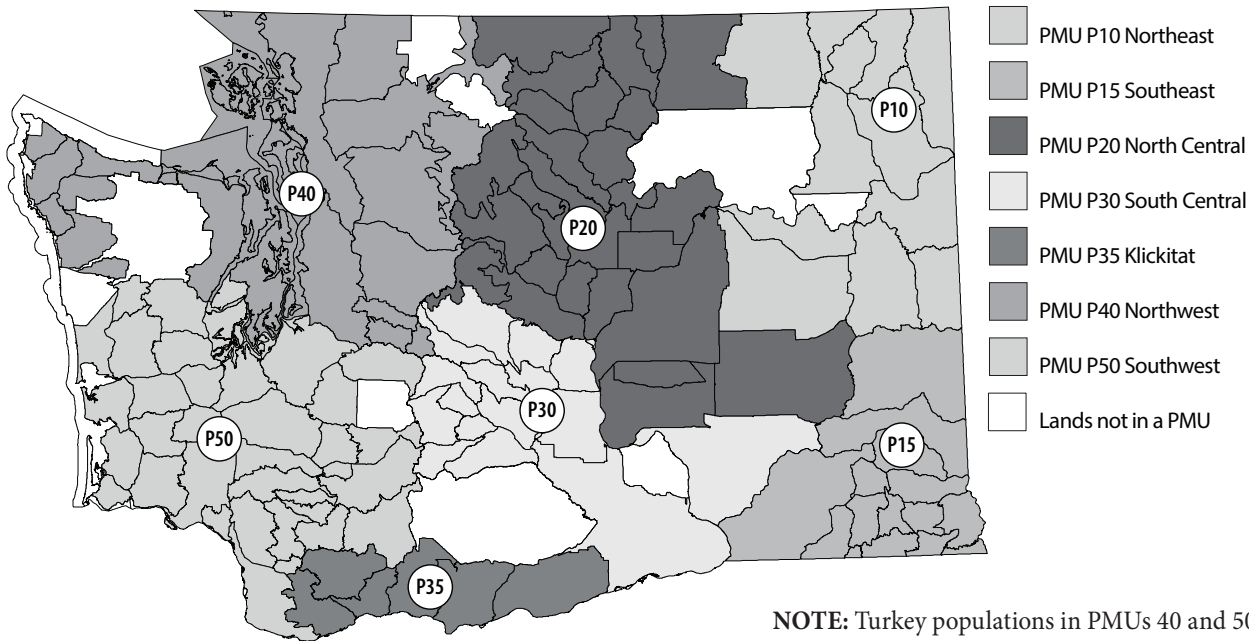
**Caution:** Emergency regulation changes may occur while the seasons described in this pamphlet are in effect and will supersede information contained herein. Area news media will be informed of changes as they occur.

# Estimated Spring Turkey Harvest

PMU	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
P10	1,098	1,176	2,382	3,418	3,333	3,401	3,445	3,571	3,660	2,677	2,845	2,861	3,695	2,512	2,400	2,461	3,397
P15	267	214	376	533	443	471	480	730	605	578	761	731	866	642	533	500	531
P20	21	32	78	119	176	209	215	220	258	232	228	412	231	203	188	181	260
P30	1	10	73	105	123	178	182	169	221	172	245	418	234	162	143	137	157
P35	183	134	190	300	329	301	345	362	487	370	447	889	473	514	474	436	475
P40	0	1	2	7	9	15	10	8	9	3	5	13	8	5	5	1	3
P50	46	48	47	54	52	54	53	77	62	50	65	68	41	30	25	25	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>1615</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>4,596</b>	<b>5,392</b>	<b>5,548</b>	<b>4,068</b>	<b>3,768</b>	<b>3,743</b>	<b>4,561</b>

## Population Management Unit (PMUs) Description

<b>PMU 10 (Northeast):</b>	GMUs 101-136	<b>PMU 35 (Klickitat):</b>	GMUs 382, 388, 578, 574, 572, 568
<b>PMU 15 (Southeast):</b>	GMUs 139-186	<b>PMU 40 (Northwest):</b>	All 400 GMUs PLUS GMUs 601-627
<b>PMU 20 (North Central):</b>	All 200 GMUs	<b>PMU 50 (Southwest):</b>	All 500 GMUs EXCEPT GMUs 568, 572, 574, 578, 588 PLUS GMUs 633-681
<b>PMU 30 (South Central):</b>	All 300 GMUs, EXCEPT GMUs 382, 388		



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

## 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 Hunting Seasons and Regulations 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. While in the field, conduct yourself in a way that will ensure a welcome to those who follow after you.



# IMPORTANT NOTICE:

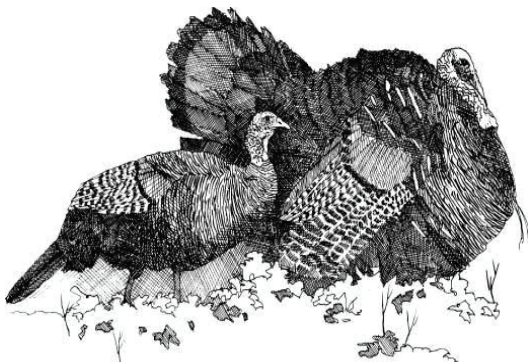
## – Mandatory Reporting –

### Hunters are Required to Report Hunting Activity by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Turkey hunters must report their hunting activity even if they did not hunt or harvest an animal. Hunters not reporting by January 31 will be subject to a \$10 administrative fee 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 online at [fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov](http://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov). Paper harvest report cards are not accepted. Hunters who harvest an animal should file a report within 10 days of harvest. 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 hunter reporting confusing. If you do not intend to apply for a fall turkey permit or hunt in fall general 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 or email this information to WDFW; reports can **ONLY** be accepted through the toll free number or online.

1. Whether or not you hunted turkeys.
2. For each turkey tag:
  - a. The number of the Game Management Units 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)

## COLVILLE WILD TURKEY DAZE

**April 15 to  
May 31**

**Youth Hunt Under 16  
April 1 & 2**

**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 [www.mapmet.com](http://www.mapmet.com) and find a spot!**

The maps, 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.

Hunter 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  
986 So. Main St., Ste. B  
509-684-5973  
[www.colville.com](http://www.colville.com)



### 2017 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 1-2	6:01	7:26	6:15	7:41
April 15	5:37	7:44	5:49	7:59
April 16-22	5:29	7:50	5:42	8:05
April 23-29	5:17	8:00	5:29	8:15
April 30 - May 6	5:05	8:09	5:18	8:24
May 7-13	4:55	8:18	5:08	8:34
May 14-20	4:47	8:27	4:59	8:43
May 21-27	4:39	8:35	4:51	8:51
May 28-31	4:34	8:42	4:46	8:57

## 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 (DNR), 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: [discoverpass.wa.gov](http://discoverpass.wa.gov), or scan the QR code below.

- The annual Discover Pass is just \$30 or \$35.\*
- One-day pass is \$10 or \$11.50.\*
- Passes can be switched between two vehicles.

\*The cost with transaction and dealer fees if purchased at a license dealer, by phone or online.



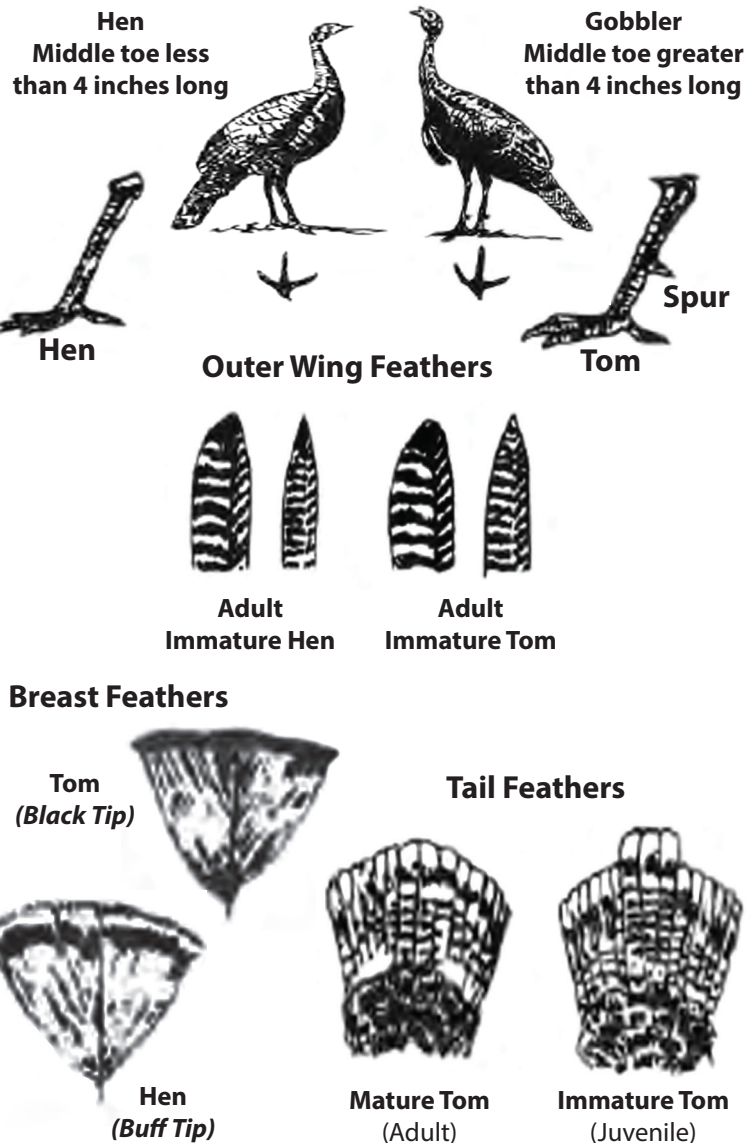
## Vehicle Access Pass

You must clearly display a Vehicle Access Pass (VAP), or Discover Pass, 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. A VAP is free with the purchase of an annual hunting, fishing, or trapping license. It cannot be purchased separately. 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



WITH A

**FRIEND**

EVERY OUTING IS AN

**ADVENTURE**



*Bring a New Hunter!*

### 2 Ways to Bring a Friend Turkey Hunting

- 1 Hunter Education Course**  
All first time hunters have to complete a **Hunter Education course** prior to purchasing their initial hunting license. They can take a traditional course or the online course. The online course also has a field skills evaluation requirement.
- 2 Hunter Education Deferral**  
If your friend has not completed Hunter Education, they can **apply for a one-year, once-in-a-lifetime Hunter Education Deferral** to try hunting before completing a Hunter Education course. They would have to be accompanied by someone **18 or over** that has held a **Washington hunting license for the previous three years**. They also cannot have failed a Hunter Education course in the last year.

# 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

**Jim Unsworth, Director**

**Eric Gardner, 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  
Olympia, WA 98501

### Region One - Spokane

2315 N. Discovery Pl  
Spokane Valley, 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

**Bradley Smith, Chair, Ph.D., Bellingham**

**Larry Carpenter, Vice Chair, Mount Vernon**

David Graybill, Leavenworth

Jay Holzmilller, Anaton

Jay Kehne, Omak

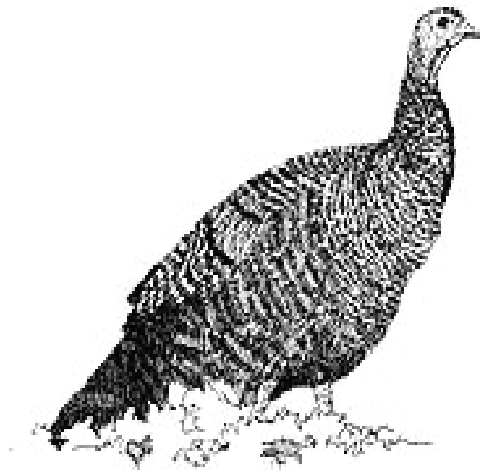
Robert "Bob" Kehoe, Seattle

Barbara Baker, Olympia

Kim Thorburn, Spokane

Miranda Wecker, Naselle

**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: WFSR-4020, Arlington, VA 22203

# Washington Slam

The Washington Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) 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 Klickitat

and Skamania. Due to smaller populations, the Eastern subspecies is challenging to locate. The taking of one 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 NWTf. These forms will also be used for submission of information to establish Washington State turkey records.

**For Record Information only:**  
**Washington State Chapter, NWTf**  
**Rich Reathaford**  
**(509) 279-2030**



Single Season Pin  
 (all 3 subspecies taken in spring season)



Multiple Season Pin  
 (all 3 subspecies taken in 2 or more seasons)

## Washington Slam Award Winners

(A) Archery Equipment, (M) Muzzleloader

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
James Allan	Greg Anderson	Larry Aiello	Jason Bye	Jason Bye	Jason Bye
David Hoel	Thomas Bostrum	B. Ray Bjork	David Hoel	Paul Hite	David Hoel
Colby Longshore	Seth Bynum	Seth Bynum	Brad Richard	David Hoel	Ray Lampers
Alan Poe	David Hoel (M)	David Hoel	Aden Rotschy	Bob Shaw	Robert Morgan
Brad Richard	Alan Poe	Ray Lampers			Bob Shaw
Glen Richard	Bob Shaw	John McKeever			
Bob Shaw		Bob Shaw			

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<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2015</b>
Gregory Anderson	B. Ray Bjork	No Awards	No Awards
Travis Arnott	Jay Brightbull	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>
	Joseph Lipczynski	No Awards	Esteban Calderon
	John McKeever		



N A T I O N A L W I L D T U R K E Y F E D E R A T I O N

## The NWTf

Facing the challenges to our hunting heritage

- Creating new hunters and hunting license holders
- Reversing wild turkey population declines
- Increasing access to public hunting lands
- Slowing the loss of critical habitat



### How you can help protect our way of life

- Join the NWTf at [nwtf.org](http://nwtf.org)
- Volunteer with your local chapter
- Start a local chapter

<http://www.nwtf.org/about/state/washington>

[www.facebook.com/WashingtonNWTf](https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonNWTf)

