

YOUTH SPRING RIO GRANDE TURKEY HUNT

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE YOUTH ONLY SPRING TURKEY HUNT:

The Youth Spring Turkey Hunt at Bosque del Apache NWR is a permit-only hunt. Youth hunters are selected by a public drawing. Complete the attached application to participate in the drawing. A standardized application (FWS Form 3-2356) has been provided and must received at the Refuge no later than March 15, 2011. The application only permits one hunter to apply per application. **Eligible youth hunters (age 17 and under) can apply only once**, if a hunter's name appears on more than one application, those applications will be voided.

A \$6.00 application fee is required for each application and must accompany each application returned to the refuge. Make checks or money orders payable to: Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

For the Spring 2011 turkey hunt, a maximum of 4 permits will be issued for the youth- only hunt. Individual permits are valid only for the selected weekend that the hunts will be offered (April 16-17, April 25-26, April 30-May 1, May 7-8). Applicants may list specific weekend choices when submitting their application; however, the Refuge reserves the right to assign selected applicants available hunt dates.

Permits may not be transferred to another person or hunt dates changed. Letters to successful applicants will be mailed by the week of March 21, 2011.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION WITH \$6.00 APPLICATION FEE TO:

Bosque del Apache NWR
ATTN: Spring Turkey Hunt
P.O. Box 280
San Antonio, NM 87832

For additional information contact: Hunt Coordinator (575) 835-1828

HUNTER INFORMATION:

- **ONLY** the selected youth hunter and their parent/legal guardian will be allowed in the hunt areas.
- **Scouting of the hunt units is available only on the Friday before the actual hunt. Contact the refuge in advance for more information.**
- Hunters must report to the refuge by **5:00 am** on the morning of the hunt they have been assigned. Hunters and their adult chaperons will be led to their hunt areas by Refuge Staff. Legal shooting hours will begin ½ hour before legal sunrise. The hunt will continue until ½ hour after sunset or when the hunter successfully harvests a bearded turkey. All hunters will be required to leave the hunt area no later than one hour after sunset.
- Hunters are encouraged to use calls or decoys.
- **The bag limit for the refuge hunt is one (1) bearded turkey per hunter. All other wildlife species are protected.** Harvested turkey will be counted toward the State Tag bag limit
- **Hunters are allowed up to 9 non-toxic shotgun shells.**
- **It is illegal to shoot a wild turkey roosting in a tree or other structure.**
- Hunters must check out of their designated hunt areas and have their game checked by Refuge Staff prior to leaving the refuge.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS:

- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Spring Turkey Hunting License
- Youth Hunter Education certificate

LEGAL SPORTING ARMS:

Any shotgun, including muzzleloading shotguns using shot only, and bow and arrow. No centerfire or rimfire rifle or handgun use is allowed. Non-toxic shot only.

BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR YOUTH TURKEY HUNT

Rules and Regulations

A. Big Game Hunting: We allow youth hunting of Rio Grande turkey on designated areas of the Refuge in accordance with the State of New Mexico hunting regulations, subject to the following refuge-specific special conditions:

- The Youth Rio Grande Turkey Hunt will be limited to 4 weekends during the New Mexico Spring Turkey Hunting Season. Specific dates and bag limits will be published every year in a hunting brochure/letter.

- A maximum of eight hunters will be selected in a random drawing of qualified applicants every year depending on annual Rio Grande turkey population census.
- Youth hunters age 17 and under must successfully complete a state-approved hunter education course prior to the refuge hunt. While hunting, each youth must possess and carry a card or certificate of completion.
- Eligible youth hunters must possess and carry a Refuge permit for hunting Rio Grande turkey. The permit is available through a lottery drawing. Applications must be postmarked by March 15 of each year. A nonrefundable application fee of six dollars (\$6) must accompany each application.
- Each youth hunter must remain within sight and normal voice contact of an adult companion age 21 or older. Each adult companion can supervise no more than one youth hunter. We issue one adult companion permit at no charge to each hunter drawn. We allow adult companions to observe and call, but they cannot shoot a firearm or bow. Adult companions and youth hunters must set up at the same location.
- Selected youth hunters and their adult companions must report to the Refuge headquarters by 5:00 am each hunt day. Legal hunting hours will run from ½ hour before legal sunrise to ½ hour after legal sunset. All hunters will be required to leave the hunt area no later than one hour after sunset.
- We allow scouting of the hunt units only on the Friday before the actual hunt weekend. Scouting can occur during normal refuge hours of visitation. Drawn hunters and their parents or legal guardians should contact the refuge in advance for more information regarding scouting of proposed hunt units.
- We allow only legal sporting shotguns, using non-toxic ammunition, or the use of legal archery equipment, excluding crossbows.
- We prohibit hunting from a vehicle.
- We allow Rio Grande turkey hunting in two areas or units of the Refuge: the north hunting area and the south hunting area. We provide maps with the refuge permit, which each hunter must carry, that show these areas in detail.
- Temporary ground blinds are permitted and must be removed from the refuge daily. It is unlawful to mark any tree or other refuge structure with paint, flagging tape, ribbon, cat-eyes, or any similar marking device.
- Youth hunters are permitted only one legally harvested bearded turkey per hunt. Harvested turkey will be counted toward the State Tag bag limit
- Hunters must check out of the designated hunt unit and have their harvested turkey checked by refuge staff prior to leaving the refuge.