

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 08/09/2024

ISSUE: Should GMU 63 be added to the list of valid units for the Over-the-Counter (OTC) fall turkey hunting?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Game Management Unit (GMU) 63 is located in the Southwest Region of Colorado, and is one of only three GMUs in the Region that is currently not open to fall Over-the-Counter unlimited (OTC) turkey hunting.

Where appropriate, current management of turkey populations allows one either-sex turkey to be harvested during the fall season, with an unlimited over-the-counter (OTC) license. GMU 63 is currently open to hunting during the OTC spring season, where harvest is restricted to only bearded or male turkeys, however it is not open during the fall season, which regulations allow harvest of either female or male turkeys. CPW and local community observations indicate a stable number of turkeys spread throughout GMU 63 and neighboring units. CPW proposes adding GMU 63 to the valid units for OTC fall turkey season.

GMU 63 was originally excluded from OTC fall hunting season after a turkey reintroduction effort occurred more than a decade ago. Hunting opportunity was originally limited to protect the growing turkey population and allow for successful reestablishment. We believe the population is now robust and healthy enough to sustain an OTC fall hunting season, which is also consistent with the surrounding GMUs.



Figure 1: Game Management Units open to fall either-sex Over-the-Counter turkey hunting are shaded in with tan.

GMU 63 Boundaries:

Bounded on the north by Colorado Highway 92 (CO-92); on the east by CO-92, the Delta-Montrose Co line, the Smith Fork - Dyer Creek divide, the Smith Fork - Curecanti Creek divide, Curecanti Pass, and Curecanti Creek; and on the south and west by the Gunnison River.

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:

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

Area 16 Staff
Turkey Hunters
Landowners

Formal public involvement has not been conducted, however, feedback from hunters contacted in the field and landowners in the GMU support the reopening of the fall OTC turkey season in GMU 63.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative*:** Add GMU 63 to the list of valid units for Over-the-Counter fall turkey season (Hunt Codes: TE000U2R and TE000U3R).
2. **Status quo:** No change

Issue Raised by:	Area 16 Staff
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Codi Prior – District Wildlife Manager
CC:	Area 16, Brandon Diamond, and Jamin Grigg
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Cory Chick
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	YES
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Area 16
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	YES