

# **Migratory Game Bird**

## **19.31.6 NMAC**

**August 28, 2014**

**New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting**

**Santa Fe, NM**



# Public Meetings

## General Public Meetings: April - May

Las Cruces

Silver City

Alamogordo

Carlsbad

Raton

Santa Fe

Farmington

Albuquerque

## Mig. Game Bird Public Meetings: August

Albuquerque

Farmington



# Public Comment

## 49 public comments to date

- 7 regarding Bernardo Pond Unit
- 7 regarding lack of access to hunting areas
- 5 suggestions for new hunts
- 3 suggestions for season changes
- Additional comments including support for Eurasian Collared-Dove changes, unethical behavior complaints, and water issues.



## **Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC**

ADJUST according to calendar and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) frameworks.

ADD: “ADJUSTMENT OF LICENSES, PERMITS, AUTHORIZATIONS, AND HARVEST LIMITS: Director’s authority, with the verbal concurrence of the chairman or his designee, to adjust the number of licenses, permits, authorizations, or harvest limits, up or down by no more than 20%.

# Sandhill Crane

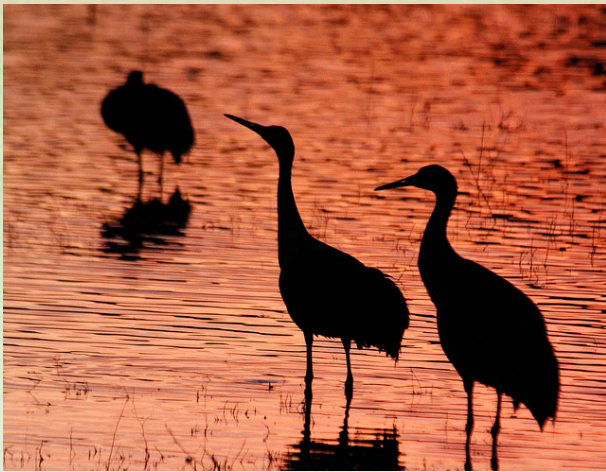
**Two populations of sandhill cranes winter in NM**

Rocky Mountain Population (RMP)

Greater Sandhill Cranes

Mid-Continent Population (MCP)

Lesser and Canadian Sandhill Cranes



M. Watson



## Sandhill Crane

### Allowable harvest

- 3-year average of crane survey counts, recruitment, brood size
- calculation set by the cooperative Flyway (Central and Pacific) management plan
- Survey indices down for the 4 of the last 6 years.
- 2013 fall recruitment was 20% below the long-term average



## Sandhill Crane

Greater sandhill crane allocation decrease from 248 last season to 217 for the 2014-2015 season.

Propose a reduction in permits for 3 hunts.



J. Stuart



# Permit Reductions

<b>season dates</b>	<b>hunt code</b>	<b>hunt location</b>	<b>no. of permits</b>
October 26-27	SCR-0-101	MRGV	70
October 26- November 3	SCR-0-102	EV	65
November 16-17	SCR-0-103	MRGV	50
November 30-December 1	SCR-0-104	MRGV	<del>45</del> 40
October 26-November 3	SCR-0-105	SW	<del>70</del> 60
January 11-12, 2014	SCR-0-106	MRGV	<del>45</del> 40
January 4-5, 2014	SCR-0-107	SW	45
November 9	SCR-0-109	MRGV youth	24





## Director's Authority

Add authorization to cancel one or more hunts if the harvest is expected to exceed our federal allocation of greater sandhill cranes.



Mitchusson



## Dove

Adjust dove season in the south zone to allow for hunting on fall public school break.

<b>South Zone Seasons</b>	<b>Expected Dates</b>	<b>Proposed Dates</b>
Early	Sept 1 - Oct 9	Sept 1 - Oct 13
Late	Dec.1 - 31	Dec.5 - 31



## Dove

Remove Eurasian Collared-Dove  
from Migratory Game Birds 19.31.6  
NMAC.



© Terry Sohl



# Central and Pacific Flyways

Adjust snipe season to allow for hunting after duck season ends.

<b>Expected Dates</b>	<b>Proposed Dates</b>
Oct 12-Jan 26	Oct 25-Feb 8



## Central Flyway

**September teal:** season  
increases by 1 week  
(Sept. 13-28)

**Canvasback:** 1-bird bag limit



# Pacific Flyway

**White-fronted Goose:** bag limit  
increase from 6 to 10

**Canvasback:** 1-bird bag limit



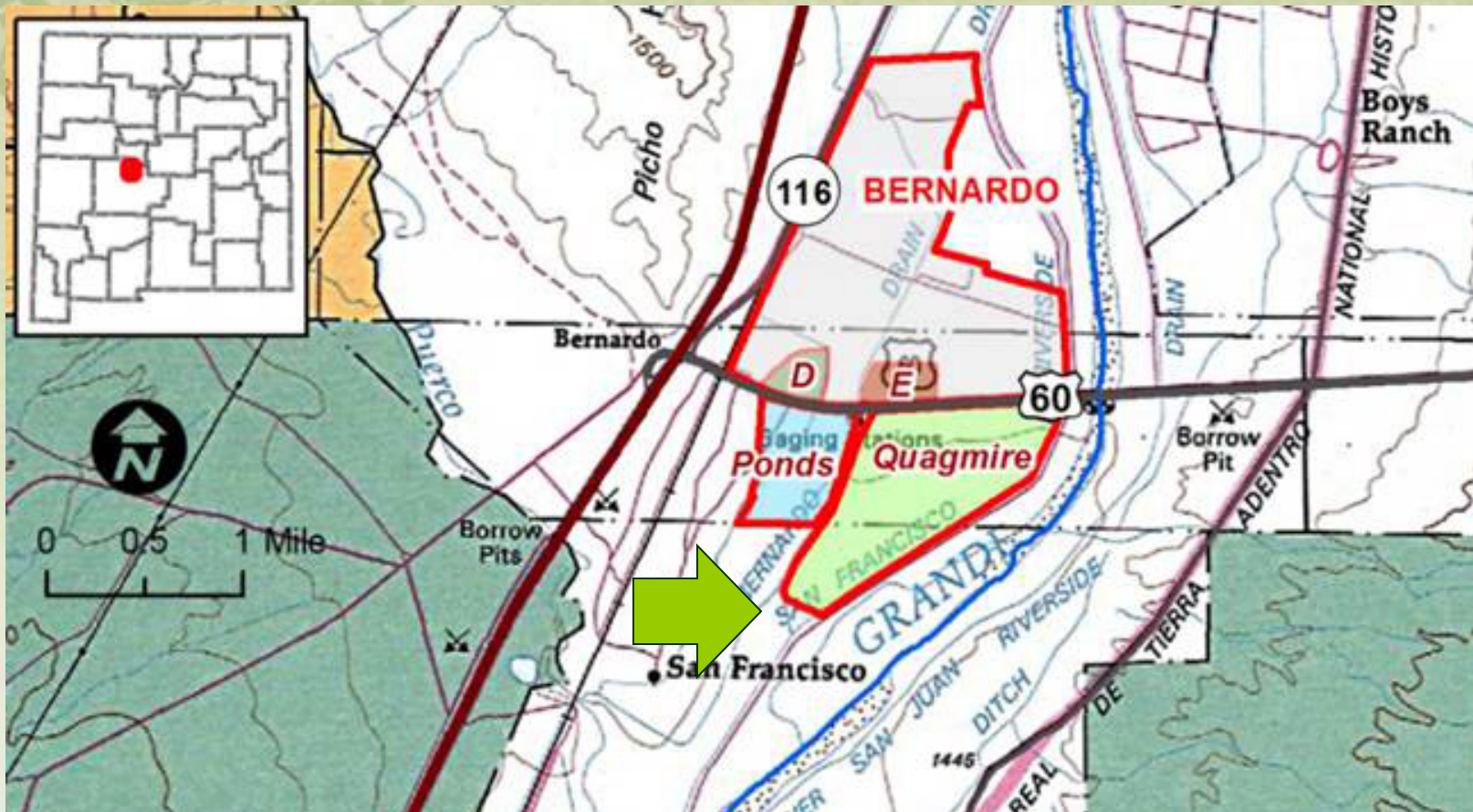


## **Bernardo youth hunt change**

Eliminate December 24 and 26 youth waterfowl hunts on Bernardo, and open up to general hunting for these dates.



# Bernardo WMA planned new youth hunt area





*Questions?*

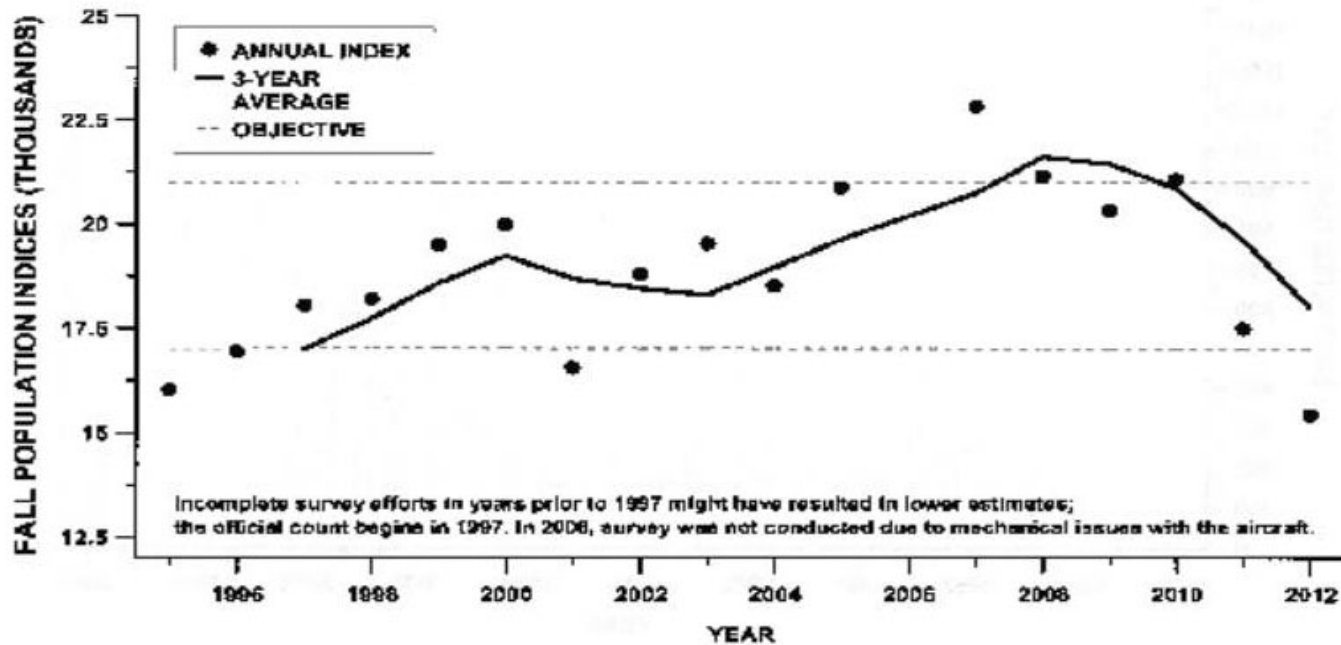


# Amend: Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC Sandhill Cranes

<b>New Mexico Crane Harvest and Hunter Participation</b>				
<b>Zone</b>	<b>MRGV</b>	<b>EV</b>	<b>SW</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
# Permits Available	234	65	115	414
# Permits Issued	234	65	105	404
# Reported Active Hunters	159	34	56	249
<b>Estimated Harvest</b>				
Active Hunters	251	49	90	390
Days Hunted	304	110	21	440
Adult Cranes Killed	258	30	57	343
Immature Cranes Killed	41	14	16	72
Unknowns Killed	27	0	2	28
Retrieved Harvest	326	44	75	443
Unretrieved Kill	33	0	2	34
Total estim. crane harvest	359	44	77	477

# Migratory Game Bird 19.31.6 NMAC RMP Cranes

Figure 19. Annual and three-year average of fall pre-migration abundance indices for the Rocky Mountain Population of sandhill cranes.



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## Band-tailed Pigeon Update

- Concern over Interior Population of band-tailed pigeon.
- Pacific Flyway reduced bag limit in 2013.
- Central Flyway believes more rigorous data is needed.
- Service Regulations Committee requested that the two Flyways develop harvest strategy.
- Meeting in CO in October to begin discussions.

