

Oregon Wild Turkey Management Plan 2018 Update

**ODFW Commission Meeting
December 7, 2018**

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Presentation Outline

- Review Process
- Notable Updates
- Overview
- Management Strategies*
- Trap and Transplant Guidelines*

*Proposed rule adoption



Review Process

- **Jan. 2017 - Update requested by NWTF**
- **Internal review**
- **Draft available online**
- **Public meetings, stakeholder input**



Notable Additions and Updates from 2004



- Population maintenance vs. expansion
- Trap and transplant guidelines
- Disease testing guidelines
- Habitat strategies
- Wildlife control operators
- Merriam's subspecies
- Current reference literature (40+)

PLAN OVERVIEW



Section 1 – Introduction

A. Plan purpose and development

- More turkeys = increased human interaction
- Public education and awareness
- Monitoring and maintaining populations in suitable areas
- Balance recreation with habitat capability and land use

AGENCY MISSION

To protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.



Agency Principles

- ❖ Emphasize safety in the workplace
- ❖ Develop effective relationships based on trust and confidence
- ❖ Provide proactive and solution-based fish and wildlife management based on sound science
- ❖ Work as a team to accomplish our mission
- ❖ Promote workforce enhancement and inclusion
- ❖ Ensure fiscal integrity



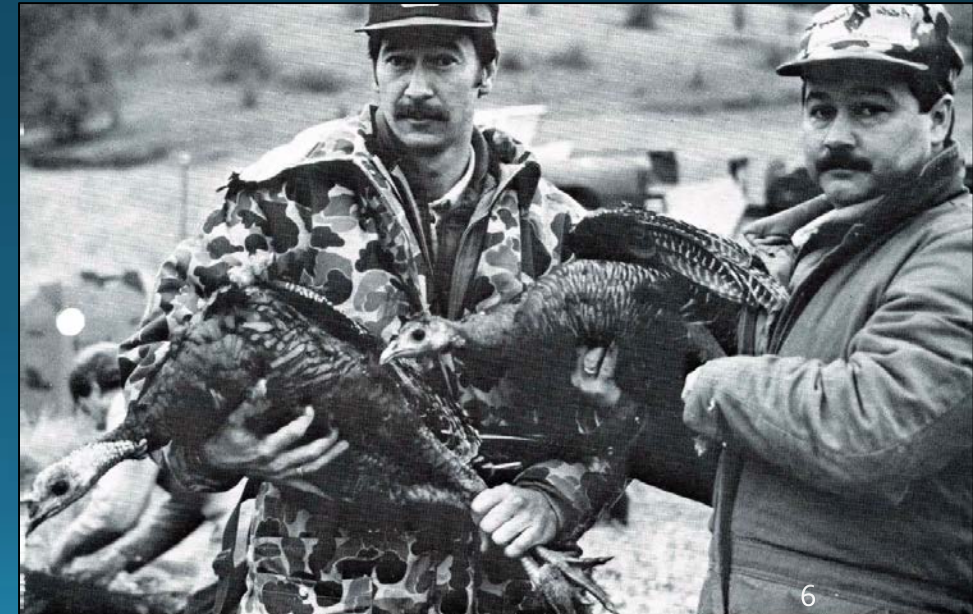
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

PLAN OVERVIEW

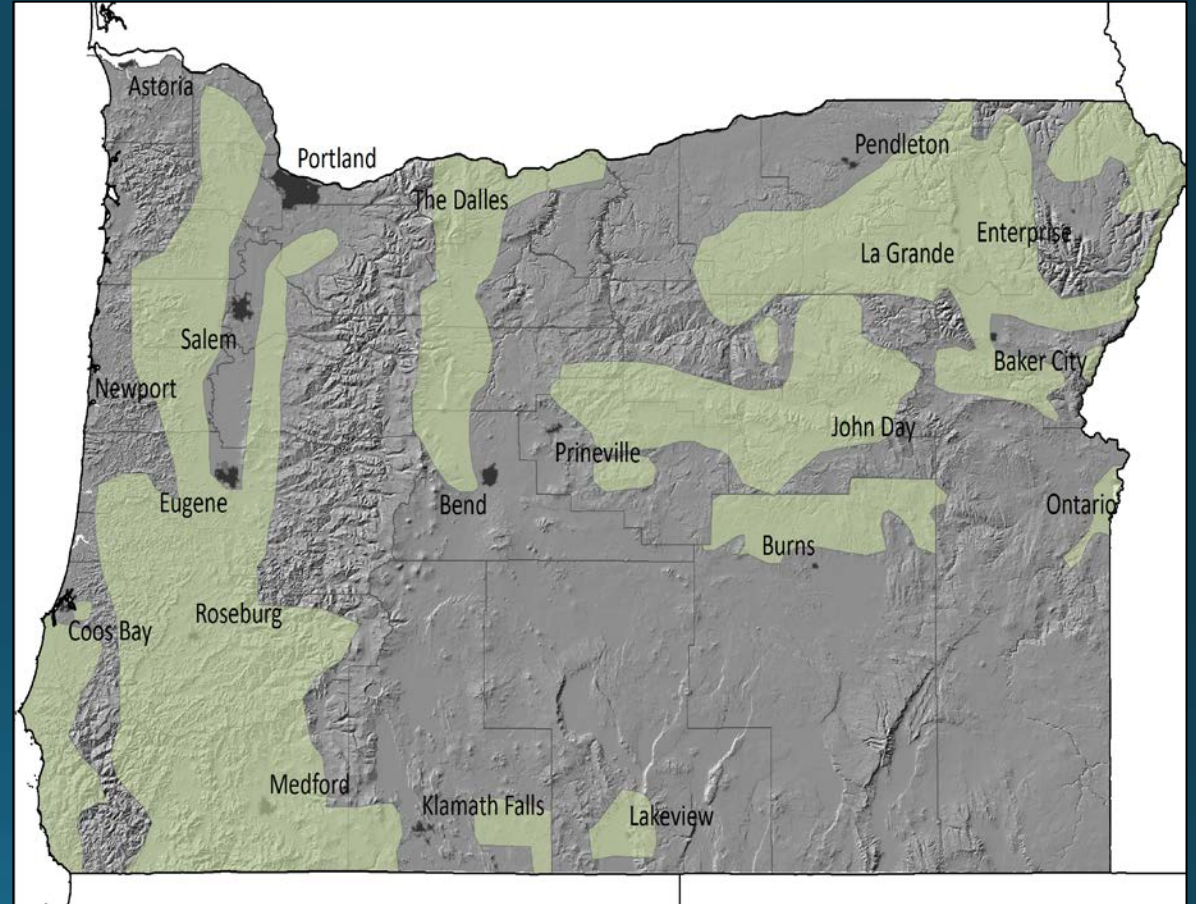
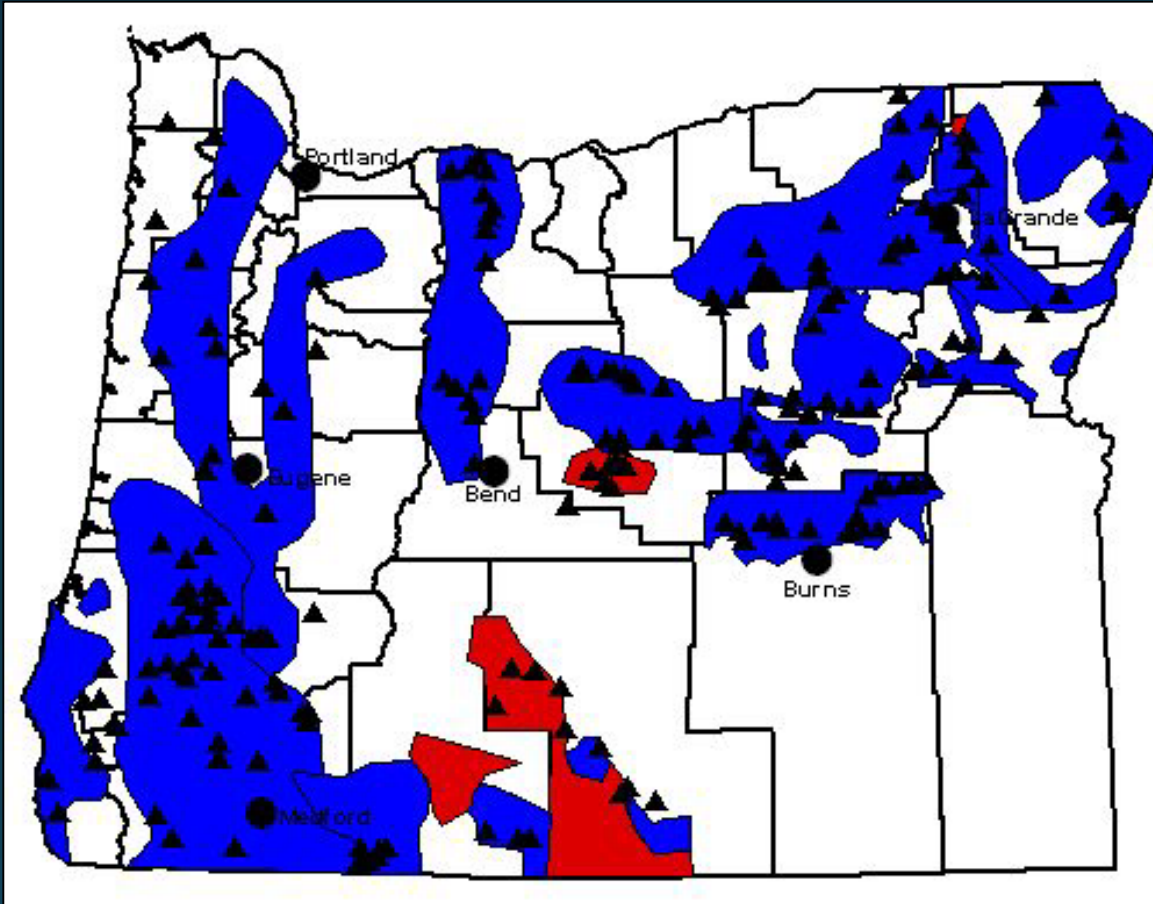
Section 1 – Introduction

B. History of wild turkeys in Oregon

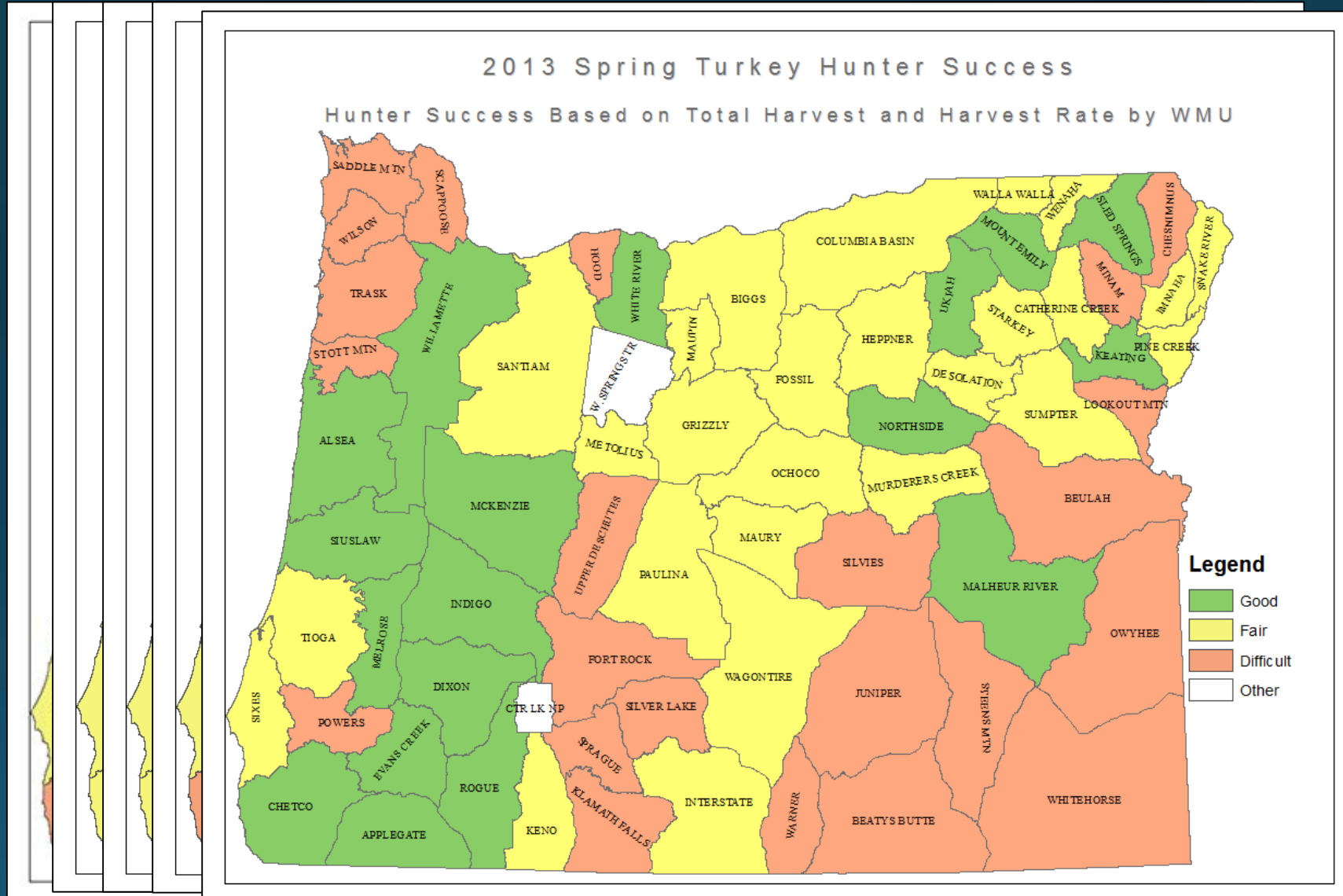
- 1899 - Private releases in southern OR
- 1926 – Game Commission released 1,504
- 1961 – 58 Merriam’s released at 3 sites
- 61-85 – 295 Merriam’s at 18 sites
- 1975 – 20 Rio Grande near Medford
- 75-17 – 14K+ turkeys translocated
- Current population: 40,000-45,000



2004 vs 2018 Range Map



SPRING SUCCESS (1993-2013)



PLAN OVERVIEW



Section 2 – Wild Turkey Ecology

- A. Description
- B. Taxonomy and Genetics
- C. Reproduction and Productivity
- D. Survival
- E. Mortality Factors
- F. Habitat Characteristics
- G. General Habits



PLAN OVERVIEW

Section 3 – Public Interest

- A. Harvest Management
- B. Economics
- C. Wildlife Viewing
- D. Nuisance and Damage



PLAN OVERVIEW



Section 4 – Management Guidelines*

- Strategies for each guideline

Literature Cited

- 40+ new citations

Appendices

- Trap and Transplant Guidelines*
- Historical data



* Proposed rule adoption

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES



- 1. Harvest Management**
- 2. Habitat Management**
- 3. Nuisance and Damage**
- 4. Emergency and Supplemental Feeding**
- 5. Risk to Native Wildlife**
- 6. Turkey Hunter Education and Safety**
- 7. Wild Turkeys as an R3 Species**
- 8. Unauthorized Turkey Releases**
- 9. Disease and Parasites**
- 10. Population Monitoring**
- 11. Research**

1. HARVEST MANAGEMENT



- Maintain spring seasons
- Seek improved access on private land
- Youth opportunities
- Translocation should enhance hunting opportunity
- Use fall seasons for population management
- Improve emergency hunt process



2. HABITAT MANAGEMENT



- **Multiple-species benefits**
- **Properties with public access**
- **Partnerships**
- **Cooperate with NWTf on habitat project selection**



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3. NUISANCE AND DAMAGE



- **Wildlife Damage Policy (2008)**
- **Address feeding issues**
- **Fall season and emergency hunts**
- **Wildlife Control Operators and USDA-Wildlife Services**



4. EMERGENCY & SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING

- Feeding by the public is highly discouraged
- Department may utilize short-term alternate food sources in acute nuisance/damage situations
- Short-term winter feed may be utilized in extreme weather circumstances



5. RISK TO NATIVE WILDLIFE



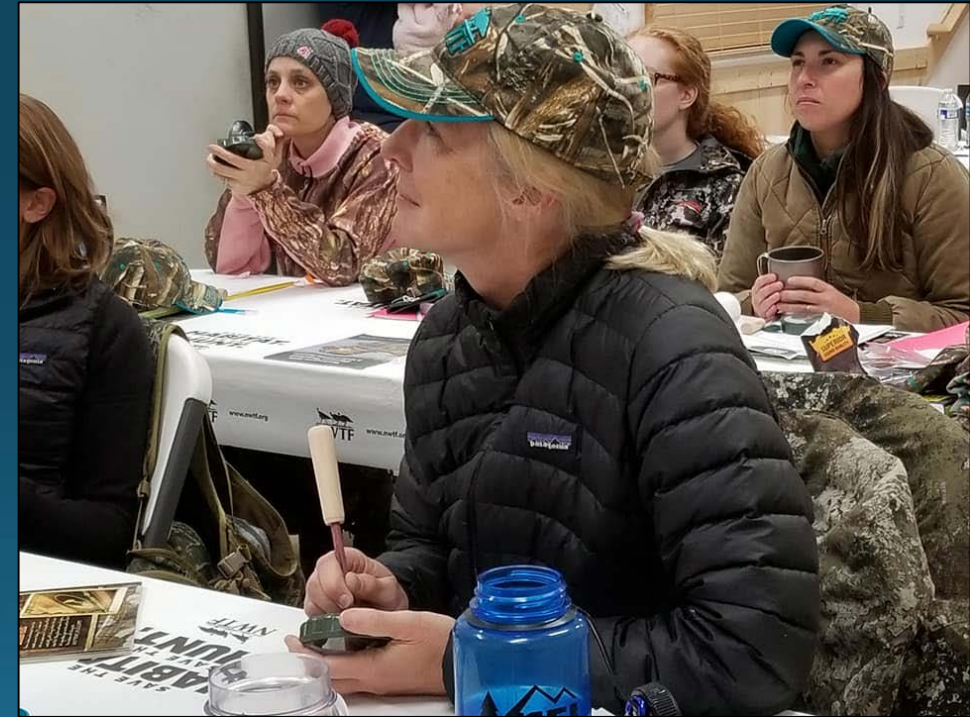
- Evaluate current literature and research
- Cooperate in monitoring programs with land management agencies
- Develop and implement management actions to protect a species of concern if it is determined to be negatively impacted by wild turkeys
- Turkey Trap and Transplant Guidelines consider potential negative interactions at release sites



6. TURKEY HUNTER EDUCATION & SAFETY



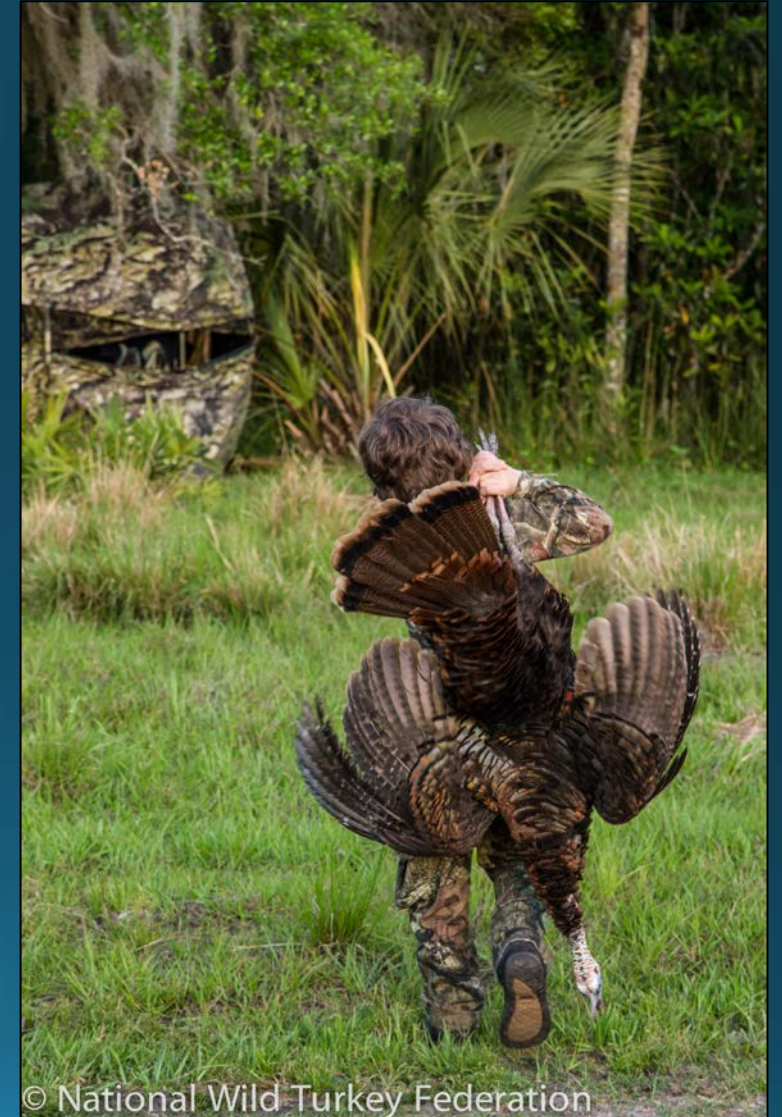
- Wild Turkey Hunting Safety Task Force will serve as a guide for turkey hunting regulations and requirements
- Develop and distribute information
- Promote safe and ethical turkey hunting through workshops and seminars



7. WILD TURKEYS AND R3



- **Maintain youth-only hunts**
- **Offer skills clinics**
- **Track workshop participants to determine success of R3 strategies**
- **Pair mentoring opportunities with access programs**
- **Use partnerships to expand the scope of turkey hunting outreach programs**



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8. UNAUTHORIZED TURKEY RELEASES

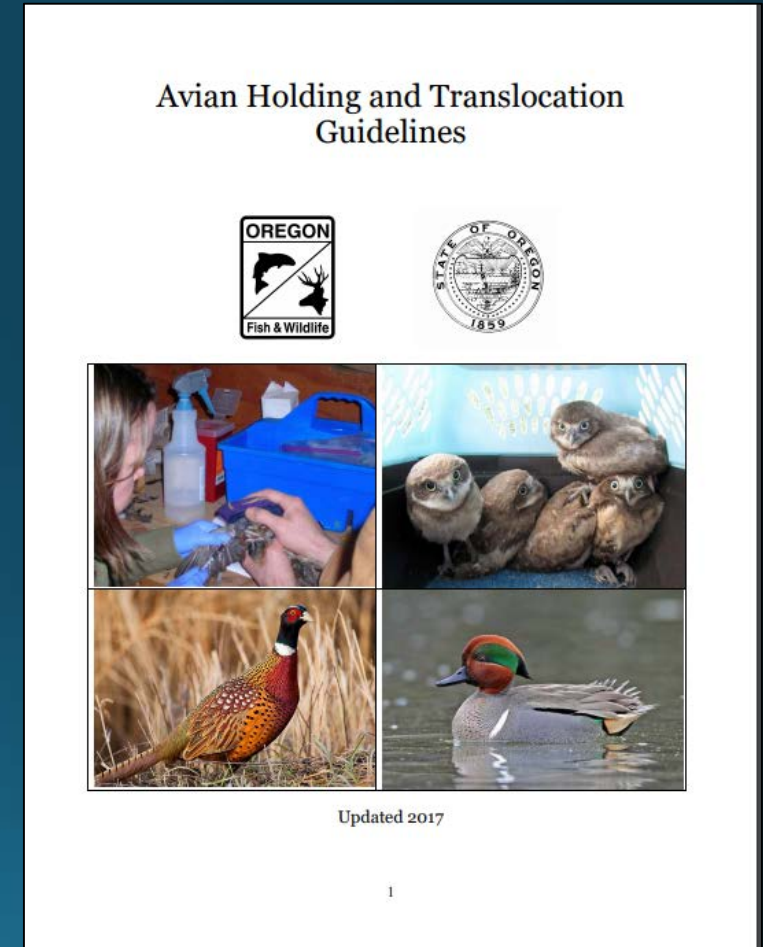


- Continue to prohibit the release of pen-raised turkeys
- Educate public on disease, biological issues of pen-raised turkeys
- Enforcement action if needed



9. DISEASE AND PARASITES

- Avian Holding and Translocation Guidelines (ODFW 2017)
- Minimize interaction between domestic and wild turkeys
- Hold wild turkeys for evaluation and disease testing prior to translocation



10. POPULATION MONITORING



- Participate in multi-agency efforts to develop valid survey methods
- Maintain and expand annual summer brood surveys
- Monitor hunter harvest trends with mandatory reporting



11. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- Evaluate techniques for nuisance and damage
- Survey methods
- Native species interactions
- Habitat selection
- Emerging disease prevalence



TRAP AND TRANSPLANT GUIDELINES



- Trap sites: Use nuisance complaints
- Release sites – “Currently Occupied”
 - Change: Use alternate sources to determine occupancy (Breeding Bird Survey, Christmas Bird Count, eBird)
 - Unoccupied release site must be evaluated
 - Prioritize publicly accessible sites



TRAP AND TRANSPLANT , CONT.

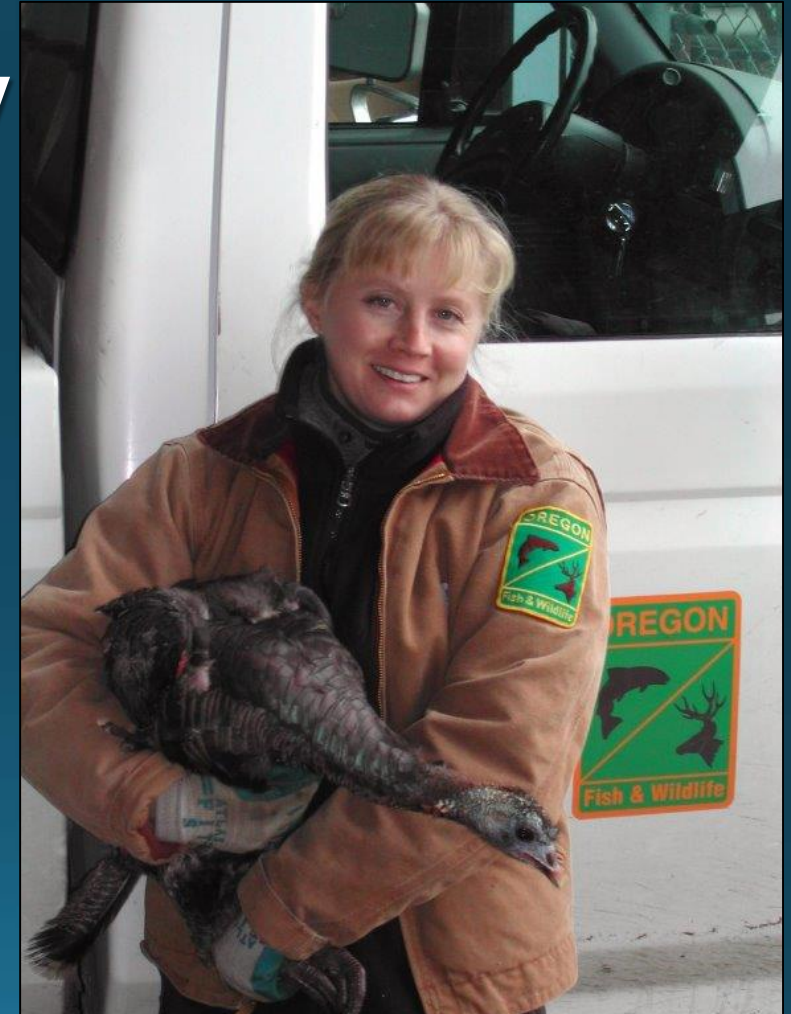


- **Logistics**

- **Change**: Release site selected by priority *and* logistic efficiency
- Small captures may be translocated to existing flocks within district instead of priority release sites

- **Disease**

- Cooperate with ODA poultry plan
- *Avian Holding and Translocation Guidelines (2017)*



Questions?

