

**U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION STATEMENT**

Within the spirit and intent of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following decision record and determined that the action of expanding the area open to turkey hunting at the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

Check one:

falls under a categorical exclusion as provided by 43 CFR 46.210 or 516 DM 8.5 and no extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR 46.215 apply. No further NEPA documentation will therefore be made.

is found not to have significant environmental effects as determined by the attached environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

is found to have significant effects and, therefore, further consideration of this action will require a notice of intent to be published in the Federal Register announcing the decision to prepare an environmental impact statement.

is not approved because of unacceptable environmental damage, or violation of Fish and Wildlife Service mandates, policy, regulations, or procedures.

is an emergency action within the context of 40 CFR 1506.12. Only those actions necessary to control the immediate impacts of the emergency will be taken. Other related actions remain subject to NEPA review.

Other supporting documents:

Turkey Hunting Plan and Environmental Assessment, USFWS 2022  
Categorical Exclusion for Expansion of Turkey Hunting, Turnbull NWR  
Draft Compatibility Determination for Turkey Hunting, Turnbull NWR  
Section 7 Consultation Form for Turkey Hunting, Turnbull NWR

Signature Approval:

Signature/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

**Proposed Action:** The Service is proposing to expand recreational hunting opportunities for turkey on the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Washington. We would expand turkey hunting opportunities by increasing the area open to turkey hunting from 1,893 acres (9 percent of the Refuge) to 2,223 acres (10.5 percent of the Refuge). The increase in acres represents 330 additional acres that would be open to turkey hunting. The proposed action represents a minor change in the amount or type of public use on Service or state-managed lands. Environmental effects related to turkey hunting were analyzed in the Environmental Assessment for the Turkey Hunting Plan (EA) (USFWS 2022). Turkey hunting was found to be compatible with refuge purposes and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

**Categorical Exclusion:** These proposed actions are covered by the following categorical exclusion: 516 DM 8.5 B (7): Minor changes in the amounts or types of public use on Service or state-managed lands, in accordance with existing regulations, management plans, and procedures.

**Discussion:** The proposed action, expanding the acres open to turkey hunting from 1,893 acres (9 percent of the Refuge) to 2,223 acres (10.5 percent of the Refuge), would be a minor change in the amount of public use on Service-managed lands, and is in accordance with existing regulations, management plans, and procedures. 13,358 acres (approximately 63 percent of the Refuge) would remain closed to all hunting. The proposed action would not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment (516 DM 8.5 B (7)).

### **Extraordinary Circumstances (43 CFR 46.215)**

*Check ( ✓ ) yes or no to assess if any extraordinary circumstances apply.*

#### **Could This Proposed Action:**

Yes   No

- |                          |                                     |   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a. Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | c. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | d. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | e. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | f. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | g. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | h. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List  |

of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?

- i. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?
- j. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898).
- k. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007).
- l. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112).

*(If any of the above exceptions receive a “Yes” check (X), an EA/EIS must be prepared.)*

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*Within the spirit and intent of the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record and have determined:*

- The proposed action is covered by a categorical exclusion as provided by 43 CFR §46.210 or 516 DM 8.5 and no extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR 46.215 apply. No further NEPA documentation will therefore be prepared (If applicable, attach any additional required environmental or cultural compliance documentation associated with the categorical exclusion).**
- An Extraordinary Circumstance (43 CFR 46.215) could exist for the proposed action and either an EA or EIS must typically be prepared.**

**Service signature approval:**

Signature/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_