

**STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING AND RULE MAKING NOTICE**

The New Mexico State Game Commission ("Commission") has scheduled a regular meeting and rule hearing for Thursday, August 22, 2019, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the New Mexico State Capitol Room 317, 490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87501, to hear and consider action as appropriate on the following: Presentation of proposed changes to the Migratory Game Bird rule.

**Synopsis:**

The proposal is to adopt a new Migratory Game Bird rule, 19.31.6 NMAC, which will become effective September 1, 2019. The current Migratory Game Bird rule expired on March 31, 2019.

The proposed new rule will include adjusting regular waterfowl season dates, extending the Middle Rio Grande Valle dark goose season by 17 days, decreasing the number of sandhill crane permits, decreasing the bag limit for northern pintail from 2 to 1, extending the hunting days and hours at some Wildlife Management Areas, and moving the youth crane hunt one week later to December 7th. A full text of changes will be available on the Department's website at: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us).

Interested persons may submit comments on the proposed changes to the Migratory Game Bird rule at [DGF-waterfowl@state.nm.us](mailto:DGF-waterfowl@state.nm.us); or individuals may submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on August 21, 2019. The final proposed rule will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on August 22, 2019. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearing to be held on August 22, 2019.

Full copies of text of the proposed new rule, technical information related to proposed rule changes, and the agenda can be obtained from the Office of the Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507, or from the Department's website at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/). This agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to the meeting. Please contact the Director's Office at (505) 476-8000, or the Department's website at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us) for updated information.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Department at (505) 476-8000 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Department at 505-476-8000 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

Legal authority for this rulemaking can be found in the General Powers and Duties of the State Game Commission 17-1-14, et seq. NMSA 1978; Commission's Power to establish rules and regulations 17-1-26, et seq. NMSA 1978.

**EXHIBIT**

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## **NOTICE STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING**

On Thursday, August 22, 2019, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the New Mexico State Capitol, Room 317, 490 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico, the State Game Commission will meet in public session. Copies of the agenda can be obtained from the Department's website, [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us), or by contacting the Office of the Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504. The agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to the meeting.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Department at (505) 476-8000 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Department at 505-476-8000 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

## Clean copy-Initial Proposed Rule

**TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE**  
**CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING**  
**PART 6 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD**

**19.31.6.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico department of game and fish.  
[19.31.6.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.1 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.2 SCOPE:** Sportspersons interested in migratory game bird management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Title 19 NMAC.  
[19.31.6.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.2 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds, and fish.  
[19.31.6.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.3 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.4 DURATION:** September 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020.  
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 1, 2019, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.  
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.6 OBJECTIVE:** Establishing open hunting seasons, regulations, rules, and procedures governing the issuance of migratory game bird licenses and permits by the department.  
[19.31.6.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.6 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.7 DEFINITIONS:**

**A. "Bernardo pond unit"** shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and west of the unit 7 drain.

**B. "Bernardo youth unit"** shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area immediately south of the Quagmire and east of the unit 7 drain.

**C. "Central flyway"** shall mean that portion of New Mexico east of the continental divide.

**D. "Dark goose"** shall mean Canada goose or white-fronted goose.

**E. "Department"** shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.

**F. "Director"** shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.

**G. "Dove north zone" or "north zone"** shall mean that portion of New Mexico north of Interstate 40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

**H. "Dove south zone" or "south zone"** shall mean that portion of New Mexico south of Interstate 40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

**I. "Eastern New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" or "eastern"** shall mean that area in the following counties: Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay, and Roosevelt.

**J. "Estancia valley sandhill crane hunt area" or "EV"** shall mean that area beginning at Mountainair bounded on the west by N.M. highway 55 north to N.M. 337, north to N.M. 14, and north to Interstate 25; on the north by Interstate 25 east to U.S. 285; on the east by U.S. 285 south to U.S. 60; and on the south by U.S. 60 from U.S. 285 west to N.M. 55 in Mountainair.

**K. "Falconry"** shall mean hunting migratory game birds using raptors.

**L. "Federal youth waterfowl hunting days"** shall mean the special seasons where only those 17 years of age and younger may hunt ducks and geese. A supervising adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter. The adult may not hunt ducks, but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth days.

**M. "Light geese"** shall mean snow geese, blue phase snow geese, and Ross's geese.

**N. "Light goose conservation order"** shall mean those methods, bag and possession limits, and dates approved by the U.S. fish and wildlife service towards reducing over-abundant light goose populations.

O. "Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) dark goose hunt area" shall mean Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties.

P. "Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) sandhill crane hunt area" shall mean Valencia and Socorro counties.

Q. "Migratory game bird" shall mean band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, sandhill crane, American coot, common moorhen/gallinule, snipe, ducks, geese, sora, purple gallinule, and Virginia rail.

R. "North zone" shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway north of Interstate 40; and that portion of the central flyway north of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

S. "Pacific flyway" shall mean that portion of New Mexico west of the continental divide.

T. "Possession limit" shall mean the number of birds in a person's possession regardless of the location stored.

U. "Quagmire" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and east of the unit 7 drain.

V. "South zone" shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway south of Interstate 40; and that portion of the central flyway south of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

W. "Southwest band-tailed pigeon hunting area" or "southwest BPHA" shall mean that portion of New Mexico both south of U.S. 60 and west of Interstate 25.

X. "Southwest New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" or "SW" shall mean that area bounded on the south by the New Mexico-Mexico border; on the west by the New Mexico-Arizona border north to Interstate 10; on the north by Interstate 10 east to U.S. 180, north to N.M. 26, east to N.M. 27, north to N.M. 152, and east to Interstate 25; on the east by Interstate 25 south to Interstate 10, west to the Luna county line, and south to the New Mexico-Mexico border.

Y. "Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs" shall mean those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.

[19.31.6.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.7 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.8 ADJUSTMENT OF SANDHILL CRANE LICENSES AND PERMITS:** The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of licenses and permits to address significant changes in harvest levels. This adjustment may be applied to any or all of the entry hunt codes.

[19.31.6.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.8 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.9 LICENSE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

A. **License:** A Harvest Information Program (HIP) number shall be required. Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older are required to have in their possession a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (duck stamp). It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take migratory birds without a HIP number, or duck stamp if required.

(1) Any person taking or attempting to take sandhill cranes in the eastern hunt area must have a valid license and a free sandhill crane hunting permit obtained from department offices or website.

(2) For EV sandhill crane, MRGV sandhill crane, MRGV youth-only sandhill crane, and SW sandhill crane: in addition to a valid license, a special permit obtained by drawing shall be required.

(3) For the light goose conservation order: in addition to a valid license, a free light goose conservation order permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

(4) For band-tailed pigeon hunting: in addition to a valid license, a free band-tailed pigeon permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

B. **Valid dates of license or permit:** All permits and licenses shall be valid only for the dates, legal sporting arms, bag limit and area printed on the permit or license.

C. **Applications:** Applications for EV sandhill crane, MRGV sandhill crane, SW sandhill crane, and MRGV youth-only sandhill crane hunt permits shall be submitted via the department website.

(1) No more than four persons may apply per application. For the MRGV youth-only sandhill crane hunt, no more than two persons may apply per application.

(2) Applicants may apply for a first, second and third choice of seasons, if applicable. A maximum of one permit per species hunt code will be awarded to successful applicants unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.



(3) The application deadline date for the EV, MRGV, MRGV youth-only, and SW sandhill crane hunt permits shall be on date(s) set by the state game commission. If any permits are available after the drawing, those permits may be sold online via a secondary sale.

**D. Youth hunts:** Only applicants who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by the opening day of the hunt are eligible to apply for or participate in a youth-only hunt.  
[19.31.6.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.9 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.10 MANNER AND METHODS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:**

**A. Hours:** Migratory game birds may be hunted or taken only during the period from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise specifically allowed or restricted by rule.

(1) On the Bottomless lakes overflow, and Bernardo, Casa Colorada, Jackson lake, La Joya, and W.S. Huey WMAs, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated in rule. For hunting September teal on Bernardo and La Joya WMAs, hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

(2) During the light goose conservation order hunt dates, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, excluding the WMAs listed in Paragraph (1) above.

**B. Seizure:** Any officer authorized to enforce Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and state game commission rules shall seize any migratory game birds or parts that are illegally obtained or possessed.

**C. Lands and waters owned, administered, controlled, or managed by the state game commission:**

(1) State wildlife management areas open, species that can be hunted, and days open for hunting (use of vehicles will be restricted to designated areas):

(a) Bernardo WMA:

(i) That portion of the Bernardo WMA south of U.S. 60 is open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and the federal youth waterfowl days. That portion of the Bernardo WMA north of U.S. 60 is closed except during the light goose conservation order.

(ii) The Quagmire shall be open only on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(iii) The Bernardo pond unit shall be open for general waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(iv) The Bernardo youth unit shall be open for youth waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(b) The Charette lake WMA shall be open each day of the federal youth waterfowl days and on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons. Charette lake WMA is closed during the September teal season.

(c) The Edward Sargent, W. A. Humphries, Rio Chama, Urraca, Colin Neblett, Water canyon, Marquez, and Elliot S. Barker WMAs shall be open for hunting dove and band-tailed pigeon during established seasons.

(d) The portion of Jackson lake WMA west of N.M. 170 shall be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe. The portion of Jackson lake WMA east of N.M. 170 shall be open to falconry-only migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(e) The lesser prairie-chicken management areas shall be open to hunt dove during established seasons.

(f) La Joya WMA:

(i) the entire La Joya WMA shall be open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and each day of the federal youth waterfowl days;

(ii) that portion of La Joya WMA north of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Saturdays, Mondays, and Wednesdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iii) that portion of La Joya WMA south of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iv) that portion of La Joya WMA east of the railroad tracks shall be open to hunt dove, ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons.

(g) The McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tucumcari, and Socorro-Escondida WMAs shall be open for all migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(h) The William S. Huey WMA shall be open for dove hunting on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during established seasons.

(2) The Hammond tract and Retherford tract WMAs shall be open for waterfowl hunting during established seasons.

(3) The Sandia ranger district of the Cibola national forest shall be open only to falconry, bow and crossbow migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(4) All WMAs shall be open to falconry waterfowl hunting each day of the established falconry season, unless otherwise restricted by rule.

[19.31.6.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.10 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES, AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: 2019-2020 season, all dates are 2019 unless otherwise specified. Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.**

Species	open areas	season dates	daily bag limit
mourning and white-winged dove	north zone	Sept. 1 - Nov. 29	15 (singly or in aggregate)
	south zone	Sept. 1 - Oct. 28 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1, 2020	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14	2
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. 26 - Jan. 26, 2020	3 (6 in possession)

**CENTRAL FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.**

species	season dates	daily bag limit
September teal: blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, and cinnamon teal	Sept. 14 - 22	6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. 12 - Jan. 15, 2020	6 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican-like ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail, and 2 canvasback
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2020	
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Sept. 28 - 29	6 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican-like ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail, and 2 canvasback
	south zone: Oct. 5 - 6	
American coot	north zone: Oct. 12 - Jan. 15, 2020	15
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2020	
common moorhen/gallinule	Sept. 14 - Nov. 22	1
snipe	Oct. 12 - Jan. 26, 2020	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 14 - Nov. 22	10 (singly or in the aggregate); 20 in possession
dark goose: Canada & white-fronted geese (regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro, and Valencia counties)	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020	5

dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 21 - Jan. 31, 2020	2 (2 per season)
light goose: Ross's & snow geese	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020	50 (no possession limit)
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 2020	no bag or possession limit
<b>PACIFIC FLYWAY:</b> possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.		
<b>species</b>	<b>season dates</b>	<b>daily bag limit</b>
youth waterfowl days	Oct. 5 - 6	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail, and 2 canvasback
ducks	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2020	
scaup	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2020	3 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
American coot and common moorhen/gallinule	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2020	25 daily (singly or in the aggregate)
snipe	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 14 - Nov. 22	25 daily (singly or in the aggregate)
goose	north zone: Sept. 21 - Oct. 6 and Nov. 2 - 31, 2020	4 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese, and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: 2019-2020 season**, all dates are 2019 unless otherwise specified. Bag limits are three singly or in the aggregate and nine in possession unless otherwise specified.

<b>CENTRAL FLYWAY</b>		
<b>species</b>	<b>open areas</b>	<b>season dates</b>
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2020
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2020
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 14 - Dec. 29
snipe	all	Oct. 12 - Jan. 26, 2020
common moorhen/gallinule	all	Sept. 14 - Dec. 29
ducks	north	Sept. 14 - 22 and Oct. 12 - Jan 15, 2020
	south	Sept. 14 - 22 and Oct. 28 - Jan 31, 2020
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 21 - Jan. 31, 2020
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 12 - Jan. 26, 2020; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Oct. 26 - Dec. 24; 3 (6 in possession)
<b>PACIFIC FLYWAY</b>		
<b>species</b>	<b>open areas</b>	<b>season dates</b>
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2020
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2020
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
duck	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2020
scaup	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2020
goose	north	Sept. 21 - Oct. 6 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2020
	south	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020
snipe	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020
coots and common moorhen/gallinule	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2020
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 14 - Nov. 22

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.13 FEDERAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS:** Requirements for youth hunters to participate in this hunt are as follows:

A. An adult, 18 years of age or older, must accompany the youth hunter in the field (the adult may not hunt ducks but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth days).

B. Only ducks, coots, and common moorhens/gallinules may be taken by the youth hunter (sandhill cranes, geese or any other migratory game bird species may not be taken unless the season is open).

[19.31.6.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.13 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.14 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL BERNARDO YOUTH WATERFOWL UNIT:**

Blind selection will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a supervising adult who may not hunt. A maximum of four people is allowed per blind, at least half of which must be youth hunters.

[19.31.6.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.14 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.15 SEASON DATES, OPEN AREAS, BAG LIMITS, HUNT CODES AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR THE SPECIAL ESTANCIA VALLEY, MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY, AND SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS:**

A. The daily bag limit is 3. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit, except for the MRGV youth-only hunt where the bag and possession limits are 3. The hunting seasons for 2019-2020 are:

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Oct 26 - Oct 29 and Oct. 31 - Nov. 3	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 9 - 10	SCR-0-102	55
MRGV	Nov. 30 - Dec. 1	SCR-0-103	50
MRGV	Dec. 14 - 15	SCR-0-104	55
MRGV	Jan. 4 - 5, 2020	SCR-0-105	55
MRGV	Jan. 11 - 12, 2020	SCR-0-106	55
MRGV, youth-only	Dec. 7	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3	SCR-0-108	70
SW	Jan. 4 - 5, 2020	SCR-0-109	60

B. Hunters who participate in the MRGV season shall be required to check-out at designated check stations when they harvest any sandhill cranes.

C. The department may cancel one or more EV, MRGV or SW sandhill crane hunts if harvest is expected to exceed our federal allocation of greater sandhill cranes.

[19.31.6.15 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.15 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**HISTORY OF 19.31.6 NMAC:**

**Pre-NMAC Filing History:** The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center & Archives under: Regulation No. 486, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, Prairie Chickens, and Lesser Sandhill (Little Brown) Crane And Additional Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/22/67; Regulation No. 494, Establishing 1968 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Common Snipe, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's, And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 10/2/68; Regulation No. 508, Establishing 1969 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/19/69; Regulation No. 527, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Cranes, filed 9/10/71; Regulation No. 540, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, And Wilson's Swiipe, filed 9/26/72; Regulation No. 551, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Crane, filed 8/20/73; Regulation No. 560, Establishing

1974 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/21/74; Regulation No. 570, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/5/75; Regulation No. 578, Establishing 1976 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/31/1976; Regulation No. 588, Establishing 1977 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/6/1977; Regulation No. 594, Establishing 1978 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/11/1978; Regulation No. 601, Establishing 1979 Seasons on Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/30/1979; Regulation No. 606, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/80; Regulation No. 611, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/4/1981; Regulation No. 616, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/1982; Regulation No. 626, Establishing 1983 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/7/1983; Regulation No. 631, Establishing 1984 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 8/31/1984; Regulation No. 638, Establishing 1985 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/11/1985; Regulation No. 643, Establishing 1986-1987 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 8/24/1987; Regulation No. 660, Establishing 1988-1989 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 6/28/1988; Regulation No. 669, Establishing 1989-1990 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Band-tailed Pigeon, Dove, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 10/5/1989; Regulation No. 680, Establishing 1990-1991 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/28/1990; Regulation No. 687, Establishing 1991-1992 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1991-92 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1992-1993 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry seasons, filed 9/15/1992; Regulation No. 704, Establishing 1993-1994 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 3/11/1993; Regulation No. 707, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 7/28/1994; Regulation No. 708, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, And 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/7/1994.

**NMAC History:**

19 NMAC 31.6, Waterfowl, filed 8-31-1995  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-15-2000  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-26-2002  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-12-2003  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-2-2004  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-8-2005  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-1-2006  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-16-2007  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-13-2008  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-17-2009  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-2-2010  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-1-2011  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-14-2012  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-29-2013

**History of Repealed Material:**

19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-15-2000 - duration expired 3-31-2002  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-26-2002 - duration expired 3-31-2003  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-12-2003 - duration expired 3-31-2004  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-2-2004 - duration expired 3-31-2005  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-8-2005 - duration expired 3-31-2006  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-1-2006 - duration expired 3-31-2007  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-16-2007 - duration expired 3-31-2008

19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-13-2008 - duration expired 3-31-2009  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-17-2009 - duration expired 3-31-2010  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-2-2010 - duration expired 3-31-2011  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-1-2011 - duration expired 3-31-2012  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-14-2012 - duration expired 3-31-2013  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-29-2013 - duration expired 3-31-2014  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-31-2014 - duration expired 3-31-2015  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 9-1-2015 - duration expired 3-31-2016  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 6-30-2016 - duration expired 3-31-2017  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7-27-2017 - duration expired 3-31-2018  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7-2-2018 - duration expired 3-31-2019



# Initial Proposed Rule

**TITLE 19 NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE**  
**CHAPTER 31 HUNTING AND FISHING**  
**PART 6 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD**

**19.31.6.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico Department of game and fish.  
[19.31.6.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.1 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.2 SCOPE:** Sportspersons interested in migratory game bird management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Title 19 NMAC.  
[19.31.6.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.2 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds, and fish.  
[19.31.6.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.3 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.4 DURATION:** September 1, ~~2018~~2019 - March 31, ~~2019~~2020.  
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 1, ~~2018~~2019, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.  
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.6 OBJECTIVE:** Establishing open hunting seasons, regulations, rules, and procedures governing the issuance of migratory game bird licenses and permits by the department. ~~dove, band-tailed pigeon, sandhill crane, American coot, common moorhen, common snipe, ducks, geese, sora, Virginia rail, and setting falconry seasons for migratory game birds.~~  
[19.31.6.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.6 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.7 DEFINITIONS:** ~~Areas, species, non-toxic shot, and possession limit defined.~~

~~A. "Arrows" shall mean only those arrows or bolts having broadheads with steel cutting edges.~~

~~B. "Baiting" shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of any salt, grain, seed or other feed on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take migratory game birds.~~

~~CA. "Bernardo pond unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and west of the unit 7 drain.~~

~~DB. "Bernardo youth unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area immediately south of the Quagmire and east of the unit 7 drain.~~

~~E. "Bow" shall mean compound, recurve, or long bow. Sights on bows shall not project light; however, illuminated pins/reticles and scopes of any magnification are allowed.~~

~~FC. "Central flyway" shall mean that portion of New Mexico east of the continental divide, with the exception of the Jicarilla Apache Indian reservation.~~

~~G. "Crossbows" shall mean a device with a bow limb or band of flexible material that is attached horizontally to a stock and has a mechanism to hold the string in a cocked position. Sights on crossbows shall not project light; however, illuminated pins/reticles and scopes of any magnification are allowed.~~

~~HD. "Dark goose" shall mean Canada goose or white-fronted goose.~~

~~IE. "Department" shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.~~

~~JE. "Director" shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.~~

~~KG. "Dove north zone" (~~north zone~~) or "north zone" shall mean that portion of New Mexico north of ~~Interstate- 40~~ from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tukumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with ~~Interstate,~~ 40 at Tukumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.~~

~~LH. "Dove south zone" (~~south zone~~) or "south zone" shall mean that portion of New Mexico south of ~~Interstate- 40~~ from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tukumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with ~~Interstate-~~ 40 at Tukumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.~~

~~MI. "Eastern New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" (~~eastern~~) or "eastern" shall mean that area in the following counties: Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay, and Roosevelt.~~

~~NJ. "Estancia valley (~~EV~~) sandhill crane hunt area" or "EV" shall mean that area beginning at Mountainair bounded on the west by N.M. highway 55 north to N.M. 337, north to N.M. 14, and north to Interstate~~

25; on the north by Interstate 25 east to U.S. 285; on the east by U.S. 285 south to U.S. 60; and on the south by U.S. 60 from U.S. 285 west to N.M. 55 in Mountainair.

**OK.** "Falconry" shall mean hunting migratory game birds using raptors.

**PL.** "Federal youth waterfowl hunting days" shall mean the special seasons where only those ~~under 18 years of age~~ 17 years of age and younger may hunt ducks and geese. A supervising adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter. The adult may not hunt ducks, but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth days.

**Q.** "License year" shall mean the period from April 1 through March 31.

**RM.** "Light geese" shall mean snow geese, blue phase snow geese, and Ross's geese.

**SN.** "Light goose conservation order" shall mean those methods, bag and possession limits, and dates approved by the U.-S. fish and wildlife service (USFWS) towards reducing over-abundant light goose populations.

**TO.** "Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) dark goose hunt area" shall mean Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties.

**UP.** "Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) sandhill crane hunt area" shall mean Valencia and Socorro counties.

**VQ.** "Migratory game bird" shall mean band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, sandhill crane, American coot, common moorhen/gallinule, common snipe, ducks, geese, sora, purple gallinule, and Virginia rail.

**W.** "Modern firearms" shall mean center fire firearms, not to include any fully automatic firearms. Legal shotguns shall be only those shotguns capable of being fired from the shoulder.

**X.** "Muzzle loader or muzzle loading firearms" shall mean those rifles and shotguns in which the charge and projectile are loaded through the muzzle. Only blackpowder, pyrodex or equivalent blackpowder substitute may be used. Use of smokeless powder is prohibited. Legal muzzle loader shotguns shall be only those shotguns capable of being fired from the shoulder.

**Y.** "Non-toxic shot" shall mean that non-toxic shot approved for use by the USFWS.

**ZR.** "North zone" shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway north of ~~Interstate- 40 from the~~ Arizona-New Mexico border to the continental divide; and that portion of the central flyway north of ~~Interstate- 40~~ from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with ~~Interstate- 40~~ at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

**AAS.** "Pacific flyway" shall mean that portion of New Mexico west of the continental divide ~~including the Jicarilla Apache Indian reservation.~~

**BBT.** "Possession limit" shall mean the number of birds in a person's possession regardless of the location stored three times the daily bag limit one can have in their ownership, except where otherwise defined.

**CCU.** "Quagmire" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and east of the unit 7 drain.

**DD.** "Regular band-tailed pigeon hunting area" (~~regular BPHA~~) shall mean that portion of New Mexico not included in the southwest band-tailed pigeon hunt area.

**EE.** "Retention" or "retain" shall mean the holding of in captivity.

**FFV.** "South zone" shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway south of ~~Interstate- 40 from the~~ Arizona-New Mexico border to the continental divide; and that portion of the central flyway south of ~~Interstate- 40~~ from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with ~~Interstate- 40~~ at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

**GGW.** "Southwest band-tailed pigeon hunting area" (~~southwest BPHA~~) or "~~southwest BPHA~~" shall mean that portion of New Mexico both south of U.S. 60 and west of ~~Interstate- 25.~~

**HHX.** "Southwest New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" (~~SW~~) or "~~SW~~" shall mean that area bounded on the south by the New Mexico-Mexico border; on the west by the New Mexico-Arizona border north to Interstate 10; on the north by Interstate 10 east to U.S. 180, north to N.M. 26, east to N.M. 27, north to N.M. 152, and east to Interstate 25; on the east by Interstate 25 south to Interstate 10, west to the Luna county line, and south to the New Mexico/Mexico border.

**HY.** "Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs" shall mean those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.

**JJ.** "Unlimited" shall mean there is no set limit on the number of permits or licenses established for the described hunt areas.

**KK.** "Youth" shall mean those younger than 18 years of age except where otherwise defined.

[19.31.6.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.7 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.8 ADJUSTMENT OF SANDHILL CRANE LICENSES, AND PERMITS, AND HARVEST LIMITS:** The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of licenses and permits, or harvest limits, up or down by no more than twenty percent to address significant changes in population harvest levels or habitat availability. This adjustment may be applied to any or all of the entry hunt codes.

[19.31.6.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.8 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.9 LICENSE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

**A. License:** A Harvest Information Program (HIP) number shall be required. Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older are required to have in their possession a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (duck stamp). It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take migratory birds without a HIP number, or duck stamp if required.

(1) Any person taking or attempting to take sandhill cranes in the eastern hunt area must have a valid license and a free sandhill crane hunting permit obtained from department offices or website.

(2) For EV sandhill crane, MRGV sandhill crane, MRGV youth-only sandhill crane, and SW sandhill crane, in addition to a valid license, a special permit obtained by drawing shall be required.

(3) For the light goose conservation order: in addition to a valid license, a free light goose conservation order permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

(4) For band-tailed pigeon hunting: in addition to a valid license, a free band-tailed pigeon permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

**B. Valid dates of license or permit:** All permits and licenses shall be valid only for the dates, legal sporting arms, bag limit and area printed on the permit or license.

**C. Applications:** Applications for EV sandhill crane, MRGV sandhill crane, SW sandhill crane, and MRGV youth-only sandhill crane hunt permits shall be submitted via the department website.

(1) For permits issued by drawing, the appropriate application fee as defined by 19.30.9 NMAC shall be required by each applicant per application submitted.

(2) No more than four persons may apply per application. For the MRGV youth-only sandhill crane hunt, no more than two persons may apply per application.

(3) It shall be unlawful to submit more than one application per species per year, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule. Those submitting more than one application per species will result in the rejection of all applications for that species.

(4) Applications may be rejected if such applications do not supply adequate information.

(5) Applicants may apply for a first, second and third choice of seasons, if applicable. A maximum of one permit per species hunt code will be awarded to successful applicants unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(6) All applications must be submitted via the department website unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(7) The application deadline date for the EV, MRGV, MRGV youth-only, and SW sandhill crane hunt permits shall be on date(s) set by the state game commission. If any permits are available after the drawing, those permits may be sold online via a secondary sale.

(8) If applications for permits exceed the number of available permits, as herein established, the available permits shall be allotted by means of a random public drawing in the Santa Fe office of the department.

(9) If any permits remain after the original deadline, the director may authorize a new deadline. A person who is not awarded a permit for which they applied may submit a new application for a permit if such permits remain available.

**D. Youth hunts:** Only applicants who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by the opening day of the hunt are eligible to apply for or participate in a youth-only hunt, including federal youth waterfowl hunt days. [19.31.6.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.9 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.10 MANNER AND METHODS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:**

**A. Season:** It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take migratory game birds during closed seasons.

**BA. Hours:** Migratory game birds may be hunted or taken only during the period from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise specifically allowed or restricted by rule.

(1) On the Bottomless lakes overflow, and following wildlife management areas: Bernardo, Casa Colorado, Charette lake, Jackson lake, La Joya, McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tueurneari, and W.S. Huey WMAs, and the Bottomless lakes overflow, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated in rule. For hunting September teal on Bernardo and La Joya WMAs, hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

(2) During the light goose conservation order hunt dates, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, excluding the WMAs listed in Paragraph (1) above.

C. **Bag limit:** It is unlawful for any person to hunt for or take more than one daily bag limit allowed by regulation, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule. There shall be no daily bag or possession limit for light geese during the light goose conservation order hunt dates.

DB. **Seizure:** Any conservation officer or other officer authorized to enforce Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and state game commission rules game laws and regulations shall seize any migratory game birds or parts that are illegally obtained or possessed.

E. **Use of bait:** It shall be unlawful for anyone to take or attempt to take any migratory game bird by use of bait such as grain, salt or other feed.

F. **Live animals:** It shall be unlawful to use live animals as a decoy in taking or attempting to take any migratory game bird.

G. **Use of calling devices:** It shall be unlawful to use any electronically or mechanically recorded calling device in taking or attempting to take any migratory game bird, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule. During the light goose conservation order hunt dates, electronic calling devices are allowed.

H. **Legal sporting arms and ammunition:**

(1) The following are legal sporting arms for migratory game birds:

(a) shotguns no larger than 10 gauge firing shot, shotguns shall not be capable of holding more than three shells;

(b) muzzle loading shotguns firing shot;

(c) bows and arrows;

(d) crossbows and bolts; and

(e) during the light goose conservation order hunt dates, as listed herein, shotguns capable of holding more than three shells are allowed.

(2) Non-toxic shot use is required for hunting:

(a) all migratory game bird species, excluding dove, band-tailed pigeon, and eastern sandhill crane; and

(b) on all state game commission owned lands.

(3) Use of lead shot: It shall be unlawful for any person hunting migratory game birds, other than dove, band-tailed pigeon and eastern sandhill crane, to hunt with or be in possession of any shotgun shells loaded with lead shot or for any person using a muzzleloader to be in possession of lead shot.

I. **Drugs and explosives:** It shall be unlawful to use any form of drug on an arrow or bolt, or use arrows or bolts driven by explosives.

J. **Proof of species or sex:** One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds, except dove and band-tailed pigeon, until the bird has arrived at a residence, taxidermist, meat processing facility, or place of final storage.

K. **Sale of migratory game bird parts:** It shall be unlawful to sell or barter any parts or feathers from migratory game birds.

LC. **Lands and waters owned, administered, controlled, or managed by the state game commission:**

(1) State wildlife management areas open, species that can be hunted, and days open for hunting (use of vehicles will be restricted to designated areas):

(a) Bernardo WMA:

(i) That portion of the Bernardo WMA south of U.S. 60 is open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and the federal youth waterfowl days. That portion of the Bernardo WMA north of U.S. 60 is closed except during the light goose conservation order.

(ii) The Quagmire shall be open only on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and common snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.



(iii) The Bernardo pond unit shall be open for general waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and ~~common~~ snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(iv) The Bernardo youth unit shall be open for youth waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and ~~common~~ snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(b) The Charette lake WMA shall be open each day of the federal youth waterfowl days and on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and ~~common~~ snipe during established seasons. Charette lake WMA is closed during the September teal season.

(c) The Edward Sargent, W. A. Humphries, Rio Chama, Urraca, Colin Neblett, Water canyon, Marquez, and Elliot S. Barker ~~wildlife management areas~~ WMAs shall be open for hunting dove and band-tailed pigeon during established seasons.

(d) The portion of Jackson lake WMA west of N.M. 170 shall be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and ~~common~~ snipe. The portion of Jackson lake WMA east of N.M. 170 shall be open to falconry-only migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(e) The lesser prairie-chicken management areas shall be open to hunt dove during established seasons.

(f) La Joya WMA:

(i) the entire La Joya WMA shall be open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and each day of the federal youth waterfowl days;

(ii) that portion of La Joya WMA north of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Saturdays, Mondays, and Wednesdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and ~~common~~ snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iii) that portion of La Joya WMA south of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and ~~common~~ snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iv) that portion of La Joya WMA east of the railroad tracks shall be open to hunt dove, ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and ~~common~~ snipe during established seasons.

~~(g) The McAllister lake WMA shall be open each day of the federal youth waterfowl days, each day of the September teal season, and on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday to hunt ducks, dark and light geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen, American coot, and common snipe during established seasons. McAllister lake WMA shall also be open each day of the dove season for dove hunting.~~

~~(h) The Wagon Mound WMA shall be open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and federal youth waterfowl days and open on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday for ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen, American coot and common snipe during established seasons.~~

~~(i)(g) The McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tukumcari, and Socorro-Escondida wildlife management area WMAs shall be open for all migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.~~

~~(j) The Tukumcari WMA shall be open each day of the September teal and federal youth waterfowl days and on Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora common moorhen, American coot, and common snipe during established seasons.~~

~~(k)(h) The William S. Huey WMA shall be open for dove hunting only on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during established statewide seasons.~~

(2) The Hammond tract ~~WMA and Retherford tract WMAs~~ is shall be open for waterfowl hunting during established seasons.

~~(3) The Retherford tract WMA is open for waterfowl hunting during established seasons.~~

(43) The Sandia ranger district of the Cibola national forest shall be open only to falconry, bow and crossbow ~~only~~ migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(54) All ~~wildlife management areas~~ WMAs shall be open to falconry waterfowl hunting each day of the established falconry season, unless otherwise restricted by rule.

~~M. Areas closed to migratory game bird hunting: That portion of the stilling basin below Navajo dam lying within a line starting from N.M. 511 at the crest of the bluff west of the Navajo dam spillway and running~~

west along the fence approximately one-quarter mile downstream, southwest along the fence to N.M. 511 to the Navajo dam spillway, across the spillway, and to the crest of the bluff.

**N. Regulations pertaining to boats, other floating devices, and motors:**

(1) On Bernardo, La Joya, Wagon Mound and Jackson lake WMAs, only boats and other floating devices using no motors shall be permitted during waterfowl season.

(2) On Tucumcari WMA, only boats and other floating devices using electric motors or with motors that are not in use shall be permitted.

(3) On Charette and McAllister lakes boats and other floating devices with or without motors shall be permitted; provided, however, that boats or floating devices shall not be operated at greater than normal trolling speed.

(4) Department personnel or persons authorized by the director may use gasoline powered outboard motors on all lakes mentioned in this chapter while performing official duties.

[19.31.6.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.10 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES, AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: ~~2018-2019~~2019-2020 season**, all dates are ~~2018~~2019 unless otherwise specified. Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

Species	open areas	season dates	daily bag limit
mourning and white-winged dove	north zone	Sept. 1 - Nov. 29	15 (singly or in aggregate)
	south zone	Sept. 1 - Oct. 28 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1, <del>2019</del> 2020	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14	2
	regular BPHA statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. <del>27</del> 26 - Jan. <del>27</del> 26, <del>2019</del> 2020	3 (6 in possession)
special season sandhill crane (special draw permit required)	MRGV southwest	Nov. 10 - 11	3 (6 in possession)
	MRGV southwest	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	
	MRGV southwest	Nov. 24 - 25	
	MRGV southwest	Dec. 15 - 16	
	MRGV southwest	Jan. 5 - 6, 2019	
	MRGV southwest	Jan. 5 - 6, 2019	
EV	EV	Oct. 27 - Oct. 30	3 (6 in possession)
	EV	Nov. 1 - Nov. 4	
	MRGV youth only	Dec. 1	3

**CENTRAL FLYWAY:** possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

species	season dates	daily bag limit
September teal: blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, and cinnamon teal	Sept. <del>15</del> 14 - <del>23</del> 22	6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. <del>13</del> 12 - Jan. <del>16</del> 15, <del>2019</del> 2020	6 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican-like ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, <del>2</del> 1 pintail, and 2 canvasback
	south zone: Oct. <del>24</del> 28 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020	
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Sept. <del>29</del> 28 - <del>30</del> 29	15
	south zone: Oct. <del>65</del> - <del>76</del>	
American coot	north zone: Oct. <del>13</del> 12 - Jan. <del>16</del> 15, <del>2019</del> 2020	15
	south zone: Oct. <del>24</del> 28 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020	
common moorhen/gallinule	Sept. <del>15</del> 14 - Nov. <del>23</del> 22	1



<del>common</del> snipe	Oct. <del>13</del> 12 - Jan. <del>27</del> 26, <del>2019</del> 2020	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. <del>15</del> 4 - Nov. <del>23</del> 22	10 (singly or in the aggregate); 20 in possession
dark goose: Canada & white-fronted geese (regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro, and Valencia counties)	Oct. <del>13</del> 17 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020	5
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. <del>22</del> 21 - Jan. <del>15</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020	2 (2 per season)
light goose: Ross's & snow geese	Oct. <del>13</del> 17 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020	50 (no possession limit)
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, <del>2019</del> 2020	no bag or possession limit
<b>PACIFIC FLYWAY:</b> possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.		
<b>species</b>	<b>season dates</b>	<b>daily bag limit</b>
youth waterfowl days	Oct. <del>6</del> 5 - <del>7</del> 6	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, <del>2</del> 1 pintail, and 2 canvasback
ducks	Oct. <del>15</del> 19 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020	
scaup	Oct. <del>15</del> 19 - Jan. <del>8</del> 12, <del>2019</del> 2020	3 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
American coot and common moorhen/ <u>gallinule</u>	Oct. <del>15</del> 19 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020	25 daily (singly or in the aggregate)
<del>common</del> snipe	Oct. <del>15</del> 17 - Jan. <del>29</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. <del>15</del> 14 - Nov. <del>23</del> 22	25 daily (singly or in the aggregate)
goose	north zone: Sept. <del>22</del> 21 - Oct. <del>7</del> 6 and <del>Oct. 29</del> Nov. 2 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020	4 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese, and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. <del>13</del> 17 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: ~~2018~~2019-~~2019~~2020 season**, all dates are ~~2018~~2019 unless otherwise specified. Bag limits are three singly or in the aggregate and nine in possession unless otherwise specified.

<b>CENTRAL FLYWAY</b>		
<b>species</b>	<b>open areas</b>	<b>season dates</b>
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. <del>22</del> 21 - Jan. <del>2</del> 1, <del>2019</del> 2020
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, <del>2019</del> 2020
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	<del>regular</del> BPHA statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. <del>15</del> 14 - Dec. <del>30</del> 29
<del>common</del> snipe	all	Oct. <del>13</del> 12 - Jan. <del>27</del> 26, <del>2019</del> 2020
common moorhen/ <u>gallinule</u>	all	Sept. <del>15</del> 14 - Dec. <del>30</del> 29
ducks	north	Sept. <del>15</del> 14 - <del>23</del> 22 and Oct. <del>13</del> 12 - Jan. <del>16</del> 15, <del>2019</del> 2020
	south	Sept. <del>15</del> 14 - <del>23</del> 22 and Oct. <del>24</del> 28 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. <del>13</del> 17 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. <del>22</del> 21 - Jan. <del>15</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. <del>13</del> 12 - Jan. <del>27</del> 26, <del>2019</del> 2020; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Oct. <del>27</del> 26 - Dec. <del>25</del> 24; 3 (6 in possession)

<b>PACIFIC FLYWAY</b>		
<b>species</b>	<b>open areas</b>	<b>season dates</b>
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. <del>22</del> 21 - Jan. 21, <del>2019</del> 2020
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, <del>2019</del> 2020
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - <del>Oct.</del> 14
	regular BPHA statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - Sept. 14
duck	all	Oct. <del>15</del> 19 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020
scaup	all	Oct. <del>15</del> 19 - Jan. <del>8</del> 12, <del>2019</del> 2020
goose	north	Sept. <del>22</del> 21 - Oct. <del>7</del> 6 and <del>Oct. 29</del> Nov. 2 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020
	south	Oct. <del>13</del> 17 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020
common snipe	all	Oct. <del>15</del> 17 - Jan. <del>29</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020
coots and common moorhen/gallinule	all	Oct. <del>15</del> 19 - Jan. <del>27</del> 31, <del>2019</del> 2020
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. <del>15</del> 14 - Nov. <del>23</del> 22

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.13 FEDERAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS:** Requirements for youth hunters to participate in this hunt are as follows:

A. An adult, at least 18 years old of age or older, must accompany the youth hunter in the field (the adult may not hunt ducks but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth days).

B. Only ducks, coots, and common moorhens/gallinules may be taken by the youth hunter (sandhill cranes, geese or any other migratory game bird species may not be taken unless the season is open).

[19.31.6.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.13 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.14 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL BERNARDO YOUTH WATERFOWL UNIT:**

Blind selection will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a supervising adult who may not hunt. A maximum of four people is allowed per blind, at least fifty percent half of which must be youth hunters.

[19.31.6.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.14 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**19.31.6.15 SEASON DATES, OPEN AREAS, BAG LIMITS, HUNT CODES AND PERMITS NUMBERS FOR THE SPECIAL ESTANCIA VALLEY, MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY, AND SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS:**

A. The daily bag limit is 3. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit, except for the MRGV youth-only hunt where the bag and possession limits are 3. The hunting seasons for ~~2018~~2019-20192020 are:

<b>hunt location</b>	<b>hunt dates</b>	<b>hunt code</b>	<b>permits</b>
EV	Oct <del>27</del> 26 - Oct <del>30</del> 29 and Nov. <del>1</del> Oct. 31 - Nov. 43	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. <del>10</del> 9 - <del>11</del> 10	SCR-0-102	<del>75</del> 55
MRGV	Nov. <del>24</del> 30 - <del>25</del> Dec. 1	SCR-0-103	<del>60</del> 50
MRGV	Dec. <del>15</del> 14 - <del>16</del> 15	SCR-0-104	<del>60</del> 55
MRGV	Jan. <del>54</del> - <del>65</del> , <del>2019</del> 2020	SCR-0-105	<del>60</del> 55
MRGV	Jan. <del>12</del> 11 - <del>13</del> 12, <del>2019</del> 2020	SCR-0-106	<del>60</del> 55
MRGV, youth-only	Dec. <del>17</del>	SCR-0-107	24

SW	Oct. <del>27</del> 26 - Nov. 43	SCR-0-108	70
SW	Jan. <del>54 - 65, 2019</del> 2020	SCR-0-109	60

B. Hunters who participate in the ~~EV~~ and MRGV seasons shall be required to check-out at designated check stations when they harvest any sandhill cranes.

C. The department may cancel one or more EV, MRGV or SW sandhill crane hunts if harvest is expected to exceed our federal allocation of greater sandhill cranes.

[19.31.6.15 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.15 NMAC, 9-1-19]

**HISTORY OF 19.31.6 NMAC:**

**Pre-NMAC Filing History:** The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center & Archives under: Regulation No. 486, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, Prairie Chickens, and Lesser Sandhill (Little Brown) Crane And Additional Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/22/67; Regulation No. 494, Establishing 1968 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Common Snipe, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's, And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 10/2/68; Regulation No. 508, Establishing 1969 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/19/69; Regulation No. 527, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Cranes, filed 9/10/71; Regulation No. 540, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, And Wilson's Swipe, filed 9/26/72; Regulation No. 551, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Crane, filed 8/20/73; Regulation No. 560, Establishing 1974 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/21/74; Regulation No. 570, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/5/75; Regulation No. 578, Establishing 1976 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/31/1976; Regulation No. 588, Establishing 1977 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/6/1977; Regulation No. 594, Establishing 1978 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/11/1978; Regulation No. 601, Establishing 1979 Seasons on Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/30/1979; Regulation No. 606, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/80; Regulation No. 611, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/4/1981; Regulation No. 616, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/1982; Regulation No. 626, Establishing 1983 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/7/1983; Regulation No. 631, Establishing 1984 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 8/31/1984; Regulation No. 638, Establishing 1985 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/11/1985; Regulation No. 643, Establishing 1986-1987 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 8/24/1987; Regulation No. 660, Establishing 1988-1989 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 6/28/1988; Regulation No. 669, Establishing 1989-1990 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Band-tailed Pigeon, Dove, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 10/5/1989; Regulation No. 680, Establishing 1990-1991 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/28/1990; Regulation No. 687, Establishing 1991-1992 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1991-92 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1992-1993 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry seasons, filed 9/15/1992; Regulation No. 704, Establishing 1993-1994 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 3/11/1993; Regulation No. 707, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 7/28/1994; Regulation No. 708, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, And 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/7/1994.

**NMAC History:**

19 NMAC 31.6, Waterfowl, filed 8-31-1995

19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-15-2000  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-26-2002  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-12-2003  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-2-2004  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-8-2005  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-1-2006  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-16-2007  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-13-2008  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-17-2009  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-2-2010  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-1-2011  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-14-2012  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-29-2013

**History of Repealed Material:**

19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-15-2000 - duration expired 3-31-2002  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-26-2002 - duration expired 3-31-2003  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-12-2003 - duration expired 3-31-2004  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-2-2004 - duration expired 3-31-2005  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-8-2005 - duration expired 3-31-2006  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-1-2006 - duration expired 3-31-2007  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-16-2007 - duration expired 3-31-2008  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-13-2008 - duration expired 3-31-2009  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-17-2009 - duration expired 3-31-2010  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-2-2010 - duration expired 3-31-2011  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-1-2011 - duration expired 3-31-2012  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-14-2012 - duration expired 3-31-2013  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-29-2013 - duration expired 3-31-2014  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-31-2014 - duration expired 3-31-2015  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 9-1-2015 - duration expired 3-31-2016  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 6-30-2016 - duration expired 3-31-2017  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7-27-2017 - duration expired 3-31-2018  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7-2-2018 - duration expired 3-31-2019

## Final adopted rule

2019 AUG 28 PM 2: 51

**TITLE 19**      **NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE**  
**CHAPTER 31**   **HUNTING AND FISHING**  
**PART 6**        **MIGRATORY GAME BIRD**

**19.31.6.1**      **ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico department of game and fish.  
[19.31.6.1 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.1 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.2**      **SCOPE:** Sportspersons interested in migratory game bird management and hunting. Additional requirements may be found in Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and Title 19 NMAC.  
[19.31.6.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.2 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.3**      **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico state game commission has the authority to establish rules and regulations that it may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and all other acts pertaining to protected mammals, birds, and fish.  
[19.31.6.3 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.3 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.4**      **DURATION:** September 10, 2019 - March 31, 2020.  
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.5**      **EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 10, 2019, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.  
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.6**      **OBJECTIVE:** Establishing open hunting seasons, regulations, rules, and procedures governing the issuance of migratory game bird licenses and permits by the department.  
[19.31.6.6 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.6 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.7**      **DEFINITIONS:**

- A. "Bernardo pond unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and west of the unit 7 drain.
- B. "Bernardo youth unit" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area immediately south of the Quagmire and east of the unit 7 drain.
- C. "Central flyway" shall mean that portion of New Mexico east of the continental divide.
- D. "Dark goose" shall mean Canada goose or white-fronted goose.
- E. "Department" shall mean the New Mexico department of game and fish.
- F. "Director" shall mean the director of the New Mexico department of game and fish.
- G. "Dove north zone" or "north zone" shall mean that portion of New Mexico north of Interstate 40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.
- H. "Dove south zone" or "south zone" shall mean that portion of New Mexico south of Interstate 40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.
- I. "Eastern New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" or "eastern" shall mean that area in the following counties: Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay, and Roosevelt.
- J. "Estancia valley sandhill crane hunt area" or "EV" shall mean that area beginning at Mountainair bounded on the west by N.M. highway 55 north to N.M. 337, north to N.M. 14, and north to Interstate 25; on the north by Interstate 25 east to U.S. 285; on the east by U.S. 285 south to U.S. 60; and on the south by U.S. 60 from U.S. 285 west to N.M. 55 in Mountainair.
- K. "Falconry" shall mean hunting migratory game birds using raptors.
- L. "Federal youth waterfowl hunting days" shall mean the special seasons where only those 17 years of age and younger may hunt ducks and geese. A supervising adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter. The adult may not hunt ducks, but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth days.
- M. "Light geese" shall mean snow geese, blue phase snow geese, and Ross's geese.
- N. "Light goose conservation order" shall mean those methods, bag and possession limits, and dates approved by the U.S. fish and wildlife service towards reducing over-abundant light goose populations.



O. "Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) dark goose hunt area" shall mean Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties.

P. "Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) sandhill crane hunt area" shall mean Valencia and Socorro counties.

Q. "Migratory game bird" shall mean band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, sandhill crane, American coot, common moorhen/gallinule, snipe, ducks, geese, sora, purple gallinule, and Virginia rail.

R. "North zone" shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway north of Interstate 40; and that portion of the central flyway north of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tatum and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tatum to the New Mexico-Texas border.

S. "Pacific flyway" shall mean that portion of New Mexico west of the continental divide.

T. "Possession limit" shall mean the number of birds in a person's possession regardless of the location stored.

U. "Quagmire" shall mean that portion of Bernardo wildlife management area 600 feet south of U.S. 60 and east of the unit 7 drain.

V. "South zone" shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway south of Interstate 40; and that portion of the central flyway south of Interstate 40 from the continental divide to Tatum and U.S. 54 at its junction with Interstate 40 at Tatum to the New Mexico-Texas border.

W. "Southwest band-tailed pigeon hunting area" or "southwest BPHA" shall mean that portion of New Mexico both south of U.S. 60 and west of Interstate 25.

X. "Southwest New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" or "SW" shall mean that area bounded on the south by the New Mexico-Mexico border; on the west by the New Mexico-Arizona border north to Interstate 10; on the north by Interstate 10 east to U.S. 180, north to N.M. 26, east to N.M. 27, north to N.M. 152, and east to Interstate 25; on the east by Interstate 25 south to Interstate 10, west to the Luna county line, and south to the New Mexico-Mexico border.

Y. "Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs" shall mean those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.

[19.31.6.7 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.7 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.8 ADJUSTMENT OF SANDHILL CRANE LICENSES AND PERMITS:** The director, with verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of licenses and permits to address significant changes in harvest levels. This adjustment may be applied to any or all of the entry hunt codes.

[19.31.6.8 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.8 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.9 LICENSE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

A. **License:** A Harvest Information Program (HIP) number shall be required. Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older are required to have in their possession a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp (duck stamp). It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take migratory birds without a HIP number, or duck stamp if required.

(1) Any person taking or attempting to take sandhill cranes in the eastern hunt area must have a valid license and a free sandhill crane hunting permit obtained from department offices or website.

(2) For EV sandhill crane, MRGV sandhill crane, MRGV youth-only sandhill crane, and SW sandhill crane: in addition to a valid license, a special permit obtained by drawing shall be required.

(3) For the light goose conservation order: in addition to a valid license, a free light goose conservation order permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

(4) For band-tailed pigeon hunting: in addition to a valid license, a free band-tailed pigeon permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.

B. **Valid dates of license or permit:** All permits and licenses shall be valid only for the dates, legal sporting arms, bag limit and area printed on the permit or license.

C. **Applications:** Applications for EV sandhill crane, MRGV sandhill crane, SW sandhill crane, and MRGV youth-only sandhill crane hunt permits shall be submitted via the department website.

(1) No more than four persons may apply per application. For the MRGV youth-only sandhill crane hunt, no more than two persons may apply per application.

(2) Applicants may apply for a first, second and third choice of seasons, if applicable. A maximum of one permit per species hunt code will be awarded to successful applicants unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.



(3) The application deadline date for the EV, MRGV, MRGV youth-only, and SW sandhill crane hunt permits shall be on date(s) set by the state game commission. If any permits are available after the drawing, those permits may be sold online via a secondary sale.

**D. Youth hunts:** Only applicants who have not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday by the opening day of the hunt are eligible to apply for or participate in a youth-only hunt.  
[19.31.6.9 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.9 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.10 MANNER AND METHODS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:**

**A. Hours:** Migratory game birds may be hunted or taken only during the period from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise specifically allowed or restricted by rule.

(1) On the Bottomless lakes overflow, and Bernardo, Casa Colorada, Jackson lake, La Joya, and W.S. Huey WMAs, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated in rule. For hunting September teal on Bernardo and La Joya WMAs, hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

(2) During the light goose conservation order hunt dates, hunting hours shall mean from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, excluding the WMAs listed in Paragraph (1) above.

**B. Seizure:** Any officer authorized to enforce Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 and state game commission rules shall seize any migratory game birds or parts that are illegally obtained or possessed.

**C. Lands and waters owned, administered, controlled, or managed by the state game commission:**

(1) State wildlife management areas open, species that can be hunted, and days open for hunting (use of vehicles will be restricted to designated areas):

(a) Bernardo WMA:

(i) That portion of the Bernardo WMA south of U.S. 60 is open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and the federal youth waterfowl days. That portion of the Bernardo WMA north of U.S. 60 is closed except during the light goose conservation order.

(ii) The Quagmire shall be open only on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(iii) The Bernardo pond unit shall be open for general waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(iv) The Bernardo youth unit shall be open for youth waterfowl hunting on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(b) The Charette lake WMA shall be open each day of the federal youth waterfowl days and on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons. Charette lake WMA is closed during the September teal season.

(c) The Edward Sargent, W. A. Humphries, Rio Chama, Urraca, Colin Neblett, Water canyon, Marquez, and Elliot S. Barker WMAs shall be open for hunting dove and band-tailed pigeon during established seasons.

(d) The portion of Jackson lake WMA west of N.M. 170 shall be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe. The portion of Jackson lake WMA east of N.M. 170 shall be open to falconry-only migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(e) The lesser prairie-chicken management areas shall be open to hunt dove during established seasons.

(f) La Joya WMA:

(i) the entire La Joya WMA shall be open to teal hunting each day of the September teal season and each day of the federal youth waterfowl days;

(ii) that portion of La Joya WMA north of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Saturdays, Mondays, and Wednesdays to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iii) that portion of La Joya WMA south of the main east/west entrance road and west of the railroad tracks shall be open on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons, unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule;

(iv) that portion of La Joya WMA east of the railroad tracks shall be open to hunt dove, ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen/gallinule, American coot, and snipe during established seasons.

(g) The McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tucumcari, and Socorro-Escondida WMAs shall be open for all migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(h) The William S. Huey WMA shall be open for dove hunting on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during established seasons.

(2) The Hammond tract and Retherford tract WMAs shall be open for waterfowl hunting during established seasons.

(3) The Sandia ranger district of the Cibola national forest shall be open only to falconry, bow and crossbow migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(4) All WMAs shall be open to falconry waterfowl hunting each day of the established falconry season, unless otherwise restricted by rule.

[19.31.6.10 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.10 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: 2019-2020 season,** all dates are 2019 unless otherwise specified. Possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

Species	open areas	season dates	daily bag limit
mourning and white-winged dove	north zone	Sept. 1 - Nov. 29	15 (singly or in aggregate)
	south zone	Sept. 1 - Oct. 28 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 1, 2020	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14	2
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. 26 - Jan. 26, 2020	3 (6 in possession)

**CENTRAL FLYWAY:** possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.

species	season dates	daily bag limit
September teal: blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, and cinnamon teal	Sept. 14 - 22	6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. 12 - Jan. 15, 2020	6 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican-like ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail, and 2 canvasback
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2020	
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Sept. 28 - 29	6 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 5 mallard of which only 2 may be female mallard, (Mexican-like ducks are included towards the mallard bag limit), 3 wood duck, 3 scaup, 2 redhead, 2 hooded merganser, 1 pintail, and 2 canvasback
	south zone: Oct. 5 - 6	
American coot	north zone: Oct. 12 - Jan. 15, 2020	15
	south zone: Oct. 28 - Jan. 31, 2020	
common moorhen/gallinule	Sept. 14 - Nov. 22	1
snipe	Oct. 12 - Jan. 26, 2020	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 14 - Nov. 22	10 (singly or in the aggregate); 20 in possession
dark goose: Canada & white-fronted geese (regular season closed in Sierra, Socorro, and Valencia counties)	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020	5

dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 21 - Jan. 31, 2020	2 (2 per season)
light goose: Ross's & snow geese	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020	50 (no possession limit)
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 2020	no bag or possession limit
<b>PACIFIC FLYWAY:</b> possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.		
<b>species</b>	<b>season dates</b>	<b>daily bag limit</b>
youth waterfowl days	Oct. 5 - 6	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 1 pintail, and 2 canvasback
ducks	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2020	
scaup	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2020	
American coot and common moorhen/gallinule	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2020	3 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
snipe	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 14 - Nov. 22	25 daily (singly or in the aggregate)
goose	north zone: Sept. 21 - Oct. 6 and Nov. 2 - 31, 2020	4 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese, and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: 2019-2020 season**, all dates are 2019 unless otherwise specified. Bag limits are three singly or in the aggregate and nine in possession unless otherwise specified.

<b>CENTRAL FLYWAY</b>		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2020
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2020
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 14 - Dec. 29
snipe	all	Oct. 12 - Jan. 26, 2020
common moorhen/gallinule	all	Sept. 14 - Dec. 29
ducks	north	Sept. 14 - 22 and Oct. 12 - Jan 15, 2020
	south	Sept. 14 - 22 and Oct. 28 - Jan 31, 2020
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 21 - Jan. 31, 2020
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 12 - Jan. 26, 2020; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Oct. 26 - Dec. 24; 3 (6 in possession)
<b>PACIFIC FLYWAY</b>		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2020
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2020
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	statewide except southwest BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
duck	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2020
scaup	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 12, 2020
goose	north	Sept. 21 - Oct. 6 and Nov. 2 - Jan. 31, 2020
	south	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020
snipe	all	Oct. 17 - Jan. 31, 2020
coots and common moorhen/gallinule	all	Oct. 19 - Jan. 31, 2020
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 14 - Nov. 22

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.13 FEDERAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS:** Requirements for youth hunters to participate in this hunt are as follows:

A. An adult, 18 years of age or older, must accompany the youth hunter in the field (the adult may not hunt ducks but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth days).

B. Only ducks, coots, and common moorhens/gallinules may be taken by the youth hunter (sandhill cranes, geese or any other migratory game bird species may not be taken unless the season is open).

[19.31.6.13 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.13 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.14 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL BERNARDO YOUTH WATERFOWL UNIT:**

Blind selection will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a supervising adult who may not hunt. A maximum of four people is allowed per blind, at least half of which must be youth hunters.

[19.31.6.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.14 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**19.31.6.15 SEASON DATES, OPEN AREAS, BAG LIMITS, HUNT CODES AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR THE SPECIAL ESTANCIA VALLEY, MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY, AND SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS:**

A. The daily bag limit is 3. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit, except for the MRGV youth-only hunt where the bag and possession limits are 3. The hunting seasons for 2019-2020 are:

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Oct 26 - Oct 29 and Oct. 31 - Nov. 3	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 9 - 10	SCR-0-102	55
MRGV	Nov. 30 - Dec. 1	SCR-0-103	50
MRGV	Dec. 14 - 15	SCR-0-104	55
MRGV	Jan. 4 - 5, 2020	SCR-0-105	55
MRGV	Jan. 11 - 12, 2020	SCR-0-106	55
MRGV, youth-only	Dec. 7	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 26 - Nov. 3	SCR-0-108	70
SW	Jan. 4 - 5, 2020	SCR-0-109	60

B. Hunters who participate in the MRGV season shall be required to check-out at designated check stations when they harvest any sandhill cranes.

C. The department may cancel one or more EV, MRGV or SW sandhill crane hunts if harvest is expected to exceed our federal allocation of greater sandhill cranes.

[19.31.6.15 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.15 NMAC, 9-10-2019]

**HISTORY OF 19.31.6 NMAC:**

**Pre-NMAC Filing History:** The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center & Archives under: Regulation No. 486, Establishing 1967 Seasons On Quail, Pheasants, Prairie Chickens, and Lesser Sandhill (Little Brown) Crane And Additional Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/22/67; Regulation No. 494, Establishing 1968 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Common Snipe, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's, And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 10/2/68; Regulation No. 508, Establishing 1969 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Scaled, Gambel's And Bobwhite Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/19/69; Regulation No. 527, Establishing 1971 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Cranes, filed 9/10/71; Regulation No. 540, Establishing 1972 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, And Wilson's Swipe, filed 9/26/72; Regulation No. 551, Establishing 1973 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl And Lesser Sandhill Crane, filed 8/20/73; Regulation No. 560, Establishing

1974 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/21/74; Regulation No. 570, Establishing 1975 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/5/75; Regulation No. 578, Establishing 1976 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/31/1976; Regulation No. 588, Establishing 1977 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Common Snipe, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/6/1977; Regulation No. 594, Establishing 1978 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/11/1978; Regulation No. 601, Establishing 1979 Seasons on Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 8/30/1979; Regulation No. 606, Establishing 1980 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/80; Regulation No. 611, Establishing 1981 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Lesser Sandhill Crane, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/4/1981; Regulation No. 616, Establishing 1982 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/3/1982; Regulation No. 626, Establishing 1983 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, Quail, Pheasants, And Prairie Chickens, filed 9/7/1983; Regulation No. 631, Establishing 1984 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 8/31/1984; Regulation No. 638, Establishing 1985 Seasons On Migratory Waterfowl, filed 9/11/1985; Regulation No. 643, Establishing 1986-1987 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 8/24/1987; Regulation No. 660, Establishing 1988-1989 Seasons On Migratory Birds, filed 6/28/1988; Regulation No. 669, Establishing 1989-1990 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Band-tailed Pigeon, Dove, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 10/5/1989; Regulation No. 680, Establishing 1990-1991 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/28/1990; Regulation No. 687, Establishing 1991-1992 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1991-92 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 8/6/1991; Regulation No. 698, Establishing 1992-1993 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry seasons, filed 9/15/1992; Regulation No. 704, Establishing 1993-1994 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 3/11/1993; Regulation No. 707, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 7/28/1994; Regulation No. 708, Establishing The 1994-1995, 1995-1996, And 1996-1997 Seasons On Ducks, Geese, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, And Setting Falconry Seasons, filed 9/7/1994.

#### **NMAC History:**

19 NMAC 31.6, Waterfowl, filed 8-31-1995  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-15-2000  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-26-2002  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-12-2003  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-2-2004  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-8-2005  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-1-2006  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-16-2007  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-13-2008  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-17-2009  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-2-2010  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-1-2011  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-14-2012  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-29-2013

#### **History of Repealed Material:**

19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-15-2000 - duration expired 3-31-2002  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-26-2002 - duration expired 3-31-2003  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-12-2003 - duration expired 3-31-2004  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-2-2004 - duration expired 3-31-2005  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-8-2005 - duration expired 3-31-2006  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-1-2006 - duration expired 3-31-2007  
19.31.6 NMAC, Waterfowl, filed 8-16-2007 - duration expired 3-31-2008

19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-13-2008 - duration expired 3-31-2009  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-17-2009 - duration expired 3-31-2010  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-2-2010 - duration expired 3-31-2011  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-1-2011 - duration expired 3-31-2012  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-14-2012 - duration expired 3-31-2013  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-29-2013 - duration expired 3-31-2014  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 8-31-2014 - duration expired 3-31-2015  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 9-1-2015 - duration expired 3-31-2016  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 6-30-2016 - duration expired 3-31-2017  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7-27-2017 - duration expired 3-31-2018  
19.31.6 NMAC, Migratory Game Bird, filed 7-2-2018 - duration expired 3-31-2019



# NMAC Transmittal Form

NEW MEXICO  
Commission of Public Records  
Your Access to Public Information

2019 AUG 28 PM 2: 51

Volume:  Issue:  Publication Date:  Number of pages:  (ALD Use Only)  Sequence No.

Issuing agency name and address:  Agency DFA code:

Contact person's name:  Phone number:  E-mail address:

Type of rule action:  New  Amendment  Repeal  Emergency  Renumber  (ALD Use Only) Most Recent Filing Date:

Title number:  Title name:

Chapter number:  Chapter name:

Part number:  Part name:

Amendment Description (If filing an Amendment):  Amendment's NMAC Citation (If filing an Amendment):

Are there any materials incorporated by reference? Yes  No  Please list attachments or Internet sites if applicable.

If materials are attached, has copyright permission been received? Yes  No  Public domain

## Concise Explanatory Statement for rulemaking adoption:

Specific statutory or other authority authorizing rulemaking:

Notice date(s):  Hearing date(s):  Rule Adoption date:  Rule Effective date:

### Findings required for rulemaking adoption.

- Findings MUST include:
- Reasons for adopting rule, including any findings otherwise required by law of the agency, and a summary of any independent analysis done by the agency;
  - Reasons for any change between the published proposed rule and the final rule; and
  - Reasons for not accepting substantive arguments made through public comment.

The rulemaking was undertaken to adopt a new Migratory Game Bird rule, 19.31.6 NMAC, which will become effective September 1, 2019. The current Migratory Game Bird rule expired on March 31, 2019.

The proposed new rule will include adjusting regular waterfowl season dates, extending the Middle Rio Grande Valle dark goose season by 17 days, decreasing the number of sandhill crane permits, decreasing the bag limit for northern pintail from 2 to 1, extending the hunting days and hours at some Wildlife Management Areas, and moving the youth crane hunt one week later to December 7th. A full text of changes will be available on the Department's website at: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

Continued on reverse side

**Findings required for rulemaking adoption  
continued**

NEW MEXICO  
Commission of Public Records  
New Access to Public Information

2019 AUG 28 PM 2: 51

There have been no changes between the published proposed rule and the final rule. There were no substantive arguments made through public comment that were not accepted. To view public comments, please visit [www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/meeting-agendas/) and click on the Hearing Archive tab. The resulting rule was based on what was best for the resource and overall hunter satisfaction.

**Issuing authority (If delegated, authority letter must be on file with ALD):**

**Name:**

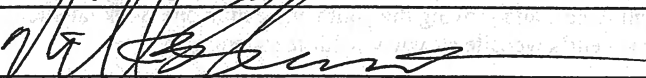
Michael B. Sloane

Check if authority has been delegated

**Title:**

Director, NMDGF

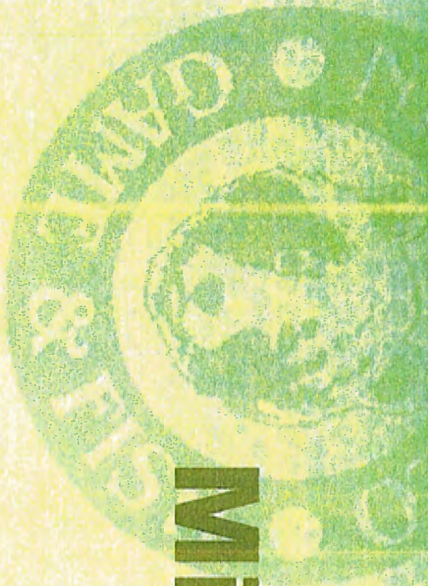
**Signature: (BLACK ink only)**



**Date signed:**

8/27/19





# **Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC**

**August 22, 2019  
New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting  
Santa Fe, NM**

*Game Management Division*

EXHIBIT

3



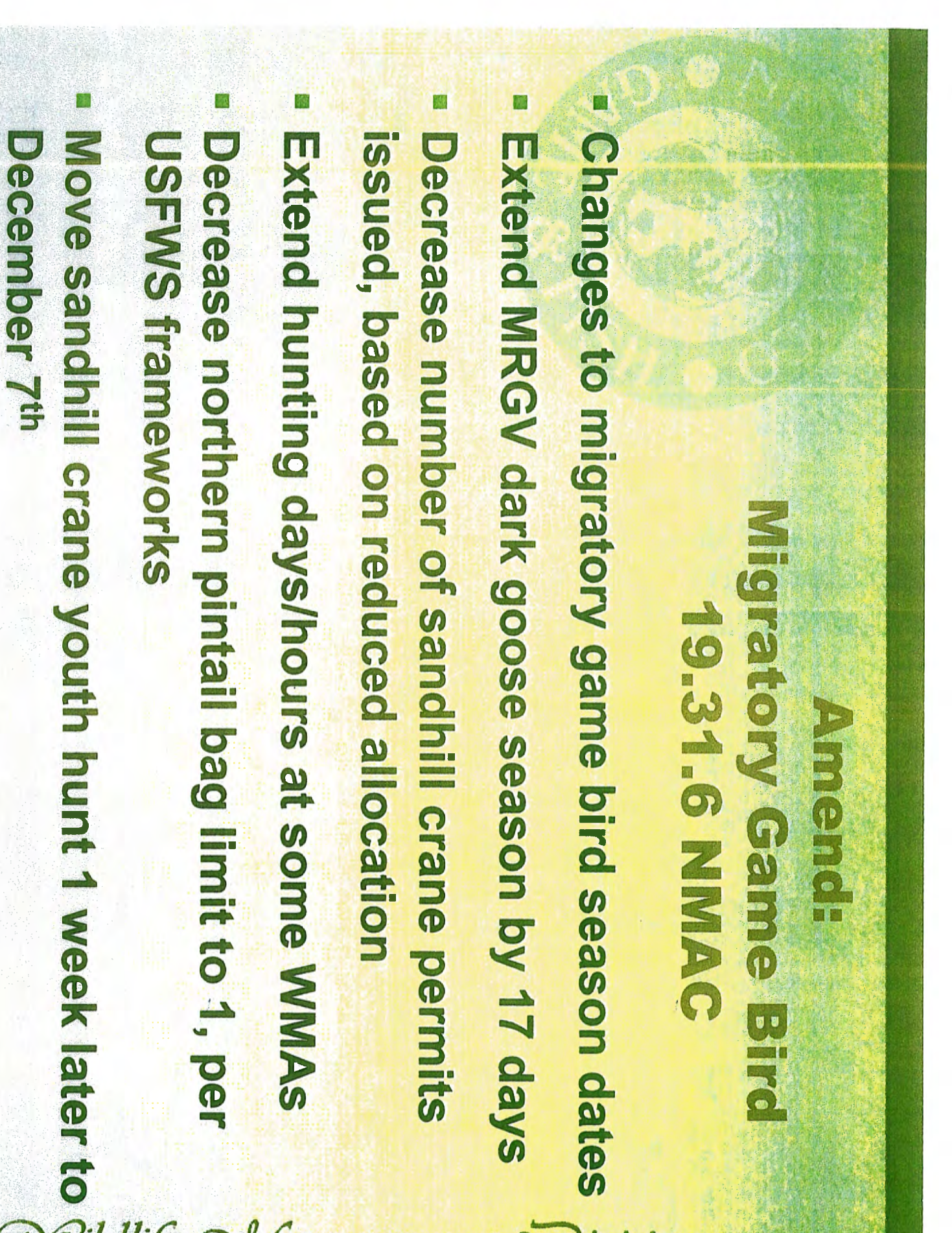


## **Amend:**

# **Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC**

- **Adjust season dates and bag limits according to calendar dates and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) frameworks**
- **Proposed season frameworks published in Federal Register in April 2019, final frameworks published August 2019**
- **Details about proposed changes and supporting information posted on website**





**Amend:**  
**Migratory Game Bird**  
**19.31.6 NMAC**

- Changes to migratory game bird season dates
- Extend MRGV dark goose season by 17 days
- Decrease number of sandhill crane permits issued, based on reduced allocation
- Extend hunting days/hours at some WMAs
- Decrease northern pintail bag limit to 1, per USFWS frameworks
- Move sandhill crane youth hunt 1 week later to December 7<sup>th</sup>





## Public Comment

- **8 comments received as of August 22, 2019**
- **Public meetings: Farmington (1), Las Cruces (0), Albuquerque (9)**
- **Summary of comments received:**
  - **Extend Middle Rio Grande Valley (MRGV) dark goose season**
  - **Support for duck season end date (Jan 31)**






## **Sandhill Crane Permits and Allocation**

- Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) sandhill crane harvest allocation is determined by established management plan
- NM's RMP sandhill crane allocation decreased from 750 (2018-19) to 564 (2019-20)
- Propose to decrease permits from 534 to 489 (8%) to avoid harvesting more than allocation





## **Extend Hunting Hours and Days at Wildlife Management Areas**

- **Wagon Mound, Charette Lakes, McAllister Lake, and Tucumcari WMAs are currently open ½ hour before sunrise to 1pm for 3 days per week during migratory bird seasons**
- **Propose to open these WMAs from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset during all days of migratory game bird seasons**





# Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

## Proposed 2019-20 Duck, Goose, and Dove Seasons

Species	Zone	Open	Close
Ducks and Mergansers:	North Zone	Oct. 12	Jan. 15
	South Zone	Oct. 28	Jan. 31
Geese:			
Dark Geese	MRGV	Dec. 21	Jan. 31
	Rest of State	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Light Geese	Statewide	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Mourning Dove	North Zone	Sep. 1	Nov. 29
	South Zone- 1	Sep. 1	Oct. 28
	South Zone- 2	Dec. 1	Jan. 1

**Central Flyway**  
Includes falconry, youth waterfowl days, and a 9-day September teal season.





# Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC Proposed 2019-20 Duck, Goose, and Doves Seasons

Species	Zone	Open	Close
Ducks and Mergansers:	North Zone	Oct. 19	Jan. 31
Scaup	North Zone	Oct. 19	Jan. 12
All Geese:	North 1	Sept. 21	Oct. 6
	North 2	Nov. 2	Jan. 31
	South	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
Mourning Dove	North Zone	Sep. 1	Nov. 29
	South Zone- 1	Sep. 1	Oct. 28
	South Zone- 2	Dec. 1	Jan. 1

**Pacific Flyway**  
Includes  
falconry and  
youth  
waterfowl  
days.



# Questions?







**“Move to repeal and replace 19.31.6 NMAC, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives.”**



# Regulation Setting Process

Population Surveys/Assessment

Population Surveys  
Spring/Summer

Meetings

Service's Regulation Committee  
Spring

Federal Register

Proposed Season Frameworks  
Winter/Spring

Population Status Reports  
Summer/Autumn

Population Status Reports  
Summer/Autumn

Flyway Tech/Council  
Summer

Service's Regulation Committee  
Autumn

Hunting Season Selections  
(due April 30)  
Spring

Final Season Frameworks  
Spring/Summer

Population Status Reports

RMP Crane Survey

Winter

Flyway Tech/Council

Winter

# MIGRATORY GAME BIRD RULE PROPOSED CHANGES, 2019–2020

Season selections and bag limits are determined in conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) working through the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils. Please note that seasons are not considered final until they have been published in the Federal Register.

Proposed amendments for the 2019–20 season include:

- Change regular waterfowl season dates based on public comment and calendar dates (see tables below)
- Decrease number of sandhill crane permits issued, based on allocation
- Decrease bag limit for northern pintail to 1 per USFWS regulatory framework
- Extend Middle Rio Grande Valley dark goose season from 25 to 42 days
- Move youth crane hunt back 1 week to December 7
- Extend hunting hours and open days on McAllister, Wagon Mound, Tucumcari, and Charette Lakes Wildlife Management Areas to be open all days of established migratory game birds seasons from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.

**Central Flyway.** Includes falconry, youth waterfowl days, and a 9-day September teal season.

Species	Zone	Open	Close
<b>Ducks and Mergansers:</b>	North Zone	Oct. 12	Jan. 15
	South Zone	Oct. 28	Jan. 31
<b>Geese:</b>			
<b>Dark Geese</b>	MRGV	Dec. 21	Jan. 31
	Rest of State	Oct. 17	Jan. 31
<b>Light Geese</b>	North and South Zones	Oct. 17	Jan. 31

**EXHIBIT**

4



**Pacific Flyway.** Includes falconry and youth waterfowl days.

Species	Zone	Open	Close
<b>Ducks and Mergansers:</b>	North and South Zones	Oct. 19	Jan. 31
<b>Scaup</b>	North and South Zones	Oct. 19	Jan. 12
<b>All Geese:</b>	North 1	Sept. 21	Oct. 6
	North 2	Nov. 2	Jan. 31
	South	Oct. 17	Jan. 31

If you would like to comment on the proposal, please send an email to:  
[DGF-waterfowl@state.nm.us](mailto:DGF-waterfowl@state.nm.us)

DRAFT





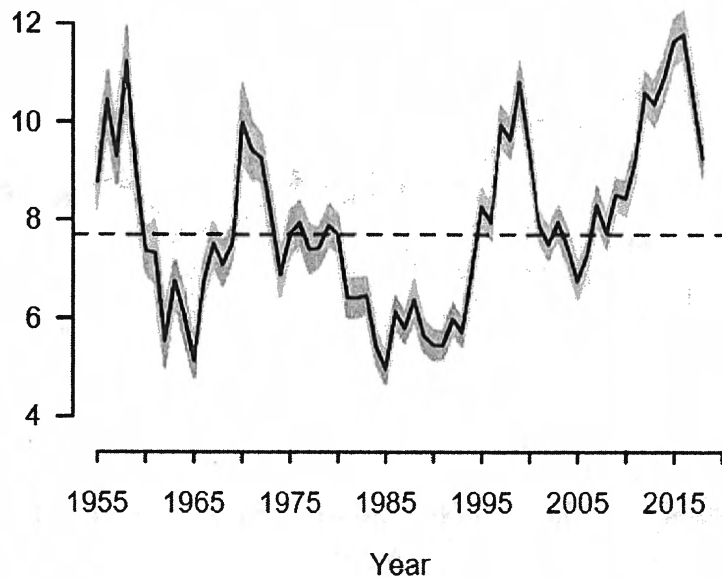
# Technical Information for Migratory Game Bird Rule Development



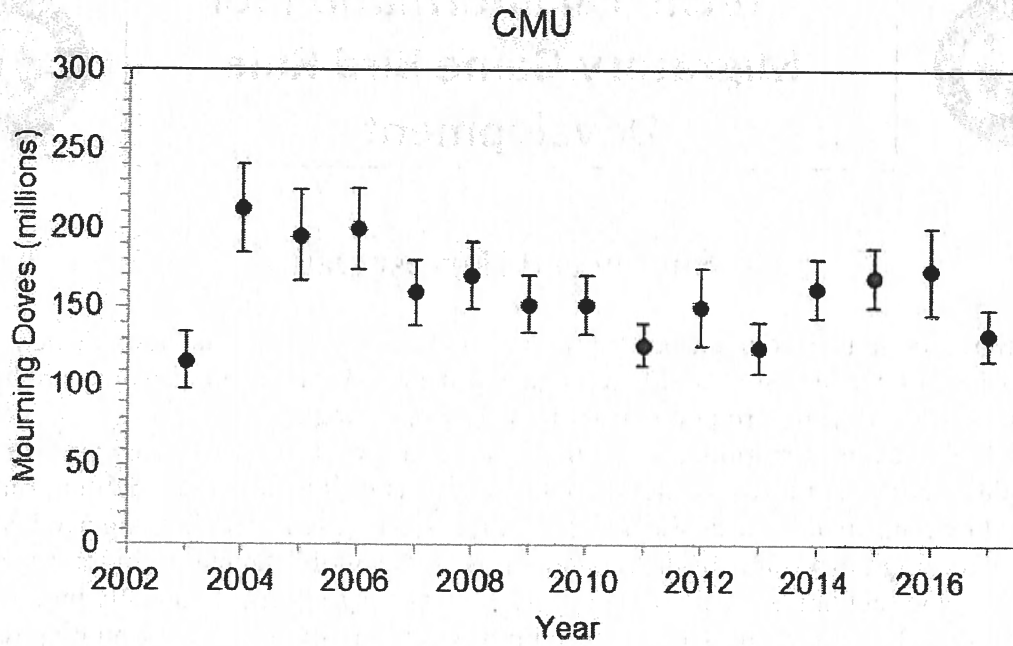
## Survey and Harvest Data

Migratory game bird management in the United States, including New Mexico, is a cooperative effort between state and federal governments. Management decisions are based on information gathered from bird population surveys, monitoring of harvest, hunter surveys, public comment, biological information, and environmental surveys. Migratory game bird banding and recovery data, surveys of birds on their breeding areas, as well as wetland condition surveys in waterfowl breeding areas provide the necessary information used to set hunting and harvest regulations for migratory game birds. In New Mexico, the establishment of migratory game bird hunting rules and regulations remains a cooperative process performed annually within the Flyway system. Both the Central and Pacific Flyways are involved in setting hunting regulations for migratory game birds in New Mexico and seasons are selected from within the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's federal season frameworks. Survey and harvest data used in setting hunting rules and regulations for New Mexico are included in Figures 1–4.

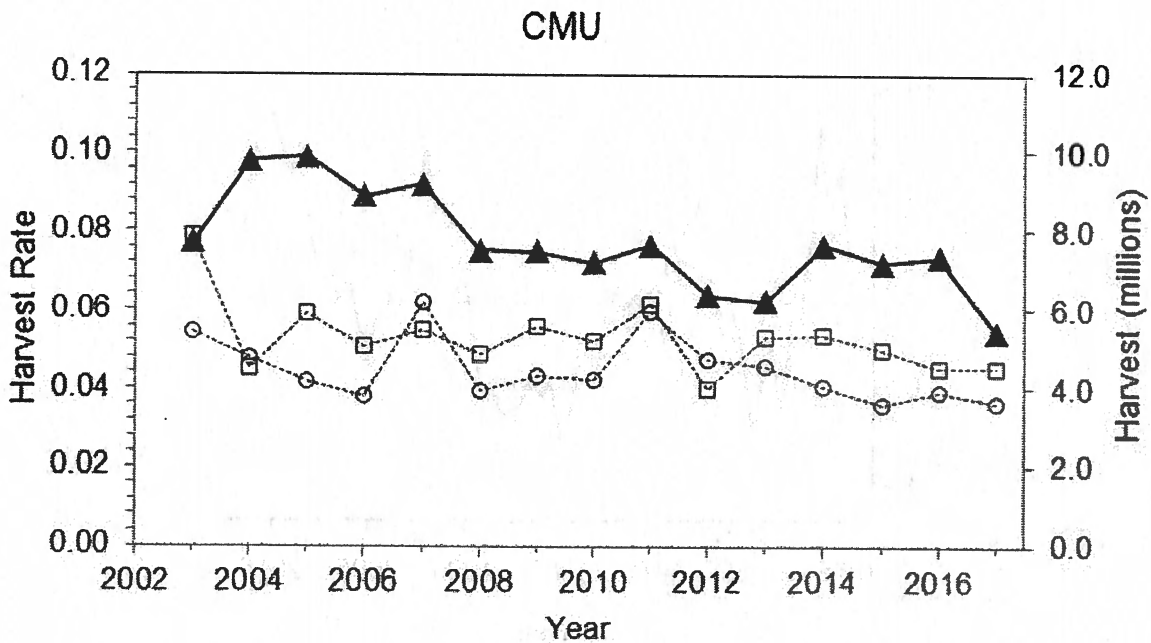
### Mallard



**Figure 1.** Breeding population estimate, 90% confidence interval, and North American Waterfowl Management Plan goal (dashed line) for mallards in the traditional survey area. Estimated mallard abundance for 2018 was  $9.3 \pm 0.3$  million.



**Figure 2.** Estimates and 95% confidence intervals of mourning dove absolute abundance in the Central Management Unit (CMU; which includes New Mexico) by year, 2003–2017. Estimates are based on band recovery and harvest data.



**Figure 3.** Estimated harvest (triangle) and harvest rates of mourning dove in the Central Management Unit (CMU; which includes New Mexico) by year, 2003–2017. Harvest rates are presented separately for hatch-year (square) and after-hatch-year (circle) doves.

YR	UT	CO	ID	WY	MT	TOTAL	3-YR AVG
1987	1,578	1,443	10,686	2,327	1,447	17,481	
1992	2,810	3,181	5,801	2,248	5,264	19,304	
1995	1,528	2,284	6,864	1,671	3,681	16,028	
1996	1,849	1,255	8,334	2,526	2,974	16,938	
1997 <sup>1,2</sup>	2,450	1,604	8,132	2,255	3,595	18,036	17,001
1998	2,185	1,273	8,067	3,162	3,415	18,102	17,692
1999	2,292	1,102	8,761	4,205	3,141	19,501	18,546
2000	2,416	749	9,337	3,890	3,598	19,990	19,198
2001	1,522	666	7,160	2,626	4,585	16,559	18,683
2002	1,869	1,355	7,698	3,038	4,843	18,803	18,451
2003	2,546	745	7,822	3,446	4,964	19,523	18,295
2004	2,239	1,410	7,152	3,072	4,637	18,510	18,945
2005	2,646	1,052	7,668	3,911	5,588	20,865	19,633
2006 <sup>3</sup>						NS	19,633
2007 <sup>4</sup>	2,401	1,743	8,262	3,907	6,509	22,822	20,732
2008 <sup>5</sup>	3,708	1,080	6,123	3,826	6,419	21,156	21,614
2009	2,283	1,162	6,934	3,613	6,329	20,321	21,433
2010	3,242	985	5,776	3,726	7,335	21,064	20,847
2011	1,498	1,347	5,029	2,978	6,642	17,494	19,626
2012	2,109	413	3,432	3,587	5,876	15,417	17,992
2013	2,732	1,594	5,228	3,588	7,218	20,360	17,757
2014	2,783	1,258	6,064	3,008	6,555	19,668	18,482
2015	3,698	1,089	6,454	3,596	9,493	24,330	21,453
2016	3,298	1,135	5,445	4,879	7,507	22,264	22,087
2017	2,994	1,658	4,066	3,725	7,149	19,592	22,062

<sup>1</sup> Incomplete survey efforts in years prior might have resulted in lower estimates; the official count begins in 1987. 08/06/18

<sup>2</sup> In October 1997, a special survey was also conducted in the SLV, Colorado and other areas, which resulted in a total of 27,090 Rocky Mountain and Mid-Continent cranes being counted.

<sup>3</sup> In 2006, the survey was not conducted due to mechanical issues with the survey plane. The 3-yr Avg for 2006 is calculated using 2003-05.

<sup>4</sup> The 3-yr average for 2007 was calculated using 2004, 2005, and 2007 because there was no survey in 2006.

<sup>5</sup> The 3-yr average for 2008 was calculated using 2005, 2007, and 2008 because there was no survey in 2006.

Figure 4. Fall pre-migration indices for Rocky Mountain sandhill cranes.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

**50 CFR Part 20**

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2018-0030; FF09M21200-189-FXMB1231099BPP0]

RIN 1018-BD10

**Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we) prescribes final frameworks from which States may select season dates, limits, and other options for the 2019–20 migratory bird hunting seasons. The effect of this final rule is to facilitate the States' selection of hunting seasons and to further the annual establishment of the migratory bird hunting regulations. We annually prescribe frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the number of birds that may be taken and possessed in hunting seasons. These frameworks are necessary to allow State selections of seasons and limits and to allow recreational harvest at levels compatible with population and habitat conditions.

**DATES:** This rule takes effect on August 19, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** States should send their season selections to: Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: MB, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803. You may inspect comments received on the migratory bird hunting regulations during normal business hours at the Service's office at 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803 or at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2018-0030. You may obtain copies of referenced reports from the street address above, or from the Division of Migratory Bird Management's website at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/>, or at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2018-0030.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ken Richkus, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, MS: MB, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803; (703) 358–1780.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**New Process for the Annual Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations**

As part of the Department of the Interior's retrospective regulatory

review, 3 years ago we developed a schedule for migratory game bird hunting regulations that is more efficient and establishes hunting season dates earlier than was possible under the old process. Under the new process, we develop proposed hunting season frameworks for a given year in the fall of the prior year. We then finalize those frameworks a few months later, thereby enabling the State agencies to select and publish their season dates in early summer. We provided a detailed overview of the new process in the August 3, 2017, *Federal Register* (82 FR 36308). This final rule is the fourth in a series of proposed and final rules for the establishment of the 2019–20 hunting seasons.

**Regulations Schedule for 2019**

On June 14, 2018, we published a proposal to amend title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at part 20 (83 FR 27836). The proposal provided a background and overview of the migratory bird hunting regulations process, and addressed the establishment of seasons, limits, and other regulations for hunting migratory game birds under §§ 20.101 through 20.107, 20.109, and 20.110 of subpart K. Major steps in the 2019–20 regulatory cycle relating to open public meetings and *Federal Register* notifications were illustrated in the diagram at the end of the June 14, 2018, proposed rule (83 FR 27836). Further, we explained that all sections of subsequent documents outlining hunting frameworks and guidelines were organized under numbered headings. Those headings are:

1. Ducks
  - A. General Harvest Strategy
  - B. Regulatory Alternatives
  - C. Zones and Split Seasons
  - D. Special Seasons/Species Management
    - i. September Teal Seasons
    - ii. September Teal/Wood Duck Seasons
    - iii. Black Ducks
    - iv. Canvasbacks
    - v. Pintails
    - vi. Scaup
    - vii. Mottled Ducks
    - viii. Wood Ducks
    - ix. Youth Hunt
    - x. Mallard Management Units
    - xi. Other
2. Sea Ducks
3. Mergansers
4. Canada Geese
  - A. Special Early Seasons
  - B. Regular Seasons
  - C. Special Late Seasons
5. White-Fronted Geese
6. Brant
7. Snow and Ross's (Light) Geese
8. Swans
9. Sandhill Cranes
10. Coots

11. Moorhens and Gallinules
12. Rails
13. Snipe
14. Woodcock
15. Band-Tailed Pigeons
16. Doves
17. Alaska
18. Hawaii
19. Puerto Rico
20. Virgin Islands
21. Falconry
22. Other

Subsequent documents, including this document, refer only to numbered items requiring attention. Therefore, it is important to note that we will omit those items requiring no attention, and remaining numbered items will be discontinuous and appear incomplete.

The June 14 proposed rule also provided detailed information on the proposed 2019–20 regulatory schedule and announced the Service Regulations Committee (SRC) and Flyway Council meetings. On September 21, 2018, we published in the *Federal Register* (83 FR 47868) a second document providing supplemental proposals for migratory bird hunting regulations. The September 21 supplement also provided detailed information on the 2019–20 regulatory schedule and re-announced the SRC and Flyway Council meetings. On October 16–17, 2018, we held open meetings with the Flyway Council Consultants, at which the participants reviewed information on the current status of migratory game birds and developed recommendations for the 2019–20 regulations for these species.

On April 17, 2019, we published in the *Federal Register* (84 FR 16152) the proposed frameworks for the 2019–20 season migratory bird hunting regulations. This document establishes final frameworks for migratory bird hunting regulations for the 2019–20 season. There are no substantive changes from the April 17, 2019, proposed rule, with the exception of changes made in response to the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, which was signed into law on March 12, 2019 (Pub. L. 116–9), and amended the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; those changes are discussed below under Review of Public Comments and Flyway Council Recommendations. We will publish State selections in the *Federal Register* as amendments to §§ 20.101 through 20.107 and 20.109 of title 50 CFR part 20.

**Population Status and Harvest**

Each year we publish various species status reports that provide detailed information on the status and harvest of migratory game birds, including information on the methodologies and

results. These reports are available at the address indicated under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or from our website at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/surveys-and-data/reports-and-publications/population-status.php>.

We used the following reports: Adaptive Harvest Management, 2019 Hunting Season (September 2018); American Woodcock Population Status, 2018 (August 2018); Band-tailed Pigeon Population Status, 2018 (August 2018); Migratory Bird Hunting Activity and Harvest During the 2016–17 and 2017–18 Hunting Seasons (August 2018); Mourning Dove Population Status, 2018 (August 2018); Status and Harvests of Sandhill Cranes, Mid-continent, Rocky Mountain, Lower Colorado River Valley and Eastern Populations, 2018 (August 2018); and Waterfowl Population Status, 2018 (August 2018).

#### Review of Public Comments and Flyway Council Recommendations

The preliminary proposed rulemaking, which appeared in the June 14, 2018, *Federal Register*, opened the public comment period for migratory game bird hunting regulations and discussed the regulatory alternatives for the 2019–20 duck hunting season. Comments and recommendations are summarized below and numbered in the order used in the June 14, 2018, proposed rule.

We received recommendations from all four Flyway Councils. Some recommendations supported continuation of last year's frameworks. Due to the comprehensive nature of the annual review of the frameworks performed by the Councils, support for continuation of last year's frameworks is assumed for items for which no recommendations were received. Council recommendations for changes in the frameworks are summarized below. We have included only the numbered items pertaining to issues for which we received recommendations. Consequently, the issues do not follow in successive numerical order.

#### General

*Written Comments:* Several commenters protested the entire migratory bird hunting regulations process, the killing of any migratory birds, and status and habitat data on which the migratory bird hunting regulations are based.

Several other commenters supported the overall migratory bird hunting regulatory process and supported the proposed regulations.

*Service Response:* Our long-term objectives continue to include providing opportunities to harvest portions of

certain migratory game bird populations and to limit harvests to levels compatible with each population's ability to maintain healthy, viable numbers. Having taken into account the zones of temperature and the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of flight of migratory birds, we conclude that the hunting seasons provided for herein are compatible with the current status of migratory bird populations and long-term population goals. Additionally, we are obligated to, and do, give serious consideration to all information received as public comment. While there are problems inherent with any type of representative management of public-trust resources, we conclude that the Flyway Council system of migratory bird management has been a longstanding example of State-Federal cooperative management since its establishment in 1952.

However, as always, we continue to seek new ways to streamline and improve the process.

#### 1. Ducks

##### A. General Harvest Strategy

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended the adoption of the "liberal" regulatory alternative for their respective flyways.

The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that regulation changes be restricted to one step per year, both when restricting as well as liberalizing hunting regulations.

*Written Comments:* An individual supported the new adaptive harvest management (AHM) protocol recently implemented for the Atlantic Flyway.

*Service Response:* As we stated in the June 14, 2018, and September 21, 2018, proposed rules, we intend to continue use of AHM to help determine appropriate duck-hunting regulations for the 2019–20 season. AHM is a tool that permits sound resource decisions in the face of uncertain regulatory impacts, as well as providing a mechanism for reducing that uncertainty over time. We use AHM to evaluate four alternative regulatory levels for duck hunting in the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways based on the population status of mallards (discussed below). We will use AHM based on the population status of a suite of four species in the Atlantic Flyway (discussed below). We have specific hunting strategies for species of special concern, such as black ducks, scaup, and pintails.

#### Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways

The prescribed regulatory alternative for the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways is based on the status of mallard populations that contribute primarily to each Flyway. In the Central and Mississippi Flyways, we set hunting regulations based on the status and dynamics of mid-continent mallards. Mid-continent mallards are those breeding in central North America (Federal survey strata 13–18, 20–50, and 75–77, and State surveys in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan). In the Pacific Flyway, we set hunting regulations based on the status and dynamics of western mallards. Western mallards are those breeding in Alaska and the northern Yukon Territory (as based on Federal surveys in strata 1–12), and in California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia (as based on State- or Province-conducted surveys).

For the 2019–20 season, we will continue to use independent optimization to determine the optimal regulatory choice for each mallard stock. This means that we develop regulations for mid-continent mallards and western mallards independently, based upon the breeding stock that contributes primarily to each Flyway. We detailed implementation of this AHM decision framework for western and mid-continent mallards in the July 24, 2008, *Federal Register* (73 FR 43290).

The optimal AHM strategies for mid-continent and western mallards for the 2019–20 hunting season were calculated using: (1) Harvest-management objectives specific to each mallard stock; (2) the 2019–20 regulatory alternatives; and (3) current population models and associated weights. Based on "liberal" regulatory alternatives selected for the 2018–19 hunting season, the 2018 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey (WBPHS) results of 9.57 million mid-continent mallards, 3.66 million ponds in Prairie Canada, 1.03 million western mallards observed in Alaska (0.45 million) and the southern Pacific Flyway (0.57 million), the optimal regulatory choice for the three western Flyways is the "liberal" alternative. Therefore, we concur with the recommendations of the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils regarding selection of the "liberal" regulatory alternative for the 2019–20 season and will adopt the "liberal" regulatory alternative, as described in the September 21, 2018, *Federal Register*, with one exception (see B. Regulatory Alternatives, below).



### Atlantic Flyway

Since 2000, the Service has used an AHM protocol based on the status of eastern mallards to establish the annual framework regulations for duck hunting seasons in the Atlantic Flyway. This protocol assumes that the mallard is an appropriate surrogate for other duck species in the Atlantic Flyway. However, following a review of eastern mallard AHM conducted in 2013, the Atlantic Flyway Council determined that eastern mallards do not adequately represent duck harvest dynamics throughout the entire Flyway; they do not represent the breeding ecology and habitat requirements of other important Atlantic Flyway duck species because their breeding range does not overlap with that of other ducks that breed in the flyway; and their breeding and/or wintering habitat needs differ from many of the other duck species in the Flyway. Thus, although mallards comprise nearly 20 percent of the Atlantic Flyway's duck harvest, the status of eastern mallards does not necessarily reflect that of other Atlantic Flyway duck species. For example, mallards in eastern North America have declined at an average annual rate of 1 percent since 1998, whereas over the same time period all other duck species in eastern North America, for which robust population estimates are available, are stable or increasing.

The Atlantic Flyway Council decided that a decision framework based upon a suite of duck species that better represents the habitat needs and harvest distribution of ducks in the Atlantic Flyway would be superior to the current eastern mallard AHM framework, and we concur. Accordingly, the Service and the Atlantic Flyway began working in 2013 to develop a multi-stock AHM protocol for setting annual duck hunting season frameworks for the Atlantic Flyway.

The development of multi-stock protocols has now been completed, and we adopted multi-stock AHM as a replacement for eastern mallard AHM (September 21, 2018, *Federal Register*; 83 FR 47868). The protocols are based on a suite of four species that represents the dynamics of duck harvest in the Atlantic Flyway and the various habitat types used by waterfowl throughout the Atlantic Flyway: Green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*), common goldeneye (*Becephala clangula*), ring-necked duck (*Aythya collaris*), and wood duck (*Aix sponsa*). These species comprise more than 40 percent of the Atlantic Flyway's total duck harvest, and they reflect regional variation in harvest composition. The selected species

represent upland nesters in boreal and southern Canada (green-winged teal), over-water nesters in boreal Canada (ring-necked duck), cavity nesters in the United States and southern Canada (wood duck), and cavity nesters in boreal Canada (goldeneye). The most important winter waterfowl habitats in the Atlantic Flyway (salt marsh, freshwater marsh, tidal waters, freshwater ponds and lakes, rivers and streams) are important to at least one of these four species.

Species selection was also influenced by our need for sufficient time series of estimates of annual abundance and estimates of harvest rate or annual harvest. The protocol has a harvest objective of no more than 98 percent of maximum sustainable long-term yield for any of the four species. Regulatory alternatives are the same as those used in the eastern mallard AHM, except that the mallard bag limit is not prescribed by the optimal regulatory alternative as determined by the multi-stock AHM protocol. The mallard bag limit in the Atlantic Flyway is now based on a separate assessment of the harvest potential of eastern mallards (see xi. Other for further discussion on the mallard bag limit in the Atlantic Flyway).

The optimal AHM strategies for the Atlantic Flyway for the 2019–20 hunting season were calculated using: (1) Harvest-management objectives specific to each stock; (2) the 2019–20 regulatory alternatives; and (3) current population models and associated weights. Based on the “liberal” regulatory alternative selected for the 2018–19 duck hunting season, the 2018 WBPHS results of 0.35 million American green-winged teal, 1.12 million wood ducks, 0.63 million ring-necked ducks, and 0.49 million goldeneyes in the eastern survey area and Atlantic Flyway, the optimal regulatory choice for the Atlantic Flyway is the “liberal” alternative. Therefore, we concur with the recommendation of the Atlantic Flyway Council regarding selection of the “liberal” regulatory alternative for the 2019–20 season and will adopt the “liberal” regulatory alternative, as described in the September 21, 2018, *Federal Register*.

Further details on biological models used in the protocol, data sources, optimization methods, and simulation results are available at <http://www.regulations.gov> and on our website at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/surveys-and-data/reports-and-publications.php>.

### Other Issues

Regarding the Mississippi Flyway Council recommendation to limit regulatory changes to one step per year, we recognize the longstanding interest by the Council to impose a one-step constraint on regulatory changes. In the September 21, 2018, *Federal Register*, we noted that the Central and Mississippi Flyways have worked with Service staff during the past 3 years to revisit the AHM protocol for managing harvest of mid-continent mallards. This effort has included a discussion of appropriate management objectives, regulatory packages, and management of non-mallard stocks. We continue to support that these discussions are the appropriate venue to discuss what role, if any, a one-step constraint might play in management of waterfowl in the Central and Mississippi Flyways. Such discussions should include the potential impact of a one-step constraint on the frequency of when the liberal, moderate, and restrictive packages would be recommended. On a final note, while we recognize the Council's concern about potentially communicating a large regulatory change to hunters, we have concerns about the appropriateness of a one-step constraint in situations when the status of the waterfowl resource may warrant a regulatory change larger than one step. Furthermore, it is unclear how the AHM protocol can accommodate a one-step constraint in the Mississippi Flyway if the same constraint is not imposed in the Central Flyway. Technical work on the AHM revision process tentatively should be completed by summer 2019, with any potential changes to regulatory packages and the harvest strategy approved in October 2019 for the 2021–22 season. We look forward to continued work with the Flyway Councils on this issue.

#### B. Regulatory Alternatives

**Council Recommendations:** The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the framework closing date be modified from the last Sunday in January to January 31 for both the “liberal” and “moderate” AHM packages.

**Service Response:** We support the Mississippi Flyway's recommendation for a closing date of January 31 for the 2019–20 midcontinent duck seasons. Although we recognize that this issue is currently being discussed as part of the AHM revision process, we understand that there is agreement among the Mississippi and Central Flyways and the Service's Migratory Bird Management staff that the new forthcoming regulatory alternatives will

contain an ending framework date of January 31 for at least the "liberal" regulatory alternative. Thus, adopting the Mississippi Flyway Council's proposed closing date for the 2019–20 seasons is acceptable at this time for both the Mississippi and Central flyways. Further, the Atlantic Flyway currently also has a closing duck framework date of January 31.

Therefore, we proposed a January 31 closing date for duck frameworks for all four flyways during the 2019–20 hunting seasons. The additional few days will have no measurable impact on duck harvests, and satisfies the desires of the Flyway Councils and hunters.

Subsequent to our proposed rule, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Act), signed into law on March 12, 2019 (Pub. L. 116–9), amended the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to specify that the framework closing date for hunting ducks, mergansers, and coots "shall not be later than January 31 of each year." The Act also states that, with regard to these species, the Secretary shall "adopt the recommendation of each respective flyway council (as defined in section 20.152 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations) for the Federal framework if the Secretary determines that the recommendation is consistent with science-based and sustainable harvest management." Thus, as directed by the Act, we have adopted January 31 as the framework closing date for all four Flyways.

### C. Zones and Split Seasons

*Written Comments:* A commenter from Pennsylvania requested changes to the duck hunting zones in Pennsylvania. Several individuals from Louisiana were unhappy with the hunting dates selected by Louisiana.

*Service Response:* Zones and split seasons are special regulations designed to distribute hunting opportunities and harvests according to temporal, geographic, and demographic variability in waterfowl and other migratory game bird populations. States have been allowed the option of dividing their allotted duck hunting days into two (or in some cases three) segments (splits) to take advantage of species-specific peaks of abundance or to satisfy hunters in different areas who want to hunt during the peak of waterfowl abundance in their area. States also have the option to establish independent duck seasons in up to four zones within States for the purpose of providing more equitable distribution of harvest opportunity for hunters throughout the State.

The guidelines were first established in 1978, with the current guidelines

finalized in 2011 (76 FR 53536; August 26, 2011). Every 5 years, States are afforded the opportunity to change the zoning and split-season configuration within which they set their annual duck hunting regulations. The next regularly scheduled open season for changes to zone and split-season configurations will be in 2020, for use during the 2021–25 period.

Lastly, we note that duck hunting zones are established at the State level by the State based on the above referenced guidelines. The selection of season hunting dates is specifically a State decision based on the overall frameworks for each species.

### D. Special Seasons/Species Management

#### i. September Teal Seasons

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic Flyway Council requested that Florida be allowed to hold an experimental September teal-only season for an additional year (2019), to allow sufficient time to evaluate impacts to non-target species.

*Service Response:* For the 2019–20 season, we will utilize the 2018 breeding population estimate of 6.45 million blue-winged teal from the traditional survey area and the criteria developed for the teal season guidelines. Thus, a 16-day September teal season in the Atlantic, Central, and Mississippi Flyways is appropriate for the 2019–20 season.

We agree with the Atlantic Flyway Council's request to extend Florida's experimental teal-only season through 2019. The additional year will allow Florida to collect additional data to meet experimental sample size criteria and study impacts to non-target species.

#### iii. Black Ducks

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils recommended that the Service continue to follow the International Black Duck AHM Strategy for the 2019–20 season.

*Service Response:* In 2012, we adopted the International Black Duck AHM Strategy (77 FR 49868; August 17, 2012). The formal strategy is the result of 14 years of technical and policy decisions developed and agreed upon by both Canadian and U.S. agencies and waterfowl managers. The strategy clarifies what harvest levels each country will manage for and reduces conflicts over country-specific regulatory policies. Further, the strategy allows for attainment of fundamental objectives of black duck management: Resource conservation; perpetuation of

hunting tradition; and equitable access to the black duck resource between Canada and the United States while accommodating the fundamental sources of uncertainty (partial controllability and partial observability, structural uncertainty, and environmental variation).

For the 2019–20 season, the optimal country-specific regulatory strategies were calculated using: (1) The black duck harvest objective (98 percent of long-term cumulative harvest); (2) 2019–20 country-specific regulatory alternatives; (3) current parameter estimates for mallard competition and additive mortality; and (4) 2018 survey results of 0.53 million breeding black ducks and 0.40 million breeding mallards in the core survey area. The optimal regulatory choices for the 2019–20 season are the "liberal" package in Canada and the "moderate" package in the United States.

#### iv. Canvasbacks

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended a full season for canvasbacks with a 2-bird daily bag limit. Season lengths would be 60 days in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways, 74 days in the Central Flyway, and 107 days in the Pacific Flyway.

*Service Response:* As we discussed in the March 28, 2016, final rule (81 FR 17302), the canvasback harvest strategy that we had relied on until 2015 was not viable under our new regulatory process because it required biological information that was not yet available at the time a decision on season structure needed to be made. We do not yet have a new harvest strategy to propose for use in guiding canvasback harvest management in the future. However, we have worked with technical staff of the four Flyway Councils to develop a decision framework (hereafter, decision support tool) that relies on the best biological information available to develop recommendations for annual canvasback harvest regulations. The decision support tool used available information (1994–2014) on canvasback population size, growth rate, survival, and harvest and a discrete logistic growth model to derive an optimal harvest policy with an objective of maximum sustained yield. The decision support tool calls for a closed season when the observed population is below 460,000, a 1-bird daily bag limit when the observed breeding population is between 460,000 and 480,000, and a 2-bird daily bag limit when the observed population is greater than 480,000. Given that the 2018 canvasback

breeding population estimate from the WBPBS was 686,000 birds, we support the Flyway Councils' recommendations for a 2-canvasback daily bag limit for the 2019–20 season.

#### v. Pintails

**Council Recommendations:** The Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended a full season for pintails, consisting of a 1-bird daily bag limit and a 60-day season in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways, a 74-day season in the Central Flyway, and a 107-day season in the Pacific Flyway.

**Service Response:** The current derived pintail harvest strategy was adopted by the Service and Flyway Councils in 2010 (75 FR 44856; July 29, 2010). For the 2019–20 season, an optimal regulatory strategy for pintails was calculated with: (1) An objective of maximizing long-term cumulative harvest, including a closed-season constraint of 1.75 million birds; (2) the regulatory alternatives and associated predicted harvest; and (3) current population models and their relative weights. Based on a “liberal” regulatory alternative with a 2-bird daily bag limit for the 2018–19 season, and the 2018 WBPBS survey results of 2.37 million pintails observed at a mean latitude of 56.1 degrees, the optimal regulatory choice for all four Flyways for the 2019–20 hunting season is the “liberal” alternative with a 1-bird daily bag limit.

#### vi. Scaup

**Council Recommendations:** The Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended use of the “moderate” regulation package, consisting of a 60-day season with a 2-bird daily bag in the Atlantic Flyway and a 3-bird daily bag in the Mississippi Flyway, a 74-day season with a 3-bird daily bag limit in the Central Flyway, and an 86-day season with a 3-bird daily bag limit in the Pacific Flyway.

**Service Response:** In 2008, we adopted and implemented a new scaup harvest strategy (73 FR 43290 on July 24, 2008, and 73 FR 51124 on August 29, 2008) with initial “restrictive,” “moderate,” and “liberal” regulatory packages adopted for each Flyway.

For scaup, optimal regulatory strategies for the 2019–20 season were calculated using: (1) An objective to achieve 95 percent of long-term cumulative harvest; (2) current scaup regulatory alternatives; and (3) updated model parameters and weights. Based on a “moderate” regulatory alternative selected in 2018, and the 2018 WBPBS survey results of 3.99 million scaup, the

optimal regulatory choice for the 2019–20 season for all four Flyways is the “moderate” regulatory alternative.

#### ix. Youth Hunt

**Council Recommendations:** The Pacific Flyway Council recommended replacing tundra swan with swan in the bag limits for the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days.

**Service Response:** We agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation to replace tundra swan with swan in the bag limits for the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days. The change is intended to allow the take of any swan species in the Pacific Flyway (currently applicable to only Montana, Utah, and Nevada) consistent with the swan hunting framework that has existed in the Pacific Flyway since 1995. Swans may only be taken by participants possessing applicable swan hunting permits. This will not change the number of swan hunting permits available in any State, but will provide an opportunity for youths with a swan hunting permit to hunt swans during the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days in addition to the regular swan season. Youth hunters in other flyways with a tundra swan hunting permit would continue to be able to hunt tundra swans during the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days. The expected additional harvest from this change is negligible because we anticipate that few youths will apply and successfully draw the limited number of swan hunting permits in the Pacific Flyway, and any issued swan hunting permit may otherwise be filled during the regular swan hunting season. Hunting during the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days in the Pacific Flyway is expected to result in the same ratio of take between trumpeter and tundra swans as occurs in the regular season.

Subsequent to our proposed rule, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Act), signed into law on March 12, 2019 (Pub. L. 116–9), amended the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to codify the 2 additional hunting days we currently have for youth hunters and to specifically add 2 additional hunting days for veterans and active military personnel. The Act states that “the Secretary shall allow States to select 2 days for youths and 2 days for veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), to hunt eligible ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and gallinules, if the Secretary determines that the addition

of those days is consistent with science-based and sustainable harvest management. Such days shall be treated as separate from, and in addition to, the annual Federal framework hunting season lengths.” The Act also states that States may combine the 2 days allowed for youths with the 2 days allowed for veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, but that no State may have more than a total of 4 additional days added to its regular hunting season. Thus, as directed by the Act, we have adopted the inclusion of the 2 additional days for veterans and active military personnel into the final frameworks for the 2019–20 hunting season.

#### xi. Other

**Council Recommendations:** The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended use of the Eastern Mallard Prescribed Take Level (PTL) analysis for setting mallard bag limits at two (2) birds per day in the Atlantic Flyway until a formal harvest strategy can be developed in conjunction with the Service. Further, they recommended adopting a restriction of no more than one (1) hen mallard per day in conjunction with reducing the mallard bag limit for the 2019–20 hunting season.

**Written Comments:** An individual from South Carolina questioned proposed mallard bag restrictions in South Carolina given his interpretation of band return data indicating most mallards harvested in South Carolina originate in the Great Lake States and southern Ontario rather than the northeastern States. As such, he believed South Carolina regulations should be based on mid-continent mallards rather than eastern mallards.

**Service Response:** The Atlantic Flyway Council's multi-stock harvest strategy (see above) did not specifically address bag limits for mallards. The number of breeding mallards in northeastern United States (about two-thirds of the eastern mallard population in 1998) has decreased by about 38 percent since 1998, and the overall population has declined by about 1 percent per year during that time period. This has resulted in reduced harvest potential for that population. The Service conducted a PTL analysis to estimate the allowable take (kill rate) for eastern mallards, and compared that with the expected kill rate under the most liberal season length (60 days) being considered as part of the multi-stock framework's regulatory alternatives.

PTL requires an estimate of the maximum population growth rate ( $r_{max}$ )



in the absence of harvest and density dependence. That estimate is then used to calculate the allowable rate of take as  $(r_{max}/2)F$ , where  $F$  is a variable that reflects management objectives. Using contemporary data and assuming a management objective of maximum sustained yield, the PTL analysis estimated an allowable take rate of 0.194–0.198. The expected take (kill) rate for eastern mallards under a 60-day season and a 2-mallard daily bag limit in the U.S. portion of the Atlantic Flyway was 0.193 (SE = 0.016), which is slightly below (but not statistically different from) the point estimate of allowable take (PTL) at maximum sustained yield. This indicates that a 2-bird daily bag limit is sustainable at this time. Thus, we agree with the Atlantic Flyway Council's recommendation of a 2-bird daily bag limit for mallards, of which only one may be a hen. We expect that the hen restriction will help conserve the population's breeding stock. Further details on the PTL analysis are available at <http://www.regulations.gov> and on our website at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/surveys-and-data/reports-and-publications.php>.

Regarding the mallard bag restrictions in South Carolina and the origin of stocks, we have a long-standing policy of setting duck hunting regulations by flyway, for both biological and administrative purposes. Furthermore, we note that the proportion of the southern Atlantic Flyway mallard harvest that originates in the mid-continent region has declined significantly since the 1970s and 1980s, while that from eastern North America has increased. A 2012 report (Arnold and de Sobrino) indicated that 53 percent of the mallard harvest in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida during 1995–2009 was derived from mallards of eastern origin, either eastern Canada (33 percent) or eastern United States north of North Carolina (20 percent). Harvest of locally produced mallards likely would increase this percentage further. Because a majority of birds harvested in the southeastern states in the Atlantic Flyway are derived from eastern stocks, we do not agree with the implication that South Carolina's mallard bag limit should be based on the status of mid-continent mallards.

#### 4. Canada Geese

##### B. Regular Seasons

**Council Recommendations:** The Atlantic Flyway Council made several recommendations concerning Canada goose regular seasons. Specifically, they recommended:

- Allow Maine to designate their Coastal Zone as a low harvest North Atlantic Population (NAP) Zone for an experimental 3-year period (2019–21);
- Implement the “restrictive” season option (30-day season with a daily bag limit of two (2) geese in the New England [Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont] and Mid-Atlantic [New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania] Regions and one (1) goose in the Chesapeake Region [Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia]) for Atlantic Population (AP) harvest areas in the Atlantic Flyway in 2019–20;
- Allow Connecticut to modify the boundary between the Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (AFRP) zone and NAP zone;
- Allow New Jersey to change the designation of their Coastal Zone from an AFRP to a NAP Canada goose high harvest area beginning in 2019; and
- Modify the New York AFRP Canada Goose Areas to no more than 80 days, starting no earlier than the fourth Saturday in October and ending no later than the last day of February.

**Service Response:** We agree with all of the Atlantic Flyway Council's recommendations concerning Canada geese. First, allowing Maine to change the designation of their Coastal Zone to a low harvest NAP Zone for an experimental 3-year period (2019–21) should allow for the harvest of more AFRP geese with the longer season length and higher bag limit. While some additional harvest of NAP Canada geese may occur, the Coastal Zone currently meets the criteria as a low harvest zone under the current NAP harvest strategy.

Second, while we note that the current AP harvest strategy indicates that a continuation of the “moderate” season may be considered given the current population abundance, moving to a “restrictive” season in the AP harvest strategy is the more prudent choice. The breeding pair estimate (the primary metric used to inform AP harvest management decisions) has declined sharply the past 2 years, and although the 3-year running average of total indicated pairs (154,969) remains above the harvest strategy threshold (150,000 pairs) for consideration of a moderate season, the 2018 single-year estimate (112,235 pairs) is 25 percent below that level. Further, the total population index has declined by approximately one-third since 2009. The Atlantic Flyway Council notes that this decline, which is only now showing up in the breeding pair estimate, likely reflects an extended period (2009–16) of average or below-average production years. Additionally, gosling production, as indexed by age ratios at banding, was

virtually nonexistent in 2018. This is unprecedented in the 22 years this metric has been monitored. Lastly, given current population trends and the poor 2018 production, the harvest strategy is highly likely to prescribe a “restrictive” season in 2020–21. The Atlantic Flyway Council notes that reductions in harvest achieved by implementing a restrictive season 1 year earlier should slow the rate of population decline, and in turn reduce the likelihood of the population declining to a level (60,000 pairs) at which a closed season would be prescribed.

Third, the recommended changes to zone boundaries (Connecticut), zone designation (New Jersey), and framework dates (New York) are all the result of a recent Atlantic Flyway Council assessment of migrant Canada goose harvest in AFRP zones. The assessment indicated that migrant Canada goose harvest in AFRP zones in those States exceeded the level allowed by the Atlantic Flyway Council's established criteria. The Council's recommended changes will reduce migrant Canada goose harvest in AFRP zones in those States and bring them back into compliance with AFRP zone criteria. Thus, we agree that all three changes are appropriate, and we commend the Atlantic Flyway Council's continuing commitment to sustainable harvest of migrant Canada geese.

#### 6. Brant

**Council Recommendations:** The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended that the 2019–20 season for Atlantic brant follow the Atlantic Flyway Council's brant harvest strategy pending the results of the 2019 Atlantic Flyway Mid-winter Waterfowl Survey (MWS). The Council also recommended that if results of the 2019 MWS are not available, then results of the most recent MWS should be used.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended that the 2019–20 brant season frameworks be determined based on the harvest strategy in the Council's management plan for the Pacific population of brant pending results of the 2019 Winter Brant Survey (WBS). If results of the 2019 WBS are not available, results of the most recent WBS should be used.

**Service Response:** As we discussed in the March 28, 2016, final rule (81 FR 17302), the current harvest strategy used to determine the Atlantic brant season frameworks does not fit well within the new regulatory process, similar to the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) sandhill crane issue discussed below under 9. Sandhill Cranes. In developing the annual proposed frameworks for

Atlantic brant in the past, the Atlantic Flyway Council and the Service used the number of brant counted during the MWS in the Atlantic Flyway, and took into consideration the brant population's expected productivity that summer. The MWS is conducted each January, and expected brant productivity is based on early-summer observations of breeding habitat conditions and nesting effort in important brant nesting areas. Thus, the data under consideration were available before the annual Flyway and SRC decision-making meetings took place in late July. Although the former regulatory alternatives for Atlantic brant were developed by factoring together long-term productivity rates (observed during November and December productivity surveys) with estimated observed harvest under different framework regulations, the primary decision-making criterion for selecting the annual frameworks was the MWS count.

Under the new regulatory schedule, neither the expected brant production information nor the MWS count for the current year is yet available at the time the proposed frameworks are published. However, the MWS is typically completed, and winter brant data are available, by the expected publication of the final frameworks. Therefore, in the September 24, 2015, *Federal Register* (80 FR 57664), we adopted the Atlantic Flyway Council's changes to the then-current Atlantic brant hunt plan strategy. The current harvest strategy for Atlantic brant is as follows:

- If the MWS count is <100,000 Atlantic brant, the season would be closed.
- If the MWS count is between 100,000 and 115,000 brant, States could select a 30-day season with a 1-bird daily bag limit.
- If the MWS count is between 115,000 and 130,000 brant, States could select a 30-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit.
- If the MWS count is between 130,000 and 150,000 brant, States could select a 50-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit.
- If the MWS count is between 150,000 and 200,000 brant, States could select a 60-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit.
- If the MWS count is >200,000 brant, States could select a 60-day season with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

Under all the above open-season alternatives, seasons would be between the Saturday nearest September 24 and January 31. Further, States could split their seasons into 2 segments.

The 2019 MWS Atlantic brant count was 120,109 brant. Thus, utilizing the

above Atlantic brant hunt strategies, the appropriate Atlantic brant hunting season for the 2019–20 season is a 30-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

As with the case for Atlantic brant, we also agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation that the 2019–20 Pacific brant season frameworks be determined by the harvest strategy in the Council's management plan for the Pacific population of brant pending results of the 2019 WBS. Similarly, the harvest strategy used to determine the Pacific brant season frameworks does not fit well within the new regulatory process. In developing the annual proposed frameworks for Pacific brant, the Pacific Flyway Council and the Service use the 3-year average number of brant counted during the WBS in the Pacific Flyway to determine annual allowable season length and daily bag limits. The WBS is conducted each January (that is, after the date that the proposed frameworks are formulated in the regulatory process) in coastal areas of western Mexico, the United States, and Canada. However, the data are typically available by the expected publication of these final frameworks. When we acquire the survey data, we select the appropriate frameworks for the Pacific brant season according to the harvest strategy in the Pacific Flyway Council's management plan for Pacific brant and publish the result in the final frameworks rule. The current harvest strategy for Pacific brant is as follows:

- If the WBS index is <102,000 brant, then the brant season is closed, and the season may not reopen until the 3-year average WBS index exceeds 112,000 brant.
- If the WBS index is between 102,000 and 122,000 brant, then Alaska may select a 51-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit, and California, Oregon, and Washington may select a 16-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit.
- If the WBS index is between 122,001 and 147,000 brant, then Alaska may select a 107-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit, and California, Oregon, and Washington may select a 27-day season with a 2-brant daily bag limit.
- If the WBS index is greater than 147,000 brant, then Alaska may select a 107-day season with a 4-bird daily bag limit, and California, Oregon, and Washington may select a 37-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

Under all the above open-season alternatives, the outside framework season dates are September 1 through January 26 in Alaska, the Saturday closest to September 24 through December 15 in California and Oregon,

and the Saturday closest to September 24 through the last Sunday in January in Washington.

The recent 3-year average (2017–2019) WBS count of Pacific brant was 149,647. Using the above harvest strategy, the appropriate season length and daily bag limit framework for Pacific brant in the 2019–20 season is a 107-day season with a 4-bird daily bag limit in Alaska, and a 37-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit in California, Oregon, and Washington.

## 8. Swans

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended that the allocation of tundra swan hunt permits in the Atlantic Flyway be based on the proportion of tundra swans counted on the Mid-Winter Survey (MWS) in each State that hunts swans. Permit allocation would be re-evaluated every 3 years based on the past 3-year MWS average in each State that allows swan hunting. Permit allocation for the 2019–20 through the 2021–22 seasons will be 6,115 permits in North Carolina, 801 permits in Virginia, and 84 permits in Delaware (for a total of 7,000 in the Atlantic Flyway). If the number of permits available to the Atlantic Flyway should change or if additional States initiate tundra swan hunting seasons, the Council recommends that permit allocation be adjusted based on the proportion of tundra swans counted in each State.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended several changes to the swan season frameworks. Specifically, the Council recommended:

- (1) Extending outside dates to the Saturday nearest September 24 (currently the Saturday nearest October 1) and closing consistent with the duck season framework of January 31 (currently varies by State from December 1 to the Sunday following January 1);
- (2) Extending the maximum season length to 107 days (currently varies by State from 64 to 100 days), subject to season closure rules (see below);
- (3) Allowing youths with a swan hunting permit to hunt swans during federal Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days;
- (4) Removing State requirements to monitor and report on swan populations within designated hunt areas;
- (5) Increasing the trumpeter swan quota from 5 to 10 in Nevada;
- (6) Increasing the trumpeter swan quota from 10 to 20 in Utah;
- (7) Increasing permits from 2,000 to 2,750 in Utah; and
- (8) Increasing the hunt area in Utah (for clearer boundaries).



*Written Comments:* The North Dakota Game and Fish Department (North Dakota) and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks (South Dakota) have proposed to temporarily transfer 200 tundra swan permits from South Dakota to North Dakota.

Six individuals from Nevada and Utah supported the Pacific Flyway's recommendations regarding proposed changes to swan seasons in Nevada and Utah.

*Service Response:* Recently, we supported the establishment of an experimental tundra swan season in Delaware beginning with the 2019–20 season (83 FR 47868; September 21, 2018). The proposed hunting season followed the guidelines provided in the Atlantic Flyway Council's Eastern Population Tundra Swan Hunt Plan and is not expected to increase the overall harvest of tundra swans. At that time, we stated that the existing allowable harvest would be reallocated among the States that hunt them. The Atlantic Flyway Council's recommendation accomplishes that objective and does not affect permit allocation in any other Flyway. Thus, we agree.

We also agree with the temporary transfer of 200 tundra swan permits from South Dakota to North Dakota. The original agreement between the States was reached in 2003, and approved by the Central Flyway Council in 2003, and recently was reaffirmed by North Dakota and South Dakota. Further, the current Eastern Population Tundra Swan Hunt Plan allows the transfer of unused portions or permits for temporary redistribution to other participating States.

In the Pacific Flyway, we authorized an experimental general swan hunting season (hereafter, swan season) within the Pacific Flyway south of Alaska (parts of Montana, Utah, and Nevada) in 1995, which became operational in 2003. We addressed impacts of the swan season in a sequence of environmental assessments and findings of no significant impact (1995, 2000, 2001, 2003). Two native swan species occur in the contiguous United States: Tundra swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) and trumpeter swan (*C. buccinator*). Only the Western Population (WP) of tundra swans and Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) of trumpeter swans are subjected to harvest during the swan hunting season in the Pacific Flyway.

Regarding WP tundra swans, the recent 3-year (2016–2018) mean abundance index during spring was 133,340 (95 percent confidence interval (CI) = 83,962–182,719) swans, and exceeded the Pacific Flyway Council's

population objective of 60,000 swans. Regarding RMP trumpeter swans, the recent (2015) fall count was 11,271 white swans (*i.e.*, adult and subadult birds), and exceeded the Pacific Flyway Council's population objective of 10,000 white swans. The Council also has an objective for the U.S. breeding segment of RMP trumpeter swans. The recent (2018) fall count was 810 white swans, and exceeded the Council's current population objective of 718 white swans. The recent 3-year (2016–2018) average count was 774 white swans.

The 2003 environmental assessment specified the swan season framework cannot be more liberal until the 3-year average number of trumpeter swans in the RMP U.S. breeding segment was  $\geq 90$  percent of the original (*i.e.*, from an earlier management plan) goal of 614 white swans (*i.e.*, threshold of 553 white swans). This threshold was exceeded in 2015, when the 3-year (2013–2015) average fall count was 563 white swans.

Gower *et al.* (2018) wrote a white paper on the Pacific Flyway swan season. The purpose was to review data (status, distribution, and harvest) associated with the swan season framework since implementation 23 years ago, and to consider the success of the swan season framework in reconciling two potentially conflicting swan management objectives: Tundra swan hunting and trumpeter swan population restoration. The data provide strong evidence the swan season framework in the Pacific Flyway has been successful in the simultaneous achievement of initial objectives for tundra swan hunting opportunity and trumpeter swan population restoration. The white paper provides justification for the Pacific Flyway Council's proposed changes to the swan season framework, particularly the increase in trumpeter swan quotas to rebalance tradeoffs between potentially conflicting swan management objectives. The white paper is available at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/surveys-and-data/reports-and-publications.php>.

Regarding the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendations, we agree with the recommendations for opening and closing dates, season length, and youth waterfowl hunting days. These are all adjustments to realign the swan season framework in the Pacific Flyway with changes to the general duck and goose season frameworks that have occurred since 1995, when the swan season framework was established. This will allow States to simplify their waterfowl seasons by having one season for ducks, geese, and swans, and allow youth hunters with a swan hunting permit to hunt swans during the Federal

youth waterfowl hunting days. Broadening the opening and closing dates, extending the season length, and allowing take of swans during the two youth waterfowl hunting days may increase swan harvest, but not in significant numbers because few swans are available to hunters outside of the swan winter migration period. Most tundra and trumpeter swans migrate through Montana, Nevada, and Utah from mid-October through the end of November. Also, there is additional harvest opportunity for tundra swans because the population is currently more than two times the Council's population objective. Despite these liberalizations, adequate protection still exists for trumpeter swans because trumpeter swan harvest is capped at the quota for each State regardless of season length, and the swan season ends in a State upon reaching the trumpeter swan quota in that State.

We also agree with the Council's recommendation to remove State requirements to monitor and report on swan abundance within designated hunting areas. This does not affect the requirement that each State that allows swan hunting must evaluate hunter participation, species-specific swan harvest, and hunter compliance in complying with State hunter participation and harvest monitoring programs. Each State has monitored swan abundance during the swan hunting season since about 1995. However, the monitoring that has been done is limited to counts of swans with no distinction between tundra and trumpeter swans, and therefore has limited usefulness for informing us about swan population status. Further, swan migration routes and timing of swan migration through each State are now well established, and both tundra swan and trumpeter swan populations are monitored via cooperative State-Federal surveys, which are better tools for assessing swan population status than the aforementioned surveys.

We agree with the Council's recommendation to increase the trumpeter swan quotas from 5 to 10 in Nevada and from 10 to 20 in Utah. The swan hunting season must close in a State upon reaching the trumpeter swan quota in that State regardless of the scheduled season closing date. The quotas (5 and 10 swans) have not been reached in any year since swan hunting was initiated in 1995, except that in Nevada in 2017, the 5-swan quota was reached on the last day of the swan season. Trumpeter swans have increased in abundance since 1995; however, the number allowed to be taken has not increased. The possibility

of an early swan-season closure has increased with trumpeter swan abundance increasing at a higher rate than tundra swan abundance. The most recent abundance estimates indicate RMP trumpeter swans have increased 644 percent (1,820 to 11,721 white swans) since 1995, and the U.S. breeding segment has increased 241 percent (427 to 1,029 total swans). Tundra swans have increased 126 percent (120,528 to 152,099) since 1995. The increased quotas in Nevada and Utah are commensurate with the change in trumpeter swan population status since the quotas were negotiated in 1995 and 2000 (*i.e.*, increased 200 percent). Also, these increases are consistent with an assessment of the harvest potential of RMP trumpeter swans and U.S. breeding segment based on their observed growth rates and a conservative recovery factor of 0.5 considering that trumpeter swans are of management concern but neither endangered nor threatened (see the swan hunting white paper (Gower *et al.* 2018) for more assessment details). Using a conservative maximum allowable take estimate of trumpeter swans in Utah and Nevada of 30 swans combined and accounting for population segment composition (6.1 percent U.S. breeding), the expected harvest of trumpeter swans from the U.S. breeding segment, which is of greater concern than the Canada breeding segment, should not exceed about 2 swans ( $30 \times 0.061$ ), or about 0.2 percent (2 of 1,029 total swans) of the population segment annually.

We also agree with the Council's recommendation to increase the number of hunting permits from 2,000 to 2,750 in Utah. Swan harvest will likely increase with the increase in the number of swan hunting permits, but is expected to be within allowable limits and consistent with the Council's swan management objectives. Tundra swans are currently more than 2 times the Council's population objective, and trumpeter swan harvest is capped at the quota for each State. Since 2000, when about 2,000 swan hunting permits were issued per year, the average estimated harvest was 734 swans. Thus, increasing the number of hunting permits by 750 is estimated to increase the average harvest by 275 swans (to about 1,009 swans in total). Utah issued 2,750 permits during 1995–2000, and at that time the average tundra swan harvest was 1,444 swans per year. The number of permits was reduced in 2000, to reduce the probability of trumpeter swan harvest. The harvest of trumpeter swans is limited to a sustainable quota. However, the average trumpeter swan

harvest in Utah since 2000 has been 2.1 swans per year, well below the quota. We estimate that increasing the tundra swan permits by 750 will result in less than 1 additional trumpeter swan harvested per year on average. Thus, the average trumpeter swan harvest per year is expected to remain well below Utah's trumpeter swan quota.

We also agree with the Council's recommendation to increase the hunting area in Utah. This involves a small change to help clarify the hunting area boundary through the Bear River National Wildlife Refuge and adjacent private lands currently along property or imaginary lines that are not marked by roads or other well-defined geographic features or landmarks. This segment of the hunting area boundary will be moved to the nearest road, which is north to State Route 83. The new boundary will be more identifiable for hunters and law enforcement. The additional area included in the hunting area boundary is 124 square miles and represents an increase of 1.75 percent of the current hunting area. The additional area is comprised of agriculture lands, wetlands, and urban areas; approximately 30 percent is swan habitat. The swan hunting boundary will continue to exclude areas where trumpeter swans have been consistently observed for the last 5 years in Utah (northern Box Elder County, Cache County, Rich County, and Daggett County).

Finally, we recognize that there are a number of changes that could cumulatively increase trumpeter swan harvest, but we do not expect the harvest to exceed the quotas established in Utah and Nevada. Tundra and trumpeter swan populations will continue to be monitored via cooperative Federal-State surveys, and States offering a swan season will continue to be required to carefully monitor swan hunter participation and species-specific swan harvest.

Thus, the Service and States are committed to monitoring population abundance and harvest, and any increase in trumpeter swan harvest or decrease in swan abundance of concern will be reviewed and adjustments made accordingly.

#### 9. Sandhill Cranes

*Council Recommendations:* The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that Alabama be allowed a 3-year experimental sandhill crane hunting season beginning in 2019, consistent with the guidelines in the Eastern Population of Sandhill Cranes Management Plan (EP Plan). The

experimental season would include up to 60 days and 1,200 harvest tags.

The Central Flyway Council recommended an expansion of the areas open to Mid-continent Population sandhill crane hunting in South Dakota.

The Central and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended the establishment of a new hunting area for Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) sandhill cranes in Arizona beginning with the 2019–20 season, and that allowable harvest of RMP cranes be determined based on the formula described in the Pacific and Central Flyway Management Plan for RMP cranes.

*Service Response:* We agree with the Mississippi Flyway Council's recommendation to establish an experimental season in Alabama. A management plan for the Eastern Population of sandhill cranes was approved by the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils in 2010. The plan contained provisions and guidelines for establishing hunting seasons in the Mississippi and Atlantic Flyway States if the fall population was above a minimum threshold of 30,000 cranes. The management plan also set an overall harvest objective of no more than 10 percent of the 5-year average peak population estimate for each State. Alabama's 5-year average peak population count is 14,104 cranes, setting the State's maximum allowable harvest under the plan at 1,410 birds. Alabama's proposal for an experimental season of 1,200 tags meets this provision. Further, Alabama's experimental season would limit the number of crane hunters to 400 (with each getting 3 harvest tags).

The Council further notes that the management plan has the following thresholds for permit allocation among the States:

- When the 3-year fall survey average is  $\geq 30,000$ , maximum permit allocation will be 10 percent of the 3-year fall survey average; and
- When the 3-year fall survey average is  $> 60,000$ , the maximum permit allocation will be 12 percent of the 3-year fall survey average.

The latest fall survey 3-year average of the Eastern Population of sandhill cranes is 91,250 cranes, which would allow a maximum harvest of up to 10,950 cranes under the current management plan. Currently, only Kentucky, Tennessee, and now Alabama have seasons for Eastern Population sandhill cranes. Including this new proposal for Alabama, the combined number of harvest permits in all three States would allow the take of 5,424 cranes, well below the maximum



allowable harvest. Thus, we support the creation and implementation of an experimental crane season in Alabama. As with all experimental seasons, we will implement a memorandum of agreement with Alabama to cover the experimental period, which will describe each entities' responsibilities during the experiment.

The Service agrees with the Central Flyway Council's proposal to modify the eastern boundary for Mid-continent Population sandhill crane hunting in South Dakota. Information suggests few hunters will take advantage of this change, and any increase in harvest will be small.

We also agree with the recommendations to create a new hunting area for RMP cranes in Arizona. The new hunting area is consistent with the hunting area requirements in the Pacific and Central Flyway Council's RMP crane management plan.

Regarding RMP crane harvest, as we discussed in the March 28, 2016, final rule (81 FR 17302), the current harvest strategy used to calculate the allowable harvest of RMP cranes does not fit well within the new regulatory process, similar to the brant issue discussed above under 6. Brant. Results of the fall abundance and recruitment surveys of RMP cranes, which are used in the calculation of the annual allowable harvest, will continue to be released between December 1 and January 31 each year, which is after the date proposed frameworks are formulated in the new regulatory process. If we were to propose regulations at this point in time, data 2 to 4 years old would be used to determine the annual allowable harvest and State harvest allocations for RMP cranes. We agree that relying on data that are 2 to 4 years old is not ideal due to the variability in fall abundance and recruitment for this population, and the significance of these data in determining the annual harvest allocations. Thus, we agree that the formula to determine the annual allowable harvest for RMP cranes published in the March 28, 2016, final rule should be used under the new regulatory schedule.

The 2018 fall RMP sandhill crane abundance estimate was 21,801 cranes, resulting in a 3-year (2016–18) average of 21,219 cranes, about 850 birds less than the previous 3-year average, which was 22,062 cranes. The RMP crane recruitment estimate was 7.90 percent young in the fall population, resulting in a 3-year (2016–18) average of 8.22 percent, a decrease from the previous 3-year average, which was 9.37 percent. Using the above formula and the above most recent 3-year average abundance

and recruitment estimates, the allowable harvest for the 2019–20 season is 1,628 cranes.

#### 14. Woodcock

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyway Councils recommended use of the "moderate" season framework for the 2019–20 season.

The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the framework opening date for the Central Management Region be changed from the Saturday nearest September 22 to a fixed date of September 13.

*Service Response:* In 2011, we implemented a harvest strategy for woodcock (76 FR 19876; April 8, 2011). The harvest strategy provides a transparent framework for making regulatory decisions for woodcock season length and bag limits while we work to improve monitoring and assessment protocols for this species. Utilizing the criteria developed for the strategy, the 3-year average for the Singing Ground Survey indices and associated confidence intervals fall within the "moderate package" for both the Eastern and Central Management Regions. As such, a "moderate season" for both management regions for the 2019–20 season is appropriate.

We do not support the Mississippi Flyway Council's recommendation to change the woodcock opening framework date to September 13. As we stated earlier this year regarding the recommendation to change the woodcock harvest threshold for the liberal regulatory alternative and framework dates, we recommend that the Woodcock Harvest Strategy Working Group be reconvened to discuss and evaluate any proposed changes to the American Woodcock harvest strategy. We understand that this group has already met and started this work.

#### 16. Doves

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils recommended use of the "standard" season framework comprised of a 90-day season and 15-bird daily bag limit for States within the Eastern Management Unit. The daily bag limit could be composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination.

The Mississippi and Central Flyway Councils recommended the use of the "standard" season package of a 90-day season and 15-bird daily bag limit for States within the Central Management Unit.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended use of the "standard"

season framework with a 60-day season and 15-bird daily bag limit for States in the Western Management Unit.

*Service Response:* Based on the harvest strategies and current population status, we agree with the recommended selection of the "standard" season frameworks for doves in the Eastern, Central, and Western Management Units for the 2019–20 season.

#### Required Determinations

##### Executive Order 13771—Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs

This action is not subject to the requirements of Executive Order (E.O.) 13771 (82 FR 9339, February 3, 2017) because it establishes annual harvest limits related to routine hunting or fishing.

##### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Consideration

The programmatic document, "Second Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Issuance of Annual Regulations Permitting the Sport Hunting of Migratory Birds (EIS 20130139)," filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on May 24, 2013, addresses NEPA compliance by the Service for issuance of the annual framework regulations for hunting of migratory game bird species. We published a notice of availability in the *Federal Register* on May 31, 2013 (78 FR 32686), and our Record of Decision on July 26, 2013 (78 FR 45376). We also address NEPA compliance for waterfowl hunting frameworks through the annual preparation of separate environmental assessments, the most recent being "Duck Hunting Regulations for 2019–20," with its corresponding June 2019, finding of no significant impact. The programmatic document, as well as the separate environmental assessment, is available on our website at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/index.php>, or from the address indicated under the caption **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

##### Endangered Species Act Consideration

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), provides that the Secretary shall insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Consequently, we conducted formal consultations to ensure that actions resulting from these regulations would not likely jeopardize the continued

existence of endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their critical habitat. Findings from these consultations are included in a biological opinion, which concluded that the regulations are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species. Additionally, these findings may have caused modification of some regulatory measures previously proposed, and the final frameworks reflect any such modifications. Our biological opinions resulting from this section 7 consultation are public documents available for public inspection at the address indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

#### **Regulatory Planning and Review (Executive Orders 12866 and 13563)**

E.O. 12866 provides that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) will review all significant rules. OIRA has reviewed this rule and has determined that this rule is significant because it will have an annual effect of \$100 million or more on the economy.

E.O. 13563 reaffirms the principles of E.O. 12866 while calling for improvements in the nation's regulatory system to promote predictability, to reduce uncertainty, and to use the best, most innovative, and least burdensome tools for achieving regulatory ends. The executive order directs agencies to consider regulatory approaches that reduce burdens and maintain flexibility and freedom of choice for the public where these approaches are relevant, feasible, and consistent with regulatory objectives. E.O. 13563 emphasizes further that regulations must be based on the best available science and that the rulemaking process must allow for public participation and an open exchange of ideas. We have developed this rule in a manner consistent with these requirements.

An economic analysis was prepared for the 2019–20 season. This analysis was based on data from the 2011 National Hunting and Fishing Survey, the most recent year for which data are available (see discussion under Regulatory Flexibility Act, below). This analysis estimated consumer surplus for three alternatives for duck hunting (estimates for other species are not quantified due to lack of data). The alternatives are (1) issue restrictive regulations allowing fewer days than those issued during the 2018–19 season, (2) issue moderate regulations allowing more days than those in alternative 1, and (3) issue liberal regulations identical to the regulations in the 2018–19 season. For the 2019–20 season, we chose Alternative 3, with an estimated

consumer surplus across all flyways of \$334–\$440 million with a mid-point estimate of \$387 million. We also chose alternative 3 for the 2009–10 through 2018–19 seasons. The 2019–20 analysis is part of the record for this rule and is available at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS–HQ–MB–2018–0030.

#### **Regulatory Flexibility Act**

The annual migratory bird hunting regulations have a significant economic impact on substantial numbers of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). We analyzed the economic impacts of the annual hunting regulations on small business entities in detail as part of the 1981 cost-benefit analysis. This analysis was revised annually from 1990 through 1995. In 1995, the Service issued a Small Entity Flexibility Analysis (Analysis), which was subsequently updated in 1996, 1998, 2004, 2008, 2013, 2018, and 2019. The primary source of information about hunter expenditures for migratory game bird hunting is the National Hunting and Fishing Survey, which is generally conducted at 5-year intervals. The 2019 Analysis is based on the 2011 National Hunting and Fishing Survey and the U.S. Department of Commerce's County Business Patterns, from which it was estimated that migratory bird hunters would spend approximately \$1.5 billion at small businesses in 2019. Copies of the analysis are available upon request from the Division of Migratory Bird Management (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) or from <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS–HQ–MB–2018–0030.

#### **Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act**

This final rule is a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. For the reasons outlined above, this rule will have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more. However, because this rule establishes frameworks for hunting seasons, we do not plan to defer the effective date under the exemption contained in 5 U.S.C. 808(1).

#### **Paperwork Reduction Act**

This rule does not contain any new collection of information that requires approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). OMB has previously approved the information collection requirements associated with migratory bird surveys and the procedures for establishing

annual migratory bird hunting seasons under the following OMB control numbers:

- 1018–0019, “North American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey” (expires 6/30/2021).
- 1018–0023, “Migratory Bird Surveys, 50 CFR 20.20” (expires 8/31/2020). Includes Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program, Migratory Bird Hunter Surveys, Sandhill Crane Survey, and Parts Collection Survey.
- 1018–0171, “Establishment of Annual Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons, 50 CFR part 20” (expires 06/30/2021).

You may view the information collection request(s) at <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

#### **Unfunded Mandates Reform Act**

We have determined and certify, in compliance with the requirements of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, 2 U.S.C. 1502 *et seq.*, that this rulemaking will not impose a cost of \$100 million or more in any given year on local or State government or private entities. Therefore, this rule is not a “significant regulatory action” under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

#### **Civil Justice Reform—Executive Order 12988**

The Department, in promulgating this rule, has determined that this rule will not unduly burden the judicial system and that it meets the requirements of sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of E.O. 12988.

#### **Takings Implication Assessment**

In accordance with E.O. 12630, this rule, authorized by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, does not have significant takings implications and does not affect any constitutionally protected property rights. This rule will not result in the physical occupancy of property, the physical invasion of property, or the regulatory taking of any property. In fact, this rule will allow hunters to exercise otherwise unavailable privileges and, therefore, reduce restrictions on the use of private and public property.

#### **Energy Effects—Executive Order 13211**

E.O. 13211 requires agencies to prepare Statements of Energy Effects when undertaking certain actions. While this rule is a significant regulatory action under E.O. 12866, it is not expected to adversely affect energy supplies, distribution, or use. Therefore,



this action is not a significant energy action and no Statement of Energy Effects is required.

#### Government-to-Government Relationship With Tribes

In accordance with the President's memorandum of April 29, 1994, "Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments" (59 FR 22951), E.O. 13175, and 512 DM 2, we have evaluated possible effects on Federally recognized Indian tribes and have determined that there are no effects on Indian trust resources. We have consulted with Tribes affected by this rule.

#### Federalism Effects

Due to the migratory nature of certain species of birds, the Federal Government has been given responsibility over these species by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We annually prescribe frameworks from which the States make selections regarding the hunting of migratory birds, and we employ guidelines to establish special regulations on Federal Indian reservations and ceded lands. This process preserves the ability of the States and tribes to determine which seasons meet their individual needs. Any State or Indian tribe may be more restrictive than the Federal frameworks at any time. The frameworks are developed in a cooperative process with the States and the Flyway Councils. This process allows States to participate in the development of frameworks from which they will make selections, thereby having an influence on their own regulations. These rules do not have a substantial direct effect on fiscal capacity, change the roles or responsibilities of Federal or State governments, or intrude on State policy or administration. Therefore, in accordance with E.O. 13132, these regulations do not have significant federalism effects and do not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement.

#### Regulations Promulgation

The rulemaking process for migratory game bird hunting, by its nature, operates under a time constraint as seasons must be established each year or hunting seasons remain closed. However, we intend that the public be provided extensive opportunity for public input and involvement in compliance with Administrative Procedure Act requirements. Thus, when the preliminary proposed rulemaking was published, we

established what we concluded were the longest periods possible for public comment and the most opportunities for public involvement. We also provided notification of our participation in multiple Flyway Council meetings, opportunities for additional public review and comment on all Flyway Council proposals for regulatory change, and opportunities for additional public review during the SRC meeting. Therefore, sufficient public notice and opportunity for involvement have been given to affected persons regarding the migratory bird hunting frameworks for the 2019–20 hunting seasons. Further, after establishment of the final frameworks, States need sufficient time to conduct their own public processes to select season dates and limits; to communicate those selections to us; and to establish and publicize the necessary regulations and procedures to implement their decisions. Thus, if there were a delay in the effective date of these regulations after this final rulemaking, States might not be able to meet their own administrative needs and requirements.

For the reasons cited above, we find that "good cause" exists, within the terms of 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and these frameworks will take effect immediately upon publication.

Therefore, under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (July 3, 1918), as amended (16 U.S.C. 703–711), we prescribe final frameworks setting forth the species to be hunted, the daily bag and possession limits, the shooting hours, the season lengths, the earliest opening and latest closing season dates, and hunting areas, from which State conservation agency officials will select hunting season dates and other options. Upon receipt of season selections from these officials, we will publish a final rulemaking amending 50 CFR part 20 to reflect seasons, limits, and shooting hours for the United States for the 2019–20 seasons. The rules that eventually will be promulgated for the 2019–20 hunting season are authorized under 16 U.S.C. 703–712 and 742a–j.

#### List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 20

Exports, Hunting, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation, Wildlife.

Dated: July 1, 2019.

**Karen Budd-Falen,**

*Deputy Solicitor for Parks and Wildlife, Exercising the Authority of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*

#### Final Regulations Frameworks for 2019–20 Hunting Seasons on Certain Migratory Game Birds

Pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and delegated authorities, the Department of the Interior approved the following frameworks for season lengths, shooting hours, bag and possession limits, and outside dates within which States may select seasons for hunting migratory game birds between the dates of September 1, 2019, and March 10, 2020. These frameworks are summarized below.

#### General

**Dates:** All outside dates noted below are inclusive.

**Shooting and Hawking (taking by falconry) Hours:** Unless otherwise specified, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

**Possession Limits:** Unless otherwise specified, possession limits are three times the daily bag limit.

**Permits:** For some species of migratory birds, the Service authorizes the use of permits to regulate harvest or monitor their take by hunters, or both. In these cases, the Service determines the amount of harvest that may be taken during hunting seasons during its formal regulations-setting process, and the States then issue permits to hunters at levels predicted to result in the amount of take authorized by the Service. Thus, although issued by States, the permits would not be valid unless the Service approved such take in its regulations.

These Federally authorized, State-issued permits are issued to individuals, and only the individual whose name and address appears on the permit at the time of issuance is authorized to take migratory birds at levels specified in the permit, in accordance with provisions of both Federal and State regulations governing the hunting season. The permit must be carried by the permittee when exercising its provisions and must be presented to any law enforcement officer upon request. The permit is not transferrable or assignable to another individual, and may not be sold, bartered, traded, or otherwise provided to another person. If the permit is altered or defaced in any way, the permit becomes invalid.

**Flyways and Management Units****Waterfowl Flyways**

**Atlantic Flyway:** Includes Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**Mississippi Flyway:** Includes Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

**Central Flyway:** Includes Colorado (east of the Continental Divide), Kansas, Montana (Counties of Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Judith Basin, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Wheatland, and all counties east thereof), Nebraska, New Mexico (east of the Continental Divide except the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation), North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming (east of the Continental Divide).

**Pacific Flyway:** Includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and those portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming not included in the Central Flyway.

**Duck Management Units**

**High Plains Mallard Management Unit:** Roughly defined as that portion of the Central Flyway that lies west of the 100th meridian. See Area, Unit, and Zone Descriptions, *Ducks (Including Mergansers) and Coots* for specific boundaries in each State.

**Columbia Basin Mallard Management Unit:** In Washington, all areas east of the Pacific Crest Trail and east of the Big White Salmon River in Klickitat County; and in Oregon, the counties of Gilliam, Morrow, and Umatilla.

**Mourning Dove Management Units**

**Eastern Management Unit:** All States east of the Mississippi River, and Louisiana.

**Central Management Unit:** Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.

**Western Management Unit:** Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

**Woodcock Management Regions**

**Eastern Management Region:** Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**Central Management Region:** Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Other geographic descriptions are contained in a later portion of this document.

**Definitions**

For the purpose of the hunting regulations listed below, the collective terms "dark" and "light" geese include the following species:

**Dark geese:** Canada geese (including cackling geese [*Branta hutchinsii*]), white-fronted geese, brant (except in Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington, and the Atlantic Flyway), and all other goose species except light geese.

**Light geese:** Snow (including blue) geese and Ross's geese.

**Area, Zone, and Unit Descriptions:** Geographic descriptions related to regulations are contained in a later portion of this document.

**Area-Specific Provisions:** Frameworks for open seasons, season lengths, bag and possession limits, and other special provisions are listed below by Flyway.

**Migratory Game Bird Seasons in the Atlantic Flyway**

In the Atlantic Flyway States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, where Sunday hunting is prohibited Statewide by State law, all Sundays are closed to the take of all migratory game birds.

**Special Youth, Veteran, and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days**

**Outside Dates:** States may select 2 days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days," and 2 days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons. The days may be held concurrently. The Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days must be held outside any regular duck season on weekends, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. Both sets of days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season frameworks or within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds.

**Daily Bag Limits:** The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and

gallinules and would be the same as those allowed in the regular season. Flyway species and area restrictions would remain in effect.

**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

**Participation Restrictions for Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days:** States may use their established definition of age for youth hunters. However, youth hunters must be under the age of 18. In addition, an adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day. Youth hunters 16 years of age and older must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp). Swans may only be taken by participants possessing applicable swan permits.

**Participation Restrictions for Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days:** Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may participate. All hunters must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp). Swans may only be taken by participants possessing applicable swan permits.

**Special September Teal Season**

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and September 30, an open season on all species of teal may be selected by the following States in areas delineated by State regulations:

**Atlantic Flyway:** Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

**Mississippi Flyway:** Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

**Central Flyway:** Colorado (part), Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico (part), Oklahoma, and Texas.

**Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:** Not to exceed 16 consecutive hunting days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. The daily bag limit is 6 teal.

**Shooting Hours**

**Atlantic Flyway:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except in South Carolina, where the hours are from sunrise to sunset.

**Mississippi and Central Flyways:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except in the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan,



Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin, where the hours are from sunrise to sunset.

#### *Special September Duck Seasons*

*Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee:* In lieu of a special September teal season, a 5-consecutive-day teal/wood duck season may be selected in September. The daily bag limit may not exceed 6 teal and wood ducks in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be wood ducks. In addition, a 4-consecutive-day teal-only season may be selected in September either immediately before or immediately after the 5-consecutive-day teal/wood duck season. The daily bag limit is 6 teal. The teal-only season in Florida is experimental.

#### *Waterfowl*

##### Atlantic Flyway

##### Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

*Outside Dates:* Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and January 31.

*Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits:* 60 days. The daily bag limit is 6 ducks, including no more than 2 mallards (no more than 1 of which can be female), 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 canvasbacks, 4 scoters, 4 eiders, and 4 long-tailed ducks.

*Closures:* The season on harlequin ducks is closed.

*Merganser Limits:* The daily bag limit of mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. In States that include mergansers in the duck bag limit, the daily limit is the same as the duck bag limit, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

*Coot Limits:* The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

*Lake Champlain Zone, New York:* The waterfowl seasons, limits, and shooting hours should be the same as those selected for the Lake Champlain Zone of Vermont.

*Connecticut River Zone, Vermont:* The waterfowl seasons, limits, and shooting hours should be the same as those selected for the Inland Zone of New Hampshire.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia may split their seasons into 3 segments; Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont may select hunting seasons by zones and may split their seasons into two segments in each zone.

##### Scoters, Eiders, and Long-Tailed Ducks Special Sea Duck Seasons

Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia may select a Special Sea Duck Season in designated Special Sea Duck Areas. If a Special Sea Duck Season is selected, scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks may be taken in the designated Special Sea Duck Area(s) only during the Special Sea Duck Season dates; scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks may be taken outside of Special Sea Duck Area(s) during the regular duck season, in accordance with the frameworks for ducks, mergansers, and coots specified above.

*Outside Dates:* Between September 15 and January 31.

*Special Sea Duck Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:* 60 consecutive hunting days, or 60 days that are concurrent with the regular duck season, with a daily bag limit of 5, of the listed sea duck species, including no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders, and 4 long-tailed ducks. Within the special sea duck areas, during the regular duck season in the Atlantic Flyway, States may choose to allow the above sea duck limits in addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular season. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed 4 scoters, 4 eiders, and 4 long-tailed ducks) and possession limits.

*Special Sea Duck Areas:* In all coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams seaward from the first upstream bridge in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York; in New Jersey, all coastal waters seaward from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Demarcation Lines shown on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Nautical Charts and further described in 33 CFR 80.165, 80.501, 80.502, and 80.503; in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay that are separated by at least 1 mile of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in South Carolina and Georgia; and in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay that are separated by at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia; and provided that any such areas have been described, delineated, and designated as special

sea duck hunting areas under the hunting regulations adopted by the respective States.

#### Canada Geese

##### Special Early Canada Goose Seasons

A Canada goose season of up to 15 days during September 1–15 may be selected for the Eastern Unit of Maryland. Seasons not to exceed 30 days during September 1–30 may be selected for Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York (Long Island Zone only), North Carolina, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. Seasons may not exceed 25 days during September 1–25 in the remainder of the Flyway. Areas open to the hunting of Canada geese must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

*Daily Bag Limits:* Not to exceed 15 Canada geese.

*Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during any special early Canada goose season, shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset if all other waterfowl seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

##### Regular Canada Goose Seasons

*Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits:* Specific regulations for Canada geese are shown below by State. These seasons may also include white-fronted geese in an aggregate daily bag limit. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.

#### Connecticut

*North Atlantic Population (NAP) Zone:* Between October 1 and January 31, a 60-day season may be held with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

*Atlantic Population (AP) Zone:* A 30-day season may be held between October 10 and February 5, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

*South Zone:* A special season may be held between January 15 and February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit.

*Resident Population (RP) Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

#### Delaware

A 30-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 1-bird daily bag limit.

#### Florida

An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

## Georgia

An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

## Maine

*North and South NAP-H Zones:* A 60-day season may be held between October 1 and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

*Coastal NAP-L Zone:* A 70-day season may be held between October 1 and February 15, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

## Maryland

*RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between November 15 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*AP Zone:* A 30-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 1-bird daily bag limit.

## Massachusetts

*NAP Zone:* A 60-day season may be held between October 1 and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

Additionally, a special season may be held from January 15 to February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit.

*AP Zone:* A 30-day season may be held between October 10 and February 5, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

## New Hampshire

A 60-day season may be held Statewide between October 1 and January 31 with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

## New Jersey

*AP Zone:* A 30-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 26) and February 5, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

*NAP Zone:* A 60-day season may be held between October 1 and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

*Special Late Goose Season Area:* A special season may be held in designated areas of North and South New Jersey from January 15 to February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit.

## New York

*NAP Zone:* Between October 1 and January 31, a 60-day season may be held, with a 2-bird daily bag limit in the High Harvest areas; and between October 1 and February 15, a 70-day season may be held, with a 3-bird daily bag limit in the Low Harvest areas.

*AP Zone:* A 30-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 26), except in the Lake Champlain Area where the opening date is October 10, through February 5, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

*Western Long Island RP Zone:* A 107-day season may be held between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and the last day of February, with an 8-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*Rest of State RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 26) and the last day of February, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

## North Carolina

*RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*Northeast Hunt Unit:* A 14-day season may be held between the Saturday prior to December 25 (December 21) and January 31, with a 1-bird daily bag limit.

## Pennsylvania

*SJBP Zone:* A 78-day season may be held between the first Saturday in October (October 5) and February 15, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

*RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 26) and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*AP Zone:* A 30-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 26) and February 5, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

## Rhode Island

A 60-day season may be held between October 1 and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit. A special late season may be held in designated areas from January 15 to February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit.

## South Carolina

In designated areas, an 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

## Vermont

*Lake Champlain Zone and Interior Zone:* A 30-day season may be held between October 10 and February 5, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

*Connecticut River Zone:* A 60-day season may be held between October 1 and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

## Virginia

*SJBP Zone:* A 40-day season may be held between November 15 and January 14, with a 3-bird daily bag limit. Additionally, a special late season may

be held between January 15 and February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit.

*AP Zone:* A 30-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 1-bird daily bag limit.

*RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between November 15 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

## West Virginia

An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments in each zone.

## Light Geese

*Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits:* States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit. States may split their seasons into 3 segments.

## Brant

*Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits:* States may select a 30-day season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

## Mississippi Flyway

## Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

*Outside Dates:* Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and January 31.

*Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits:* The season may not exceed 60 days, with a daily bag limit of 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 1 mottled duck, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 3 wood ducks, 2 canvasbacks, 3 scaup, and 2 redheads.

*Merganser Limits:* The daily bag limit is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. In States that include mergansers in the duck bag limit, the daily limit is the same as the duck bag limit, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

*Coot Limits:* The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin may select hunting seasons by zones.

In Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, the season may be split into two segments in each zone.

In Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi, the season may be split into 3 segments.

## Geese

## Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits

*Canada Geese:* States may select seasons for Canada geese not to exceed 107 days with a 5-bird daily bag limit during September 1–30, and a 3-bird daily bag limit for the remainder of the season. Seasons may be held between September 1 and February 15, and may be split into 4 segments.

*White-fronted Geese and Brant:* Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee may select a season for white-fronted geese not to exceed 74 days with 3 geese daily, or 88 days with 2 geese daily, or 107 days with 1 goose daily between September 1 and February 15; Alabama, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin may select a season for white-fronted geese not to exceed 107 days with 5 geese daily, in aggregate with dark geese between September 1 and February 15. States may select a season for brant not to exceed 70 days with 2 brant daily, or 107 days with 1 brant daily with outside dates the same as for Canada geese; alternately, States may include brant in an aggregate goose bag limit with either Canada geese, white-fronted geese, or dark geese.

*Light Geese:* States may select seasons for light geese not to exceed 107 days, with 20 geese daily between September 1 and February 15. There is no possession limit for light geese.

*Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during September 1–15 shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset for Canada geese if all other waterfowl and crane seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

*Split Seasons:* Seasons for geese may be split into four segments unless otherwise indicated.

## Central Flyway

## Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

*Outside Dates:* Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and January 31.

## Hunting Seasons

*High Plains Mallard Management Unit (roughly defined as that portion of the Central Flyway that lies west of the 100th meridian):* 97 days. The last 23 days must run consecutively and may start no earlier than the Saturday nearest December 10 (December 7).

*Remainder of the Central Flyway:* 74 days.

*Duck Limits:* The daily bag limit is 6 ducks, with species and sex restrictions as follows: 5 mallards (no more than 2

of which may be females), 3 scaup, 2 redheads, 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, and 2 canvasbacks. In Texas, the daily bag limit on mottled ducks is 1, except that no mottled ducks may be taken during the first 5 days of the season. In addition to the daily limits listed above, the States of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, in lieu of selecting an experimental September teal season, may include an additional daily bag and possession limit of 2 and 6 blue-winged teal, respectively, during the first 16 days of the regular duck season in each respective duck hunting zone. These extra limits are in addition to the regular duck bag and possession limits.

*Merganser Limits:* The daily bag limit is 5 mergansers, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. In States that include mergansers in the duck daily bag limit, the daily limit may be the same as the duck bag limit, only two of which may be hooded mergansers.

*Coot Limits:* The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* Colorado, Kansas (Low Plains portion), Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma (Low Plains portion), South Dakota (Low Plains portion), Texas (Low Plains portion), and Wyoming may select hunting seasons by zones.

In Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming, the regular season may be split into two segments.

## Geese

*Special Early Canada Goose Seasons:* In Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas, Canada goose seasons of up to 30 days during September 1–30 may be selected. In Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and Wyoming, Canada goose seasons of up to 15 days during September 1–15 may be selected. In North Dakota, Canada goose seasons of up to 22 days during September 1–22 may be selected. The daily bag limit may not exceed 5 Canada geese, except in Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, where the daily bag limit may not exceed 8 Canada geese, and in North Dakota and South Dakota, where the daily bag limit may not exceed 15 Canada geese. Areas open to the hunting of Canada geese must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

*Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during September 1–15 shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset if all other waterfowl and crane seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

## Regular Goose Seasons

*Split Seasons:* Seasons for geese may be split into 3 segments. Three-way split seasons for Canada geese require Central Flyway Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval, and a 3-year evaluation by each participating State.

*Outside Dates:* For dark geese, seasons may be selected between the outside dates of the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 16). For light geese, outside dates for seasons may be selected between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and March 10. In the Rainwater Basin Light Goose Area (East and West) of Nebraska, temporal and spatial restrictions that are consistent with the late-winter snow goose hunting strategy cooperatively developed by the Central Flyway Council and the Service are required.

## Season Lengths and Limits

*Light Geese:* States may select a light goose season not to exceed 107 days. The daily bag limit for light geese is 50 with no possession limit.

*Dark Geese:* In Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and the Eastern Goose Zone of Texas, States may select a season for Canada geese (or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese) not to exceed 107 days with a daily bag limit of 8. For white-fronted geese, these States may select either a season of 74 days with a bag limit of 3, or an 88-day season with a bag limit of 2, or a season of 107 days with a bag limit of 1.

In Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, States may select seasons not to exceed 107 days. The daily bag limit for dark geese is 5 in the aggregate.

In the Western Goose Zone of Texas, the season may not exceed 95 days. The daily bag limit for Canada geese (or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese) is 5. The daily bag limit for white-fronted geese is 2.

## Pacific Flyway

## Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

*Outside Dates:* Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and January 31.

*Hunting Seasons and Duck and Merganser Limits:* 107 days. The daily bag limit is 7 ducks and mergansers, including no more than 2 female mallards, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 3 scaup, and 2 redheads. For scaup, the season length is 86 days, which may be split according to applicable zones and split duck hunting configurations approved for each State.



*Coot, Common Moorhen, and Purple Gallinule Limits:* The daily bag limit of coots, common moorhens, and purple gallinules is 25, singly or in the aggregate.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming may select hunting seasons by zones and may split their seasons into 2 segments.

Montana and New Mexico may split their seasons into 3 segments.

*Colorado River Zone, California:* Seasons and limits should be the same as seasons and limits selected in the adjacent portion of Arizona (South Zone).

#### Geese

##### Special Early Canada Goose Seasons

A Canada goose season of up to 15 days during September 1–20 may be selected. The daily bag limit may not exceed 5 Canada geese, except in Pacific County, Washington, where the daily bag limit may not exceed 15 Canada geese. Areas open to hunting of Canada geese in each State must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

##### Regular Goose Seasons

##### Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits

*Canada Geese and Brant:* Except as subsequently noted, 107-day seasons may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and the last Sunday in January (January 26). In Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, the daily bag limit is 4 Canada geese and brant in the aggregate. In California, Oregon, and Washington, the daily bag limit is 4 Canada geese. For brant, in California, Oregon and Washington, a 37-day season may be selected. Days must be consecutive. Washington and California may select hunting seasons for up to 2 zones. The daily bag limit is 2 brant and is in addition to other goose limits. In Oregon and California, the brant season must end no later than December 15.

*White-fronted Geese:* Except as subsequently noted, 107-day seasons may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and March 10. The daily bag limit is 10.

*Light Geese:* Except as subsequently noted, 107-day seasons may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and March 10. The daily bag limit is 20.

*Split Seasons:* Unless otherwise specified, seasons for geese may be split

into up to 3 segments. Three-way split seasons for Canada geese and white-fronted geese require Pacific Flyway Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval and a 3-year evaluation by each participating State.

#### California

The daily bag limit for Canada geese is 10.

*Balance of State Zone:* A Canada goose season may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and March 10. In the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area, the season on white-fronted geese must end on or before December 28, and the daily bag limit is 3 white-fronted geese. In the North Coast Special Management Area, hunting days that occur after the last Sunday in January (January 26) should be concurrent with Oregon's South Coast Zone.

*Northeastern Zone:* The white-fronted goose season may be split into 3 segments.

#### Oregon

The daily bag limit for light geese is 6 on or before the last Sunday in January (January 26).

*Harney and Lake County Zone:* For Lake County only, the daily white-fronted goose bag limit is 1.

*Northwest Permit Zone:* A Canada goose season may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and March 10. Goose seasons may be split into 3 segments. The daily bag limits of Canada geese and light geese are 6 each. In the Tillamook County Management Area, the hunting season is closed on geese.

*South Coast Zone:* A Canada goose season may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and March 10. The daily bag limit of Canada geese is 6. Hunting days that occur after the last Sunday in January (January 26) should be concurrent with California's North Coast Special Management Area. Goose seasons may be split into 3 segments.

#### Utah

A Canada goose and brant season may be selected in the Wasatch Front Zone with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and the first Sunday in February (February 2).

#### Washington

The daily bag limit for light geese is 6.

*Areas 2 Inland and 2 Coastal (Southwest Permit Zone):* A Canada goose season may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and March 10. Goose seasons may be split into 3 segments.

*Area 4:* Goose seasons may be split into 3 segments.

#### Permit Zones

In Oregon and Washington permit zones, the hunting season is closed on dusky Canada geese. A dusky Canada goose is any dark-breasted Canada goose (Munsell 10 YR color value 5 or less) with a bill length between 40 and 50 millimeters. Hunting of geese will only be by hunters possessing a State-issued permit authorizing them to do so. Shooting hours for geese may begin no earlier than sunrise. Regular Canada goose seasons in the permit zones of Oregon and Washington remain subject to the Memorandum of Understanding entered into with the Service regarding monitoring the impacts of take during the regular Canada goose season on the dusky Canada goose population.

#### Swans

In portions of the Pacific Flyway (Montana, Nevada, and Utah), an open season for taking a limited number of swans may be selected. These seasons are also subject to the following conditions:

*Outside Dates:* Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and January 31.

*Hunting Seasons:* Seasons may not exceed 107 days.

*Permits:* Swan hunting is by permit only. Permits will be issued by the State and will authorize each permittee to take no more than 1 swan per season with each permit. Only 1 permit may be issued per hunter in Montana and Utah, 2 permits may be issued per hunter in Nevada. The total number of permits issued may not exceed 500 in Montana, 2,750 in Utah, and 650 in Nevada.

*Quotas:* The swan season in the respective State must end upon attainment of the following reported harvest of trumpeter swans: 20 in Utah and 10 in Nevada. There is no quota in Montana.

*Monitoring:* Each State must evaluate hunter participation, species-specific swan harvest, and hunter compliance in providing either species-determinant parts (at least the intact head) or bill measurements (bill length from tip to posterior edge of the nares opening, and presence or absence of yellow lore spots on the bill in front of the eyes) of harvested swans for species identification. Each State should use

appropriate measures to maximize hunter compliance with the State's program for swan harvest reporting. Each State must achieve a hunter compliance of at least 80 percent in providing species-determinant parts or bill measurements of harvested swans for species identification or subsequent permits will be reduced by 10 percent in the respective State. Each State must provide to the Service by June 30 following the swan season a report detailing hunter participation, species-specific swan harvest, and hunter compliance in reporting harvest. In Montana, all hunters that harvest a swan must complete and submit a reporting card (bill card) with the bill measurement and color information from the harvested swan within 72 hours of harvest for species determination. In Utah and Nevada, all hunters that harvest a swan must have the swan or species-determinant parts examined by a State or Federal biologist within 72 hours of harvest for species determination.

**Other Provisions:** In Utah, the season is subject to the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement entered into with the Service in July 2019, regarding harvest monitoring, season closure procedures, and education requirements to minimize take of trumpeter swans during the swan season.

#### Tundra Swans

In portions of the Atlantic Flyway (Delaware, North Carolina, and Virginia) and the Central Flyway (North Dakota, South Dakota [east of the Missouri River], and that portion of Montana in the Central Flyway), an open season for taking a limited number of tundra swans may be selected. Permits will be issued by the States that authorize the take of no more than 1 tundra swan per permit. A second permit may be issued to hunters from unused permits remaining after the first drawing. The States must obtain harvest and hunter participation data. These seasons are also subject to the following conditions:

#### In the Atlantic Flyway

- The season may be 90 days, between October 1 and January 31.
- In Delaware, no more than 84 permits may be issued. The season is experimental.
- In North Carolina, no more than 6,115 permits may be issued.
- In Virginia, no more than 801 permits may be issued.

#### In the Central Flyway

- The season may be 107 days, between the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 28) and January 31.
- In the Central Flyway portion of Montana, no more than 625 permits may be issued.
- In North Dakota, no more than 2,700 permits may be issued.
- In South Dakota, no more than 1,675 permits may be issued.

#### Sandhill Cranes

##### Regular Seasons in the Mississippi Flyway

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and February 28 in Minnesota, and between September 1 and January 31 in Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

**Hunting Seasons:** A season not to exceed 37 consecutive days may be selected in the designated portion of northwestern Minnesota (Northwest Goose Zone), and a season not to exceed 60 consecutive days in Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The season in Alabama is experimental.

**Daily Bag Limit:** 1 sandhill crane in Minnesota, 2 sandhill cranes in Kentucky, and 3 sandhill cranes in Alabama and Tennessee. In Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee, the seasonal bag limit is 3 sandhill cranes.

**Permits:** Each person participating in the regular sandhill crane seasons must have a valid Federal or State sandhill crane hunting permit.

**Other Provisions:** The number of permits (where applicable), open areas, season dates, protection plans for other species, and other provisions of seasons must be consistent with the management plans and approved by the Mississippi Flyway Council.

##### Regular Seasons in the Central Flyway

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and February 28.

**Hunting Seasons:** Seasons not to exceed 37 consecutive days may be selected in designated portions of Texas (Area 2). Seasons not to exceed 58 consecutive days may be selected in designated portions of the following States: Colorado, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Seasons not to exceed 93 consecutive days may be selected in designated portions of the following States: New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

**Daily Bag Limits:** 3 sandhill cranes, except 2 sandhill cranes in designated portions of North Dakota (Area 2) and Texas (Area 2).

**Permits:** Each person participating in the regular sandhill crane season must have a valid Federal or State sandhill crane hunting permit.

#### Special Seasons in the Central and Pacific Flyways

Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming may select seasons for hunting sandhill cranes within the range of the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) of sandhill cranes subject to the following conditions:

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and January 31.

**Hunting Seasons:** The season in any State or zone may not exceed 60 days, and may be split into no more than 3 segments.

**Bag limits:** Not to exceed 3 daily and 9 per season.

**Permits:** Participants must have a valid permit, issued by the appropriate State, in their possession while hunting.

**Other Provisions:** Numbers of permits, open areas, season dates, protection plans for other species, and other provisions of seasons must be consistent with the management plan and approved by the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils, with the following exceptions:

A. In Utah, 100 percent of the harvest will be assigned to the RMP crane quota;

B. In Arizona, monitoring the racial composition of the harvest must be conducted at 3-year intervals unless 100 percent of the harvest will be assigned to the RMP crane quota;

C. In Idaho, 100 percent of the harvest will be assigned to the RMP crane quota; and

D. In New Mexico, the season in the Estancia Valley is experimental, with a requirement to monitor the level and racial composition of the harvest; greater sandhill cranes in the harvest will be assigned to the RMP crane quota.

#### Common Moorhens and Purple Gallinules

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and the last Sunday in January (January 26) in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. States in the Pacific Flyway may select their hunting seasons between the outside dates for the season on ducks, mergansers, and coots; therefore, Pacific Flyway frameworks for common moorhens and purple gallinules are included with the duck, merganser, and coot frameworks.

**Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:** Seasons may not exceed 70 days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. Seasons may be split into 2 segments. The daily bag limit is 15 common moorhens and purple gallinules, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

**Zoning:** Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

**Rails**

**Outside Dates:** States included herein may select seasons between September 1 and the last Sunday in January (January 26) on clapper, king, sora, and Virginia rails.

**Hunting Seasons:** Seasons may not exceed 70 days, and may be split into 2 segments.

**Daily Bag Limits**

**Clapper and King Rails:** In Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, 10, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. In Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, 15, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

**Sora and Virginia Rails:** In the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways and the Pacific Flyway portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, 25 rails, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. The season is closed in the remainder of the Pacific Flyway.

**Snipe**

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and February 28, except in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia, where the season must end no later than January 31.

**Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:** Seasons may not exceed 107 days and may be split into 2 segments. The daily bag limit is 8 snipe.

**Zoning:** Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

**American Woodcock**

**Outside Dates:** States in the Eastern Management Region may select hunting seasons between October 1 and January 31. States in the Central Management Region may select hunting seasons between the Saturday nearest September 22 (September 21) and January 31.

**Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:** Seasons may not exceed 45 days in the Eastern and Central Regions. The daily bag limit is 3. Seasons may be split into 2 segments.

**Zoning:** New Jersey may select seasons in each of two zones. The season in each zone may not exceed 36 days.

**Band-Tailed Pigeons**

Pacific Coast States (California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada)

**Outside Dates:** Between September 15 and January 1.

**Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag**

**Limits:** Not more than 9 consecutive days, with a daily bag limit of 2.

**Zoning:** California may select hunting seasons not to exceed 9 consecutive days in each of 2 zones. The season in the North Zone must close by October 3.

Four-Corners States (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah)

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and November 30.

**Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag**

**Limits:** Not more than 14 consecutive days, with a daily bag limit of 2.

**Zoning:** New Mexico may select hunting seasons not to exceed 14 consecutive days in each of 2 zones. The season in the South Zone may not open until October 1.

**Doves**

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and January 31 in the Eastern Management Unit, and between September 1 and January 15 in the Central and Western Management Units, except as otherwise provided, States may select hunting seasons and daily bag limits as follows:

**Eastern Management Unit**

**Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:** Not more than 90 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

**Zoning and Split Seasons:** States may select hunting seasons in each of 2 zones. The season within each zone may be split into not more than 3 segments. Regulations for bag and possession limits, season length, and shooting hours must be uniform within specific hunting zones.

**Central Management Unit****For All States Except Texas**

**Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:** Not more than 90 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

**Zoning and Split Seasons:** States may select hunting seasons in each of 2 zones. The season within each zone may be split into not more than 3 segments.

**Texas**

**Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:** Not more than 90 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-tipped doves.

**Zoning and Split Seasons:** Texas may select hunting seasons for each of 3 zones subject to the following conditions:

A. The hunting season may be split into not more than 2 segments, except in that portion of Texas in which the special white-winged dove season is allowed, where a limited take of mourning and white-tipped doves may also occur during that special season (see Special White-winged Dove Area in Texas).

B. A season may be selected for the North and Central Zones between September 1 and January 25; and for the South Zone between September 14 and January 25.

C. Except as noted above, regulations for bag and possession limits, season length, and shooting hours must be uniform within each hunting zone.

**Special White-Winged Dove Area in Texas**

In addition, Texas may select a hunting season of not more than 4 days for the Special White-winged Dove Area of the South Zone between September 1 and September 19. The daily bag limit may not exceed 15 white-winged, mourning, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be mourning doves and no more than 2 may be white-tipped doves.

**Western Management Unit****Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits**

**Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington:** Not more than 60 days, which may be split between 2 segments. The daily bag limit is 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

**Arizona and California:** Not more than 60 days, which may be split between 2 segments, September 1–15 and November 1–January 15. In Arizona, during the first segment of the season, the daily bag limit is 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 10 could be white-winged doves. During the remainder of the season, the daily bag limit is 15 mourning doves. In California, the daily bag limit is 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 10 could be white-winged doves.

**Alaska**

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and January 26.

**Hunting Seasons:** Alaska may select 107 consecutive days for waterfowl, sandhill cranes, and common snipe concurrent in each of 5 zones. For brant, the season may be split without penalty in the Kodiak Zone.

**Closures:** The hunting season is closed on spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders.



**Daily Bag and Possession Limits**

**Ducks:** Except as noted, a basic daily bag limit of 7 ducks. Daily bag limits in the North Zone are 10, and in the Gulf Coast Zone, they are 8. The basic limits may include no more than 2 canvasbacks daily and may not include sea ducks.

In addition to the basic duck limits, Alaska may select sea duck limits of 10 daily, singly or in the aggregate, including no more than 6 each of either harlequin or long-tailed ducks. Sea ducks include scoters, common and king eiders, harlequin ducks, long-tailed ducks, and common and red-breasted mergansers.

**Light Geese:** The daily bag limit is 6.

**Canada Geese:** The daily bag limit is 4 with the following exceptions:

A. In Units 5 and 6, the taking of Canada geese is permitted from September 28 through December 16.

B. On Middleton Island in Unit 6, a special, permit-only Canada goose season may be offered. A mandatory goose identification class is required. Hunters must check in and check out. The bag limit is 1 daily and 1 in possession. The season will close if incidental harvest includes 5 dusky Canada geese. A dusky Canada goose is any dark-breasted Canada goose (Munsell 10 YR color value 5 or less) with a bill length between 40 and 50 millimeters.

C. In Units 9, 10, 17, and 18, the daily bag limit is 6 Canada geese.

**White-fronted Geese:** The daily bag limit is 4 with the following exceptions:

A. In Units 9, 10, and 17, the daily bag limit is 6 white-fronted geese.

B. In Unit 18, the daily bag limit is 10 white-fronted geese.

**Emperor Geese:** Open seasons for emperor geese may be selected subject to the following conditions:

A. All seasons are by permit only.

B. No more than 1 emperor goose may be harvested per hunter per season.

C. Total harvest may not exceed 1,000 emperor geese.

D. In State Game Management Unit 8, the Kodiak Island Road Area is closed to hunting. The Kodiak Island Road Area consists of all lands and water (including exposed tidelands) east of a line extending from Crag Point in the north to the west end of Saltery Cove in the south and all lands and water south of a line extending from Termination Point along the north side of Cascade Lake extending to Anton Larsen Bay. Marine waters adjacent to the closed area are closed to harvest within 500 feet from the water's edge. The offshore islands are open to harvest, for example: Woody, Long, Gull, and Puffin islands.

**Brant:** The daily bag limit is 4.

**Snipe:** The daily bag limit is 8.

**Sandhill Cranes:** The daily bag limit is 2 in the Southeast, Gulf Coast, Kodiak, and Aleutian Zones, and Unit 17 in the North Zone. In the remainder of the North Zone (outside Unit 17), the daily bag limit is 3.

**Tundra Swans:** Open seasons for tundra swans may be selected subject to the following conditions:

A. All seasons are by permit only.

B. All season framework dates are September 1–October 31.

C. In Unit 17, no more than 200 permits may be issued during this operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit, with no more than 1 permit issued per hunter per season.

D. In Unit 18, no more than 500 permits may be issued during the operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit. No more than 1 permit may be issued per hunter per season.

E. In Unit 22, no more than 300 permits may be issued during the operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit. No more than 1 permit may be issued per hunter per season.

F. In Unit 23, no more than 300 permits may be issued during the operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit. No more than 1 permit may be issued per hunter per season.

**Hawaii**

**Outside Dates:** Between October 1 and January 31.

**Hunting Seasons:** Not more than 65 days (75 under the alternative) for mourning doves.

**Bag Limits:** Not to exceed 15 (12 under the alternative) mourning doves.

**Note:** Mourning doves may be taken in Hawaii in accordance with shooting hours and other regulations set by the State of Hawaii, and subject to the applicable provisions of 50 CFR part 20.

**Puerto Rico****Doves and Pigeons**

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and January 15.

**Hunting Seasons:** Not more than 60 days.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Not to exceed 20 Zenaida, mourning, and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which not more than 10 may be Zenaida doves and 3 may be mourning doves. Not to exceed 5 scaly-naped pigeons.

**Closed Seasons:** The season is closed on the white-crowned pigeon and the plain pigeon, which are protected by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

**Closed Areas:** There is no open season on doves or pigeons in the following areas: Municipality of Culebra, Desecheo Island, Mona Island, El Verde Closure Area, and Cidra Municipality and adjacent areas.

Ducks, Coots, Moorhens, Gallinules, and Snipe

**Outside Dates:** Between October 1 and January 31.

**Hunting Seasons:** Not more than 55 days may be selected for hunting ducks, common moorhens, and common snipe. The season may be split into 2 segments.

**Daily Bag Limits**

**Ducks:** Not to exceed 6 ducks.

**Common Moorhens:** Not to exceed 6 moorhens.

**Common Snipe:** Not to exceed 8 snipe.

**Closed Seasons:** The season is closed on the ruddy duck, white-cheeked pintail, West Indian whistling duck, fulvous whistling duck, and masked duck, which are protected by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The season also is closed on the purple gallinule, American coot, and Caribbean coot.

**Closed Areas:** There is no open season on ducks, common moorhens, and common snipe in the Municipality of Culebra and on Desecheo Island.

**Virgin Islands****Doves and Pigeons**

**Outside Dates:** Between September 1 and January 15.

**Hunting Seasons:** Not more than 60 consecutive days.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Not to exceed 10 Zenaida doves.

**Closed Seasons:** No open season is prescribed for ground or quail doves or pigeons.

**Closed Areas:** There is no open season for migratory game birds on Ruth Cay (just south of St. Croix).

**Local Names for Certain Birds:** Zenaida dove, also known as mountain dove; bridled quail-dove, also known as Barbary dove or partridge; common ground-dove, also known as stone dove, tobacco dove, rola, or tortolita; scaly-naped pigeon, also known as red-necked or scaled pigeon.

**Ducks**

**Outside Dates:** Between December 1 and January 31.

**Hunting Seasons:** Not more than 55 consecutive days.

**Daily Bag Limits:** Not to exceed 6 ducks.

**Closed Seasons:** The season is closed on the ruddy duck, white-cheeked

pintail, West Indian whistling duck, fulvous whistling duck, and masked duck.

#### *Special Falconry Regulations*

In accordance with 50 CFR 21.29, falconry is a permitted means of taking migratory game birds in any State except for Hawaii. States may select an extended season for taking migratory game birds in accordance with the following:

**Extended Seasons:** For all hunting methods combined, the combined length of the extended season, regular season, and any special or experimental seasons must not exceed 107 days for any species or group of species in a geographical area. Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of 3 segments.

**Framework Dates:** Seasons must fall between September 1 and March 10.

**Daily Bag Limits:** Falconry daily bag limits for all permitted migratory game birds must not exceed 3 birds, singly or in the aggregate, during extended falconry seasons, any special or experimental seasons, and regular hunting seasons in all States, including those that do not select an extended falconry season.

**Regular Seasons:** General hunting regulations, including seasons and hunting hours, apply to falconry. Regular season bag limits do not apply to falconry. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to gun limits.

#### **Area, Unit, and Zone Descriptions**

##### *Ducks (Including Mergansers) and Coots*

##### Atlantic Flyway

##### Connecticut

**North Zone:** That portion of the State north of I-95.

**South Zone:** Remainder of the State.

##### Maine

**North Zone:** That portion north of the line extending east along Maine State Highway 110 from the New Hampshire-Maine State line to the intersection of Maine State Highway 11 in Newfield; then north and east along Route 11 to the intersection of U.S. Route 202 in Auburn; then north and east on Route 202 to the intersection of I-95 in Augusta; then north and east along I-95 to Route 15 in Bangor; then east along Route 15 to Route 9; then east along Route 9 to Stony Brook in Baileyville; then east along Stony Brook to the U.S. border.

**Coastal Zone:** That portion south of a line extending east from the Maine-New Brunswick border in Calais at the Route 1 Bridge; then south along Route 1 to

the Maine-New Hampshire border in Kittery.

**South Zone:** Remainder of the State.

##### Maryland

**Special Teal Season Area:** Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia State Line.

##### Massachusetts

**Western Zone:** That portion of the State west of a line extending south from the Vermont State line on I-91 to MA 9, west on MA 9 to MA 10, south on MA 10 to U.S. 202, south on U.S. 202 to the Connecticut State line.

**Central Zone:** That portion of the State east of the Berkshire Zone and west of a line extending south from the New Hampshire State line on I-95 to U.S. 1, south on U.S. 1 to I-93, south on I-93 to MA 3, south on MA 3 to U.S. 6, west on U.S. 6 to MA 28, west on MA 28 to I-195, west to the Rhode Island State line; except the waters, and the lands 150 yards inland from the high-water mark, of the Assonet River upstream to the MA 24 bridge, and the Taunton River upstream to the Center St.-Elm St. bridge shall be in the Coastal Zone.

**Coastal Zone:** That portion of Massachusetts east and south of the Central Zone.

##### New Hampshire

**Northern Zone:** That portion of the State east and north of the Inland Zone beginning at the Jct. of Rte. 10 and Rte. 25-A in Orford, east on Rte. 25-A to Rte. 25 in Wentworth, southeast on Rte. 25 to Exit 26 of Rte. I-93 in Plymouth, south on Rte. I-93 to Rte. 3 at Exit 24 of Rte. I-93 in Ashland, northeast on Rte. 3 to Rte. 113 in Holderness, north on Rte. 113 to Rte. 113-A in Sandwich, north on Rte. 113-A to Rte. 113 in Tamworth, east on Rte. 113 to Rte. 16 in Chocorua, north on Rte. 16 to Rte. 302 in Conway, east on Rte. 302 to the Maine-New Hampshire border.

**Inland Zone:** That portion of the State south and west of the Northern Zone, west of the Coastal Zone, and includes the area of Vermont and New Hampshire as described for hunting reciprocity. A person holding a New Hampshire hunting license that allows the taking of migratory waterfowl or a person holding a Vermont resident hunting license that allows the taking of

migratory waterfowl may take migratory waterfowl and coots from the following designated area of the Inland Zone: The State of Vermont east of Rte. I-91 at the Massachusetts border, north on Rte. I-91 to Rte. 2, north on Rte. 2 to Rte. 102, north on Rte. 102 to Rte. 253, and north on Rte. 253 to the border with Canada and the area of New Hampshire west of Rte. 63 at the Massachusetts border, north on Rte. 63 to Rte. 12, north on Rte. 12 to Rte. 12-A, north on Rte. 12-A to Rte. 10, north on Rte. 10 to Rte. 135, north on Rte. 135 to Rte. 3, north on Rte. 3 to the intersection with the Connecticut River.

**Coastal Zone:** That portion of the State east of a line beginning at the Maine-New Hampshire border in Rollinsford, then extending to Rte. 4 west to the city of Dover, south to the intersection of Rte. 108, south along Rte. 108 through Madbury, Durham, and Newmarket to the junction of Rte. 85 in Newfields, south to Rte. 101 in Exeter, east to Interstate 95 (New Hampshire Turnpike) in Hampton, and south to the Massachusetts border.

##### New Jersey

**Coastal Zone:** That portion of the State seaward of a line beginning at the New York State line in Raritan Bay and extending west along the New York State line to NJ 440 at Perth Amboy; west on NJ 440 to the Garden State Parkway; south on the Garden State Parkway to NJ 109; south on NJ 109 to Cape May County Route 633 (Lafayette Street); south on Lafayette Street to Jackson Street; south on Jackson Street to the shoreline at Cape May; west along the shoreline of Cape May beach to COLREGS Demarcation Line 80.503 at Cape May Point; south along COLREGS Demarcation Line 80.503 to the Delaware State line in Delaware Bay.

**North Zone:** That portion of the State west of the Coastal Zone and north of a line extending west from the Garden State Parkway on NJ 70 to the New Jersey Turnpike, north on the turnpike to U.S. 206, north on U.S. 206 to U.S. 1 at Trenton, west on U.S. 1 to the Pennsylvania State line in the Delaware River.

**South Zone:** That portion of the State not within the North Zone or the Coastal Zone.

##### New York

**Lake Champlain Zone:** That area east and north of a continuous line extending along U.S. 11 from the New York-Canada International boundary south to NY 9B, south along NY 9B to U.S. 9, south along U.S. 9 to NY 22 south of Keesville; south along NY 22 to the west shore of South Bay, along and

around the shoreline of South Bay to NY 22 on the east shore of South Bay; southeast along NY 22 to U.S. 4, northeast along U.S. 4 to the Vermont State line.

**Long Island Zone:** That area consisting of Nassau County, Suffolk County, that area of Westchester County southeast of I-95, and their tidal waters.

**Western Zone:** That area west of a line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to I-81, and south along I-81 to the Pennsylvania State line.

**Northeastern Zone:** That area north of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to I-81, south along I-81 to NY 31, east along NY 31 to NY 13, north along NY 13 to NY 49, east along NY 49 to NY 365, east along NY 365 to NY 28, east along NY 28 to NY 29, east along NY 29 to NY 22, north along NY 22 to Washington County Route 153, east along CR 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

**Southeastern Zone:** The remaining portion of New York.

#### Pennsylvania

**Lake Erie Zone:** The Lake Erie waters of Pennsylvania and a shoreline margin along Lake Erie from New York on the east to Ohio on the west extending 150 yards inland, but including all of Presque Isle Peninsula.

**Northwest Zone:** The area bounded on the north by the Lake Erie Zone and including all of Erie and Crawford Counties and those portions of Mercer and Venango Counties north of I-80.

**North Zone:** That portion of the State east of the Northwest Zone and north of a line extending east on I-80 to U.S. 220, Route 220 to I-180, I-180 to I-80, and I-80 to the Delaware River.

**South Zone:** The remaining portion of Pennsylvania.

#### Vermont

**Lake Champlain Zone:** The U.S. portion of Lake Champlain and that area north and west of the line extending from the New York border along U.S. 4 to VT 22A at Fair Haven; VT 22A to U.S. 7 at Vergennes; U.S. 7 to VT 78 at Swanton; VT 78 to VT 36; VT 36 to Maquam Bay on Lake Champlain; along and around the shoreline of Maquam Bay and Hog Island to VT 78 at the West Swanton Bridge; VT 78 to VT 2 in Alburg; VT 2 to the Richelieu River in Alburg; along the east shore of the Richelieu River to the Canadian border.

**Interior Zone:** That portion of Vermont east of the Lake Champlain Zone and west of a line extending from the Massachusetts border at Interstate

91; north along Interstate 91 to U.S. 2; east along U.S. 2 to VT 102; north along VT 102 to VT 253; north along VT 253 to the Canadian border.

**Connecticut River Zone:** The remaining portion of Vermont east of the Interior Zone.

#### Mississippi Flyway

#### Illinois

**North Zone:** That portion of the State north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Peotone-Beecher Road to Illinois Route 50, south along Illinois Route 50 to Wilmington-Peotone Road, west along Wilmington-Peotone Road to Illinois Route 53, north along Illinois Route 53 to New River Road, northwest along New River Road to Interstate Highway 55, south along I-55 to Pine Bluff-Lorenzo Road, west along Pine Bluff-Lorenzo Road to Illinois Route 47, north along Illinois Route 47 to I-80, west along I-80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

**Central Zone:** That portion of the State south of the North Duck Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's Road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

**South Zone:** That portion of the State south and east of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 70, south along U.S. Highway 45, to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Greenbriar Road, north on Greenbriar Road to Sycamore Road, west on Sycamore Road to N Reed Station Road, south on N Reed Station Road to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Illinois Route 127, south along Illinois Route 127 to State Forest Road (1025 N), west along State Forest Road to Illinois Route 3, north along Illinois Route 3 to the south bank of the Big Muddy River, west along the

south bank of the Big Muddy River to the Mississippi River, west across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

**South Central Zone:** The remainder of the State between the south border of the Central Zone and the North border of the South Zone.

#### Indiana

**North Zone:** That part of Indiana north of a line extending east from the Illinois border along State Road 18 to U.S. 31; north along U.S. 31 to U.S. 24; east along U.S. 24 to Huntington; southeast along U.S. 224; south along State Road 5; and east along State Road 124 to the Ohio border.

**Central Zone:** That part of Indiana south of the North Zone boundary and north of the South Zone boundary.

**South Zone:** That part of Indiana south of a line extending east from the Illinois border along I-70; east along National Ave.; east along U.S. 150; south along U.S. 41; east along State Road 58; south along State Road 37 to Bedford; and east along U.S. 50 to the Ohio border.

#### Iowa

**North Zone:** That portion of Iowa north of a line beginning on the South Dakota-Iowa border at Interstate 29, southeast along Interstate 29 to State Highway 175, east along State Highway 175 to State Highway 37, southeast along State Highway 37 to State Highway 183, northeast along State Highway 183 to State Highway 141, east along State Highway 141 to U.S. Highway 30, and along U.S. Highway 30 to the Illinois border.

**Missouri River Zone:** That portion of Iowa west of a line beginning on the South Dakota-Iowa border at Interstate 29, southeast along Interstate 29 to State Highway 175, and west along State Highway 175 to the Iowa-Nebraska border.

**South Zone:** The remainder of Iowa.

#### Kentucky

**West Zone:** All counties west of and including Butler, Daviess, Ohio, Simpson, and Warren Counties.

**East Zone:** The remainder of Kentucky.

#### Louisiana

**East Zone:** That area of the State between the Mississippi State line and a line going south on Highway (Hwy) 79 from the Arkansas border to Homer, then south on Hwy 9 to Arcadia, then south on Hwy 147 to Hodge, then south on Hwy 167 to Turkey Creek, then south on Hwy 13 to Eunice, then west on Hwy 190 to Kinder, then south on Hwy 165



to Iowa, then west on I-10 to its junction with Hwy 14 at Lake Charles, then south and east on Hwy 14 to its junction with Hwy 90 in New Iberia, then east on Hwy 90 to the Mississippi State line.

**West Zone:** That area between the Texas State line and a line going east on I-10 from the Texas border to Hwy 165 at Iowa, then north on Hwy 165 to Kinder, then east on Hwy 190 to Eunice, then north on Hwy 13 to Turkey Creek, then north on Hwy 167 to Hodge, then north on Hwy 147 to Arcadia, then north on Hwy 9 to Homer, then north on Hwy 79 to the Arkansas border.

**Coastal Zone:** Remainder of the State.

#### Michigan

**North Zone:** The Upper Peninsula.

**Middle Zone:** That portion of the Lower Peninsula north of a line beginning at the Wisconsin State line in Lake Michigan due west of the mouth of Stony Creek in Oceana County; then due east to, and easterly and southerly along the south shore of Stony Creek to Scenic Drive, easterly and southerly along Scenic Drive to Stony Lake Road, easterly along Stony Lake and Garfield Roads to Michigan Highway 20, east along Michigan 20 to U.S. Highway 10 Business Route (BR) in the city of Midland, easterly along U.S. 10 BR to U.S. 10, easterly along U.S. 10 to Interstate Highway 75/U.S. Highway 23, northerly along I-75/U.S. 23 to the U.S. 23 exit at Standish, easterly along U.S. 23 to the centerline of the Au Gres River, then southerly along the centerline of the Au Gres River to Saginaw Bay, then on a line directly east 10 miles into Saginaw Bay, and from that point on a line directly northeast to the Canadian border.

**South Zone:** The remainder of Michigan.

#### Minnesota

**North Duck Zone:** That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the North Dakota State line along State Highway 210 to State Highway 23 and east to State Highway 39 and east to the Wisconsin State line at the Oliver Bridge.

**South Duck Zone:** The portion of the State south of a line extending east from the South Dakota State line along U.S. Highway 212 to Interstate 494 and east to Interstate 94 and east to the Wisconsin State line.

**Central Duck Zone:** The remainder of the State.

#### Missouri

**North Zone:** That portion of Missouri north of a line running west from the Illinois border at Lock and Dam 25; west

on Lincoln County Hwy N to MO Hwy 79; south on MO Hwy 79 to MO Hwy 47; west on MO Hwy 47 to I-70; west on I-70 to the Kansas border.

**Middle Zone:** The remainder of Missouri not included in other zones.

**South Zone:** That portion of Missouri south of a line running west from the Illinois border on MO Hwy 74 to MO Hwy 25; south on MO Hwy 25 to U.S. Hwy 62; west on U.S. Hwy. 62 to MO Hwy 53; north on MO Hwy 53 to MO Hwy 51; north on MO Hwy 51 to U.S. Hwy 60; west on U.S. Hwy 60 to MO Hwy 21; north on MO Hwy 21 to MO Hwy 72; west on MO Hwy 72 to MO Hwy 32; west on MO Hwy 32 to U.S. Hwy 65; north on U.S. Hwy 65 to U.S. Hwy 54; west on U.S. Hwy 54 to U.S. Hwy 71; south on U.S. Hwy 71 to Jasper County Hwy M (Base Line Blvd.); west on Jasper County Hwy M (Base Line Blvd.) to CRD 40 (Base Line Blvd.); west on CRD 40 (Base Line Blvd.) to the Kansas border.

#### Ohio

**Lake Erie Marsh Zone:** Includes all land and water within the boundaries of the area bordered by a line beginning at the intersection of Interstate 75 at the Ohio-Michigan State line and continuing south to Interstate 280, then south on I-280 to the Ohio Turnpike (I-80/I-90), then east on the Ohio Turnpike to the Erie-Lorain County line, then north to Lake Erie, then following the Lake Erie shoreline at a distance of 200 yards offshore, then following the shoreline west toward and around the northern tip of Cedar Point Amusement Park, then continuing from the westernmost point of Cedar Point toward the southernmost tip of the sand bar at the mouth of Sandusky Bay and out into Lake Erie at a distance of 200 yards offshore continuing parallel to the Lake Erie shoreline north and west toward the northernmost tip of Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, then following a direct line toward the southernmost tip of Wood Tick Peninsula in Michigan to a point that intersects the Ohio-Michigan State line, then following the State line back to the point of the beginning.

**North Zone:** That portion of the State, excluding the Lake Erie Marsh Zone, north of a line extending east from the Indiana State line along U.S. Highway (U.S.) 33 to State Route (SR) 127, then south along SR 127 to SR 703, then south along SR 703 and including all lands within the Mercer Wildlife Area to SR 219, then east along SR 219 to SR 364, then north along SR 364 and including all lands within the St. Mary's Fish Hatchery to SR 703, then east along SR 703 to SR 66, then north along SR

66 to U.S. 33, then east along U.S. 33 to SR 385, then east along SR 385 to SR 117, then south along SR 117 to SR 273, then east along SR 273 to SR 31, then south along SR 31 to SR 739, then east along SR 739 to SR 4, then north along SR 4 to SR 95, then east along SR 95 to SR 13, then southeast along SR 13 to SR 3, then northeast along SR 3 to SR 60, then north along SR 60 to U.S. 30, then east along U.S. 30 to SR 3, then south along SR 3 to SR 226, then south along SR 226 to SR 514, then southwest along SR 514 to SR 754, then south along SR 754 to SR 39/60, then east along SR 39/60 to SR 241, then north along SR 241 to U.S. 30, then east along U.S. 30 to SR 39, then east along SR 39 to the Pennsylvania State line.

**South Zone:** The remainder of Ohio not included in the Lake Erie Marsh Zone or the North Zone.

#### Tennessee

**Reelfoot Zone:** All or portions of Lake and Obion Counties.

**Remainder of State:** That portion of Tennessee outside of the Reelfoot Zone.

#### Wisconsin

**North Zone:** That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the Minnesota State line along U.S.

Highway 10 into Portage County to County Highway HH, east on County Highway HH to State Highway 66 and then east on State Highway 66 to U.S. Highway 10, continuing east on U.S. Highway 10 to U.S. Highway 41, then north on U.S. Highway 41 to the Michigan State line.

**Mississippi River Zone:** That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway and the Illinois State line in Grant County and extending northerly along the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway to the city limit of Prescott in Pierce County, then west along the Prescott city limit to the Minnesota State line.

**South Zone:** The remainder of Wisconsin.

#### Central Flyway

Colorado (Central Flyway Portion)

**Special Teal Season Area:** Lake and Chaffee Counties and that portion of the State east of Interstate Highway 25.

**Northeast Zone:** All areas east of Interstate 25 and north of Interstate 70.

**Southeast Zone:** All areas east of Interstate 25 and south of Interstate 70, and all of El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano, and Las Animas Counties.

**Mountain/Foothills Zone:** All areas west of Interstate 25 and east of the Continental Divide, except El Paso,

Pueblo, Huerfano, and Las Animas Counties.

#### Kansas

*High Plains Zone:* That portion of the State west of U.S. 283.

*Low Plains Early Zone:* That part of Kansas bounded by a line from the Federal highway U.S.-283 and State highway 96 junction, then east on State highway 96 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-183, then north on Federal highway U.S.-183 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-24, then east on Federal highway U.S.-24 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then north on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-36, then east on Federal highway U.S.-36 to its junction with State highway K-199, then south on State highway K-199 to its junction with Republic County 30th Road, then south on Republic County 30th Road to its junction with State highway K-148, then east on State highway K-148 to its junction with Republic County 50th Road, then south on Republic County 50th Road to its junction with Cloud County 40th Road, then south on Cloud County 40th Road to its junction with State highway K-9, then west on State highway K-9 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-24, then west on Federal highway U.S.-24 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-181, then south on Federal highway U.S.-181 to its junction with State highway K-18, then west on State highway K-18 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then south on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with State highway K-4, then east on State highway K-4 to its junction with interstate highway I-135, then south on interstate highway I-135 to its junction with State highway K-61, then southwest on State highway K-61 to its junction with McPherson County 14th Avenue, then south on McPherson County 14th Avenue to its junction with McPherson County Arapaho Rd, then west on McPherson County Arapaho Rd to its junction with State highway K-61, then southwest on State highway K-61 to its junction with State highway K-96, then northwest on State highway K-96 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-56, then southwest on Federal highway U.S.-56 to its junction with State highway K-19, then east on State highway K-19 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then south on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-54, then west on Federal highway U.S.-54 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-183, then north on Federal highway U.S.-183 to its junction with

Federal highway U.S.-56, then southwest on Federal highway U.S.-56 to its junction with North Main Street in Spearville, then south on North Main Street to Davis Street, then east on Davis Street to Ford County Road 126 (South Stafford Street), then south on Ford County Road 126 to Garnett Road, then east on Garnett Road to Ford County Road 126, then south on Ford County Road 126 to Ford Spearville Road, then west on Ford Spearville Road to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-400, then northwest on Federal highway U.S.-400 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-283, and then north on Federal highway U.S.-283 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-96.

*Low Plains Late Zone:* That part of Kansas bounded by a line from the Federal highway U.S.-283 and State highway 96 junction, then north on Federal highway U.S.-283 to the Kansas-Nebraska State line, then east along the Kansas-Nebraska State line to its junction with the Kansas-Missouri State line, then southeast along the Kansas-Missouri State line to its junction with State highway K-68, then west on State highway K-68 to its junction with interstate highway I-35, then southwest on interstate highway I-35 to its junction with Butler County NE 150th Street, then west on Butler County NE 150th Street to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-77, then south on Federal highway U.S.-77 to its junction with the Kansas-Oklahoma State line, then west along the Kansas-Oklahoma State line to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-283, then north on Federal highway U.S.-283 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-400, then east on Federal highway U.S.-400 to its junction with Ford Spearville Road, then east on Ford Spearville Road to Ford County Road 126 (South Stafford Street), then north on Ford County Road 126 to Garnett Road, then west on Garnett Road to Ford County Road 126, then north on Ford County Road 126 to Davis Street, then west on Davis Street to North Main Street, then north on North Main Street to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-56, then east on Federal highway U.S.-56 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-183, then south on Federal highway U.S.-183 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-54, then east on Federal highway U.S.-54 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then north on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with State highway K-19, then west on State highway K-19 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-56, then east on Federal highway U.S.-56 to its junction with State highway K-96,

then southeast on State highway K-96 to its junction with State highway K-61, then northeast on State highway K-61 to its junction with McPherson County Arapaho Road, then east on McPherson County Arapaho Road to its junction with McPherson County 14th Avenue, then north on McPherson County 14th Avenue to its junction with State highway K-61, then east on State highway K-61 to its junction with interstate highway I-135, then north on interstate highway I-135 to its junction with State highway K-4, then west on State highway K-4 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then north on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with State highway K-18, then east on State highway K-18 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-181, then north on Federal highway U.S.-181 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-24, then east on Federal highway U.S.-24 to its junction with State highway K-9, then east on State highway K-9 to its junction with Cloud County 40th Road, then north on Cloud County 40th Road to its junction with Republic County 50th Road, then north on Republic County 50th Road to its junction with State highway K-148, then west on State highway K-148 to its junction with Republic County 30th Road, then north on Republic County 30th Road to its junction with State highway K-199, then north on State highway K-199 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-36, then west on Federal highway U.S.-36 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then south on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-24, then west on Federal highway U.S.-24 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-183, then south on Federal highway U.S.-183 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-96, and then west on Federal highway U.S.-96 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-283.

*Southeast Zone:* That part of Kansas bounded by a line from the Missouri-Kansas State line west on K-68 to its junction with I-35, then southwest on I-35 to its junction with Butler County, NE 150th Street, then west on NE 150th Street to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-77, then south on Federal highway U.S.-77 to the Oklahoma-Kansas State line, then east along the Kansas-Oklahoma State line to its junction with the Kansas-Missouri State line, then north along the Kansas-Missouri State line to its junction with State highway K-68.

Montana (Central Flyway Portion)

*Zone 1:* The Counties of Blaine, Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus,

Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland, and Wibaux.

*Zone 2:* The Counties of Big Horn, Carbon, Custer, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure, and Yellowstone.

#### Nebraska

*High Plains:* That portion of Nebraska lying west of a line beginning at the South Dakota-Nebraska border on U.S. Hwy 183; south on U.S. Hwy 183 to U.S. Hwy 20; west on U.S. Hwy 20 to NE Hwy 7; south on NE Hwy 7 to NE Hwy 91; southwest on NE Hwy 91 to NE Hwy 2; southeast on NE Hwy 2 to NE Hwy 92; west on NE Hwy 92 to NE Hwy 40; south on NE Hwy 40 to NE Hwy 47; south on NE Hwy 47 to NE Hwy 23; east on NE Hwy 23 to U.S. Hwy 283; and south on U.S. Hwy 283 to the Kansas-Nebraska border.

*Zone 1:* Area bounded by designated Federal and State highways and political boundaries beginning at the South Dakota-Nebraska border west of NE Hwy 26E Spur and north of NE Hwy 12; those portions of Dixon, Cedar, and Knox Counties north of NE Hwy 12; that portion of Keya Paha County east of U.S. Hwy 183; and all of Boyd County. Both banks of the Niobrara River in Keya Paha and Boyd Counties east of U.S. Hwy 183 shall be included in Zone 1.

*Zone 2:* The area south of Zone 1 and north of Zone 3.

*Zone 3:* Area bounded by designated Federal and State highways, County roads, and political boundaries beginning at the Wyoming-Nebraska border at the intersection of the Interstate Canal; east along northern borders of Scotts Bluff and Morrill Counties to Broadwater Road; south to Morrill County Rd 94; east to County Rd 135; south to County Rd 88; southeast to County Rd 151; south to County Rd 80; east to County Rd 161; south to County Rd 76; east to County Rd 165; south to County Rd 167; south to U.S. Hwy 26; east to County Rd 171; north to County Rd 68; east to County Rd 183; south to County Rd 64; east to County Rd 189; north to County Rd 70; east to County Rd 201; south to County Rd 60A; east to County Rd 203; south to County Rd 52; east to Keith County Line; east along the northern boundaries of Keith and Lincoln Counties to NE Hwy 97; south to U.S. Hwy 83; south to E Hall School Rd; east to N Airport Road; south to U.S. Hwy 30; east to NE Hwy 47; north to Dawson County Rd 769; east to County Rd 423; south to County Rd 766; east to County Rd 428; south to County Rd 763; east to NE Hwy 21 (Adams Street); south to County Rd

761; east to the Dawson County Canal; south and east along the Dawson County Canal to County Rd 444; south to U.S. Hwy 30; east to U.S. Hwy 183; north to Buffalo County Rd 100; east to 46th Avenue; north to NE Hwy 40; south and east to NE Hwy 10; north to Buffalo County Rd 220 and Hall County Husker Hwy; east to Hall County Rd 70; north to NE Hwy 2; east to U.S. Hwy 281; north to Chapman Rd; east to 7th Rd; south to U.S. Hwy 30; east to Merrick County Rd 13; north to County Rd O; east to NE Hwy 14; north to NE Hwy 52; west and north to NE Hwy 91; west to U.S. Hwy 281; south to NE Hwy 22; west to NE Hwy 11; northwest to NE Hwy 91; west to U.S. Hwy 183; south to Round Valley Rd; west to Sargent River Rd; west to Drive 443; north to Sargent Rd; west to NE Hwy S21A; west to NE Hwy 2; west and north to NE Hwy 91; north and east to North Loup Spur Rd; north to North Loup River Rd; east to Pleasant Valley/Worth Rd; east to Loup County line; north to Loup-Brown County line; east along northern boundaries of Loup and Garfield Counties to Cedar River Rd; south to NE Hwy 70; east to U.S. Hwy 281; north to NE Hwy 70; east to NE Hwy 14; south to NE Hwy 39; southeast to NE Hwy 22; east to U.S. Hwy 81; southeast to U.S. Hwy 30; east to U.S. Hwy 75; north to the Washington County line; east to the Iowa-Nebraska border; south to the Missouri-Nebraska border; south to Kansas-Nebraska border; west along Kansas-Nebraska border to Colorado-Nebraska border; north and west to Wyoming-Nebraska border; north to intersection of Interstate Canal; and excluding that area in Zone 4.

*Zone 4:* Area encompassed by designated Federal and State highways and County roads beginning at the intersection of NE Hwy 8 and U.S. Hwy 75; north to U.S. Hwy 136; east to the intersection of U.S. Hwy 136 and the Steamboat Trace (Trace); north along the Trace to the intersection with Federal Levee R-562; north along Federal Levee R-562 to the intersection with Nemaha County Rd 643A; south to the Trace; north along the Trace/Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way to NE Hwy 2; west to U.S. Hwy 75; north to NE Hwy 2; west to NE Hwy 50; north to U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 63; north to NE Hwy 66; north and west to U.S. Hwy 77; north to NE Hwy 92; west to NE Hwy Spur 12F; south to Butler County Rd 30; east to County Rd X; south to County Rd 27; west to County Rd W; south to County Rd 26; east to County Rd X; south to County Rd 21 (Seward County Line); west to NE Hwy 15; north to County Rd 34; west to

County Rd H; south to NE Hwy 92; west to U.S. Hwy 81; south to NE Hwy 66; west to Polk County Rd C; north to NE Hwy 92; west to U.S. Hwy 30; west to Merrick County Rd 17; south to Hordlake Road; southeast to Prairie Island Road; southeast to Hamilton County Rd T; south to NE Hwy 66; west to NE Hwy 14; south to County Rd 22; west to County Rd M; south to County Rd 21; west to County Rd K; south to U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 2; south to U.S. Hwy I-80; west to Gunbarrel Rd (Hall/Hamilton County line); south to Giltner Rd; west to U.S. Hwy 281; south to Lochland Rd; west to Holstein Avenue; south to U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 10; north to Kearney County Rd R and Phelps County Rd 742; west to U.S. Hwy 283; south to U.S. Hwy 34; east to U.S. Hwy 136; east to U.S. Hwy 183; north to NE Hwy 4; east to NE Hwy 10; south to U.S. Hwy 136; east to NE Hwy 14; south to NE Hwy 8; east to U.S. Hwy 81; north to NE Hwy 4; east to NE Hwy 15; south to U.S. Hwy 136; east to Jefferson County Rd 578 Avenue; south to PWF Rd; east to NE Hwy 103; south to NE Hwy 8; east to U.S. Hwy 75.

#### New Mexico (Central Flyway Portion)

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of I-40 and U.S. 54.

*South Zone:* The remainder of New Mexico.

#### North Dakota

*High Plains Unit:* That portion of the State south and west of a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Hwy 83 and the South Dakota State line, then north along U.S. Hwy 83 and I-94 to ND Hwy 41, then north on ND Hwy 41 to ND Hwy 53, then west on ND Hwy 53 to U.S. Hwy 83, then north on U.S. Hwy 83 to U.S. Hwy 2, then west on U.S. Hwy 2 to the Williams County line, then north and west along the Williams and Divide County lines to the Canadian border.

*Low Plains Unit:* The remainder of North Dakota.

#### Oklahoma

*High Plains Zone:* The Counties of Beaver, Cimarron, and Texas.

*Low Plains Zone 1:* That portion of the State east of the High Plains Zone and north of a line extending east from the Texas State line along OK 33 to OK 47, east along OK 47 to U.S. 183, south along U.S. 183 to I-40, east along I-40 to U.S. 177, north along U.S. 177 to OK 33, east along OK 33 to OK 18, north along OK 18 to OK 51, west along OK 51 to I-35, north along I-35 to U.S. 412, west along U.S. 412 to OK 132, then north along OK 132 to the Kansas State line.



*Low Plains Zone 2:* The remainder of Oklahoma.

South Dakota

*High Plains Zone:* That portion of the State west of a line beginning at the North Dakota State line and extending south along U.S. 83 to U.S. 14, east on U.S. 14 to Blunt, south on the Blunt-Canning Rd to SD 34, east and south on SD 34 to SD 50 at Lee's Corner, south on SD 50 to I-90, east on I-90 to SD 50, south on SD 50 to SD 44, west on SD 44 across the Platte-Winner bridge to SD 47, south on SD 47 to U.S. 18, east on U.S. 18 to SD 47, south on SD 47 to the Nebraska State line.

*North Zone:* That portion of northeastern South Dakota east of the High Plains Unit and north of a line extending east along U.S. 212 to the Minnesota State line.

*South Zone:* That portion of Gregory County east of SD 47 and south of SD 44; Charles Mix County south of SD 44 to the Douglas County line; south on SD 50 to Geddes; east on the Geddes Highway to U.S. 281; south on U.S. 281 and U.S. 18 to SD 50; south and east on SD 50 to the Bon Homme County line; the Counties of Bon Homme, Yankton, and Clay south of SD 50; and Union County south and west of SD 50 and I-29.

*Middle Zone:* The remainder of South Dakota.

Texas

*High Plains Zone:* That portion of the State west of a line extending south from the Oklahoma State line along U.S. 183 to Vernon, south along U.S. 283 to Albany, south along TX 6 to TX 351 to Abilene, south along U.S. 277 to Del Rio, then south along the Del Rio International Toll Bridge access road to the Mexico border.

*Low Plains North Zone:* That portion of northeastern Texas east of the High Plains Zone and north of a line beginning at the International Toll Bridge south of Del Rio, then extending east on U.S. 90 to San Antonio, then continuing east on I-10 to the Louisiana State line at Orange, Texas.

*Low Plains South Zone:* The remainder of Texas.

Wyoming (Central Flyway Portion)

*Zone C1:* Big Horn, Converse, Goshen, Hot Springs, Natrona, Park, Platte, and Washakie Counties; and Fremont County excluding the portions west or south of the Continental Divide.

*Zone C2:* Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Niobrara, Sheridan, and Weston Counties.

*Zone C3:* Albany and Laramie Counties; and that portion of Carbon County east of the Continental Divide.

Pacific Flyway

Arizona

*North Zone:* Game Management Units 1-5, those portions of Game Management Units 6 and 8 within Coconino County, and Game Management Units 7, 9, and 12A.

*South Zone:* Those portions of Game Management Units 6 and 8 in Yavapai County, and Game Management Units 10 and 12B-45.

California

*Northeastern Zone:* That portion of California lying east and north of a line beginning at the intersection of Interstate 5 with the California-Oregon line; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Walters Lane south of the town of Yreka; west along Walters Lane to its junction with Easy Street; south along Easy Street to the junction with Old Highway 99; south along Old Highway 99 to the point of intersection with Interstate 5 north of the town of Weed; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Highway 89; east and south along Highway 89 to Main Street Greenville; north and east to its junction with North Valley Road; south to its junction of Diamond Mountain Road; north and east to its junction with North Arm Road; south and west to the junction of North Valley Road; south to the junction with Arlington Road (A22); west to the junction of Highway 89; south and west to the junction of Highway 70; east on Highway 70 to Highway 395; south and east on Highway 395 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada State line; north along the California-Nevada State line to the junction of the California-Nevada-Oregon State lines; west along the California-Oregon State line to the point of origin.

*Colorado River Zone:* Those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties east of a line from the intersection of Highway 95 with the California-Nevada State line; south on Highway 95 through the junction with Highway 40; south on Highway 95 to Vidal Junction; south through the town of Rice to the San Bernardino-Riverside County line on a road known as "Aqueduct Road" also known as Highway 62 in San Bernardino County; southwest on Highway 62 to Desert Center Rice Road; south on Desert Center Rice Road/Highway 177 to the town of Desert Center; east 31 miles on Interstate 10 to its intersection with Wiley Well Road; south on Wiley Well

Road to Wiley Well; southeast on Milpitas Wash Road to the Blythe, Brawley, Davis Lake intersections; south on Blythe Ogilby Road also known as County Highway 34 to its intersection with Ogilby Road; south on Ogilby Road to its intersection with Interstate 8; east 7 miles on Interstate 8 to its intersection with the Andrade-Algodones Road/Highway 186; south on Highway 186 to its intersection with the U.S. Mexico border at Los Algodones, Mexico.

*Southern Zone:* That portion of southern California (but excluding the Colorado River zone) south and east of a line beginning at the mouth of the Santa Maria River at the Pacific Ocean; east along the Santa Maria River to where it crosses Highway 101-166 near the City of Santa Maria; north on Highway 101-166; east on Highway 166 to the junction with Highway 99; south on Highway 99 to the junction of Interstate 5; south on Interstate 5 to the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains at Tejon Pass; east and north along the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains to where it intersects Highway 178 at Walker Pass; east on Highway 178 to the junction of Highway 395 at the town of Inyokern; south on Highway 395 to the junction of Highway 58; east on Highway 58 to the junction of Interstate 15; east on Interstate 15 to the junction with Highway 127; north on Highway 127 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada State line.

*Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone:* All of Kings and Tulare Counties and that portion of Kern County north of the Southern Zone.

*Balance of State Zone:* The remainder of California not included in the Northeastern, Colorado River, Southern, and the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zones.

Colorado (Pacific Flyway Portion)

*Eastern Zone:* Routt, Grand, Summit, Eagle, and Pitkin Counties, those portions of Saguache, San Juan, Hinsdale, and Mineral Counties west of the Continental Divide, those portions of Gunnison County except the North Fork of the Gunnison River Valley (Game Management Units 521, 53, and 63), and that portion of Moffat County east of the northern intersection of Moffat County Road 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line, south along Moffat County Road 29 to the intersection of Moffat County Road 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line (Elkhead Reservoir State Park).

*Western Zone:* All areas west of the Continental Divide not included in the Eastern Zone.

## Idaho

**Zone 1:** All lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private in-holdings; Bannock County; Bingham County except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Caribou County within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; and Power County east of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

**Zone 2:** Bear Lake, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton Counties; Bingham County within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; and Caribou County except within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

**Zone 3:** Ada, Adams, Benewah, Blaine, Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Clearwater, Custer, Elmore, Franklin, Gem, Gooding, Idaho, Jerome, Kootenai, Latah, Lemhi, Lewis, Lincoln, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Oneida, Owyhee, Payette, Shoshone, Twin Falls, and Washington Counties; and Power County west of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

**Zone 4:** Valley County.

## Nevada

**Northeast Zone:** Elko and White Pine Counties.

**Northwest Zone:** Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, and Washoe Counties.

**South Zone:** Clark and Lincoln Counties.

**Moapa Valley Special Management Area:** That portion of Clark County including the Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers.

## Oregon

**Zone 1:** Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Gilliam, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Wasco, Washington, and Yamhill, Counties.

**Zone 2:** The remainder of Oregon not included in Zone 1.

## Utah

**Northern Zone:** Box Elder, Cache, Daggett, Davis, Duchesne, Morgan, Rich, Salt Lake, Summit, Uintah, Utah, Wasatch, and Weber Counties, and that part of Toole County north of I-80.

**Southern Zone:** The remainder of Utah not included in Zone 1.

## Washington

**East Zone:** All areas east of the Pacific Crest Trail and east of the Big White Salmon River in Klickitat County.

**West Zone:** The remainder of Washington not included in the East Zone.

## Wyoming (Pacific Flyway Portion)

**Snake River Zone:** Beginning at the south boundary of Yellowstone National Park and the Continental Divide; south along the Continental Divide to Union Pass and the Union Pass Road (U.S.F.S. Road 600); west and south along the Union Pass Road to U.S.F.S. Road 605; south along U.S.F.S. Road 605 to the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary; along the national forest boundary to the Idaho State line; north along the Idaho State line to the south boundary of Yellowstone National Park; east along the Yellowstone National Park boundary to the Continental Divide.

**Balance of State Zone:** The remainder of the Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming not included in the Snake River Zone.

## Geese

## Atlantic Flyway

## Connecticut

## Early Canada Goose Seasons

**South Zone:** Same as for ducks.

**North Zone:** Same as for ducks.

## Regular Seasons

**AP Unit:** Litchfield County and the portion of Hartford County west of a line beginning at the Massachusetts border in Suffield and extending south along Route 159 to its intersection with I-91 in Hartford, and then extending south along I-91 to its intersection with the Hartford-Middlesex County line.

**NAP H-Unit:** That part of the State east of a line beginning at the Massachusetts border in Suffield and extending south along Route 159 to its intersection with I-91 in Hartford and then extending south along I-91 to State Street in New Haven; then south on State Street to Route 34, west on Route 34 to Route 8, south along Route 8 to Route 110, south along Route 110 to Route 15, north along Route 15 to the Milford Parkway, south along the Milford Parkway to I-95, north along I-95 to the intersection with the east shore of the Quinnipiac River, south to the mouth of the Quinnipiac River, and then south along the eastern shore of New Haven Harbor to the Long Island Sound.

**Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (AFRP) Unit:** Remainder of the State not included in AP and NAP Units.

**South Zone:** Same as for ducks.

## Maine

**North NAP-H Zone:** Same as North Zone for ducks.

**Coastal NAP-L Zone:** Same as Coastal Zone for ducks.

**South NAP-H Zone:** Same as South Zone for ducks.

## Maryland

## Early Canada Goose Seasons

**Eastern Unit:** Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia State line.

**Western Unit:** Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington Counties and that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia State line.

## Regular Seasons

## Resident Population (RP) Zone:

Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; that portion of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; that portion of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia State line; and that portion of Carroll County west of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and west of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania State line.

**AP Zone:** Remainder of the State.

## Massachusetts

**NAP Zone:** Central and Coastal Zones (see duck zones).

**AP Zone:** The Western Zone (see duck zones).

**Special Late Season Area:** The Central Zone and that portion of the Coastal Zone (see duck zones) that lies north of the Cape Cod Canal, north to the New Hampshire State line.

## New Hampshire

Same zones as for ducks.

## New Jersey

**AP Zone:** North and South Zones (see duck zones).

**NAP Zone:** The Coastal Zone (see duck zones).

**Special Late Season Area:** In northern New Jersey, that portion of the State within a continuous line that runs east along the New York State boundary line to the Hudson River; then south along the New York State boundary to its intersection with Route 440 at Perth Amboy; then west on Route 440 to its intersection with Route 287; then west

along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 206 in Bedminster (Exit 18); then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 94; then west along Route 94 to the toll bridge in Columbia; then north along the Pennsylvania State boundary in the Delaware River to the beginning point. In southern New Jersey, that portion of the State within a continuous line that runs west from the Atlantic Ocean at Ship Bottom along Route 72 to Route 70; then west along Route 70 to Route 206; then south along Route 206 to Route 536; then west along Route 536 to Route 322; then west along Route 322 to Route 55; then south along Route 55 to Route 553 (Buck Road); then south along Route 553 to Route 40; then east along Route 40 to route 55; then south along Route 55 to Route 552 (Sherman Avenue); then west along Route 552 to Carmel Road; then south along Carmel Road to Route 49; then east along Route 49 to Route 555; then south along Route 555 to Route 553; then east along Route 553 to Route 649; then north along Route 649 to Route 670; then east along Route 670 to Route 47; then north along Route 47 to Route 548; then east along Route 548 to Route 49; then east along Route 49 to Route 50; then south along Route 50 to Route 9; then south along Route 9 to Route 625 (Sea Isle City Boulevard); then east along Route 625 to the Atlantic Ocean; then north to the beginning point.

#### New York

**Lake Champlain Goose Area:** The same as the Lake Champlain Waterfowl Hunting Zone, which is that area of New York State lying east and north of a continuous line extending along Route 11 from the New York-Canada International boundary south to Route 9B, south along Route 9B to Route 9, south along Route 9 to Route 22 south of Keeseville, south along Route 22 to the west shore of South Bay along and around the shoreline of South Bay to Route 22 on the east shore of South Bay, southeast along Route 22 to Route 4, northeast along Route 4 to the New York-Vermont boundary.

**Northeast Goose Area:** The same as the Northeastern Waterfowl Hunting Zone, which is that area of New York State lying north of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate 81, south along Interstate 81 to Route 31, east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22 at Greenwich Junction, north along Route 22 to Washington County Route 153, east along CR 153 to

the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

**East Central Goose Area:** That area of New York State lying inside of a continuous line extending from Interstate Route 81 in Cicero, east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 147 at Kimball Corners, south along Route 147 to Schenectady County Route 40 (West Glenville Road), west along Route 40 to Touareuna Road, south along Touareuna Road to Schenectady County Route 59, south along Route 59 to State Route 5, east along Route 5 to the Lock 9 bridge, southwest along the Lock 9 bridge to Route 5S, southeast along Route 5S to Schenectady County Route 58, southwest along Route 58 to the NYS Thruway, south along the Thruway to Route 7, southwest along Route 7 to Schenectady County Route 103, south along Route 103 to Route 406, east along Route 406 to Schenectady County Route 99 (Windy Hill Road), south along Route 99 to Dunnsville Road, south along Dunnsville Road to Route 397, southwest along Route 397 to Route 146 at Altamont, west along Route 146 to Albany County Route 252, northwest along Route 252 to Schenectady County Route 131, north along Route 131 to Route 7, west along Route 7 to Route 10 at Richmondville, south on Route 10 to Route 23 at Stamford, west along Route 23 to Route 7 in Oneonta, southwest along Route 7 to Route 79 to Interstate Route 88 near Harpursville, west along Route 88 to Interstate Route 81, north along Route 81 to the point of beginning.

**West Central Goose Area:** That area of New York State lying within a continuous line beginning at the point where the northerly extension of Route 269 (County Line Road on the Niagara-Orleans County boundary) meets the International boundary with Canada, south to the shore of Lake Ontario at the eastern boundary of Golden Hill State Park, south along the extension of Route 269 and Route 269 to Route 104 at Jeddo, west along Route 104 to Niagara County Route 271, south along Route 271 to Route 31E at Middleport, south along Route 31E to Route 31, west along Route 31 to Griswold Street, south along Griswold Street to Ditch Road, south along Ditch Road to Foot Road, south along Foot Road to the north bank of Tonawanda Creek, west along the north bank of Tonawanda Creek to Route 93, south along Route 93 to Route 5, east along Route 5 to Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road, south on Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road to the NYS

Thruway, east along the Thruway 90 to Route 98 (at Thruway Exit 48) in Batavia, south along Route 98 to Route 20, east along Route 20 to Route 19 in Pavilion Center, south along Route 19 to Route 63, southeast along Route 63 to Route 246, south along Route 246 to Route 39 in Perry, northeast along Route 39 to Route 20A, northeast along Route 20A to Route 20, east along Route 20 to Route 364 (near Canandaigua), south and east along Route 364 to Yates County Route 18 (Italy Valley Road), southwest along Route 18 to Yates County Route 34, east along Route 34 to Yates County Route 32, south along Route 32 to Steuben County Route 122, south along Route 122 to Route 53, south along Route 53 to Steuben County Route 74, east along Route 74 to Route 54A (near Pulteney), south along Route 54A to Steuben County Route 87, east along Route 87 to Steuben County Route 96, east along Route 96 to Steuben County Route 114, east along Route 114 to Schuyler County Route 23, east and southeast along Route 23 to Schuyler County Route 28, southeast along Route 28 to Route 409 at Watkins Glen, south along Route 409 to Route 14, south along Route 14 to Route 224 at Montour Falls, east along Route 224 to Route 228 in Odessa, north along Route 228 to Route 79 in Mecklenburg, east along Route 79 to Route 366 in Ithaca, northeast along Route 366 to Route 13, northeast along Route 13 to Interstate Route 81 in Cortland, north along Route 81 to the north shore of the Salmon River to shore of Lake Ontario, extending generally northwest in a straight line to the nearest point of the international boundary with Canada, south and west along the international boundary to the point of beginning.

**Hudson Valley Goose Area:** That area of New York State lying within a continuous line extending from Route 4 at the New York-Vermont boundary, west and south along Route 4 to Route 149 at Fort Ann, west on Route 149 to Route 9, south along Route 9 to Interstate Route 87 (at Exit 20 in Glens Falls), south along Route 87 to Route 29, west along Route 29 to Route 147 at Kimball Corners, south along Route 147 to Schenectady County Route 40 (West Glenville Road), west along Route 40 to Touareuna Road, south along Touareuna Road to Schenectady County Route 59, south along Route 59 to State Route 5, east along Route 5 to the Lock 9 bridge, southwest along the Lock 9 bridge to Route 5S, southeast along Route 5S to Schenectady County Route 58, southwest along Route 58 to the NYS Thruway, south along the Thruway to Route 7, southwest along Route 7 to



Schenectady County Route 103, south along Route 103 to Route 406, east along Route 406 to Schenectady County Route 99 (Windy Hill Road), south along Route 99 to Dunnsville Road, south along Dunnsville Road to Route 397, southwest along Route 397 to Route 146 at Altamont, southeast along Route 146 to Main Street in Altamont, west along Main Street to Route 156, southeast along Route 156 to Albany County Route 307, southeast along Route 307 to Route 85A, southwest along Route 85A to Route 85, south along Route 85 to Route 443, southeast along Route 443 to Albany County Route 301 at Clarksville, southeast along Route 301 to Route 32, south along Route 32 to Route 23 at Cairo, west along Route 23 to Joseph Chadderdon Road, southeast along Joseph Chadderdon Road to Hearts Content Road (Greene County Route 31), southeast along Route 31 to Route 32, south along Route 32 to Greene County Route 23A, east along Route 23A to Interstate Route 87 (the NYS Thruway), south along Route 87 to Route 28 (Exit 19) near Kingston, northwest on Route 28 to Route 209, southwest on Route 209 to the New York-Pennsylvania boundary, southeast along the New York-Pennsylvania boundary to the New York-New Jersey boundary, southeast along the New York-New Jersey boundary to Route 210 near Greenwood Lake, northeast along Route 210 to Orange County Route 5, northeast along Orange County Route 5 to Route 105 in the Village of Monroe, east and north along Route 105 to Route 32, northeast along Route 32 to Orange County Route 107 (Quaker Avenue), east along Route 107 to Route 9W, north along Route 9W to the south bank of Moodna Creek, southeast along the south bank of Moodna Creek to the New Windsor-Cornwall town boundary, northeast along the New Windsor-Cornwall town boundary to the Orange-Dutchess County boundary (middle of the Hudson River), north along the county boundary to Interstate Route 84, east along Route 84 to the Dutchess-Putnam County boundary, east along the county boundary to the New York-Connecticut boundary, north along the New York-Connecticut boundary to the New York-Massachusetts boundary, north along the New York-Massachusetts boundary to the New York-Vermont boundary, north to the point of beginning.

**Eastern Long Island Goose Area (NAP High Harvest Area):** That area of Suffolk County lying east of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Roanoke Avenue in the Town of Riverhead; then south on

Roanoke Avenue (which becomes County Route 73) to State Route 25; then west on Route 25 to Peconic Avenue; then south on Peconic Avenue to County Route (CR) 104 (Riverleigh Avenue); then south on CR 104 to CR 31 (Old Riverhead Road); then south on CR 31 to Oak Street; then south on Oak Street to Potunk Lane; then west on Stevens Lane; then south on Jessup Avenue (in Westhampton Beach) to Dune Road (CR 89); then due south to international waters.

**Western Long Island Goose Area (RP Area):** That area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95 and that area of Nassau and Suffolk Counties lying west of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Sound Road (just east of Wading River Marsh); then south on Sound Road to North Country Road; then west on North Country Road to Randall Road; then south on Randall Road to Route 25A, then west on Route 25A to the Sunken Meadow State Parkway; then south on the Sunken Meadow Parkway to the Sagtikos State Parkway; then south on the Sagtikos Parkway to the Robert Moses State Parkway; then south on the Robert Moses Parkway to its southernmost end; then due south to international waters.

**Central Long Island Goose Area (NAP Low Harvest Area):** That area of Suffolk County lying between the Western and Eastern Long Island Goose Areas, as defined above.

**South Goose Area:** The remainder of New York State, excluding New York City.

#### North Carolina

**Northeast Hunt Unit:** Includes the following counties or portions of counties: Bertie (that portion north and east of a line formed by NC 45 at the Washington County line to U.S. 17 in Midway, U.S. 17 in Midway to U.S. 13 in Windsor, U.S. 13 in Windsor to the Hertford County line), Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington.

**RP Hunt Zone:** Remainder of the State.

#### Pennsylvania

**Resident Canada Goose Zone:** All of Pennsylvania except for SJPB Zone and the area east of route SR 97 from the Maryland State Line to the intersection of SR 194, east of SR 194 to intersection of U.S. Route 30, south of U.S. Route 30 to SR 441, east of SR 441 to SR 743, east of SR 743 to intersection of I-81, east of

I-81 to intersection of I-80, and south of I-80 to the New Jersey State line.

**SJPB Zone:** The area north of I-80 and west of I-79 including in the city of Erie west of Bay Front Parkway to and including the Lake Erie Duck zone (Lake Erie, Presque Isle, and the area within 150 yards of the Lake Erie Shoreline).

**AP Zone:** The area east of route SR 97 from Maryland State Line to the intersection of SR 194, east of SR 194 to intersection of U.S. Route 30, south of U.S. Route 30 to SR 441, east of SR 441 to SR 743, east of SR 743 to intersection of I-81, east of I-81 to intersection of I-80, south of I-80 to New Jersey State line.

#### Rhode Island

**Special Area for Canada Geese:** Kent and Providence Counties and portions of the towns of Exeter and North Kingston within Washington County (see State regulations for detailed descriptions).

#### South Carolina

**Canada Goose Area:** Statewide except for the following area:

**East of U.S. 301:** That portion of Clarendon County bounded to the north by S-14-25, to the east by Hwy 260, and to the south by the markers delineating the channel of the Santee River.

**West of U.S. 301:** That portion of Clarendon County bounded on the north by S-14-26 extending southward to that portion of Orangeburg County bordered by Hwy 6.

#### Vermont

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Virginia

**AP Zone:** The area east and south of the following line—the Stafford County line from the Potomac River west to Interstate 95 at Fredericksburg, then south along Interstate 95 to Petersburg, then Route 460 (SE) to City of Suffolk, then south along Route 32 to the North Carolina line.

**SJPB Zone:** The area to the west of the AP Zone boundary and east of the following line: the “Blue Ridge” (mountain spine) at the West Virginia-Virginia Border (Loudoun County-Clarke County line) south to Interstate 64 (the Blue Ridge line follows county borders along the western edge of Loudoun-Fauquier-Rappahannock-Madison-Greene-Albemarle and into Nelson Counties), then east along Interstate Rte. 64 to Route 15, then south along Rte. 15 to the North Carolina line.

**RP Zone:** The remainder of the State west of the SJPB Zone.

## Mississippi Flyway

## Arkansas

*Northwest Zone:* Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Conway, Crawford, Faulkner, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Madison, Marion, Newton, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Searcy, Sebastian, Scott, Van Buren, Washington, and Yell Counties.

*Remainder of State:* That portion of the State outside of the Northwest Zone.

## Illinois

## Early Canada Goose Seasons

*North September Canada Goose Zone:* That portion of the State north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

*Central September Canada Goose Zone:* That portion of the State south of the North September Canada Goose Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

*South September Canada Goose Zone:* That portion of the State south and east of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 70, south along U.S. Highway 45, to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Greenbriar Road, north on Greenbriar Road to Sycamore Road, west on Sycamore Road to N. Reed Station Road, south on N. Reed Station Road to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Illinois Route 127, south along Illinois Route 127 to State Forest Road (1025 N), west along State Forest Road to Illinois Route 3, north along Illinois Route 3 to the south bank of the Big Muddy River, west along the south bank of the Big Muddy River to the Mississippi River, west across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

*South Central September Canada*

*Goose Zone:* The remainder of the State between the south border of the Central September Canada Goose Zone and the north border of the South September Canada Goose Zone.

## Regular Seasons

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

*Central Zone:* That portion of the State south of the North Goose Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

*South Zone:* Same zone as for ducks.

*South Central Zone:* Same zone as for ducks.

## Indiana

Same zones as for ducks.

## Iowa

## Early Canada Goose Seasons

*Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Goose Zone:* Includes portions of Linn and Johnson Counties bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the west border of Linn County and Linn County Road E2W; then south and east along County Road E2W to Highway 920; then north along Highway 920 to County Road E16; then east along County Road E16 to County Road W58; then south along County Road W58 to County Road E34; then east along County Road E34 to Highway 13; then south along Highway 13 to Highway 30; then east along Highway 30 to Highway 1; then south along Highway 1 to Morse Road in Johnson County; then east along Morse Road to Wapsi Avenue; then south along Wapsi Avenue to Lower West Branch Road; then west along Lower West Branch Road to Taft Avenue; then

south along Taft Avenue to County Road F62; then west along County Road F62 to Kansas Avenue; then north along Kansas Avenue to Black Diamond Road; then west on Black Diamond Road to Jasper Avenue; then north along Jasper Avenue to Rohert Road; then west along Rohert Road to Ivy Avenue; then north along Ivy Avenue to 340th Street; then west along 340th Street to Half Moon Avenue; then north along Half Moon Avenue to Highway 6; then west along Highway 6 to Echo Avenue; then north along Echo Avenue to 250th Street; then east on 250th Street to Green Castle Avenue; then north along Green Castle Avenue to County Road F12; then west along County Road F12 to County Road W30; then north along County Road W30 to Highway 151; then north along the Linn-Benton County line to the point of beginning.

*Des Moines Goose Zone:* Includes those portions of Polk, Warren, Madison, and Dallas Counties bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Northwest 158th Avenue and County Road R38 in Polk County; then south along R38 to Northwest 142nd Avenue; then east along Northwest 142nd Avenue to Northeast 126th Avenue; then east along Northeast 126th Avenue to Northeast 46th Street; then south along Northeast 46th Street to Highway 931; then east along Highway 931 to Northeast 80th Street; then south along Northeast 80th Street to Southeast 6th Avenue; then west along Southeast 6th Avenue to Highway 65; then south and west along Highway 65 to Highway 69 in Warren County; then south along Highway 69 to County Road G24; then west along County Road G24 to Highway 28; then southwest along Highway 28 to 43rd Avenue; then north along 43rd Avenue to Ford Street; then west along Ford Street to Filmore Street; then west along Filmore Street to 10th Avenue; then south along 10th Avenue to 155th Street in Madison County; then west along 155th Street to Cumming Road; then north along Cumming Road to Badger Creek Avenue; then north along Badger Creek Avenue to County Road F90 in Dallas County; then east along County Road F90 to County Road R22; then north along County Road R22 to Highway 44; then east along Highway 44 to County Road R30; then north along County Road R30 to County Road F31; then east along County Road F31 to Highway 17; then north along Highway 17 to Highway 415 in Polk County; then east along Highway 415 to Northwest 158th Avenue; then east along Northwest 158th Avenue to the point of beginning.

*Cedar Falls/Waterloo Goose Zone:* Includes those portions of Black Hawk

County bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of County Roads C66 and V49 in Black Hawk County, then south along County Road V49 to County Road D38, then west along County Road D38 to State Highway 21, then south along State Highway 21 to County Road D35, then west along County Road D35 to Grundy Road, then north along Grundy Road to County Road D19, then west along County Road D19 to Butler Road, then north along Butler Road to County Road C57, then north and east along County Road C57 to U.S. Highway 63, then south along U.S. Highway 63 to County Road C66, then east along County Road C66 to the point of beginning.

#### Regular Seasons

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Louisiana

**North Zone:** That portion of the State north of the line from the Texas border at Hwy 190/12 east to Hwy 49, then south on Hwy 49 to I-10, then east on I-10 to I-12, then east on I-12 to I-10, then east on I-10 to the Mississippi State line.

**South Zone:** Remainder of the State.

#### Michigan

**North Zone:** Same as North duck zone.

**Middle Zone:** Same as Middle duck zone.

**South Zone:** Same as South duck zone.

**Allegan County Game Management Unit (GMU):** That area encompassed by a line beginning at the junction of 136th Avenue and Interstate Highway 196 in Lake Town Township and extending easterly along 136th Avenue to Michigan Highway 40, southerly along Michigan 40 through the city of Allegan to 108th Avenue in Trowbridge Township, westerly along 108th Avenue to 46th Street, northerly along 46th Street to 109th Avenue, westerly along 109th Avenue to I-196 in Casco Township, then northerly along I-196 to the point of beginning.

**Muskegon Wastewater GMU:** That portion of Muskegon County within the boundaries of the Muskegon County wastewater system, east of the Muskegon State Game Area, in sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, and 32, T10N R14W, and sections 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, and 25, T10N R15W, as posted.

#### Minnesota

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Missouri

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Ohio

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Tennessee

**Reelfoot Zone:** The lands and waters within the boundaries of Reelfoot Lake WMA only.

**Remainder of State:** The remainder of the State.

#### Wisconsin

#### Early Canada Goose Seasons

**Early-Season Subzone A:** That portion of the State encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highway 141 and the Michigan border near Niagara, then south along U.S. 141 to State Highway 22, west and southwest along State 22 to U.S. 45, south along U.S. 45 to State 22, west and south along State 22 to State 110, south along State 110 to U.S. 10, south along U.S. 10 to State 49, south along State 49 to State 23, west along State 23 to State 73, south along State 73 to State 60, west along State 60 to State 23, south along State 23 to State 11, east along State 11 to State 78, then south along State 78 to the Illinois border.

**Early-Season Subzone B:** The remainder of the State.

#### Regular Seasons

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Central Flyway

#### Colorado (Central Flyway Portion)

**Northern Front Range Area:** All areas in Boulder, Larimer, and Weld Counties from the Continental Divide east along the Wyoming border to U.S. 85, south on U.S. 85 to the Adams County line, and all lands in Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, and Jefferson Counties.

**North Park Area:** Jackson County.

**South Park Area:** Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Lake, Park, and Teller Counties.

**San Luis Valley Area:** All of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, and Rio Grande Counties, and those portions of Saguache, Mineral, and Hinsdale Counties east of the Continental Divide.

**Remainder:** Remainder of the Central Flyway portion of Colorado.

**Eastern Colorado Late Light Goose Area:** That portion of the State east of Interstate Highway 25.

#### Montana (Central Flyway Portion)

**Zone 1:** Same as Zone 1 for ducks and coots.

**Zone 2:** Same as Zone 2 for ducks and coots.

#### Nebraska

#### Dark Geese

**Niobrara Unit:** That area contained within and bounded by the intersection of the South Dakota State line and the eastern Cherry County line, south along the Cherry County line to the Niobrara River, east to the Norden Road, south on the Norden Road to U.S. Hwy 20, east along U.S. Hwy 20 to NE Hwy 14, north along NE Hwy 14 to NE Hwy 59 and County Road 872, west along County Road 872 to the Knox County Line, north along the Knox County Line to the South Dakota State line. Where the Niobrara River forms the boundary, both banks of the river are included in the Niobrara Unit.

**East Unit:** That area north and east of U.S. 81 at the Kansas-Nebraska State line, north to NE Hwy 91, east to U.S. 275, south to U.S. 77, south to NE 91, east to U.S. 30, east to the Nebraska-Iowa State line.

**Platte River Unit:** That area north and west of U.S. 81 at the Kansas-Nebraska State line, north to NE Hwy 91, west along NE 91 to NE 11, north to the Holt County line, west along the northern border of Garfield, Loup, Blaine, and Thomas Counties to the Hooker County line, south along the Thomas-Hooker County lines to the McPherson County line, east along the south border of Thomas County to the western line of Custer County, south along the Custer-Logan County line to NE 92, west to U.S. 83, north to NE 92, west to NE 61, south along NE 61 to NE 92, west along NE 92 to U.S. Hwy 26, south along U.S. Hwy 26 to Keith County Line, south along Keith County Line to the Colorado State line.

**Panhandle Unit:** That area north and west of Keith-Deuel County Line at the Nebraska-Colorado State line, north along the Keith County Line to U.S. Hwy 26, west to NE Hwy 92, east to NE Hwy 61, north along NE Hwy 61 to NE Hwy 2, west along NE 2 to the corner formed by Garden-Grant-Sheridan Counties, west along the north border of Garden, Morrill, and Scotts Bluff Counties to the intersection of the Interstate Canal, west to the Wyoming State line.

**North-Central Unit:** The remainder of the State.

#### Light Geese

**Rainwater Basin Light Goose Area:** The area bounded by the junction of NE Hwy 92 and NE Hwy 15, south along NE Hwy 15 to NE Hwy 4, west along NE Hwy 4 to U.S. Hwy 34, west along U.S. Hwy 34 to U.S. Hwy 283, north along U.S. Hwy 283 to U.S. Hwy 30, east along



U.S. Hwy 30 to NE Hwy 92, east along NE Hwy 92 to the beginning.

*Remainder of State:* The remainder of Nebraska.

New Mexico (Central Flyway Portion)

Dark Geese

*Middle Rio Grande Valley Unit:*

Sierra, Socorro, and Valencia Counties.

*Remainder:* The remainder of the Central Flyway portion of New Mexico.

North Dakota

*Missouri River Canada Goose Zone:*

The area within and bounded by a line starting where ND Hwy 6 crosses the South Dakota border; then north on ND Hwy 6 to I-94; then west on I-94 to ND Hwy 49; then north on ND Hwy 49 to ND Hwy 200; then west on ND Hwy 200; then north on ND Hwy 8 to the Mercer/McLean County line; then east following the county line until it turns south toward Garrison Dam; then east along a line (including Mallard Island) of Lake Sakakawea to U.S. Hwy 83; then south on U.S. Hwy 83 to ND Hwy 200; then east on ND Hwy 200 to ND Hwy 41; then south on ND Hwy 41 to U.S. Hwy 83; then south on U.S. Hwy 83 to I-94; then east on I-94 to U.S. Hwy 83; then south on U.S. Hwy 83 to the South Dakota border; then west along the South Dakota border to ND Hwy 6.

*Western North Dakota Canada Goose Zone:* Same as the High Plains Unit for ducks, mergansers and coots, excluding the Missouri River Canada Goose Zone.

*Rest of State:* Remainder of North Dakota.

South Dakota

Early Canada Goose Seasons

*Special Early Canada Goose Unit:* The Counties of Campbell, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts, Walworth; that portion of Perkins County west of State Highway 75 and south of State Highway 20; that portion of Dewey County north of Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 8, Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 9, and the section of U.S. Highway 212 east of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 8 junction; that portion of Potter County east of U.S. Highway 83; that portion of Sully County east of U.S. Highway 83; portions of Hyde, Buffalo, Brule, and Charles Mix Counties north and east of a line beginning at the Hughes-Hyde County line on State Highway 34, east to Lees Boulevard, southeast to State Highway 34, east 7 miles to 350th Avenue, south to Interstate 90 on 350th Avenue, south and east on State Highway 50 to Geddes, east on 285th Street to U.S. Highway 281, and north on U.S. Highway 281 to the Charles

Mix-Douglas County boundary; that portion of Bon Homme County north of State Highway 50; those portions of Yankton and Clay Counties north of a line beginning at the junction of State Highway 50 and 306th Street/County Highway 585 in Bon Homme County, east to U.S. Highway 81, then north on U.S. Highway 81 to 303rd Street, then east on 303rd Street to 444th Avenue, then south on 444th Avenue to 305th Street, then east on 305th Street/Bluff Road to State Highway 19, then south to State Highway 50 and east to the Clay/Union County Line; Aurora, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Corson, Davison, Douglas, Edmunds, Faulk, Haakon, Hand, Hanson, Harding, Hutchinson, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, McPherson, Meade, Mellette, Miner, Moody, Oglala Lakota (formerly Shannon), Sanborn, Spink, Todd, Turner, and Ziebach Counties; and those portions of Minnehaha and Lincoln Counties outside of an area bounded by a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Minnesota State line and Minnehaha County Highway 122 (254th Street) west to its junction with Minnehaha County Highway 149 (464th Avenue), south on Minnehaha County Highway 149 (464th Avenue) to Hartford, then south on Minnehaha County Highway 151 (463rd Avenue) to State Highway 42, east on State Highway 42 to State Highway 17, south on State Highway 17 to its junction with Lincoln County Highway 116 (Klondike Road), and east on Lincoln County Highway 116 (Klondike Road) to the South Dakota-Iowa State line, then north along the South Dakota-Iowa and South Dakota-Minnesota border to the junction of the South Dakota-Minnesota State line and Minnehaha County Highway 122 (254th Street).

Regular Seasons

*Unit 1:* Same as that for the September Canada goose season.

*Unit 2:* Remainder of South Dakota.

*Unit 3:* Bennett County.

Texas

*Northeast Goose Zone:* That portion of Texas lying east and north of a line beginning at the Texas-Oklahoma border at U.S. 81, then continuing south to Bowie and then southeasterly along U.S. 81 and U.S. 287 to I-35W and I-35 to the juncture with I-10 in San Antonio, then east on I-10 to the Texas-Louisiana border.

*Southeast Goose Zone:* That portion of Texas lying east and south of a line beginning at the International Toll Bridge at Laredo, then continuing north following I-35 to the juncture with I-10

in San Antonio, then easterly along I-10 to the Texas-Louisiana border.

*West Goose Zone:* The remainder of the State.

Wyoming (Central Flyway Portion)

Dark Geese

*Zone G1:* Big Horn, Converse, Hot Springs, Natrona, Park, and Washakie Counties.

*Zone G1A:* Goshen and Platte Counties.

*Zone G2:* Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Niobrara, Sheridan, and Weston Counties.

*Zone G3:* Albany and Laramie Counties; and that portion of Carbon County east of the Continental Divide.

*Zone G4:* Fremont County excluding those portions south or west of the Continental Divide.

Pacific Flyway

Arizona

Same zones as for ducks.

California

*Northeastern Zone:* That portion of California lying east and north of a line beginning at the intersection of Interstate 5 with the California-Oregon line; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Walters Lane south of the town of Yreka; west along Walters Lane to its junction with Easy Street; south along Easy Street to the junction with Old Highway 99; south along Old Highway 99 to the point of intersection with Interstate 5 north of the town of Weed; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Highway 89; east and south along Highway 89 to main street Greenville; north and east to its junction with North Valley Road; south to its junction of Diamond Mountain Road; north and east to its junction with North Arm Road; south and west to the junction of North Valley Road; south to the junction with Arlington Road (A22); west to the junction of Highway 89; south and west to the junction of Highway 70; east on Highway 70 to Highway 395; south and east on Highway 395 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada State line; north along the California-Nevada State line to the junction of the California-Nevada-Oregon State lines west along the California-Oregon State line to the point of origin.

*Klamath Basin Special Management Area:* Beginning at the intersection of Highway 161 and Highway 97; east on Highway 161 to Hill Road; south on Hill Road to N Dike Road West Side; east on N Dike Road West Side until the junction of the Lost River; north on N Dike Road West Side until the Volcanic

Legacy Scenic Byway; east on Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway until N Dike Road East Side; south on the N Dike Road East Side; continue east on N Dike Road East Side to Highway 111; south on Highway 111/Great Northern Road to Highway 120/Highway 124; west on Highway 120/Highway 124 to Hill Road; south on Hill Road until Lairds Camp Road; west on Lairds Camp Road until Willow Creek; west and south on Willow Creek to Red Rock Road; west on Red Rock Road until Meiss Lake Road/Old State Highway; north on Meiss Lake Road/Old State Highway to Highway 97; north on Highway 97 to the point of origin.

**Colorado River Zone:** Those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties east of a line from the intersection of Highway 95 with the California-Nevada State line; south on Highway 95 through the junction with Highway 40; south on Highway 95 to Vidal Junction; south through the town of Rice to the San Bernardino-Riverside County line on a road known as "Aqueduct Road" also known as Highway 62 in San Bernardino County; southwest on Highway 62 to Desert Center Rice Road; south on Desert Center Rice Road/Highway 177 to the town of Desert Center; east 31 miles on Interstate 10 to its intersection with Wiley Well Road; south on Wiley Well Road to Wiley Well; southeast on Milpitas Wash Road to the Blythe, Brawley, Davis Lake intersections; south on Blythe Ogilby Road also known as County Highway 34 to its intersection with Ogilby Road; south on Ogilby Road to its intersection with Interstate 8; east 7 miles on Interstate 8 to its intersection with the Andrade-Algodones Road/Highway 186; south on Highway 186 to its intersection with the U.S.-Mexico border at Los Algodones, Mexico.

**Southern Zone:** That portion of southern California (but excluding the Colorado River zone) south and east of a line beginning at the mouth of the Santa Maria River at the Pacific Ocean; east along the Santa Maria River to where it crosses Highway 101-166 near the City of Santa Maria; north on Highway 101-166; east on Highway 166 to the junction with Highway 99; south on Highway 99 to the junction of Interstate 5; south on Interstate 5 to the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains at Tejon Pass; east and north along the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains to where it intersects Highway 178 at Walker Pass; east on Highway 178 to the junction of Highway 395 at the town of Inyokern; south on Highway 395 to the junction of Highway 58; east on Highway 58 to the junction of Interstate 15; east on Interstate 15 to the junction

with Highway 127; north on Highway 127 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada State line.

**Imperial County Special Management Area:** The area bounded by a line beginning at Highway 86 and the Navy Test Base Road; south on Highway 86 to the town of Westmoreland; continue through the town of Westmoreland to Route S26; east on Route S26 to Highway 115; north on Highway 115 to Weist Road; north on Weist Road to Flowing Wells Road; northeast on Flowing Wells Road to the Coachella Canal; northwest on the Coachella Canal to Drop 18; a straight line from Drop 18 to Frink Road; south on Frink Road to Highway 111; north on Highway 111 to Niland Marina Road; southwest on Niland Marina Road to the old Imperial County boat ramp and the water line of the Salton Sea; from the water line of the Salton Sea, a straight line across the Salton Sea to the Salinity Control Research Facility and the Navy Test Base Road; southwest on the Navy Test Base Road to the point of beginning.

**Balance of State Zone:** The remainder of California not included in the Northeastern, Colorado River, and Southern Zones.

**North Coast Special Management Area:** Del Norte and Humboldt Counties.

**Sacramento Valley Special Management Area:** That area bounded by a line beginning at Willows south on I-5 to Hahn Road; easterly on Hahn Road and the Grimes-Arbuckle Road to Grimes; northerly on CA 45 to the junction with CA 162; northerly on CA 45/162 to Glenn; and westerly on CA 162 to the point of beginning in Willows.

#### Colorado (Pacific Flyway Portion)

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Idaho

##### Canada Geese and Brant

**Zone 1:** All lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private in-holdings; Bannock County; Bingham County, except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Caribou County within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; and Power County east of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

**Zone 2:** Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton Counties.

**Zone 3:** Ada, Adams, Benewah, Blaine, Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Clearwater, Custer, Elmore, Franklin, Gem, Gooding, Idaho, Jerome, Kootenai, Latah, Lemhi, Lewis, Lincoln, Minidoka, Nez Perce,

Oneida, Owyhee, Payette, Shoshone, Twin Falls, and Washington Counties; and Power County west of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

**Zone 4:** Bear Lake County; Bingham County within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; and Caribou County, except that portion within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

**Zone 5:** Valley County.

#### White-Fronted Geese

**Zone 1:** All lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private in-holdings; Bannock County; Bingham County except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Caribou County within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; and Power County east of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

**Zone 2:** Bear Lake, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton Counties; Bingham County within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; and Caribou County except within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

**Zone 3:** Adams, Benewah, Blaine, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Clearwater, Custer, Franklin, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lemhi, Lewis, Nez Perce, Oneida, and Shoshone Counties; and Power County west of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

**Zone 4:** Ada, Boise, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, and Washington Counties.

**Zone 5:** Valley County.

#### Light Geese

**Zone 1:** All lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private in-holdings; Bannock County; Bingham County east of the west bank of the Snake River, west of the McTucker boat ramp access road, and east of the American Falls Reservoir bluff, except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Caribou County within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; and Power County below the American Falls Reservoir bluff, and within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

**Zone 2:** Franklin and Oneida Counties; Bingham County west of the west bank of the Snake River, east of the McTucker boat ramp access road, and west of the American Falls Reservoir bluff; Power County, except below the American Falls Reservoir bluff and those lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

**Zone 3:** Ada, Boise, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, and Washington Counties.

**Zone 4:** Adams, Benewah, Blaine, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Clearwater,

Custer, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lemhi, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Shoshone Counties.

**Zone 5:** Bear Lake, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton Counties; Bingham County within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; and Caribou County except within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

**Zone 6:** Valley County.

Nevada

Same zones as for ducks.

New Mexico (Pacific Flyway Portion)

**North Zone:** The Pacific Flyway portion of New Mexico located north of I-40.

**South Zone:** The Pacific Flyway portion of New Mexico located south of I-40.

Oregon

**Northwest Permit Zone:** Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill Counties.

**Lower Columbia/N. Willamette Valley Management Area:** Those portions of Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington Counties within the Northwest Special Permit Zone.

**Tillamook County Management Area:** That portion of Tillamook County beginning at the point where Old Woods Road crosses the south shores of Horn Creek, north on Old Woods Road to Sand Lake Road at Woods, north on Sand Lake Road to the intersection with McPhillips Drive, due west (~200 yards) from the intersection to the Pacific coastline, south along the Pacific coastline to a point due west of the western end of Pacific Avenue in Pacific City, east from this point (~250 yards) to Pacific Avenue, east on Pacific Avenue to Broton Road, south and then east on Broton Road to Highway 101, north on Highway 101 to Resort Drive, north on Resort Drive to a point due west of the south shores of Horn Creek at its confluence with the Nestucca River, due east (~80 yards) across the Nestucca River to the south shores of Horn Creek, east along the south shores of Horn Creek to the point of beginning.

**Southwest Zone:** Those portions of Douglas, Coos, and Curry Counties east of Highway 101, and Josephine and Jackson Counties.

**South Coast Zone:** Those portions of Douglas, Coos, and Curry Counties west of Highway 101.

**Eastern Zone:** Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Hood River, Jefferson, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, and Wheeler Counties.

**Klamath County Zone:** Klamath County.

**Harney and Lake County Zone:** Harney and Lake Counties.

**Malheur County Zone:** Malheur County.

Utah

**East Box Elder County Zone:**

Boundary begins at the intersection of the eastern boundary of Public Shooting Grounds Waterfowl Management Area and SR-83 (Promontory Road); east along SR-83 to I-15; south on I-15 to the Perry access road; southwest along this road to the Bear River Bird Refuge boundary; west, north, and then east along the refuge boundary until it intersects the Public Shooting Grounds Waterfowl Management Area boundary; east and north along the Public Shooting Grounds Waterfowl Management Area boundary to SR-83.

**Wasatch Front Zone:** Boundary begins at the Weber-Box Elder County line at I-15; east along Weber County line to U.S.-89; south on U.S.-89 to I-84; east and south on I-84 to I-80; south on I-80 to U.S.-189; south and west on U.S.-189 to the Utah County line; southeast and then west along this line to the Tooele County line; north along the Tooele County line to I-80; east on I-80 to Exit 99; north from Exit 99 along a direct line to the southern tip of Promontory Point and Promontory Road; east and north along this road to the causeway separating Bear River Bay from Ogden Bay; east on this causeway to the southwest corner of Great Salt Lake Mineral Corporations (GSLMC) west impoundment; north and east along GSLMC's west impoundment to the northwest corner of the impoundment; north from this point along a direct line to the southern boundary of Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge; east along this southern boundary to the Perry access road; northeast along this road to I-15; south along I-15 to the Weber-Box Elder County line.

**Northern Zone:** The remainder of Utah not included in the East Box Elder County, Wasatch Front, and Southern Zones.

**Southern Zone:** Boundary includes Beaver, Carbon, Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Juab, Kane, Millard, Piute, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier, Washington, and Wayne Counties, and that part of Tooele County south of I-80.

Washington

**Area 1:** Skagit, Island, and Snohomish Counties.

**Area 2 Inland (Southwest Permit Zone):** Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum

Counties, and that portion of Grays Harbor County east of Highway 101

**Area 2 Coastal (Southwest Permit Zone):** Pacific County and that portion of Grays Harbor County west of Highway 101.

**Area 3:** All areas west of the Pacific Crest Trail and west of the Big White Salmon River that are not included in Areas 1, 2A, and 2B.

**Area 4:** Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Spokane, and Walla Walla Counties.

**Area 5:** All areas east of the Pacific Crest Trail and east of the Big White Salmon River that are not included in Area 4.

Brant

Pacific Flyway  
California

**Northern Zone:** Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties.

**Balance of State Zone:** The remainder of the State not included in the Northern Zone.

Washington

**Puget Sound Zone:** Clallam, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties.

**Coastal Zone:** Pacific County.

Swans

Central Flyway

**South Dakota:** Aurora, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Clark, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Hanson, Hughes, Hyde, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Potter, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Sully, and Walworth Counties.

Pacific Flyway

Montana (Pacific Flyway Portion)

**Open Area:** Cascade, Chouteau, Hill, Liberty, and Toole Counties and those portions of Pondera and Teton Counties lying east of U.S. 287-89.

Nevada

**Open Area:** Churchill, Lyon, and Pershing Counties.

Utah

**Open Area:** Begins at I-15 and Exit 365 (SR 13/83); west and north on SR-83 to I-84; west on I-84 to SR-30; southwest on SR-30 to the Nevada-Utah state line; south on this state line to I-80; east on I-80 to I-15; north on I-15 to Exit 365 (SR 13/83).



**Doves****Alabama**

*South Zone:* Baldwin, Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Escambia, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Mobile Counties.

*North Zone:* Remainder of the State.

**Florida**

*Northwest Zone:* The Counties of Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington, Leon (except that portion north of U.S. 27 and east of State Road 155), Jefferson (south of U.S. 27, west of State Road 59 and north of U.S. 98), and Wakulla (except that portion south of U.S. 98 and east of the St. Marks River).

*South Zone:* The remainder of the State.

**Louisiana**

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the Texas border along State Highway 12 to U.S. Highway 190, east along U.S. 190 to Interstate Highway 12, east along Interstate Highway 12 to Interstate Highway 10, then east along Interstate Highway 10 to the Mississippi border.

*South Zone:* The remainder of the State.

**Mississippi**

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north and west of a line extending west from the Alabama State line along U.S. Highway 84 to its junction with State Highway 35, then south along State Highway 35 to the Louisiana State line.

*South Zone:* The remainder of Mississippi.

**Texas**

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of a line beginning at the International Bridge south of Fort Hancock; north along FM 1088 to TX 20; west along TX 20 to TX 148; north along TX 148 to I-10 at Fort Hancock; east along I-10 to I-20; northeast along I-20 to I-30 at Fort Worth; northeast along I-30 to the Texas-Arkansas State line.

*Central Zone:* That portion of the State lying between the North and South Zones.

*South Zone:* That portion of the State south and west of a line beginning at the International Bridge south of Del Rio, proceeding east on U.S. 90 to State Loop 1604 west of San Antonio; then south, east, and north along Loop 1604 to I-10 east of San Antonio; then east on I-10 to Orange, Texas.

*Special White-winged Dove Area in the South Zone:* Same as the South Zone.

**Band-Tailed Pigeons****California**

*North Zone:* Alpine, Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties.

*South Zone:* The remainder of the State not included in the North Zone.

**New Mexico**

*North Zone:* North of a line following U.S. 60 from the Arizona State line east to I-25 at Socorro and then south along I-25 from Socorro to the Texas State line.

*South Zone:* The remainder of the State not included in the North Zone.

**Washington**

*Western Washington:* The State of Washington excluding those portions lying east of the Pacific Crest Trail and east of the Big White Salmon River in Klickitat County.

**Woodcock****New Jersey**

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of NJ 70.

*South Zone:* The remainder of the State.

**Sandhill Cranes****Mississippi Flyway****Alabama**

*Hunting Zone:* That area north of Interstate 20 from the Georgia State line to the interchange with Interstate 65, then east of Interstate 65 to the interchange with Interstate 22, then north of Interstate 22 to the Mississippi State line.

*Non-Hunting Zone:* Remainder of the State.

**Minnesota**

*Northwest Zone:* That portion of the State encompassed by a line extending east from the North Dakota border along U.S. Highway 2 to State Trunk Highway (STH) 32, north along STH 32 to STH 92, east along STH 92 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 in Polk County, north along CSAH 2 to CSAH 27 in Pennington County, north along CSAH 27 to STH 1, east along STH 1 to CSAH 28 in Pennington County, north along CSAH 28 to CSAH 54 in Marshall County, north along CSAH 54 to CSAH 9 in Roseau County, north along CSAH 9 to STH 11, west along STH 11 to STH 310, and north along STH 310 to the Manitoba border.

**Tennessee**

*Southeast Crane Zone:* That portion of the State south of Interstate 40 and east of State Highway 56.

*Remainder of State:* That portion of Tennessee outside of the Southeast Crane Zone.

**Central Flyway****Colorado**

*Open Area:* The Central Flyway portion of the State except the San Luis Valley (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties east of the Continental Divide) and North Park (Jackson County).

**Kansas**

*Open Area:* That portion of the State west of a line beginning at the Oklahoma border, north on I-35 to Wichita, north on I-135 to Salina, and north on U.S. 81 to the Nebraska border.

**Montana**

*Regular Season Open Area:* The Central Flyway portion of the State except for that area south and west of Interstate 90, which is closed to sandhill crane hunting.

*Special Season Open Area:* Carbon County.

**New Mexico**

*Regular-Season Open Area:* Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay, and Roosevelt Counties.

**Special Season Open Areas**

*Middle Rio Grande Valley Area:* The Central Flyway portion of New Mexico in Socorro and Valencia Counties.

*Estancia Valley Area:* Those portions of Santa Fe, Tarrant, and Bernallillo Counties within an area bounded on the west by New Mexico Highway 55 beginning at Mountainair north to NM 337, north to NM 14, north to I-25; on the north by I-25 east to U.S. 285; on the east by U.S. 285 south to U.S. 60; and on the south by U.S. 60 from U.S. 285 west to NM 55 in Mountainair.

*Southwest Zone:* Area bounded on the south by the New Mexico-Mexico border; on the west by the New Mexico-Arizona border north to Interstate 10; on the north by Interstate 10 east to U.S. 180, north to NM 26, east to NM 27, north to NM 152, and east to Interstate 25; on the east by Interstate 25 south to Interstate 10, west to the Luna County line, and south to the New Mexico-Mexico border.

**North Dakota**

*Area 1:* That portion of the State west of U.S. 281.

*Area 2:* That portion of the State east of U.S. 281.

#### Oklahoma

*Open Area:* That portion of the State west of I-35.

#### South Dakota

*Open Area:* That portion of the State lying west of a line beginning at the South Dakota-North Dakota border and State Highway 25, south on State Highway 25 to its junction with State Highway 34, east on State Highway 34 to its junction with U.S. Highway 81, then south on U.S. Highway 81 to the South Dakota-Nebraska border.

#### Texas

*Zone A:* That portion of Texas lying west of a line beginning at the international toll bridge at Laredo, then northeast along U.S. Highway 81 to its junction with Interstate Highway 35 in Laredo, then north along Interstate Highway 35 to its junction with Interstate Highway 10 in San Antonio, then northwest along Interstate Highway 10 to its junction with U.S. Highway 83 at Junction, then north along U.S. Highway 83 to its junction with U.S. Highway 62, 16 miles north of Childress, then east along U.S. Highway 62 to the Texas-Oklahoma State line.

*Zone B:* That portion of Texas lying within boundaries beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 81 and the Texas-Oklahoma State line, then southeast along U.S. Highway 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 287 in Montague County, then southeast along U.S. Highway 287 to its junction with Interstate Highway 35W in Fort Worth, then southwest along Interstate Highway 35 to its junction with Interstate Highway 10 in San Antonio, then northwest along Interstate Highway 10 to its junction with U.S. Highway 83 in the town of Junction, then north along U.S. Highway 83 to its junction with U.S. Highway 62, 16 miles north of Childress, then east along U.S. Highway 62 to the Texas-Oklahoma State line, then south along the Texas-Oklahoma State line to the south bank of the Red River, then eastward along the vegetation line on the south bank of the Red River to U.S. Highway 81.

*Zone C:* The remainder of the State, except for the closed areas.

#### Closed areas:

A. That portion of the State lying east and north of a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 81 and the Texas-Oklahoma State line, then southeast along U.S. Highway 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 287 in Montague County, then southeast along U.S. Highway 287 to its junction with I-

35W in Fort Worth, then southwest along I-35 to its junction with U.S. Highway 290 East in Austin, then east along U.S. Highway 290 to its junction with Interstate Loop 610 in Harris County, then south and east along Interstate Loop 610 to its junction with Interstate Highway 45 in Houston, then south on Interstate Highway 45 to State Highway 342, then to the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, and then north and east along the shore of the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas-Louisiana State line.

B. That portion of the State lying within the boundaries of a line beginning at the Kleberg-Nueces County line and the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, then west along the County line to Park Road 22 in Nueces County, then north and west along Park Road 22 to its junction with State Highway 358 in Corpus Christi, then west and north along State Highway 358 to its junction with State Highway 286, then north along State Highway 286 to its junction with Interstate Highway 37, then east along Interstate Highway 37 to its junction with U.S. Highway 181, then north and west along U.S. Highway 181 to its junction with U.S. Highway 77 in Sinton, then north and east along U.S. Highway 77 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87 in Victoria, then south and east along U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with State Highway 35 at Port Lavaca, then north and east along State Highway 35 to the south end of the Lavaca Bay Causeway, then south and east along the shore of Lavaca Bay to its junction with the Port Lavaca Ship Channel, then south and east along the Lavaca Bay Ship Channel to the Gulf of Mexico, and then south and west along the shore of the Gulf of Mexico to the Kleberg-Nueces County line.

#### Wyoming

*Area 7:* Campbell, Converse, Crook, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte, and Weston Counties.

*Area 4:* All lands within the Bureau of Reclamation's Riverton and Boysen Unit boundaries; those lands within Boysen State Park south of Cottonwood Creek, west of Boysen Reservoir, and south of U.S. Highway 20-26; and all non-Indian owned fee title lands within the exterior boundaries of the Wind River Reservation, excluding those lands within Hot Springs County.

*Area 6:* Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie Counties.

*Area 8:* Johnson, Natrona, and Sheridan Counties.

#### Pacific Flyway

#### Arizona

*Zone 1:* Beginning at the junction of the New Mexico State line and U.S.

Hwy 80; south along the State line to the U.S.-Mexico border; west along the border to the San Pedro River; north along the San Pedro River to the junction with Arizona Hwy 77; northerly along Arizona Hwy 77 to the Gila River; northeast along the Gila River to the San Carlos Indian Reservation boundary; south then east and north along the reservation boundary to U.S. Hwy 70; southeast on U.S. Hwy 70 to U.S. Hwy 191; south on U.S. Hwy 191 to the 352 exit on I-10; east on I-10 to Bowie-Apache Pass Road; southerly on the Bowie-Apache Pass Road to Arizona Hwy 186; southeasterly on Arizona Hwy 186 to Arizona Hwy 181; south on Arizona Hwy 181 to the West Turkey Creek-Kuykendall cutoff road; southerly on the Kuykendall cutoff road to Rucker Canyon Road; easterly on Rucker Canyon Road to the Tex Canyon Road; southerly on Tex Canyon Road to U.S. Hwy 80; northeast on U.S. Hwy 80 to the New Mexico State line.

*Zone 2:* Beginning at I-10 and the New Mexico State line; north along the State line to Arizona Hwy 78; southwest on Arizona Hwy 78 to U.S. Hwy 191; northwest on U.S. Hwy 191 to Clifton; westerly on the Lower Eagle Creek Road (Pump Station Road) to Eagle Creek; northerly along Eagle Creek to the San Carlos Indian Reservation boundary; southerly and west along the reservation boundary to U.S. Hwy 70; southeast on U.S. Hwy 70 to U.S. Hwy 191; south on U.S. Hwy 191 to I-10; easterly on I-10 to the New Mexico State line.

*Zone 3:* Beginning on I-10 at the New Mexico State line; westerly on I-10 to the Bowie-Apache Pass Road; southerly on the Bowie-Apache Pass Road to AZ Hwy 186; southeast on AZ Hwy 186 to AZ Hwy 181; south on AZ Hwy 181 to the West Turkey Creek-Kuykendall cutoff road; southerly on the Kuykendall cutoff road to Rucker Canyon Road; easterly on the Rucker Canyon Road to Tex Canyon Road; southerly on Tex Canyon Road to U.S. Hwy 80; northeast on U.S. Hwy 80 to the New Mexico State line; north along the State line to I-10.

#### Idaho

*Area 1:* All of Bear Lake County and all of Caribou County except that portion lying within the Grays Lake Basin.

*Area 2:* All of Teton County except that portion lying west of State Highway 33 and south of Packsaddle Road (West 400 North) and north of the North Cedron Road (West 600 South) and east of the west bank of the Teton River.

*Area 3:* All of Fremont County except the Chester Wetlands Wildlife Management Area.

*Area 4:* All of Jefferson County.

*Area 5:* All of Bannock County east of Interstate 15 and south of U.S. Highway 30; and all of Franklin County.

*Area 6:* That portion of Oneida County within the boundary beginning at the intersection of the Idaho-Utah border and Old Highway 191, then north on Old Highway 191 to 1500 S, then west on 1500 S to Highway 38, then west on Highway 38 to 5400 W, then south on 5400 W to Pocatello Valley Road, then west and south on Pocatello Valley Road to 10000 W, then south on 10000 W to the Idaho-Utah border, then east along the Idaho-Utah border to the beginning point.

#### Montana

*Zone 1:* Those portions of Deer Lodge County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the intersection of I-90 and Highway 273, then westerly along Highway 273 to the junction of Highway 1, then southeast along said highway to Highway 275 at Opportunity, then east along said highway to East Side County road, then north along said road to Perkins Lane, then west on said lane to I-90, then north on said interstate to the junction of Highway 273, the point of beginning. Except for sections 13 and 24, T5N, R10W; and Warm Springs Pond number 3.

*Zone 2:* That portion of the Pacific Flyway, located in Powell County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning at the junction of State Routes 141 and 200, then west along Route 200 to its intersection with the Blackfoot River at Russell Gates Fishing Access Site (Powell-Missoula County line), then southeast along said river to its intersection with the Ovando-Helmville Road (County Road 104) at Cedar Meadows Fishing Access Site, then south and east along said road to its junction with State Route 141, then north along said route to its

junction with State Route 200, the point of beginning.

*Zone 3:* Beaverhead, Gallatin, Jefferson, and Madison Counties.

*Zone 4:* Broadwater County.

#### Utah

*Cache County:* Cache County.

*East Box Elder County:* That portion of Box Elder County beginning on the Utah-Idaho State line at the Box Elder-Cache County line; west on the State line to the Pocatello Valley County Road; south on the Pocatello Valley County Road to I-15; southeast on I-15 to SR-83; south on SR-83 to Lamp Junction; west and south on the Promontory Point County Road to the tip of Promontory Point; south from Promontory Point to the Box Elder-Weber County line; east on the Box Elder-Weber County line to the Box Elder-Cache County line; north on the Box Elder-Cache County line to the Utah-Idaho State line.

*Rich County:* Rich County.

*Uintah County:* Uintah County.

#### Wyoming

*Area 1:* All of the Bear River and Ham's Fork River drainages in Lincoln County.

*Area 2:* All of the Salt River drainage in Lincoln County south of the McCoy Creek Road.

*Area 3:* All lands within the Bureau of Reclamation's Eden Project in Sweetwater County.

*Area 5:* Uinta County.

#### All Migratory Game Birds in Alaska

*North Zone:* State Game Management Units 11-13 and 17-26.

*Gulf Coast Zone:* State Game Management Units 5-7, 9, 14-16, and 10 (Unimak Island only).

*Southeast Zone:* State Game Management Units 1-4.

*Pribilof and Aleutian Islands Zone:* State Game Management Unit 10 (except Unimak Island).

*Kodiak Zone:* State Game Management Unit 8.

#### All Migratory Game Birds in the Virgin Islands

*Ruth Cay Closure Area:* The island of Ruth Cay, just south of St. Croix.

#### All Migratory Game Birds in Puerto Rico

*Municipality of Culebra Closure Area:* All of the municipality of Culebra.

*Desecheo Island Closure Area:* All of Desecheo Island.

*Mona Island Closure Area:* All of Mona Island.

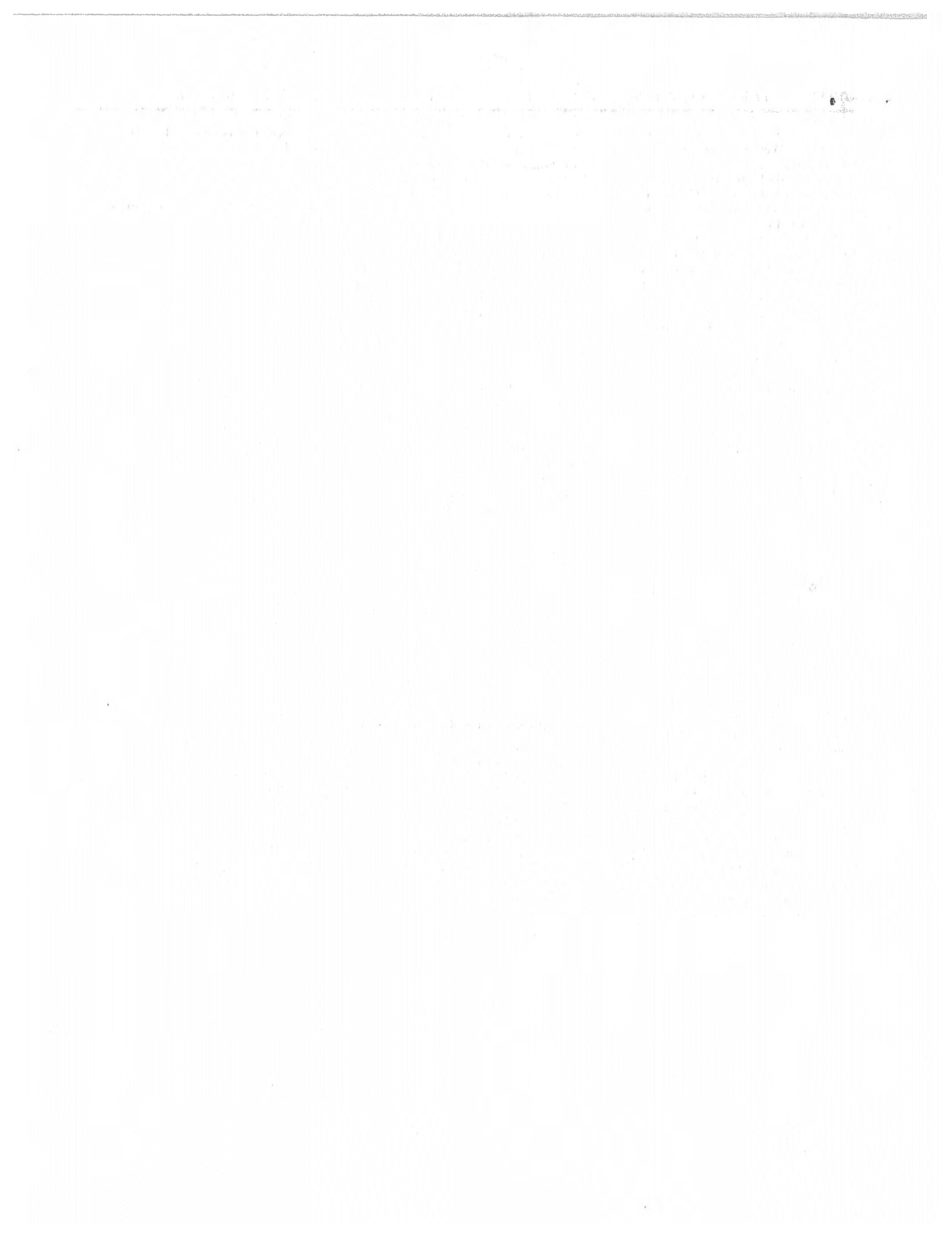
*El Verde Closure Area:* Those areas of the municipalities of Rio Grande and Loiza delineated as follows: (1) All lands between Routes 956 on the west and 186 on the east, from Route 3 on the north to the juncture of Routes 956 and 186 (Km 13.2) in the south; (2) all lands between Routes 186 and 966 from the juncture of 186 and 966 on the north, to the Caribbean National Forest Boundary on the south; (3) all lands lying west of Route 186 for 1 kilometer from the juncture of Routes 186 and 956 south to Km 6 on Route 186; (4) all lands within Km 14 and Km 6 on the west and the Caribbean National Forest Boundary on the east; and (5) all lands within the Caribbean National Forest Boundary whether private or public.

*Cidra Municipality and adjacent areas:* All of Cidra Municipality and portions of Aguas Buenas, Caguas, Cayey, and Comerio Municipalities as encompassed within the following boundary: Beginning on Highway 172 as it leaves the municipality of Cidra on the west edge, north to Highway 156, east on Highway 156 to Highway 1, south on Highway 1 to Highway 765, south on Highway 765 to Highway 763, south on Highway 763 to the Rio Guavate, west along Rio Guavate to Highway 1, southwest on Highway 1 to Highway 14, west on Highway 14 to Highway 729, north on Highway 729 to Cidra Municipality boundary to the point of the beginning.

[FR Doc. 2019-17561 Filed 8-16-19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P







# COMMENT CARD

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

AGENDA ITEM: *CHUCK BILVER* PLEASE PRINT

Name: *CHUCK BILVER*

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone:

Email: @

Officially Representing: (Organization(s))

Your Title:

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

*Extend the  
MIGV Duck goose  
season to the  
end of January*





# COMMENT CARD

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

AGENDA ITEM:

PLEASE PRINT

Name: *Randy Chapman*

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Officially Representing: (Organization(s))

Your Title: *self*

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

*OK with South Central  
ending on 31st  
Please back to start date*





# COMMENT CARD

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

AGENDA ITEM:

PLEASE PRINT

Name: *Don White*

Address: [Redacted]

City: [Redacted] State: [Redacted] Zip: [Redacted]

Phone: [Redacted]

Email: [Redacted] @ [Redacted]

Officially Representing: [Redacted]  
(Organization(s))

Your Title: [Redacted]

WRITTEN COMMENT (Below or Attached)

*Dark wood (M&V) again  
to annual season limit  
limit and extending per  
season to annual  
Hunting season and  
bag limit at 5.*

**Cline, Mason, DGF**

---

**From:** Dale Buser Jr  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 02, 2019 2:51 PM  
**To:** DGF-Waterfowl  
**Subject:** [EXT] Proposed changes to Waterfowl

I like the proposed changes to extend the Duck and Goose season to the last day of January

Dale Buser Jr

## Cline, Mason, DGF

---

**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 02, 2019 3:07 PM  
**To:** DGF-Waterfowl  
**Subject:** [EXT] Migratory game bird rule proposed changed 2019-2020

As a duck hunter I think the proposed later opening date and closing date for south zone duck season is very appropriate. The later season gives La Joya WMA, where I mostly hunt, a better chance to have water early in the season, and allows hunting when populations of migrating ducks are more plentiful. Sound rational on the part of the NMDFG.

David Marsh  
Albuquerque Chairman  
Ducks Unlimited

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



**Cline, Mason, DGF**

---

**From:** Randy Peck  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 02, 2019 6:50 PM  
**To:** DGF-Waterfowl  
**Subject:** [EXT] Proposed waterfowl changes

FYI---I am in favor of the proposed waterfowl date changes.

Regards  
Randy Peck

## Cline, Mason, DGF

---

**From:** Peter Jarmosevich  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 8:56 PM  
**To:** DGF-Waterfowl  
**Subject:** [EXT] Waterfowl rule proposal

Hi,  
I cannot attend the Abq meeting due to work constraints but here's my idea:

It would be nice if in the WMA pond areas (bernardo, la joya, etc) there would be a 1 box (25 shell) per hunter limit. This would decrease "sky busting", unethical shots, cripples, and overall stress on the birds due to less shooting. Hunters would have more chances to 'work' the birds without other hunters taking absurd shots and just ruining any chance for anyone to harvest.

I've heard other states have this rule and it has helped to 'calm down' the overcrowded pond situations...

Trust this helps,  
Peter Jarmosevich

## Cline, Mason, DGF

---

**From:** Randy  
**Sent:** Monday, April 08, 2019 4:08 PM  
**To:** DGF-Waterfowl  
**Subject:** [EXT] Proposed migratory bird seasons, Central flyway south zone dates.

Hello,

I personally have no problem shifting the Central Flyway South Zone duck season to end on Jan. 31, even though this is a Friday in 2020.

But (assuming the usual 2 youth days and a 9-day teal season) I believe you have the wrong start date (Oct. 27) which give us 1 too many days total ( $97+2+9=108$ ), and will therefore not "fly" with the federal guidelines, which have been 107 days total for a very long time.

I'm nearly certain the duck season should start on Oct. 28, if it closes on Jan. 31.

The season did actually run from Oct. 27-Jan. 31 in 2015-16, but the "extra" day came out of the teal season, which was shortened to 8 days for some strange reason that year.

The other most recent time for the Jan. 31 closing date was the 2009-2010 season, and it started on Oct. 28. That year had the standard 9 day teal season and 2 day youth hunts.

Another way of looking at it is you've shifted the season from Sunday (26th) to Friday (31st), which is a 5 day shift. This past season started on Oct. 23, so a 5 day shift puts the opener at Oct. 28.

I have the past RIB's going way back if they are any use to you.

Thanks,  
Randy Creighton





# MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

## New Mexico State Game Commission

# HEARING 1A-MIGRATORY BIRD

(Sign-in to be in the official record as having attended this meeting. Mark the box if you wish to be added to the meeting notifications mailing list.)

**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME	ADDRESS CITY, STATE, ZIP	E-MAIL ADDRESS	PHONE	ADD TO MAILING LIST
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**EXHIBIT**

7

Tables

**ORIGINAL**

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**NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019**

**TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

**AND**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1a (Informational): RULE MAKING HEARING ON  
THE FINAL MIGRATORY GAME BIRD RULE - 19.31.6 NMAC FOR 2019-  
2020 HUNTING SEASON**

---

1 AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order

2 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: We're going to call the Game  
3 Commission Meeting to Order now. Mr. Secretary, could I have a  
4 roll call of the commission, please.

5 COMMISSIONER BATES: Commissioner Bates, here.  
6 Commissioner Cramer?

7 COMMISSIONER CRAMER: Here.

8 COMMISSIONER BATES: Commissioner Lopez?

9 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: Here.

10 COMMISSIONER BATES: Commissioner Soules?

11 COMMISSIONER SOULES: Here.

12 COMMISSIONER BATES: Commissioner Vesbach?

13 COMMISSIONER VESBACH: Here.

14 COMMISSIONER BATES: Vice Chair Salazar Henry?

15 COMMISSIONER SALAZAR-HENRY: Here.

16 COMMISSIONER BATES: Chair Prukop?

17 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Here.

18 COMMISSIONER BATES: We have a quorum.

19 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Thank you Mr. Director.

20 AGENDA ITEM NO. 1a (Informational): Rule Making

21 Hearing on the Final Migratory Game Bird Rule - 19.31.6 NMAC  
22 for 2019-2020 Hunting Season.

23 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: With that we're going to  
24 move now to Agenda item number --

25 UNKNOWN FEMALE: 14.



1 UNKNOWN MALE: 18.

2 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: 1a, number 1a is the  
3 hearing, we're going to bypass E-Tagging mobile application for  
4 now, move to hearing item number 1a which calls for a very  
5 formal process. Let me get to my page, and I do ask the  
6 public's and department's indulgence as this is the first time  
7 this Commission is going to go through the formal rule-making  
8 process.

9 It is a very formalized process. I am going to start with  
10 the Hearing Officer's opening statement and as the Chair, this  
11 hearing will please come to Order, my name is Joanna Prukop,  
12 Commission Chair I will be serving as the Hearing Officer and  
13 they advise by the Commission's Counsel from the Office of the  
14 Attorney General, John Grubisek.

15 The purpose of this hearing is for consideration of Final  
16 Adoption of the following proposed rule by the Commission. The  
17 Hearing Item is: For the Commission to receive public comment  
18 on the proposed new Migratory Game Bird Rule Title 19, Chapter  
19 31, part 6 of the New Mexico Administrative Code, which will  
20 become effective September 1, 2019.

21 The Migratory Bird Game Rule expired on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019.  
22 These hearings are being conducted in accordance with the  
23 provision of the Game and Fish Act and the State Rules Act.  
24 These Hearings are being audio taped and video recorded.  
25 Anyone interested in a copy of the audio tape or a video

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1 recording should contact Sandra and Sandra, I'm probably to not  
2 get your name right either, Decharm?

3 MS. DECHARM: That's correct.

4 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Thank you. With the Game  
5 and Fish Department. Public notice of this hearing was  
6 advertised in the New Mexico register, the Albuquerque Journal,  
7 the Santa Fe New Mexican, the New Mexico Sunshine Portal and  
8 the department's website. Copies of the proposed new rules  
9 have been available on the department's website.

10 Those wishing to comment here today, please sign the  
11 attendance sheet at the back of the room which will later be  
12 entered into the record as an Exhibit. Explanation to the  
13 audience of the hearing procedures and this is the first time  
14 the Commissioners will be hearing a lot of this as well.

15 These rule hearing will be conducted in the following  
16 manner. Staff will present pre-filed exhibits. Exhibits  
17 admitted into evidence are available for the review by the  
18 public but exhibits may not be removed from this room. After  
19 all exhibits are entered, we will proceed to the presentation  
20 of the proposed rule after which testimony will be taken from  
21 the audience.

22 Okay, I also want to point out that here are a few things  
23 that the Commission should be aware of that -- to protect the  
24 record, only one person can speak at a time and because we  
25 don't want anyone stepping on someone else so that it's clear

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1 in the recording and the video. If anyone makes a gesture or  
2 nods their head, we need to acknowledge that and get it in the  
3 record and if any person addresses the board they must clearly  
4 identify themselves each time they address the Board.

5 The Board will have an opportunity to discuss the entire  
6 record including the exhibits and the testimony during its  
7 meeting after the rule hearing is closed at which time there  
8 will be no right for members of the public to cross-examine or  
9 question members of the Board.

10 Statements of support, rational and even response to  
11 negative feedback can be provided by the Board while  
12 considering adoption of the proposed rule during its subsequent  
13 Board Meeting. So, I guess this is intended to the public, is  
14 that correct, when I ask would anyone like to comment on the  
15 new Rule, Title 19, Chapter 31, Part 6? We're talking to the  
16 public when we ask that, is that correct?

17 UNKNOWN: That's correct madam.

18 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Anyone in the public wanting  
19 to comment on the Waterfowl rule? Seeing none, are there any  
20 other exhibits anyone wants to enter into the record at this  
21 time? Hearing no one saying that they do have such exhibits, I  
22 guess I'm saying that at this time no exhibits are admitted  
23 into the record at this time.

24 UNKNOWN MALE: Madam Chair I'll be entering  
25 some exhibits --



1 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Okay.

2 UNKNOWN MALE: Into it but I -- appears  
3 that no one from the public will be entering any --

4 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Okay.

5 UNKNOWN MALE: -- additional exhibits.

6 UNKNOWN MALE 2: Just the staff is in here --

7 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Oh, okay thank you. Okay,  
8 so we're going to at this time have a presentation from  
9 Stewart, is that correct?

10 MR. STEWART LILEY: Madam Chair, that's correct  
11 and then after the presentation I'll enter my exhibits into the  
12 record.

13 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Okay, thank you.

14 MR. STEWART LILEY: I'll be as quick as possible  
15 cause I know we need to get out of here in a few minutes. You  
16 saw this Migratory Game Rule in June, we are proposing the  
17 final. We put this up on our website as mandated by the  
18 Statute.

19 What we're doing here is adjusting the season and the bag  
20 limits in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service, again  
21 Migratory Bird Rules are set in junction with the Federal  
22 Governments, the Flyways and the States. We -- the proposed  
23 Federal Register was on -- the proposed rule was on the U.S.  
24 Fish and Wildlife Service Website in April of 2019 and the  
25 final frameworks were published this month.

1           Details about the proposed changes have been posted on the  
2 Department's website since June and we have had public meetings  
3 across the State, I'll get to that in a second. Our proposed  
4 changes are amending the Season Dates in concurrence with the  
5 federal frameworks, extend the middle Rio Grande Dark Goose  
6 Season by 17 days, we're allowed to do that by Federal Register  
7 and also by what we were seeing from public comments.

8           We're proposing decreasing the Sandhill Crane permits  
9 issued based on the allocation we get across the Rocky Mountain  
10 population of Sandhill Cranes across the flyaway. We're  
11 proposing extending season dates and hours on some of our WMA's  
12 Wildlife Management Areas, and decreasing the pintail bag limit  
13 from 2 to 1 as per the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Frameworks.

14           Also proposed moving Sandhill Crane, (inaudible) Sandhill  
15 Crane, hunt one week later to commence on December 7<sup>th</sup>. We have  
16 received 8 public comments since opening this Rule. We held  
17 three public meetings, attendance you'll see there, one  
18 individual in Farmington, 8, 9 in Albuquerque, nobody in Las  
19 Cruces.

20           Again, the comments pertaining more to a lot -- supporting  
21 our season dates to extend the southern tier of the 7-zone duck  
22 season until the last day possible, January 31<sup>st</sup> and extending  
23 that Middle Rio Grande goose season.

24           Our Rocky Mountain populations are the greatest Sandhill  
25 Cranes; we get an allocation on an annual basis. Our

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1 allocation is, was decreased this year from 750 to 564. we  
2 structured the seasons and the draw permits such that we didn't  
3 have to reduce it by the percent that we got reduced. Our  
4 proposed reduces are in the permits is from 534 to 489.

5 Part of that is just our structure of that, we know take  
6 is different across different times of the year on our RMP's,  
7 Rocky Mountain Population, so, we try to limit the amount of  
8 opport -- or maximize hunter opportunity, recognize we had to  
9 decrease some to make sure we didn't go over allocation as set  
10 by the federal government.

11 I mentioned on some of our wildlife management areas where  
12 we're planning on extending some of the days that we allow for  
13 a harvest or opening, that's Wagon Mound Tray Lake, McAllister  
14 and Tucumcari, our plan now, our proposed one that is to allow  
15 those open all the days in which migratory bird fowl is open  
16 right now. That previously they, some of those were only open,  
17 other alternating days, very small use but we didn't want to  
18 preclude the use on that.

19 We also proposed opening those WMA's one half an hour  
20 before sunrise to sunset, that's a federal law on migratory  
21 birds, previously some of those closed at 1 p.m.

22 Here is the proposed season dates by zone and by flyaway,  
23 again we have two flyaways in the State, the Central and the  
24 Pacific, those are the specific dates that we proposed in rule.  
25 We had support for the proposed dates from the public.



1 In the Pacific is the same, here's the proposed dates by  
2 zone and by species and with that I would take questions.

3 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Okay, questions for Stewart  
4 from the Commission on anything related to the Waterfowl reg.  
5 as presented?

6 COMMISSIONER BATES: Madam Chair, I think you  
7 probably have some exhibits to accept.

8 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Oh, we do that first? Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER BATES: Generally.

10 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Thank you, sir. Okay  
11 exhibits, how many are being admitted to record?

12 MR. STEWART LILEY: Madam Chair, I have 6  
13 exhibits to enter into the record today, Exhibit 1 the Notice  
14 of the Rule Making that we posted both on the Sunshine Portal  
15 and on our website. Exhibit 2, the initial proposed rule that  
16 was posted on the website including the underline strike  
17 through of the rule.

18 Exhibit 3, the presentation that I gave to you all today,  
19 Exhibit 4, the summary of proposed changes that was posted on  
20 our website. Exhibit 5, the technical information that we  
21 relied upon to develop the rule, and Exhibit 6, the 8 public  
22 comments we received during the rule-making process.

23 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Okay, so as I understand it  
24 and for the commission that's new to this, at this point in  
25 time once you've given your presentation and once you and

1 anyone else in succeeding such rule makings have submitted the  
2 exhibits for the record, then this is the point where the  
3 hearing itself is officially closed and then the commission can  
4 move to take action if appropriate. Is that right?

5 UNKNOWN COMMISSIONER: Madam Chair, that's correct.

6 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Okay, so closing -- yes.

7 Yes, Jim.

8 COMMISSIONER BATES: Madam, Chair, are you  
9 closing the hearing?

10 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: That was my thought, but --

11 COMMISSIONER BATES: Okay --

12 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: -- do you have another idea?

13 COMMISSIONER BATES: -- we have to admit one more  
14 item.

15 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Oh, the list, yes.

16 UNKNONW COMMISSIONER: As evidence, yes, the sign  
17 in-sheet and it's blank.

18 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Okay, thank you for noting  
19 that, the sign-in sheet for this topic this afternoon is blank,  
20 no one signed then on the waterfowl rule. Now I'm moving to  
21 close the hearing, okay?

22 Has anyone present, has everyone present, signed the  
23 attendance sheet, at this time the attendance sheet shall be  
24 marked as Exhibit 7.

25 UNKNOWN COMMISSIONER: 7.

1 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: If there are no questions, I  
2 will admit the attendance sheet as Exhibit 7, the comment  
3 submitted and testimony heard during this rule hearing will be  
4 received by the Commission and discussed during the open  
5 session of today's meeting.

6 The Commission will vote on the proposed rule at that  
7 time. I would like to thank everyone for their participation  
8 in this today so, let the record show that this rule-making  
9 hearing was adjourned at the current time.

10 UNKNOWN COMMISSIONER: 5:35.

11 UNKNOWN COMMISSIONER: 6:34.

12 UNKNOWN COMMISSIONER: 5:34.

13 UNKNOWN COMMISSIONER: 5:34.

14 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Don't make it any later than  
15 necessary. 6:34 p.m., I'm circling p.m. So, next, the  
16 Commission may vote on this issue so --

17 UNKNOWN COMMISSIONER: Madam Chair, it was 5:34  
18 p.m.

19 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: 5, right no, I know. He was  
20 making it later.

21 UNKNOWN COMMISSIONER: Feels like it.

22 UNKNOWN COMMISSIONER: Adding toward (inaudible).

23 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: We can entertain a motion  
24 and then, and second it and if there's a discussion, we can  
25 have discussion. So, I'm ready for a Motion, please.



1 UNKNOWN COMMISSIONER: Madam Chair, I move to adopt  
2 19.31.6 NMAC as presented by the Department and allow the  
3 Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this  
4 rule with State Records and Archives.

5 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Do, I hear a 2<sup>nd</sup>?

6 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: 2<sup>ND</sup>.

7 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: That was Commissioner Lopez,  
8 any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor of the Motion  
9 as read, please signify by saying "I".

10 COMMISSIONER BATES: I.

11 COMMISSIONER CRAMER: I.

12 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: I.

13 VICE-CHAIR SALAZAR-HENRY: I.

14 COMMISSIONER SOULES: I.

15 COMMISSIONER LOPEZ: I.

16 COMMISSIONER VESBACH: I.

17 MADAM CHAIR PRUKOP: Oppose, nay? The Waterfowl  
18 Rule passes as presented.

19 (End of audio recording)

20

21

22

23

24

25

## TRANSCRIPTIONIST'S CERTIFICATE

I, Karen Baca, certified transcriptionist, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceeding had in the within titled and numbered cause on the date herein set forth.

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