

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 proposed by a USFWS Regulations Committee and then approved by the Secretary of the Interior. These frameworks provide guidance to states in selection of seasons, such that states cannot legally be more liberal than established frameworks but can be more conservative.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Questions from other interested persons, including the news media, were answered.
- Comments about game bird regulations were welcomed at 20 public meetings across the state in May 2016.
- Upland game bird seasons based on a 5-year framework were 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 2017-2018 Game Bird seasons and hunting regulations.

ANALYSIS

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed season dates, bag and possession limits, and other regulations related to the 2017-2018 game bird hunting seasons, including:

Sage-Grouse Seasons

Season length and bag limit proposed as adopted in framework. Permit numbers for 2017 will be adopted by temporary rule in early August after population and production surveys are completed.

Special and Youth Upland Game Hunting Opportunities

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

Falconry Seasons

Recommendations for falconry seasons are unchanged from last year.

Dove and Pigeon Seasons

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

Youth Waterfowl Season

Recommendations for youth duck season are unchanged from last year.

Duck Seasons

Staff will provide a recommendation that the daily bag limit for pintails be reduced to one bird per day.

Goose Seasons

Staff will provide a recommendation that the shooting hours for goose hunting during the Northwest Permit Zone goose season be expanded to sunrise to sunset.

Snipe and Coot Seasons

Recommendations for snipe and coot seasons are unchanged from last year.

Retrieval & Waste of Game Birds

Staff will provide a recommendation to revise the regulation for waste of game birds to improve enforceability and provide clarity of what constitutes waste.

Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area

Proposal to implement open area date changes on Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area that would increase access to lands east of Foothill Road. This is primarily intended to increase elk harvest to help address distribution, achieve herd management objectives, and reduce damage to neighboring private lands. The proposed changes would also make the language consistent in the game bird and big game regulations.

OPTIONS

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

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1

DRAFT MOTION	I move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 008, 045, 051, 052, 053, 054, and 060 as proposed by staff.
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Upon Filing