

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission have 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 2014 and in effect from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2020. Public comments were used in setting the final framework. The framework is renewed every 5 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 2015-16 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.
- Comments about game bird regulations were welcomed at 21 public meetings across the state this past May.
- Upland Game Bird seasons based on a 5-year framework developed through a public process in 2014.
- Migratory Game Bird Season proposals are sent to interested parties and an established email list.

**ISSUE 1**

Recommendations for 2015-2016 Game Bird Seasons and hunting regulations; available permits for Sage-grouse, Fall Turkey Controlled Hunts, Pheasant Hunting Workshops, Western Oregon Fee Pheasant Hunts, and Special Workshops or Youth Hunting Opportunities.

**ANALYSIS**

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed season dates, bag and possession limits, and other regulations related to the 2015-2016 game bird hunting seasons, including:

**Sage-Grouse Seasons**

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

**Special and Youth Upland Game Hunting Opportunities**

Staff will provide recommendations for pheasant hunting workshops and youth hunting opportunities.

**Falconry Seasons**

**No changes in seasons are recommended**

**Dove and Pigeon Seasons**

Frameworks and recommendations for mourning dove and band-tailed pigeons are unchanged from last year.

**Duck Seasons**

No recommendation is presented at this time.

**Goose Seasons**

No recommendation is presented at this time.

**Snipe and Coot Seasons**

No recommendation is presented at this time.

**OPTIONS**

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

**STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1

**DRAFT MOTION**

I move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 045, 051, 052, 053, 054, and 060 as proposed by staff to set regulations for 2015-2016 game bird seasons.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

August 7, 2015