



2015 Spring Turkey Season Proposal

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Maintain current opening day of the Wednesday nearest April 15, but the first 5 time periods are all one week long each, followed by 1 longer season (9-13 days) ending on May 31. Each season starts on a Wednesday and includes a full weekend.

What has changed? The current season structure has 8 time periods ranging in length from 5 to 7 days, some without weekend days and this will be changed to 5 time periods each 7 days long with all including a full weekend. The season will run to May 31 every year.

What is the same? The season opening date.

Lottery only in the first 2 time periods

What has changed? The current structure contains 3 lottery time periods for 15 total hunting days and this will be changed to having 2 lottery periods for a total of 14 hunting days.

What is the same? The remaining time period licenses will be sold over-the-counter in an unlimited number.

All unsuccessful hunters from first 5 seasons can hunt in final longer season on their original license.

What has changed? This is a new opportunity. Previously adult gun hunters were limited to only hunting in the one time period selected. With this proposal any unsuccessful gun hunter from the 5 previous time periods can hunt the last longer time period with their original license and get a final chance to bag a turkey.

What is the same? Hunters will still be restricted to the zone selected at the time of purchase.

Bag limit remains one bearded turkey

What has changed? Nothing; the bag limit will remain 1 bearded turkey.

Archery season is from Wednesday nearest April 15 to May 31, with unlimited participation.

What has changed? This proposal extends the archery season to include the entire season, start to finish. Archery hunters will be able to hunt during the lottery time periods.

What is the same? Licenses will be sold over-the-counter in an unlimited number. Hunters can purchase only one license type- either an archery or gun license.

Participants in official adult mentored hunts do not need to apply in the lottery.

What has changed? If you are an adult and being mentored in an official adult mentored hunt taking place during the first 2 time periods, you will not have to apply in the lottery to hunt.

What has not changed? Persons still need to purchase a license. All youth do not need to apply in the lottery.

Allow turkey hunting in the entire state

What has changed? The previously closed “non-range” area of northern Minnesota is now open to turkey hunting. The area will be incorporated into the existing northern zones. Most of this new open area has few turkeys.

What has not changed? Hunters will still have to select a single turkey hunting zone and participate in the lottery if they wish to hunt during the first two time periods.

Allow all persons who hunt turkeys in turkey permit area 510 (greater metro area) to hunt the entire season with an unlimited number of licenses offered

What has changed? Hunters in the 510 turkey permit area are no longer limited to just one time period- they can hunt in any and all of them, and they would not need to apply in the lottery.

What has not changed? Hunters still need to choose permit area 510, and only hunt within that area. The bag limit is still one bird.

What else has not changed? Youth can still hunt for the entire season and do not need to apply in the lottery. Landowner preference is still in effect. The lottery system still incorporates preference. All other turkey hunting rules still apply.