

Agenda Item 7

Small Game Seasons WAC 232-28-342



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Mick Cope
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Wildlife Program

Overview

Amend WAC 232-28-342:

- Minor adjustments to small game seasons established during the 2015-17 three-year package



Proposed Changes

Amend WAC 232-28-342 to increase turkey hunting opportunity:

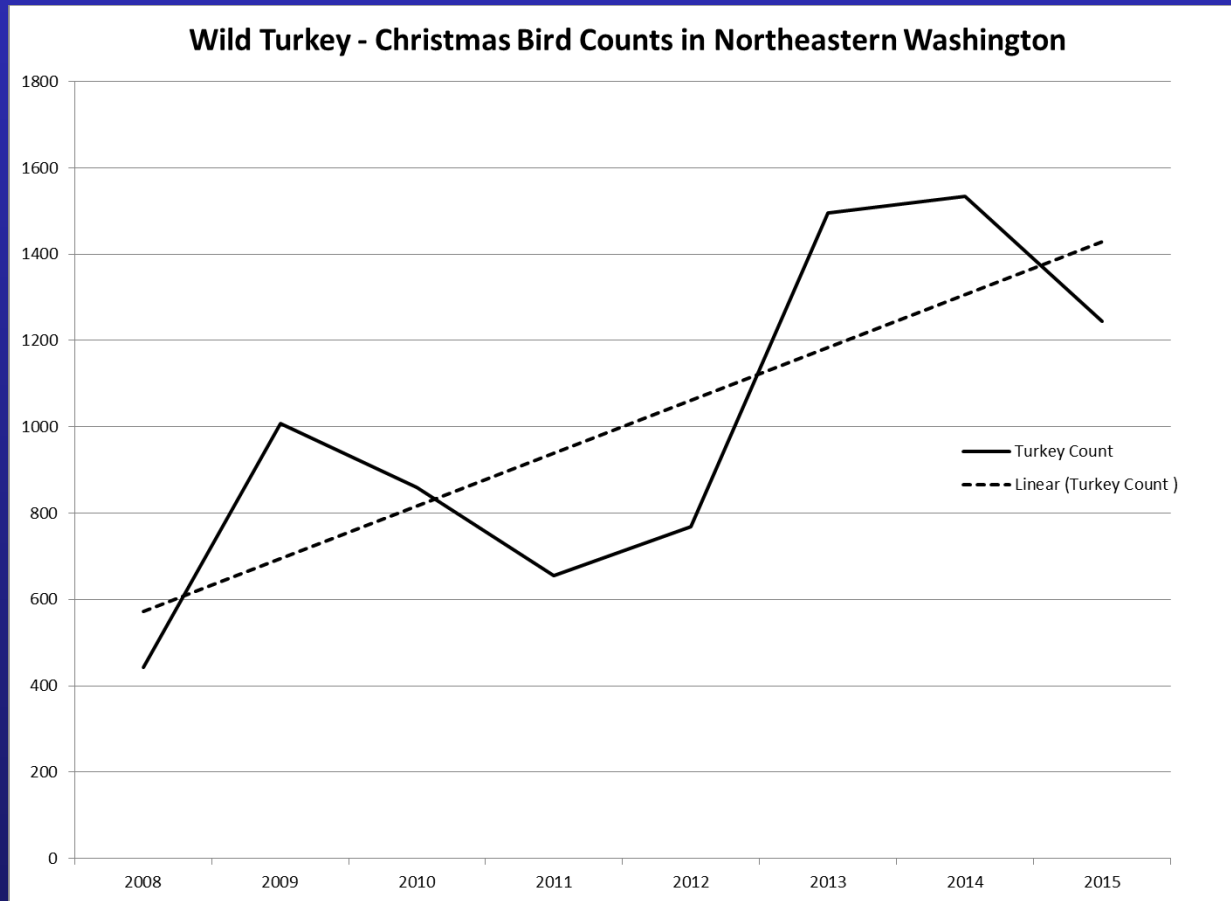
- Add 17-18 additional season days in GMUs 101-142 during the early fall general season in NE Washington during October 2016 and 2017



Wild Turkey

Rationale

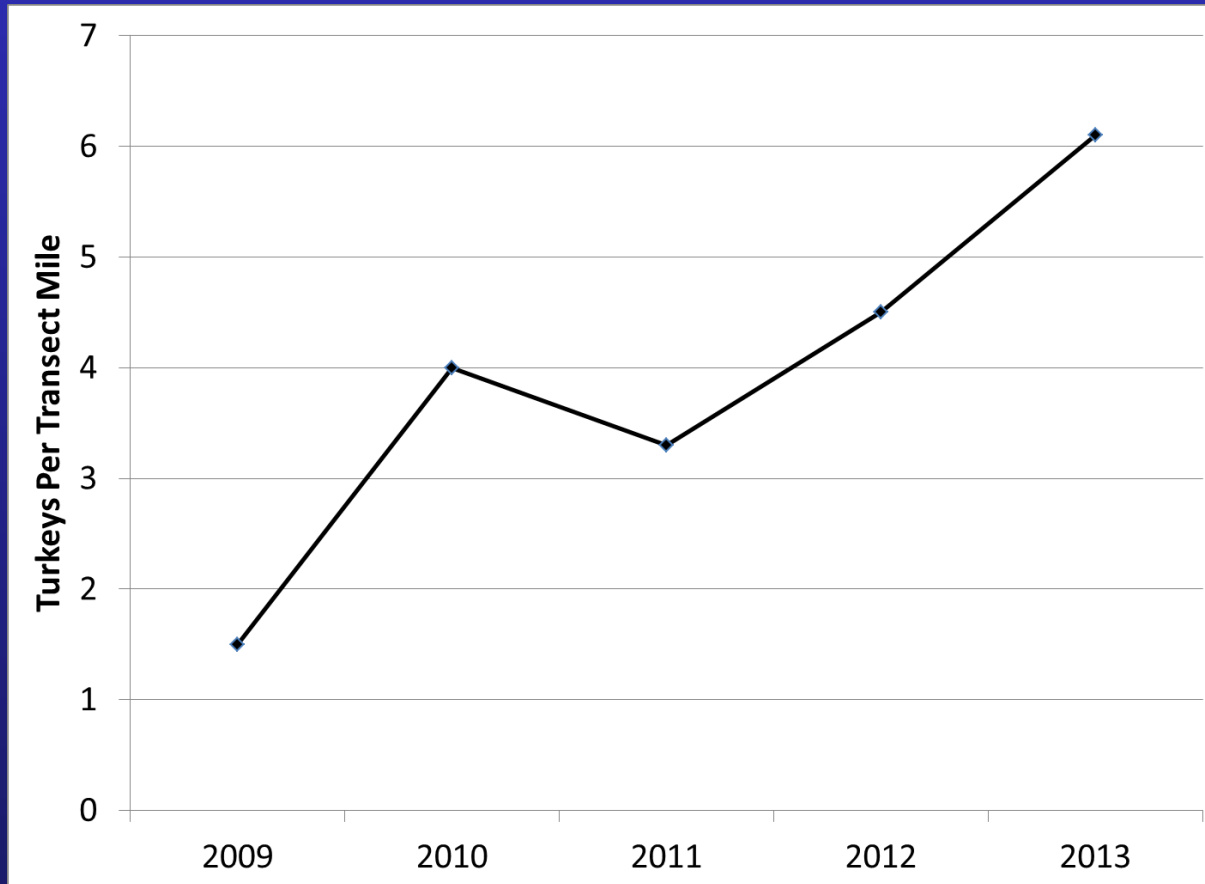
Indicators of Wild Turkey Population Trends



Wild Turkey Christmas Bird Counts – NE WA

Rationale

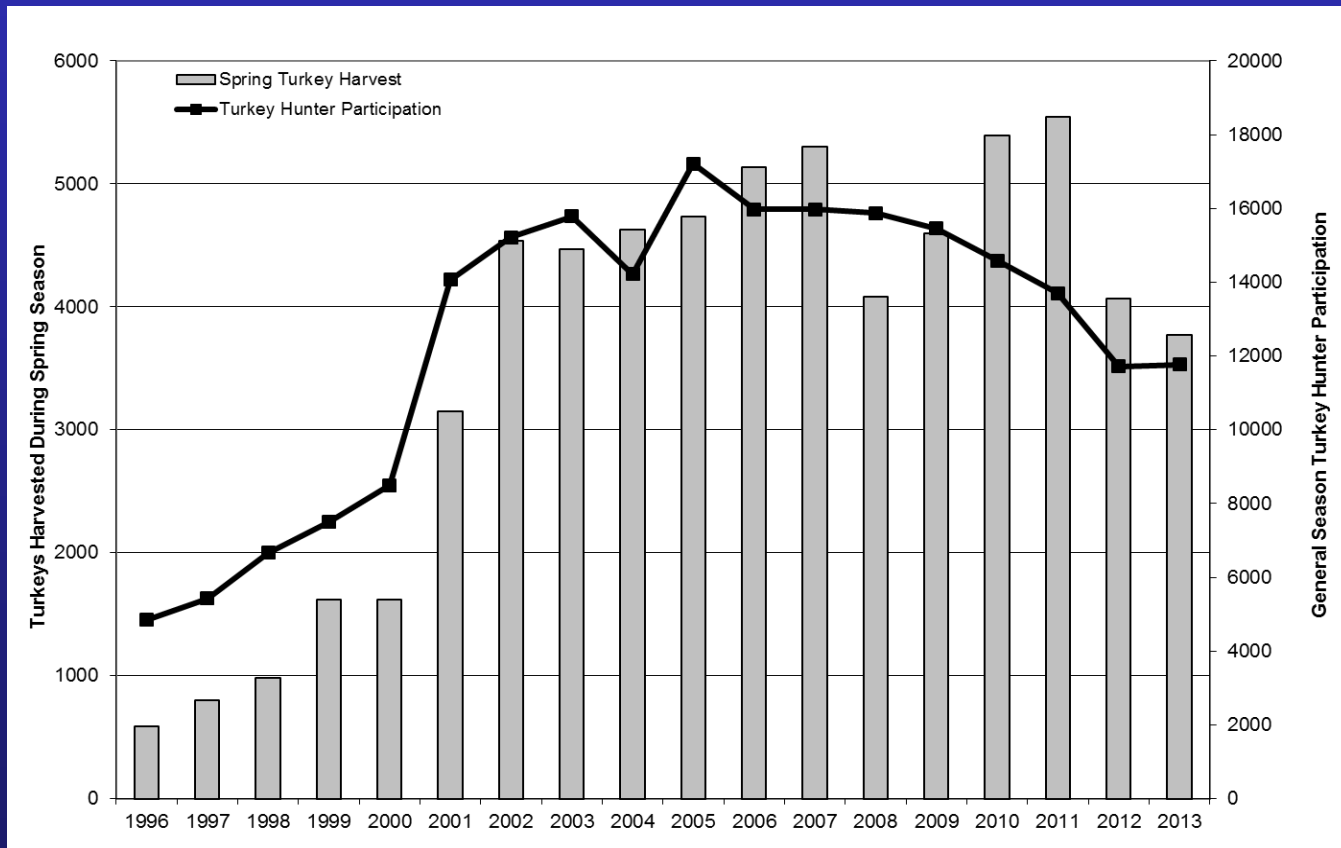
Indicators of Wild Turkey Population Trends



WDFW District 1 Road Transect Turkey Counts

Rationale

Spring turkey harvest and hunter participation



Proposed Changes

Amend WAC 232-28-342:

- Allow hunters with disabilities to participate in special early season for hunters sixty-five years of age or older (late September)
- Allow hunters with disabilities to hunt in the morning on both odd-numbered and even-numbered weekend days



Ring-necked Pheasant

Rationale:

Increased opportunity for hunters with disabilities

Proposed Changes

Amend WAC 232-28-342:

- Delete migratory bird seasons from 232-28-342 and transfer to 232-28-436

Rationale:

- Simplifies rules by putting them all in one WAC
- Aligns with the new federal process for all migratory birds



Public Comment

- Public comments supported more fall turkey hunting opportunity and proposed pheasant changes.
 - Increased nuisance turkey problems, especially in NE Washington



Questions?

