

2021-22 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Season and Regulation Proposals

A large flock of white geese is gathered in a field of dry grass and straw. The geese are mostly white with some brown speckling on their wings and necks. They are standing in various directions, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The background is a soft-focus field of more geese, extending to a distant horizon under a clear sky.

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Presentation Overview

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



Decision Making Process

- Season frameworks established by USFWS in consultation with the Flyways
- Adaptive Harvest Management strategies guide many decisions
 - Western Mallard Model
 - Pintail, Scaup, Canvasback, Mourning Dove, & Band-tailed Pigeon harvest strategies
- Flyway management plans guide goose frameworks
- Many hunting regulations are also Federal Rule
 - Non-toxic shot, plug requirement, baiting rules, etc.

Effects of the Pandemic

- No aerial surveys conducted in 2020
 - Model predictions substituted for duck frameworks
 - Most recent 3-year average for goose frameworks
 - Mourning doves unaffected
 - Band-tailed Pigeons unaffected
- Many 2021 aerial surveys will not be conducted
 - Waterfowl Breeding Population & Habitat Survey Canceled
- Oregon will conduct Spring Breeding Population Survey
- Alaska will conduct surveys
 - Dusky, Cackling, Taverner's and White-fronted geese

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 lying on the grass. The background shows a wide field, a small pond, and rolling hills under a clear sky.

Season and Bag Limit Proposals

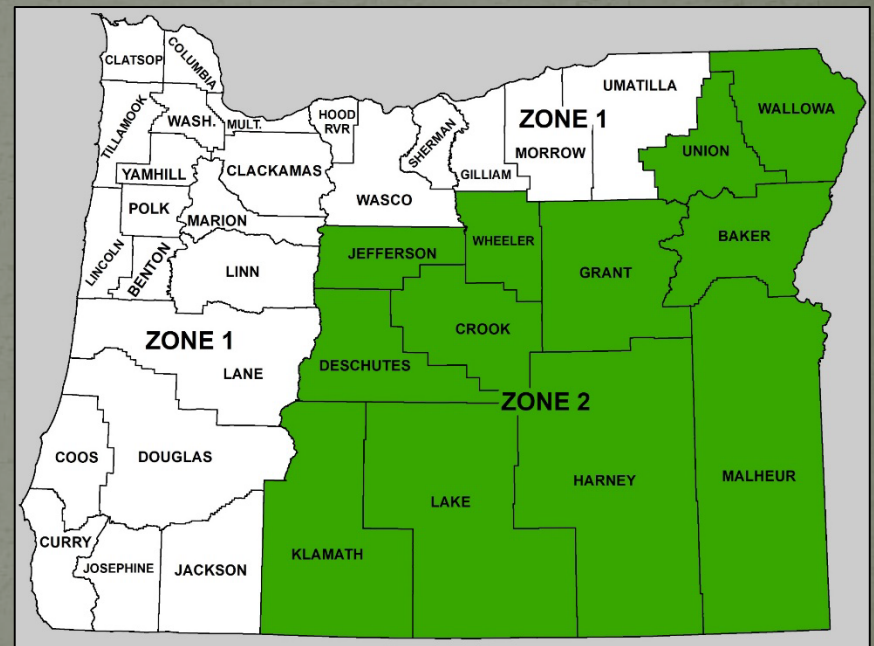
Status Quo Seasons and Limits

- Band-tailed Pigeon
- Duck
- September Canada Goose
- Brant
- American Coot
- Wilson's Snipe
- Crow
- Falconry
- Special Youth Waterfowl
- Veteran & Active Military Personnel Waterfowl



Mourning Dove Season Structure

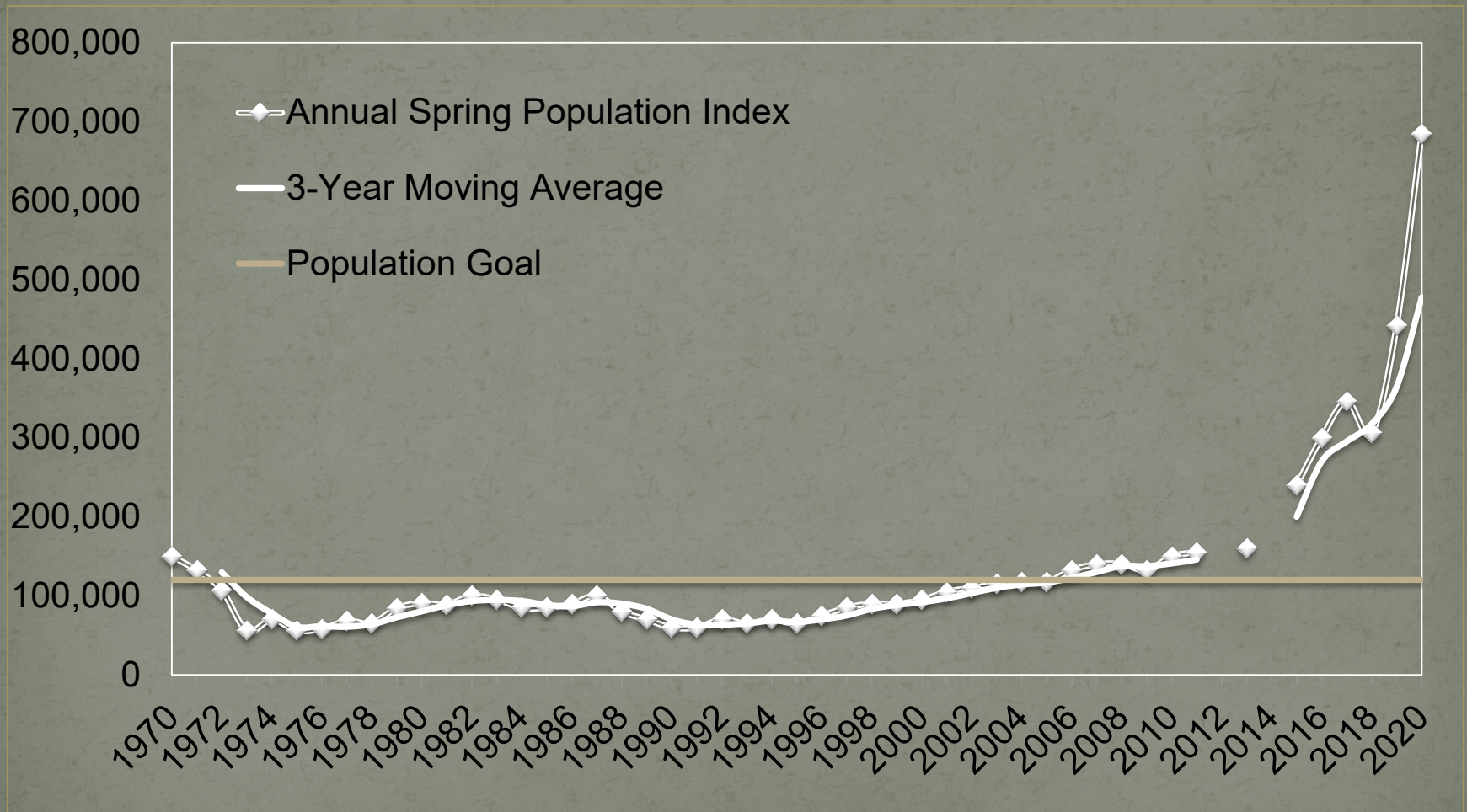
- Split state into two zones
 - Use current duck and snipe zone boundaries
- Zone 1: split the 60-day season into two, 30-day periods
 - September 1 – 30
 - November 15 – December 14
- Zone 2: no change in season structure
 - September 1 – October 30



White Goose Bag Limit and Season Structure

- Three management populations occur in Oregon
 - Wrangel Island Snow, Western Arctic Snow, Ross's
- Wrangel Island nest in Russia
 - Additional management complexity
- Wrangel Island had not seen growth observed at other breeding colonies
 - More conservative regulations where Wrangel Island geese predominate
 - Washington
 - Oregon, except in late-winter in southcentral-southeast

Wrangel Island Snow Geese



White Goose Bag Limit

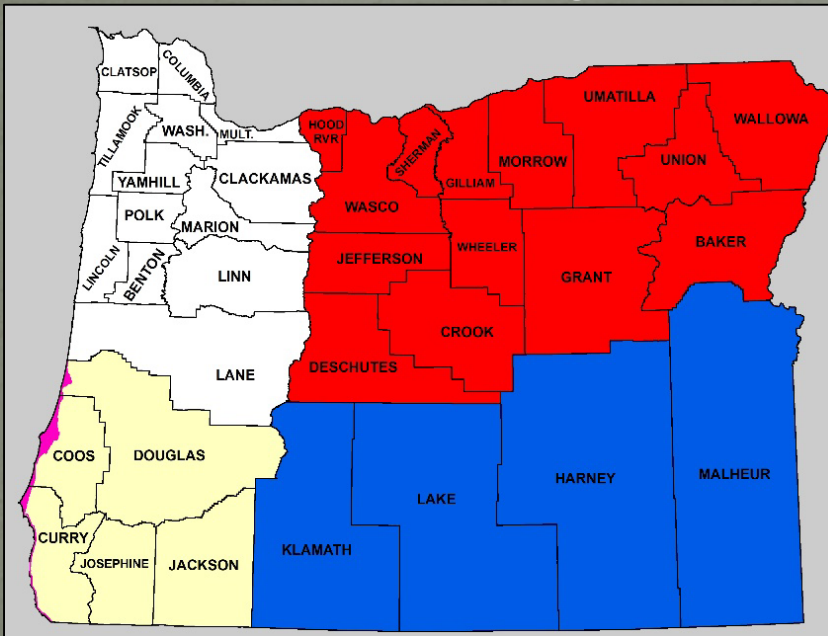
- With all three Flyway populations well above goal, standardize bag limit at the Flyway maximum of 20 per day
 - May lead to moderate increases in harvest
 - May keep hunters in the field longer
 - Reduce agricultural damage by geese



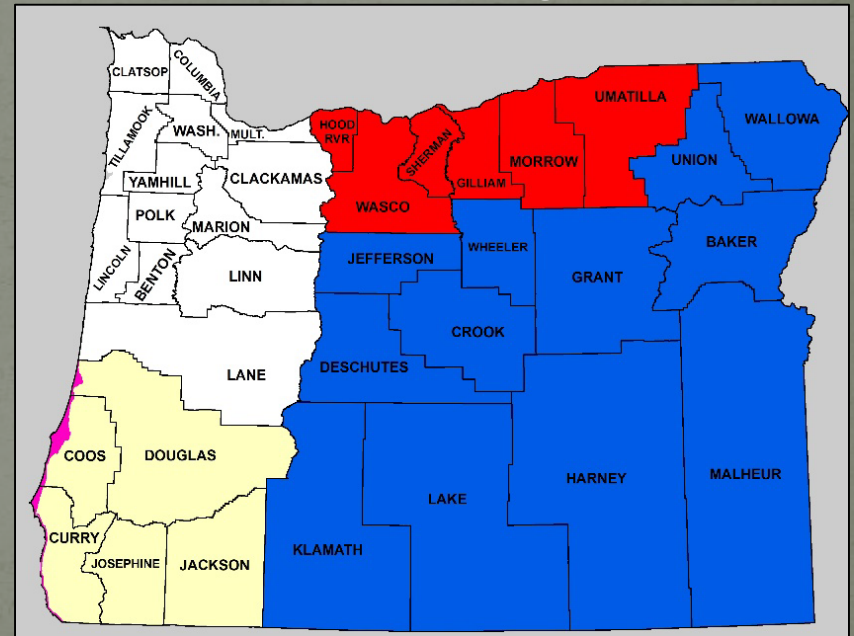
Goose Hunting Zones

New goose zone boundaries in Eastern Oregon

Previous Goose Hunting Zones



New Goose Hunting Zones



White & White-fronted Goose Season Structure

- New Mid-Columbia Zone
 - Implement new late-winter hunt
 - November 9 – January 30 &
 - February 5 – February 26
- New High Desert & Blue Mountain Zone
 - Maintain current late-winter hunt in Klamath, Lake, Harney & Malheur counties
 - Expand late-winter hunt to remainder of zone
 - October 9 – November 28
 - January 16 – March 10
 - Late-season closures at Wildlife Areas (Summer Lake, Klamath, Ladd Marsh)
- Aligns opening dates for ducks and Canada geese
- Helps address damage in Columbia Basin
- Maintains early season opportunity in central and northeast

Wildlife Area Hunt Programs

- Sauvie Island – Eastside Unit
 - Implement an Outdoor Skills Program - Waterfowl Hunting Workshop
 - Currently Eastside is a Controlled Hunt
 - Reserve the Mudhen subunit on November 14th for workshop participants



OAR Division 008 – Department Lands

- Standardize discharge of firearms language
- Modify camping regulations at some areas
- Clarify or modify ATV & snowmobile use at some areas
- Add parking permit requirement at Wenaha
- Modify rules at EE Wilson tied to Fee Pheasant Hunt dates
- EE Wilson – Clarify hunting is prohibited at Adair Tract, except for falconry

Questions?



Winning Artwork 2021-22
Oregon Waterfowl Stamp