



## Wild Turkeys Don't Need Your Handouts!

**Feeding wild turkeys is asking for trouble – not only for you, but for your neighbors as well. Prevent problems by discouraging wild turkeys from becoming too comfortable on your property.**

- If turkeys begin feeding under hanging bird feeders, remove the feeders until the turkeys leave the area.
- If turkeys are causing problems in your yard, install motion-detecting sprinklers.
- Wild turkeys typically will not enter yards with dogs.
- If confronted by a wild turkey that has lost its fear of humans, an open umbrella may help steer it out of your path.
- Depredation permits are required to kill wild turkeys that are causing property damage. To get a depredation permit, contact your local Department of Fish & Game office.

Please respect and protect wild animals. Keep them wild.

[www.keepmewild.org](http://www.keepmewild.org)

### For More Information

Contact the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

Sacramento Headquarters – (916) 653-6420

Northern California, North Coast Region  
Redding – (530) 225-2300

Sacramento Valley, Central Sierra Region  
Rancho Cordova – (916) 358-2900

Central Coast Region  
Napa – (707) 944-5500

San Joaquin Valley, Southern Sierra Region  
Fresno – (559) 243-4005 ext. 151

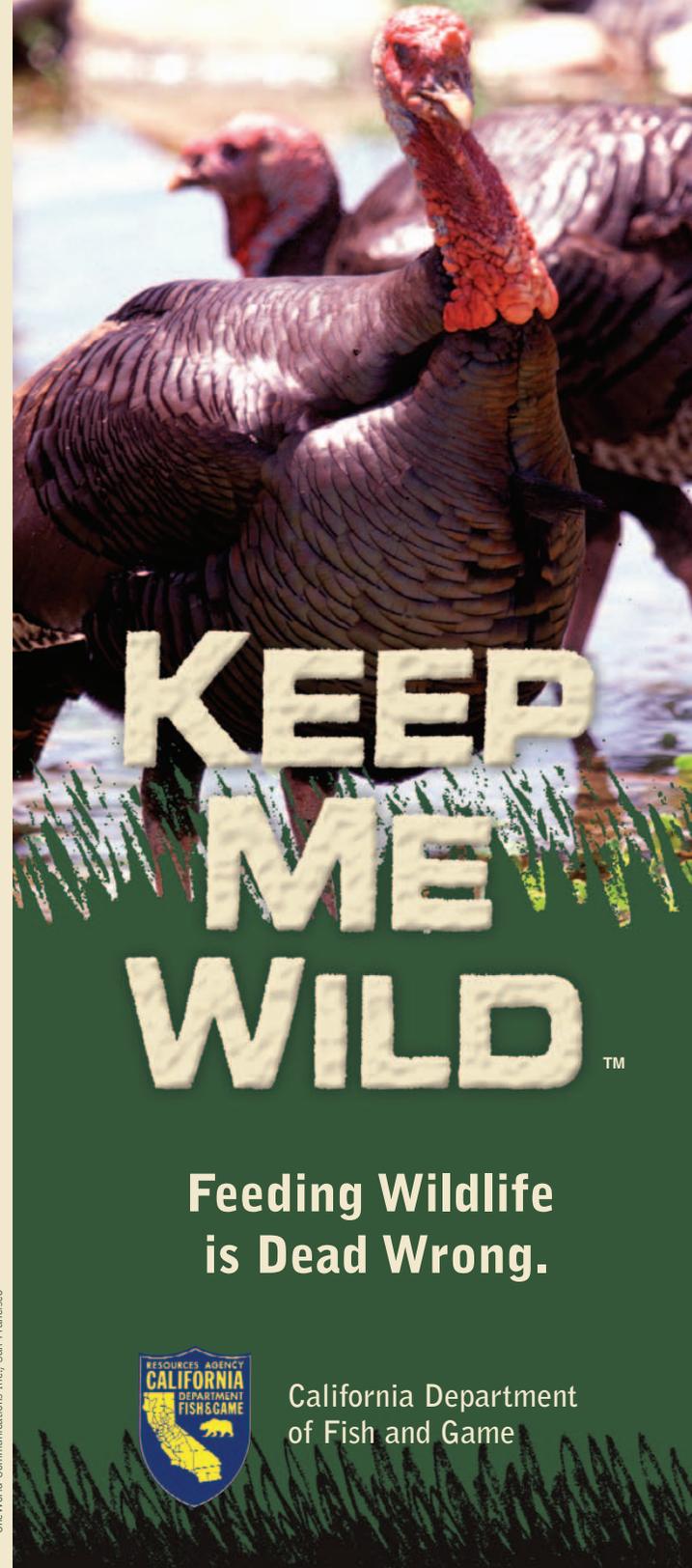
South Coast Region  
San Diego – (858) 467-4201

Eastern Sierra, Inland Deserts Region  
Ontario – (909) 484-0167

Alternate communication methods are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, contact the Department of Fish and Game, (916) 653-6420, [lbernard@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:lbernard@dfg.ca.gov), or the California Relay Service serving deaf and hearing-impaired residents using TTY/TDD phones, and speech-impaired callers, at (800) 735-2929.



A campaign for all wild animals.



# KEEP ME WILD™

## Feeding Wildlife is Dead Wrong.



California Department of Fish and Game

# Feeding Wild Turkeys Will Bring Problems Home to Roost.

California's wild turkeys now occupy about 18 percent of our state, and are a highly valued upland game bird. Many Californians also enjoy watching them.

Some homeowners can't resist feeding them. That's when trouble begins. A few stray visitors soon become a flock of permanent residents that have lost their natural fear of humans.

Adult wild turkeys, which can weigh upwards of 20 pounds, can destroy flowers and vegetable gardens, leave their droppings on patios and decks, and roost on cars, scratching the paint.

Turkeys can become aggressive during the breeding season, occasionally even charging, threatening, and acting aggressively toward people.

Relocating nuisance wild turkeys is expensive and impractical. But preventing conflicts is simple.

**Wild turkeys don't need your handouts.**

**They need your respect.**



## Controlling Wild Turkey Populations

California's wild turkey populations are healthy and growing. Hunting turkeys helps to control their populations and maintain their natural wariness of people. Where safe and legal, hunt wild turkeys on your property, or allow others to hunt them.

- Spring season: season limit is three gobblers per hunter (one per day)
- Fall season: season limit is one turkey per hunter (gobbler or hen)
- A hunting license and upland game bird stamp are required
- Legal methods of take include shotgun, archery equipment, or air rifle
- Hunting regulations are available from DFG offices and online at [www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

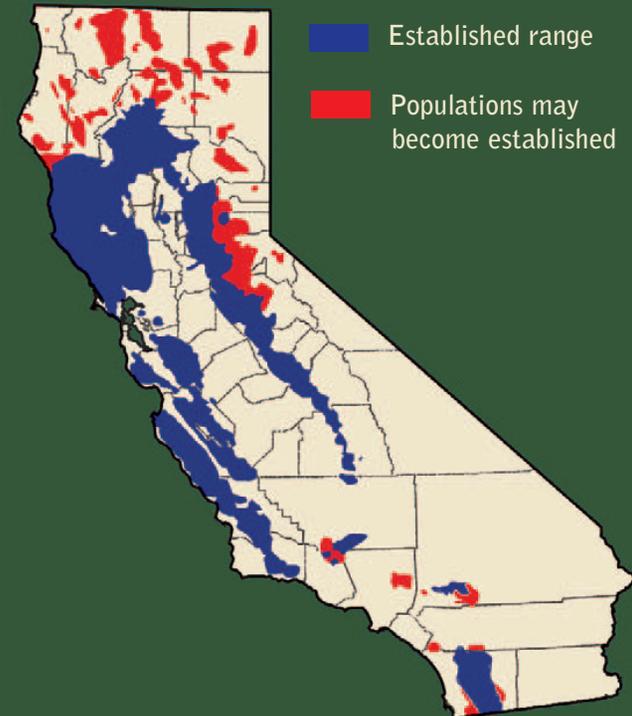
Homeowners experiencing property damage from wild turkeys may obtain a depredation permit from the local DFG office.

**Keep them wild.**

Feeding wild turkeys can cause major problems for you and your neighbors.



Wild turkeys are well established in about 29,000 square miles of California.



## You Can Help Wildlife

Please visit [www.keepmewild.org](http://www.keepmewild.org) for downloadable posters, newspaper advertisements and other Keep Me Wild™ materials.