

Turkey documents

Saguaro National Park  
—o—

Heffelfinger 2008



"Jim Heffelfinger"  
<JHeffelfinger@azgfd.gov>  
ov>

To: <Natasha\_Kline@nps.gov>, "Robert Fink" <RFink@azgfd.gov>  
cc: <Don\_Swann@nps.gov>  
Subject: RE: turkey

06/19/2008 12:02 PM  
MST

Natasha-

It looks like a male due to the black breast feathers and I see no beard so it may be a jake - I don't have the right angle to tell for sure. What's the coordinates or location of that camera? We track all sightings in new locations.

We should have kept you up to date with our Catalina Turkey dealings but just got wrapped up in minutia. Here's the annual reports that track what has happened with turkeys in the last few years. I've also attached our mgmt plan that guides our actions.

It may not be important enough for you to blow a whole day on it, but you are certainly invited to the semi-annual Goulds Turkey Advisory meeting in Willcox next week. Here's what we will talk about:

#### AGENDA

Gould's Turkey Advisory Committee Meeting  
1-5pm July 7, 2008 ~ Willcox County Courthouse

1:00 Welcome, introductions and call for additional agenda items (changes in personnel in USFS/AGFD/NWTF)

1:15 - 2:00 Habitat

- Review of completed habitat improvement projects - All
- Update of planned habitat projects - All
- Summary of fires thus far this summer - USFS
- Discussion of any new activity in Planned burns, Post-fire reseeding, Grazing changes, Wood cutting projects, Fencing projects)

2:00 - 2:15 Funding

- New Funding opportunities/Status of funds in the next 12 months - NWTF/Wakeling. Deadlines??

2:15 - 3:45 Translocations

- Summary of last year's translocations - Heffelfinger/Wakeling/Millican
- Post-release monitoring of released birds - Heffelfinger
- Plans for this winter
- Captures in Mexico? (Is this a dead issue?)
- Captures in Huachucas?
- ☐ Suggested changes to methodology?
- ☐ Equipt needs to be purchased (by whom with what money and when)?
- ☐ Charges
- ☐ Paperwork?

- Releases
- ☐ Where to next?
- ☐ Radiotelemetry plans
- ☐ Post-release monitoring plans

3:45- 4:15 Surveys

- Spring survey results in Huachucas – Millican
- Spring survey results in Chirichuas – Gonzales
- Spring survey results in Catalinas – Gonzales
- Observation forms and their use/distribution to USFS, landowners, and user groups in SE Arizona

4:15 – 4:45 Hunting

- Results of hunts in the Huachucas & Chiricahuas – Millican?

4:15 – 4:45 New Mexico Update

4:45 – 5:00 Additional Topics

5:00 Adjourn

Call or e-mail if you have any questions.

JIM

-----Original Message-----

From: Natasha\_Kline@nps.gov [mailto:Natasha\_Kline@nps.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 12:13 PM  
To: Jim Heffelfinger; Robert Fink  
Cc: Don\_Swann@nps.gov  
Subject: turkey

Hey Guys,

Per my conversation with Bob today, I am forwarding this photo taken at Madrona Ranger Station in the park's Rincon Mountain District. The bird took its own picture via one of the remote cameras that are part of Don Swann's long-term wildlife monitoring efforts. I don't know the exact date the photo was taken, but I assume late May or early June (the film was just taken from the camera and developed). Anyway, it's pretty cool. Although we get the odd credible sighting of turkeys in the Rincons from time to

time, we never get "proof." Do you guys have an opinion as to whether this bird (I am just unfamiliar enough with turkeys to not be able to id this as a jake\* or a hen) is the real McCoy or an escapee from a Rocking K barnyard?

(See attached file: Turkey\_Madrona\_6\_2008.jpg)

\* note turkey jargon I picked up from looking at some photos on the internet per Bob's recommendation! ( :

Natasha C. Kline  
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Tucson, AZ 85730  
ph: 520.733.5171

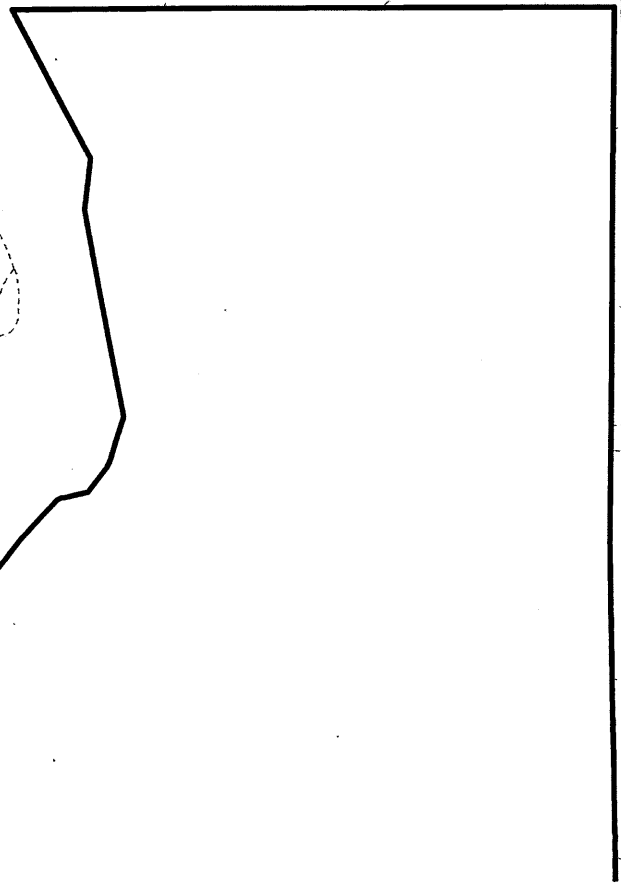


fax: 520.733.5183 GTKMGMTPLN.doc TK Goulds Spec Rpt 200607 R5.pdf TKSPEC report 05-06.doc



turkey, Madonna Ranger Station, taken remotely in April 2008

turkey  
April 2008



*Job Statement 1, Subsection F*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

**Performance Report**  
**Project W-53-M-56**  
**SPECIES: Gould's Turkey**  
**PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006**

Program Narrative Objective: Establish populations of game animals in areas of suitable habitat in Arizona and evaluate post-release success of reintroduced populations.

**JOB SEGMENT OBJECTIVES**

1. Evaluate areas known to have supported wildlife populations in the past; site evaluations will be done in conformance with established guidelines.
2. Negotiate contracts or agreements with other agencies for the purpose of obtaining wildlife of subspecies suitable for relocation to Arizona.
3. Capture and transport wildlife from populations within and outside Arizona to candidate sites in Arizona.
4. Determine post-release size, distribution, and sex-age characteristics of reintroduced populations.
5. Compile and analyze data and prepare job progress and/or final reports.

**SUMMARY OF PROGRESS**

Objective 1: Evaluations of historic Gould's turkey habitat was completed and that analysis is guiding our current restoration plans. Potential release areas have a good distribution of natural springs, stock tanks, and other small reservoirs of open water distributed throughout different habitat components. The USFS grazing permittee at the release sites are supportive of these efforts.

Objective 2: The National Wild Turkey Federation has been very active this year obtaining turkeys from Mexico. Once again, they have gained approval to move up to 100 turkeys from Mexico into Arizona with a 30-day quarantine period. NWTF also supported the operation of a quarantine facility in the Chiricahuas, which was critical to the success enjoyed thus far. All translocations were conducted in accordance with the southeastern turkey management plan (Heffelfinger et al. 2000).

Objective 3: Trapping and translocation of turkeys from Mexico took place during 2005-2006. These efforts, and additional trapping operations in the Huachuca Mountains, resulted in the release of 45 Goulds' turkeys in the Catalinas (Unit 33), 20 in the Chiricahua Mountains (Unit 29), 39 in the Santa Ritas (Unit 34A), and 15 in the Pinalenos (Unit 31, Table 1).

*Job Statement 1, Subsection F*

*Game Stocking*

*Gould's Turkey*

Objective 4: Post-release monitoring occurred by fixed-wing aircraft every month. Most birds are remaining near the release sites.

Pinalenos: Five additional transmitters were included in the 15 new birds released this year in Tripp Canyon. As of June 30, 2006, 10 radioed birds still alive plus 4 on mortality pulse (Table 2). Most birds are still primarily using Grant Creek, but this year some birds have started using areas on top of the mountain (Fig. 1). Birds are now found sporadically near Stockton Pass, Hawk Peak, Riggs Lake, and Heliograph Peak.

Chiricahuas: We released 20 additional turkeys into Pine Canyon of the Chiricahuas this year. None of these birds were radio-tagged, but we had 3 working transmitters in the Chiricahuas the last time we flew (Table 3).

Catalinas: Forty-five birds were released at Bear Wallow in the Huachucas this year. Fifteen of these birds had transmitters and 8 are still alive (Table 4). Birds have dispersed well and are using much of the high-elevation habitat (Fig. 2).

Santa Ritas: Thirty-nine turkeys were released in the Santa Ritas, 15 were transmitted and 9 are still alive (Table 5). These birds have also spread well throughout available habitat (Fig. 3).

Objective 5: Besides this report, several manuscripts have been written and published based on this effort. The focused activities by our Research Branch have been completed and published.

**CONCLUSIONS, EVALUATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations from the Gould's turkey advisory committee was to be as aggressive as possible in restoring turkeys to mountain ranges in southeastern Arizona. The release plan will be contingent on the number of birds translocated from Mexico and, of course, trapping success in the Huachucas. The Gould's committee agreed to the following plan (assuming we are able to trap about 120 birds [80 from Mexico and 40 from Ft. Huachuca]).

**Huachuca Birds**

Tripp Canyon (NE Pinalenos, Unit 31) = 20 birds

Cave Creek (NE side of Chiricahuas, Unit 29) = 15

Huachucas = 5-10 males

**Mexican Birds**

Catalinas (Bear Wallow, Unit 33) = 30-40 birds

Santa Ritas (maybe at the Mt. Wrightson observatory) = 30-40 birds

If we can't get any birds from Mexico this year, we will proceed with the 40 birds out of the Huachuacas going to the Catalinas and Santa Ritas.

The Galiuros are still a possibility for 2006-07 if we are able to accomplish our goals this year. Although we would release the birds in Powers Garden if we could to maximize success. Not in the manzanita. We are working closely with USFS long before hand to get approval to use

*Job Statement 1, Subsection F*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

helicopters in the wilderness. If we ever did this, we would like to evaluate the water distribution away from Powers Garden and seen if more are needed. Also habitat projects like clearing brush encroachment might be beneficial.

These plans will obviously have to be altered contingent on what happens with further discussions with Mexico. We do not want to start a new population if it will jeopardize the success of an existing population. We recommend that Gould's turkey translocations continue as outlined in the Southeastern Arizona Turkey Management Plan (Heffelfinger et al. 2000).

**LITERATURE CITED**

Heffelfinger, J. R., B. F. Wakeling, J. Millican, S. Stone, T. Skinner, M. Fredlake, and M. Adkins. 2000. Southeastern Arizona Wild Turkey Management Plan. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix. 24pp.

Prepared By: Jim Heffelfinger  
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Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Wakeling  
Big Game Management Supervisor  
Associate Project Leader

Table 1. Gould's turkeys released in southeastern Arizona, 2006-07.

| Date  | Capture Location                                  | Total | M | F  | # Radioed | Release Location                           |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|---|----|-----------|--------------------------------------------|
| 12/05 | Zacatecas, Mexico                                 | 25    |   |    | 10        | Bear Wallow in the Catalinas (Unit 33)     |
| 2/06  | Ramsey Canyon in the Huachucas (Unit 35A)         | 12    | 1 | 11 | 0         | Bear Wallow (Unit 33)                      |
| 3/06  | O'Donnell Creek (Unit 35A near boundary with 35B) | 8     | 4 | 4  | 0         | Bear Wallow (Unit 33)                      |
| 3/06  | Ramsey Canyon in the Huachucas                    | 7     | 7 | 0  | 0         | Pine Canyon in Chiricahuas (Unit 29)       |
| 3/06  | O'Donnell Creek (Unit 35A near boundary with 35B) | 13    | 0 | 13 | 0         | Pine Canyon (Unit 29)                      |
| 3/06  | Zacatecas, Mexico                                 | 39    | 5 | 34 | 15        | Josephine Canyon in Santa Ritas (Unit 34A) |
| 3/06  | Zacatecas, Mexico                                 | 15    | 2 | 13 | 5         | Tripp Canyon in Pinaleños (Unit 31)        |

<sup>a</sup>26 birds imported, 1 died in quarantine, and 1 may have died at release site right after release.

*Job Statement 1, Subsection F*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

Table 2. Status of Gould's turkeys in the Pinaleno Mountains, southeastern Arizona, June 2006.

| Status/<br>Located | Actual<br>Freq. | Telonic<br>Freq. | Leg<br>Band# | Age | Sex | Yr<br>Rel. | Source    | Comments                                            |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-----|-----|------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| DEAD               | 148.199         | 148.200          | 68           | A   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Dead 5-25-04 removed                                |
| DEAD               | 148.299         | 148.300          | 30           | A   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Found dead 6-24-05                                  |
| Mort               | 148.399         | 148.400          | 39           | J   | M   | 03/04      | Mexico    | mort 4/27, s of Riggs L.alive 5/30, mort Jesus 6/28 |
| DEAD               | 148.420         | 148.420          | 22           | J   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Dead removed 6-3-05                                 |
| Alive              | 148.539         | 148.540          | 38           | J   | M   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Grapevine Canyon                                    |
| Mort               | 148.599         | 148.600          | 115          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX  | not located 4/27 Mort 5/30 & 6/28                   |
| Alive              | 148.610         | 148.610          | 118          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX  | not located 4/27 5/30 6/28                          |
| Mort               | 148.619         | 148.620          | 105          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX  | near tripp mort 5/30, clark pk mort 6/28            |
| Alive              | 148.629         | 148.630          | none         | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX  | s of Cedar Mt 6/28                                  |
| DEAD               | 148.709         | 148.710          | 46           | J   | M   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Dead stockton Pass - removed 6-30-05                |
| DEAD               | 148.719         | 148.720          | 41           | J   | M   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Dead (11-14-04 signal)removed 12/04                 |
| Alive              | 148.729         | 148.730          | 25           | A   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Back of Grant Cr 6/28                               |
| Alive              | 148.740         |                  | 104          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX  | not located 4/27 5/30 6/28                          |
| DEAD               | 148.830         | 148.830          | 77           | A   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Dead 5-25-04 removed                                |
| DEAD               | 149.169         | 149.170          | 64           | A   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Heliograph nest 6-24-05/Mort 7 27 05                |
| DEAD               | 149.180         | 149.180          | 788          | HA  | F   | 04/05      | Huachucas | Dead removed 6-3-05                                 |
| DEAD               | 149.200         | 149.200          | 5704         | J   | F   | 04/05      | SBNWR     | Dead removed 6-3-05                                 |
| DEAD               | 149.240         | 149.240          | 790          | HA  | F   | 04/05      | Huachucas | couldn't locate 5/6, 6/3, 8/25 Transmitter in tree  |
| DEAD               | 149.289         | 149.290          | 24           | J   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Dead removed 10-7-05                                |
| Mort               | 149.329         | 149.330          | 35           | J   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Grant Creek/Goudy mort 5/30 6/28                    |
| DEAD               | 149.379         | 149.380          | 27           | J   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Found dead up top 6-24-05 by Jansen                 |
| DEAD               | 149.680         | 149.680          | 5701         | A   | M   | 04/05      | SBNWR     | Dead removed 6-3-05                                 |
| Alive              | 149.738         | 149.740          | 74           | J   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | By Prison pond 6/28                                 |
| Alive              | 149.749         | 149.750          | 5703         | A   | F   | 04/05      | SBNWR     | By Prison pond 6/28                                 |
| DEAD               | 149.770         | 149.770          | 29           | A   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Dead 5-25-04 removed                                |
| Alive              | 149.770         | 149.770          | 795          | HA  | F   | 04/05      | Huachucas | grant cr                                            |
| DEAD               | 149.800         | 149.800          | 49           | A   | M   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Dead 5-5-04 removed                                 |
| Alive              | 149.8092        | 149.810          | 5705         | A   | F   | 04/05      | SBNWR     | grant cr                                            |
| Alive              | 149.839         | 149.840          | 34           | J   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico    | Grapevine Cyn 5/30, not located 6/28                |

*Job Statement 1, Subsection F*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

Table 3. Status of Gould's turkeys released in the Chiricahua Mountains as of July 2006.

| Status/      | Actual         | Telonic              | Yr        |                  |          |       |        |                                                    |
|--------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|----------|-------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Located      | Freq.          | Freq.                | Bird#     | Patagial #       | Sex      | Rel.  | Source | Last Location                                      |
| Mort         | 148.199        | 148.200              | 22        | 19 yellow        | F        | 03/04 | Mexico | Mort since July 03                                 |
| DEAD         | 148.399        | 148.400              | 53        | yellow           | F        | 03/04 | Mexico | Mort. since 8/2/04 removed 9/04                    |
| <b>Alive</b> | <b>148.439</b> | <b>148.440</b>       | <b>24</b> | <b>21 yellow</b> | <b>F</b> | 03/04 | Mexico | S. side of TK Creek                                |
| ?            | 148.531        | 148.531 <sup>a</sup> | 11        | 8 yellow         | M        | 03/04 | Mexico | stopped transmitting                               |
| ?            | 148.541        | 148.541 <sup>a</sup> | 13        | 10 yellow        | F        | 03/04 | Mexico | stopped transmitting                               |
| DEAD         | 148.718        | 148.720              | 23        | 20 yellow        | M        | 03/04 | Mexico | radio removed from field 11-03                     |
| DEAD         | 148.738        | 148.740              | 85        | yellow           | M        | 03/04 | Mexico | Mort. since 8/31/04 removed 9/04                   |
| DEAD         | 148.749        | 148.750              | 29        | 26 yellow        | M        | 03/04 | Mexico | radio removed from field 7/27/03                   |
| <b>Alive</b> | <b>148.878</b> | <b>148.880</b>       | <b>20</b> | <b>265-266</b>   | <b>F</b> | 04/05 | Mexico | S. side of TK Creek                                |
| DEAD         | 149.078        | 149.080              | 21        | 18 yellow        | F        | 03/04 | Mexico | radio removed from field 7/27/03                   |
| DEAD         | 149.109        | 149.110              | 15        | 12 yellow        | M        | 03/04 | Mexico | radio removed from field 7 29 05                   |
| DEAD         | 149.189        | 149.190              | 10        | 7 yellow         | F        | 03/04 | Mexico | radio removed from field 9/27/03                   |
| DEAD         | 149.199        | 149.200              | 7         | 4 yellow         | F        | 03/04 | Mexico | radio removed from field 9/27/03                   |
| DEAD         | 149.208        | 149.210              | 14        | 11 yellow        | F        | 03/04 | Mexico | Mort. since 8/2/04 removed 9/04                    |
| <b>Alive</b> | <b>149.218</b> | <b>149.220</b>       | <b>9</b>  | <b>6 yellow</b>  | <b>F</b> | 03/04 | Mexico | Onion Saddle 8 25                                  |
| DEAD         | 149.228        | 149.230              | 76        | 261-262          | F        | 04/05 | Mexico | Mort.since 8/2/04 PU 9/26 (poached)                |
| DEAD         | 149.249        | 149.250              | 25        | 22 yellow        | F        | 03/04 | Mexico | Mort. Signal since 3 7 05                          |
| DEAD         | 149.308        | 149.310              | 28        | 25 yellow        | F        | 03/04 | Mexico | Radio found 10/03 by Henry<br>Montero 520 419-2920 |

*Job Statement 1, Subsection F*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

Table 4. Status of Gould's turkeys in the Catalina Mountains, southeastern Arizona, June 2006.

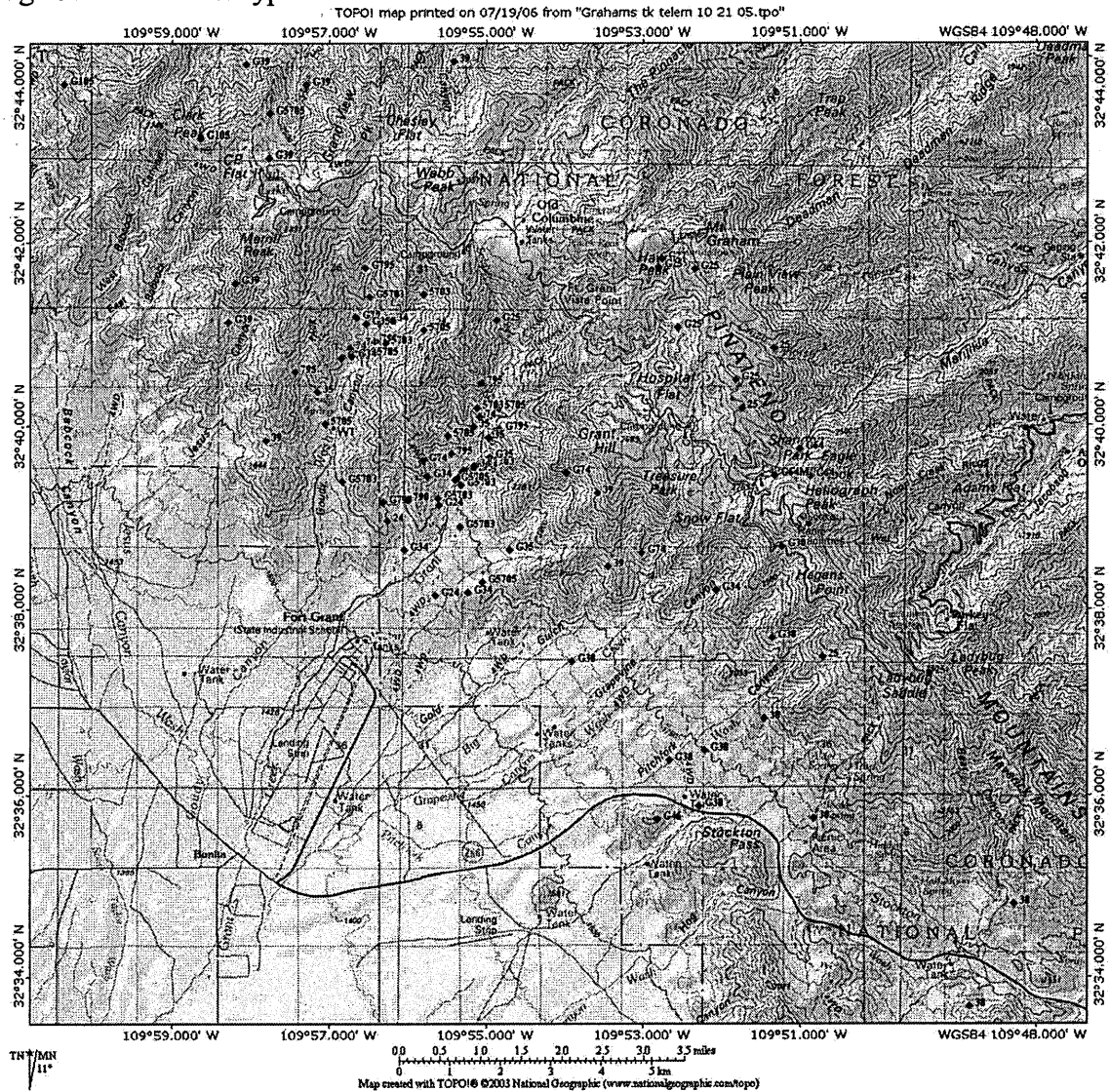
| <b>Status/</b> | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Telonic</b> | <b>Leg</b>   | <b>Yr</b>  |            | <b>Source</b> |        | <b>Comments</b>                       |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Located</b> | <b>Freq.</b>  | <b>Freq.</b>   | <b>Band#</b> | <b>Age</b> | <b>Sex</b> | <b>Rel.</b>   |        |                                       |
| Alive          | 148.639       | 148.640        | 588          | Ad         | F          | 05/06         | Mexico | upper Lemmon cr NL 5/30 & 6/28 & 7/30 |
| Alive          | 148.648       | 148.650        | 589          | Ad         | F          | 05/06         | Mexico | S. of shovel spr                      |
| Alive          | 148.659       | 148.660        | 59           | Ad         | F          | 05/06         | Mexico | Ranger Station                        |
| Alive          | 148.669       | 148.670        | 596          | Ad         | F          | 05/06         | Mexico | shovel spr                            |
| Mort           | 148.680       | 148.680        | 585          | Ad         | F          | 05/06         | Mexico | Upper Sabino - Mort on 2.22.06        |
| Alive          | 148.689       | 148.690        | 592          | Jv         | F          | 05/06         | Mexico | S. of shovel spr                      |
| Alive          | 148.699       | 148.700        | 583          | Ad         | F          | 05/06         | Mexico | S. of shovel spr                      |
| Mort           | 148.710       | 148.710        | 584          | Ad         | F          | 05/06         | Mexico | N. side Mt. Bigelow - Mort on 2.22.06 |
| Alive          | 148.719       | 148.720        | 598          | Ad         | F          | 05/06         | Mexico | S. of shovel spr                      |
| Alive          | 148.729       | 148.730        | 597          | Ad         | F          | 05/06         | Mexico | S. of shovel spr                      |

Table 5. Status of Gould's turkeys in the Santa Rita Mountains, southeastern Arizona, June 2006.

| <b>Status/</b> | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Telonic</b> | <b>Leg</b>   | <b>Yr</b>  |            | <b>Source</b> |          | <b>Comments</b>                                          |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Located</b> | <b>Freq.</b>  | <b>Freq.</b>   | <b>Band#</b> | <b>Age</b> | <b>Sex</b> | <b>Rel.</b>   |          |                                                          |
| Alive          | 148.809       | 148.810        | 197          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | S. of Josephine Pk                                       |
| Alive          | 148.820       |                | 194          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | in Patagonia then not located 5/30 & 6/28 & 7/30         |
| Alive          | 148.829       | 148.830        | 191          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | E. of Mt. Wrightson                                      |
| DEAD           | 148.839       | 148.840        | 149          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | Mort 4/27 PU by 583                                      |
| DEAD           | 148.849       | 148.850        | 163          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | mort 4/27 - found 6/8 on Salero                          |
| DEAD           | 148.860       |                | 152          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | PU by 583 on 6/1/06 near near lake towards Coal Mine Spr |
| Alive          | 148.870       |                | 130          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | not located 5/30 through 7/20                            |
| Alive          | 148.879       | 148.880        | 128          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | NE of Mt. Wrightson                                      |
| Alive          | 148.889       | 148.890        | 189          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | SE of Mt. Hopkins                                        |
| Mort           | 148.900       |                | 185          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | Mort 5/30 - 7/20 by Salero Ranch                         |
| Mort           | 148.920       |                | 196          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | Mort 5/30 - 7/20 S. of Mt. Hopkins                       |
| Alive          | 148.929       | 148.930        | 190          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | E. of Juniper Flat                                       |
| Mort           | 148.939       | 148.940        | 188          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | Mort 7/20 E. of Hosey Mine                               |
| Alive          | 148.949       | 148.950        | 183          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | Wildcat Mine                                             |
| Alive          | 148.959       | 148.960        | 159          | A          | F          | 05/06         | Zaca, MX | Wildcat Mine                                             |

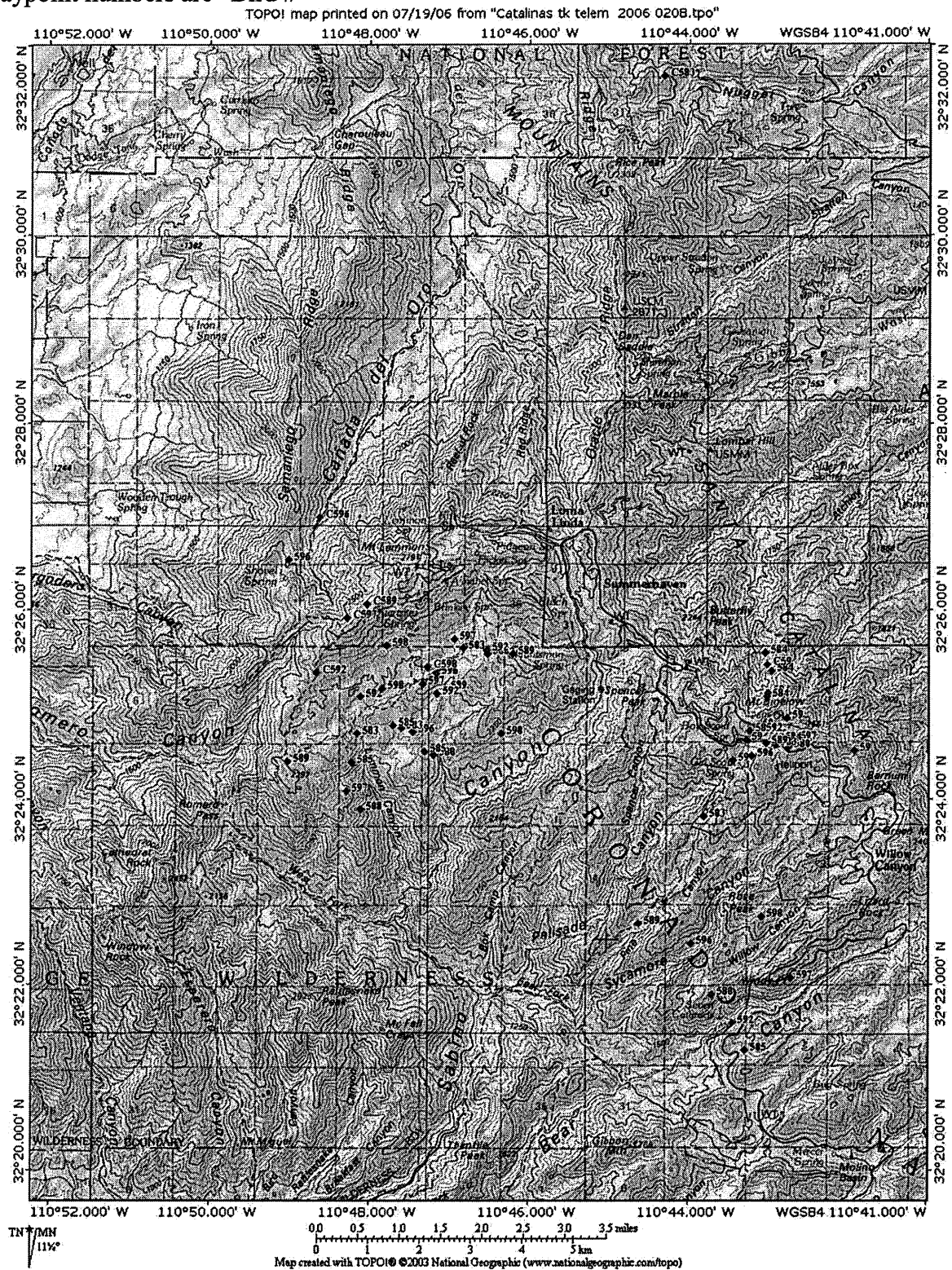
*Job Statement 1, Subsection F*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

Figure 1. Turkey telemetry locations of turkeys released in the Pinaleno Mountains July 2005 through June 2006. Waypoint numbers are "Bird #"



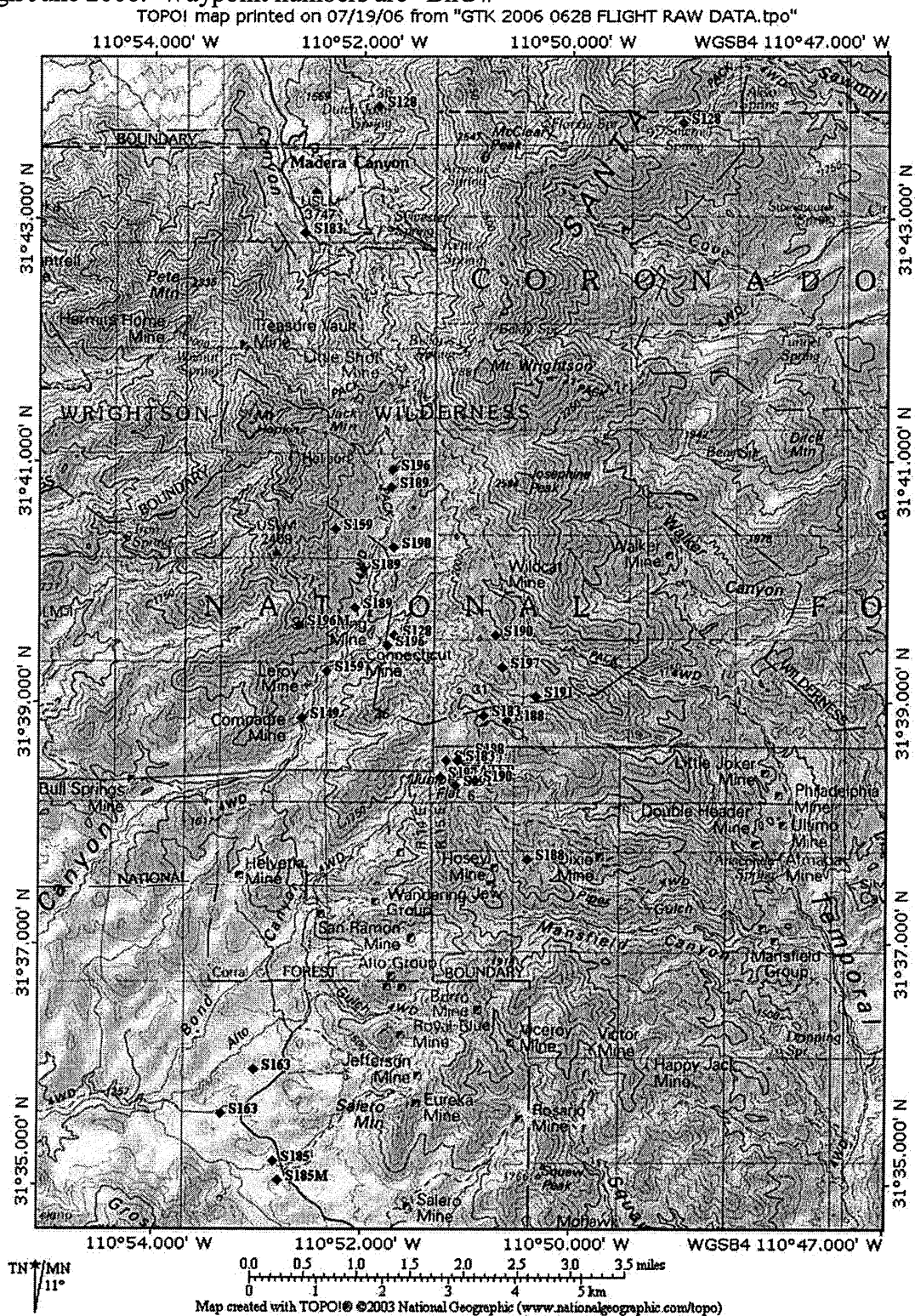
Job Statement 1, Subsection F  
Game Stocking  
Gould's Turkey

Figure 2. Turkey telemetry locations in the Catalina Mountains July 2005 through June 2006.  
Waypoint numbers are "Bird #"



Job Statement 1, Subsection F  
Game Stocking  
Gould's Turkey

Figure 3. Turkey telemetry locations of turkeys released in the Santa Rita Mountains July 2005 through June 2006. Waypoint numbers are "Bird #"



*Job Title: Game Management, Subsection D*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

**Special Performance Report**

**Project W-53-M-57**

**SPECIES: Gould's Turkey**

**PERIOD COVERED: July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007**

**OBJECTIVE:** Establish populations of game animals in areas of suitable habitat in Arizona and evaluate post-release success of reintroduced populations.

1. Evaluate areas known to have supported wildlife populations in the past; site evaluations will be done in conformance with established guidelines.
2. Negotiate contracts or agreements with other agencies for the purpose of obtaining wildlife of subspecies suitable for relocation to Arizona.
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**Objective 2:** The National Wild Turkey Federation has been very active this year obtaining turkeys from Mexico. Once again, they have assisted in Mexico with efforts to obtain birds and permits. NWTF also supported the operation of a quarantine facility in the Chiricahuas, which was critical to the success enjoyed thus far. All translocations were conducted in accordance with the southeastern turkey management plan (Heffelfinger et al. 2000).

**Objective 3:** Trapping and translocation of turkeys took place during 2006-2007. The trapping operations in the Huachuca Mountains, resulted in the release of 18 (8M:10F) Gould's turkeys in the Catalina Mountains (Unit 33) and 20 (10M:10F) in the Santa Rita Mountains (Unit 34A, Table 1).

**Objective 4:** Post-release monitoring occurred by fixed-wing aircraft nearly every month. Many birds are remaining near the release sites, but we have seen very good distribution in many areas throughout turkey habitat.

***Pinalenos (Unit 31):*** The last post-release monitoring flight was conducted on May 10, 2007. There are only 3 remaining birds still transmitting and alive and in the general area of Ft. Grant. Because of the low number of radioed birds, this will be the last monitoring

*Job Title: Game Management, Subsection D*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

flight unless more transmitters are placed on new birds. All other transmitters still in the field were checked and all were still working and still on mortality signal, including the new one from the previous flight (#25, a bird from Mexico translocated as an adult on 3/2004 so it died when at least five years old). The remaining birds with telemetry were adults from the San Bernardino and the Huachuca captures of 4/2005 (4 years old). Areas around the Santa Therasas and Galiuros were also checked for transmitter signals, but there was still no sign of #118 and #104 (Table 2, Fig. 1).

*Chiricahuas (Unit 29):* The last radioed turkey (#20) in the Chiricahuas died in Turkey Pen Canyon in February 2007 and was first heard on mortality March 1, 2007. This bird was captured in Mexico and released in the winter of 2004-05 (Table 3, Fig. 2).

*Catalinas (Unit 33):* Eighteen birds were released at Bear Wallow from the Huachucas this year (10M:10F). None of these birds had transmitters, but we are still monitoring 6 radioed birds from the previous releases (Table 4). Birds have dispersed well and are using much of the high-elevation habitat (Fig. 3).

*Santa Ritas (Unit 34A):* Twenty turkeys were released in the Santa Ritas; none were transmitted, but 7 radioed birds are still being located consistently and are alive (Table 5). These birds have also spread well throughout available habitat (Fig. 4).

Objective 5: Besides this report, several manuscripts have been written and published based on this effort. The focused activities by our Research Branch have been completed and published.

#### **CONCLUSIONS, EVALUATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations from the Gould's turkey advisory committee were to be as aggressive as possible in restoring turkeys to mountain ranges in southeastern Arizona. The release plans in the next year will be contingent on the number of birds translocated from Mexico and, of course, trapping success in the Huachucas. The Gould's committee agreed to the following plan, with a stated goal to trap about 90-120 birds [50-80 from Mexico and 40 from Fort Huachuca).

#### **2007-2008 Planned Captures**

*Captures in Mexico:* We are working on getting more birds from Mexico this year, but it remains difficult. We will have a goal of 50-80 total from Mexico with National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) help, but the Department will take a more active role in obtaining permits through Mexico City. Trapping would occur in March 2008, probably Wingshooter's Lodge if we obtain permission and permits. Scott Vance (NWTF) will meet with SEMARNAT in early March.

*Captures in the Huachuca Mountains:* We are planning to take 40 birds (20M:20F) out of the Huachuca Mountains again. More trapping training could be conducted if it is felt needed when the time gets closer. Huachuca trapping would occur in February or March 2008. Possible locations are Ramsey Canyon (deer are an issue there), Babocomari (3

*Job Title: Game Management, Subsection D*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

flocks are there and we may be able to get 5-10 birds), O'Donnell (still good but can't get 40 from there). There may be application for a rocket net in some cases. There may be a need to try off the Fort Huachuca or elsewhere in the Forest (Scotia or Sunnyside?). Col. Hunter is gone and General Custer is now in charge.

Table 1. Birds translocated during fiscal year 2006-2007 in southeastern Arizona.

| Date     | Capture Location                                  | Total | Male | Female | Number Radioed | Release Location                           |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|------|--------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Feb 2007 | Ramsey Canyon in the Huachucas (Unit 35A)         | 2     | 2    |        | 0              | Bear Wallow (Unit 33)                      |
| Feb 2007 | O'Donnell Creek (Unit 35A near boundary with 35B) | 16    | 6    | 10     | 0              | Bear Wallow (Unit 33)                      |
| Feb 2007 | Ramsey Canyon in the Huachucas                    | 9     |      | 9      | 0              | Josephine Canyon in Santa Ritas (Unit 34A) |
| Feb 2007 | O'Donnell Creek (Unit 35A near boundary with 35B) | 15    | 10   | 1      | 0              | Josephine Canyon in Santa Ritas (Unit 34A) |

2007-2008 Planned Releases

The goal is up to 80 birds from Mexico and 40 from the Huachucas.

*Huachuca Captured Turkeys (Feb/Mar 2008):*

Santa Ritas (Josephine Canyon, Unit 34A) = 20 (10:10) birds

Catalinas (Bear Wallow, Unit 33) = 20 (10:10)

*Mexican Turkeys (March 2008):*

Catalinas (Bear Wallow, Unit 33) = 45 additional birds

Santa Ritas (Josephine Canyon, Unit 34A) = 40 additional birds

Chiricahuas (possibly on east side of spine, Unit 29) = 15 birds

Pinalenos (Tripp Canyon, Unit 31) = 20 birds

If we can't get any birds from Mexico this year, we will proceed with the 40 birds out of the Huachucas going to the Catalinas and Santa Ritas. The Galiuros will be a secondary site that can be established with stock from our Arizona birds when those populations are robust.

Future birds released in the Galiuros would be into in Powers Garden to maximize success. The Department and USFS are currently working on documents to make this possible in the wilderness. Habitat projects like clearing brush encroachment might be beneficial.

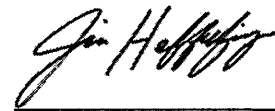
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*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

These plans will obviously have to be altered contingent on what happens with further discussions with Mexico. We do not want to start a new population if it will jeopardize the success of an existing population. We recommend that Gould's turkey translocations continue as outlined in the Southeastern Arizona Turkey Management Plan (Heffelfinger et al. 2000).

**LITERATURE CITED**

Heffelfinger, J. R., B. F. Wakeling, J. Millican, S. Stone, T. Skinner, M. Fredlake, and M. Adkins. 2000. Southeastern Arizona Wild Turkey Management Plan. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix. 24pp.

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Big Game Management  
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*Job Title: Game Management, Subsection D*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

Table 2. Status of Gould's turkeys in the Pinaleno Mountains, southeastern Arizona, July 2007.

| Status/<br>Located | Actual<br>Freq. | Telonic<br>Freq. | Leg<br>Band# | Age | Sex | Year<br>Rel. | Source    | Comments                                                                                                    |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-----|-----|--------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dead               | 148.199         | 148.200          | 68           | A   | F   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Dead 5-25-04, retrieved                                                                                     |
| Dead               | 148.299         | 148.300          | 30           | A   | F   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Found dead 6-24-05                                                                                          |
| Dead               | 148.399         | 148.400          | 39           | J   | M   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Mort 4/27; s of Riggs L; alive 5/30; mort Jesus 6/28                                                        |
| Dead               | 148.420         | 148.420          | 22           | J   | F   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Dead, retrieved 6-3-05                                                                                      |
| ?                  | 148.539         | 148.540          | 38           | J   | M   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Grapevine Canyon                                                                                            |
| Dead               | 148.599         | 148.600          | 115          | A   | F   | 05/06        | Zaca, MX  | Not loc. 4/27; Mort 5/30. PU 12/29/06 UTM 575420mE, 3614936mN near Aravaipa Creek in the Eureka Black Hills |
| ?                  | 148.610         | 148.610          | 118          | A   | F   | 05/06        | Zaca, MX  | Not located since 4/27/06                                                                                   |
| Dead               | 148.619         | 148.620          | 105          | A   | F   | 05/06        | Zaca, MX  | Near Tripp mort 5/30; Clark Pk mort 6/28                                                                    |
| Dead               | 148.629         | 148.630          | none         | A   | F   | 05/06        | Zaca, MX  | PU 12/29/06 UTM 584901mE, 3623060mN in Lindsey Canyon                                                       |
| Dead               | 148.709         | 148.710          | 46           | J   | M   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Dead Stockton Pass - retrieved 6-30-05                                                                      |
| Dead               | 148.719         | 148.720          | 41           | J   | M   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Dead (11-14-04 signal) retrieved 12/04                                                                      |
| Dead               | 148.729         | 148.730          | 25           | A   | F   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Back of Grant Cr 6/28                                                                                       |
| ?                  | 148.740         |                  | 104          | A   | F   | 05/06        | Zaca, MX  | Not located since 4/27/06                                                                                   |
| Dead               | 148.830         | 148.830          | 77           | A   | F   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Dead 5-25-04, retrieved                                                                                     |
| Dead               | 149.169         | 149.170          | 64           | A   | F   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Heliograph nest 6-24-05; Mort 7-27-05, UTM 607839mE, 3614161mN                                              |
| Dead               | 149.180         | 149.180          | 788          | HA  | F   | 04/05        | Huachucas | Dead, retrieved 6-3-05                                                                                      |
| Dead               | 149.200         | 149.200          | 5704         | J   | F   | 04/05        | SBNWR     | Dead, retrieved 6-3-05                                                                                      |
| Dead               | 149.240         | 149.240          | 790          | HA  | F   | 04/05        | Huachucas | Not located 5/6, 6/3, 8/25 Transmitter in tree                                                              |
| Dead               | 149.289         | 149.290          | 24           | J   | F   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Dead, retrieved 10-7-05                                                                                     |
| Dead               | 149.329         | 149.330          | 35           | J   | F   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Grant Creek/Goudy, mort 5/30, 6/28                                                                          |
| Dead               | 149.379         | 149.380          | 27           | J   | F   | 3/04         | Mexico    | Dead up top 6-24-05 by Jansen                                                                               |
| Dead               | 149.680         | 149.680          | 5701         | A   | M   | 04/05        | SBNWR     | Dead, retrieved 6-3-05                                                                                      |
| ?                  | 149.738         | 149.740          | 74           | J   | F   | 03/04        | Mexico    | By Prison pond 6/28                                                                                         |
| Alive              | 149.749         | 149.750          | 5703         | A   | F   | 04/05        | SBNWR     | Located alive 5/10/07                                                                                       |
| Dead               | 149.770         | 149.770          | 29           | A   | F   | 03/04        | Mexico    | Dead 5-25-04, retrieved                                                                                     |

*Job Title: Game Management, Subsection D*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

|       |         |         |      |    |   |       |           |                                      |
|-------|---------|---------|------|----|---|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Alive | 149.770 | 149.770 | 795  | HA | F | 04/05 | Huachucas | Located alive 5/10/07                |
| Dead  | 149.800 | 149.800 | 49   | A  | M | 03/04 | Mexico    | Dead 5-5-04, retrieved               |
| Alive | 149.809 | 149.810 | 5705 | A  | F | 04/05 | SBNWR     | Last located alive 5/10/07           |
| ?     | 149.839 | 149.840 | 34   | J  | F | 03/04 | Mexico    | Grapevine Cyn 5/30, not located 6/28 |

**Table 3. Status of Gould's turkeys released in the Chiricahua Mountains as of July 2007.**

| Status/<br>Located | Actual<br>Freq. | Telonic<br>Freq.     | Bird# <sup>b</sup> | Patagial # | Sex | Yr<br>Rel. | Source | Last Location                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|-----|------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Dead               | 148.199         | 148.200              | 22                 | 19 yellow  | F   | 03/04      | Mexico | Mort 7/03                                       |
| Dead               | 148.399         | 148.400              | 5                  | 3 yellow   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico | Mort. 8/2/04, retrieved 9/04                    |
| ?                  | 148.439         | 148.440              | 24                 | 21 yellow  | F   | 03/04      | Mexico | S. side of TK Creek                             |
| ?                  | 148.531         | 148.531 <sup>a</sup> | 11                 | 8 yellow   | M   | 03/04      | Mexico | Stopped transmitting                            |
| ?                  | 148.541         | 148.541 <sup>a</sup> | 13                 | 10 yellow  | F   | 03/04      | Mexico | Stopped transmitting                            |
| Dead               | 148.718         | 148.720              | 23                 | 20 yellow  | M   | 03/04      | Mexico | Radio retrieved 11/03                           |
| Dead               | 148.738         | 148.740              | 8                  | 5 yellow   | M   | 03/04      | Mexico | Mort. 8/31/04, retrieved 9/04                   |
| Dead               | 148.749         | 148.750              | 29                 | 26 yellow  | M   | 03/04      | Mexico | Radio retrieved 7/27/03                         |
| Dead               | 148.878         | 148.880              | 20                 | 265-266    | F   | 04/05      | Mexico | Died 3/4/07 in TK Pen                           |
| Dead               | 149.078         | 149.080              | 21                 | 18 yellow  | F   | 03/04      | Mexico | Radio retrieved 7/27/03                         |
| Dead               | 149.109         | 149.110              | 15                 | 12 yellow  | M   | 03/04      | Mexico | Radio retrieved 7/29/05                         |
| Dead               | 149.189         | 149.190              | 10                 | 7 yellow   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico | Radio retrieved 9/27/03                         |
| Dead               | 149.199         | 149.200              | 7                  | 4 yellow   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico | Radio retrieved 9/27/03                         |
| Dead               | 149.208         | 149.210              | 14                 | 11 yellow  | F   | 03/04      | Mexico | Mort. 8/2/04, retrieved 9/04                    |
| ?                  | 149.218         | 149.220              | 9                  | 6 yellow   | F   | 03/04      | Mexico | Onion Saddle 8/25                               |
| Dead               | 149.228         | 149.230              | 76                 | 261-262    | F   | 04/05      | Mexico | Poached 8/2/04, retrieved 9/26                  |
| Dead               | 149.249         | 149.250              | 25                 | 22 yellow  | F   | 03/04      | Mexico | Mort. 3/7/05                                    |
| Dead               | 149.308         | 149.310              | 28                 | 25 yellow  | F   | 03/04      | Mexico | Radio found 10/03 by Henry Montero 520-419-2920 |

*Job Title: Game Management, Subsection D*  
*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

Table 4. Status of Gould's turkeys in the Catalina Mountains, southeastern Arizona, July 2007.

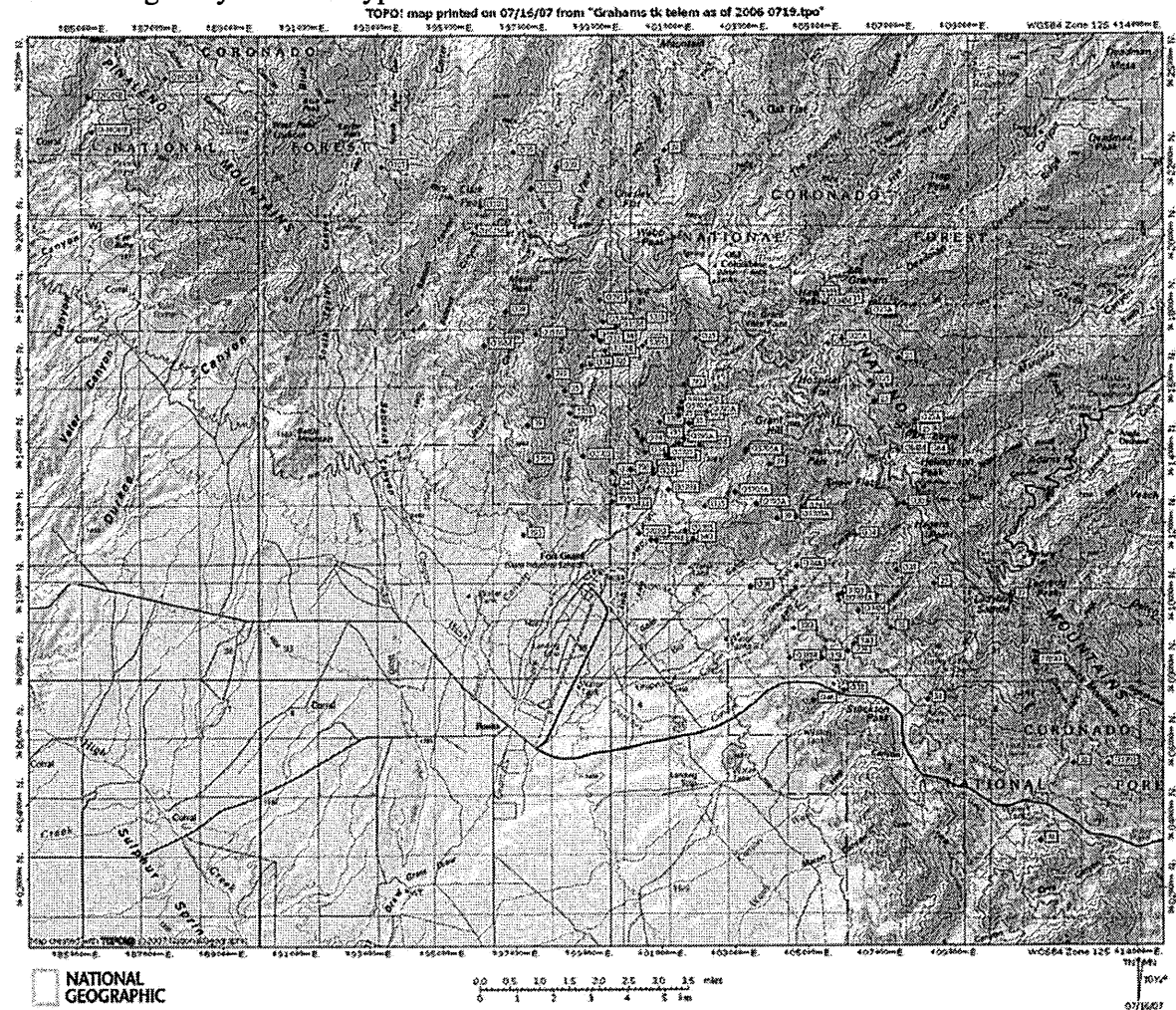
| Status/<br>Located | Actual<br>Freq. | Telonics<br>Freq. | Leg<br>Band# | Age | Sex | Yr<br>Rel. | Source | Comments                                                                                                              |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|-----|-----|------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dead               | 148.639         | 148.640           | 588          | Ad  | F   | 05/06      | Mexico | Upper Lemmon Cr. then not located since 5/30/06. Dead in Tucson near Tanque Verde Wash June 2007 (3/8/07 Mort signal) |
| Dead               | 148.648         | 148.650           | 589          | Ad  | F   | 05/06      | Mexico | Near Summerhaven - Mort signal on 3/8/07                                                                              |
| Alive              | 148.659         | 148.660           | 59           | Ad  | F   | 05/06      | Mexico | Ranger Station                                                                                                        |
| Alive              | 148.669         | 148.670           | 596          | Ad  | F   | 05/06      | Mexico | Shovel Spr                                                                                                            |
| Dead               | 148.680         | 148.680           | 585          | Ad  | F   | 05/06      | Mexico | Upper Sabino - Mort 2/22/06                                                                                           |
| Alive              | 148.689         | 148.690           | 592          | Jv  | F   | 05/06      | Mexico | S. of Shovel Spr                                                                                                      |
| Alive              | 148.699         | 148.700           | 583          | Ad  | F   | 05/06      | Mexico | S. of Shovel Spr                                                                                                      |
| Dead               | 148.710         | 148.710           | 584          | Ad  | F   | 05/06      | Mexico | N. side Mt. Bigelow - Mort 2/22/06                                                                                    |
| Alive              | 148.719         | 148.720           | 598          | Ad  | F   | 05/06      | Mexico | S. of Shovel Spr                                                                                                      |
| Alive              | 148.729         | 148.730           | 597          | Ad  | F   | 05/06      | Mexico | S. of Shovel Spr                                                                                                      |

Table 5. Status of Gould's turkeys in the Santa Rita Mountains, southeastern Arizona, July 2007.

| Status/<br>Located | Actual<br>Freq. | Telonics<br>Freq. | Leg<br>Band# | Age | Sex | Yr<br>Rel. | Source   | Comments                                            |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|-----|-----|------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Alive              | 148.809         | 148.810           | 197          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | Juniper Flat                                        |
| Alive              | 148.820         |                   | 194          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | In Patagonia then not located since 5/30/06         |
| Alive              | 148.829         | 148.830           | 191          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | Juniper Flat                                        |
| Dead               | 148.839         | 148.840           | 149          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | Mort 4/27/06 PU by 583                              |
| Dead               | 148.849         | 148.850           | 163          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | Mort 4/27/06 - found 6/8/06 on Salero               |
| Dead               | 148.860         |                   | 152          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | PU by 583 on 6/1/06 near lake towards Coal Mine Spr |
| Alive              | 148.870         |                   | 130          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | Not located since 5/30/06                           |
| Alive              | 148.879         | 148.880           | 128          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | E. of Juniper Flat                                  |
| Alive              | 148.889         | 148.890           | 189          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | Between Mt. Hopkins & Wrightson                     |
| Dead               | 148.900         |                   | 185          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | Mort 5/30/06 by Salero Rch (found 8/6/06)           |
| Dead               | 148.920         |                   | 196          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | Mort 5/30/06 S. of Mt. Hopkins (found 8/6/06)       |
| Alive              | 148.929         | 148.930           | 190          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | E of Juniper Flat                                   |
| Dead               | 148.939         | 148.940           | 188          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | Mort 7/20/06 E of Hosey Mine                        |
| Alive              | 148.949         | 148.950           | 183          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | Juniper Flat                                        |
| Alive              | 148.959         | 148.960           | 159          | A   | F   | 05/06      | Zaca, MX | Juniper Flat                                        |

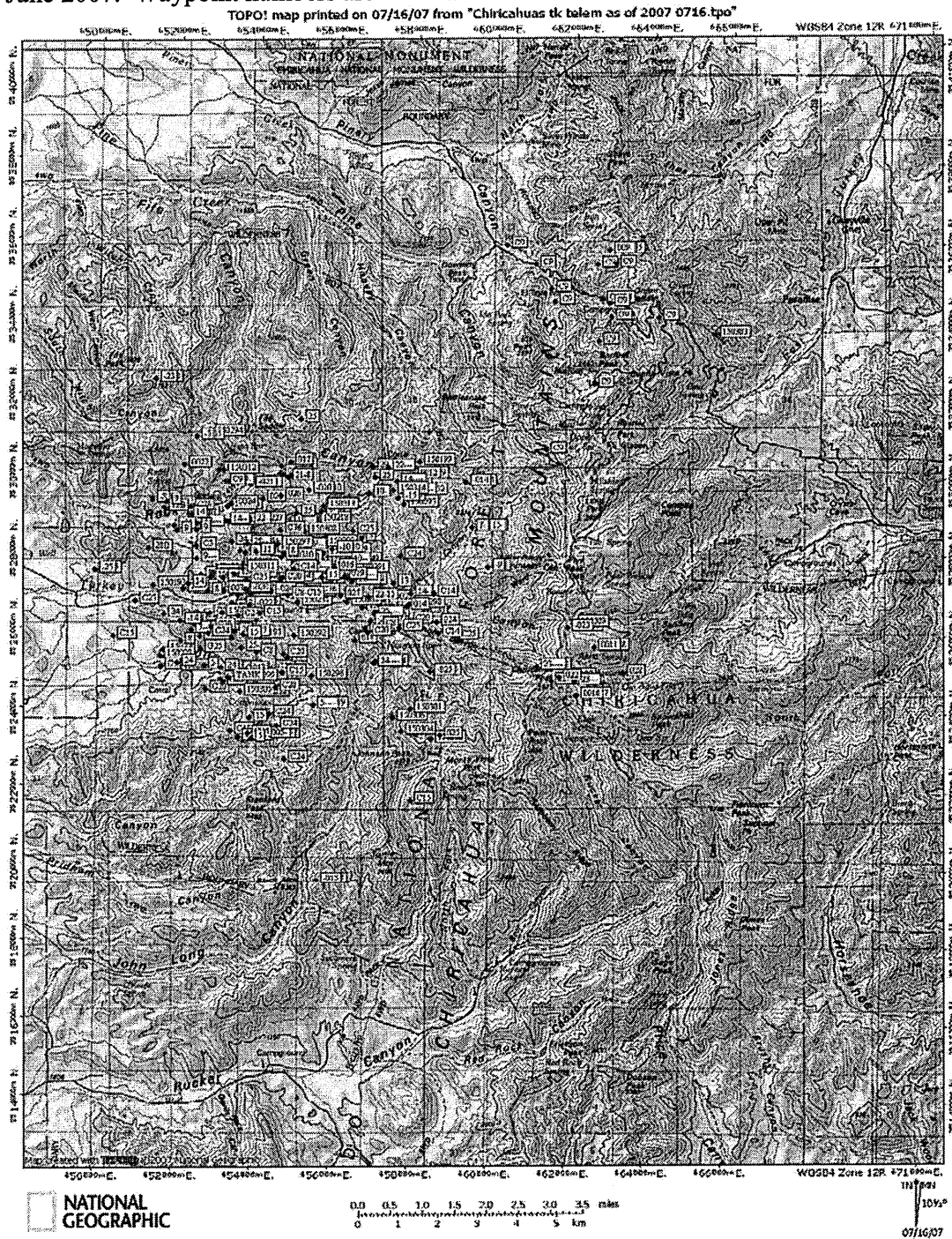
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Figure 1. Turkey telemetry locations of turkeys released in the Pinaleno Mountains July 2005 through July 2007. Waypoint numbers are "Bird #"



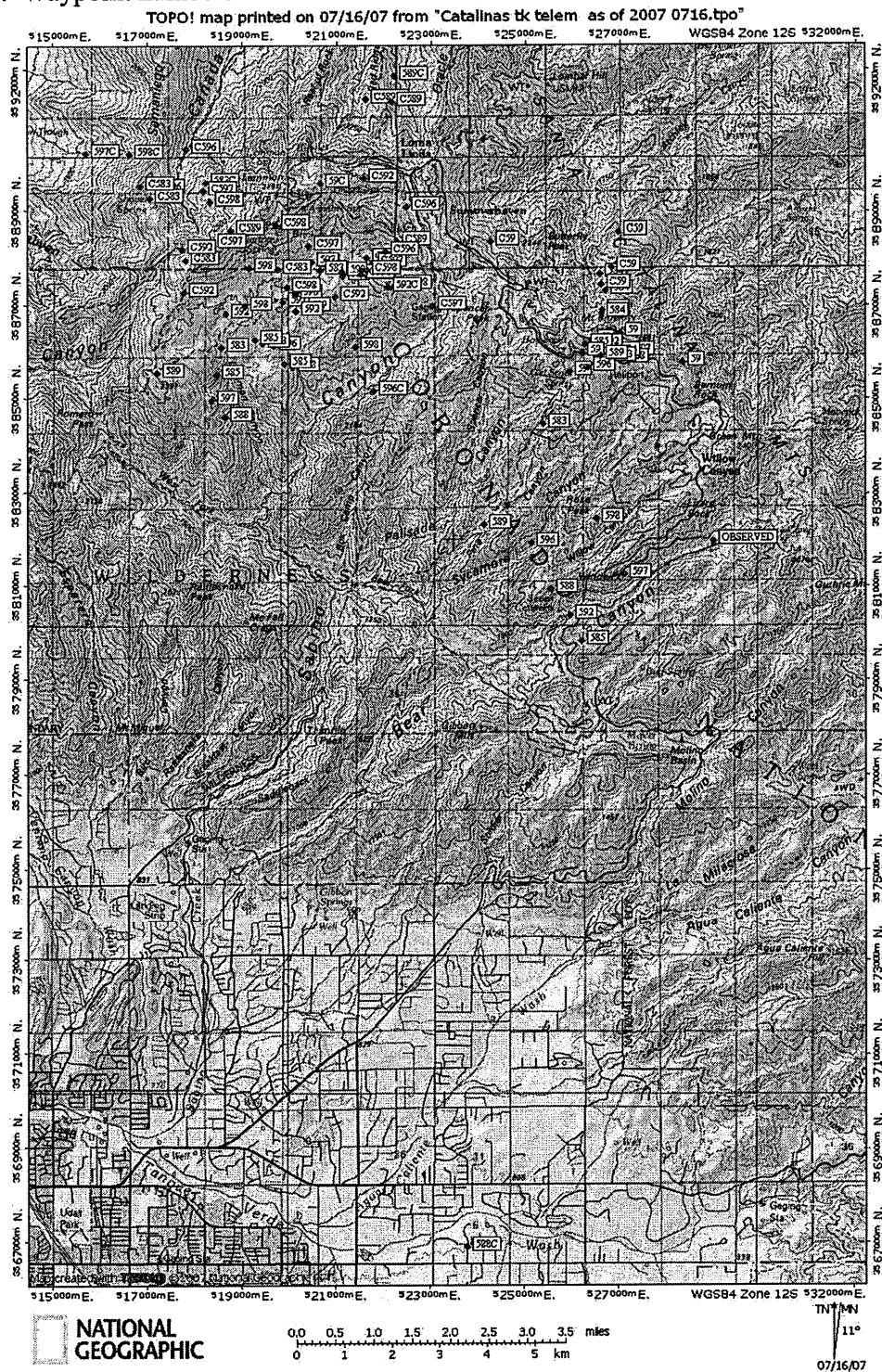
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Figure 2. Turkey telemetry locations in the Chiricahua Mountains July 2005 through June 2007. Waypoint numbers are "Bird #."



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*Game Stocking*  
*Gould's Turkey*

Figure 3. Turkey telemetry locations in the Catalina Mountains July 2005 through June 2007. Waypoint numbers are "Bird #."



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Game Stocking  
Gould's Turkey

Figure 4. Turkey telemetry locations of turkeys released in the Santa Rita Mountains July 2005 through July 2007. Waypoint numbers are "Bird #."

