

2019-20 Proposed Upland Game Bird Regulations



Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting
April 19, 2019, St. Helens, Oregon
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Upland Game Bird Coordinator



Upland Game Bird Regulations

- Population Status
- Regulation Framework
- Fall Turkey Seasons
- Special Hunting Opportunities
 - ✓ Youth Hunts
 - ✓ Hunting Workshops
 - ✓ Fee Pheasant Hunt
- Controlled Hunts for Sage-grouse



Population Status

Harvest Surveys

- Increased harvest across all species in 2018
- Cyclical trends – 2019 should be similar

Population surveys

- Too early for fall population forecasts
- Populations have been increasing

Weather

- Precipitation and snowpack
- Improved habitat conditions
- Spring weather can affect hatch

Upland Game Bird Framework

The background of the slide features a photograph of two upland game birds, likely quail, standing in a snowy field. The birds have mottled brown and white feathers and prominent reddish-brown throats. They are positioned in the center and right side of the frame, with one bird in the foreground and another slightly behind it. The overall scene is a winter landscape with snow on the ground and some bare branches visible in the background.

- **Final year of 5-year upland game bird framework (2015-2020)**
- **Established through public process**
- **Basis for Regulation Framework**
 - ✓ Annual variation in populations is normal
 - ✓ Hunting effort is largely self-regulating
 - ✓ Hunting - small part of annual mortality

2019-20 Upland Game Bird Season Proposals

UPLAND GAME BIRDS	OPEN AREA	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG
"Blue" and Ruffed Grouse	Statewide	Sept. 1 – Jan. 31	3 each species
Chukar and Hungarian (Gray) Partridge	E. OR counties	Oct. 5 – Jan. 31	8 (Lower Klamath Hills = 2)
Rooster Pheasant	Statewide	Oct. 5 – Dec. 31	2
California Quail	W. OR	Sept. 1 – Jan. 31	10 in aggregate
	E. OR	Oct. 5 – Jan. 31	10
Mountain Quail	W. OR, Hood River and Wasco counties	Sept. 1 – Jan. 31	10 in aggregate
	Crook, Gilliam, Grant, Klamath, Morrow, Umatilla, Wallowa, and Wheeler	Oct. 5 – Jan. 31	2
	Remaining E. OR counties	NO OPEN SEASON	

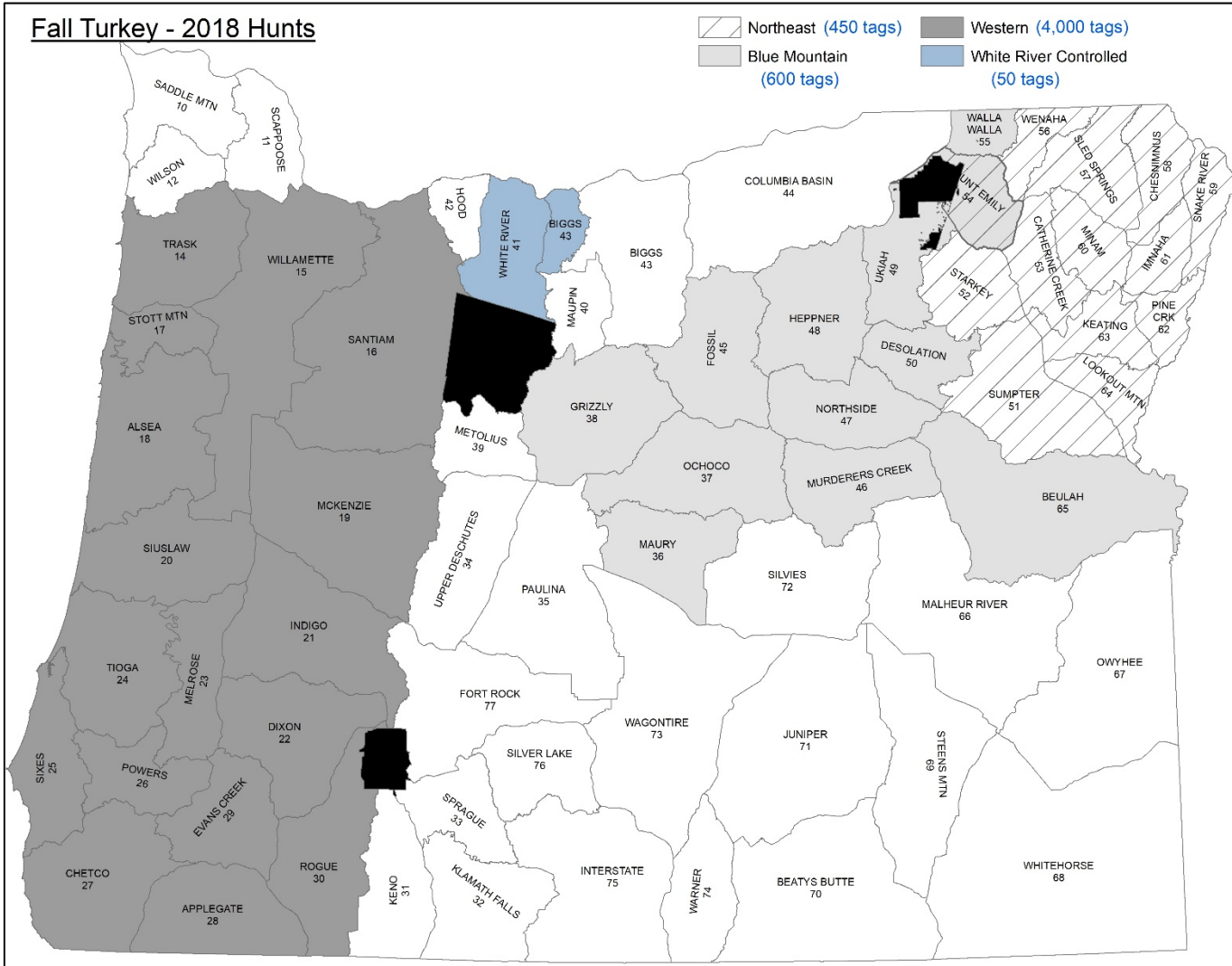
2019-20 Upland Game Bird Season Proposals

UPLAND GAME BIRDS	OPEN AREA	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG
Spring Turkey – General	Statewide	Apr. 15 – May 31	1 (season limit 3)
Youth Spring Turkey – General	Statewide	Apr. 11 – Apr. 12	
Fall Turkey – General Western Oregon	17 W. OR WMUs	Oct. 15 – Dec. 31	1 (season limit 2 Fall Turkey tags) 4,000 tags offered
Fall Turkey – General Blue Mtns <u>Central</u>	12-16 E. OR WMUs	Oct. 5 – Dec. 31	1 (season limit 1) 600 900 tags offered in Central
Fall Turkey – General Northeast	13 E. OR WMUs	Oct. 5 – Dec. 31	

Eastern Oregon Fall Turkey Hunts

- Rename “Blue Mountains” to “Central”
- Add Maupin, Biggs, Columbia Basin, Owyhee to Central
- Remove W. Biggs WMU from White River Controlled Fall Hunt (K41)
- Increase tags from 600 to 900 in Central
- Increase tags from 450 to 550 in Northeast
- Hunters allowed two western fall tags, or one eastern and one western fall turkey tags

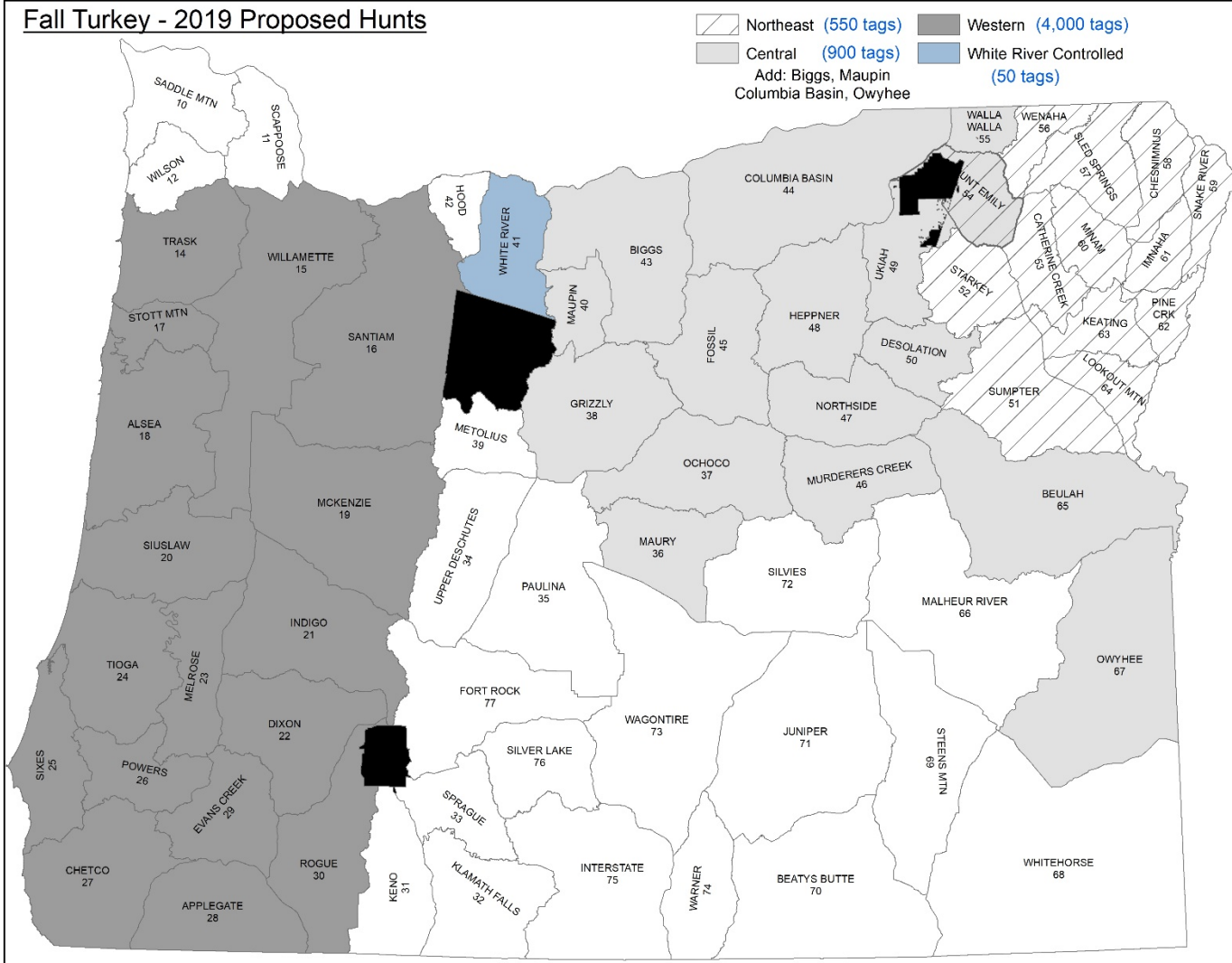
Eastern Oregon Fall Turkey Hunts



 There are no hunting seasons on National Parks or allotted and/or Tribal lands in these areas.

Eastern Oregon Fall Turkey Hunts

Fall Turkey - 2019 Proposed Hunts



There are no hunting seasons on National Parks or allotted and/or Tribal lands in these areas.

Special Hunting Opportunities

- Require special seasons
- Opportunities change annually
- Not covered by Framework

2019 Proposed Youth Upland Game Bird Hunts

HUNT AREA	DATES	HUNTERS
Coquille Valley Wildlife Area	September 7 & 8	40
Fern Ridge Wildlife Area	September 7 & 8	75
Central Oregon (Near Madras)	September 14 & 15	80
Denman Wildlife Area	September 14 & 15	85
John Day (private land)	September 14 & 15	30
Klamath Wildlife Area	September 14 & 15	80
Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area	September 14 & 15	35
Sauvie Island Wildlife Area	September 14 & 15	50
White River Wildlife Area	September 14 & 15	20
E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area	September 21 & 22	70
Irrigon Wildlife Area	September 21 & 22	15
City of Ontario property	October 12 & 13	20

Special Hunting Opportunities

2019 Proposed Pheasant Hunting Workshops

HUNT AREA

DATES

**Sauvie Island
Wildlife Area September 7 & 8
(Family Workshops)**

**E. E. Wilson
Wildlife Area September 14 & 15
(Family Workshops)**



Photo courtesy of Cat Sandor-Korte

Special Hunting Opportunities

2019 Proposed Western Oregon Fee Pheasant Hunts

HUNT AREA

DATES

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

September 9 – October 6

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area

September 16 – September 29

Denman Wildlife Area

September 16 – October 4

E. E. Wilson Wildlife Area

October 1 – October 31



Photo courtesy of Dave Budeau

Current Status of Sage-grouse

2018 Statistics

- **Breeding population declined 10% over 2017**
- **Juvenile/hen ratio 1.4, long-term average = 1.5**
- **Nest success 46%, up from 32% in 2017**
- **Juveniles in harvest was 42%, LTA of 47%**

2019 Forecast

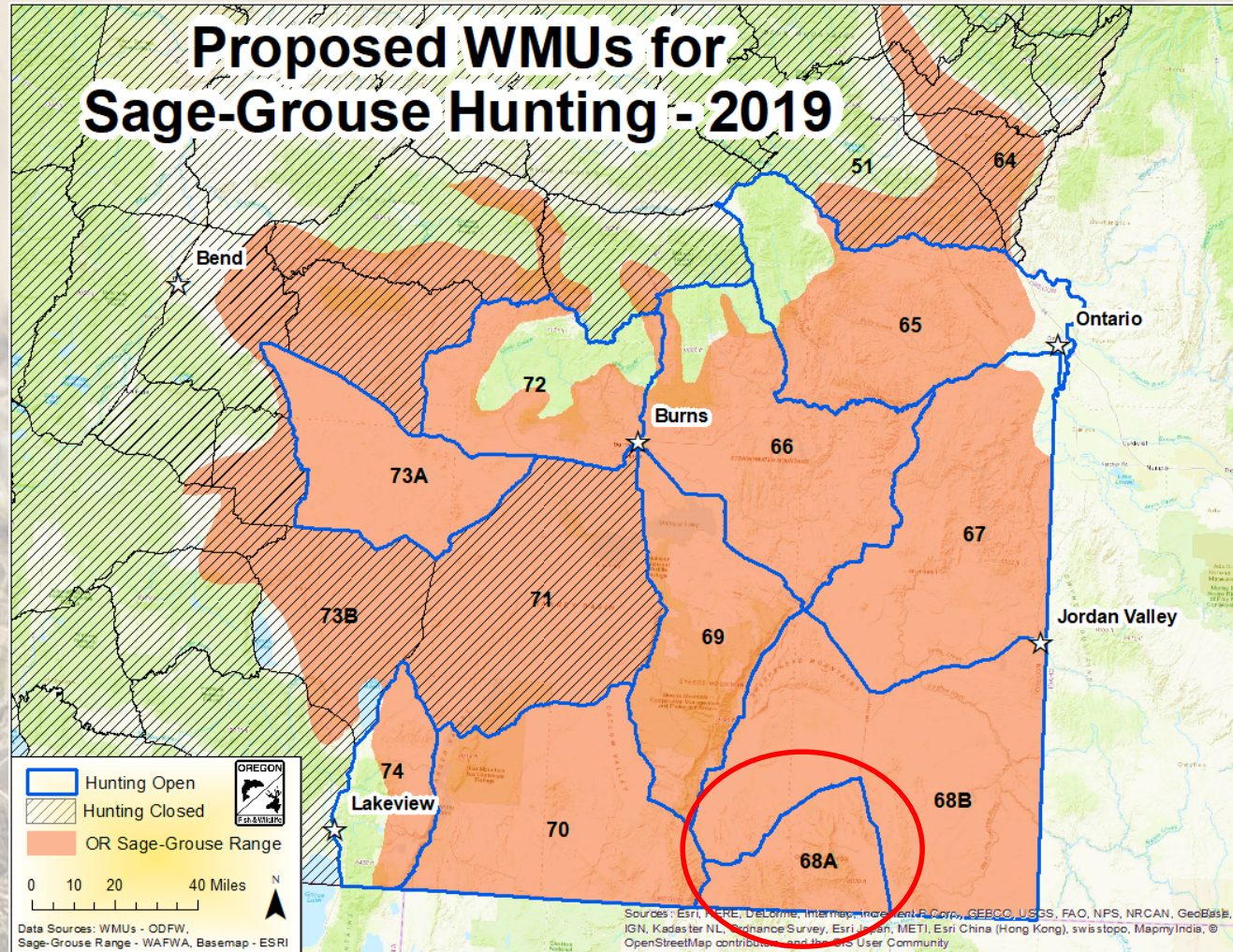
- **Lek surveys in progress**
- **Expect breeding population to be stable or down slightly based on juvenile/hen ratio**
- **Improved habitat conditions**

Controlled Sage-grouse Season

- Season Dates: September 7-15
- Daily/Season Bag Limit: 2 sage-grouse
- Application Deadline: August 19
- Adopt permit #s by temporary rule
 - ✓ Early August
- **Changes: Trout Creek Mountains**

Controlled Sage-grouse Season

- 9 WMUs
- 10 controlled hunts
- Re-open Trout Creek Mountains
- No hunting in other 12 WMUs



Questions?



Photo courtesy of Mark Penninger

Migratory Game Birds



**2019-20 Hunting Season and Regulation Proposals
For Consideration by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
April 19, 2019**

Presentation Overview

- Regulation setting process
- Seasons and bag limits
- Wildlife area hunt programs
- Department lands rules



Decision Making Processes

- Season frameworks established by the USFWS in consultation with the Flyways
- Adaptive Harvest Management
 - ❖ Western Mallard Model
 - ❖ Pintail, scaup, canvasback, mourning dove, and band-tailed pigeon harvest strategies
- Many hunting regulations are also federal rule



A brown dog, possibly a Weimaraner, is sitting in a field of tall grass and reeds. The dog is wearing a brown vest and a collar with a tag. In the foreground, two ducks are resting on the grass. The background shows a wide field, a small pond, and rolling hills under a clear sky.

Season and Bag Limit Proposals

Most Unchanged from Last Year

Status Quo Seasons and Bag Limits

- Mourning Dove
- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Coot
- Wilson's Snipe
- September Canada Goose
- General Goose
- Brant
- Crow



Duck Season and Bag Limits

- Seasons status quo
- Pintail bag limit reduced to 1 per day
 - ❖ National Pintail Harvest Strategy continues to be a high priority for Pacific Flyway

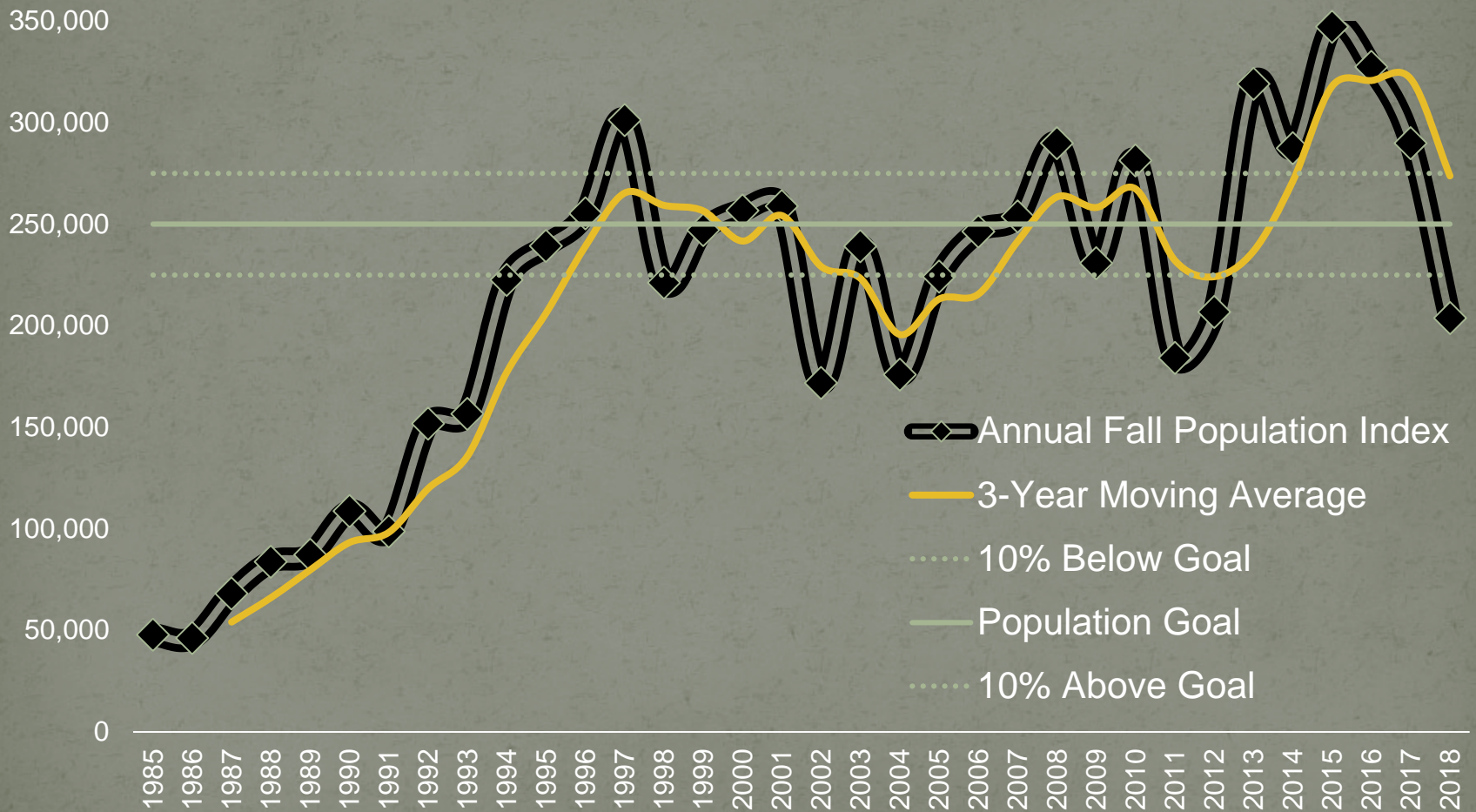


Northwest Permit Zone

- Cackling geese remain over objective
- Agricultural depredation remains major concern
- Federal frameworks allow for bag limit increase
- However...
 - ❖ 2018 survey showed 30% decline
 - ❖ Possibly biased low
 - ❖ Next survey in June 2019



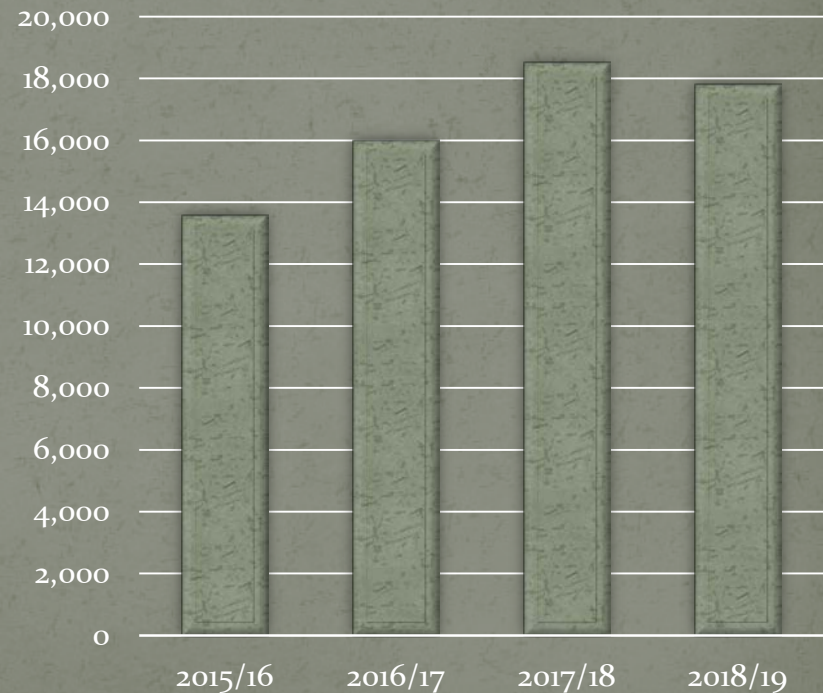
Cackling Goose Population Indices



2019-20 Bag Limit Proposal

- Status Quo – 4 Canada geese per day
- If 2019 index > 2017:
 - ❖ Increase bag limit to 6 Canada geese per day by Temporary Rule
- Notify hunters via news release, social media, etc.

Estimated Cackling Goose Harvest in Oregon



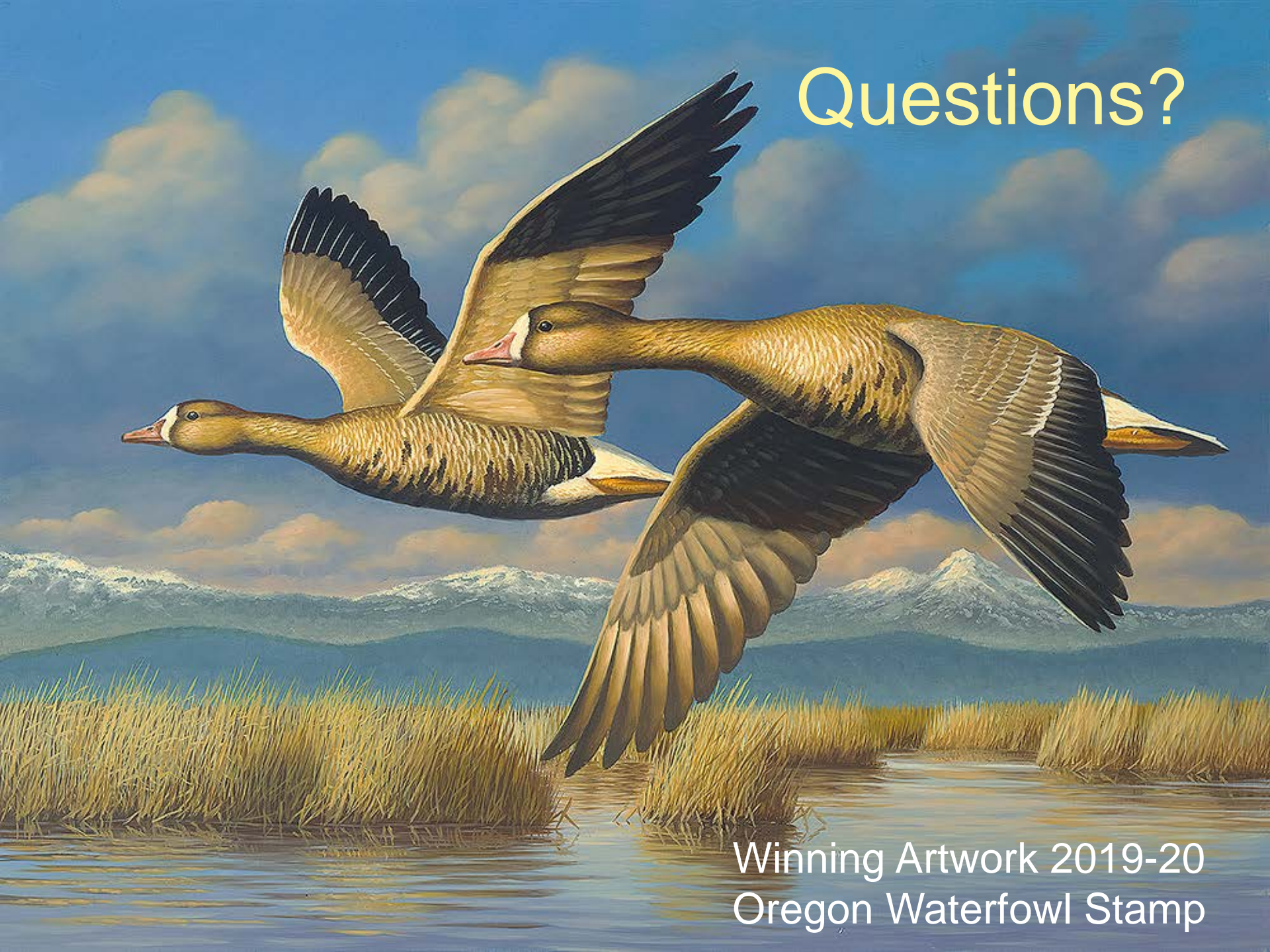
Wildlife Area Hunt Programs

- Summer Lake – marsh rehabilitation
 - ❖ Popular 1,800 ac Gold Dike Impoundment dry
 - ❖ Open 615 ac North Bullgate Refuge to compensate
- Fern Ridge – require daily hunt permits in all units
 - ❖ Began last season, proposing to continue
 - ❖ Previously only required in managed wetland units
 - ❖ Simplifies area regulations
 - ❖ Better estimates of hunter use
- Coquille Valley – Winter Lake Tract hunt days
 - ❖ Sat., Sun., Wed., and federal holidays
 - ❖ Improve waterfowl hunting success

OAR Division 008 – Department Lands

- Prohibit leaving personal property overnight
- Standardize language for:
 - ❖ access permits
 - ❖ overnight closures
 - ❖ firearms discharge
 - ❖ open fires

Questions?



Winning Artwork 2019-20
Oregon Waterfowl Stamp