

turkeys in abundance northwest Kansas counties

Mitchener said. "The turkey population in the area is tied to drainages."

He said turkeys can be found along the Smoky Hill and the Republican rivers.

Mitchener said a lot of the turkey population in the northwest area lives on private land. Both Cheyenne and Decatur hold turkey populations, he said, but most live on private land.

There are a few places in the region where turkeys can be found on public land. Mitchener said hunters can hunt for turkey at the South Fork Wildlife Area, the St. Francis Wildlife Area and around Sebelius Reservoir near Norton. There are a few Rio Grande turkeys in the Sheridan wildlife area.

The Flint Hills region in the east-central portion of the state is ideal for turkeys because of the vast areas of unbroken tallgrass prairie, with timbered, brushy draws and stream bottoms.

The far northeastern part of the state is known as the Glaciated Region. Its rolling plains, stream bottoms and timbered rocky hillsides make it good for turkey hunting.



Wild turkeys walked through the trees off a gravel road in Rawlins County.

— Photo by Kim Davis/The Oberlin Herald

Fall turkey hunting season runs from Oct. 1-Dec. 2, Dec. 15-31, and Jan. 5-31.

Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The Wildlife Department turkey hunters in the northwestern and central areas to take only one bird per permit. Most of west central and southwest Kansas is closed to turkey hunting. In eastern Kansas' Unit 2, hunters are allowed to take as many as four turkeys per permit.

The department allows turkey hunters to obtain one turkey permit (\$22.50 for residents, \$32.50 for nonresidents) during the season, but turkey hunters in Unit 2 can purchase up to three turkey game tags (\$12.50 for resident, \$22.50 for nonresidents). Turkey hunters must also have a Kansas hunters license. Turkey hunters in Units 1, 2 and 3 can purchase permits and game tags from any license vendor from July 1s through Jan. 30. The legal equipment for turkey hunting includes a 20 gauge shotguns or larger using shot sizes 2-9 and long, recurve, and compound bows. A fall turkey permit and game tags are valid for both male and female turkeys.

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