

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 2009 and in effect from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2015. The framework is renewed every five 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 then proposed by a USFWS Regulations Committee, and then approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and these frameworks provide guidance to states in selection of seasons. States cannot legally be more liberal than established frameworks but can be more conservative.

However, Federal frameworks for most migratory game bird species for the 2011-12 seasons were not available at the time of this packet preparation. **A supplemental packet containing staff proposals for most migratory game bird seasons will be forthcoming.**

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Questions from other interested persons, including the news media, were answered.
- Upland Game Bird Frameworks were created through a public process.
- Migratory Game Bird Season proposals are sent to interested parties and an established email list.

ISSUE 1

Recommendations for 2011-2012 Game Bird Seasons; available permits for Sage-grouse, Fall Turkey Controlled Hunts, Dove and Pigeon seasons, Pheasant Hunting Workshops, Western Oregon Fee Pheasant Hunts, and Youth Hunting Opportunities.

ANALYSIS

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed season dates, bag and possession limits, and other regulations related to the 2011-2012 game bird hunting seasons, including:

Dove and Pigeon Seasons

Frameworks and recommendations are unchanged from last year.

Snipe and Coot Seasons

No recommendation is presented at this time.

Duck Seasons

No recommendation is presented at this time.

Falconry Seasons

No changes in seasons are recommended.

Goose Seasons

Frameworks and recommendations are unchanged from last year for the September Canada goose season. No recommendation is presented at this time for other goose seasons.

Public Hunting Opportunities

Staff will provide recommendations on the Regulated Hunt Area Program, pheasant hunting workshops, and youth hunting opportunities.

Western Oregon Fee Pheasant Hunts

No changes are recommended for this popular program.

Sage-grouse Seasons

Season length and bag limit proposed as adopted in framework. Staff will provide recommended number of permits by wildlife management unit.

Fall Turkey Seasons

No changes in seasons are recommended.

Permit Requirements to Harass Wildlife

Staff will provide recommendations for wording changes to the permit requirements to harass wildlife.

OPTIONS

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

**STAFF
RECOMMEND-
ATION**

Option 1

DRAFT MOTION

I move to amend OAR Chapter 635, Divisions 008, 043, 045, 051, 052, 053, 054, and 060 as proposed by staff and adopt the document titled "2011-2012 Oregon Game Bird Regulations."

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Upon Filing