

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 08/26/2022	
ISSUE:	Should the Southwest Youth Extended Season for fall turkey be expanded to a statewide level and include all available Game Management Units (GMU's)?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>The SW Region extended the youth turkey hunting opportunities by creating an extended youth turkey season to include the week of Thanksgiving for youth turkey hunters with unfilled fall turkey licenses. Essentially, this gives youth hunters with unfilled fall licenses the opportunity to hunt the Saturday before Thanksgiving to the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The concept was to create additional youth hunting opportunities as well as fostering a tradition of "putting the Thanksgiving turkey on the table" by the young hunter. CPW believes that providing youth hunting opportunities and particularly mentored youth hunting opportunities is good for kids, families and wildlife management in the State. Hunting incident data collected across the US and Canada shows that young people, when mentored by adults, are the safest of all hunters.</p> <p>Discussions around youth participation in hunting center around providing additional opportunities; however, much of that opportunity is available only when school is in session. Families have to choose between school, athletics, and hunting. Allowing youth hunters the opportunity to hunt when school is out and parents or other family members have taken vacation may help families avoid having to choose between school and hunting. Fall turkey hunting does not require the larger caliber rifles as big game and there is no minimum age allowing more youth participation. This has been a successful opportunity in the SW and we recommend expanding throughout the state.</p> <p>We are proposing to expand the youth extended season statewide and would also like to include limited turkey units. Therefore, a youth hunter with an unfilled turkey license for a limited unit will also be able to hunt that same unit during the Thanksgiving break. The unfilled limited license would only be valid in the same unit or units it was valid in during the regular fall season and would not be valid in any OTC units. Additionally, the unfilled license would be subject to any and all restrictions that existed during the regular season such as PLO, etc. OTC licenses would only be valid in OTC units and would not be valid in any limited unit.</p> <p>There are an estimated 450 youth fall OTC licenses sold every year and around 100 youth fall limited licenses sold each year so the impacts to field staff from this proposal are expected be minimal statewide. The extended youth turkey hunting season has successfully increased youth turkey hunting in the SW Region and it is recommended to expand the extended youth turkey season statewide to increase youth hunting opportunities.</p>	
<p>STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:</p> <p>*IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.</p>	
<p>[List stakeholder groups and briefly summarize comments received</p> <p>Youth turkey hunters and their families statewide and other hunters that may have overlapping seasons during the same time frame. CPW staff have received positive feedback from hunters on this proposal.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	

1. *Preferred Alternative*: Youths under 18 years of age may hunt turkey from the Saturday before Thanksgiving through the Sunday after Thanksgiving, provided they possess an unfilled youth fall turkey license. Youth may only hunt in the GMU their original unfilled license was valid in; youths with unfilled OTC licenses may hunt in any OTC GMU but may not hunt in a limited unit that the original OTC license was not valid in. All hunters must comply with applicable regulations for the hunt in which they participate, and are accompanied by a mentor. A mentor must be at least 18 years of age and comply with hunter education requirements. The mentor may not hunt.

2. Status Quo

Issue Raised by:	Brandon Muller
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Jason Surface; Brandon Muller
CC:	AWMs, RMs, Senior Biologists
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Mark Leslie
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	NE, SE, NW, Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO