



STATE OF NEVADA

#20

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Game Division

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MEMORANDUM

May 31, 2016

To: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and Interested Publics

From: Brian Wakeling, Administrator, Game Division *BFW*

Title: **Amendment of Biennial Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 Upland Game Release Plan – For Possible Action**

Description: The Commission will hear a request to amend the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 to consider additional release locations for wild turkeys.

Presenter: Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa

Agenda No: 20

Summary:

The Department develops a 2-year plan that considers upland game releases, which may be conducted under appropriate conditions. The latest upland game plan was approved by the Commission in June 2015. The Department considers opportunities and suggestions during the course of implementation, and when appropriate the Department may present suggested modifications to the release plan for the Commission's consideration.

Wild turkeys are a popular game bird, and at times seem to thrive in portions of Nevada. The Department has received suggestions that some opportunities exist to expand turkey populations within White Pine County. Using source stock that is acclimated to local conditions is generally considered to be the best management practice for translocations, and turkeys are currently flourishing in Great Basin National Park. This may provide an opportunity to establish a wild flock on nearby Mount Moriah in the northern Snake Mountain Range. The Department is proposing to amend the upland game release plan to allow for the release of Merriam's turkeys on Mount Moriah, pending environmental clearances, which will be captured in or near Great Basin National Park or from a neighboring state such as Idaho.

Amendment of Biennial Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 Upland Game Release Plan

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Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Commission **VOTE TO AMEND THE BIENNIAL FISCAL YEARS 2016 AND 2017 UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN AS PRESENTED.**



SMALL GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY - ADDENDUM

SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES: Merriam's Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo merriami*)

INTRODUCTION: X, or **AUGMENTATION:** _____

FISCAL YEAR OF PLANNED RELEASE: 2017

RELEASE SITE:

NAME: Mount Moriah, Hunt Unit 114

COUNTY: White Pine

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T18S R68E, Sec. 16, T19S R69E Sec. 15, or T18S R70E
Sec. 35

TRANSPLANT STOCK: Great Basin National Park (pending National Park Service
approval).

COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES: U.S. Forest Service

AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT: Categorical Exclusion or letter of approval needs to be
obtained from U.S. Forest Service.

OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS: _____

NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS: NDOW will notify NWTF members as well as local
interested sportsmen to assist with trapping and release.

HABITAT EVALUATION: Habitat in the Snake Mountain Range is suitable for
Merriam's wild turkeys, as is evident by the robust Merriam's turkey population in the south
Snake Mountain Range. Upland habitat ranges from lower elevation pinyon juniper woodlands
to high elevation fir, pine, and aspen stands, with plentiful forage from pine nuts, juniper berries,
berries from various mountain shrubs species, native grasses, forbs, and insects. Numerous and
expansive riparian areas offer a diversity of berries, forbs, and grasses, along with a diversity of
insects available for forage. Dense riparian vegetation allows for adequate cover and escapement
from predators. Numerous cottonwood trees and Ponderosa Pines are available for roosting
trees.

PREDATOR EVALUATION: No predator control efforts are recommended at this time.

COMMENTS: The turkey population within and around Great Basin National Park seems to be well suited to this particular habitat type, making this population a preferred source for establishing a turkey population within nearby Mount Moriah. If this scenario is not possible, then the Department will seek opportunities for Merriam's Turkey in Idaho, which was the original source for the Hunt Unit 115 population.

NDOW REGION: Eastern

DATE PREPARED: May 26, 2016