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ARCHIVES DIVISION
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 635
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FILED
02/26/2026 3:08 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Amendments Regarding Harvest of Game Birds, Season Dates, Open Areas, Bag Limits and Regulations

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 04/24/2026 5:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

CONTACT: Roxann Borisch
503-947-6314
roxann.b.borisch@odfw.oregon.gov

4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

Filed By:
Roxann Borisch
Rules Coordinator

HEARING(S)

Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 04/24/2026

TIME: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

OFFICER: ODFW Commission

IN-PERSON HEARING DETAILS

ADDRESS: Lincoln City Cultural Center, 540 NE Hwy 101, Lincoln City, OR 97367

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

This hearing will be conducted as a hybrid meeting, providing an opportunity to give testimony either in person or virtually. Additional information regarding participation will be posted on our website at www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/. The meeting can be viewed at www.youtube.com/user/IEODFW. Any changes to the meeting format (to virtual only if emergency arises) will be posted to our website as soon as possible.

NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

Amend rules regarding the harvest of game birds, including 2026-2027 season dates, open areas, regulations, and bag limits. Also amends rules regarding regulations for areas owned, managed, or controlled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Specifically, current Big Game Hunting Regulations and Game Bird Hunting Regulations are inconsistent regarding restrictions for hunting game mammals with a firearm during game bird hunting seasons at Summer Lake Wildlife Area. This proposed rule amendment will clarify that hunters are prohibited from hunting game mammals with a firearm at Summer Lake Wildlife Area during pheasant, quail, or waterfowl hunting seasons rather than all game bird seasons.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

1. Staff report prepared for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission hearing on 4/24/2026, including the presentation and all provided materials.

A copy of the rules and the other documents relied upon for this rulemaking [the above document(s)] are available from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Division, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97302-1142. Contact Roxann Borisch at 503-947-6314 or Roxann.B.Borisch@odfw.oregon.gov to view by appointment between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., on normal working days, Monday through Friday.

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

The Department has solicited input from representatives of underrepresented communities likely to be affected on whether the proposed rule will have a fiscal impact on the community, the extent of the fiscal impact, and whether the rules will have significant impact on underrepresented communities. <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/OARs/index.asp>

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Rules are proposed to set the 2026-2027 seasons for upland and migratory game birds in accordance with the proposed upland game bird season framework for September 1, 2025 to August 31, 20230 and this year's federal frameworks for migratory game bird seasons. Proposed game bird season and wildlife area rules will also describe general hunting regulations and open areas.

Fiscal and economic impacts discussed in this document pertain only to the proposed rules at the time of the writing of this fiscal impact statement.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s).

State agencies which could be affected by rules relating to game bird hunting seasons are the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for wildlife management costs and license sales revenues and the Oregon State Police (OSP) for enforcement costs. ODFW does not expect any significant changes to expenditures as a result of these changes.

No units of local government are expected to be affected by these rules. No significant changes from the current levels of any local agencies' operations or expenditures are expected as a result of these particular rules.

The public is affected by rules relating to game bird hunting seasons. Various sectors of the public economy (hunters, suppliers of hunting equipment, and the general economy) can experience different impacts, though no significant impacts are expected to result from proposed rule changes/updates.

Annual hunting trip and equipment expenditures associated with migratory bird hunting and upland bird hunting (excluding turkey hunting) in Oregon were an estimated \$73.7 million (2025\$) and \$72.4 million (2025\$), respectively, in 2006 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2008 and International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 2007). Annual retail sales associated with wild turkey hunting were approximately \$15.8 million in 2006, \$25.8 million when adjusted to December 2025\$(1) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2008). The 2006 USFWS survey results are used here because the 2011 USFWS survey utilized a smaller sample size than in 2006 and, as a result, the sample size for expenditures for

migratory bird hunting was too small (less than 10) to report data reliably. While there are USFWS 2022 survey results released, that survey does not have information on game bird hunting at a statewide level. The total (direct, indirect and induced) effects on personal income in the areas surrounding the game bird hunting areas (and statewide) are the result of purchases of goods and services made by sportspeople. Through the "multiplier process", there is an increase in overall economic activity and personal income in the general economy associated with the retail sales made to hunters.

The rules relating to game bird hunting seasons could be viewed as reducing positive economic impacts in the short run, compared to an unrestricted situation. However, conservation through the use of a seasonal framework is intended to perpetuate these wildlife resources at optimal levels in the long run. Failure to restrict harvest of game birds to allow escapement for reproduction would result in severe adverse economic effects in the future. The proposed regulations attempt to strike a balance, which will sustain wildlife population levels and maintain future benefits.

References

BLS. (2026, February 19). U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved from CPI Inflation Calculator : https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. 2007. Economic Importance of Hunting in America. Washington, DC.

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, Oregon State Report. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

(1)The National Survey groups wild turkey with the big game category. The \$15.8 million estimate was made by prorating big game expenditures in direct proportion to the number of wild turkey hunting days in the field estimated in the survey. The estimate is somewhat uncertain because of the small sample size of turkey hunters in the survey.

(2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); The types of businesses subject to the rule are those that supply goods or services to game bird hunters. These may include taxidermy services, hunting guides, private hunting preserve operators, food and beverage stores, gasoline stations, sporting goods stores, general merchandise stores, accommodation businesses, food services and drinking places. Game bird hunting occurs in myriad locations throughout the state and thus the number of small businesses subject to the rule cannot be estimated.

(b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s);

No additional compliance costs are anticipated in relation to the 2026-2027 Game Bird rules.

(c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

No additional compliance costs are anticipated in relation to the 2026-2027 Game Bird rules.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Does not apply to this notice.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

An Administrative Rules Advisory Committee was not consulted. The rules are believed to be fully compatible with legislative direction on the goals of wildlife management in Oregon.

These rules, which administer existing programs and hunting seasons, are amended annually in a public forum; interested and affected persons are generally aware of this annual rulemaking schedule. Correspondence from and testimony by interested and affected persons is accepted into record as part of the rulemaking process. These regulation proposals do not vary significantly from rules previously in effect.

RULES PROPOSED:

635-008-0155, 635-045-0000, 635-051-0000, 635-052-0000, 635-053-0000, 635-054-0000, 635-060-0000

AMEND: 635-008-0155

RULE SUMMARY: These amended rules will establish Oregon's 2026-2027 hunting seasons for game birds in a manner to maintain their numbers at optimum levels and prevent their serious depletion while providing optimum recreational benefits for present and future generations of Oregon's citizens. Additionally, amends rules specific to areas owned, managed, or controlled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Proposed amendments to Summer Lake Wildlife Area rules will improve consistency between the Big Game Hunting and Game Bird Hunting regulations in regards to restriction on hunting game mammals with a firearm during some game bird hunting seasons. The Commission may decide to adopt staff recommended proposed rule and rule amendments as proposed in attachment 3, or the Commission may decide to modify the proposed rules or not adopt some or any of the proposed rule amendments.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-008-0155

Summer Lake Wildlife Area (Lake County) ¶¶

The Summer Lake Wildlife Area is open to wildlife-oriented public use compatible with the goals and objectives contained in the 2007 (updated 2021) Summer Lake Wildlife Area Management Plan unless otherwise excluded or restricted by the following rules: ¶¶

- (1) Posted Refuges are closed to all entry during any waterfowl hunting season authorized at the Wildlife Area and during the seven days prior to opening day of the Zone 2 duck season, except to retrieve lawfully taken wildlife. Motor vehicle access along the Wildlife Viewing Loop, which goes through a posted refuge, is permitted except during any waterfowl season authorized at the wildlife area and during the seven days prior to opening day of the Zone 2 duck season. ¶¶
- (2) Entering any portion of the Wildlife Area south of Thousand Springs Lane (Lake County Road 4-17), except the Foster Place unit and open roads and campgrounds, seven days prior to Zone 2 waterfowl season (see game bird regulations for specific dates) is prohibited. ¶¶
- (3) Discharging firearms is prohibited except as authorized during game bird and game mammal hunting seasons, between September 1 and January 31 and during the Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl hunt. ¶¶
- (4) Discharging firearms into and hunting in posted refuges, campgrounds and safety zones is prohibited. ¶¶
- (5) Centerfire rifles and handguns are prohibited for game mammal hunting except on that portion of the wildlife area west of Hwy. 31. ¶¶
- (6) No person shall hunt game mammals with a firearm east of Hwy. 31 during any ~~game bird~~ pheasant, quail or waterfowl hunting seasons open on the wildlife area. ¶¶
- (7) No person shall possess or use any shot other than federally-approved nontoxic shot at any time, except for big game hunters using buckshot or slugs. ¶¶
- (8) No person shall leave decoys set out overnight (8 pm to 4 am). ¶¶

(9) All hunters must obtain a daily hunt permit (available at Headquarters 1.3 miles south of the town of Summer Lake) which must be possessed at all times by users. Daily permits for 2 consecutive days are allowed. Check-out at the end of the day or following 2 consecutive days is required.¶¶

(10) Trapping is prohibited.¶¶

(11) Motorized vehicle travel is only allowed on open roads, campgrounds or parking areas. ¶¶

(12) Bullgate and Windbreak dikes and the Work Road are closed to motor vehicles from March 15 to August 15, during any waterfowl season authorized at the Wildlife Area, during the three days prior to any youth waterfowl hunting days and during the seven days prior to opening day of the Zone 2 duck season.¶¶

(13) Operating boats with gas-powered motors is prohibited.¶¶

(14) Camping or leaving vehicles unattended is prohibited except on areas designated for that use, and shall not exceed a total of 14 days during any 30 day period, ¶¶

(15) ODFW Wildlife Area Parking Permit required.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146

AMEND: 635-045-0000

RULE SUMMARY: These amended rules will establish Oregon's 2026-2027 hunting seasons for game birds in a manner to maintain their numbers at optimum levels and prevent their serious depletion while providing optimum recreational benefits for present and future generations of Oregon's citizens. Additionally, amends rules specific to areas owned, managed, or controlled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Proposed amendments to Summer Lake Wildlife Area rules will to improve consistency between the Big Game Hunting and Game Bird Hunting regulations in regards to restriction on hunting game mammals with a firearm during some game bird hunting seasons. The Commission may decide to adopt staff recommended proposed rule and rule amendments as proposed in attachment 3, or the Commission may decide to modify the proposed rules or not adopt some or any of the proposed rule amendments.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-045-0000

Purpose ¶¶

- (1) The purpose of these rules is to list definitions pursuant to hunting seasons for big game and game birds.¶¶
 - (2) The documents entitled "~~2025~~-2026 Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations," and "2026 Oregon Big Game Regulations", are incorporated by reference into these rules. These documents are available at hunting license vendors and regional, district and headquarters offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶¶
- [Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]
Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-051-0000

RULE SUMMARY: These amended rules will establish Oregon's 2026-2027 hunting seasons for game birds in a manner to maintain their numbers at optimum levels and prevent their serious depletion while providing optimum recreational benefits for present and future generations of Oregon's citizens. Additionally, amends rules specific to areas owned, managed, or controlled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Proposed amendments to Summer Lake Wildlife Area rules will to improve consistency between the Big Game Hunting and Game Bird Hunting regulations in regards to restriction on hunting game mammals with a firearm during some game bird hunting seasons. The Commission may decide to adopt staff recommended proposed rule and rule amendments as proposed in attachment 3, or the Commission may decide to modify the proposed rules or not adopt some or any of the proposed rule amendments.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-051-0000

Purpose ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish dates, areas and other restrictions for hunting game birds pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶¶

(2) The document entitled "2025~~6~~-2026~~7~~ Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations," is incorporated by reference into these rules.¶¶

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-052-0000

RULE SUMMARY: These amended rules will establish Oregon's 2026-2027 hunting seasons for game birds in a manner to maintain their numbers at optimum levels and prevent their serious depletion while providing optimum recreational benefits for present and future generations of Oregon's citizens. Additionally, amends rules specific to areas owned, managed, or controlled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Proposed amendments to Summer Lake Wildlife Area rules will to improve consistency between the Big Game Hunting and Game Bird Hunting regulations in regards to restriction on hunting game mammals with a firearm during some game bird hunting seasons. The Commission may decide to adopt staff recommended proposed rule and rule amendments as proposed in attachment 3, or the Commission may decide to modify the proposed rules or not adopt some or any of the proposed rule amendments.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-052-0000

Purpose ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, areas, bag limits, and other restrictions for migratory upland game birds pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶¶

(2) The document entitled "2025~~6~~-2026~~7~~ Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations," is incorporated by reference into these rules.¶¶

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-053-0000

RULE SUMMARY: These amended rules will establish Oregon's 2026-2027 hunting seasons for game birds in a manner to maintain their numbers at optimum levels and prevent their serious depletion while providing optimum recreational benefits for present and future generations of Oregon's citizens. Additionally, amends rules specific to areas owned, managed, or controlled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Proposed amendments to Summer Lake Wildlife Area rules will to improve consistency between the Big Game Hunting and Game Bird Hunting regulations in regards to restriction on hunting game mammals with a firearm during some game bird hunting seasons. The Commission may decide to adopt staff recommended proposed rule and rule amendments as proposed in attachment 3, or the Commission may decide to modify the proposed rules or not adopt some or any of the proposed rule amendments.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-053-0000

Purpose ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas and other restrictions for hunting upland game birds pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶¶

(2) The document entitled "2025~~6~~-2026~~7~~ Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations," is incorporated by reference into these rules.¶¶

~~(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of the 2025-26 Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations, the 2025 Sage-grouse controlled hunt permit numbers for the controlled hunt areas listed on page 21 and Table 1 (see attached table) are as follows:¶¶~~

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-054-0000

RULE SUMMARY: These amended rules will establish Oregon's 2026-2027 hunting seasons for game birds in a manner to maintain their numbers at optimum levels and prevent their serious depletion while providing optimum recreational benefits for present and future generations of Oregon's citizens. Additionally, amends rules specific to areas owned, managed, or controlled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Proposed amendments to Summer Lake Wildlife Area rules will to improve consistency between the Big Game Hunting and Game Bird Hunting regulations in regards to restriction on hunting game mammals with a firearm during some game bird hunting seasons. The Commission may decide to adopt staff recommended proposed rule and rule amendments as proposed in attachment 3, or the Commission may decide to modify the proposed rules or not adopt some or any of the proposed rule amendments.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-054-0000

Purpose ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to establish season dates, bag limits, areas and other restrictions for hunting ducks, geese, coots, Wilson's snipe and crow pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.¶¶

(2) The document entitled "2025~~6~~-2026~~7~~ Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations," is incorporated by reference into these rules.¶¶

[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

AMEND: 635-060-0000

RULE SUMMARY: These amended rules will establish Oregon's 2026-2027 hunting seasons for game birds in a manner to maintain their numbers at optimum levels and prevent their serious depletion while providing optimum recreational benefits for present and future generations of Oregon's citizens. Additionally, amends rules specific to areas owned, managed, or controlled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Proposed amendments to Summer Lake Wildlife Area rules will to improve consistency between the Big Game Hunting and Game Bird Hunting regulations in regards to restriction on hunting game mammals with a firearm during some game bird hunting seasons. The Commission may decide to adopt staff recommended proposed rule and rule amendments as proposed in attachment 3, or the Commission may decide to modify the proposed rules or not adopt some or any of the proposed rule amendments.

CHANGES TO RULE:

635-060-0000

Purpose and General Information ¶¶

(1) The purpose of these rules is to describe the requirements and procedures for controlled hunts pursuant to ORS Chapter 496.162.¶

(2) The documents entitled "~~2025~~-2026 Oregon Game Bird Hunting Regulations," and "2026 Oregon Big Game Regulations," are incorporated by reference into these rules. These documents are available at hunting license agents and regional, district, and headquarters offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. ¶
[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 496.012, 496.138, 496.146, 496.162