



April 18, 2025

2025-26 Game Bird Hunting Regulations Proposals

and

5-year Upland Game Bird Hunting Season Framework





5-year Upland Game Bird Hunting Season Framework & 2025-26 Upland Game Bird Hunting Regulations Proposals



Mikal Cline
Upland Game Bird Coordinator



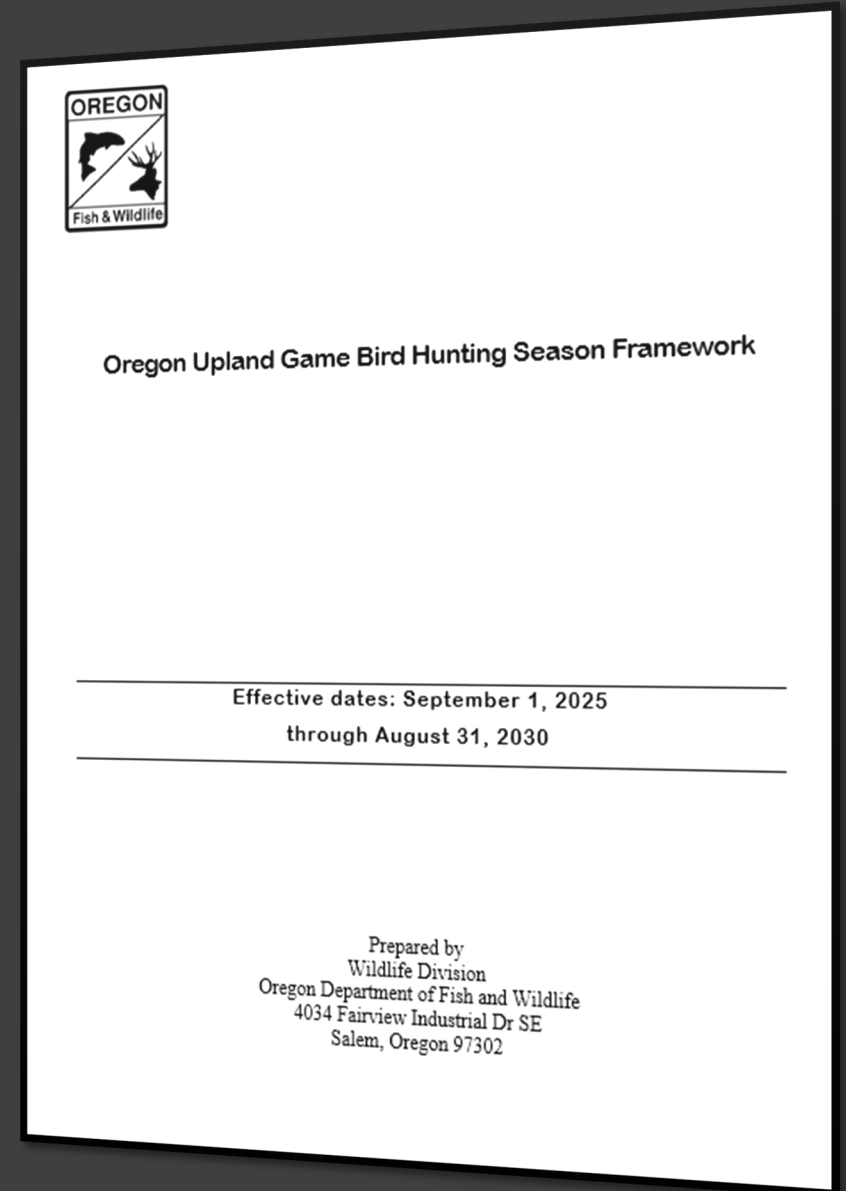
Presentation Overview

- 5-year Framework
- Population and Habitat
- Hunting Season Proposals
- Special Hunts





5-Year Upland Framework



Framework Concepts





Crafting the Framework

populations



Habitat



Research



Feedback



Harvest





2025-2030 Framework Proposals

- California Quail
- Mountain Quail
- Gray Partridge
- Chukar
- Ring-necked Pheasant
- “Blue” and Ruffed Grouse
- Sage-grouse
- Spring Turkey

**No Change
Recommended
to Current
Season
Structure**



Photo: Wikimedia Commons



2025-2030 Framework Proposals

Proposed changes in red text

SEASON	OPEN AREA	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	SEASON LIMIT
General Fall Turkey Western Oregon	WMUs 14-30	Sept. 1 – Jan. 31	2 turkeys of either sex	2 legal turkeys of which only 1 may be from eastern Oregon
General Fall Turkey Eastern Oregon	WMUs 36-38, 40, 43-65, 66, 67, 69, 71, 72	2 nd Sat in Oct – Jan. 31 or Sept. 1 – Jan. 31 as designated in regulations	1 turkey of either sex	1 legal turkey



Photo: Keith Kohl



2025-26 Upland Proposals



No change, fixed dates per framework

- ✓ "Blue" and Ruffed Grouse - Statewide
- ✓ Western Oregon Quail (California and Mountain)



Date shift to open on Saturday per framework

- ✓ Statewide Rooster Pheasant
- ✓ Eastern Oregon Quail (California and Mountain)
- ✓ Eastern Oregon Chukar and Hungarian Partridge





2025-26 Wild Turkey Proposals

Spring Turkey and Youth Spring Turkey

- ✓ No change

Fall Turkey

- ✓ Combine east and west into one tag
- ✓ Open additional WMUs

Beardless Turkey Permit

- ✓ Open earlier – October 1
- ✓ Open additional WMUs

Photo: Wikimedia Commons





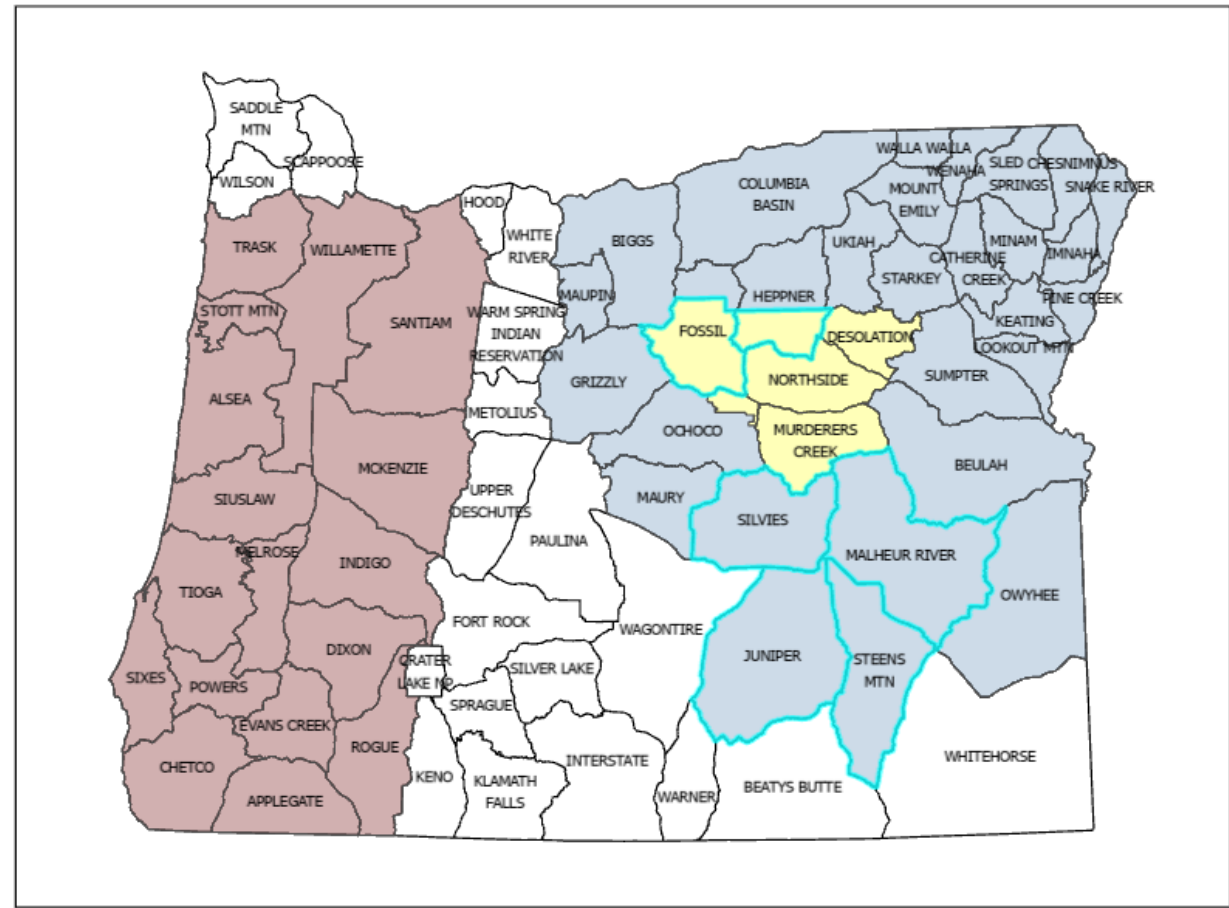
Fall Turkey

Highlighted areas indicate change



Photo: Keith Kohl

■ Sep 1 - Jan 31 2 birds ■ Oct 11 -Jan 31 1 bird ■ Sep 1 - Jan 31 1 bird





Beardless Turkey

Highlighted areas indicate change

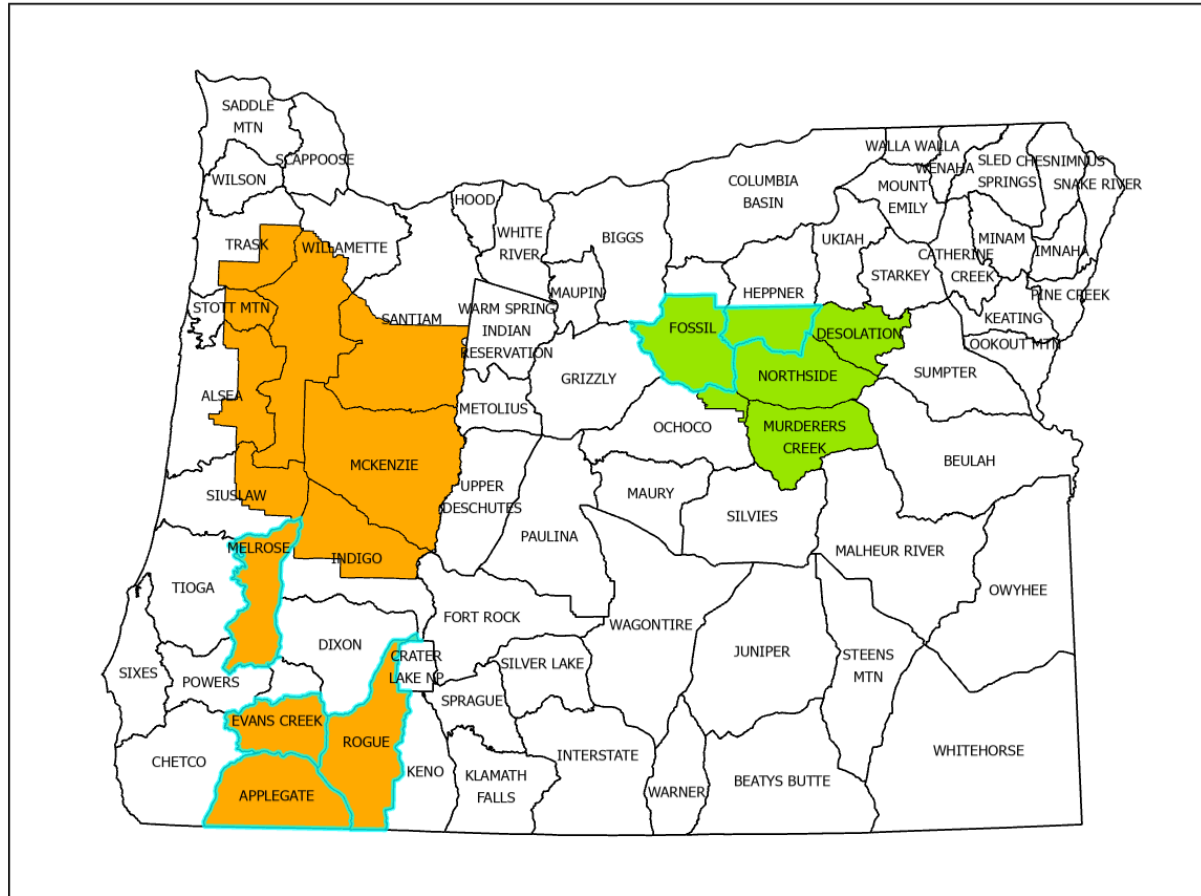


W. OR Beardless

Oct 1 - Feb 28

E. OR Beardless

Oct 1 - Feb 28

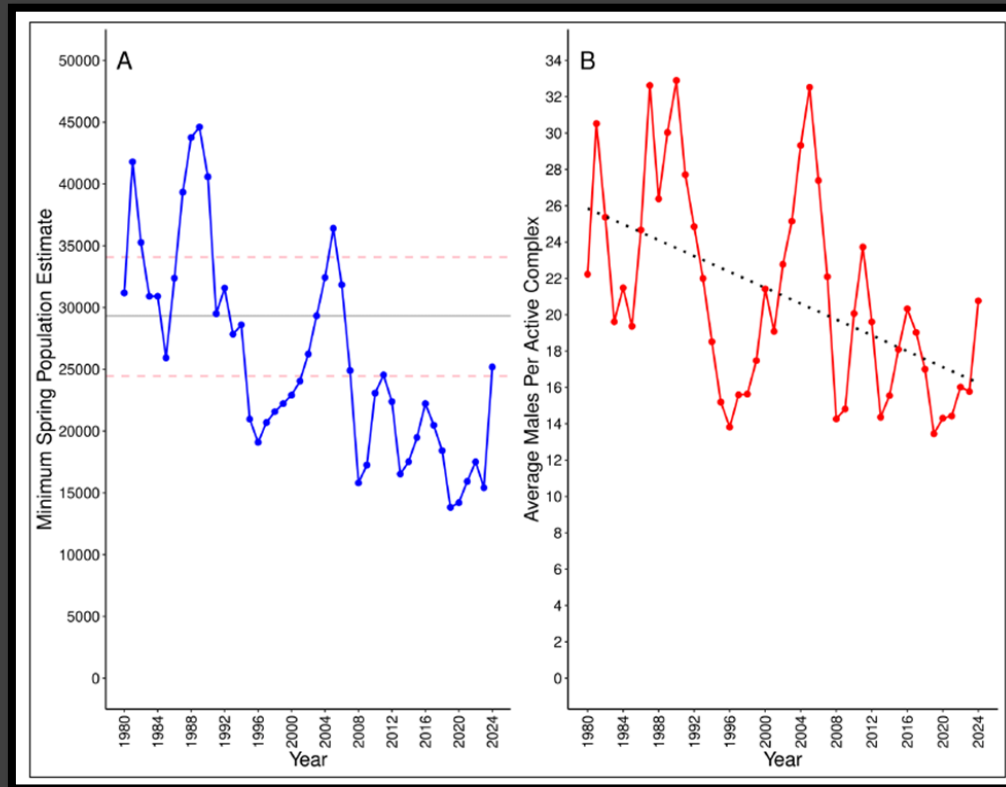


Oregon Sage-Grouse Population Status



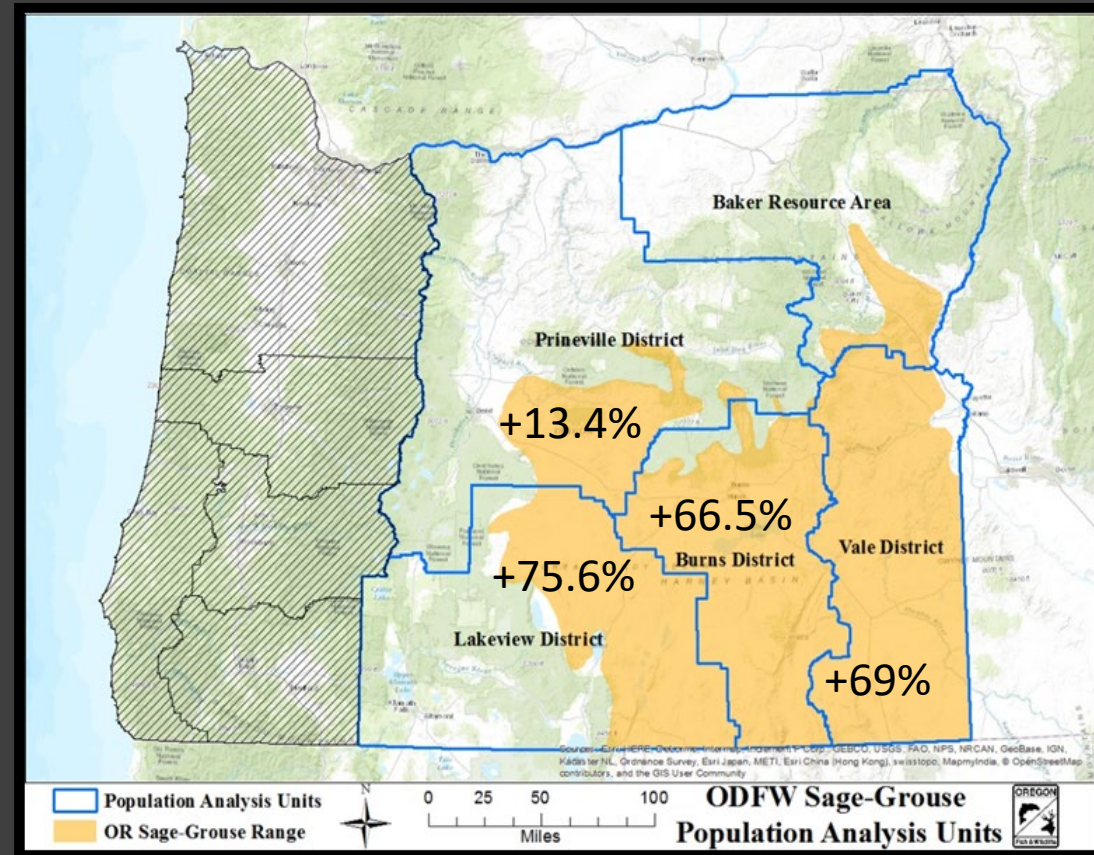
Oregon Sage-Grouse Population Status

2024 Spring Population Estimate: +63.9%



Estimated spring breeding population

Males per active lek complex



Oregon Sage-Grouse Population Status

2024 Wingbee Results

INDICATOR	2024	Average
Chicks/hen	2.25	1.48
% Juveniles	55%	47%



Rod Klus (retired ODFW) examines a hunter-submitted sage-grouse wing

Photos: ODFW, Karl Findling

2025 Field Report

INDICATOR	Field Report
Lek Counts	Stable or increasing
Aerial Surveys	12 new leks in Steens, Sheephead Mtns
Habitat	Wet, higher elevation snow, greening up



2025 Sage-Grouse Controlled Hunt



SEASON	OPEN AREA	OPEN SEASON	SEASON BAG LIMIT
Sage-Grouse	WMUs 65-70, 72-74	Sept. 6 – 14, 2025	2 Sage-Grouse

Recommendation: Same permit levels as 2024, unless adjustment is required after 2025 analysis.
Maintain harvest at <5% of estimated fall population by WMU.



Special Seasons

SEASON	OPEN AREA
Western Oregon Fee Pheasant Hunt	4 Wildlife Areas
Pheasant Hunting Workshop Family Pheasant Hunt	E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area
Youth Upland Bird Hunts	11 Youth Pheasant Hunts 1 Youth Chukar Hunt
Falconry Seasons	Upland and Migratory Game Birds Specified Seasons



Photos: ODFW, Hank Minor



2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Regulation Proposals

Brandon Reishus
Migratory Game
Bird Coordinator



Wood Duck: USFWS



Decoys on Flagstaff Lake: Brandon Reishus



Migratory Game Birds



Lesser Scaup: Keith Kohl



Cackling Goose: USFWS



Band-tailed Pigeon: USFWS



Wilson's Snipe by Keith Kohl



Tundra Swans by Keith Kohl

Ducks

- 10 Dabblers
- 9 Divers
- 3 Mergansers
- 5 Sea Ducks

Geese

- Canada
- Cackling
- Brant
- Snow
- Ross's
- Greater White-fronted

Doves & Pigeons

- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Mourning Dove

Shorebirds

- Wilson's Snipe

Non-hunted

- Trumpeter Swan
- Tundra Swan
- Sandhill Crane
- Virginia Rail
- Sora



Habitat Conservation & Population Monitoring



British Columbia Wetlands: Brandon Reishus

Conservation

Habitat conservation in Oregon and beyond



Canvasback Banding: Scott Haugen

Monitoring

Working to support harvest management decisions and ensure healthy populations



Monitoring



Mallard Banding : ODFW



Population Surveys



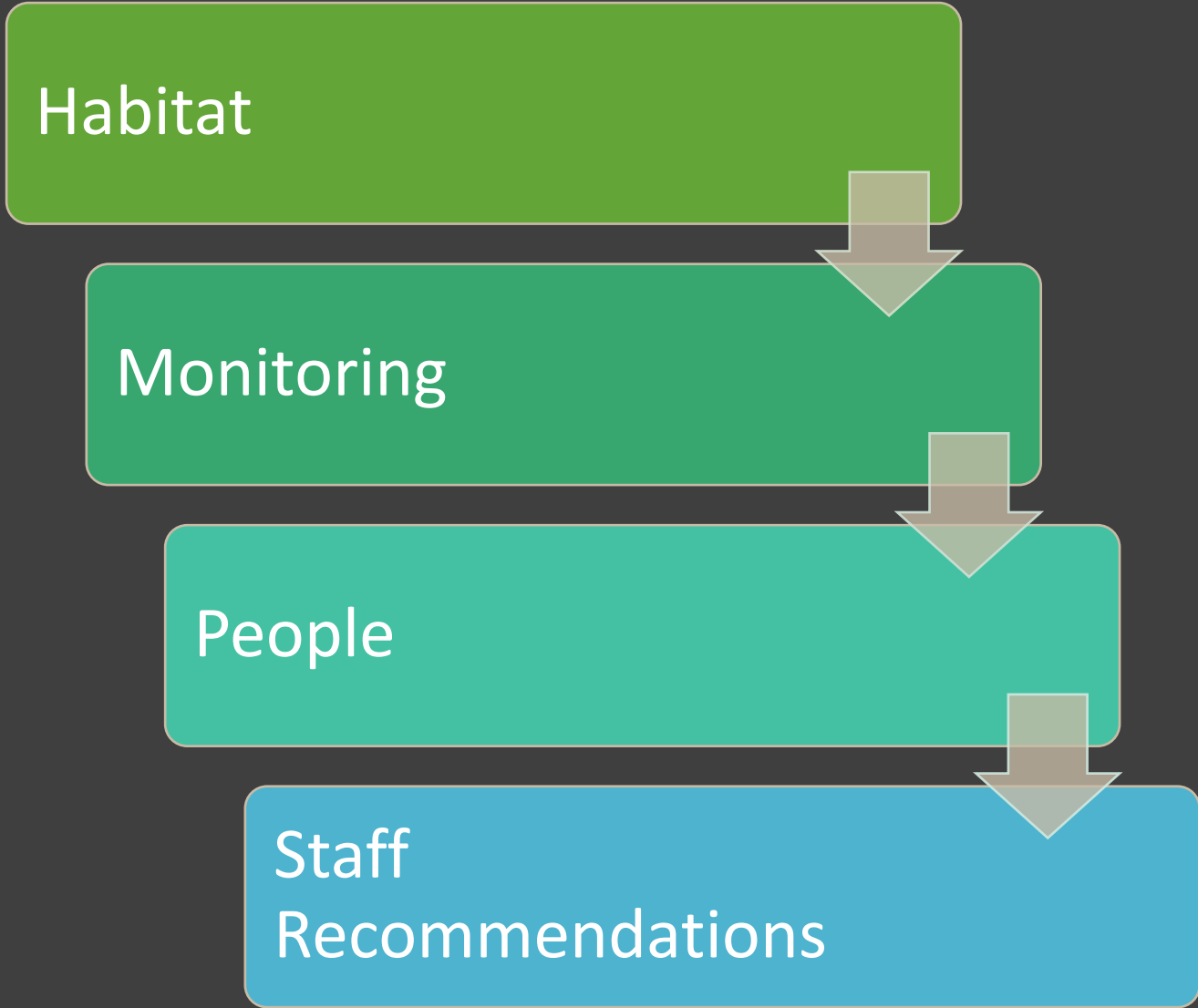
Banding



Harvest Survey



Regulations





Recommendations

- No changes except:
 - Pintail daily limits
 - NW Permit Zone Goose seasons and daily limits
 - Mid-Columbia Goose Zone season structure
- Duck season opens Oct. 11





Pintail Harvest Strategy

- Revised National Harvest Strategy
- Cooperative between the USFWS and Flyways
- ODFW one of two Pacific Flyway reps on working group



Pintails: Keith Kohl



Pintail Harvest Strategy Objectives

- Sustainable population
- 3-bird daily limit option
- Minimize regulatory burden
- Encourage hunter participation

A screenshot of a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service webpage. The page features a blue header with navigation links: "About Us", "Laws & Regulations", "Library", "SERVICES", "SPECIES", "VISIT US", "GET INVOLVED", "NEWSROOM", "INITIATIVES", and "I WANT TO". The main content area has a large image of a pintail duck in flight with the headline "A New Era for Pintail Regulations". Below the headline is a sub-headline "A New Era for Pintail Regulations" and the author information "By Brandon Reishus, Rosalie Wetzel, Mike Brasher, PhD". A paragraph of text follows, mentioning the article's original publication in Ducks Unlimited magazine. To the right is an image of a pintail duck in flight. Below the image is a caption: "New modeling tools and data have led to a better understanding of pintails, their habitats, and the effects of hunting on their populations." The bottom of the page contains a longer paragraph of text discussing waterfowl populations and harvest regulations.



2025-26 Pintail Bag Limit



Strategy is interim

Data supports 3-bird daily bag limit

Hunter support



Pintail: Tom Koerner /USFWS

Pintails: Tom Koerner /USFWS



NW Permit Zone Geese



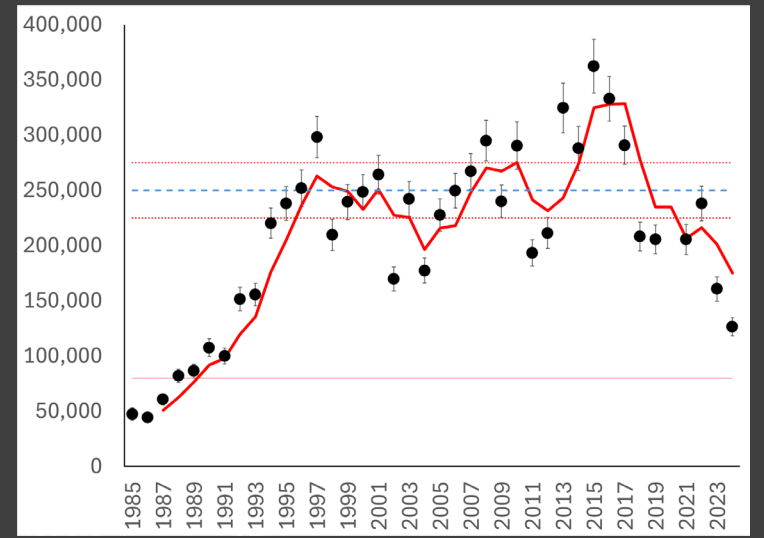
Some breeding populations declining



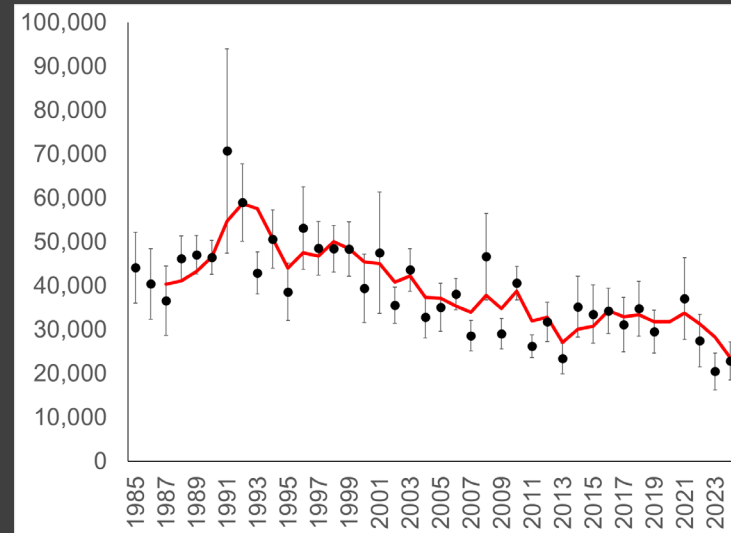
Impacts to small cackling geese



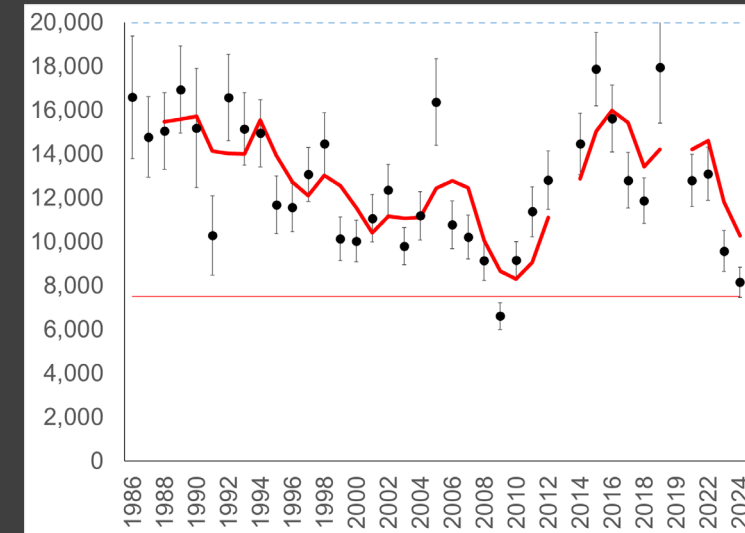
NW Permit Zone harvest impacts



Small Cackling Geese



Taverner's Cackling Geese



Dusky Canada Geese



NW Permit Zone Frameworks

Canada/cackling geese

- 2 bird daily limit
- 74-day season maximum
- End on or before Feb. 15

White & white-fronted

- No change



Cackling Geese: ODFW



NW Permit Zone Recommendation



Cackling Geese: Tim Akimoff

Canada & Cackling Geese

- Increase Sept. season to 15 days
- Reduce to 74-day regular season:
 - Maintain 3 periods
 - 3rd Period closes on Feb. 15
- Daily bag limit of 2 birds
(Dusky Canada geese closed)

White & White-fronted Geese

- Full 104-day regular season:
 - Maintain 3 periods
 - 3Rd Period close on Feb. 15
- Daily bag limit unchanged



Mid-Columbia Goose Zone

- Modify season structure for white and white-fronted geese
 - 1st Period – Oct. 11 to Oct. 26
 - 2nd Period – Nov. 8 to Jan. 8
 - 3rd Period – Jan. 31 to Feb. 22



Snow Geese: USFWS



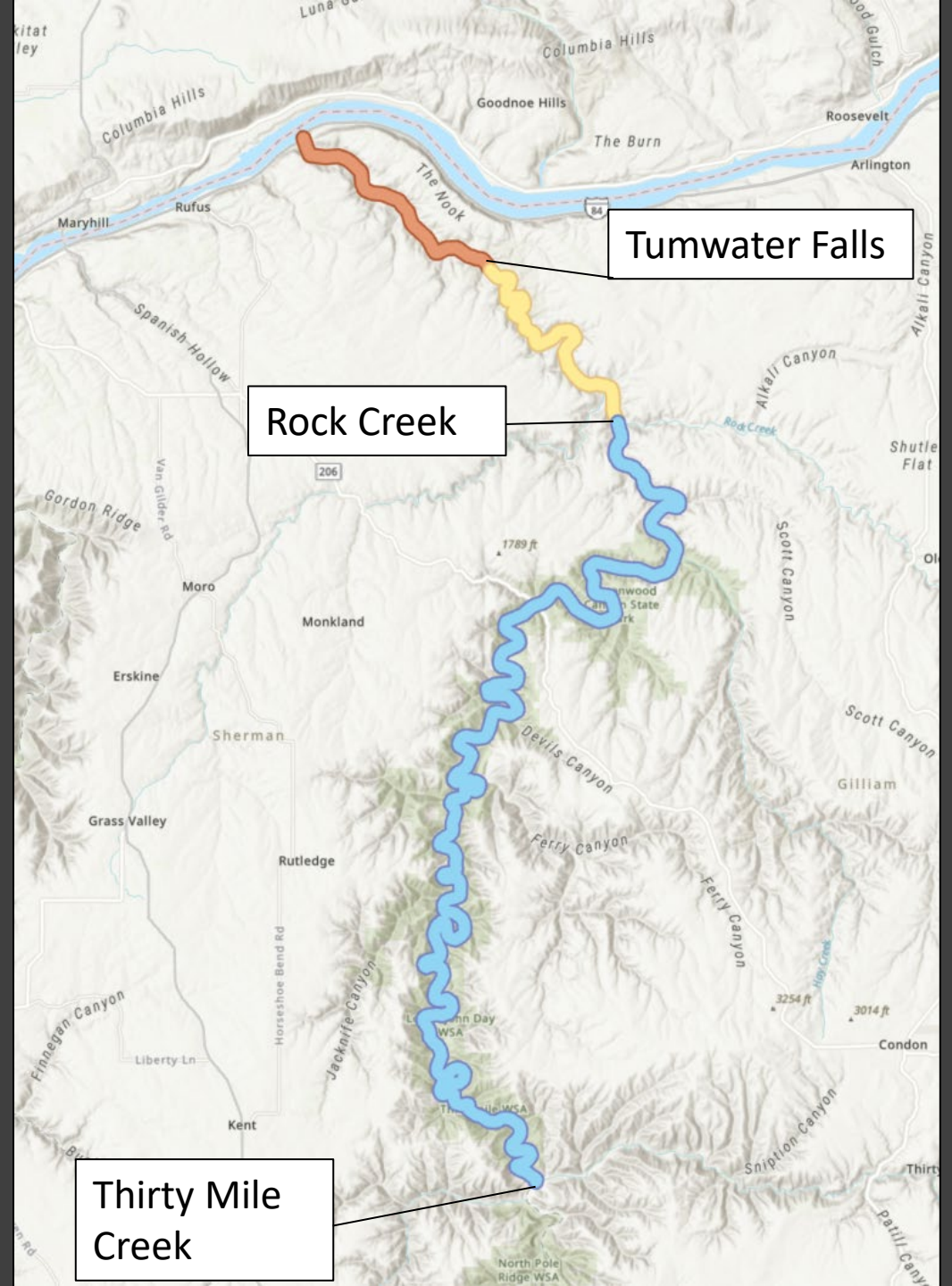
John Day River Refuge

Expand area where hunting of all game birds is allowed

Blue = No change, open to game bird hunting

Red = No change, open only for upland game birds, only during Sept. & Oct.

Yellow = Propose open to game bird hunting





Klamath Wildlife Area

Prohibit open fires on the wildlife area



Brush fire at Klamath Wildlife Area: ODFW

Staff Recommendations

- 1) Adopt as department policy the 2025-2030 Oregon Upland Game Bird Hunting Season Framework as proposed by staff and shown in Attachment 3.
- 2) Adopt regulations for 2025-26 game bird hunting seasons, amend rules for department owned lands, and OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 008, 051, 052, 053, 054, 060 and 065 as proposed by staff and shown in Attachments 4 and 5.