

Exhibit C

**Public Correspondence Received as
of April 3, 2025**

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Roxann.B.BORISCH@odfw.oregon.gov
Subject: FW: 2025-26 Upland Game Bird Proposals

From: Dave Stiefvater <dbstiefvater@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 10:56 AM
To: CLINE Mikal L * ODFW <Mikal.L.CLIN@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Re: 2025-26 Upland Game Bird Proposals

Hi Mikal,

Thank you for sharing the upland proposal!

Agree with great numbers on all our upland bird numbers.

It was interesting that the Ontario and Skyline Access has Huns coveys showing up on both access this year. Estimated 6 new coveys on the Ontario Access and 5 on the Skyline Access! Pheasant numbers were also up at both Access!

I met with a local rancher out of Vale. They are having problems with turkeys. I was able to help the rancher with the removal of a few birds with friends!

Might want to look at starting earlier on the fall turkey hunt to head off the problems that coming with more turkeys! September 1 would be a good opener for Fall Turkey Season!

Thank you again!

Dave Stiefvater

Pheasants Forever Coordinator for Malheur County

541-881-6491

On Thu, Mar 6, 2025 at 3:43 PM CLINE Mikal L * ODFW <Mikal.L.CLIN@odfw.oregon.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon,

You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in the ODFW Upland Game Bird Regulations process and proposals. This is an important year because we are reviewing the 5-year Upland Framework, which recommends seasons and bag limits for upland birds over the next 5 years (2025-2030). This season structure can still be adapted if conditions change, but because upland game bird populations can fluctuate drastically from year to year, we generally do not adjust the season on an annual basis. Wild turkeys and sage-grouse tend to be the exceptions to the rule. We continue to address an expanding wild turkey population and try to balance landowner tolerance with hunting opportunity. Sage-grouse have had several good years, but are still

experiencing landscape-scale threats that require us to be very prescriptive with harvest opportunity. This is typically achieved with adjusting permit levels each year based on projected fall populations.

We took a very careful look at all the data available to us, including wing return data from forest grouse, upland harvest surveys, the USGS Breeding Bird Survey, our mountain quail distribution database, wild turkey distribution database, the ODFW Wildlife Damage Complaint database, and observations from our district staff. I am happy to report that our upland bird populations are in good shape, with a few exceptions. Ring-necked pheasant have experienced long-term declines due to changes in agricultural practices and land use. We already have a very conservative bag limit and season that only allows harvest of rooster pheasants. Forest grouse have also had some ups and downs that we are working to understand. We did not find any evidence that our hunting seasons were overharvesting certain cohorts (e.g. juveniles or adult females), that average nesting date or success was changing, or that late seasons were contributing significant additive mortality.

The attached proposals outline some expansions to fall turkey and beardless turkey permit hunts. Turkey populations remain abundant and are experiencing buildup in those areas included in the beardless permit zone. This hunt is only allowed on private land, and excluded private industrial timber in western Oregon. It is a tool to allow landowners to utilize hunting to address their chronic turkey nuisance and damage concerns. The final package will also include fee pheasant hunt dates, youth upland hunt dates, falconry seasons, and other housekeeping-type proposals.

Thanks in advance for your feedback on these proposals. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Mikal Cline

ODFW Upland Game Bird Coordinator

503-383-6700 (cell)

503-947-6323 (office)

Mikal.L.Cline@odfw.oregon.gov

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: jackson hoo <hoojackson47@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 10:44 AM
To: ODFW Commission * ODFW
Subject: Request for the Ban on Hunting of Band-tailed Pigeons in Oregon

PREVIOUS VERSION
You don't often get email from hoojackson47@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my concern regarding the hunting of Band-tailed Pigeons (*Patagioenas fasciata*) in Oregon and to respectfully request that you consider implementing a ban on their hunting.

Band-tailed Pigeons play a vital role in Oregon's ecosystems, particularly in maintaining healthy forest habitats by aiding in seed dispersal. Unfortunately, their population has been in decline due to various factors, including habitat loss and environmental pressures. While hunting is often regulated to ensure sustainability, the current status of Band-tailed Pigeons calls for a reassessment of their management, with particular focus on conservation efforts.

Given the potential risk of further population decline and the importance of preserving this unique species, I believe that a hunting ban would be a crucial step in safeguarding their future. It would also contribute to the overall biodiversity and ecological health of Oregon's wildlife.

I understand the complexities of wildlife management, but I hope you will take into consideration the long-term benefits of protecting the Band-tailed Pigeon and prioritize conservation efforts for this important species.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.

sincerely, Jackson Hood

BORISCH Roxann B * ODFW

From: Roxann.B.BORISCH@odfw.oregon.gov
Subject: FW: 2025-26 Upland Game Bird Proposals

From: Andrew Mott <amott61@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 9, 2025 9:05 PM
To: CLINE Mikal L * ODFW <Mikal.L.CLINE@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Re: 2025-26 Upland Game Bird Proposals

You don't often get email from amott61@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Mikal,

Thank you for sending me all of these proposals. I agree with all of them and think they all make sense. One thing I wanted to ask about was the potential of expanding the youth turkey season for Oregon. It's apparent based on some of the potential changes that we have an abundance of turkeys. I would love to see Oregon extend the youth turkey season and make it longer, for example make it a 5 or 7 day hunt. Many youth including my kids aren't able to do weekends due to sports and things so aren't always able to participate in the youth hunt. I think the more we can do to recruit and retain younger hunters to continue the sport the better. We have benefitted from Washington's youth hunt which is April 1-7th each year. This has allowed us to be more flexible and get in a few days to chase birds. I think it would be great if Oregon did something similar so I thought I would reach out. I hope you can share with others and possibly have a conversation about this possibility.

Thank you,

On Thu, Mar 6, 2025 at 2:43 PM CLINE Mikal L * ODFW <Mikal.L.CLINE@odfw.oregon.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon,

You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in the ODFW Upland Game Bird Regulations process and proposals. This is an important year because we are reviewing the 5-year Upland Framework, which recommends seasons and bag limits for upland birds over the next 5 years (2025-2030). This season structure can still be adapted if conditions change, but because upland game bird populations can fluctuate drastically from year to year, we generally do not adjust the season on an annual basis. Wild turkeys and sage-grouse tend to be the exceptions to the rule. We continue to address an expanding wild turkey population and try to balance landowner tolerance with hunting opportunity. Sage-grouse have had several good years, but are still experiencing landscape-scale threats that require us to be very prescriptive with harvest opportunity. This is typically achieved with adjusting permit levels each year based on projected fall populations.

We took a very careful look at all the data available to us, including wing return data from forest grouse, upland harvest surveys, the USGS Breeding Bird Survey, our mountain quail distribution database, wild turkey distribution database, the ODFW Wildlife Damage Complaint database, and observations from our district staff. I am happy to report that our upland bird populations are in good shape, with a few exceptions. Ring-necked pheasant have experienced long-term declines due to changes in agricultural practices and land use. We already have a very conservative bag limit and season that only allows harvest of rooster pheasants. Forest grouse have also had some ups and downs that we are working to understand. We did not find any evidence that our hunting

seasons were overharvesting certain cohorts (e.g. juveniles or adult females), that average nesting date or success was changing, or that late seasons were contributing significant additive mortality.

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Thanks in advance for your feedback on these proposals. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Mikal Cline

ODFW Upland Game Bird Coordinator

503-383-6700 (cell)

503-947-6323 (office)

Mikal.L.Cline@odfw.oregon.gov



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501 • (541) 772-7313
oha@oregonhunters.org • oregonhunters.org

February 28, 2025

Brandon Reishus
Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97302

Dear Brandon;

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) would like to thank you for your time and for going over the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendations and reviewing the federal hunting season framework with us. We also appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective(s) on season changes and proposals while they are being developed. The following are OHA's recommendations and input on specific portions of the migratory game bird regulations for the 2025-26 hunting season.

Duck and Coot Framework

OHA is in agreement with the bag limit changes to the Pintail sub-limit of 3 birds. We appreciate the explanation that you have shared with OHA on the use of the new/updated Adaptive Harvest Management model that biologists used to arrive at this recommendation.

Special Early Canada and Cackling Goose Framework

OHA supports the extension of the Northwest Permit Goose Zone season dates to fully utilize the available days within the federal framework.

Regular Canada & Cackling, White (Snow & Ross's) and White-fronted Goose Frameworks

OHA has specific comments related to the season dates and bag limits for the Northwest Oregon Permit Zone.

1) 74 day goose season

OHA recommends removing all "splits" and run a contiguous goose season from November 1, 2025 through January 13, 2026. While we recognize producers may not favor the earlier season closure within the Northwest Oregon Permit Zone, data shared indicates that Cackling goose populations are down sharply and OHA believes that fewer birds will result in reduced damage.

2) 2 Cackling/Canada goose daily bag limit (Northwest Oregon Permit Zone)

OHA recommends a daily bag limit of 4 Canada geese with a sublimit of 2 cackling geese for the following reasons:

- A 4 bird limit would allow hunters to utilize their Northwest Oregon Permit, bird identification skills (that all goose hunters have been tested on) and modified shooting hours to harvest 2 additional Canada geese (Taverners, lessers, westerns).

- Under current framework and season structure, hunters in the Northwest Oregon Permit Zone are required to utilize their permit and bird identification skills to eliminate the harvest of Dusky Canada geese which currently are illegal to harvest. Why would we not utilize these same skills to allow additional harvest above the proposed 2 goose limit for other subspecies?
- Under the current proposal, in other regions and zones, hunters are allowed to harvest up to 4 cackling Canada geese and 6 cackling Canada geese on a daily basis with longer seasons and no requirements for bird identification testing or modified shooting hours. Why should hunters and farmers in the Northwest Oregon Permit Zone be penalized while also being required to pass a test and hunt during modified shooting hours?
- For several years hunters in the Northwest Oregon Permit Zone demonstrated they could successfully distinguish between subspecies when the bag limits were 4 geese with 2 of those geese being cackling Canada geese.

State Wildlife Area Hunt Program Changes

OHA would like to see goose hunting allowed on the EE Wilson state wildlife area where it is currently prohibited, at a minimum for the Special Early Canada and Cackling Goose season in September. This would add consistency with the current regulations on the Fern Ridge wildlife area.

OHA supports the proposed expansion of the area of the John Day River Refuge (JDRR) where all game bird hunting would be allowed.

OHA is in agreement with, or has no comments on the proposed season regulations not referenced above. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have questions or need clarification on any of the comments included here.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Mike Totey
Conservation Director
Oregon Hunters Association



February 26, 2025

Brandon Reishus
Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE
Salem, OR 97302

RE: Changes to the 2025-26 federal hunting season frameworks for the northwest permit goose zone and options for the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission's season selections within those frameworks

Dear Mr. Reishus,

Please accept the following comments and input on behalf of Oregon Seed Council regarding the proposed changes to the federal goose hunting season frameworks and Oregon's proposed season selections.

The Oregon Seed Council is a trade organization that brings together seed farmers, marketers, brokers, researchers, and others involved in the Oregon seed industry from when the seed is planted to when the seed ultimately makes it to the hands of consumers. Through our membership, the Oregon Seed Council represents approximately 1,300 grass, legume, and specialty seed growers in Oregon. The industry drives employment in many rural areas of the state, employing an estimated 10,000 Oregonians through crop production companies, researchers, equipment dealers, seed technicians, transportation companies, marketing companies, straw presses, and other operations.

Grass seed production in Oregon ranks fifth in our commodities and drives more than \$1 billion in economic activity in Oregon. Oregon is the world leader in grass seed production.

First, I want to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to provide feedback and input regarding the proposed changes to the goose hunting season. As you and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) are well aware, the migratory goose topic is one that Oregon's grass seed producers are very well acquainted with, and it continues to be a challenge. Not only are geese a problem for our growers, but geese also dictate how and when we can control the vole populations in the fields. I appreciate your efforts in working with us on the complexities of the goose-vole situation. Your assistance has helped our growers with more opportunity to control the voles.



Migratory geese continue to be a crop pest that causes substantial crop damage and economic losses to our growers and impacts the entire industry and hence impacts Oregon's economy. The difference between the geese and the other pests impacting our crops is that outside of a hunting season and hazing techniques, which are limited in their effectiveness, we really have no options. Therefore, a proposal to shorten the goose hunting season by nearly five weeks and reduce the daily bag limit is not a favorable plan.

I appreciate the data provided demonstrating the declining numbers of overwintering cacklers, Tavener's and dusks observed in Oregon. However, despite the decline in observed geese in recent years the growers are still experiencing crop damage and loss due to the geese. I do believe that in the past two-to-three years there have been less observed crop losses due to geese as compared to the past 10-15 years when damages were excessive and very costly.

Some questions come to mind when considering this situation that we would like to ask the ODFW. We understand that our region is part of the overwintering migration pattern of the geese, but we are also aware that we are only part of the annual migration pattern.

Has the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) imposed and implemented mitigations in the summer breeding grounds in Alaska to assist in a population rebound? If so, what are those measures and are they proving to be efficacious in assisting the goose populations? If there has been limited success with those measures, then is the USFWS researching new management strategies that will improve success when implemented there? If breeding and rearing grounds are limited or compromised for some reason, then the total number of geese migrating would naturally be less. Implementing restrictions on Oregon's hunting season will have very little or no impact on these critical breeding habitats and success of rearing geese.

We are also curious to know if the USFWS has determined if the migratory goose populations have changed their patterns. Are we really seeing fewer geese, or just fewer geese here in Oregon where they have typically overwintered.

Given changes in weather patterns, habitat, land use, human pressure, predator pressure, and other factors we know that the geese could change their patterns and behaviors. If history serves me correctly, many years ago the migration took the geese ultimately to California. In more recent decades I believe we were told that the geese changed their patterns and shortened their migration and settled in Oregon due to conditions.

The cackler data demonstrates this increased and sustained population since 1985. If this pattern change is a possibility, then the proposed reductions of the hunting season in Oregon will not, or will have very little, impact on the migratory population.

Has there been any correlation analysis performed to investigate whether or not limiting an Oregon hunting season duration and bag limit has any significant effect on the observed



population? It is assumed that there is data available that may be able to support or oppose the effectiveness of this practice. Without a statistically significant correlation, then the confidence of obtaining the desired result from this proposal would be weak. Without a sound correlation then a restriction to Oregon's goose hunting season may have limited to no impact to achieve the desired outcome.

The cackler data also demonstrates that over the past 17 years, there were eight years that the goose abundance exceeded a population greater than 10 percent over the Pacific Flyway Council's population objective. Furthermore, there were 11 years when the abundance was either between the objective level and the 10 percent over level or greater than the 10 percent over level. This data indicates that the abundance was found to be at or exceeded the objective over two-thirds of the past seventeen years. Did the ODFW implement a longer season with greater bag limits when the goose population exceeded the Pacific Flyway Council's population objective? As stated earlier, hunting and hazing are the only two management strategies that growers can use to defend against crop losses. Limiting the grower's ability to defend their crops during times of low or high populations of geese will negatively impact the production of a sustainable crop.

Unfortunately, there has not been adequate research conducted on the economic impacts of goose grazing on grass seed fields.

In 2002, there was a report published from a two-year study conducted by the Department of Rangeland Resources at Oregon State University in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the USFWS. Yield losses measured in this study varied by both the timing and age of the stand in which the grazing occurred on both tall fescue and perennial ryegrass. There were significant yield losses measured, and it appears that grazing in later months of February, March and April was having the biggest impacts. Unfortunately, the report points out that some yield data was lost due to a technical error. Also, there was no data collected on annual ryegrass which is known to host a large number of geese and suffers great losses.

Based upon the timing of grazing results cited in this study, it is possible that goose grazing in February, March, and April has a greater and substantial impact on seed yield. In addition to the late winter early spring impacts, many years of experience and field knowledge tells us that goose damage during December and January when growing conditions are not favorable has a substantial impact on the crop survivability and productivity as well.

In response to your request for comments on the timing of hunting days, we would request that the February cutoff date be reconsidered and extended through February 28. We understand that crop damage is dependent on when the geese arrive. Damage could occur earlier in the winter as well as later. However, given observations from recent years, the geese are seemingly arriving later than they have historically. Based on this, hunting pressure through February 28 would provide some legal crop defense during this later period when grazing seems to have



greater impact on our crops. Given the proposed federal framework, is it possible to 'borrow' thirteen days from early season, November, and add them to the end of February? Again, given observations from recent years, this could potentially provide better defense of grass seed crops from goose damage.

It is also important to note that with less late season pressure to geese in grass seed fields, it would be intuitive to believe that this may have an impact on when growers can begin effective above-ground application of zinc phosphide for vole control. It is critical for grass seed growers to get vole control applications of zinc phosphide onto grass seed crops as soon as possible in the spring. The goose presence dictates when that is allowed. If geese are in greater numbers and are further removed from hunting pressure to leave grass seed fields, then we worry that the damage from voles will be further left unchecked. Crop depredation from geese coupled with losses caused by voles leaves our growers with a heavily compromised crop. Limiting the goose hunting season, particularly in late February and March, will further worsen the damage to the crops.

We appreciate the opportunity to engage with you on this important topic. We understand the complexities of this situation and we hope that the ODFW takes into consideration these comments and the importance of Oregon's seed industry. We are happy to discuss this further, so please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.E. Salisbury", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steven E. Salisbury
Research & Regulatory

Cc: Megan Chuinard, Executive Director

Re: 2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations - Request for Public Feedback

From Dan Fullerton <dansfullerton@msn.com>
Date Thu 2/27/2025 2:30 PM
To REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW <Brandon.S.REISHUS@odfw.oregon.gov>

You don't often get email from dansfullerton@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Brandon,

I'm not sure if you wanted a direct response or if there was a form to use for commenting. In either case, I support the proposed change for the 2025/2026 waterfowl season to allow for a 3 pintail limit. Each season there seems to be a growing abundance of pintail which is frustrating with the current 1 pintail limit. Please let me know if there is a web link or form that I should use to provide my feedback to ODFW.

Best regards,
Dan Fullerton

From: REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW <Brandon.S.REISHUS@odfw.oregon.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 2:52 PM
To: REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW <Brandon.S.REISHUS@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: 2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations - Request for Public Feedback

Waterfowl hunters and other interested individuals,

You are receiving this email because you have indicated you would like to stay informed about the Migratory Game Bird Program at ODFW. If you wish to have your contact removed from this list please let me know. Please share this email with other interested individuals or have them contact me to be added to the list if you believe they would like to receive these updates.

If you would like to receive similar messages regarding the upland game bird program (wild turkey, pheasant, grouse, partridge, and quail) please email upland game bird coordinator, Mikal Cline (mikal.l.cline@odfw.oregon.gov).

I hope you all had an enjoyable waterfowl season!

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will be considering the 2025-26 game bird seasons and associated hunting regulations on April 18th. **I have attached a draft document outlining potential migratory game bird hunting season proposals** from the Department in order to solicit public comment. A second document presents detailed information regarding changes to the federal frameworks for goose hunting in the Northwest Permit Zone. Final proposals from ODFW, based in part on your public comment, will be presented to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on April 18, 2025 (details here: <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/>).

As always, please feel free to comment on any aspect of the migratory game bird hunting seasons and regulations and thanks for your interest!

Comments on 25-26 waterfowl season

From Bradley Schaal <brad.schaal@frontier.com>

Date Sat 2/22/2025 5:25 PM

To REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW <brandon.s.reishus@odfw.oregon.gov>

You don't often get email from brad.schaal@frontier.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Brandon,

Thanks for sending out the Draft version of the waterfowl regs. I have a couple of comments - first, regarding the new pintail limit, wouldn't it be wise to put a 2 hen limit on the overall 3 bird limit. Works with mallards so it should work with pintails. While I try and target drakes I sometimes get a hen, but would not like to see hunters get 3 hens per day just because they could. Takes away a lot of egg laying birds.

Second thing is the 2 Cackler limit - I have been goose hunting in the Hillsboro/Forest Grove/Banks area for over 20 years and haven't really noticed much of a decline in the Cackler numbers - they just get wise and move into the parks and school fields where they are totally safe. Do you think the count is accurate? Has Avian flu been a significant factor in lowering their numbers? I haven't shot one in several years but have seen a half dozen dead/dying ones on our duck lake - obviously sick with AI and that was early in Period 1, and haven't seen any more sick birds since. I think that hunting them seven days/week is also a factor in getting them very decoy shy. I would like to see the season go back to maybe 4 days/week and extend the season into March.

Thanks for listening.

Brad Schaal

Comments of Proposed Waterfowl Regulations

From Graig Spolek <spolekg@pdx.edu>

Date Sat 2/22/2025 2:30 PM

To REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW <Brandon.S.Reishus@odfw.oregon.gov>

You don't often get email from spolekg@pdx.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Brandon,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and input on the proposed Oregon waterfowl hunting regulations for 2025-2026. As you probably can recall, I have provided input every year for some time, perhaps starting to sound like a broken record, regarding the pintail bag limits. You have always assured me that progress was being made and this year's proposed 3-bird limit is a positive step. Thank you for your sustained work on this issue.

Your well-written article entitled "A New Era for Pintail Regulation", with Wetzel and Brasher, explains the process and recognizes the science that I have been promoting for years. "While harvest can affect pintail survival and population size, scientists agree that its effect is small compared to that of annual breeding habitat conditions." Good. Yet, closing all pintail hunting is the planned strategy if the estimated breeding population falls below 1.2 million. If harvest effect is small, as you clearly state, then that will not fix that problem. Efforts to improve habitat should be the prime strategy. Reasonable pintail seasons will boost hunter participation, leading to more funds from direct license sales and indirect donations to foundations that can purchase wetlands and other nesting habitat. If California hunters have no pintails feeding on their vast rice fields at hunting clubs, what will the wintering pintails eat? Rethink this management strategy.

I also disagree that pintail hens can be harvested the same as drakes without an effect of the breeding. Currently there are 3-4 drakes for every hen. Harvesting those extra drakes will not only increase hunter participation, but will reduce their direct competition with hens for food and rest while nesting. Pintail gender is easier to distinguish in flight than mallards, which are currently separated by harvest. Careful hunters can and would select pintail drakes from hens if a hen restriction was in place. The claim that no hen restriction was included "to minimize the complexity of regulations" is, quite honestly, insulting to conscientious hunters. Keep this option open.

Thank you again for all of your efforts.

Graig Spolek

President Emeritus

Oregon Duck Hunters Association

Proposed 2025/2026 waterfowl season comments

From Robert Maxey <rob.maxey@yahoo.com>

Date Fri 2/21/2025 11:46 AM

To REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW <brandon.s.reishus@odfw.oregon.gov>

You don't often get email from rob.maxey@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Brandon, I am unable to attend the ODFW meeting April 18. Please forward my comments to the commission.

Pintail bag limit needs to be 3 pintails, **not more than 1 hen.**

Drake pintails must be the easiest birds to identify in the air. Hen mortality plays a huge role in breeding, if we shoot less hens, we breed more ducks. We have hen restrictions in place already for mallards so hunters are used to this kind of regulation. Many of us practice selective voluntary restraint and do not shoot hens on purpose. All of my hunting buddies support a hen restriction on pintails.

Even if the federal framework requires no pintail hen restrictions, I urge you to have Oregon be the leader in this kind of limit.

Thanks for listening,

Rob Maxey
1270 Larkspur Ln NW
Salem (503)371-6774

Re: 2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations - Request for Public Feedback

From Wsstamp <wsstamp@aol.com>

Date Thu 2/20/2025 6:42 AM

To REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW <brandon.s.reishus@odfw.oregon.gov>

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I'd like to see only one hen Pintail of the three harvested. Otherwise, we may not get as many nesting hens in the Spring. For the geese, the migration seems to be getting later. Start the 3rd period later and extend to the March 10th date.

Byron Myles
Phone: 541.912.1810
email:wsstamp@aol.com

On Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 06:00:36 PM PST, REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW <brandon.s.reishus@odfw.oregon.gov> wrote:

Waterfowl hunters and other interested individuals,

You are receiving this email because you have indicated you would like to stay informed about the Migratory Game Bird Program at ODFW. If you wish to have your contact removed from this list please let me know. Please share this email with other interested individuals or have them contact me to be added to the list if you believe they would like to receive these updates.

If you would like to receive similar messages regarding the upland game bird program (wild turkey, pheasant, grouse, partridge, and quail) please email upland game bird coordinator, Mikal Cline (mikal.l.cline@odfw.oregon.gov).

I hope you all had an enjoyable waterfowl season!

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As always, please feel free to comment on any aspect of the migratory game bird hunting seasons and regulations and thanks for your interest!

Regards

Brandon S. Reishus
Migratory Game Bird Coordinator

Re: 2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations - Request for Public Feedback

From Worth Mathewson <slpress@comcast.net>

Date Wed 2/19/2025 8:34 PM

To REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW <Brandon.S.REISHUS@odfw.oregon.gov>

Brandon, Thanks for sending this along. A major and important change that needs to be made in Oregon's waterfowl regulations is to give the harlequin total protection. I hope you realize that you are largely responsible for the welfare for this duck. To remove the harlequin from the legal list will principally be your decision. I urge you to make the correct one, which is unquestionably total protection. Worth Mathewson

On 2/19/2025 2:52 PM, REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW wrote:

Waterfowl hunters and other interested individuals,

You are receiving this email because you have indicated you would like to stay informed about the Migratory Game Bird Program at ODFW. If you wish to have your contact removed from this list please let me know. Please share this email with other interested individuals or have them contact me to be added to the list if you believe they would like to receive these updates.

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I hope you all had an enjoyable waterfowl season!

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will be considering the 2025-26 game bird seasons and associated hunting regulations on April 18th. **I have attached a draft document outlining potential migratory game bird hunting season proposals** from the Department in order to solicit public comment. A second document presents detailed information regarding changes to the federal frameworks for goose hunting in the Northwest Permit Zone. Final proposals from ODFW, based in part on your public comment, will be presented to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on April 18, 2025 (details here: <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/>).

As always, please feel free to comment on any aspect of the migratory game bird hunting seasons and regulations and thanks for your interest!

Regards

Brandon S. Reishus
Migratory Game Bird Coordinator

Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, OR 97302

Re: 2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations - Request for Public Feedback

From Matt A <matt.j.a@hotmail.com>

Date Wed 2/19/2025 5:31 PM

To REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW <Brandon.S.REISHUS@odfw.oregon.gov>

You don't often get email from matt.j.a@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Brandon,

Bummer to hear the rumors about cackler hunting reductions are true.

Wondering if ODFW would consider specific days of the week to allow permit zone hunting like back in the Wed/Sat/Sun timeframe of the 2000's?

I'm proposing a season that starts 10/18 and runs through 2/15 with no breaks but hunting is only allowed 4 days per week (Thurs-Sun or Fri-Mon). By doing away with the period breaks and allowing for a continuous season, you'd maximize hunter opportunity on weekends when most folks hunt and maintain a regular hunting presence for 4 months to aid farmers in chasing geese off their ground. I imagine they're going to be pretty upset about losing hunters into March. This frame work comes in right at 70 days, allowing for the 2 youth days while keeping it under the 74 maximum.

It would be a win for hunters and farmers given the situation but would result in the most harvest so maybe not the best for the birds. Either way, I expect hunter effort to fall off drastically and harvest be more from opportunistic duck hunters than anything.

Another quick question related to hunter opportunity, would there be the potential to allow speck and snow goose hunting at Summer Lake WMA in the late season? ODFW's counts show snows trickling back in late winter but only go through 2/1. I assume numbers build toward the spring and could be a cool hunting opportunity when the permit zone is closed.

I appreciate your considerations. All of us goose hunters hope this is a short term change. Thank you.
-Matt Alex

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 19, 2025, at 2:52 PM, REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW
<Brandon.S.REISHUS@odfw.oregon.gov> wrote:

Waterfowl hunters and other interested individuals,

You are receiving this email because you have indicated you would like to stay informed about the Migratory Game Bird Program at ODFW. If you wish to have your contact removed from this list

Re: 2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations - Request for Public Feedback

From rob@hudsucker.com <rob@hudsucker.com>

Date Wed 2/19/2025 4:38 PM

To REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW <Brandon.S.REISHUS@odfw.oregon.gov>

You don't often get email from rob@hudsucker.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi, Brandon,

Most of that seems to be great. I do have one question--and it's not even one that would benefit me anymore. Is there any way we can expand that one veterans day to include police and fire?

-Rob

On 2025-02-19 2:52 pm, REISHUS Brandon S * ODFW wrote:

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As always, please feel free to comment on any aspect of the migratory game bird hunting seasons and regulations and thanks for your interest!

Regards

Brandon S. Reishus
Migratory Game Bird Coordinator

Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE

2/3/2025
PO Box 5730
Salem, Oregon 97304
slpress@comcast.net

Commission Members,

While it will be several months before you meet to set the 2025 game bird and waterfowl regulations, I hope you will give the following serious consideration: While I applaud the Commission's ending the seven bird limit on harlequin ducks and lowering it to one per day, the move still leaves Oregon's harlequins in jeopardy. Commission members might be aware of Washington's attempts to protect their population of this duck. The state once had a seven bird limit on the species. With growing concern over the numbers being shot this was changed to one per day. Then followed by one per season. Even with one per season large numbers were being shot and the state totally closed any killing of harlequins. Oregon should follow suit and totally protect our few harlequins.

In Oregon harlequins face a problem not shared by other waterfowl species, unless one counts the dusky Canada goose. Principally this is because the duck is avidly sought by hunters trying to bag all the available species. Coupled with this is that the drake harlequin is a strikingly beautiful bird and is in great demand for mounting.

Waterfowl guides in Washington specialized in taking clients from around the United States for harlequins, even during the years the limit was one per season. The result was multiple harlequins were killed. One guide, a personal friend who guided me for the one harlequin drake I have killed, accounted for 25-30 harlequins per year.

Oregon has vastly fewer harlequins than Washington. Yet there are individuals who specialize in the duck. They are good at what they do. I have talked with one such person who doesn't charge a fee, but instead takes friends and acquaintances to bag a harlequin for mounting. Several years ago he told me that 6 were taken from his boat. Also several years ago, Dr. Robert Jarvis, of Oregon State University, had several graduate students working on harlequins. One was doing her study on harlequins nesting on rivers flowing into Tillamook Bay. During the winter harlequins had a particular rock near Garibaldi which came up on a low tide that that they favored. One year two taxidermists, one from Portland, the other from Salem, killed all the harlequins using the rock, both drakes and hens. I saw the ones killed by the taxidermist in Salem, as he mounted them as a group. The next spring the student reported to Dr. Jarvis that many of her study ducks failed to show up. (hen harlequins are somewhat unique in that they nest in the same location from one year to the next.)

I have also been told by a member of Delta Waterfowl that there are several hunters from the Roseburg area that specialize in harlequins. They are doing their shooting on the south Oregon coast and apparently in the upper reaches of the Umpqua River. With situations such as this, the one bird limit doesn't do anything to protect the Oregon's harlequins.

There is no valid reason why the harlequin should be killed in Oregon. Neither the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife nor the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service knows how many harlequins are in Oregon, both winter birds and spring nesters. But as Commissioners you should be aware that the numbers are low. Based on my interest in birds, which includes writing a book on the band-tailed pigeon and snipe, coupled with waterfowl hunting in Oregon since 1956, much of it on the Oregon coast, if asked for my guesstimate of Oregon's harlequin population, I would offer a ballpark number of 300. While that statement might cause Brandon Reishus to disagree, I have a gut feeling I am not far off the mark. In fact, perhaps fewer than that number.

As mentioned, the Commission took an important step forward last year to reduce the daily limit to one per day. This year I can only hope Oregon will follow Washington and give the harlequin the total protection it certainly requires. Thank you for the time and interest you give this letter and thanks for the effort you make for Oregon's wildlife.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Worth Mathewson".

Worth Mathewson