

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has 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. 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 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 2012-13 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 2012-2013 Game Bird Seasons and hunting regulations; upland game bird possession limits, available permits for Sage-grouse, Fall Turkey Controlled Hunts, Dove and Pigeon seasons, Pheasant Hunting Workshops, Western Oregon Fee Pheasant Hunts, and Special or Youth Hunting Opportunities. Also, recommendations for rule changes classify Eurasian collared-doves as an unprotected bird and rule changes to clarify the allowed take of migratory nongame birds when allowed or permitted by the USFWS, and rule changes to allow youth big game hunting on a portion of the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area.

ANALYSIS

Staff will brief the Commission on proposed season dates, bag and possession limits, and other regulations related to the 2012-2013 game bird hunting seasons, including:

Upland Game Bird Possession Limits

Staff will provide a recommendation to increase the possession limit for certain upland game bird species.

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.

Western Oregon Fee Pheasant Hunts

No changes are recommended for this popular program.

Special and Youth Upland Game Hunting Opportunities

Staff will provide recommendations pheasant hunting workshops and youth hunting opportunities.

Falconry Seasons

No changes in seasons are recommended.

Upland Game Bird Art Contest

Staff will provide recommendations for contest rules and selection of the upland game bird stamp artwork for the next five years.

Dove and Pigeon Seasons

Frameworks and recommendations for mourning dove and band-tailed pigeons are unchanged from last year. Staff will provide a recommendation to classify Eurasian collared-doves as a nongame, unprotected species.

Duck Seasons

No recommendation is presented at this time.

Goose Seasons

No recommendation is presented at this time.

Snipe and Coot Seasons

No recommendation is presented at this time.

Game Bird Hunting Regulations

Staff will provide recommendations for regulation changes related to disguising the kind or sex of game birds killed.

Other Regulations

Staff will provide recommendations for regulation changes related to taking of migratory nongame birds when allowed under a Federal depredation order or depredation permit issued by the USFWS. Staff will also provide a recommendation to allow youth big game hunting on a portion of Ladd Marsh Wildlife as authorized by the 2012 Big Game Regulations.

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, 044, 045, 051, 052, 053, 054, and 060 as proposed by staff to set regulations for 2012-2013 game bird seasons, to classify Eurasian collared doves as an unprotected bird and to clarify the allowed take of migratory nongame birds when allowed or permitted by the USFWS.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

August 3, 2012