From: BRIAN and MELLY LOCKE
To: DGF-Waterfowl
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comment Proposed Changes Migratory Game Bird 19.31.16 NMAC
Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025 5:05:07 PM

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First, I agree with the changes and hope the Commission will approve.

I suggest the SW Crane hunt could be expanded more. It's my impression that the majority of those birds harvested are not of the "Greater" population, but primarily "Lesser" sandhills. I haven't drawn the hunt in a while, but I noticed the change from the first few years I hunted, to last times I drew.

I don't know if the Department is still collecting the bill lengths, etc. for the SW hunt. But if so maybe the flyway council would accept a higher quota for that hunt?

And, of course, thanks to the Dept. for all their good work! Great privilege to hunt in NM.

Sincerely
Brian Locke
575-640-1884
Las Cruces, NM

From: Chuck Biller
To: DGF-Waterfowl
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pintails proposed from one to three?
Date: Thursday, April 17, 2025 6:09:01 PM
Attachments: image001.png

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That seems a bit extreme. Two sounds more than reasonable

Just saw this today

Hope all is well with you Mason

Chuck

Chuck Biller
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From:	Maresa Luzier
To:	Sloane, Michael B., DGF
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Sandhill Crane hunt quotas
Date:	Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7:38:42 PM
Attachments:	Maresa-Pryor-Luzier-black-email.png 13a 2803b 73777.jpg IMG_1160.jpeg 13a 3702s14870.jpg

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Dear Director Sloan:

We are a bit concerned with the bag limits for Sandhill cranes and hunting areas near Bernardo, since I and other professional wildlife photographers conduct photo tours in December-January. Concerns from our clients who have seen bloody birds flying or gun shots at sunrise on the north ponds of the NWR close to Bernardo. We even had a day closed at the Bernardo photo blind pond where we take clients to photograph at dawn due to hunting on the Northside of US 60. For a decade or longer, a lot of money has come into New Mexico for Crane photography during those dates. You have the International Crane Festival the second week in December where thousands of photographers descend onto the Bosque del Apache NWR, and is imperative to Socorro's tax base. These people only come to see and photograph the Sandhill cranes, and all or most of them go to Bernardo. So taking 1000+ birds seems like a lot of birds when bird populations are declining in big numbers.

Last year one photography group was at the Bernardo ponds when the hunting began on the North side of Sevillita National Wildlife Refuge. This sent all the birds roosting into the air before the sun had risen. I had shown up right when it happened and the air was filled with birds. It was a no go morning for everyone. Which is disappointing when you have paying customers. Plus, this gives hunting a negative impression with these people. So, later we drove to the refuge to see when the hunting days were so, we would not take clients on those days. I recommend these hunting dates for the north ponds of the NWR be on the Bernardo website. Also, please consider closing the hunting area north of US 60 the same week as the International Crane Festival. It attracts people from all over the world, and has been noted as the "top ten places for bird photographers" to come and photograph the Sandhill Cranes. I myself met someone at Bernardo from England last year who was totally smitten.

I'd also like to mention we lose birds each year to the power lines in the Bernardo WMA. I've enclosed a photo of a bird either shot or injured, and some of the safety precautions which should be taken there certainly along the entrance to the first overlook. As you probably know they make the large balls as well. A number of dead birds were shown on Facebook last year at Bernardo. They are usually in the areas noted above.

We hope you will consider this information on hunting quotas, power lines, and areas of concern near Bernardo WMA.

Sincerely,

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"Documenting wildlife behavior since 1980"