2017-18 Proposed Upland Game Bird Regulations

Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
April 21, 2017, Klamath Falls, Oregon
Dave Budeau
Upland Game Bird Coordinator
Upland Game Bird Regulations

- Brief Overview: Population Status, Harvest Surveys
- Regulation Framework
- Fall Turkey Seasons
- Special Hunting Opportunities: Youth Hunts, Hunting Workshops, Fee Pheasant Hunt
- Controlled Hunt for Sage-grouse
2017-18 Upland Game Bird Outlook

Population Status

- Too early for fall population forecasts
- Populations have been increasing
- Higher overwinter mortality in some areas
- Significant precipitation and snow pack will help
- Habitat conditions should be good this spring
- Even average conditions will be positive
Upland Game Bird Framework

- In third year of upland game bird framework
- Established through public process
- Basis for Regulation Framework
  - Annual variation in populations is normal
  - Hunting effort is largely self-regulating
  - Hunting mortality small part of annual mortality
# 2017-18 Upland Game Bird Season Proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upland Game Birds</th>
<th>Open Area</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Blue&quot; and Ruffed Grouse</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Sep. 1 – Jan. 31</td>
<td>3 each species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chukar and Hungarian (Gray) Partridge</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Oct. 7 – Jan. 31</td>
<td>8 (except Lower Klamath Hills = 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rooster Pheasant</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Oct. 7 – Dec. 31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Quail</td>
<td>Western Oregon</td>
<td>Sep. 1 – Jan. 31</td>
<td>10 in aggregate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern Oregon counties</td>
<td>Oct. 7 – Jan. 31</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Quail</td>
<td>Western Oregon, Hood River and Wasco counties</td>
<td>Sep. 1 – Jan. 31</td>
<td>10 in aggregate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crook, Gilliam, Grant, Klamath, Morrow, Umatilla, Wallowa, and Wheeler cos</td>
<td>Oct. 7 – Jan. 31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remaining Eastern Oregon counties</td>
<td>NO OPEN SEASON</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Turkey – General</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Apr. 15 – May 31</td>
<td>1 (season limit 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Turkey – General Western Oregon</td>
<td>17 W. Oregon Wildlife Management Units.</td>
<td>Oct. 15 – Dec. 31</td>
<td>1 (season limit 1 or 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Turkey – General Blue Mountains</td>
<td>12 E. Oregon WMUs</td>
<td>Oct. 7 – Dec. 31</td>
<td>1 (Season limit 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Turkey – General Northeast</td>
<td>13 E. Oregon WMUs</td>
<td>Oct. 7 – Dec. 31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eastern Oregon Fall Turkey Hunts

- Expand open area for Blue Mountain General Fall
  - Add Maury, Ochoco, and Grizzly WMUs
  - Increase tags from 500 to 600

- Add Mt Emily WMU to Northeast General Fall

- No changes to season length, or bag limits

- Hunters allowed two western fall tags, or one eastern and one western Oregon fall turkey tag
### 2017 Proposed Youth Hunts for Pheasants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HUNT AREA</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>HUNTER LIMITATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baker City (private land)</td>
<td>Sept. 23 &amp; 24</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denman Wildlife Area</td>
<td>Sept. 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area</td>
<td>Sept. 23 &amp; 24</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fern Ridge Wildlife Area</td>
<td>Sept. 09 &amp; 10</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigon Wildlife Area</td>
<td>Sept. 23 &amp; 24</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Day (private land)</td>
<td>Sept. 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klamath Wildlife Area</td>
<td>Sept. 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area</td>
<td>Sept. 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Columbia (near The Dalles)</td>
<td>Sept. 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauvie Island Wildlife Area</td>
<td>Sept. 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Oregon (Near Prineville)</td>
<td>Sept. 09 &amp; 10</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Special Hunting Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HUNT AREA</th>
<th>DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fern Ridge Wildlife Area</td>
<td>September 11 – October 8, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauvie Island Wildlife Area</td>
<td>September 18 – October 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denman Wildlife Area</td>
<td>September 18 – October 6, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area</td>
<td>October 1 – October 31, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2017 Proposed Pheasant Hunting Workshops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HUNT AREA</th>
<th>DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fern Ridge Wildlife Area</td>
<td>September 2 &amp; 3 (Family Workshops)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauvie Island Wildlife Area</td>
<td>September 9 &amp; 10 (Family Workshops)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area</td>
<td>September 16 &amp; 17 (Family Workshops)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Status of Sage-grouse

- 2016 breeding population increased 14% over 2015
- 3rd consecutive year of increase
- 2016 Juvenile/hen ratio 1.5, LTA of 1.5
- 2016 Juveniles in harvest was 46%, LTA of 47%
- 2017 Lek surveys wrapping up this month
- Expect breeding population to be stable or down slightly
- Habitat conditions should be much improved
Controlled Sage-grouse Season

- **Season Dates:** Sep 9 - 17
- **Open Area:** 9 Wildlife Mgmt Units*
- **Daily/Season Bag Limit:** 2 sage-grouse
- **Application Deadline:** Aug 21, 2017

Will adopt permit #'s by temporary rule in early August

*Proposed closure of Whitehorse WMU west of Hwy 95 and south of Whitehorse Rd. No permits offered in 12 other WMUs with sage-grouse.*
Questions?
Migratory Game Birds

2017/18 Hunting Season and Regulation Proposals
For Consideration by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
April 21, 2017
Presentation Overview

- Regulation setting process
- Status quo seasons
- Season and bag limit change proposals
- Other regulation change proposals
Decision Making Processes

- Hunting frameworks established by the USFWS in consultation with the Flyways
- Adaptive Harvest Management
  - Western Mallard Model
  - Pintail, scaup, canvasback, mourning dove, and band-tailed pigeon harvest strategies
- Many hunting regulations are also federal rule
Season and Bag Limit Proposals

Most Unchanged from Last Year
Status Quo Seasons and Bag Limits

- Mourning Dove
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Coot
- Wilson’s Snipe
- September Canada Goose
- General Goose
  - Except Northwest Permit Zone
- Brant
- Crow
Duck Season and Bag Limits

- Seasons status quo
- Pintail reduced to 1/day
  - National Harvest Strategy continues to be a high priority for Pacific Flyway
Northwest Permit Zone

- Major changes made in 2015
  - Well received by the public
  - No significant enforcement issues noted
  - Propose liberalizing shooting hours to sunrise to sunset
    - 15 minutes earlier & later
    - Still more restrictive than regular seasons
Other Regulations

Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area
Waste Regulation – Definition of Edible Portions
Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area

- Lands East of Foothill Road
  - Currently only open to hunting during pheasant, quail, partridge, and waterfowl seasons
    - Generally, early October – January 31
  - Commission allowed big game hunting in this area August 1 – January 31 beginning in 2017
  - Propose allowing game bird hunting during this timeframe
    - Makes regulations consistent and adds opportunity for mourning dove hunting
Waste of Game Birds

- Waste means to allow any edible portion of any game bird to be rendered unfit for human consumption, or to fail to retrieve edible portions except internal organs of such game birds from the field.

- But what are edible portions?
  - Does size of the bird matter?
  - Do I have to keep the legs?
  - Do I have to keep the wings?
Initially considered breast, legs, and thighs
  • Solicited input from Oregon State Police and hunters
  • Modified to “at a minimum the meat of the breast”

Waste means to allow any edible portion of any game bird to be rendered unfit for human consumption, or to fail to retrieve game birds from the field. “Edible portions” of game birds means, at a minimum, the meat of the breast associated with the sternum.
Edible Portions cont.

- Department still encourages hunters to utilize as much as possible from the birds they harvest
  - Approximate boneless meat yield from a goose
    - Breasts: 55% – 61%
    - Wings to first joint and back fillets: 14% – 16%
    - Thighs: 13% – 16%
    - Legs: 11% – 13%
  - Chukar
    - Breasts: 55%
    - Wings to first joint and back fillets: 8%
    - Legs and thighs: 37%
Recent discussions have identified a need for a possible clarification of the rule regarding retrieval.

All game birds killed or crippled must be retrieved immediately, if possible, and kept by the hunter in the field except for internal organs. The duty to retrieve and to not waste does not justify otherwise criminal conduct.

Similar rule changes will need to be made in the big game regulations for 2018.