

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) has authority and responsibility for upland game bird management within the state. Upland game bird seasons are based on a framework approved by the Commission in 2004 and in effect from September 1, 2005 through August 31, 2010. Public comments were used in setting the final framework. The framework is renewed every five years based on internal recommendations and public comments.

In the U.S., preeminent authority and responsibility for migratory game bird management lies with the Secretary of the Interior and is derived from international treaties to which the U.S. Constitution specifies that only the Federal government can be signatory. Federal authority is legislated by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and its amendments. Countries involved in bilateral migratory bird treaties with the U.S. include Canada, Mexico, Japan, and the Russian Commonwealth. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the lead federal agency for migratory game bird management.

The USFWS actively cooperates with other countries and states in the management of migratory game birds. Management in the U.S. and Canada is coordinated through a Flyway concept. Flyways are administrative units that describe migration routes and distribution of migratory birds. Oregon is part of the Pacific Flyway.

Through various Flyway committees and Councils, states provide season recommendations to the USFWS annually. Federal frameworks (allowed days, bag limits, shooting time, etc.) are then proposed by a USFWS Regulations Committee, and then approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and these frameworks provide guidance to states in selection of seasons. States cannot legally be more liberal than established frameworks but can be more conservative.

However, Federal frameworks for most migratory game bird species for the 2009-10 seasons were not available at the time of this packet preparation. **A supplemental packet containing staff proposals for most migratory game bird seasons will be forthcoming.**

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Questions from other interested persons, including the news media, were answered.
- Upland Game Bird Frameworks were created through a public process.
- Migratory Game Bird Season proposals are sent to interested parties and an established email list.

ISSUE 1

Recommendations for 2009-2010 Game Bird Seasons; available permits for Sage-grouse, Fall Turkey Controlled Hunts, Dove and Pigeon seasons, Pheasant Hunting Workshop, Western Oregon Fee Pheasant Hunt, and Youth Hunting Opportunities.

ANALYSIS

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed season dates, bag and possession limits, and other regulations related to the 2009-2010 game bird hunting seasons, including:

Dove and Pigeon Seasons

Frameworks and recommendations are unchanged from last year.

Snipe and Coot Seasons

No recommendation is presented at this time.

Duck Seasons

No recommendation is presented at this time.

Falconry Seasons

No changes in seasons are recommended.

Goose Seasons

No recommendation is presented at this time.

Public Hunting Opportunities

Staff will provide recommendations on the Regulated Hunt Area Program, pheasant hunting workshop, and youth hunting opportunities.

Western Oregon Fee Pheasant Hunt

Minor date changes are recommended for this popular program.

Sage Grouse Seasons

Season length and bag limit proposed as adopted in framework. Staff will provide recommended number of permits by wildlife management unit.

Turkey Seasons

Staff will provide recommendations for expanded fall turkey hunting in western Oregon.

2009-2010 Oregon Game Bird Regulations

Staff will provide recommendations on wording changes to general hunting regulations and to falconry

OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations.
2. Modify staff recommendations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1. Adopt staff recommendations.

ISSUE 2

Recommendations for 2010-2015 Upland Game Bird Framework.

ANALYSIS

2010-2015 Upland Game Bird Framework

Staff will provide recommendations for the 2010-2015 Upland Game Bird Framework. The current Upland Game Bird Framework expires after the 2009-2010 season

OPTIONS

1. Adopt staff recommendations
2. Modify staff recommendations

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1. Adopt staff recommendations.

DRAFT MOTION	I move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 008, 045, 051, 052, 053, 054 and 060 as proposed by staff to set regulations for 2009-2010 game bird seasons and to approve the 2010-2015 Upland Game Bird Framework
EFFECTIVE DATE	Upon filing