



Fort Berthold Reservation  
Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Tribes  
Fish and Wildlife Division  
P.O. Box 1402, New Town, ND 58763  
Phone: (701) 627-4760 Fax: (701) 627-4743

## 2023 FALL TURKEY PROCLAMATION

Pursuant to Chapter 18 of Title 9 of the Code of Laws of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, and the authority of the Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council: The Three Affiliated Tribes Fish and Wildlife Division hereby declares an open season on wild turkeys as prescribed in the following proclamation.

Except as provided hereinafter or otherwise by law, no person shall hunt, kill, take, possess, transport, or so attempt to hunt, kill, take, or possess any wild turkeys.

### 1. SEASON DATES, TIMES, UNITS:

Season: Fall  
Opening Date: October 7, 2023  
Closing Date: January 7, 2024  
Units: Unit 1—Mandaree and Four Bears;  
Unit 3—Parshall and White Shield;  
Unit 4—Twin Buttes  
Hours of Hunting: One half hour (1/2) before sunrise to sunset

### 2. LICENSES AND PERMITS:

Members and non-members are eligible.

Licenses—issued on a first-come, first-serve basis. Licenses are issued in the form of tags.

Applications—a 2023 Fall Wild Turkey application must be filed with the TAT Fish and Wildlife office.

Other licenses required—all hunters regardless of age must possess a general license certificate. In addition, Non-TAT enrolled members who do not reside in the state of North Dakota must also possess a Conservation permit.

### 3. FEES:

The following fees below are for a Wild Turkey permit only; they do not include the cost of a Conservation permit required for Non-TAT enrolled members who do not reside in North Dakota.

Enrolled TAT Tribal Members.....\$10.00  
Spouses of Enrolled Members....\$25.00  
Non-Member Residents .....\$50.00  
Non-Member Non-Residents.....\$100.00  
Youth (15 years or younger)..... \$10.00

### 4. WEAPONS:

Shotguns—Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge and capable of holding no more than three shells in the magazine and chamber are legal. Minimum barrel length is 18 inches. Fully automatic firearms are illegal.

Rifles—only muzzle loading long guns are legal. Centerfire, rimfire, and muzzleloading rifles and handguns are illegal for hunting wild turkeys.

Bows and Arrows—a bow must be pulled, held, and released by hand. Any release aid may be used providing it is hand operated, the shooter supports the draw weight of the bow, and the release is not attached to any part of the bow other than at the bowstring. A compound bow used for hunting turkeys must have at least 35 pounds of draw at 28 inches or less draw length. Recurve and long bows used for hunting turkeys must have at least 35 pounds of draw at 28 inches. Arrows must be at least 24 inches long, tipped with a metal broadhead, with at least two sharp cutting edges, and have a cutting diameter of at least 3/4 inches (i.e., not able to pass through a 3/4 inch ring.). It is illegal to hunt turkeys with barbed arrows. Broadheads with mechanical or retractable blades are legal. Telescopic sights, range finding devices, battery-powered or electronically lighted sights or other electronic devices attached to the bow, or the arrow, are not permitted. Exception: a lighted nock and recording devices which do not aid in range fighting, sighting or shooting the bow are permitted. Handheld range finding devices are legal. Arrows capable of causing damage or injury to the animal in excess of that inflicted by the cutting edges of the broadhead, are prohibited while hunting turkeys with a bow (e.g., explosive arrow points, arrows tipped with drugs or chemicals, and pneumatic or hydraulic shafts are illegal).

Handguns – Handguns of .35 caliber and larger with 4 inch or greater barrel length are legal.

Crossbows are illegal, except if disabled or handicapped (i.e. paraplegics and/or having lost the use of one or both arms) with a permit from the TAT Fish and Wildlife Director. When permitted, crossbows must: a) have a peak draw weight of at least 75 pounds, b) be equipped with a working safety to prevent accidental firing, c) use arrows or bolts at least 14 inches in length. Crossbows equipped with pistol grips and designed to be fired with one hand are illegal. Crossbow hunters must comply with all other archery equipment regulations listed above.

## **5. AIRCRAFT AND MOTOR-DRIVEN VEHICLES:**

Aircraft, manned or unmanned (i.e., drones), may not be used to locate, drive, concentrate, rally, raise, stir up, spot, or disturb game.

**It is illegal to shoot with bow and arrow or firearm while in or on a motor-driven vehicle or boat.**

No person may carry a firearm with a loaded chamber in or on a motor-driven vehicle while hunting turkeys. The entire cylinder of a revolver is considered the chamber, requiring the revolver to be completely unloaded. Handguns with removable magazines must have the magazine removed from the firearm if the magazine contains any loaded shells. It is illegal to carry any muzzle loading long gun or muzzle loading pistol in or on a motor-driven vehicle with a percussion cap or primer on the nipple or powder in the flash pan.

No person may use a motor-driven vehicle while in the process of hunting turkeys or aid another in the process of hunting turkeys including travel to and from the hunting location unless the motor-driven vehicle is on an established road or trail. A landowner or lessee who actively farms or ranches land and persons having written permission from a landowner or lessee who actively farms or ranches that land may use a motor-driven vehicle on that land other than on an established road or trail to hunt turkeys except during the deer gun season.

## **6. BAG LIMIT:**

Each license holder may take and possess one bearded or male wild turkey per license.

## **7. TAGGING REQUIREMENTS:**

Immediately after a turkey has been killed, the hunter must indicate the date of kill by cutting out the appropriate month and day from the tag provided with the license, and attach it around the leg of the turkey in an exact manner as illustrated on back of tag to prevent its removal. In no case is it legal to possess or transport a turkey unless it is properly tagged. No person may reuse or attempt to reuse any tag issued. The meat (carcass) tag shall remain with the edible flesh (carcass) until it is packaged as food.

## **8. TRANSPORTATION:**

License holders must accompany their wild turkey during transportation, except that it may be shipped by licensed public carrier in receipt of proper bill of lading.

## **9. AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING:**

It shall be unlawful to hunt or pursue game in the following areas:

- 1) Unit 2 is closed to Fall Turkey hunting
- 2) The buffalo pasture located in Unit #1 (Mandaree Area) known as Range Unit 904 in the Skunk Creek Bay Area—this unit is designated as a Wildlife Reserve Area and no hunting is allowed.
- 3) The MHA Tribal Ranch/Buffalo Project and MHA Tribal Park.

It is illegal to hunt in unharvested crops without the owner's written consent. Crops also include alfalfa, clover, and other grasses grown for seed.

## **10. HUNTING UNIT DESCRIPTIONS & LICENSES AVAILABLE BY UNIT:**

Unit 1—Mandaree and Four Bears areas; 30 permits available

Unit 2—**Closed for 2023 Fall turkey season**

Unit 3—Parshall and White Shield Areas; 20 permits available

Unit 4—Twin Buttes area; 10 permits available

## **11. WANTON WASTE OF A WILD TURKEY:**

No person shall kill or cripple any wild turkey without making a reasonable effort to retrieve and retain the wild turkey in his or her actual custody. No person shall waste, destroy, spoil, or abandon the edible flesh of a wild turkey at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his/her personal permanent residence, (b) taxidermist, or (c) a common carrier. Edible flesh means the breast meat of any wild turkey.

## **12. AGE REQUIREMENTS:**

There is no minimum age for hunting turkeys, but all hunters under age 15 afield with firearms must be under direct supervision of a parent, guardian or adult authorized by their parent or guardian.

**Hunter's Education Requirement:** Hunters born after December 31, 1961 must complete a certified Tribal or state hunter education course and PRESENT the certification card earned to the license vendor in order to purchase a Fort Berthold hunting license. EXCEPTIONS: youth under age 12 if they have appropriate licenses and are accompanied by a parent or guardian, and Veterans of the United States Armed Forces that have been honorably discharged – persons applying for this exception MUST present a copy of form DD214 to the TAT Fish and Wildlife office to be eligible.

## **13. HUNTER QUESTIONNAIRES:**

Complete and accurate information on the hunter questionnaires will greatly assist the TAT Fish and Wildlife Division in determining the number of Wild Turkeys harvested and the optimum number of permits that can be issued to maintain a stable, healthy Wild Turkey population on the Reservation lands for future

generations. Hunters are required to hand them in or send them to the Three Affiliated Tribes Fish and Wildlife Division.

*Pursuant to Section 18-6-1 of Chapter 18-6 of Title 9, Tribal Proclamations Have Force of Law—  
Penalty: Any Tribal proclamation issued at the request of the Natural Resources Board or the Director of the Tribal Fish & Wildlife Division shall have the force of law. Any persons violating a provision of such order or proclamation is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined for not more than five hundred (\$500.00). In addition to any fine imposed in this Chapter, the person shall be subject to forfeiture of her/his license, the privilege to hunt and fish for a period of one year, and confiscation of her/his vehicle, guns, boat, fishing equipment or anything used in connection with the violation.*

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE FORT BERTHOLD FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION OF ANY VIOLATIONS.**

**CALL 627-4760 BETWEEN 8 AM AND 4:30 PM MONDAY THRU FRIDAY.**

**After hours please call that TAT Police Department 627-3617**

**NOTIFY THE TAT FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION OF ANY VIOLATIONS**

**“All information is confidential.”**