

STATE OF WASHINGTON

2019 pamphlet edition

# WILD TURKEY

## *Spring Season*



*Photo by Patty Appel*



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

# 2019 Wild Turkey Spring Season

Three subspecies of wild turkey have been introduced in Washington: the Merriam's, Rio Grande, and Eastern.

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

## 2019 Spring Season

Area	Dates Open	Restrictions	Bag/Possession Limit
Statewide	April 15 - May 31, 2019 Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset during spring seasons	Male turkeys and turkeys with <b>visible beards only</b>	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 6-7, 2019.
- 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.
- 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.

## WAC Summary Information

This pamphlet is a summary of the hunting regulations and seasons (chapters 220-400 through 220-417 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 and Tag 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

**Stop Washington Poachers!** To report poaching in progress, dial 9-1-1. 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/>.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife pays rewards for the arrest of people violating wildlife laws.

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.

## Advisory on Emergency Regulations

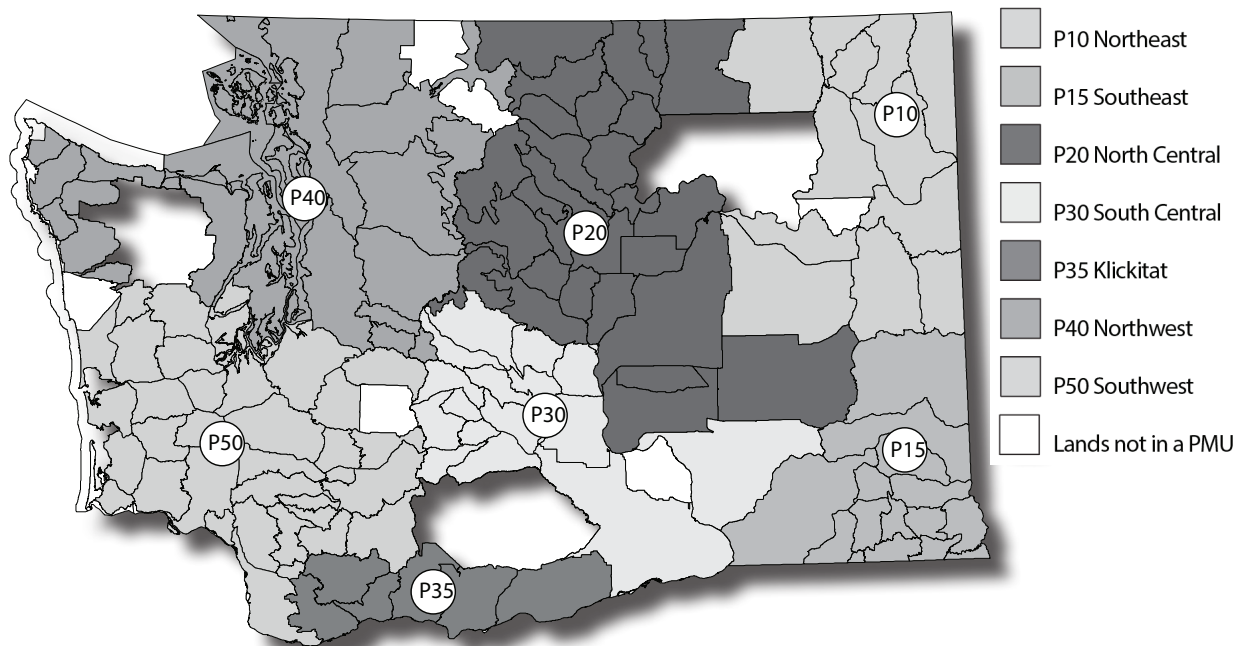
**Caution:** Emergency regulation changes may occur while the seasons described in this pamphlet are in effect and will supersede information contained herein. Area news media will be informed of changes as they occur.

## Population Management Units (PMUs)

PMU	PMU Name	GMUs Included	Subspecies	Portion of statewide 2017 spring turkey harvest
P10	Northeast	101-136	Merriam's and Rio Grande	69%
P15	Southeast	39-186	Rio Grande	10%
P20	North Central	All 200 GMUs	Merriam's	7%
P30	South Central	All 300 GMUs EXCEPT GMU 382 & 388	Merriam's	4%
P35	Klickitat	GMUs 382, 388, 568-578	Merriam's	9%
P40	Northwest	All 400 GMUs PLUS GMUs 601-627	Eastern	<1%
P50	Southwest	All 500 GMUs EXCEPT 568-578 PLUS GMUs 633-699	Eastern	1%

Harvest data for each PMU are available in the annual Game Harvest Reports or Status and Trend Reports ([wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/game](http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/game)). GMU maps and descriptions are available online at [wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/gmu](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/gmu).

**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 turkey seasons and regulations will be available in the Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations and the Migratory Waterfowl and Upland Game Seasons pamphlets (see [wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations)).

# Hunting Access

A true sportsman respects the land and demonstrates this respect and appreciation while in the field. Remember to obtain permission from the landowner before accessing their 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. The Discover Pass provides access to state recreation lands and can be purchased online at [discoverpass.wa.gov](http://discoverpass.wa.gov), by phone at (866) 320-9933, or in person wherever hunting licenses are sold. You'll receive a complimentary Vehicle Access Pass for WDFW lands when you purchase an annual hunting license. More information on hunting access is available at [wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting\\_access](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting_access).

## WDFW Private Lands Program

Finding places to hunt in Washington is becoming more of a challenge. With more than half of the state's land in private ownership, WDFW has worked with landowners across the state, developing relationships and providing technical assistance for a variety of programs to increase public access to private lands. The Private Lands Program encompasses two main areas of emphasis; recreational access and habitat conservation through Farm Bill programs. Staff across the state work with private landowners to develop the best strategy for their lands and for wildlife. WDFW regional Private Lands Biologists are strategically located across the state to provide assistance to landowners looking for help with hunting access, technical assistance with habitat conservation programs, or a variety of other access issues. WDFW's Private Lands Program is focused on working with landowners to provide recreational opportunity to the public. The Private Lands Program staff work with a variety of landowners who may own agricultural farm land, private industrial timber land and/or wetland/water access sites. WDFW works with landowners big and small. Some agreements are with landowners with as few as 5 acres and others with as many as tens of thousands of acres. WDFW also provides all signage, technical assistance and aids in communication with enforcement for all lands enrolled. As of fall 2018, WDFW offers four different types of access agreements to landowners; Feel Free to Hunt, Hunt by Reservation, Register to Hunt and Hunt by Written Permission. To find specific private lands enrolled in any of these programs, please visit our private lands access website at [wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting\\_access](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting_access).

### Tips for Hunting on Private Land

1. **Respect** private property and landowners.
2. **Ask for permission** well in advance of the season and make a good first impression.
3. **Offer assistance** to a landowner (e.g., fixing fences, cutting firewood, picking up trash etc.).
4. **Give** the landowner **your information** (full name, cell phone number, vehicle information etc.).
5. **Pack out all garbage** - leave no trace.
6. **Leave gates** how you found them.
7. **Do not drive through fields** or private property unless you have permission from the landowner.
8. **Know** the property **boundaries!** Avoid trespassing!
9. **Remove** all parts of any **harvested game**, unless instructed otherwise by the landowner.
10. **Be aware** of all buildings, equipment and livestock.
11. **Thank the landowner** for providing access.
12. **Always remember - hunting on private land is a privilege - NOT a right.**

## COLVILLE WILD TURKEY DAZE

April 15 to  
May 31

Youth Hunt Under 16

April 6 & 7

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, display areas on public land that offer good opportunities for finding turkeys during the spring hunting season.

**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.

All of these areas are open to public hunting. Some of the areas border private land and the owners might or might not allow hunting.

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



## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

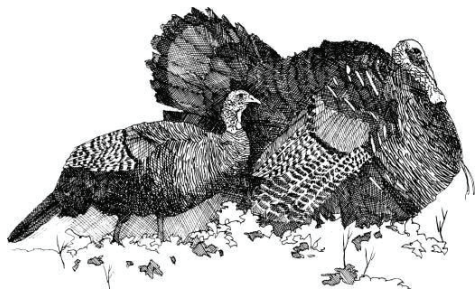
### - Mandatory Reporting -

#### Hunters are Required to Report Hunting Activity by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Turkey hunters will owe hunting activity reports (spring and/or fall) for each turkey transport tag purchased. Turkey hunters must report their hunting activity for each tag even if they did not hunt or harvest a bird.

Hunters can submit reports online at [fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov](http://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov) or by telephone (toll free at 1-877-945-3492). Hunters who harvest an animal should submit a report within 10 days of harvest and all reports must be submitted by January 31. Hunters who fail to report 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. Unsuccessful hunters must also report their hunting activity, including location and days hunted. WDFW will use this information to better monitor hunter effort, distribution, harvest, and trends.

Having a spring and fall season can make reporting confusing for turkey hunters. Any hunter who holds a turkey transport tag during the spring season must submit a spring report for that tag, even if they did not hunt or harvest in the spring. Any hunter who holds an unfilled turkey tag during the fall season must submit a fall report for that tag, even if they did not hunt or harvest in the fall.



### 2019 Spring Turkey Season Hunting Hours

½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Date	Eastern Washington		Western Washington	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
April 6-7	5:55	7:35	6:05	7:45
April 15-21	5:35	7:50	5:45	8:05
April 22-28	5:20	8:00	5:30	8:15
April 29 - May 5	5:10	8:10	5:20	8:20
May 6-12	5:00	8:20	5:10	8:30
May 13-19	4:50	8:25	5:00	8:40
May 20-26	4:40	8:35	4:55	8:50
May 27-31	4:35	8:40	4:45	8:55

For example, if a hunter holds a turkey transport tag during the spring season and is unsuccessful, they can use that tag in the fall, and therefore a report for both spring and fall will be required.

You will need the following information for each tag and season (spring or fall) to submit your turkey hunting activity reports.

1. Whether or not you hunted turkeys.
2. If you hunted:
  - a. The two Game Management Units (GMU) you hunted in the most. Please refer to [wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/gmu](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/gmu) or the Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations pamphlet for a GMU map.
  - b. The number of days you hunted in each GMU.
3. If you harvested:
  - a. The GMU in which the turkey was harvested.
  - b. Month, day, and year of harvest.
  - c. Sex of the turkey.



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.

# Sex and Age of Wild Turkeys

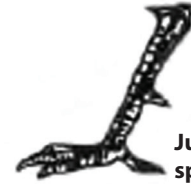
**Female**  
Middle toe less than 4 inches long



**Hen**



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



**Spur**

Juvenile male: rounded spur (bump)

**Male**

Adult male: pointed spur

## Two Outermost Wing Feathers



Adult: feather tips are rounded  
Juvenile: feather tips are pointed

## Breast Feathers



**Female**  
(Buff Tip)



**Male**  
(Black Tip)

## Tail Feathers



**Adult Male**



**Juvenile Male**



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](http://www.facebook.com/WashingtonNWTF)



# Safe and Ethical Turkey Hunting

1. **Be sure 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. **Call out in a loud, clear voice if you see another hunter** (especially if they are close to your "line of sight").

For more information, see *The Basics of Turkey Hunting in Washington* at [wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/turkey](http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/turkey).

## Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Kelly Susewind, Director**

**Eric Gardner, Assistant Director, Wildlife Program**

Website: [wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov)

### Olympia Office - Wildlife Program

Mailing Address  
PO Box 43200  
Olympia, WA 98504-3200  
(360) 902-2515

### Visitors - Natural Resources Bldg

1111 Washington St SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

### Region One - Spokane

2315 N. Discovery Place  
Spokane Valley, WA 99216-1566  
(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 98012-1541  
(425) 775-1311

### Region Five - Vancouver

5525 S 11th Street  
Ridgefield, WA 98642  
(360) 696-6211

### Region Six - Montesano

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

## Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission

**Larry Carpenter, Chair, Mount Vernon**

**Barbara Baker, Vice Chair, Olympia**

David Graybill, Leavenworth

Jay Holzmilller, Anatone

Robert "Bob" Kehoe, Seattle

Kim Thorburn, Spokane

Don McIsaac, Hockinson

Bradley Smith, Ph.D., Bellingham

**Washington Department of  
Fish and Wildlife Commission**

**Phone: (360) 902-2267**

**Website: [wdfw.wa.gov/commission/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/)**

**Email: [commission@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:commission@dfw.wa.gov)**



Published by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), 2019. PO Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200. Website: [wdfw.wa.gov](http://wdfw.wa.gov). Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Larry Carpenter, Chair, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission.

This program receives Federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex (in educational programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please contact the WDFW, ADA Coordinator at 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia WA 98501 or write to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chief, Public Civil Rights Division, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240

# First Turkey Program



## Did you harvest your first turkey this year?

Send us your info and receive an official Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) First Turkey Certificate.

### Certificate requirements:

1. Hunt and harvest your first turkey
  2. Report your harvest online at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov> or by calling toll free 1-877-945-3492.
  3. Email the following information to: [outreach@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:outreach@dfw.wa.gov)
    - First and last name
    - Date of harvest
    - Subspecies
    - Mailing address
- And ONE of the following:**
- Email address associated with your WILD account
  - Turkey report confirmation number

### To receive your NWTF First Turkey pin:

1. Call the Washington State Chapter of the NWTF
2. When registering your First Turkey in the Washington state NWTF records, provide a copy of your WDFW First Turkey certificate.
3. NWTF will then send you your First Turkey pin.

NWTF WA State Chapter  
Rich Reathaford  
509-279-2030



# 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 Challenge:** Harvest all 3 subspecies - Eastern, Merriam's, and Rio Grande. For the purposes of the "Washington Slam," subspecies are defined by county of harvest. **See the list of subspecies by county at the beginning of the spring turkey regulations.**

### To receive your Washington Slam pin:

1. Report your harvest online at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov> or by calling toll free 1-877-945-3492.
2. Call the Washington State Chapter of NWTF to complete and submit record forms.

NWTF WA State Chapter, Rich Reathaford: 509-279-2030



## Single Season Award Winners (all 3 subspecies taken in a single season)

### 2014

Jason Bye  
David Hoel  
Brad Richard  
Aden Rotschy

### 2015

Jason Bye  
Paul Hite  
David Hoel  
William Patterson  
Bob Shaw

### 2016

Jason Bye  
David Hoel  
Ray Lampers  
Robert Morgan  
William Patterson  
Bob Shaw

### 2017

Jason Bye  
Jeffrey Cannon  
David Hoel  
Bonnie Loney  
Gerry Loney Jr  
Dalton McCorkle

### 2018

Jason Bye  
David Hoel  
Gerry Loney

## Multiple Season Award Winners (all 3 subspecies taken in 2 or more seasons)

### 2014

Joseph Lipczynski

### 2015

Joseph Lipczynski

### 2016

Esteban Calderon

### 2017

Joseph Lipczynski