

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; 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 July 2017.
- 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 2018-19 Game Bird Seasons and hunting regulations.

ANALYSIS

A summary of population status, past hunter effort and harvest, proposed season dates, bag and possession limits, and other regulations related to the 2018-19

game bird hunting seasons is included in Attachment 3. An overview of the proposed recommendations includes:

Sage-Grouse Seasons

Season length and bag limit are proposed as adopted in framework. Permits numbers for each Wildlife Management Unit will be determined in early August and adopted by Temporary Rule after collection of summer brood route/chick production information. Permit numbers are anticipated to be similar to recent years except for reducing permits for the Juniper WMU.

Fall Turkey Season

Recommendations are unchanged from last year.

Turkey Legal Hunting Methods

Staff will provide recommendation to remove the minimum shotgun gauge restriction for hunting wild turkeys.

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 ducks are unchanged from last year.

Duck Seasons

Staff will provide a recommendation that the daily bag limit for pintails be increased to two birds per day.

Goose Seasons

Staff will provide a recommendation to reduce the size of the goose hunting closure area in Tillamook County. Staff will provide a recommendation that the Canada goose bag limit increase to 6 per day if results of aerial surveys conducted by the USFWS in Alaska in June 2018 show the cackling Canada goose population increased relative to 2017.

Snipe and Coot Seasons

Recommendations for snipe and coots are unchanged from last year.

ISSUE 2

Clarify, make consistent and revise language in OAR Division 008 Rules covering Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands.

ANALYSIS

Over the years, language has been added to OAR Division 008 that was not consistent with the language used in the rules for other Department properties. For some Department properties, rule language has been added or revised to address new issues/conflicts. The proposed changes to Division 008 are intended to make the rules current and more consistent, for example:

- Revising rules that deal with all Department lands not listed individually in Division 008
- Clarify rules dealing with artifacts and archeological specimens
- Prohibit possession and use of fireworks and explosives
- Make rules, including dog rules and camping rules, as consistent across Department lands as practicable

OPTIONS

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

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1

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| DRAFT MOTION | I move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 008, 045, 047, 051, 052, 053, 054, and 060 as proposed by staff to set regulations for 2018-19 game bird seasons and regulations for the use of Department lands. |
| EFFECTIVE DATE: | April 20, 2018 |