

# **Recommendation Related to a Petition to Expand the Fall Archery Turkey Season to Coincide with the First Segment of the Archery Deer Season**

to the

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board



Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department  
Agency of Natural Resources  
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Petition to expand the fall archery turkey season to coincide with the start of and run until the end of the first segment of the archery deer season

## **Recommendation**

### Summary of Issues for Consideration:

October 16, 2024, Mark Green (Director) of the Vermont Bowhunters Association Petitioned for the Department to:

- (1) Extend the fall archery turkey season start to coincide with the archery deer season, October 1st
- (2) Extend the closing date of the fall archery turkey season until the end of the first segment of the archery deer season

### Department Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Board expand the fall archery turkey season statewide to coincide with the first segment of the deer archery season, which begins October 1<sup>st</sup> and runs until the Friday prior to the regular November deer season. The proposal may provide additional opportunities to harvest a turkey, and the extension is expected to have minimal to no effect on the population. Any change to the fall archery season for turkey will require an amendment to the Turkey Seasons Rule, 10 V.S.A. App. § 22.

Department Response to Proposal:

Comment/Question: “ We have a petition to present to the Board at the upcoming Board meeting in September. The Purpose of the petition is to see if the board will make adjustments to the start of the fall archery Turkey season to coincide with the start of Fall archery deer season which was changed several years ago by the board to always start on October 1 while fall archery season for turkey season remained the first Saturday in October we would like to see that changed coincide with the start of the Fall Archery Deer Season. We also would like to see the Fall Archery season to extend through till the end of the First Archery deer season which is the day before the Regular deer season. We feel this would have very limited impact on the resource and offer more opportunity for archery hunters as very few turkeys are taken by the means archery equipment. Was just hoping to give you and the board a heads up about this as it has been in the works for a while. I had hoped to send this to the whole board but no longer find a way to do that was hoping you could forward this to other members of the board.”

Response:

- 1) The Department supports the expansion of the fall archery turkey season statewide to coincide with the first segment of the deer archery season, which begins October 1<sup>st</sup> and runs until the Friday prior to the regular November deer season.
- 2) Nearly half of the fall archery harvest is opportunistic harvest by deer hunters.
- 3) After reviewing fall archery harvest data, the Department believes that extending the season will result in little additional harvest and is sustainable.

Other Information to Consider:

The Department's concerns include:

- Potential slight increase of harvest of mature male birds

Potential positives in the Department’s view:

- Potentially increasing opportunities for fall hunters
- Reduce regulatory complexity within archery seasons