

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, June 21, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Raton Convention Center, 901 S 3rd St., Raton, NM 87740, 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, 2018. The current Migratory Game Bird rule expired on March 31, 2018.

The proposed new rule will include adjusting regular waterfowl season dates, slightly (~4%) decreasing the greater sandhill crane allocation, increasing the bag limit for northern pintail from 1 to 2, and moving the youth crane hunt later in the season. A full text of changes will be available on the Department's website at: 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; or individuals may submit written comments to the physical address below. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on June 20, 2018. The final proposed rule will be voted on by the Commission during a public meeting on June 21, 2018. Interested persons may also provide data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at the public rule hearing to be held on June 21, 2018.

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/. 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 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.

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NOTICE STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING

On Thursday, June 21, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Raton Convention Center, 901 S. 3rd Street, Raton, New Mexico, the State Game Commission will meet in public session to hear and consider action as appropriate on the following: Approval of the Fiscal Year 2020 Capital Outlay Request; Revocations; Update on the Construction of Albuquerque and Roswell Office Complexes; Initial Discussion for Potential Rule Changes on the Game and Fish Licenses/Permits Rule-19.30.9 NMAC; Initial Discussion for Potential Rule Changes on the Hunting and Fishing Licenses Application Rule-19.31.3 NMAC; Completed Habitat Related Projects Throughout the State for the past Four Years; Initial Discussion for Potential Rule Changes on the Deer Rule-19.31.13 NMAC for the 2019-2023 Seasons; Initial Discussion for Potential Rule Changes on the Elk Rule-19.31.14 NMAC for the 2019-2023 Seasons; Initial Discussion for Potential Rule Changes on the Private Land Elk License Allocation System Rule-19.30.5 NMAC; Initial Discussion for Potential Rule Changes on the Hunting and Fishing Manner and Method Rule-19.31.10 NMAC; Proposed Regulations to Define Terms and Phrases and Amend and add Enforcement Mechanisms and Penalties Under Criminal Trespass; Rule Making Hearing on Final Rule Changes on the Turkey Rule-19.31.16 NMAC for the 2019-2023 Hunting Seasons; Rule Making Hearing on Final Rule Changes on the Migratory Bird Rule-19.31.6 NMAC for the 2018-2019 Hunting Seasons; General Public Comments; and Closed Executive Session.

Copies of the agenda can be obtain from the Office of the Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504, or from the Department's website. 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 for updated information.

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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, 9-1-18]

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, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico 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, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.4 DURATION: September 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2018 unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing seasons on 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, 9-1-18]

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, scent or other feed on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take migratory game birds.

C. "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.

D. "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.

F. "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.

H. "Dark goose" shall mean Canada goose or white-fronted goose.

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

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

K. "Dove north zone" (north zone) shall mean that portion of New Mexico north of I-40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with I-40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

L. "Dove south zone" (south zone) shall mean that portion of New Mexico south of I-40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with I-40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

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

N. "Estancia valley (EV) sandhill crane hunt area" 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

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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.

- O. **"Falconry"** shall mean hunting migratory game birds using raptors.
- P. **"Federal youth waterfowl hunting days"** shall mean the special seasons where only those under 18 years of age 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.
- R. **"Light geese"** shall mean snow geese, blue phase snow geese, and Ross's geese.
- S. **"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.
- T. **"Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) dark goose hunt area"** shall mean Sierra, Socorro and Valencia counties.
- U. **"Middle Rio Grande valley (MRGV) sandhill crane hunt area"** shall mean Valencia and Socorro counties.
- V. **"Migratory game bird"** shall mean band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, sandhill crane, American coot, common moorhen, common snipe, ducks, geese, sora, 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.
- Z. **"North zone"** shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway north of I-40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to the continental divide; and that portion of the central flyway north of I-40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with I-40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.
- AA. **"Pacific flyway"** shall mean that portion of New Mexico west of the continental divide including the Jicarilla Apache Indian reservation.
- BB. **"Possession limit"** shall mean three times the daily bag limit one can have in their ownership, except where otherwise defined.
- CC. **"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.
- FF. **"South zone"** shall mean that portion of the Pacific flyway south of I-40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to the continental divide; and that portion of the central flyway south of I-40 from the continental divide to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with I-40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.
- GG. **"Southwest band-tailed pigeon hunting area"** (southwest BPHA) shall mean that portion of New Mexico both south of U.S. 60 and west of I-25.
- HH. **"Southwest New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area"** (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.
- II. **"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, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.8 ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES, PERMITS, AND HARVEST LIMITS: The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of licenses, permits, or harvest

limits, up or down by no more than twenty percent to address significant changes in population 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, 9-1-18]

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 or 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 18th 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, 9-1-18]

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.

B. 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 following wildlife management areas: Bernardo, Casa Colorada, Charette lake, Jackson lake, La Joya, McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tucumcari, and W.S. Huey; 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.

D. **Seizure:** Any conservation officer or other officer authorized to enforce 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.

II. 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.

L. **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, 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, 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, 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,

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 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, 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, 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, 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, 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) The Socorro-Escondida wildlife management area shall be open for migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(j) The Tucumcari 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) 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 is open for waterfowl hunting during established seasons.

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

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

(5) All wildlife management areas 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, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES, AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: 2018-2019 season, all dates are 2018 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, 2019	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14	2
	regular BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. 27 - Jan. 27, 2019	3 (6 in possession)
special season sandhill crane (special draw permit required)	MRGV southwest	Nov. 10 - 11	3 (6 in possession)
	MRGV	Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	
	MRGV	Nov. 24 - 25	
	MRGV southwest	Dec. 15 - 16	
	MRGV	Jan. 5 - 6, 2019	3 (6 in possession)
	MRGV	Jan. 5 - 6, 2019	
	EV	Oct. 27 - Oct. 30	3 (6 in possession)
	EV	Nov. 1 - Nov. 4	3
	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. 15 - 23	6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. 13 - Jan. 16, 2019	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, 2 pintail, and 2 canvasback
	south zone: Oct. 24 - Jan. 27, 2019	
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Sept. 29 - 30	
	south zone: Oct. 6 - 7	
American coot	north zone: Oct. 13 - Jan. 16, 2019	15
	south zone: Oct. 24 - Jan. 27, 2019	
common moorhen	Sept. 15 - Nov. 23	1
common snipe	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 15 - Nov. 23	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. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019	5
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 22 - Jan. 15, 2019	2 (2 per season)
light goose: Ross's & snow geese	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019	50 (no possession limit)

light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 2019	no bag or possession limit
PACIFIC FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.		
species	season dates	daily bag limit
youth waterfowl days	Oct. 6 - 7	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 2 pintail, and 2 canvasback
ducks	Oct. 15 - Jan. 27, 2019	3 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
scaup	Oct. 15 - Jan. 8, 2019	25 daily (singly or in the aggregate)
American coot and common moorhen	Oct. 15 - Jan. 27, 2019	8
common snipe	Oct. 15 - Jan. 29, 2019	25 daily (singly or in the aggregate)
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 15 - Nov. 23	
goose	north zone: Sept. 22 - Oct. 7 and Oct. 29 - Jan. 27, 2019	4 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese, and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9-1-18]

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

CENTRAL FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 22 - Jan. 2, 2019
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2019
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	regular BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 15 - Dec. 30
common snipe	all	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019
common moorhen	all	Sept. 15 - Dec. 30
ducks	north	Sept. 15 - 23 and Oct. 13 - Jan 16, 2019
	south	Sept. 15 - 23 and Oct. 24 - Jan 27, 2019
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 22 - Jan. 15, 2019
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Oct. 27 - Dec. 25; 3 (6 in possession)
PACIFIC FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 22 - Jan. 2, 2019
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2019
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - Oct. 14
	regular BPHA	Sept. 1 - Sept. 14
duck	all	Oct. 15 - Jan. 27, 2019
scaup	all	Oct. 15 - Jan. 8, 2019
goose	north	Sept. 22 - Oct. 7 and Oct. 29 - Jan. 27, 2019
	south	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019
common snipe	all	Oct. 15 - Jan. 29, 2019
coots and common moorhen	all	Oct. 15 - Jan. 27, 2019
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 15 - Nov. 23

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9-1-18]

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, 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 moorhens 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, 9-1-18]

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 of which must be youth hunters.
 [19.31.6.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.14 NMAC, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.15 HUNT CODES AND PERMITS NUMBERS FOR THE SPECIAL ESTANCIA VALLEY, MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY, AND SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS:

A. The hunting seasons for 2018-2019 are:

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Oct 27 - Oct 30 and Nov. 1 - Nov. 4	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 10 - 11	SCR-0-102	75
MRGV	Nov. 24-25	SCR-0-103	60
MRGV	Dec. 15-16	SCR-0-104	60
MRGV	Jan. 5-6, 2019	SCR-0-105	60
MRGV	Jan. 12-13, 2019	SCR-0-106	60
MRGV, youth only	Dec. 1	SCR-0- 107	24
SW	Oct. 27- Nov. 4	SCR-0-108	70
SW	Jan. 5-6, 2019	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, 9-1-18]

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

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,]

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 Chapters 30 and 32 through 36 of Title 19 NMAC.
[19.31.6.2 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.2 NMAC,]

19.31.6.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico 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,]

19.31.6.4 DURATION: September 1, 20172018 - March 31, 20182019.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC,]

19.31.6.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 20172018 unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC,]

19.31.6.6 OBJECTIVE: Establishing seasons on 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,]

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

A. "Adult/youth" (A/Y) as used herein, shall mean that hunt designation where the adult and youth are permitted to hunt together.

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

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

DC. "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.

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

FE. "Bow" shall mean compound, recurve, or long bow. Sights on bows shall not project light nor magnify; however, illuminated pins/reticles and scopes of any magnification are allowed.

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

HG. "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 nor magnify; however, illuminated pins/reticles and scopes of any magnification are allowed.

IH. "Dark goose" shall mean Canada goose or white-fronted goose.

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

K. "Department offices" shall mean department offices in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Raton, Las Cruces, or Roswell.

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

MK. "Dove north zone" (north zone) shall mean that portion of New Mexico north of I-40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with I-40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

NL. "Dove south zone" (south zone) shall mean that portion of New Mexico south of I-40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tucumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with I-40 at Tucumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

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

P. "Established road" is defined as follows:

(1) a road, built or maintained by equipment, which shows no evidence of ever being closed to vehicular traffic by such means as berms, ripping, scarification, reseeding, fencing, gates, barricades or posted closures; or

(2) a two-track road completely void of vegetation in the tracks which shows use prior to hunting seasons for other purposes such as recreation, mining, logging, and ranching and shows no evidence of ever being closed to vehicular traffic by such means as berms, ripping, scarification, reseeding, fencing, gates, barricades or posted closures.

QN. "Estancia valley (EV) sandhill crane hunt area" (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.

RO. "Falconry" shall mean hunting migratory game birds using raptors.

SP. "Federal youth waterfowl hunting days" shall mean the special seasons where only those under 18 years of age 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.

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

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

VS. "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.

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

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

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

ZW. "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.

AAX. "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.

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

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

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

EE. "Permanent mobility limitation" shall mean an individual that permanently has restricted movement in both arms, or is restricted to the use of a walker, wheelchair, or two crutches to walk, or has a combination of disabilities that cause comparable substantial functional limitations. EXCEPTION: For the purposes of hunting migratory game birds from a vehicle, mobility limitation individuals are those that have permanently lost one or both legs.

FFBB. "Possession limit" shall mean three times the daily bag limit one can have in their ownership, except where otherwise defined.

GG. "Protected species" shall mean any of the following animals:

(1) all animals defined as protected wildlife species and game fish under Section 17-2-3 NMSA 1978; or

(2) all animals listed as endangered species or subspecies as stated in regulation(s) set by the state game commission.

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

HDD. "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.

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

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

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

MMHH. "Southwest New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" (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.

NNII. "Wildlife management areas" or "WMAs" ~~State game commission owned properties~~ shall mean all department owned or managed wildlife management areas (WMAs), Sandhills Prairie conservation area, and lesser prairie-chicken areas as described in state game commission rule those areas as described in 19.34.5 NMAC, Wildlife Management Areas.

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

PPKK. "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,]

19.31.6.8 ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES, PERMITS, AUTHORIZATIONS AND HARVEST

LIMITS: The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairman ~~person~~ or ~~his~~ ~~their~~ designee, may adjust the number of licenses, permits, ~~authorizations~~, or harvest limits, up or down by no more than twenty percent to address significant changes in population 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,]

19.31.6.9 LICENSE AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. License: ~~It shall be unlawful to hunt migratory game birds without having purchased a valid license for the current license year.~~ A migratory bird permit 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 For eastern sandhill crane hunting and falconry: in addition to a valid license - and a free federal sandhill crane hunting permit obtained from department offices or website shall be required.~~

(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 or 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 permit if such permits remain available. A person who is not awarded a permit for which ~~he~~ 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 18th 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,]

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 ~~may be hunted or taken only during open~~ closed seasons.

B. 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 most wildlife-management areas, the lesser prairie-chicken areas, and the Sandhills Prairie conservation area, hunting hours shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.~~

(21) On the following wildlife management areas: Bernardo, Casa Colorada, Charette lake, Jackson lake, La Joya, McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tucumcari, and W.S. Huey; 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.

(32) 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 (21) 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.

D. Seizure: Any conservation officer or other officer authorized to enforce game laws and regulations shall seize ~~the carcasses of~~ 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 ~~blind or~~ 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. Killing out of season: It shall be unlawful to kill any migratory game bird out of season.~~

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 ~~lawful~~ 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 toxic lead shot or for any person using a muzzleloader to be in possession of lead shot.
- JL. 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.
- KJ. 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 the personal abode of the possessor or storage facility.
- LK. Possession or sale of migratory game bird:** It shall be unlawful to possess, sell, or offer for sale all or part of any migratory game bird except as provided below.
- (1) License or permit: A person may possess migratory game bird or parts thereof they have lawfully taken (killed) under license or permit.
- (2) Game taken by another: Any person may have in their possession or under their control any migratory game bird or parts thereof that have been lawfully taken by another person if they possess a written statement which shall be provided by the donor of the migratory game bird, or parts thereof, and which shall contain the following:
- (a) the kind and number of game parts donated;
 - (b) the date and county where the game was lawfully taken;
 - (c) the donor's name, address, and the number of the hunting license under which the game was lawfully taken; and
 - (d) the date and place of the donation.
- (3) Retention of live animals: It shall be unlawful to retain migratory game birds in a live condition except under permit or license issued by the director for the following purposes:
- (a) zoos open for public display;
 - (b) in class A parks;
 - (c) in projects for scientific research and propagation;
 - (d) a rehabilitation permit;
 - (e) under a falconry permit, only those birds listed on the permit;
 - (f) under a scientific collection permit, one may collect and possess only those migratory game bird species listed on the permit; or
 - (g) in transit through New Mexico when the transporter can demonstrate proof of legal possession of the migratory game bird being transported.
- (4) Sale of migratory game animal bird parts: It shall be unlawful to sell or barter any parts or feathers from migratory game birds.
- (5) Falconry provisions for possession: The falconry hunter shall not retain nor possess any migratory game bird of bird taken by a raptor except those species of protected birds taken during open falconry season.
- M. Release of wildlife:** It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to release, intentionally or otherwise, or cause to be released in this state any migratory game bird, without first obtaining a permit from the department.
- N. Use of vehicles and roads in hunting migratory game birds:**
- (1) Roads: It shall be unlawful to shoot at, wound, take, attempt to take, or kill any migratory game bird on, from, or across any graded paved, or maintained public road and including the areas lying within right-of-way fences or 40 feet from the edge of the pavement or maintained surface, in absence of right-of-way fences.
- (2) Vehicles, boats, aircraft: It shall be unlawful to shoot at any migratory game bird from within a motor vehicle, power boat, sailboat, or aircraft. EXCEPTION: Migratory game birds may be taken from a motor driven boat (or other craft with attached motor) or sailboat when resting at anchor or fastened within or immediately alongside a fixed hunting blind or is used solely as a means of picking up dead birds.
- (3) Harassing migratory game birds: It shall be unlawful, at any time, to pursue, harass, harr, drive, or rally any migratory game bird by use of or from a motor driven vehicle, powerboat, sailboat, or aircraft.
- (4) Vehicle off of established road: During the seasons established for any migratory game bird, it shall be unlawful to drive or ride in a motor vehicle which is driven off an established road when the vehicle

bears a licensed hunter, fisherman or trapper. EXCEPTION: 1) snowmobiles; and 2) all landowners, lessees or their employees, while on their owned or leased lands in connection with legitimate agricultural activities.

(5) Closed roads: During the seasons established for any migratory game bird, it shall be unlawful to knowingly occupy, drive, or cause to be driven any motor vehicle on a closed road when the vehicle bears a licensed hunter, angler or trapper.

(6) Mobility impaired:

(a) Shooting from a vehicle: The holder of a mobility impaired card is authorized to shoot at and kill migratory game birds during their respective open seasons from a stationary motor-driven vehicle that is not on a public road or highway. The director may issue permits to shoot from a stationary vehicle to applicants who provide certification that the applicant is disabled in accordance with the American Disability Act. Such certification shall be signed by a medical doctor or doctor of optometry licensed to practice in the applicant's state of residence.

(b) Driving off established roads: Holders of a mobility impaired card may, with permission of the landowner, lessee, or land management agency, drive off established roads to hunt for or take migratory game birds during open seasons.

(c) Assistance for mobility impaired hunter: The holder of a mobility impaired card may be accompanied by another person to assist in reducing to possession any migratory game bird which has clearly been wounded by the licensed mobility impaired hunter. Persons assisting in reducing to possession any wounded migratory game birds shall be fully licensed.

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

(1) Posting of signs: The state game commission may prohibit, modify, condition, or otherwise control the use of areas under its control by posting of signs as may be required in any particular area.

(2) Violating provisions of posted signs: It shall be unlawful to violate the provisions of posted signs on areas under the control of the state game commission.

(3) Trespass on state game commission owned lands: It shall be unlawful to hunt migratory game birds, camp, or trespass upon state game commission owned lands unless otherwise specifically allowed by rule.

(41) 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, 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 from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen, 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 from one-half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday to hunt ducks, geese, Virginia rail, sora, common moorhen, 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, 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 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, 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 and Sandhills-Prairie conservation area 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, 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, 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, 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) The Socorro-Escondida wildlife management area shall be open for migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

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

~~(5) The Big-Hatchet mountain special management area shall be open for dove hunting during established seasons.~~

(62) The Hammond tract WMA is open for waterfowl hunting during established seasons.

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

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

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

PM. Areas closed to migratory game bird hunting: All areas noted in 19.31.10.16-NMAC shall remain closed to hunting, except as permitted by regulation.

(1) 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.

(2) Areas within Valencia county may be closed to migratory game bird hunting that meets the following criteria:

(a) the discharge of a shotgun in the area has been identified by department personnel as a public safety risk because of its proximity to an inhabited area. For the purpose of this section, "public safety risk" shall be defined as a reasonable potential risk of injury at an occupied place of residence;

(b) the discharge of a shotgun in the area is not prohibited by any other statute, rule, regulation or ordinance; and

(c) these areas shall be designated by posting of signs and identified on the department's website.

QN. 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,]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES, AND DAILY BAG LIMITS:

A. ~~20172018-20182019~~ season; all dates are ~~20172018~~ 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. 29 8 and Dec. 21 - Jan. 1, 2018 2019	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14	2
	regular BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. 28 27 - Jan. 28 27, 2018 2019	3 (6 in possession)
special season sandhill crane (special draw permit required)	MRGV southwest	Nov. 1110 - 1211	3 (6 in possession)
	MRGV southwest	Oct. 2827 - Nov. 54	
	MRGV southwest	Nov. 2524 - 2625	
	MRGV southwest	Dec. 1615 - 1716	
	MRGV southwest	Jan. 65 - 76, 2018 2019	
	MRGV southwest	Jan. 65 - 76, 2018 2019	
EV	EV	Oct. 2827 - Oct. 3130	3 (6 in possession)
	EV	Nov. 21 - Nov. 54	
	MRGV youth-only	Nov-Dec. 41	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. 1615 - 2423	6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. 1413 - Jan. 716, 2018 2019 south zone: Oct. 2524 - Jan. 2827, 2018 2019	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, 12 pintail, and 2 canvasback
youth waterfowl days	north zone: Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 Sept. 29 - 30 south zone: Oct. 7 - 8 Oct. 6 - 7	
American coot	north zone: Oct. 1413 - Jan. 1716, 2018 2019 south zone: Oct. 2524 - Jan. 2827, 2018 2019	15
common moorhen	Sept. 1615 - Nov. 2423	1
common snipe	Oct. 1413 - Jan. 2827, 2018 2019	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 1615 - Nov. 2423	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. 4413 - Jan. 2827, 20182019	5
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 2322 - Jan. 4615, 20182019	2 (2 per season)
light goose: Ross's & snow geese	Oct. 4413 - Jan. 2827, 20182019	50 (no possession limit)
light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 20182019	no bag or possession limit
PACIFIC FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.		
species	season dates	daily bag limit
youth waterfowl days	Oct. 76 - 87	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 42 pintail, and 2 canvasback
ducks	Oct. 4615 - Jan. 2827, 20182019	
scaup	Oct. 4615 - Jan. 98, 20182019	3 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
American coot and common moorhen	Oct. 4615 - Jan. 2827, 20182019	25 daily (singly or in the aggregate)
common snipe	Oct. 4615 - Jan. 3029, 20182019	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 4615 - Nov. 2423	25 daily (singly or in the aggregate)
goose	north zone: Sept. 2322 - Oct. 87 and Oct. 3029 - Jan. 2827, 20182019	4 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese, and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 4413 - Jan. 2827, 20182019	
	south zone: Oct. 15 - Jan. 29, 2017	

B. Light-geese conservation measures: Under the director's discretion with the verbal concurrence of the state game commission chairman or his designee, the department may implement the light-geese conservation measures approved by the USFWS. Methods, bag and possession limits, and dates allowed shall be those as approved by the USFWS. A free permit is required. [19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC,]

19.31.6.12 FALCONRY SEASONS: 20172018-20182019 season, all dates are 20172018 unless otherwise specified. Bag limits are three singly or in the aggregate and nine in possession unless otherwise specified.

CENTRAL FLYWAY		
species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 232 - Jan. 32, 20182019
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 65 and Nov. 232 - Jan. 1, 20182019
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	regular BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 4615 - Dec. 3430
common snipe	all	Oct. 4413 - Jan. 2827, 20182019
common moorhen	all	Sept. 4615 - Dec. 3430
ducks	north	Sept. 4615 - 2423 and Oct. 4413 - Jan 4716, 20182019
	south	Sept. 4615 - 2423 and Oct. 2524 - Jan 2827, 20182019
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 4413 - Jan. 2827, 20182019
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 2322 - Jan. 4615, 20182019
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 4413 - Jan. 2827, 20182019; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Oct. 2827 - Dec. 2625; 3 (6 in possession)
PACIFIC FLYWAY		

species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 2322 - Jan. 32, 20182019
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 65 and Nov. 2322 - Jan. 1, 20182019
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - Oct. 14
	regular BPHA	Sept. 1 - Sept. 14
duck	all	Oct. 4415 - Jan. 2827, 20182019
scaup	all	Oct. 4415 - Jan. 78, 20182019
goose	north	Sept. 2322 - Oct. 87 and Oct. 3029 - Jan. 2827, 20182019
	south	Oct. 1413 - Jan. 2827, 20182019
common snipe	all	Oct. 4615 - Jan. 3429, 20182019
coots and common moorhen	all	Oct. 4615 - Jan. 2827, 20182019
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 4615 - Nov. 2423

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC,]

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

A. Youth hunters must be younger than 18 years old.

BA. An adult, at least 18 years old, 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).

CB. Only ducks, coots, and moorhens 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,]

19.31.6.14 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL BERNARDO YOUTH WATERFOWL UNIT:

A. The Bernardo youth hunt unit will only be open for youth waterfowl hunting.

B. 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 of which must be youth hunters.

[19.31.6.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.14 NMAC,]

19.31.6.15 HUNT CODES AND PERMITS NUMBERS FOR THE SPECIAL ESTANCIA VALLEY, MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY, AND SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS:

A. The hunting seasons for 20172018-20182019 are:

season-dates	hunt-code	hunt location	no.-of permits	season-dates	hunt-code	hunt location	no.-of permits
Oct 28 - Oct 31 and Nov. 2 - Nov. 5	SCR-0-101	EV	65	Jan. 13-14, 2018	SCR-0-106	MRGV	60
Nov. 11 - 12	SCR-0-102	MRGV	75	Nov. 4	SCR-0-107	MRGV	24
Nov. 25-26	SCR-0-103	MRGV	60	Oct. 28 - Nov. 5	SCR-0-108	SW	70
Dec. 16-17	SCR-0-104	MRGV	60	Jan. 6-7, 2018	SCR-0-109	SW	60
Jan. 6-7, 2018	SCR-0-105	MRGV	60				

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Oct 27 - Oct 30 and Nov. 1 - Nov. 4	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 10 - 11	SCR-0-102	75
MRGV	Nov. 24-25	SCR-0-103	60

MRGV	Dec. 15-16	SCR-0-104	60
MRGV	Jan. 5-6, 2019	SCR-0-105	60
MRGV	Jan. 12-13, 2019	SCR-0-106	60
MRGV, youth only	Dec. 1	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 27- Nov. 4	SCR-0-108	70
SW	Jan. 5-6, 2019	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. All EV, MRGV and SW sandhill crane hunters are required to submit a special permit sandhill crane harvest report to the department within five days after the end of their hunt. Hunters that do not submit a questionnaire within five days of the close of their hunt will be considered ineligible to receive a sandhill crane permit the following year.

DC. 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,]

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 Snipe, 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

Final Adopted Rule

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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, 9-1-18]

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, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.3 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Section 17-1-14 and 17-1-26 NMSA 1978 provide that the New Mexico 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, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.4 **DURATION:** September 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019.
[19.31.6.4 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.4 NMAC, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE:** September 1, 2018 unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.
[19.31.6.5 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.5 NMAC, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.6 **OBJECTIVE:** Establishing seasons on 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, 9-1-18]

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, scent or other feed on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take migratory game birds.

C. **"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.

D. **"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.

F. **"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.

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

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

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

K. **"Dove north zone"** (north zone) shall mean that portion of New Mexico north of I-40 from the Arizona-New Mexico border to Tukumcari and U.S. 54 at its junction with I-40 at Tukumcari to the New Mexico-Texas border.

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

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

N. **"Estancia valley (EV) sandhill crane hunt area"** 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.

O. "Falconry" shall mean hunting migratory game birds using raptors.

P. "Federal youth waterfowl hunting days" shall mean the special seasons where only those under 18 years of age 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.

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

S. "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.

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

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

V. "Migratory game bird" shall mean band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, sandhill crane, American coot, common moorhen, common snipe, ducks, geese, sora, 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.

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

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

BB. "Possession limit" shall mean three times the daily bag limit one can have in their ownership, except where otherwise defined.

CC. "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.

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

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

HH. "Southwest New Mexico sandhill crane hunt area" (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.

II. "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, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.8 ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES, PERMITS, AND HARVEST LIMITS: The director, with the verbal concurrence of the chairperson or their designee, may adjust the number of licenses, permits, or harvest

limits, up or down by no more than twenty percent to address significant changes in population 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, 9-1-18]

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 or 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 18th 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, 9-1-18]

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.

B. 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 following wildlife management areas: Bernardo, Casa Colorada, Charette lake, Jackson lake, La Joya, McAllister lake, Wagon Mound, Tucumcari, and W.S. Huey; 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.

D. Seizure: Any conservation officer or other officer authorized to enforce 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.

L. 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, 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, 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, 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,

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 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, 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, 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, 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, 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) The Socorro-Escondida wildlife management area shall be open for migratory game bird hunting during established seasons.

(j) The Tucumcari 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) 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 is open for waterfowl hunting during established seasons.

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

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

(5) All wildlife management areas 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, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.11 SPECIES, OPEN AREAS, SEASON DATES, AND DAILY BAG LIMITS: 2018-2019 season, all dates are 2018 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, 2019	
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14	2
	regular BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14	
regular season sandhill crane (free permit required)	eastern	Oct. 27 - Jan. 27, 2019	3 (6 in possession)
special season sandhill crane (special draw permit required)	MRGV southwest	Nov. 10 - 11 Oct. 27 - Nov. 4	3 (6 in possession)
	MRGV	Nov. 24 - 25	
	MRGV southwest	Dec. 15 - 16 Jan. 5 - 6, 2019	
	MRGV	Jan. 5 - 6, 2019	
	MRGV	Jan. 12-13, 2019	3 (6 in possession)
	EV	Oct. 27 - Oct. 30	
	EV	Nov. 1 - Nov. 4	3 (6 in possession)
	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. 15 - 23		6 (singly or in the aggregate)
ducks	north zone: Oct. 13 - Jan. 16, 2019	south zone: Oct. 24 - Jan. 27, 2019	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, 2 pintail, and 2 canvasback
	youth waterfowl days		
American coot	north zone: Oct. 13 - Jan. 16, 2019	south zone: Oct. 24 - Jan. 27, 2019	15
	common moorhen		
common snipe	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019		8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 15 - Nov. 23		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. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019		5
dark goose: special MRGV season	Dec. 22 - Jan. 15, 2019		2 (2 per season)
light goose: Ross's & snow geese	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019		50 (no possession limit)

light goose conservation order	Feb. 1 - Mar. 10, 2019	no bag or possession limit
PACIFIC FLYWAY: possession limits are three times the daily bag limit unless otherwise specified.		
species	season dates	daily bag limit
youth waterfowl days	Oct. 6 - 7	7 (singly or in the aggregate); that consists of no more than 2 female mallard, 2 redhead, 2 pintail, and 2 canvasback
ducks	Oct. 15 - Jan. 27, 2019	
scaup	Oct. 15 - Jan. 8, 2019	3 (as part of the aggregate duck bag)
American coot and common moorhen	Oct. 15 - Jan. 27, 2019	25 daily (singly or in the aggregate)
common snipe	Oct. 15 - Jan. 29, 2019	8
Virginia rail & sora	Sept. 15 - Nov. 23	25 daily (singly or in the aggregate)
goose	north zone: Sept. 22 - Oct. 7 and Oct. 29 - Jan. 27, 2019	4 Canada geese, 10 white-fronted geese, and 20 light geese
	south zone: Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019	

[19.31.6.11 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.11 NMAC, 9-1-18]

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

CENTRAL FLYWAY		
Species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 22 - Jan. 2, 2019
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2019
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - 14
	regular BPHA	Sept. 1 - 14
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 15 - Dec. 30
common snipe	all	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019
common moorhen	all	Sept. 15 - Dec. 30
ducks	north	Sept. 15 - 23 and Oct. 13 - Jan 16, 2019
	south	Sept. 15 - 23 and Oct. 24 - Jan 27, 2019
goose (light and dark)	all	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019
goose (dark)	MRGV	Dec. 22 - Jan. 15, 2019
sandhill crane	regular (eastern)	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019; 3 (6 in possession)
	Estancia valley	Oct. 27 - Dec. 25; 3 (6 in possession)
PACIFIC FLYWAY		
Species	open areas	season dates
mourning and white-winged dove	north	Sept. 1 - Dec. 4 and Dec. 22 - Jan. 2, 2019
	south	Sept. 1 - Nov. 5 and Nov. 22 - Jan. 1, 2019
band-tailed pigeon	southwest BPHA	Oct. 1 - Oct. 14
	regular BPHA	Sept. 1 - Sept. 14
duck	all	Oct. 15 - Jan. 27, 2019
scaup	all	Oct. 15 - Jan. 8, 2019
goose	north	Sept. 22 - Oct. 7 and Oct. 29 - Jan. 27, 2019
	south	Oct. 13 - Jan. 27, 2019
common snipe	all	Oct. 15 - Jan. 29, 2019
coots and common moorhen	all	Oct. 15 - Jan. 27, 2019
sora and Virginia rail	all	Sept. 15 - Nov. 23

[19.31.6.12 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.12 NMAC, 9-1-18]

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, 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 moorhens 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, 9-1-18]

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 of which must be youth hunters.
[19.31.6.14 NMAC - Rp, 19.31.6.14 NMAC, 9-1-18]

19.31.6.15 HUNT CODES AND PERMITS NUMBERS FOR THE SPECIAL ESTANCIA VALLEY, MIDDLE RIO GRANDE VALLEY, AND SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS:

A. The hunting seasons for 2018-2019 are:

hunt location	hunt dates	hunt code	permits
EV	Oct 27 - Oct 30 and Nov. 1 - Nov. 4	SCR-0-101	65
MRGV	Nov. 10 - 11	SCR-0-102	75
MRGV	Nov. 24-25	SCR-0-103	60
MRGV	Dec. 15-16	SCR-0-104	60
MRGV	Jan. 5-6, 2019	SCR-0-105	60
MRGV	Jan. 12-13, 2019	SCR-0-106	60
MRGV, youth only	Dec. 1	SCR-0-107	24
SW	Oct. 27- Nov. 4	SCR-0-108	70
SW	Jan. 5-6, 2019	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, 9-1-18]

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

NMAC Transmittal Form

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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? Please list attachments or Internet sites if applicable.

Yes No

If materials are attached, has copyright permission been received?

Yes

No

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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, 2018. The current Migratory Game Bird rule expired on March 31, 2018.

The new rule will include adjusting regular waterfowl season dates, slightly (~4%) decreasing the greater sandhill crane allocation, increasing the bag limit for northern pintail from 1 to 2, and moving the youth crane hunt later in the season. A full text of changes will be available on the Department's website at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Continued on reverse side

**Findings required for rulemaking adoption
continued**



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Your Access to Public Information

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/ 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:

Alexandra Sandoval

Check if authority has been delegated

Title:

Director, NMDGF

Signature: (BLACK ink only)

Date signed:

Alexandra Sandoval

6/25/18



Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

June 21, 2018

**New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting
Raton, NM**

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EXHIBIT
3

Wildlife Management Division



Amend:

Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

- **Adjust season dates according to calendar and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) frameworks**
- **Adjust bag/possession limits according to USFWS frameworks**
- **Final frameworks published in Federal Register in June, 2018**



Amend:

Migratory Game Bird

19.31.6 NMAC

- **Move youth sandhill crane hunt later in year**
- **Changes to regular duck season dates according to federal frameworks**
- **Increase bag for Northern Pintail to 2**



Public Comment

- **15 comments received**
- **Public meetings: Farmington (13), Albuquerque (10), Las Cruces (5)**
- **Comments Received:**
 - **Goose season dates and limits**
 - **Duck season dates and limits**
 - **Sandhill crane hunt dates**



Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

Proposed 2018-19 Duck, Goose, and Dove Seasons

Species	Zone	Open	Close
Ducks and Mergansers:	North Zone	Oct. 13	Jan. 16
	South Zone	Oct. 24	Jan. 27
Geese:			
	Dark Geese		
	Light Geese		
Mourning Dove	MRGV	Dec. 22	Jan. 15
	Rest of State	Oct. 13	Jan. 27
	Statewide	Oct. 13	Jan. 27
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 2018-19 Crane Seasons

Area	Hunt	Open	Close	Bag	Possession	Permits
Middle Rio	SCR-0-102	Nov. 10	Nov. 11	3	6	75
Grande Valley	SCR-0-103	Nov. 24	Nov. 25	3	6	60
	SCR-0-104	Dec. 15	Dec. 16	3	6	60
	SCR-0-105	Jan. 5	Jan. 6	3	6	60
	SCR-0-106	Jan. 12	Jan. 13	3	6	60
	SCR-0-107	Dec. 1	Dec. 1	3	3	24
Southwest	SCR-0-108	Oct. 27	Nov. 4	3	6	70
	SCR-0-109	Jan. 5	Jan. 6	3	6	60
Estancia Valley	SCR-0-101	Oct. 27	Oct. 30	3	6	65
	SCR-0-101	Nov. 1	Nov. 4			
Regular Season		Oct. 27	Jan. 27	3	6	N/A



Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC

Proposed 2018-19 Duck, Goose, and Dove Seasons

Species	Zone	Open	Close
Ducks and Mergansers:	North Zone	Oct. 15	Jan. 27
Scaup	North Zone	Oct. 15	Jan. 8
All Geese:	North 1	Sept. 22	Oct. 7
	North 2	Oct. 29	Jan. 27
	South	Oct. 13	Jan. 27
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.”**

MIGRATORY GAME BIRD RULE PROPOSED CHANGES, 2018-2019

Season selections and bag limits are determined in conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service 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 2018–19 season include:

- Changes to regular waterfowl season dates TBA, based on public comment and calendar dates
- Possible changes to sandhill crane allocation, based on fall population data
- Increase bag limit for northern pintail to 2 per USFWS regulatory framework
- Move youth crane hunt later in November

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

Species	Zone	Open	Close
Ducks and Mergansers:	North Zone	Oct. 13	Jan. 17
	South Zone	Oct. 23	Jan. 27
Geese:			
Dark Geese	MRGV	Dec. 15	Jan. 8
	Rest of State	Oct. 13	Jan. 27
Light Geese	North and South Zones	Oct. 13	Jan. 27

Pacific Flyway. Includes falconry and youth waterfowl days.

Species	Zone	Open	Close
Ducks and Mergansers:	North Zone	Oct. 13	Jan. 27
Scaup	North Zone	Oct. 13	Jan. 6
All Geese:	North 1	Sept. 22	Oct. 7
	North 2	Oct. 29	Jan. 27
	South	Oct. 29	Jan. 27

If you would like to comment on the proposal, send email to: DGF-waterfowl@state.nm.us



Technical Information for Migratory Game Bird Rule Development



Survey and Harvest Data

Migratory game bird management is based on information gathered from bird population surveys, monitoring of harvest, hunter surveys, public comment, biological information, and environmental surveys. Migratory 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 harvest regulations for migratory birds. In New Mexico, the establishment of migratory bird hunting rules and regulations remains a cooperative endeavor 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 this is performed within the guidelines of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service federal frameworks. Survey and harvest data used in setting rules and regulations for New Mexico are included in Figures 1–4.

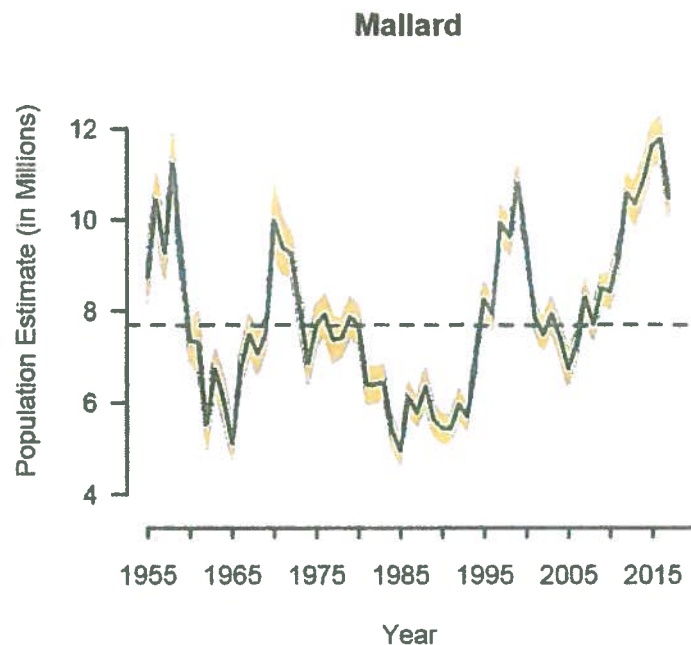


Figure 1. Breeding population estimate, 90% confidence interval, and North American Waterfowl Management Plan goal (dashed line) for mallards in the traditional survey area. Estimated mallard abundance for 2017 was 10.5 ± 0.3 million.

EXHIBIT

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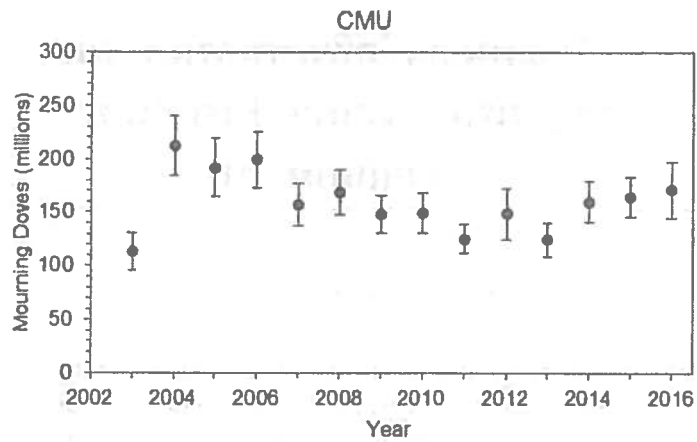


Figure 2. Estimates and 95% confidence intervals of mourning dove absolute abundance in the Central Management Unit (CMU; which includes New Mexico) by year, 2003–2016. Estimates are based on band recovery and harvest data.

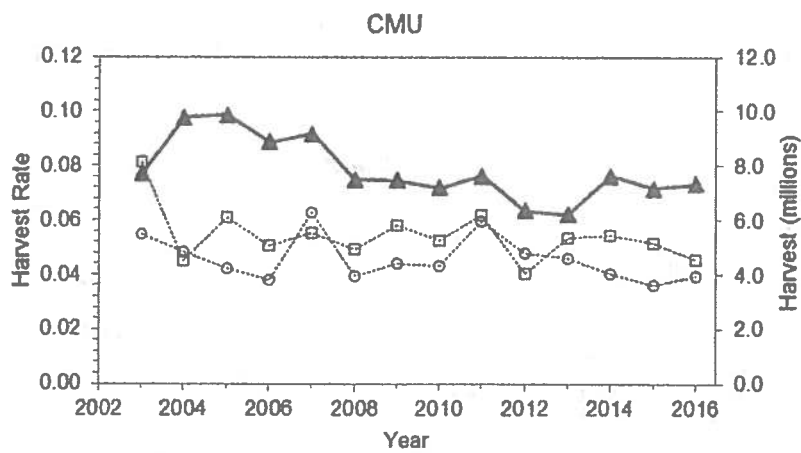


Figure 3. Estimated harvest (triangle) and harvest rates of mourning dove in the Central Management Unit (CMU; which includes New Mexico) by year, 2003–2016. Harvest rates are presented separately for hatch-year (square) and after-hatch-year (circle).

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 ^{1 2}	2,450	1,604	8,132	2,255	3,595	18,036	17,001
1998	2,185	1,273	8,067	3,182	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 ³						NS	18,833
2007 ⁴	2,401	1,743	8,262	3,907	6,509	22,822	20,732
2008 ⁵	3,708	1,080	8,123	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	19,628
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	8,555	19,668	18,482
2015	3,698	1,089	8,454	3,596	9,493	24,330	21,453
2016	3,298	1,135	5,445	4,879	7,507	22,264	22,087

¹ Incomplete survey efforts in years prior might have resulted in lower estimates, the official count begins in 1987.
² 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.
³ 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.
⁴ The 3-yr average for 2007 was calculated using 2004, 2005, and 2007 because there was no survey in 2006.
⁵ 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-2017-0028; FF09M21200-178-FXMB1231099BPP0]

RIN 1018-BB73

Migratory Bird Hunting; Proposed Frameworks for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; supplemental.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter Service or we) is proposing to establish the 2018–19 hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds. 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: You must submit comments on the proposed migratory bird hunting frameworks by March 5, 2018.

ADDRESSES: *Comments:* You may submit comments on the proposals by one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2017-0028.

- *U.S. mail or hand delivery:* Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-HQ-MB-2017-0028; Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see the Review of Public Comments and Flyway Council Recommendations section, below, for more information).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ron W. Kokel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, MS: MB, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803; (703) 358-1967.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**New Process for the Annual Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations**

As part of DOI's retrospective regulatory review, 2 years ago we developed a schedule for migratory

game bird hunting regulations that is more efficient and provides hunting season dates much earlier than was possible under the old process. The new process makes planning easier for the States and all parties interested in migratory bird hunting. Beginning in the summer of 2015, with the development of the 2016–17 hunting seasons, we started promulgating our annual migratory game bird hunting regulations using a new schedule that combines the previously used early- and late-season regulatory processes into a single process. We make decisions for harvest management based on predictions derived from long-term biological information and established harvest strategies and, therefore, can establish migratory bird hunting seasons much earlier than the system we used for many years. 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 proposed rule is the third in a series of proposed and final rules for the establishment of the 2018–19 hunting seasons.

Regulations Schedule for 2018

On August 3, 2017, we published a proposal to amend title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at part 20 (82 FR 36308). 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 2018–19 regulatory cycle relating to open public meetings and *Federal Register* notifications were also identified in a August 3, 2017, proposed rule. 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 will 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 August 3 proposed rule also provided detailed information on the proposed 2018–19 regulatory schedule and announced the Service Regulations Committee (SRC) and Flyway Council meetings.

On October 3, 2017, we published in the *Federal Register* (82 FR 46011) a second document providing supplemental proposals for migratory bird hunting regulations. The October 3 supplement also provided detailed information on the 2018–19 regulatory schedule and re-announced the SRC and Flyway Council meetings.

On October 17–18, 2017, 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 2018–19 regulations for these species.

This document deals specifically with proposed frameworks for the migratory bird hunting regulations. It will lead to final frameworks from which States may select season dates, shooting hours, areas, and limits. We have considered all pertinent comments received through November 1, 2017, on the August 3 and October 3, 2017, proposed rulemaking documents in developing this document. In addition, new proposals for certain regulations are provided for public comment. The

comment period is specified above under **DATES**. We will publish final regulatory frameworks for migratory game bird hunting in the **Federal Register** on or around February 28, 2018.

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, 2018 Hunting Season (September, 2017); American Woodcock Population Status, 2017 (August, 2017); Band-tailed Pigeon Population Status, 2017 (August, 2017); Migratory Bird Hunting Activity and Harvest During the 2015–16 and 2016–17 Hunting Seasons (August, 2017); Mourning Dove Population Status, 2017 (August, 2017); Status and Harvests of Sandhill Cranes, Mid-continent, Rocky Mountain, Lower Colorado River Valley and Eastern Populations, 2017 (August, 2017); and Waterfowl Population Status, 2017 (August, 2017).

Review of Public Comments and Flyway Council Recommendations

The preliminary proposed rulemaking, which appeared in the August 3, 2017, **Federal Register**, opened the public comment period for migratory game bird hunting regulations and discussed the regulatory alternatives for the 2018–19 duck hunting season. Comments and recommendations are summarized below and numbered in the order used in the August 3, 2017, 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.

We seek additional information and comments on the recommendations in this supplemental proposed rule. New

proposals and modifications to previously described proposals are discussed below. Wherever possible, they are discussed under headings corresponding to the numbered items in the August 3, 2017, proposed rule.

General

Written Comments: A commenter protested the entire migratory bird hunting regulations process, the killing of all migratory birds, and status and habitat data on which the migratory bird hunting regulations are based.

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 believe 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 believe 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.

Service Response: We propose to continue using adaptive harvest management (AHM) to help determine appropriate duck-hunting regulations for the 2018–19 season. AHM allows sound resource decisions in the face of uncertain regulatory impacts and provides a mechanism for reducing that uncertainty over time. We use AHM to evaluate four alternative regulatory levels for duck hunting based on the population status of mallards. We enact other hunting regulations for species of special concern, such as canvasbacks, scaup, and pintails.

The prescribed regulatory alternative for the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways is based on the status of mallard populations that contribute primarily to each Flyway. In the Atlantic Flyway, we set hunting regulations based on the population status of mallards breeding in eastern North America (Federal survey strata 51–54 and 56, and State surveys in New England and the mid-Atlantic region). 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 British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California (as based on Canadian Wildlife Service and State-conducted surveys).

For the 2018–19 season, we recommend continuing to use independent optimization to determine the optimal regulatory choice for each mallard stock. This means that we would develop regulations for eastern mallards, 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) and for eastern mallards in the July 20, 2012, **Federal Register** (77 FR 42920). Further documentation on how adjustments were made to these decision frameworks can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/AHM/SEIS&AHMReportFinal.pdf>.

As we stated in the October 3, 2017, proposed rule, for the 2018–19 hunting season, we are continuing to consider the same regulatory alternatives as those used last year. The nature of the "restrictive," "moderate," and "liberal" alternatives has remained essentially unchanged since 1997, except that extended framework dates have been offered in the "moderate" and "liberal" regulatory alternatives since 2002 (67 FR 47224; July 17, 2002).

The optimal AHM strategies for mid-continent, eastern, and western mallards for the 2018–19 hunting season were calculated using: (1) Harvest-management objectives specific to each mallard stock; (2) the 2018–19 regulatory alternatives; and (3) current

population models and associated weights. Based on "liberal" regulatory alternatives selected for the 2017–18 hunting season, the 2017 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey (WBPHS) results of 10.64 million mid-continent mallards and 4.33 million ponds in Prairie Canada, 0.65 million eastern mallards, and 0.98 million western mallards (0.44 million in California-Oregon and 0.54 million in Alaska), the optimal regulatory choice for all four Flyways is the "liberal" alternative. Therefore, we concur with the recommendations of the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils regarding selection of the "liberal" regulatory alternative for the 2018–19 season and propose to adopt the "liberal" regulatory alternative, as described in the October 3, 2017, *Federal Register*.

C. Zones and Split Seasons

Written Comments: The Colorado Parks and Wildlife requested a minor boundary change between the east and west zones in the Pacific Flyway portion of the State due to unintended law enforcement issues. The existing zones split Elkhead Reservoir.

Service Response: We agree. The change is very minor and aids in hunter compliance by placing the entire reservoir into one zone.

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 (2018), to allow sufficient time to incorporate the 2017 results into a final report evaluating impacts to non-target species.

The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that teal seasons in Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Kentucky be made operational beginning in 2018–19. They further recommended that Tennessee be granted an additional year of experimental status for their teal season to collect an additional year of data to support evaluations and that Iowa be allowed to retain the option to select a September 5-day duck season or an operational early teal season for the 2018–19 hunting seasons. Iowa's decision would remain in effect under current duck season frameworks.

The Central Flyway Council recommended that Nebraska's experimental September teal season be made operational for the 2018–19 hunting season.

Service Response: For the 2018–19 season, we will utilize the 2017

breeding population estimate of 7.9 million blue-winged teal from the traditional survey area and the criteria developed for the teal season harvest strategy. Thus, a 16-day September teal season in the Atlantic, Central, and Mississippi Flyways is appropriate for the 2018–19 season.

We agree with the Atlantic Flyway's request to extend Florida's experimental teal-only season through 2018, to allow the State sufficient time to prepare a full report on the results of its study on impacts to non-target species.

We also agree with the Mississippi Flyway's request that September teal seasons in Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Kentucky be made operational beginning in 2018–19. Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin submitted a report that summarized results from their 3-year experimental September teal season conducted during 2014–16. Results from those studies demonstrated that nontarget species attempt rates were below the acceptable rate of 25 percent (range 4.6 to 6.6 percent). Although Michigan and Wisconsin each had one year in which the nontarget harvest rate exceeded the acceptable rate of 10 percent, the harvest rate in the other 2 years of the studies in each State were well below 10 percent (range 4.0 to 6.7 for Michigan and 0.0 for both years in Wisconsin), and thus we believe that production ("northern") States in the Mississippi Flyway have satisfied the experimental criteria for nontarget species harvest rates. None of the three States opened an experimental season prior to sunrise; therefore, a comparison of nontarget species attempt and harvest rates during pre- and post-sunrise periods was not made. Furthermore, we concur that Iowa shall be allowed to retain the option to select either a September 5-day duck season or an operational September teal season for the 2018–19 hunting season. The Service previously agreed to allow Iowa to retain these options when the State suspended its special September 5-day duck season in order to conduct a 3-year experimental September teal season along with other production States in the Flyway. When Iowa chooses either of these options for the 2018–19 season, that decision will remain in effect for future years under current duck season frameworks. With regard to the results from the 3-year experimental September teal-only season that follows the operational September teal-wood duck season in Kentucky, the nontarget species attempt rate for both the pre-sunrise (7.7 percent) and post-sunrise (13.4 percent) periods were below the acceptable rate of 25 percent. Similarly, the nontarget species harvest rate for

both the pre-sunrise (5.0 percent) and post-sunrise (6.0 percent) periods were below the acceptable rate of 10 percent. Therefore, we agree with the Mississippi Flyway Council's request to make the September teal-only season in Kentucky operational. Finally, we agree with the Mississippi Flyway's request to extend Tennessee's experimental teal-only season through 2018, to allow the Service sufficient time to review a report recently submitted by Tennessee that contains results from a fourth experimental year conducted in September 2017. The Service will examine results from all 4 years of the study to determine whether Tennessee has met experimental criteria with regard to nontarget species attempt and harvest rates.

We also agree with the Central Flyway Council's recommendation regarding Nebraska's experimental September teal season. In 2014, we allowed States in northern ("production") areas of the Central and Mississippi Flyways to open, on an experimental basis, September teal seasons similar to those offered since 1969 to southern ("non-production") States. For these experimental seasons, each State entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Service that specified sample sizes (*i.e.*, observations of hunter performance) and decision criteria that would need to be met for these experimental seasons to become operational. Hunters' rates of attempting to shoot nontarget waterfowl species and the harvest rate of nontarget species could not exceed certain levels. Nebraska collected 4 years of information and met the sample-size requirements. The attempt rates at nontarget species (pre-sunrise period: 7.9 percent; post-sunrise period: 13.6 percent; both periods combined: 12.4 percent) were below our acceptable rate of 25 percent. Further, the harvest rate of nontarget species was 3 percent, below the acceptable rate of 10 percent. Therefore, we support granting operational status to September teal seasons in the northern portion of Nebraska.

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 2018–19 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 observability, structural uncertainty, and environmental variation. The underlying model performance is assessed annually, with a comprehensive evaluation of the entire strategy (objectives and model set) planned after 6 years. A copy of the strategy is available at <https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/AHM/BlackDuckInternationalHarvestStrategy.pdf>.

For the 2018–19 season, the optimal country-specific regulatory strategies were calculated using: (1) The black duck harvest objective (98 percent of long-term cumulative harvest); (2) 2018–19 country-specific regulatory alternatives; (3) current parameter estimates for mallard competition and additive mortality; and (4) 2017 survey results of 0.54 million breeding black ducks and 0.44 million breeding mallards in the core survey area. The optimal regulatory choices for the 2018–19 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 uses 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 2017 canvasback breeding population estimate was 733,000 birds, we support the Flyways’ recommendations for a 2-canvasback daily bag limit for the 2018–19 season.

v. Pintails

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended a full season for pintails, consisting of a 2-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 2018–19 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 1-bird daily bag limit for the 2017–18 season, and the 2017 survey results of 2.89 million pintails observed at a mean latitude of 56.7 degrees, the optimal regulatory choice for all four Flyways for the 2018–19 hunting season is the “liberal” alternative with a 2-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 2018–19 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 2017, and the 2017 survey results of 4.37 million scaup, the optimal regulatory choice for the 2018–19 season for all four Flyways is the “moderate” regulatory alternative.

4. Canada Geese

A. Special Early Seasons

Council Recommendations: The Central Flyway Council recommended changing the zone boundaries in North Dakota, modifying the boundary of the “Remainder of State” zone to form a new zone in the western portion of the State.

Service Response: We support the Central Flyway Council’s recommendation. The change in zone boundaries will allow the State to increase harvest of resident Canada geese in eastern portions of the State, where goose/human conflicts need to be alleviated, without negatively impacting hunter opportunities in western portions of the State.

B. Regular Seasons

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council revised its North Atlantic Population (NAP) Harvest Strategy by (1) eliminating the “very restrictive” regulatory option, and (2) incorporating uncertainty around breeding population estimates into the annual regulatory option decision. Under the revised strategy, the Council recommended adoption of the moderate season option, which would consist of a 60-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit, with a framework of October 1 to January 31 for the high harvest NAP areas; and a 70-day season with a 3-bird daily bag limit, with a framework of October 1 to February 15 for the low harvest NAP areas for the 2018–19 season. The Council further recommended discontinuance of North Carolina’s Southern James Bay Population (SJB) zone. This area would become part of North Carolina’s Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (AFRP) Zone.

The Central Flyway Council recommended the implementation of modified Canada goose hunting zones in North Dakota and Wyoming. Wyoming would conduct an evaluation of the 3-way splits in two zones in accordance with established criteria.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended increasing the daily bag limit for Canada geese from 4 to 6 in the Northwest Permit Zone of Oregon. They further recommended reducing the size of Oregon's Tillamook County Management Area (*i.e.*, reducing the size of the goose hunting closure).

Service Response: We agree with the Atlantic Flyway Council's decision to explicitly consider uncertainty around breeding population estimates when developing its annual regulatory recommendation for NAP Canada geese, and we support the Council's recommendation for a moderate season in 2018–19. We also agree that the SJB zone designation in North Carolina can be eliminated, and that incorporating that area into the State's AFRP zone is appropriate. The SJB is no longer managed as a separate population in the Mississippi Flyway, where most of these birds are harvested; thus, the SJB zone in North Carolina is not needed for harvest management purposes.

We support the Central Flyway Council's recommendations. The change in North Dakota was previously addressed above in 4.A. Special Early Seasons. The changes will allow the States to better satisfy hunters' desires to hunt at certain times of the season without negatively impacting Canada goose populations. Wyoming will work together with the Service to conduct an evaluation of their change to conform to Service requirements.

We also agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation to increase the daily bag limit from 4 to 6 Canada geese in Oregon's Northwest Permit Zone. Seven subspecies of Canada geese occur in this area, but cackling Canada geese are the most abundant. The current 3-year average predicted fall population estimate (2015–17) for cackling geese is 321,475, which is substantially above the Flyway population objective of 250,000. The increase in bag limit is specifically intended to decrease abundance of cackling geese and address associated depredation complaints, and is consistent with the Council's harvest strategy for these birds. However, the bag limit increase could result in increased harvest of the 6 other subspecies of Canada geese in the area, but is not expected to be significant. Canada goose harvest in the area is expected to increase by less than 10

percent with the bag limit change, and State harvest data indicate cackling geese represent about 70 percent of the Canada goose harvest in this area. Other subspecies of Canada geese are over the Council's population objectives, have no open hunting season, occur mostly outside of the Northwest Zone, or have stable trends in abundance during the last 10 years. More specific to these other Canada goose subspecies, the current 3-year average breeding population estimate (2015–17) for Aleutian Canada geese is 167,451, which is substantially above the Flyway population objective of 60,000 geese. The current 3-year average breeding population estimate (2015–17) for the Pacific Population of western Canada geese is 313,200 and exceeds area-specific Flyway objectives. The hunting season on dusky Canada geese, a subspecies of management concern, is currently closed in this area. The potential for increased incidental take of dusky geese is expected to be small, and monitoring programs are in place to evaluate population status. Vancouver Canada geese are relatively nonmigratory, occur primarily in remote estuarine areas of southeast Alaska and northern British Columbia (*i.e.*, Northwest Permit Zone is on the periphery of the subspecies' range), and additional harvest associated with the bag limit increase is expected to be insignificant. For Taverner's Canada geese and lesser Canada geese, there are no Flyway management plans, population objectives, or population-specific monitoring programs because these birds cannot be differentiated during surveys and breeding distributions are not disjunct. However, these subspecies are encountered during general waterfowl breeding population and habitat surveys across North America. Indices from these surveys indicate that abundance of Taverner's and lesser geese have been stable during the last 10 (2008–17) years.

We also agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation to reduce the size of the Tillamook County Management Area (*i.e.*, goose hunting closure). Oregon's Tillamook County Management Area was established in 1982 to provide protection for Aleutian Canada geese, specifically those that primarily breed on the Semidi Islands, Alaska, and winter near Pacific City, Oregon. Aleutian Canada geese were listed as an endangered population in 1967 (32 FR 4001, March 11, 1967) under the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966, which was later superseded by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et*

seq.); downlisted to threatened status in 1990 (55 FR 51106, December 12, 1990); and removed from protection under the Act in 2001 (66 FR 15643, March 20, 2001). The current 3-year average breeding population estimate (2015–17) for Aleutian geese is 167,451, which is substantially above the Flyway population objective of 60,000 geese. The Semidi Islands population segment is currently about 300 birds, and has consisted of about 100–300 birds since the 1990s. Monitoring data indicate that these birds almost exclusively use two pastures/hayfields within the goose hunting closure area. The closure area includes both non-geese habitat and pastures/hayfields the Semidi Islands geese do not use. The closure area has been reduced four times (2002, 2005, 2007, and 2011) since establishment to focus protection on areas Semidi Islands geese use and address depredation complaints resulting from increasing abundance of several populations of Canada and white-fronted geese in the area. This fifth reduction in the goose hunting closure area is expected to maintain the same level of protection for Semidi Islands geese and address the increasing number of goose depredation complaints in the area currently closed to goose hunting. Reduction of the goose hunting closure area could result in increased take of dusky Canada geese, a subspecies of management concern known to winter primarily in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington. However, the hunting season for this subspecies is closed in this area, the potential for increased incidental take is expected to be small, and monitoring programs are in place to evaluate population status.

5. White-Fronted Geese

Council Recommendations: The Pacific Flyway Council recommended removal of the special goose season outside date restriction in Washington's Area 1.

Service Response: We agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation. Removing the restriction would change the hunting season framework dates for white-fronted geese from the Saturday nearest September 24 and the last Sunday in February to the Saturday nearest September 24 and March 10, consistent with the general framework for the Pacific Flyway. The current 3-year average predicted fall population estimate (2015–17) for the Pacific Population of greater white-fronted geese is 633,399, which is substantially above the Flyway population objective of 300,000. The Area 1 framework date restriction was implemented when the

local 3-year average snow goose count was below the 70,000 bird objective established in Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's management plan for Wrangel Island snow geese. The current 3-year average snow goose count (2015–17) is 83,175, and exceeds the threshold of 70,000 birds. Removing the framework date restriction for white-fronted geese in Washington's Area 1 will simplify regulations by matching the general framework dates for white-fronted geese in the Pacific Flyway.

6. Brant

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended that the 2018–19 season for Atlantic brant follow the Atlantic Flyway brant hunt plan pending the results of the 2018 Atlantic Flyway mid-winter waterfowl survey. The Council also recommended that if the results of the 2018 mid-winter survey are not available, then the results of the most recent mid-winter survey should be used.

Service Response: As we discussed 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 Mid-winter Waterfowl Survey (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 2018 brant production information (available summer 2018) nor the 2018 MWS count (conducted in January 2018) is yet available. However, the 2018 MWS will be completed and winter brant data will

be available by the expected publication of the final frameworks (late February 2018). Therefore, in the September 24, 2015, Federal Register (80 FR 57664), we adopted the Atlantic Flyway's changes to the then-current Atlantic brant hunt plan strategies. Current harvest packages (strategies) for Atlantic brant hunting seasons are now as follows:

- If the mid-winter waterfowl survey (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.

When we acquire the 2018 MWS brant count in January 2018, we will select the appropriate Atlantic brant hunting season for 2018–19 from the above Atlantic brant hunt strategies and publish the result in the final frameworks rule.

7. Snow and Ross's (Light) Geese

Council Recommendations: The Pacific Flyway Council recommended, in Washington, removing the special goose season outside date restriction in Area 1.

Service Response: We agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation. Removing the restriction would change the hunting season closing framework date for light geese from the last Sunday in February to March 10, consistent with the general framework for the Pacific Flyway. The Area 1 framework date restriction was implemented when the local 3-year average snow goose count was below the 70,000 bird objective established in Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's management plan for Wrangel Island snow geese. The current 3-year average snow goose count (2015–17) is 83,175, and exceeds the threshold of 70,000 birds. Three populations of light

geese occur in the Pacific Flyway, and all are above Flyway objectives based on the most recent breeding population indices. The population estimate for the Western Arctic Population (WAP) of lesser snow geese was 419,800 in 2013 (most recent estimate) on Banks Island, which is above the objective of 200,000 geese. Ross's geese were estimated at 624,100 in 2016 (most recent estimate) at Karrak Lake and are above the objective of 100,000 geese. The current 3-year average breeding population estimate (2015–17) for Wrangel Island snow geese is 297,333, which is above the objective of 120,000 geese. Current evidence suggests most light geese in Washington during fall and early winter are primarily Wrangel Island snow geese, but an influx of WAP lesser snow and Ross's geese may occur during late winter as birds begin to move north from California toward breeding areas. Removing the closing framework date restriction for light geese in Washington's Area 1 will simplify regulations by matching the general framework dates for light geese in the Pacific Flyway.

9. Sandhill Cranes

Council Recommendations: The Central and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended changing the framework season length for Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) cranes from 30 consecutive days to 60 days that may be split into segments. The Pacific Flyway Council recommended a maximum of three season segments, whereas the Central Flyway Council recommendation did not specify a maximum number of season segments. The Pacific Flyway Council further recommended establishment of a new hunting unit for RMP cranes in the Malad River area of Oneida County, Idaho, 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 Central and Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation to increase the season length for RMP cranes from 30 to 60 days and to allow the season to be split into segments. However, we will restrict the number of season segments to three, consistent with the Pacific Flyway recommendation. The change in season length and splits is intended to provide increased flexibility to States in addressing crop depredation concerns and cranes staging for longer periods. This change is not expected to result in harvest of RMP cranes above allowable levels because States are allocated a maximum allowable harvest annually

according to the harvest strategy specified in the Pacific and Central Flyway Council's RMP crane management plan. However, we note that increasing hunting opportunities likely will increase harvest and bring States closer to their harvest allocations. The Service, collaboratively with the States, will continue to monitor take levels to ensure that realized take remains within those allowed in the Flyway Councils' harvest strategy.

We also agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation to create a new hunting area for RMP cranes in Idaho to include a portion of Oneida County. The new hunting area is consistent with the hunting area requirements in the Pacific and Central Flyway Council's RMP crane management plan. Because this is a shared population between the Pacific and Central Flyways, the same recommendation should have come from the Central Flyway Council. Although we did not receive a formal recommendation from them, the Central Flyway Council has indicated to the Service that it supports the recommendation.

Regarding the 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 Atlantic 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 will be 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 is 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 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. We will produce a final estimate for the allowable harvest of RMP cranes and publish it in the final frameworks rule, allowing us to use data that is 1 to 3 years old, as is currently practiced.

14. Woodcock

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 2018–19 season is appropriate.

Specifics of the harvest strategy can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/surveys-and-data/webless-migratory-game-birds/american-woodcock.php>.

16. Doves

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils recommended use of the "standard" season framework comprising a 90-day season and 15-bird daily bag limit for States within the Eastern Management Unit (EMU). The daily bag limit could be composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination. They also recommended that the closing framework date for the EMU be changed from January 15 to January 31.

The Mississippi and Central Flyway Councils recommended the use of the "standard" season package of a 15-bird daily bag limit and a 90-day season for the 2018–19 mourning dove season in the States within the Central Management Unit.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended use of the "standard" season framework for States in the Western Management Unit (WMU) population of mourning doves.

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 2018–19 season.

22. Other

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended that Atlantic Flyway States be granted compensatory days for webless migratory game bird hunting beginning with the 2018–19 hunting season in States where Sunday hunting for migratory game birds is prohibited by a State law adopted prior to 1997

(Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania).

Service Response: We agree with the Atlantic Flyway Council's recommendation to allow compensatory days for all migratory game bird species in States where Sunday hunting is prohibited by State law. Compensatory days will provide additional hunting opportunity for dove, woodcock, rail, snipe, and gallinule hunters in those States, thereby assisting State agency efforts to retain hunters. We expect that the biological impacts of the additional hunting opportunity afforded by compensatory days will be minimal on snipe, rails, and gallinules, which are lightly hunted in the Atlantic Flyway. More than 88 percent of the mourning dove harvest in the Atlantic Flyway occurs during the first month of the season, and only 4 of the affected States have dove seasons; thus, adding compensatory days later in the dove season in those States will not increase the harvest significantly. Based on recent (2012–2016) estimates of woodcock harvested per day, the additional 7 woodcock hunting days (5 in New Jersey) in the affected States is expected to result in approximately 5,500 additional woodcock harvested, about 9 percent of the recent annual woodcock harvest in the Atlantic Flyway. If this additional harvest results in measurable adverse population impacts, the woodcock hunting season and harvest in the Atlantic Flyway will be adjusted in accordance with the woodcock harvest strategy, which is based on the population status of the species.

Public Comments

The Department of the Interior's policy is, whenever possible, to afford the public an opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process. Accordingly, we invite interested persons to submit written comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding the proposed regulations. Before promulgating final migratory game bird hunting regulations, we will consider all comments we receive. These comments, and any additional information we receive, may lead to final regulations that differ from these proposals.

You may submit your comments and materials concerning this proposed rule by one of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES**. We will not accept comments sent by email or fax. We will not consider hand-delivered comments that we do not receive, or mailed comments that are not postmarked, by the date specified in **DATES**.

We will post all comments in their entirety—including your personal identifying information—on <http://www.regulations.gov>. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments and materials we receive, as well as supporting documentation we used in preparing this proposed rule, will be available for public inspection on <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by appointment, during normal business hours, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia.

We will consider, but possibly may not respond in detail to, each comment. As in the past, we will summarize all comments we receive during the comment period and respond to them after the closing date in the preambles of any final rules.

Required Determinations

Based on our most current data, we are affirming our required determinations made in the August 3 and October 3 proposed rules; for descriptions of our actions to ensure compliance with the following statutes and Executive Orders, see our August 3, 2017, proposed rule (82 FR 36308):

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Consideration;
- Endangered Species Act Consideration;
- Regulatory Flexibility Act;
- Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act;
- Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995;
- Unfunded Mandates Reform Act;
- Executive Orders 12630, 12866, 12988, 13132, 13175, 13211, 13563, and 13771.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 20

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

The rules that eventually will be promulgated for the 2018–19 hunting season are authorized under 16 U.S.C. 703–712 and 16 U.S.C. 742 a–j.

Dated: January 16, 2018.

Jason Larrabee,

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

Proposed Regulations Frameworks for 2018–19 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 proposed 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, 2018, and March 10, 2019. 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 sport hunters, or both. In many cases (e.g., tundra swans, some sandhill crane populations), 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, 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 Waterfowl Hunting Days

Outside Dates: States may select 2 days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons. The 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. The 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, tundra 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: States may use their established definition of age

for youth hunters. However, youth hunters may not be over the age of 17. 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). Tundra swans may only be taken by participants possessing applicable tundra 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 seasons in Florida and Tennessee are experimental.

Iowa: In lieu of an experimental special September teal season, Iowa may

hold up to 5 days of its regular duck hunting season in September. All ducks that are legal during the regular duck season may be taken during the September segment of the season. The September season segment may commence no earlier than the Saturday nearest September 20 (September 22). The daily bag and possession limits will be the same as those in effect during the remainder of the regular duck season. The remainder of the regular duck season may not begin before October 10.

Waterfowl

Atlantic Flyway

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

Outside Dates: Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 22) and the last Sunday in January (January 27).

Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits: 60 days. The daily bag limit is 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which can be females), 2 black ducks, 2 pintails, 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 three 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, singly or in the aggregate, 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 50-day season may be held between October 10 and February 5, with a 3-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 50-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 2-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

A 60-day season may be held Statewide between October 1 and January 31, with a 2-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 50-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 2-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 50-day season may be held between October 10 and February 5, with a 3-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 50-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 27) and February 5, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

RP Zone: An 80-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 27) and February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

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 50-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 27), except in the Lake Champlain Area where the opening date is October 10, through February 5, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

Western Long Island RP Zone: A 107-day season may be held between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 22) and March 10, 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 27) and March 10, 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 22) 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 6) 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 27) and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

AP Zone: A 50-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 27) and February 5, with a 3-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 50-day season may be held between October 10 and February 5, with a 3-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 50-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 2-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 three segments.

Brant

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: States may select a season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 22) and January 31. States may split their seasons into two segments. The season length and daily bag limit will be based on the upcoming Mid-Winter Survey results and the Atlantic brant hunt plan.

Mississippi Flyway

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

Outside Dates: Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 22) and the last Sunday in January (January 27).

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, 2 pintails, 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 three 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 22) and the last Sunday in January (January 27).

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 8).

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, 2 pintails, 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 three 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 22) and the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 17). For light geese, outside dates for seasons may be selected between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 22) 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 22) and the last Sunday in January (January 27).

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, 2 pintails, 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 two segments.

Montana and New Mexico may split their seasons into three 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 22) and the last Sunday in January (January 27). 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, Oregon and Washington may select a 16-day season and California a 37-day season. Days must be consecutive. Washington and California may select hunting seasons for up to two 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 22) 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 22) 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 22) 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 27) should be concurrent with Oregon's South Coast Zone.

Oregon: The daily bag limit for light geese is 6 on or before the last Sunday in January (January 27).

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 22) 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 22) and March 10. The daily bag limit of Canada geese is 6. Hunting days that occur after the last Sunday in January (January 27) 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 22) and the first Sunday in February (February 3).

Washington: The daily bag limit for light geese is 6.

Areas 2A and 2B (Southwest Permit Zone): A Canada goose season may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 22) 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 five 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. Permits will be issued by the State and will authorize each permittee to take no more than 1 swan per season with each permit. Nevada may issue up to 2 permits per hunter. Montana and Utah may issue only 1 permit per hunter. Each State's season may open no earlier than the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 29). These seasons are also subject to the following conditions:

Montana: No more than 500 permits may be issued. The season must end no later than December 1. The State must implement a harvest-monitoring program to measure the species composition of the swan harvest and should use appropriate measures to maximize hunter compliance in reporting bill measurement and color information.

Utah: No more than 2,000 permits may be issued. During the swan season, no more than 10 trumpeter swans may be taken. The season must end no later than the second Sunday in December (December 9) or upon attainment of 10 trumpeter swans in the harvest, whichever occurs earliest. The Utah season remains subject to the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement entered into with the Service in August 2003, regarding harvest monitoring, season closure procedures, and education requirements to minimize the take of trumpeter swans during the swan season.

Nevada: No more than 650 permits may be issued. During the swan season, no more than 5 trumpeter swans may be taken. The season must end no later than the Sunday following January 1 (January 6) or upon attainment of 5

trumpeter swans in the harvest, whichever occurs earliest.

In addition, the States of Utah and Nevada must implement a harvest-monitoring program to measure the species composition of the swan harvest. The harvest-monitoring program must require that all harvested swans or their species-determinant parts be examined by either State or Federal biologists for the purpose of species classification. The States should use appropriate measures to maximize hunter compliance in providing bagged swans for examination. Further, the States of Montana, Nevada, and Utah must achieve at least an 80-percent hunter compliance rate, or subsequent permits will be reduced by 10 percent. All three States must provide to the Service by June 30, 2019, a report detailing harvest, hunter participation, reporting compliance, and monitoring of swan populations in the designated hunt areas.

Tundra Swans

In portions of the Atlantic Flyway (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 North Carolina, no more than 6,250 permits may be issued.
- In Virginia, no more than 750 permits may be issued.

In the Central Flyway

- The season may be 107 days, between the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 29) and January 31.
- In the Central Flyway portion of Montana, no more than 625 permits may be issued.
- In North Dakota, no more than 2,500 permits may be issued.
- In South Dakota, no more than 1,875 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 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 Kentucky and Tennessee.

Daily Bag Limit: 1 sandhill crane in Minnesota, 2 sandhill cranes in Kentucky, and 3 sandhill cranes in Tennessee. In 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) 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 quota;

B. In Arizona, monitoring the racial composition of the harvest must be conducted at 3-year intervals;

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

Common Moorhens and Purple Gallinules

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and the last Sunday in January (January 27) in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. States in the Pacific Flyway have been allowed to select their hunting seasons between the outside dates for the season on ducks, mergansers, and coots; therefore, 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 27) 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 two 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 22) 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 two 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 two 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 two 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 two zones. The season within each zone may be split into not more than three periods. 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 two zones. The season within each zone may be split into not more than three periods.

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 three zones subject to the following conditions:

A. The hunting season may be split into not more than two periods, 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 two periods. 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 two periods, 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 in each of 5 zones. The season may be split without penalty in the Kodiak Zone. The seasons in each zone must be concurrent.

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 five 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 authorized per permit.

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

D. In State Game Management Unit 18, 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 Larson 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 3.

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 two segments.

Daily Bag Limits

Ducks: Not to exceed 6.

Common Moorhens: Not to exceed 6.

Common Snipe: Not to exceed 8.

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 days for Zenaida doves.

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.

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

Falconry is a permitted means of taking migratory game birds in any State meeting Federal falconry standards in 50 CFR 21.29. These 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 in each State listed in 50 CFR 21.29. 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 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 Eric-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 U.S.-96 junction, then east on Federal highway U.S.-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 Federal highway U.S.-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 with 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 seven 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, that portion of Gunnison County outside 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 and the Moffat-Routt County line (Elkhead Reservoir State Park).

Western Zone: The remainder of the Pacific Flyway portion of Colorado 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

Zone 1: 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.

Zone 2: 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 Route 91 in Hartford, and then extending south along Route 91 to its intersection with the Hartford-Middlesex County line.

Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (AFRP) Unit: Starting at the intersection of I-95 and the Quinnipiac River, north on the Quinnipiac River to its intersection with I-91, north on I-91 to I-691, west on I-691 to the Hartford County line, and encompassing the rest of New Haven County and Fairfield County in its entirety.

NAP H-Unit: All of the rest of the State not included in the AP or AFRP descriptions above.

South Zone: Same as for ducks.

Maine

Same zones as 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 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 line.

New Hampshire

Same zones as for ducks.

New Jersey

AP Zone: North and South Zones (see duck zones).

RP 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 Route 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 Co. 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 SJBZ 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.

SJBZ 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.

SJBZ 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 Rt. 64 to Route 15, then south along Rt. 15 to the North Carolina line.

RP Zone: The remainder of the State west of the SJBZ 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.

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 Robert Road; then west along Robert 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.

Kentucky

Northeast Goose Zone: Bath, Menifee, Morgan (except the portion that lies within the Paintsville Lake Wildlife Management Area) and Rowan Counties except that no goose hunting is permitted on public land (U.S. Forest Service) and water within the block of land lying inside the boundaries of Hwy 801, Hwy 1274, Hwy 36, Hwy 211, Hwy 60, and Hwy 826.

Western Goose Zone: The Western Goose Zone includes Henderson County

and the portion of Kentucky west of U.S. 60 from the Henderson-Union County line to U.S. 641; U.S. 641 to Interstate 24; Interstate 24 to the Purchase Parkway; and the Purchase Parkway.

Remainder of State: The remainder of Kentucky outside the Northeast and Western Goose Zones.

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 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

Northwest Goose Zone: Lake, Obion, Weakley, and Dyer Counties, excluding that portion south of State Highway 104; and Gibson County, excluding that portion south of State Highway 104 and west of U.S. Highways 45 and 45W.

Remainder of State: That portion of Tennessee outside of the Northwest Goose Zone.

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 but in addition:

Horicon Zone: That portion of the State encompassed by a boundary beginning at the intersection of State 23 and State 73 and moves south along State 73 until the intersection of State 73 and State 60, then moves east along State 60 until the intersection of State 60 and State 83, and then moves north along State 83 until the intersection of State 83 and State 33 at which point it moves east until the intersection of State 33 and U.S. 45, then moves north along U.S. 45 until the intersection of U.S. 45 and State 23, at which point it moves west along State 23 until the intersection of State 23 and State 73.

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 and San Luis Valley Area: All of Alamosa, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Custer, Fremont, Lake, Park, Rio Grande, and Teller 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 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, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Clark, Codington, Grant, Hamlin, Deuel, 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; McPherson, Edmunds, Kingsbury, Brookings, Lake, Moody, Miner, Faulk, Hand, Jerauld, Douglas, Hutchinson, Turner, Aurora, Beadle, Davison, Hanson, Sanborn, Spink, Brown, Harding, Butte, Meade, Oglala Lakota (formerly Shannon), Jackson, Mellette, Todd, Jones, Haakon, Corson, Ziebach, and McCook 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.

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 seven 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.

Southern Zone: boundary includes Beaver, Carbon, Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Juab, Kane, Millard, Piute, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier, Wayne, and Washington Counties, and that part of Tooele County south of I-80.

Northern Zone: The remainder of Utah not included in the East Box Elder County, Wasatch Front, and Southern Zones.

Washington

Area 1: Skagit, Island, and Snohomish Counties.

Area 2A (Southwest Permit Zone): Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties, and that portion of Grays Harbor County east of Highway 101.

Area 2B (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: Those portions of Box Elder, Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, and Toole Counties lying west of I-15, north of I-80, and south of a line beginning from the Forest Street exit to the Bear River National Wildlife Refuge boundary; then north and west along the Bear River National Wildlife Refuge boundary to the farthest west boundary of the Refuge; then west along a line to Promontory Road; then north on Promontory Road to the intersection of SR 83; then north on SR 83 to I-84; then north and west on I-84 to State Hwy. 30; then west on State Hwy 30 to the Nevada-Utah State line; then south on the Nevada-Utah State line to I-80.

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: Remainder of 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

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, Torrance, and Bernalillo 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 west of U.S. 281.

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

Regular Season Open Area: Campbell, Converse, Crook, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte, and Weston Counties.

Special Season Open Areas
Riverton-Boysen Unit: Portions of Fremont County.

Park and Big Horn County Unit: All of Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie Counties.

Johnson, Natrona, and Sheridan County Unit: All of 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.

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 along 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 (Warm Springs Portion of Deer Lodge County): 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 Lake, 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 (Ovando-Helmville Area): 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 (Dillon/Twin Bridges/Cardwell Areas): Beaverhead, Gallatin, Jefferson, and Madison Counties.

Zone 4 (Broadwater County): 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 (Bear River): All of the Bear River and Ham's Fork River drainages in Lincoln County.

Area 2 (Salt River Area): All of the Salt River drainage in Lincoln County south of the McCoy Creek Road.

Area 3 (Eden Valley Area): All lands within the Bureau of Reclamation's Eden Project in Sweetwater County.

Area 5 (Uintah County Area): 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

junction 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. 2018-02112 Filed 2-1-18; 8 45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333-15-P

Mason Cline
Bird Program Manager
Wildlife Management Division
NMDGF

Ellery Worthen

Mason,

I believe that one main thing came out of the Migratory Bird Rule Meeting in Albuquerque, the necessity of having an introductory course on migratory game bird identification and ethics. Most hunters don't know what they have killed until it is in their hands, if then.

I cannot stress enough, the total lack of basic hunting and shooting skills I have seen, particularly at La Joya. We get there at 4 AM in order to get the spot we want, only to have someone move in us just before shooting time, and set up 40 yards away after we have asked them not to. All of the offenders aren't necessarily new hunters. Perhaps there should be a section in the regulations stating common sense waterfowl hunting ethics that are expected of all hunters.

Thanks to Brandon Ferguson for suggesting a course for waterfowl identification and new hunter information.

I am a lifelong hunter, bird watcher, and naturalist with a good knowledge of southwest plants and animals. I would be glad to help with any course you come up with.

La Joya:

I'm glad to see that there are plans to rework the WMA and make more hunter opportunities. I have hunted there most of my life and probably wouldn't go there if I didn't like to hunt diving ducks so much. I would like to know what is actually going to happen. Do you have any definite plans for the renovation?

I have been against having La Joya become a draw hunt with established blinds, but I see no other way to have a quality hunt there. As it is, there are too many hunters in too small a space that cannot call, sky bust, stand out in the middle of the pond to hunt, encroach on other hunters, etc. There has to be a way to either have a draw with assigned blinds and have standbys, or some other way (to only to be able to hunt on odd or even days, or hunt on only certain weeks)that wouldn't be a law enforcement nightmare , or take too many personnel. Instead of having blinds, there could be areas assigned.

Thank you for listening.

E.W.

EXHIBIT

6

Cline, Mason, DGF

From: Hart Boucher
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2018 7:16 PM
To: DGF-Waterfowl
Subject: Proposed changes to Migratory Bird

Dear Sirs:
The link in notification does not work.
Therefore one cannot view proposed changes.

Cline, Mason, DGF

From: R Leslie
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 8:55 AM
To: DGF-Waterfowl
Subject: Migratory game bird, turkey hunting rules topics of public meetings

Please provide link. I am not able to locate the information on the web site.
Thank you.

Rayner Leslie

Cline, Mason, DGF

From: Scott Carleton
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2018 12:19 PM
To: DGF-Waterfowl
Subject: Broken link

The link you provided to review the proposal doesn't work. FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Cline, Mason, DGF

From: Randy
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:01 AM
To: DGF-Waterfowl
Subject: Migratory game bird proposal

Other than:

For migratory game birds, the department is proposing incorporating the federal recommendations on migratory bird seasons, and adjusting season dates for calendar dates.

I could not find any other details regarding the proposal, it was not under "Proposals Under Consideration".

Please clarify,
Thanks,
Randy Creighton

Cline, Mason, DGF

From: Fanning, Jerry >
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 12:15 PM
To: DGF-Waterfowl
Subject: Suggested change

The Department should develop a plan to allow waterfowl and sandhill crane hunting on the W.S. Huey Area as was done in the past.

Historically the area was hunted on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from ½ hour before sunrise to 1:00pm.

I believe that this plan was a part of the Pecos Valley Waterfowl plan that was written in the 1990's?

This can be done but, will take some effort on the Departments part to insure it complies with Federal regulations.

With no hunting of the area, waterfowl and cranes stay on the Huey and provide very little opportunity for hunting.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jerry D. Fanning, Jr.

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Cline, Mason, DGF

From: Randy
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 5:40 PM
To: Cline, Mason, DGF
Subject: Re: Migratory game bird proposal

Hello Mason,

I could not make the meeting in ABQ last week. Regarding the duck season proposal, I am strongly in favor of the "status quo", which is basically the proposal as stands. Very similar to last year just adjusted for calendar dates.

So the south central zone would close on the last Sunday in January, with the season opener determined by the maximum number of season days allowed, after accounting for 2 youth days and the 9 day teal season.

Please let me know if there are any significant changes in the works, or being considered.

Thanks,
Randy Creighton

From: Cline, Mason, DGF <Mason.Cline@state.nm.us>
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 1:10 PM
To: Randy
Subject: RE: Migratory game bird proposal

Hi Randy, thanks for pointing that out,

Mason Cline, Bird Program Manager
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-476-8161
Mason.Cline@state.nm.us

From: Randy
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 12:48 PM
To: Cline, Mason, DGF
Subject: Re: Migratory game bird proposal

Hello Mr. Cline,

Thanks for the update. Just fyi I'm nearly certain that the Central Flyway south should open on Wednesday Oct. 24 (not 23). That was the season structure last year (Oct 25-Jan28) and the year before (Oct 26-Jan29);

when closing on the last Sunday in January and counting back max# days the season starts on a Wednesday in Oct. That's assuming the teal season length and youth days are the same.

Good to see pintail limit go back up.

Thanks,
Randy

From: Cline, Mason, DGF <Mason.Cline@state.nm.us>
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:37 AM
To: Randy
Subject: RE: Migratory game bird proposal

Hi Mr. Creighton,

Please find this information here:

<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/proposals-under-consideration/>



Proposals Under
Consideration -
New Mexico
Department of

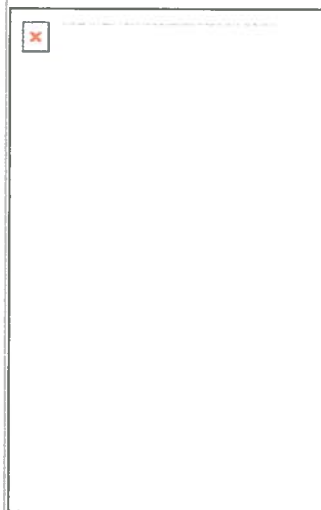
...

www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Documents are
available from the
Department of Game &

Proposals Under Consideration - New
Mexico Department of ...

www.wildlife.state.nm.us



New Mexico
Department of
Game and Fish -
NMDGF

www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Conserving New
Mexico's wildlife for
future generations.
Hunting, Fishing, OHV,
Recreation,

Fish for public comment. We encourage participation. Also see information on Hunting Rule Development.

Conservation, Education, Enforcement, and Game Commission news.

Documents are available from the Department of Game & Fish for public comment. We encourage participation. Also see information on Hunting Rule Development.

Apologies for any confusion,

Mason Cline, Bird Program Manager
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-476-8161
Mason.Cline@state.nm.us

From: Randy
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:01 AM
To: DGF-Waterfowl
Subject: Migratory game bird proposal

Other than:

For migratory game birds, the department is proposing incorporating the federal recommendations on migratory bird seasons, and adjusting season dates for calendar dates.

I could not find any other details regarding the proposal, it was not under "Proposals Under Consideration".

Please clarify,
Thanks,
Randy Creighton

Cline, Mason, DGF

From: David
Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2018 10:52 AM
To: Cline, Mason, DGF
Subject: Re: Waterfowl

Spoke to an avid duck hunter. His comment, not all duck hunters hunt geese. From my experience ducks can usually be brought into a goose spread but not the other way around. Getting a goose while hunting ducks is a plus. Usually I normally set up for either ducks or geese as do most outfitters I've hunted with in Canada. As stated earlier I believe the geese get here after the ducks. I don't think it will matter much to most if you change things, your call.

David

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 24, 2018, at 11:03 AM, Cline, Mason, DGF <Mason.Cline@state.nm.us> wrote:

Hi David,

I've been looking into this more, and it wouldn't affect the light goose conservation order. But, if we went this direction with moving the dark goose season later, it would mean that dark goose and duck wouldn't open on the same day in the Central Flyway, which might be unpopular with some hunters. I'll keep looking into possibilities.

Thanks,

Mason Cline, Bird Program Manager
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-476-8161
Mason.Cline@state.nm.us

From: David [[mailto](mailto:)]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:32 PM
To: Cline, Mason, DGF
Subject: Re: Waterfowl

Mason,
I'd start the Canada season later. If I'm out after ducks and a goose flew by I'd like a shot at it. Split season, some might not keep up on the dates. I've never been a big fan of split dates. Think there may be fewer Cans early anyway. Would moving it back impact the snow goose conservation order?

Thanks for the work on the check stations.

Dave

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 20, 2018, at 9:57 AM, Cline, Mason, DGF <Mason.Cline@state.nm.us> wrote:

Hi David,

I appreciate you coming to the meeting. I'm looking into pushing the Canada dates back if possible. I think we have some flexibility there, but we might have to start later or have a season split. What are your thoughts on that?

Regarding the crane check station, I'm working on forgoing it in favor of bill cards. In February, when I presented the idea to folks at the Flyway meeting, they were generally receptive. I've got to do a little more work on this to make sure everything is in order, I'll keep you posted.

Best,
Mason

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: David <David@state.nm.us>

Date: 3/17/18 6:07 PM (GMT-07:00)

To: "Cline, Mason, DGF" <Mason.Cline@state.nm.us>

Subject: Waterfowl

Mason,

Thanks for the meeting you put together the other night in Albuquerque.

A friend asked about extending the Canada goose season to match that of other states, I'm unfamiliar with their dates. If extended would it cause our season to start later?

Any word on doing away with the check station this year in the Estancia Valley and going back to the mail in cards?

Wasn't sure why some of those folks were so long winded, they seem to keep you from going thru your program in a timely manner.

Thanks again,
Dave Gilmore

Sent from my iPad

Cline, Mason, DGF

From: David
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 12:48 PM
To: Cline, Mason, DGF
Subject: Canada Goose Season

Mason,

After discussion with other hunters, with rare exception, most believe that pushing back the start of the Canada Goose season would be a good decision. Most felt that the migrating Canadas arrive later and stay later than the ducks. As stated earlier ducks and geese are different and to hunt them different set ups are required. One individual said he saw large flocks at Sumner Lake after mid February while fishing. If neighboring states are hunting them later it can't be all that detrimental.

I'll await to see how it all works out.

Regards,
David

Sent from my iPad

Cline, Mason, DGF

From: Chuck Biller
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 8:36 AM
To: Cline, Mason, DGF
Cc: David Stambaugh
Subject: RE: Desert fowlers on Facebook

Morning Mason,

When I raised the issue at the meeting, I had a couple of thoughts in mind.

How do we expand (think extend) the dark goose opportunity we have here in the **MRGV**? You and I both referenced that Colorado central flyway hunts dark geese until mid Feb. You mentioned that you weren't sure why the season was just a 25 day session. I think is stemmed for the Mitchusson days when we went from no season in the MRGV to what we have now.

My question was can we extend into Feb for MRGV without impacting other seasons (namely central flyway dark geese outside MRGV)?

I mentioned my concern of extending the dark goose season run over top of the Snow Goose Conservation order beginning Feb 1 every year here in NM.

My question was are many folks chasing Snows after Feb 1 and what it successful? My thought would be no on both accounts but that is just my own data collection. As a follow on, was there anything in the works to improve the opportunity for Snow goose harvest during the CO in the MRGV? We all know that is a very difficult task and has proved unsuccessful over the years. No lack of trying.

All that being said, it really comes down to would MRGV hunters rather chase dark gees for a couple more weeks every year or continue on with the Feb 1 CO hunt in place currently. As this comes with the assumption that season and dates would come into alignment with flyway guidelines.

Honestly, I'm not sure Dave Gilmore understood my reference/ thoughts/ questions at the meeting. I'm not clear on what his purpose is with his posting.

Not sure I answered your question but I just wanted to be clear on my thoughts 😊

Have a good one!

Chuck

CHUCK BILLER
DIRECTOR
WESTERN REGION



From: Cline, Mason, DGF [<mailto:Mason.Cline@state.nm.us>]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 7:57 AM
To: Chuck Biller
Subject: RE: Desert fowlers on Facebook

Hi Chuck,

Thanks for letting me know, I've been looking into this possibility.

One of my concerns is breaking away Central Flyway regular dark goose season from the duck season dates, because the dates align now. We're at our maximum dark goose days, so I'd have to shift the start date back, too. Do you see this as an issue?

Thanks,

Mason Cline, Bird Program Manager
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-476-8161
Mason.Cline@state.nm.us

From: Chuck Biller
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2018 12:44 PM
To: Cline, Mason, DGF
Subject: Desert fowlers on Facebook

Mason,

The convo I launched about the MRGV dark goose season is getting some airtime. Thought you might want to know. Not sure if you are a facebook guy or not. I am not. I use my son's account 😊

Anyway just thought I would give you a heads up.

Stambaugh is the admin on the page

Hope all is well with you

chuck

CHUCK BILLER
DIRECTOR
WESTERN REGION



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Cline, Mason, DGF

From:
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2018 1:03 PM
To: Cline, Mason, DGF
Subject: Re: Migratory Bird regulations

I believe it said the season would be shortened 4%.
I'm glad you're working on a class. If ethics could be slid in into an ID course, it might mitigate conflicts that end up in shouting matches. I don't believe that anyone has ever told most waterfowlers that that you don't move in on someone who has already set up. I don't know if you'll ever convince someone to leave 200yards on either side of setup hunter in order to let the hunter call dusks. Another thing, most duck hunters can't use a duck call. I'd gladly do a demo.

From: "Mason Cline, DGF" <Mason.Cline@state.nm.us>
To:
Sent: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 12:03:54 PM
Subject: RE: Migratory Bird regulations

Hi Ellery,

Thanks for writing. What do you mean by shorten the season, exactly?

I'm working with our Information and Education division to see about getting a waterfowl ID course going. I think that you and the other folks at the Alb. meeting had good points about the need to educate waterfowl hunters.

Thanks again,

Mason Cline, Bird Program Manager
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
505-476-8161
Mason.Cline@state.nm.us

From:
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 6:15 PM
To: Cline, Mason, DGF
Subject: Migratory Bird regulations

Mason, I got a letter from the Department on the waterfowl regulations change. It looks like the proposal is the same as you laid out the meeting. Just curious, why shorten the season? Do you think that the idea of a waterfowl I.D. course has any chance? What have the people you have spoken to in the Department have to say about it? I believe it would alleviate some of the

conflicts, if there were an ethics component in the class. Besides, what's the difference if you raise the pintail limit to two, if they don't what they are shooting at in the first place?

I was at Pond 5 at La Joya , during teal season several years ago, when I came upon two guys without waders staring at a dead duck in the middle of the pond. I asked them if they would like me to send my dog after it. They said yes, and I sent my dog. As the dog returned I saw it was a hen shoveler. I took it from the dog ,gave it to them, and one said "Huh, a hen mallard" Unfortunately, that's all too common.

Thanks.

Ellery E. Worthen

**MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION
Thursday June 21, 2018
Raton Convention Center
901 S. 3rd St.
Raton, NM 87740
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

A P P E A R A N C E S

Chairman Paul Kienzle

Vice Chairman Bill Montoya

Game Commissioner Thomas Salopek

Game Commissioner Craig Peterson

Game Commissioner Ralph Ramos

Game Commissioner Bob Ricklefs

Game Commissioner Elizabeth Ryan

A B S E N T

None

[Audio begins here-Roll call]

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ramos

COMMISSIONER RAMOS: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ryan.

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Ricklefs.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Commissioner Salopek.

COMMISSIONER SALOPEK: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Vice Chairman Montoya.

VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA: Here.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Chairman Kienzle.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Present.

DIRECTOR SANDOVAL: Chairman Kienzle, I believe we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Public Rule Hearing, Hearing Item Number 1a. This is an informational portion. Rule making hearing on final rule changes on the Turkey Rule 19.31.16 NMAC for the 2019-2023 Hunting Seasons. Give me a moment to collect my thoughts here while I butcher this. This hearing will please come to order. My name is Paul Kienzle. I'm the Chairman of the State Game Commission. I will be serving as the Hearing Officer and be advised by the Commission's Council from the office of the Attorney General. The purpose of this hearing is for consideration of the Commission, by the Commission for the final adoption of the following proposed rules. I think I'm going to do both of these together this time and we'll vote on them rather than splitting them up. First hearing item is for the

Commission to receive public comment on proposed new Turkey Rule Title 19, Chapter 31, Part 16 of the New Mexico Administrative Code which will become effective April 1, 2019. The current Turkey Rule is set to expire on March 31, 2019. The second hearing item is for the Commission to receive public comment on proposed new Migratory Bird Rule, Title 19, Chapter 31, Part 6 of the New Mexico Administrative Code which will become effective on September 1, 2018. The current Migratory Bird Rule has expired on March 31, 2018. This hearing is being conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Game and Fish Act and the State Rules Act. The hearing is being audio tape recorded. Anyone interested in a copy of the audio tape should contact Sandra, waving her hand, with the Game and Fish --well, State Game Commission rather than the Game and Fish Commission. Public notice of this hearing was advertised in the New Mexico Register, the Albuquerque Journal and the Santa Fe New Mexican, in New Mexico Sunshine Portal, and on the Department's website. Copies of the proposed new rules have been available on the Department's Website and at the Department office. Those here today, if you're going to speak -- do we have any comment cards on this? On any of these? Mikaela [Phonetic]? No? None. Those here today wishing to speak on this, please sign the Attendance Sheet at the back of the room which will later be entered into the record as an exhibit. This rule hearing will be conducted in the following manner. Staff will present pre-filed exhibits. Exhibits admitted into evidence are available for review by the public but exhibits may not be removed from this room. After all exhibits are entered we will proceed to the presentation of the proposed rule. Afterwards testimony will be taken from the audience, sort of. We don't really have an audience today. In order to ensure that the hearing is accurately recorded, only one person at a time shall be allowed to speak. Any person recognized to speak is asked to identify themselves by name, who they're affiliated with for the record each time you are recognized to speak, and speak loud

and clearly so the recorder can accurately record your comments. After a person has offered comment, they will stand for questions from the Hearing Officer and other Commissioners. The audience may also ask questions of anyone offering comments after being recognized by the Hearing Officer. This hearing is not subject to judicial rules of evidence, however, in the interest of efficiency, I reserve the right to eliminate any testimony deemed irrelevant, redundant or unduly repetitious. The Commission may discuss the proposed rules after the public comment portion of the hearing. Final Commission action, including adoption of the rules, may occur after the conclusion of the presentation and public comment period of the hearing. Let's see. We'll do the two informational parts and then we will close it and we'll get to it. So Item Number 1: Rule Making Hearing on Turkey Rule 19.31.6 NMAC for the – I'm sorry, 16 NMAC for the 2019-2023 Seasons. This hearing is now open. Are there any exhibits for proposed new part and rule to 19.31.16 for the record?

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Hearing Item Number 2, the informational portion rulemaking hearing on final rule changes on the Migratory Bird Rule 19.31.6 NMAC for the 2018-2019 seasons. I'm pleased we're getting to this early instead of late. This hearing is now open. Are there any exhibits for proposed amendments to Rule 19.31.6 for the record?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, we'd like to enter six exhibits. Exhibit 1, the Notice of the Rulemaking; Exhibit 2, the Initial Proposed Rule; Exhibit 3, the Presentation being presented today; Exhibit 4, the Summary of the Proposed Changes; Exhibit 5, the Technical Information we relied upon to develop the Rule; and Exhibit 6, the 15 Public Comments received as of the close of the comment period.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Exhibits 1 through 6 are admitted into the record. Would you please introduce the proposed new rule for 19.31.6?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, as we've gone through in the previous two meetings, we adjust the rule annually based on the federal framework set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Those federal frameworks were published in June of 2018, so this rule will correspond with the final frameworks that were published in the rule. The changes that did happen was moving the Youth Sandhill Crane Season later into the year to take advantage of later migratory birds; changed the regular season dates according to the federal frameworks, and luckily, this year we were able to receive an increase in our pintail bag limit from one to two based upon the federal frameworks. Real quick, we received 15 public comments on this rule through the making. Three public meetings. Really, most of it was things out of the control of the Department and goes back to the federal frameworks, and we relay that back to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service every year on it. Some of it would like to see some later duck season hunts and dates. By Federal Law, we must close the last Sunday of January by hunting. So we will work with the Federal Government. There is a bill in Congress right now to maybe make it to where it goes a little bit later. So it almost takes congressional action to change hunting seasons for water fowl. So just so you guys know, it's not as easy of a task. Real briefly, these are the hunting dates that are proposed and that were set forth in the Federal Register and approved by the federal law that will coincide on our hunt dates in New Mexico for goose, dove in the central flyway, and duck. Our Sandhill Crane allocation, we were under allocation last year, so we were able to up some of our hunts. Our middle Rio Grande Valley, we have to report the actual take of individual birds. This season's structure shall allow some increase success rates but still maintain our allowable take as set by the Federal Government. Specific flyway, these were the dates that were set forth in the Federal Register as well. This will correspond in our rule and adopted if adopted today. With that, I would take any questions.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: There's no public comment. Any questions or comments from Commissioners?

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: I notice Manner and Method is in this rule. Is that a federal requirement?

STEWART LILEY: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Ricklefs, the reason Manner and Method is in that rule is the season starts September 1st. The Commission will not have approved a new Manner and Method Rule before this rule has to take effect, so that's why. Next year when we open this rule, we'll propose removing Manner and Method from it.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any other questions or comments? Any other exhibits anyone wants to enter into the record at this time? We'll do No. 7, which is the blank sign-in sheet. Exhibit 7 is admitted into the record. I don't think we've got anything further. Everyone present is on the Attendance Sheet. Yes? No? If you haven't signed it, speak up now. At this time, the Attendance Sheets, they've already been marked as Exhibit 7 for both hearings. Comments submitted and testimony heard during this Rule Hearing will be reviewed by the Commission and discussed during open session of today's meeting. The Commission will vote on the proposed rules at that time. Thank you for being here. Let the record show that this Rulemaking Hearing was adjourned at 12:41.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Can I get a motion on Item 2a, please?

COMMISSIONER RYAN: Mr. Chairman, I 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.

COMMISSIONER RICKLEFS: Second.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: All in favor?

COMMISSIONERS: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KIENZLE: Any opposed? None opposed.

NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION

Thursday, June 21, 2018
Raton Convention Center
901 S. 3rd Street
Raton, NM 87740
9:00 a.m. –5:00 p.m.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION**

Alexandra Sandoval, Director and Secretary

Date

Paul M. Kienzle III, Chairman
New Mexico State Game Commission

Date

AS/scd