

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 20**

[Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2016-0051;  
FF09M21200-178-FXMB1231099BPP0]

RIN 1018-BB40

**Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we) prescribes final frameworks from which States may select season dates, limits, and other options for the 2017–18 migratory bird hunting seasons. The effect of this final rule is to facilitate the States' selection of hunting seasons and to further the annual establishment of the migratory bird hunting regulations. We annually prescribe frameworks, or outer limits, for dates and times when hunting may occur and the number of birds that may be taken and possessed in hunting seasons. These frameworks are necessary to allow State selections of seasons and limits and to allow recreational harvest at levels compatible with population and habitat conditions.

**DATES:** This rule takes effect on May 30, 2017.

**ADDRESSES:** States should send their season selections to: Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: MB, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803. You may inspect comments received on the migratory bird hunting regulations during normal business hours at the Service's office at 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803 or at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2016-0051. You may obtain copies of referenced reports from the street address above, or from the Division of Migratory Bird Management's Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/>, or at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2016-0051.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ron W. Kokel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, MS: MB, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803; (703) 358–1967.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Regulations Schedule for 2017**

On June 10, 2016, we published a proposal to amend title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at part 20

(81 FR 38050). The proposal provided a background and overview of the migratory bird hunting regulations process, and addressed the establishment of seasons, limits, and other regulations for hunting migratory game birds under §§ 20.101 through 20.107, 20.109, and 20.110 of subpart K. Major steps in the 2017–18 regulatory cycle relating to open public meetings and **Federal Register** notifications were also identified in the June 10, 2016, proposed rule. Further, we explained that all sections of subsequent documents outlining hunting frameworks and guidelines were organized under numbered headings. Those headings are:

1. Ducks
  - A. General Harvest Strategy
  - B. Regulatory Alternatives
  - C. Zones and Split Seasons
  - D. Special Seasons/Species Management
    - i. September Teal Seasons
    - ii. September Teal/Wood Duck Seasons
    - iii. Black ducks
    - iv. Canvasbacks
    - v. Pintails
    - vi. Scaup
    - vii. Mottled ducks
    - viii. Wood ducks
    - ix. Youth Hunt
    - x. Mallard Management Units
    - xi. Other
2. Sea Ducks
3. Mergansers
4. Canada Geese
  - A. Special Early Seasons
  - B. Regular Seasons
  - C. Special Late Seasons
5. White-fronted Geese
6. Brant
7. Snow and Ross's (Light) Geese
8. Swans
9. Sandhill Cranes
10. Coots
11. Moorhens and Gallinules
12. Rails
13. Snipe
14. Woodcock
15. Band-tailed Pigeons
16. Doves
17. Alaska
18. Hawaii
19. Puerto Rico
20. Virgin Islands
21. Falconry
22. Other

Subsequent sections of this document refer only to the numbered items requiring attention. Therefore, the numbered items discussed below will be discontinuous and appear incomplete.

The June 10, 2016, proposed rule also provided detailed information on the proposed 2017–18 regulatory schedule and announced the Service Regulations Committee (SRC) and Flyway Council meetings.

On August 12, 2016, we published in the **Federal Register** (81 FR 53391) a

second document providing supplemental proposals for migratory bird hunting regulations. The August 12 supplement also provided detailed information on the 2017–18 regulatory schedule and re-announced the SRC and Flyway Council meetings.

On October 25–26, 2016, we held open meetings with the Flyway Council Consultants, at which the participants reviewed information on the current status of migratory game birds and developed recommendations for the 2017–18 regulations for these species.

On February 9, 2017, we published in the **Federal Register** (82 FR 10222) the proposed frameworks for the 2017–18 season migratory bird hunting regulations. This document establishes final frameworks for migratory bird hunting regulations for the 2017–18 season. There are no substantive changes from the February 9 proposed rule. We will publish State selections in the **Federal Register** as amendments to §§ 20.101 through 20.107 and 20.109 of title 50 CFR part 20.

**Population Status and Harvest**

Each year we publish various species status reports that provide detailed information on the status and harvest of migratory game birds, including information on the methodologies and results. These reports are available at the address indicated under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** or from our Web site at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/surveys-and-data/reports-and-publications/population-status.php>.

We used the following reports: Adaptive Harvest Management, 2017 Hunting Season (August 2016); American Woodcock Population Status, 2016 (August 2016); Band-tailed Pigeon Population Status, 2016 (September 2016); Migratory Bird Hunting Activity and Harvest During the 2014–15 and 2015–16 Hunting Seasons (October 2016); Mourning Dove Population Status, 2016 (August 2016); Status and Harvests of Sandhill Cranes, Mid-continent, Rocky Mountain, Lower Colorado River Valley and Eastern Populations, 2016 (September 2016); and Waterfowl Population Status, 2016 (August 2016).

**Review of Public Comments and Flyway Council Recommendations**

The preliminary proposed rulemaking, which appeared in the June 10, 2016, **Federal Register**, opened the public comment period for migratory game bird hunting regulations and discussed the regulatory alternatives for the 2017–18 duck hunting season. The February 9, 2017, **Federal Register** publication discussed and proposed the

frameworks for the 2017–18 season migratory bird hunting regulations. Comments and recommendations are summarized below and numbered in the order from the above list of topics.

We received recommendations from all four Flyway Councils. Some recommendations supported continuation of last year's frameworks. Due to the comprehensive nature of the annual review of the frameworks performed by the Councils, support for continuation of last year's frameworks is assumed for items for which no recommendations were received. Council recommendations for changes in the frameworks are summarized below. We have included only the numbered items pertaining to issues for which we received recommendations. Consequently, the issues do not follow in successive numerical order.

### General

*Written Comments:* A commenter provided several comments that protested the entire migratory bird hunting regulations process, the killing of all migratory birds, and status and habitat data on which the migratory bird hunting regulations are based. Another commenter opposed the use of the term “sport” and taxpayer funds to either increase the number of birds taken or monitor hunters in Idaho and Washington. Several other commenters expressed support for the proposed regulations.

A commenter expressed general support for moving the March 10 framework ending date for all waterfowl to an April closing date.

A commenter requested that the rule address lead ammunition and potential concerns about lead contamination.

A commenter requested that the regulation of migratory bird hunting be left to the individual States rather than the Federal Government.

*Service Response:* Our long-term objectives continue to include providing opportunities to harvest portions of certain migratory game bird populations and to limit harvests to levels compatible with each population's ability to maintain healthy, viable numbers. Having taken into account the zones of temperature and the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of flight of migratory birds, we conclude that the hunting seasons provided for herein are compatible with the current status of migratory bird populations and long-term population goals. Additionally, we are obligated to, and do, give serious consideration to all information received as public comment. While there are problems

inherent with any type of representative management of public-trust resources, the Flyway-Council system of migratory game bird management has been a longstanding example of State-Federal cooperative management since its establishment in 1952. However, as always, we continue to seek new ways to streamline and improve the process.

In regard to the request for a later framework closing date, we note that the March 10 date is the latest date for migratory bird hunting specified in the Migratory Bird Treaty with Canada.

In regard to lead ammunition, the regulations pertaining to the use of nontoxic shot are contained in 50 CFR 20.21(j) and are not the subject of this rule.

In regard to turning over the establishment of these regulations to the individual States, we note that, due to the migratory nature of certain species of birds, and for the protection and management of these birds, the Federal Government has been given responsibility over these species by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703–712), the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to determine when “hunting, taking, capture, killing, possession, sale, purchase, shipment, transportation, carriage, or export of any \* \* \* bird, or any part, nest, or egg” of migratory game birds can take place, and to adopt regulations for this purpose. These regulations are written after giving due regard to “the zones of temperature and to the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of migratory flight of such birds” and are updated annually (16 U.S.C. 704(a)). However, migratory game bird management is a cooperative effort of State, Tribal, and Federal governments. Annually, the Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and State and Provincial wildlife-management agencies gather, analyze, and interpret biological survey data and provide this information to all those involved in the process through a series of published status reports and presentations to Flyway Councils and other interested parties. We then cooperatively develop migratory game bird hunting regulations by establishing the frameworks, or outside limits, for season lengths, bag limits, and areas for migratory game bird hunting in a cooperative process with the States and the Flyway Councils. This process allows States to participate in the development of frameworks from which they will make selections, thereby having an influence on their own regulations. After frameworks are established, States may select season dates, bag limits, and other regulatory

options for the hunting seasons. This process preserves the ability of the States to determine which seasons meet their individual needs.

### 1. Ducks

#### A. General Harvest Strategy

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended the adoption of the “liberal” regulatory alternative.

The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that regulation changes be restricted to one step per year, both when restricting as well as liberalizing hunting regulations.

*Service Response:* We propose to continue using adaptive harvest management (AHM) to help determine appropriate duck-hunting regulations for the 2017–18 season. AHM allows sound resource decisions in the face of uncertain regulatory impacts and provides a mechanism for reducing that uncertainty over time. We use AHM to evaluate four alternative regulatory levels for duck hunting based on the population status of mallards. (We enact other hunting regulations for species of special concern, such as canvasbacks, scaup, and pintails).

The prescribed regulatory alternative for the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways is based on the status of mallard populations that contribute primarily to each Flyway. In the Atlantic Flyway, we set hunting regulations based on the population status of mallards breeding in eastern North America (Federal survey strata 51–54 and 56, and State surveys in New England and the mid-Atlantic region). In the Central and Mississippi Flyways, we set hunting regulations based on the status and dynamics of mid-continent mallards. Mid-continent mallards are those breeding in central North America (Federal survey strata 13–18, 20–50, and 75–77, and State surveys in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan). In the Pacific Flyway, we set hunting regulations based on the status and dynamics of western mallards. Western mallards are those breeding in Alaska and the northern Yukon Territory (as based on Federal surveys in strata 1–12), and in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California (as based on Canadian Wildlife Service and State-conducted surveys).

For the 2017–18 season, we recommend continuing to use independent optimization to determine the optimal regulatory choice for each mallard stock. This means that we would develop regulations for eastern mallards, mid-continent mallards, and

western mallards independently, based upon the breeding stock that contributes primarily to each Flyway. We detailed implementation of this AHM decision framework for western and mid-continent mallards in the July 24, 2008, **Federal Register** (73 FR 43290) and for eastern mallards in the July 20, 2012, **Federal Register** (77 FR 42920). We further documented how adjustments were made to these decision frameworks in order to be compatible with the new regulatory schedule (<https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/AHM/SEIS&AHMReportFinal.pdf>).

As we stated in the August 12, 2016, proposed rule, for the 2017–18 hunting season, we are continuing to consider the same regulatory alternatives as those used last year. The nature of the “restrictive,” “moderate,” and “liberal” alternatives has remained essentially unchanged since 1997, except that extended framework dates have been offered in the “moderate” and “liberal” regulatory alternatives since 2002 (67 FR 47224; July 17, 2002).

The optimal AHM strategies for mid-continent, eastern, and western mallards for the 2017–18 hunting season were calculated using: (1) Harvest-management objectives specific to each mallard stock; (2) the 2017–18 regulatory alternatives (see further discussion below under B. Regulatory Alternatives); and (3) current population models and associated weights. Based on “liberal” regulatory alternatives selected for the 2016 hunting season, the 2016 survey results of 11.89 million mid-continent mallards (traditional survey area minus Alaska and the Old Crow Flats area of the Yukon Territory, plus Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan) and 3.49 million ponds in Prairie Canada, 0.72 million eastern mallards, and 1.07 million western mallards (0.48 million in California-Oregon and 0.58 million in Alaska), the optimal regulatory choice for all four Flyways is the “liberal” alternative. Therefore, we concur with the recommendations of the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils regarding selection of the “liberal” regulatory alternative for the 2017–18 season and propose to adopt the “liberal” regulatory alternative, as described in the August 12, 2016, **Federal Register**.

Regarding the Mississippi Flyway Council recommendation to limit regulatory changes to one step per year, as we stated in the August 12, 2016, **Federal Register**, we recognize the longstanding interest by the Council to impose a one-step constraint on regulatory changes. We note that the

Central and Mississippi Flyways have worked with Service staff over the past 2 years to re-visit the AHM protocol for managing harvest of mid-continent mallards (*i.e.*, “double-looping”). This effort has included a discussion of appropriate management objectives, regulatory packages, and management of non-mallard stocks. These discussions are the appropriate venue to discuss what role, if any, a one-step constraint might play in management of waterfowl in the Central and Mississippi Flyways. Such discussions should include the potential impact of a one-step constraint on the frequency of when the liberal, moderate, and restrictive packages would be recommended. On a final note, while we recognize the Council’s concern about potentially communicating a large regulatory change to hunters, we have concerns about the appropriateness of a one-step constraint in situations when the status of the waterfowl resource may warrant a different measure. We look forward to continued work with the Flyway Councils on this issue.

#### B. Regulatory Alternatives

*Council Recommendations:* The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended changing the framework closing date to January 31 during “moderate” and “liberal” seasons.

*Written Comments:* A commenter disagreed with South Dakota’s selected season dates for duck hunting in certain zones in recent years.

*Service Response:* As we stated in the August 12, 2016, **Federal Register**, we do not support the Council’s recommendation to extend the duck season framework closing date to January 31 at this time. We note that the current framework opening and closing dates were developed through a cooperative effort between all four Flyway Councils and that framework dates are only one of several components that comprise the regulatory packages utilized in AHM. Regulatory packages also consider season length, daily bag limits, and shooting hours. We conclude the current regulatory packages should remain unchanged until revisions to the AHM protocols have been completed. Those efforts will include examination of duck harvest management objectives, model updates, and revisions to regulatory packages, including framework dates. We prefer that the issue of framework dates and any other component of the regulatory packages be addressed through this cooperative process and would prefer a comprehensive approach to revising

regulatory packages rather than making incremental changes.

Regarding season dates in South Dakota, the State of South Dakota has the prerogative to select any season dates they desire within the overall frameworks. We assume South Dakota is weighing the concerns and wishes of all their hunters and other affected interests when doing so.

#### D. Special Seasons/Species Management

##### i. September Teal Seasons

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic Flyway Council requested granting operational status for the pre-sunrise portion of Maryland’s September teal season. They further requested that we allow an additional year of the experimental teal-only season in Florida, as Florida needs another year to increase sample size to properly assess the effects of the experimental season on nontarget species.

The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that States with ongoing experimental teal seasons in the Mississippi Flyway be allowed an additional year (2017–18 seasons) to evaluate impacts to nontarget species.

The Central Flyway Council recommended that we allow an experimental September teal season in the northern portion of Nebraska to continue for the 2017–18 hunting season.

*Service Response:* For the 2017–18 season, we will utilize the 2016 breeding population estimate of 6.6 million blue-winged teal from the traditional survey area and the criteria developed for the teal season harvest strategy. Thus, a 16-day September teal season in the Atlantic, Central, and Mississippi Flyways is appropriate for the 2017 season.

We agree with the Atlantic Flyway’s request to grant operation status to Maryland’s pre-sunrise portion of their season. Available information collected during the 2013–16 seasons indicates that both nontarget harvest and attempt rates were well below the maximum allowed rates.

We also agree with the Councils’ requests to extend the current experimental seasons for another season in order to collect additional data. Sample size requirement criteria are specified in the memorandums of agreement (MOAs) between the various States and the Service, and the MOAs allow for an extension of the experimental seasons to meet these data needs, with concurrence by both the Service and the State.

## iii. Black Ducks

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils recommended that the Service continue to follow the International Black Duck AHM Strategy for the 2017–18 season.

*Service Response:* In 2012, we adopted the International Black Duck AHM Strategy (77 FR 49868; August 17, 2012). The formal strategy is the result of 14 years of technical and policy decisions developed and agreed upon by both Canadian and U.S. agencies and waterfowl managers. The strategy clarifies what harvest levels each country will manage for and reduces conflicts over country-specific regulatory policies. Further, the strategy allows for attainment of fundamental objectives of black duck management: Resource conservation; perpetuation of hunting tradition; and equitable access to the black duck resource between Canada and the United States while accommodating the fundamental sources of uncertainty, partial controllability and observability, structural uncertainty, and environmental variation. The underlying model performance is assessed annually, with a comprehensive evaluation of the entire strategy (objectives and model set) planned after 6 years.

A copy of the strategy is available at the address indicated under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, or from our Web site at <https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/AHM/BlackDuckInternationalHarvestStrategy.pdf>.

For the 2017–18 season, the optimal country-specific regulatory strategies were calculated using: (1) The black duck harvest objective (98 percent of long-term cumulative harvest); (2) 2017–18 country-specific regulatory alternatives; (3) current parameter estimates describing the effects of mallard competition on black duck productivity and additive mortality on black duck annual survival; and (4) 2016 survey results of 0.61 million breeding black ducks and 0.41 million breeding mallards in the core survey area. The optimal regulatory choices for the 2017–18 season are the “liberal” package in Canada and the “moderate” package in the United States.

## iv. Canvasbacks

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended a full season for canvasbacks with a 2-bird daily bag limit. Season lengths would be 60 days in the Atlantic and

Mississippi Flyways, 74 days in the Central Flyway (with an additional 23 days in High Plains Mallard Management Unit areas), and 107 days in the Pacific Flyway.

*Service Response:* As we discussed in the March 28, 2016, final rule (81 FR 17302), the canvasback harvest strategy that we had relied on until 2015 was not viable under our new regulatory process because it required biological information that was not yet available at the time a decision on season structure needed to be made. We do not yet have a new harvest strategy to propose for use in guiding canvasback harvest management in the future. However, we have worked with technical staff of the four Flyway Councils to develop a decision framework that relies on the best biological information available to make a harvest management proposal for the 2017–18 season. This framework utilized available information (1994–2014) on canvasback population size, growth rate, survival, and harvest to derive an optimal harvest policy with an objective of maximum sustained yield. The resulting policy suggests a 2-bird daily bag limit whenever the most recent canvasback population estimate is above 480,000 birds. Given that the 2016 canvasback breeding population estimate was 736,500 birds, we support the Flyways’ recommendations for a 2-canvasback daily bag limit for the 2017–18 season.

## v. Pintails

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended a full season for pintails, consisting of a 1-bird daily bag limit and a 60-day season in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways, a 74-day season in the Central Flyway (with an additional 23 days in High Plains Mallard Management Unit areas), and a 107-day season in the Pacific Flyway.

*Service Response:* The current derived pintail harvest strategy was adopted by the Service and Flyway Councils in 2010 (75 FR 44856; July 29, 2010). For the 2017–18 season, an optimal regulatory strategy for pintails was calculated with: (1) An objective of maximizing long-term cumulative harvest, including a closed-season constraint of 1.75 million birds; (2) the regulatory alternatives and associated predicted harvest; and (3) current population models and their relative weights. Based on a “liberal” regulatory alternative with a 2-bird daily bag limit in 2016, and the 2016 survey results of 2.62 million pintails observed at a mean latitude of 58.6 degrees, the optimal regulatory choice for all four Flyways

for the 2017–18 hunting season is the “liberal” alternative with a 1-bird daily bag limit.

## vi. Scaup

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended use of the “moderate” regulation package, consisting of a 60-day season with a 2-bird daily bag in the Atlantic Flyway and a 3-bird daily bag in the Mississippi Flyway, a 74-day season (with an additional 23 days in High Plains Mallard Management Unit areas) with a 3-bird daily bag limit in the Central Flyway, and an 86-day season with a 3-bird daily bag limit in the Pacific Flyway.

*Service Response:* In 2008, we adopted and implemented a new scaup harvest strategy (73 FR 43290 on July 24, 2008, and 73 FR 51124 on August 29, 2008) with initial “restrictive,” “moderate,” and “liberal” regulatory packages adopted for each Flyway.

For scaup, optimal regulatory strategies for the 2017–18 season were calculated using: (1) An objective to achieve 95 percent of long-term cumulative harvest, (2) current scaup regulatory alternatives, and (3) updated model parameters and weights. Based on a “moderate” regulatory alternative selected in 2016, and the 2016 survey results of 4.99 million scaup, the optimal regulatory choice for the 2017–18 season for all four Flyways is the “moderate” regulatory alternative.

## 4. Canada Geese

## A. Special Early Seasons

*Council Recommendations:* The Central Flyway Council recommended an extension of North Dakota’s September early Canada goose season framework to September 22.

*Service Response:* We agree with the Central Flyway Council’s request. When September Canada goose seasons were established in 1999 to allow harvest of primarily resident Canada geese, the Service established a limit that no more than 10 percent of the geese harvested could be migrant birds. Data collected in North Dakota at that time indicated that their harvest of migrants exceeded 10 percent after September 15, so their season was restricted to the middle of the month. An analysis of data from recent hunting seasons shows that the harvest of migrants from September 15–25 now is below 10 percent, so we support the extension.

## B. Regular Seasons

*Council Recommendations:* The Pacific Flyway Council recommended

increasing the daily bag limit from 3 to 4 for Canada geese and brant in the aggregate in Wyoming and New Mexico.

*Written Comments:* The State of Idaho requested modifications to their goose zones effective for the 2017–18 seasons. They state that the requested changes are a result of an extensive waterfowl hunter opinion survey conducted in an effort to better align duck and goose zones with hunter preferences. Further, the changes will better align with existing duck hunting zones, improve hunter opportunity, and reduce regulatory complexity in State and Federal regulations.

An individual from Wisconsin expressed desire for a longer early season (September 1–15) targeting resident geese, a regular season that can run into January, and an increase in the daily bag limit from 2 to 3 birds.

*Service Response:* We agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation to increase the daily bag limit from 3 to 4 Canada geese and brant in the aggregate in Wyoming and New Mexico. The basic daily bag limit is 4 for Canada geese and brant in the aggregate for Interior States within the Pacific Flyway. State restrictions have been imposed in many States in the Pacific Flyway to help establish and build breeding population segments (flocks) identified by State reference areas in the Flyway management plan. The current 3-year average breeding population estimate (2014–16) for the Rocky Mountain Population of western Canada geese is 195,320, which is substantially above the Flyway population objective of 117,000 geese and thresholds for restriction (<88,000 geese) and liberalization (<146,000 geese). Removal of the States' daily bag limit restrictions in Wyoming and New Mexico will result in Canada goose bag limits that are the same in all Pacific Flyway States, and result in greater consistency throughout the Flyway.

In the Mississippi Flyway, we note that during the past several years the Mississippi Flyway has moved from State-specific frameworks to a general flyway-wide framework for Canada goose regulations. At the same time, population monitoring programs have been modified to become more cost-efficient and have focused on obtaining general subarctic goose population estimates rather than separate estimates for the Mississippi Valley Population (MVP), the Eastern Prairie Population (EPP), and the Southern James Bay Population (SJB). We have allowed changes to Mississippi Flyway Canada goose frameworks with the expectation that a new Canada goose management plan would be developed. Because the

Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils currently share a joint management plan for the SJB population, we conclude the Atlantic Flyway must be included in the development of the new Canada goose management plan in the Mississippi Flyway. Thus, we urge the Mississippi Flyway to complete the Canada goose management plan this winter and collaborate with the Atlantic Flyway where appropriate. The final plan should be presented at the June 2017 SRC meeting. We will not entertain further changes to Mississippi Flyway Canada goose frameworks in the absence of a final management plan.

We agree with Idaho's requested modifications to their goose zones for the 2017–18 seasons. Since the changes are an outgrowth of an extensive waterfowl hunter opinion survey and will better align with existing duck hunting zones, we support their request.

Lastly, in regard to the comments concerning Wisconsin's goose season, we point out that the current frameworks for Canada geese in Wisconsin allow that "States may select seasons for Canada geese not to exceed 107 days with a 5-bird daily bag limit September 1–30 (except in the Intensive Harvest Zone in Minnesota, which may have up to a 10-bird daily bag limit) and a 3-bird daily bag limit for the remainder of the season. Seasons may be held between September 1 and February 15 and may be split into 4 segments."

##### 5. White-fronted Geese

*Council Recommendations:* The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the number of segments available for non-Canada geese should be increased from 3 to 4 for the Mississippi Flyway.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended allowing a 3-segment split hunting season for white-fronted geese in the Northeast Zone of California.

*Written Comments:* The State of Idaho requested modifications to their goose zones effective for the 2017–18 seasons. They state that the requested changes are a result of an extensive waterfowl hunter opinion survey conducted in an effort to better align duck and goose zones with hunter preferences. Further, the changes will better align with existing duck hunting zones, improve hunter opportunity, and reduce regulatory complexity in State and Federal regulations.

*Service Response:* We agree with the Mississippi Flyway Council's request to increase the number of segments available for non-Canada geese from 3 to

4 for the Mississippi Flyway. Increasing the number of segments for other geese (snow geese, white-fronted geese, and brant) will allow States flexibility to open and/or close all goose seasons on the same date. Since the numbers of white-fronted geese present in the Mississippi Flyway in September are low, we expect no impacts from this change.

We agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation to allow a 3-segment split hunting season for white-fronted geese in the Northeast Zone of California. Current frameworks allow a 3-segment split for Canada geese and greater white-fronted geese; but this arrangement requires Pacific Flyway Council and Service approval and a 3-year evaluation by each participating State. The current 3-year average predicted fall population estimate (2014–16) for the Pacific Population of greater white-fronted geese is 600,592, which is substantially above the Flyway population objective of 300,000. Agricultural complaints have increased in the Northeastern Zone of California and there have been requests to allow more days during the late part of the season, in addition to days during the early part of the season. White-fronted geese use the Northeastern Zone as a fall and spring staging area, but otherwise winter primarily in the Sacramento Valley. A 3-segment season would allow hunting to coincide with white-fronted goose occurrence in this zone, and would be consistent with the frameworks for splitting the light goose season in the same zone. California proposed to evaluate the three-segment split season for greater white-fronted geese in the Northeastern Zone by monitoring the harvest of Tule greater white-fronted geese that are known to occur in that zone in late winter and early spring. Morphometric measurements will be obtained from hunters who allow their harvested birds to be measured, and band recovery data will be reviewed to identify subspecies harvest of white-fronted geese.

Regarding Idaho's requested modifications to their goose zones, see our response above under 4. Canada Geese, B. Regular Seasons.

##### 6. Brant

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic Flyway Council recommends that the 2017–18 season for Atlantic brant follow the Atlantic Flyway Brant Hunt plan pending the results of the 2017 Atlantic Flyway mid-winter waterfowl survey. The Council also recommended that if the results of the 2017 mid-winter survey are not available, then the results of the most

recent mid-winter survey should be used.

The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the number of segments available for non-Canada geese should be increased from 3 to 4 for the Mississippi Flyway.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended increasing the daily bag limit from 3 to 4 for Canada geese and brant in the aggregate in Wyoming and New Mexico.

*Written Comments:* The State of Idaho requested modifications to their goose zones effective for the 2017–18 seasons. They state that the requested changes are a result of an extensive waterfowl hunter opinion survey conducted in an effort to better align duck and goose zones with hunter preferences. Further, the changes will better align with existing duck hunting zones, improve hunter opportunity, and reduce regulatory complexity in State and Federal regulations.

*Service Response:* As we discussed in the March 28, 2016, final rule (81 FR 17302), the current harvest strategy used to determine the Atlantic brant season frameworks does not fit well within the new regulatory process, similar to the RMP sandhill crane issue discussed below under 9. Sandhill Cranes. In developing the annual proposed frameworks for Atlantic brant in the past, the Atlantic Flyway Council and the Service used the number of brant counted during the Mid-winter Waterfowl Survey (MWS) in the Atlantic Flyway, and took into consideration the brant population's expected productivity that summer. The MWS is conducted each January, and expected brant productivity is based on early-summer observations of breeding habitat conditions and nesting effort in important brant nesting areas. Thus, the data under consideration were available before the annual Flyway and SRC decision-making meetings took place in late July. Although the former regulatory alternatives for Atlantic brant were developed by factoring together long-term productivity rates (observed during November and December productivity surveys) with estimated observed harvest under different framework regulations, the primary decision-making criterion for selecting the annual frameworks was the MWS count.

Under the new regulatory schedule, neither the expected 2017 brant production information (available summer 2017) nor the 2017 MWS count (conducted in January 2017) is yet available. However, the 2017 MWS will be completed and winter brant data will be available by the expected publication of the final frameworks (late February

2017). Therefore, in the September 24, 2015, **Federal Register** (80 FR 57664), we adopted the Atlantic Flyway's changes to the then-current Atlantic brant hunt plan strategies. Current harvest packages (strategies) for Atlantic brant hunting seasons are now as follows:

- If the mid-winter waterfowl survey (MWS) count is <100,000 Atlantic brant, the season would be closed.
- If the MWS count is between 100,000 and 115,000 brant, States could select a 30-day season with a 1-bird daily bag limit.
- If the MWS count is between 115,000 and 130,000 brant, States could select a 30-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit.
- If the MWS count is between 130,000 and 150,000 brant, States could select a 50-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit.
- If the MWS count is between 150,000 and 200,000 brant, States could select a 60-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit.
- If the MWS count is >200,000 brant, States could select a 60-day season with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

Under all the above open-season alternatives, seasons would be between the Saturday nearest September 24 and January 31. Further, States could split their seasons into 2 segments.

The recently completed 2017 MWS Atlantic brant count was 161,661 brant. Thus, utilizing the above Atlantic brant hunt strategies, the appropriate Atlantic brant hunting season for the 2017–18 season is a 60-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

As we stated above under 5. White-fronted Geese, we agree with the Mississippi Flyway Council's recommendation request to increase the number of segments available for non-Canada geese from 3 to 4 for the Mississippi Flyway. Increasing the number of segments for other geese (snow geese, white-fronted geese, and brant) will allow States flexibility to open and/or close all goose seasons on the same date. Since the numbers of brant present in the Mississippi Flyway in September are low, we expect no impacts from this change.

As we stated above under 4. Canada Geese, B. Regular Seasons, we agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's request to increase the daily bag limit from 3 to 4 for Canada geese and brant in the aggregate in Wyoming and New Mexico. We expect no impacts to brant from this change.

Regarding Idaho's requested modifications to their goose zones, see our response above under 4. Canada Geese, B. Regular Seasons.

## 7. Snow and Ross's (Light) Geese

*Council Recommendations:* The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the number of segments available for non-Canada geese should be increased from 3 to 4 for the Mississippi Flyway.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended two changes to the light goose season frameworks. Specifically, the Council recommended:

1. In Washington, removing the daily bag limit restriction of not more than 4 geese per day, and adding that the daily bag limit for light geese is 6.

2. In Idaho, eliminating the requirement to monitor the snow goose hunt that occurs after the last Sunday in January in the American Falls Reservoir/Fort Hall Bottoms and surrounding areas at 3-year intervals.

*Written Comments:* The State of Idaho requested modifications to their goose zones effective for the 2017–18 seasons. They state that the requested changes are a result of an extensive waterfowl hunter opinion survey conducted in an effort to better align duck and goose zones with hunter preferences. Further, the changes will better align with existing duck hunting zones, improve hunter opportunity, and reduce regulatory complexity in State and Federal regulations.

*Service Response:* As we stated above under 5. White-fronted Geese, we agree with the Mississippi Flyway Council's recommendation request to increase the number of segments available for non-Canada geese from 3 to 4 for the Mississippi Flyway. Increasing the number of segments for other geese (snow geese, white-fronted geese, and brant) will allow States flexibility to open and/or close all goose seasons on the same date. We expect no impacts from this change.

We agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation to remove the daily bag limit restriction of not more than 4 geese per day, and add that the daily bag limit for light geese is 6 in Washington. Current frameworks already limit the daily bag limit to 4 Canada geese for States within the western Pacific Flyway, but do allow a daily bag limit of 10 greater white-fronted geese for States within the Pacific Flyway except Washington. The current 3-year average predicted fall population estimate (2014–16) for the Pacific Population of greater white-fronted geese is 600,592, which is substantially above the Flyway population objective of 300,000. This change would allow a daily bag limit of 10 greater white-fronted geese in Washington similar to other States in

the Pacific Flyway. In regard to light geese, three populations occur in the Pacific Flyway, and all are above Flyway management plan objectives based on the most recent breeding population indices. The population estimate for the Western Arctic Population (WAP) of lesser snow geese was 419,000 in 2013 (most recent estimate) on Banks Island, which is above the objective of 200,000 geese. Ross's geese were estimated at 625,100 in 2015 (most recent estimate) at Karrak Lake and are above the objective of 100,000 geese. The 2016 population estimate for Wrangel Island snow geese is 300,000, which is above the objective of 120,000 geese. Current evidence suggests most light geese in Washington during fall and early winter are primarily Wrangel Island snow geese, but an influx of WAP lesser snow and Ross's geese may occur during late winter as birds begin to move north toward breeding areas. The current 4-bird daily bag limit for geese in Washington was intended to minimize harvest of Wrangel Island snow geese when Wrangel Island geese were below the population objective. A 6-bird daily bag limit for light geese in Washington will simplify regulations by matching the 6-bird bag limit currently allowed for light geese in Oregon on or before the last Sunday in January.

We also agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation to eliminate the requirement that Idaho monitor the snow goose hunt that occurs after the last Sunday in January in the American Falls Reservoir/Fort Hall Bottoms and surrounding areas at 3-year intervals. Since the inception of the late-winter light goose hunt in 2010, Idaho has conducted ground surveys in 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2015, to evaluate the effects of light goose hunting on trumpeter swans. To date, no obvious negative trends in trumpeter swan use, distribution, or abundance have been documented. We note that this program was designed to identify changes in swan distribution and swan field-feeding during the late winter light goose hunt in order to help assess if changes in that hunt were warranted. The importance of the Fort Hall Reservation to swans for field-feeding was unknown prior to the surveys conducted in 2011 and 2012. Previously, it was assumed that a majority of the field-feeding occurred on the northwestern side of the American Falls Reservoir. However, surveys indicate that the Fort Hall Reservation is an important and viable site for field-feeding swans in late winter. While there is no definitive evidence

indicating that swans are disturbed and displaced by hunting pressure, if negative interactions between hunting activities and swan behavior occur, the Fort Hall Reservation provides ample field-feeding opportunities where hunting is prohibited. Thus, given no compelling concerns or issues associated with trumpeter swans wintering in eastern Idaho, and no negative impacts associated with the current late-winter light goose hunt, we see no reason to repeat monitoring efforts annually or every 3 years.

Regarding Idaho's requested modifications to their goose zones, see our response above under 4. Canada Geese, B. Regular Seasons.

### 8. Swans

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended increasing the 2017–18 swan hunting permits for Eastern Population tundra swans by 25 percent. The total allowable harvest increase would be 2,400 swans (from 9,600 to 12,000).

*Service Response:* We agree with the Councils' request to increase the number of available swan hunting permits by 25 percent. The 2016 combined Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway tundra swan count was 113,593 swans with a 3-year running average of 111,892. Further, the Eastern Population tundra swan population has trended upward in recent years and is currently 40 percent above the population objective of 80,000 swans. Under the approved joint Flyway Management Plan for Eastern Population Tundra Swans, a 25 percent increase in hunting permits is allowed when the 3-year running average of the combined Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway mid-winter survey exceeds 110,000 swans.

### 9. Sandhill Cranes

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils recommended that Tennessee's experimental sandhill crane hunting season be granted operational status for the 2017–18 season. Tennessee's sandhill crane season would consist of a maximum length of 60 days (no split) to be held between the outside dates of September 1 and January 31, a daily bag limit of 3 birds, and a season limit of 3 birds. Hunting would occur between sunrise and 3 p.m. daily. Per guidelines in the Eastern Population of Sandhill Cranes Management Plan (EP Plan) and based on the State's 5-year peak average of 23,193 birds, Tennessee would be allowed to issue a maximum of 2,319 tags during the 2017–18 season. Hunters

will be required to take mandatory crane identification training, utilize Service-approved nontoxic shot shells, report harvest and tag birds, and complete a post-season survey.

The Central and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended (1) expansion of the existing sandhill crane hunting unit in southwestern Montana (Gallatin and Madison Counties and the Dillon/Twin Bridges/Cardwell hunt area) to include all of Beaverhead and Jefferson Counties, and (2) that allowable harvest be determined based on the formula described in the Pacific and Central Flyway Management Plan for the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) of sandhill cranes.

*Written Comments:* A commenter opposed the hunting of sandhill cranes.

*Service Response:* We agree with the Mississippi Flyway Council to allow Tennessee's experimental sandhill crane hunting season be granted operational status for the 2017–18 season. The Eastern Population (EP) of sandhill cranes continues to increase and expand its range. The most recent 3-year average population estimate of 80,890 cranes, as determined by the 2015 EP crane fall survey, is the highest 3-year estimate since the survey began in 1979. Data collected from Tennessee's 3-year experimental season indicate an average annual harvest of 301 cranes, a harvest 75 percent below the annual maximum harvest threshold of 1,200 cranes set by Tennessee. The harvest also represents substantially less than 1 percent of the EP sandhill cranes and fell well within objectives set in the EP Plan. Additionally, the Council notes that the experimental season did not negatively impact distribution or peak abundance of EP sandhill cranes in Tennessee as EP crane numbers, as recorded by the fall survey, have increased during the 3 years of Tennessee's experimental season. Under the guidelines of the EP Plan, Tennessee will continue to issue permits, require mandatory harvest reporting, require a post-season hunter participation survey, and have mandatory crane identification training. These mechanisms will provide an accurate way to monitor EP crane harvest and ensure protection of the EP sandhill cranes.

Regarding the RMP crane harvest, we agree with the Central and Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation for expanding the RMP sandhill crane hunting areas in Montana to include all of Beaverhead and Jefferson Counties. The new hunt areas are consistent with the Pacific and Central Flyway Council's RMP sandhill crane management plan hunting area requirements.

Regarding the RMP crane harvest, as we discussed in the March 28, 2016, final rule (81 FR 17302), the current harvest strategy used to calculate the allowable harvest of the RMP of sandhill cranes does not fit well within the new regulatory process, similar to the Atlantic brant issue discussed above under 6. Brant. Currently, results of the fall abundance and recruitment surveys of RMP sandhill cranes, upon which the annual allowable harvest is based, will continue to be released between December 1 and January 31 each year, which is after the date for which proposed frameworks will be formulated in the new regulatory process. If the usual procedures for determining allowable harvest were used, data 2 to 4 years old would be used to determine the annual allocation for RMP sandhill cranes. Due to the variability in fall abundance and recruitment for this population, and their impact on the annual harvest allocations, we agree that relying on data that is 2 to 4 years old is not ideal. Thus, we agree that the formula to determine the annual allowable harvest for RMP sandhill cranes published in the March 28, 2016, final rule should be used under the new regulatory schedule and propose to utilize it as such.

The formula uses information on abundance and recruitment collected annually through operational monitoring programs, as well as constant values based on past research or monitoring for survival of fledglings to breeding age and harvest retrieval rate. The formula is:

$$H = C \times P \times R \times L \times f$$

Where:

H = total annual allowable harvest;

C = the average of the three most recent, reliable fall population indices;

P = the average proportion of fledged chicks in the fall population in the San Luis Valley during the most recent 3 years for which data are available;

R = estimated recruitment of fledged chicks to breeding age (current estimate is 0.5);

L = retrieval rate of 0.80 (allowance for an estimated 20 percent crippling loss based on hunter interviews); and

f =  $(C/16,000)^3$  (a variable factor used to adjust the total harvest to achieve a desired effect on the entire population)

The 2016 fall RMP sandhill crane abundance estimate was 22,264 cranes, resulting in a 3-year (2014–16) average of 22,087 cranes, an increase from the previous 3-year average, which was 21,453 cranes. The RMP crane recruitment estimate was 8.84 percent young in the fall population, resulting in a 3-year (2014–16) average of 10.16 percent, an increase from the previous 3-year average, which was 9.41 percent.

Using the above formula and the above most recent 3-year average abundance and recruitment estimates, the allowable harvest for the 2017–18 season is 2,362 cranes.

Regarding the hunting of sandhill cranes, we have annually established frameworks for the hunting of sandhill cranes since 1961. Currently, 16 States in the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyways hold a sandhill crane season. Given the current population status, we conclude the final frameworks are commensurate with the population status.

#### 14. Woodcock

In 2011, we implemented a harvest strategy for woodcock (76 FR 19876, April 8, 2011). The harvest strategy provides a transparent framework for making regulatory decisions for woodcock season length and bag limit while we work to improve monitoring and assessment protocols for this species. Utilizing the criteria developed for the strategy, the 3-year average for the Singing Ground Survey indices and associated confidence intervals fall within the “moderate package” for both the Eastern and Central Management Regions. As such, a “moderate season” for both management regions for the 2017–18 season is appropriate.

Specifics of the harvest strategy can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/surveys-and-data/Webless%20Migratory%20Game%20Birds/American%20Woodcock%20pdf%20files/Interim%20Woodcock%20Harvest%20strategy%20-%20Feb%202,2010.pdf>.

#### 16. Doves

*Council Recommendations:* The Atlantic and Mississippi Flyway Councils recommended use of the “standard” season framework comprising a 90-day season and 15-bird daily bag limit for States within the Eastern Management Unit (EMU). The daily bag limit could be composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination. They also recommended that the closing framework date for the EMU be changed from January 15 to January 31.

The Mississippi and Central Flyway Councils recommended the use of the “standard” season package of a 15-bird daily bag limit and a 90-day season for the 2017–18 mourning dove season in the States within the Central Management Unit. They further recommended that the South Zone in Texas opening framework date be changed from “the Friday nearest September 20th, but no earlier than September 17th” to a fixed date of

September 14 and that the Special White-winged Dove Area boundary be expanded from its current boundary to include the entire South Zone.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended use of the “standard” season framework for States in the Western Management Unit (WMU) population of mourning doves. In Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington, the season length would be no more than 60 consecutive days with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate. In Arizona and California, the season length would be no more than 60 consecutive days, which could be split between two periods, September 1–15 and November 1–January 15. In Arizona, during the first segment of the season, the daily bag limit would be 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 10 could be white-winged doves. During the remainder of the season, the daily bag limit would be 15 mourning doves. In California, the daily bag limit would be 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 10 could be white-winged doves. The Pacific Flyway Council also recommended allowing a 2-segment split season in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

*Written Comments:* A commenter supported the proposed frameworks for dove hunting in California and Arizona. Another commenter supported extending the framework closing date to January 31 due to the general lack of hunting pressure.

*Service Response:* Based on the harvest strategies and current population status, we agree with the recommended selection of the “standard” season frameworks for doves in the Eastern, Central, and Western Management Units for the 2017–18 season.

We do not support the recommendation from the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways to change the closing framework date for dove seasons in the EMU to January 31. We note that when this recommendation was presented to us in June, we requested information on the expected biological impacts of this change. That information has not been provided. We are also unclear as to what the EMU is trying to achieve with this recommendation, given that no additional harvest is expected. While we recognize that conducting a study to evaluate the biological impacts would be prohibitively expensive, we will work with the EMU to develop a feasible biological assessment.

We support the Central and Mississippi Flyways' recommendations to change the opening framework date for the South Dove Zone of Texas to a fixed date of September 14, to be implemented in the 2018–19 hunting season. Based on the statements made by the Flyways at the October SRC meeting, we understand that this proposed change meets all the needs of dove hunters in that zone. Thus, we will not entertain earlier dove opening framework dates in the South Zone unless data are provided that show the impacts on the biology and harvest of doves.

We agree with the Central and Mississippi Flyways' recommendations to expand the boundary of Texas' Special White-winged Dove Area to match that of the South Dove Zone for the 2017–18 season. Available evidence indicates that white-winged dove abundance continues to increase, and this change will allow additional harvest opportunities on this species, with minimal impacts to mourning and white-tipped doves.

We also agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation to allow a 2-segment split season in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Estimated abundance of the Western Management Unit Population (WMU) of mourning doves was 37,044,000 in 2015, and was predicted to be 45,220,000 in 2016 (2016 actual abundance estimates are not yet available). The 2015 observed and 2016 predicted abundance estimates are well above the thresholds that would result in a closed (<11,600,000 doves) or restrictive (<19,300,000 doves) hunting season as prescribed in the National Mourning Dove Harvest Strategy. The estimated annual harvest rates during 2003–2015 for WMU hatch-year and after-hatch-year doves was 4.4 percent and 3.7 percent, respectively. Mourning dove harvest may increase under this proposal; however, any increase is expected to constitute a small percentage of the overall mourning dove harvest among the northern States in the WMU. Harvest Information Program data indicate 85 percent of the mourning dove harvest in the northern States of the WMU occurs during the first 2 weeks of September, a pattern that is similar to most other States in the United States. The option to split the dove season in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington provides more flexibility to the States in setting doves seasons, considering that dove season length increased to 60 days starting in 2015, compared to 30 days during 1987–2014. Currently, all States in the Eastern Management Unit, the Central

Management Unit, and southern States in the Western Management Unit are allowed to split their dove seasons into two or three segments. Thus, this change will make regulations regarding split dove seasons similar in all States within the Pacific Flyway, and result in greater consistency throughout all three dove management units.

#### 17. Alaska

*Council Recommendations:* The Pacific Flyway Council recommended an open season for the emperor goose with a quota of 1,000 geese allotted to the State of Alaska.

*Service Response:* We agree with the Pacific Flyway Council's recommendation to open the season for the emperor goose with a quota of 1,000 geese allotted to the State of Alaska. The Emperor goose hunting season has been closed since 1986, and the population has shown a relatively steady population increase since that time. In 2016, the emperor goose breeding index from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Coastal Zone survey was 34,100 geese, which was 30 percent greater than the count of 26,200 in 2015. During the past 10 years, the index increased 5 percent per year. The Pacific Flyway Council's management plan for this species was revised in 2016, and specifies a population objective of 34,100 geese (2016 abundance level). The plan allows for an open season with an allowable harvest quota of 1,000 emperor geese when the breeding index is above 23,000 geese, and provides that harvest restrictions will be considered if the breeding population index is between 23,000 and 28,000 geese. If the population index declines below 23,000 emperor geese, the hunting season will be closed.

Additionally, we prepared an environmental assessment (EA) on the hunting of emperor geese in Alaska as allowed under the Pacific Flyway Council and Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council's management plan. A copy of the EA and specifics of the two alternatives we analyzed can be found at either <http://www.regulations.gov> or on our Web site at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/index.php>. The EA concluded that the hunt is expected to result in a limited increase (≤1,000) in emperor goose harvest, but have negligible impact to habitat and overall population status. The action also is not expected to have any significant impacts on other wildlife species and their habitats, including endangered and threatened species. However, the action is expected to have positive impacts on the socioeconomic environment in localized areas where

emperor geese occur and are hunted. We conclude the preferred action will allow continued positive growth of the emperor goose population. We have fulfilled our National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) obligation with the preparation of an EA, and, therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

#### Required Determinations

##### Executive Order 13771—Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs

This action is not subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 13771 (82 FR 9339, February 3, 2017) because it is issued with respect to routine hunting and fishing activities.

##### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Consideration

The programmatic document, “Second Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Issuance of Annual Regulations Permitting the Sport Hunting of Migratory Birds (EIS 20130139),” filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on May 24, 2013, addresses NEPA compliance by the Service for issuance of the annual framework regulations for hunting of migratory game bird species. We published a notice of availability in the **Federal Register** on May 31, 2013 (78 FR 32686), and our Record of Decision on July 26, 2013 (78 FR 45376). We also address NEPA compliance for waterfowl hunting frameworks through the annual preparation of separate environmental assessments, the most recent being “Duck Hunting Regulations for 2017–18,” with its corresponding April 7, 2017, finding of no significant impact. The programmatic document as well the separate environmental assessments are available on our Web site at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/index.php>, or from the address indicated under the caption **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

##### Endangered Species Act Consideration

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), provides that, “The Secretary shall review other programs administered by him and utilize such programs in furtherance of the purposes of this Act” (and) shall “insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out \* \* \* is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of [critical] habitat. \* \* \*.” Consequently, we conducted formal consultations to ensure that actions resulting from these regulations would

not likely jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their critical habitat. Findings from these consultations are included in a biological opinion, which concluded that the regulations are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species. Additionally, these findings may have caused modification of some regulatory measures previously proposed, and the final frameworks reflect any such modifications. Our biological opinions resulting from this section 7 consultation are public documents available for public inspection at the address indicated under **ADDRESSES**.

#### **Regulatory Planning and Review (Executive Orders 12866 and 13563)**

E.O. 12866 provides that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) will review all significant rules. OIRA has reviewed this rule and has determined that this rule is significant because it would have an annual effect of \$100 million or more on the economy.

E.O. 13563 reaffirms the principles of E.O. 12866 while calling for improvements in the nation's regulatory system to promote predictability, to reduce uncertainty, and to use the best, most innovative, and least burdensome tools for achieving regulatory ends. The executive order directs agencies to consider regulatory approaches that reduce burdens and maintain flexibility and freedom of choice for the public where these approaches are relevant, feasible, and consistent with regulatory objectives. E.O. 13563 emphasizes further that regulations must be based on the best available science and that the rulemaking process must allow for public participation and an open exchange of ideas. We have developed this rule in a manner consistent with these requirements.

An economic analysis was prepared for the 2013–14 season. This analysis was based on data from the 2011 National Hunting and Fishing Survey, the most recent year for which data are available (see discussion in Regulatory Flexibility Act section below). We used this analysis again for the 2017–18 season. This analysis estimated consumer surplus for three alternatives for duck hunting (estimates for other species are not quantified due to lack of data). The alternatives are (1) issue restrictive regulations allowing fewer days than those issued during the 2012–13 season, (2) issue moderate regulations allowing more days than those in alternative 1, and (3) issue

liberal regulations identical to the regulations in the 2012–13 season. For the 2013–14 season, we chose Alternative 3, with an estimated consumer surplus across all flyways of \$317.8–\$416.8 million. We also chose alternative 3 for the 2009–10, the 2010–11, the 2011–12, the 2012–13, the 2014–15, the 2015–16, the 2016–17, and the 2017–18 seasons. The 2013–14 analysis is part of the record for this rule and is available at <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS–HQ–MB–2016–0051.

#### **Regulatory Flexibility Act**

The annual migratory bird hunting regulations have a significant economic impact on substantial numbers of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). We analyzed the economic impacts of the annual hunting regulations on small business entities in detail as part of the 1981 cost-benefit analysis. This analysis was revised annually from 1990–95. In 1995, the Service issued a Small Entity Flexibility Analysis (Analysis), which was subsequently updated in 1996, 1998, 2004, 2008, and 2013. The primary source of information about hunter expenditures for migratory game bird hunting is the National Hunting and Fishing Survey, which is conducted at 5-year intervals. The 2013 Analysis was based on the 2011 National Hunting and Fishing Survey and the U.S. Department of Commerce's County Business Patterns, from which it was estimated that migratory bird hunters would spend approximately \$1.5 billion at small businesses in 2013. Copies of the Analysis are available upon request from the Division of Migratory Bird Management (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) or from <http://www.regulations.gov> at Docket No. FWS–HQ–MB–2016–0051.

#### **Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act**

This final rule is a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. For the reasons outlined above, this rule would have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more. However, because this rule would establish hunting seasons, we do not plan to defer the effective date under the exemption contained in 5 U.S.C. 808(1).

#### **Paperwork Reduction Act**

This rule does not contain any new information collection that requires approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to

a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB has reviewed and approved the information collection requirements associated with migratory bird surveys and assigned the following OMB control numbers:

- 1018–0019—North American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey (expires 5/31/2018).
- 1018–0023—Migratory Bird Surveys (expires 6/30/2017; in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10, the agency may continue to conduct or sponsor this collection of information while the submission is pending at OMB). Includes Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program, Migratory Bird Hunter Surveys, Sandhill Crane Survey, and Parts Collection Survey.

#### **Unfunded Mandates Reform Act**

We have determined and certify, in compliance with the requirements of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, 2 U.S.C. 1502 *et seq.*, that this rulemaking would not impose a cost of \$100 million or more in any given year on local or State government or private entities. Therefore, this rule is not a “significant regulatory action” under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

#### **Civil Justice Reform—Executive Order 12988**

The Department, in promulgating this rule, has determined that this rule will not unduly burden the judicial system and that it meets the requirements of sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of E.O. 12988.

#### **Takings Implication Assessment**

In accordance with E.O. 12630, this rule, authorized by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, does not have significant takings implications and does not affect any constitutionally protected property rights. This rule would not result in the physical occupancy of property, the physical invasion of property, or the regulatory taking of any property. In fact, this rule would allow hunters to exercise otherwise unavailable privileges and, therefore, reduce restrictions on the use of private and public property.

#### **Energy Effects—Executive Order 13211**

E.O. 13211 requires agencies to prepare Statements of Energy Effects when undertaking certain actions. While this rule is a significant regulatory action under E.O. 12866, it is not expected to adversely affect energy supplies, distribution, or use. Therefore, this action is not a significant energy action and no Statement of Energy Effects is required.

### Government-to-Government Relationship With Tribes

In accordance with the President's memorandum of April 29, 1994, "Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments" (59 FR 22951), E.O. 13175, and 512 DM 2, we have evaluated possible effects on Federally recognized Indian tribes and have determined that there are no effects on Indian trust resources. We have consulted with Tribes affected by this rule.

### Federalism Effects

Due to the migratory nature of certain species of birds, the Federal Government has been given responsibility over these species by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We annually prescribe frameworks from which the States make selections regarding the hunting of migratory birds, and we employ guidelines to establish special regulations on Federal Indian reservations and ceded lands. This process preserves the ability of the States and tribes to determine which seasons meet their individual needs. Any State or Indian tribe may be more restrictive than the Federal frameworks at any time. The frameworks are developed in a cooperative process with the States and the Flyway Councils. This process allows States to participate in the development of frameworks from which they will make selections, thereby having an influence on their own regulations. These rules do not have a substantial direct effect on fiscal capacity, change the roles or responsibilities of Federal or State governments, or intrude on State policy or administration. Therefore, in accordance with E.O. 13132, these regulations do not have significant federalism effects and do not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement.

### Regulations Promulgation

The rulemaking process for migratory game bird hunting, by its nature, operates under a time constraint as seasons must be established each year or hunting seasons remain closed. However, we intend that the public be provided extensive opportunity for public input and involvement in compliance with Administrative Procedure Act requirements. Thus, when the preliminary proposed rulemaking was published, we established what we concluded were the longest periods possible for public comment and the most opportunities for

public involvement. We also provided notification of our participation in multiple Flyway Council meetings, opportunities for additional public review and comment on all Flyway Council proposals for regulatory change, and opportunities for additional public review during the SRC meeting. Therefore, sufficient public notice and opportunity for involvement have been given to affected persons regarding the migratory bird hunting frameworks for the 2017–18 hunting seasons.

Further, after establishment of the final frameworks, States need sufficient time to conduct their own public processes to select season dates and limits; to communicate those selections to us; and to establish and publicize the necessary regulations and procedures to implement their decisions. Thus, if there were a delay in the effective date of these regulations after this final rulemaking, States might not be able to meet their own administrative needs and requirements.

For the reasons cited above, we find that "good cause" exists, within the terms of 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and these frameworks will take effect immediately upon publication.

Therefore, under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (July 3, 1918), as amended (16 U.S.C. 703–711), we prescribe final frameworks setting forth the species to be hunted, the daily bag and possession limits, the shooting hours, the season lengths, the earliest opening and latest closing season dates, and hunting areas, from which State conservation agency officials will select hunting season dates and other options. Upon receipt of season selections from these officials, we will publish a final rulemaking amending 50 CFR part 20 to reflect seasons, limits, and shooting hours for the United States for the 2017–18 seasons. The rules that eventually will be promulgated for the 2017–18 hunting season are authorized under 16 U.S.C. 703–712 and 16 U.S.C. 742 a–j.

### List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 20

Exports, Hunting, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation, Wildlife.

Dated: May 17, 2017.

**Maureen D. Foster,**

*Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*

### Final Regulations Frameworks for 2017–18 Hunting Seasons on Certain Migratory Game Birds

Pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and delegated authorities, the Department of the Interior approved the

following frameworks for season lengths, shooting hours, bag and possession limits, and outside dates within which States may select seasons for hunting migratory game birds between the dates of September 1, 2017, and March 10, 2018. These frameworks are summarized below.

### General

*Dates:* All outside dates noted below are inclusive.

*Shooting and Hawking (taking by falconry) Hours:* Unless otherwise specified, from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.

*Possession Limits:* Unless otherwise specified, possession limits are three times the daily bag limit.

*Permits:* For some species of migratory birds, the Service authorizes the use of permits to regulate harvest or monitor their take by sport hunters, or both. In many cases (*e.g.*, tundra swans, some sandhill crane populations), the Service determines the amount of harvest that may be taken during hunting seasons during its formal regulations-setting process, and the States then issue permits to hunters at levels predicted to result in the amount of take authorized by the Service. Thus, although issued by States, the permits would not be valid unless the Service approved such take in its regulations.

These Federally authorized, State-issued permits are issued to individuals, and only the individual whose name and address appears on the permit at the time of issuance is authorized to take migratory birds at levels specified in the permit, in accordance with provisions of both Federal and State regulations governing the hunting season. The permit must be carried by the permittee when exercising its provisions and must be presented to any law enforcement officer upon request. The permit is not transferrable or assignable to another individual, and may not be sold, bartered, traded, or otherwise provided to another person. If the permit is altered or defaced in any way, the permit becomes invalid.

### Flyways and Management Units

#### Waterfowl Flyways

*Atlantic Flyway:* Includes Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

*Mississippi Flyway:* Includes Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

*Central Flyway:* Includes Colorado (east of the Continental Divide), Kansas, Montana (Counties of Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Judith Basin, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Wheatland, and all counties east thereof), Nebraska, New Mexico (east of the Continental Divide except the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation), North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming (east of the Continental Divide).

*Pacific Flyway:* Includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and those portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming not included in the Central Flyway.

#### Duck Management Units

*High Plains Mallard Management Unit:* Roughly defined as that portion of the Central Flyway that lies west of the 100th meridian.

*Columbia Basin Mallard Management Unit:* In Washington, all areas east of the Pacific Crest Trail and east of the Big White Salmon River in Klickitat County; and in Oregon, the counties of Gilliam, Morrow, and Umatilla.

#### Mourning Dove Management Units

*Eastern Management Unit:* All States east of the Mississippi River, and Louisiana.

*Central Management Unit:* Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.

*Western Management Unit:* Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

#### Woodcock Management Regions

*Eastern Management Region:* Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

*Central Management Region:* Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Other geographic descriptions are contained in a later portion of this document.

#### Definitions

For the purpose of the hunting regulations listed below, the collective terms "dark" and "light" geese include the following species:

*Dark geese:* Canada geese, white-fronted geese, brant (except in Alaska,

California, Oregon, Washington, and the Atlantic Flyway), and all other goose species except light geese.

*Light geese:* Snow (including blue) geese and Ross's geese.

*Area, Zone, and Unit Descriptions:* Geographic descriptions related to regulations are contained in a later portion of this document.

*Area-Specific Provisions:* Frameworks for open seasons, season lengths, bag and possession limits, and other special provisions are listed below by Flyway.

#### *Waterfowl Seasons in the Atlantic Flyway*

In the Atlantic Flyway States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, where Sunday hunting is prohibited Statewide by State law, all Sundays are closed to all take of migratory waterfowl (including mergansers and coots).

#### *Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days*

*Outside Dates:* States may select 2 days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on weekends, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. The days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season frameworks or within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds.

*Daily Bag Limits:* The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, tundra swans, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and gallinules and would be the same as those allowed in the regular season. Flyway species and area restrictions would remain in effect.

*Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

*Participation Restrictions:* States may use their established definition of age for youth hunters. However, youth hunters may not be over the age of 17. In addition, an adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day. Youth hunters 16 years of age and older must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp). Tundra swans may only be taken by participants possessing applicable tundra swan permits.

#### *Special September Teal Season*

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and September 30, an open season on all species of teal may be selected by the following States in areas delineated by State regulations:

*Atlantic Flyway:* Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

*Mississippi Flyway:* Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The seasons in Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin are experimental.

*Central Flyway:* Colorado (part), Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico (part), Oklahoma, and Texas. The season in the northern portion of Nebraska is experimental.

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:* Not to exceed 16 consecutive hunting days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. The daily bag limit is 6 teal.

#### *Shooting Hours*

*Atlantic Flyway:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except in South Carolina, where the hours are from sunrise to sunset.

*Mississippi and Central Flyways:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except in the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin, where the hours are from sunrise to sunset.

#### *Special September Duck Seasons*

*Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee:* In lieu of a special September teal season, a 5-consecutive-day teal/wood duck season may be selected in September. The daily bag limit may not exceed 6 teal and wood ducks in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be wood ducks. In addition, a 4-consecutive-day experimental teal-only season may be selected in September either immediately before or immediately after the 5-consecutive-day teal/wood duck season. The daily bag limit is 6 teal.

*Iowa:* In lieu of an experimental special September teal season, Iowa may hold up to 5 days of its regular duck hunting season in September. All ducks that are legal during the regular duck season may be taken during the September segment of the season. The September season segment may commence no earlier than the Saturday nearest September 20 (September 23). The daily bag and possession limits will be the same as those in effect during the remainder of the regular duck season. The remainder of the regular duck season may not begin before October 10.

*Waterfowl*

## Atlantic Flyway

## Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

*Outside Dates:* Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and the last Sunday in January (January 28).

*Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits:* 60 days. The daily bag limit is 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which can be females), 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 canvasbacks, 4 scoters, 4 eiders, and 4 long-tailed ducks.

*Closures:* The season on harlequin ducks is closed.

*Merganser Limits:* The daily bag limit of mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. In States that include mergansers in the duck bag limit, the daily limit is the same as the duck bag limit, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

*Coot Limits:* The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

*Lake Champlain Zone, New York:* The waterfowl seasons, limits, and shooting hours should be the same as those selected for the Lake Champlain Zone of Vermont.

*Connecticut River Zone, Vermont:* The waterfowl seasons, limits, and shooting hours should be the same as those selected for the Inland Zone of New Hampshire.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia may split their seasons into three segments; Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont may select hunting seasons by zones and may split their seasons into two segments in each zone.

## Scoters, Eiders, and Long-tailed Ducks

## Special Sea Duck Seasons

Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia may select a Special Sea Duck Season in designated Special Sea Duck Areas. If a Special Sea Duck Season is selected, scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks may be taken in the designated Special Sea Duck Area(s) only during the Special Sea Duck Season dates; scoters, eiders, and long-tailed ducks may be taken outside of Special Sea Duck Area(s) during the regular duck season, in accordance with

the frameworks for ducks, mergansers, and coots specified above.

*Outside Dates:* Between September 15 and January 31.

*Special Sea Duck Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:* 60 consecutive hunting days, or 60 days that are concurrent with the regular duck season, with a daily bag limit of 5, singly or in the aggregate, of the listed sea duck species, including no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders, and 4 long-tailed ducks. Within the special sea duck areas, during the regular duck season in the Atlantic Flyway, States may choose to allow the above sea duck limits in addition to the limits applying to other ducks during the regular season. In all other areas, sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed 4 scoters, 4 eiders, and 4 long-tailed ducks) and possession limits.

*Special Sea Duck Areas:* In all coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams seaward from the first upstream bridge in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York; in New Jersey, all coastal waters seaward from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Demarcation Lines shown on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Nautical Charts and further described in 33 CFR 80.165, 80.501, 80.502, and 80.503; in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay that are separated by at least 1 mile of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in South Carolina and Georgia; and in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay that are separated by at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia; and provided that any such areas have been described, delineated, and designated as special sea duck hunting areas under the hunting regulations adopted by the respective States.

## Canada Geese

## Special Early Canada Goose Seasons

A Canada goose season of up to 15 days during September 1–15 may be selected for the Eastern Unit of Maryland. Seasons not to exceed 30 days during September 1–30 may be selected for Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York (Long Island Zone only), North Carolina, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. Seasons may not exceed 25 days during

September 1–25 in the remainder of the Flyway. Areas open to the hunting of Canada geese must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

*Daily Bag Limits:* Not to exceed 15 Canada geese.

*Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during any special early Canada goose season, shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset if all other waterfowl seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

## Regular Canada Goose Seasons

*Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits:* Specific regulations for Canada geese are shown below by State. These seasons may also include white-fronted geese in an aggregate daily bag limit. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.

## Connecticut

*North Atlantic Population (NAP) Zone:* Between October 1 and February 15, a 70-day season may be held with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

*Atlantic Population (AP) Zone:* A 50-day season may be held between October 10 and February 5, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

*South Zone:* A special season may be held between January 15 and February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit.

*Resident Population (RP) Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*Delaware:* A 50-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

*Florida:* An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*Georgia:* An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*Maine:* A 70-day season may be held Statewide between October 1 and February 15, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

## Maryland

*RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between November 15 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*AP Zone:* A 50-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

## Massachusetts

*NAP Zone:* A 70-day season may be held between October 1 and February

15, with a 3-bird daily bag limit. Additionally, a special season may be held from January 15 to February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit.

*AP Zone:* A 50-day season may be held between October 10 and February 5, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

*New Hampshire:* A 70-day season may be held Statewide between October 1 and February 15, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

#### New Jersey

*AP Zone:* A 50-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 28) and February 5, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

*RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 28) and February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*Special Late Goose Season Area:* A special season may be held in designated areas of North and South New Jersey from January 15 to February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit.

#### New York

*NAP Zone:* Between October 1 and February 15, a 70-day season may be held, with a 3-bird daily bag limit in both the High Harvest and Low Harvest areas.

*AP Zone:* A 50-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 28), except in the Lake Champlain Area where the opening date is October 10, through February 5, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

*Western Long Island RP Zone:* A 107-day season may be held between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and March 10, with an 8-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*Rest of State RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 28) and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

#### North Carolina

*SJBP Zone:* A 70-day season may be held between October 1 and December 31, with a 5-bird daily bag limit.

*RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*Northeast Hunt Unit:* A 14-day season may be held between the Saturday prior to December 25 (December 23) and January 31, with a 1-bird daily bag limit.

#### Pennsylvania

*SJBP Zone:* A 78-day season may be held between the first Saturday in

October (October 7) and February 15, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

*RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 28) and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*AP Zone:* A 50-day season may be held between the fourth Saturday in October (October 28) and February 5, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

*Rhode Island:* A 70-day season may be held between October 1 and February 15, with a 3-bird daily bag limit. A special late season may be held in designated areas from January 15 to February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit.

*South Carolina:* In designated areas, an 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

#### Vermont

*Lake Champlain Zone and Interior Zone:* A 50-day season may be held between October 10 and February 5 with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

*Connecticut River Zone:* A 70-day season may be held between October 1 and February 15, with a 3-bird daily bag limit.

#### Virginia

*SJBP Zone:* A 40-day season may be held between November 15 and January 14, with a 3-bird daily bag limit. Additionally, a special late season may be held between January 15 and February 15, with a 5-bird daily bag limit.

*AP Zone:* A 50-day season may be held between November 15 and February 5, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

*RP Zone:* An 80-day season may be held between November 15 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

*West Virginia:* An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments in each zone.

#### Light Geese

*Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits:* States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.

#### Brant

*Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits:* States may select a 60-day season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and January 31, with a 2-bird daily bag limit.

States may split their seasons into two segments.

#### Mississippi Flyway

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

*Outside Dates:* Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and the last Sunday in January (January 28).

*Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits:* The season may not exceed 60 days, with a daily bag limit of 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 1 mottled duck, 2 black ducks, 1 pintail, 3 wood ducks, 2 canvasbacks, 3 scaup, and 2 redheads.

*Merganser Limits:* The daily bag limit is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. In States that include mergansers in the duck bag limit, the daily limit is the same as the duck bag limit, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers.

*Coot Limits:* The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin may select hunting seasons by zones.

In Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, the season may be split into two segments in each zone.

In Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi, the season may be split into three segments.

#### Geese

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits

*Canada Geese:* States may select seasons for Canada geese not to exceed 107 days with a 5-bird daily bag limit September 1–30 (except in the Intensive Harvest Zone in Minnesota, which may have up to a 10-bird daily bag limit) and a 3-bird daily bag limit for the remainder of the season. Seasons may be held between September 1 and February 15 and may be split into 4 segments.

*White-fronted Geese and Brant:* Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee may select a season for white-fronted geese not to exceed 74 days with 3 geese daily, or 88 days with 2 geese daily, or 107 days with 1 goose daily between September 1 and February 15; Alabama, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin may select a season for white-fronted geese not to exceed 107 days with 5 geese daily, in aggregate with dark geese between September 1 and February 15. States

may select a season for brant not to exceed 70 days with 2 brant daily, or 107 days with 1 brant daily with outside dates the same as for Canada geese; alternately, States may include brant in an aggregate goose bag limit with either Canada geese, white-fronted geese, or dark geese.

*Light Geese:* States may select seasons for light geese not to exceed 107 days, with 20 geese daily between September 1 and February 15. There is no possession limit for light geese.

*Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during September 1–15 shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset for Canada geese if all other waterfowl and crane seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

*Split Seasons:* Seasons for geese may be split into four segments unless otherwise indicated.

#### Central Flyway

##### Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

*Outside Dates:* Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and the last Sunday in January (January 28).

##### Hunting Seasons

*High Plains Mallard Management Unit (roughly defined as that portion of the Central Flyway that lies west of the 100th meridian):* 97 days. The last 23 days must run consecutively and may start no earlier than the Saturday nearest December 10 (December 9).

*Remainder of the Central Flyway:* 74 days.

*Duck Limits:* The daily bag limit is 6 ducks, with species and sex restrictions as follows: 5 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 scaup, 2 redheads, 3 wood ducks, 1 pintail, and 2 canvasbacks. In Texas, the daily bag limit on mottled ducks is 1, except that no mottled ducks may be taken during the first 5 days of the season. In addition to the daily limits listed above, the States of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, in lieu of selecting an experimental September teal season, may include an additional daily bag and possession limit of 2 and 6 blue-winged teal, respectively, during the first 16 days of the regular duck season in each respective duck hunting zone. These extra limits are in addition to the regular duck bag and possession limits.

*Merganser Limits:* The daily bag limit is 5 mergansers, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. In States that include mergansers in the duck daily bag limit, the daily limit may be the same as the duck bag limit, only two of which may be hooded mergansers.

*Coot Limits:* The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* Colorado, Kansas (Low Plains portion), Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma (Low Plains portion), South Dakota (Low Plains portion), Texas (Low Plains portion), and Wyoming may select hunting seasons by zones.

In Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming, the regular season may be split into two segments.

##### Geese

*Special Early Canada Goose Seasons:* In Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas, Canada goose seasons of up to 30 days during September 1–30 may be selected. In Colorado, New Mexico, Montana, and Wyoming, Canada goose seasons of up to 15 days during September 1–15 may be selected. In North Dakota, Canada goose seasons of up to 22 days during September 1–22 may be selected. The daily bag limit may not exceed 5 Canada geese, except in Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, where the daily bag limit may not exceed 8 Canada geese and in North Dakota and South Dakota, where the daily bag limit may not exceed 15 Canada geese. Areas open to the hunting of Canada geese must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

*Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during September 1–15 shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset if all other waterfowl and crane seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

##### Regular Goose Seasons

*Split Seasons:* Seasons for geese may be split into three segments. Three-way split seasons for Canada geese require Central Flyway Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval, and a 3-year evaluation by each participating State.

*Outside Dates:* For dark geese, seasons may be selected between the outside dates of the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 18). For light geese, outside dates for seasons may be selected between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and March 10. In the Rainwater Basin Light Goose Area (East and West) of Nebraska, temporal and spatial restrictions that are consistent with the late-winter snow goose hunting strategy cooperatively developed by the Central Flyway Council and the Service are required.

##### Season Lengths and Limits

*Light Geese:* States may select a light goose season not to exceed 107 days. The daily bag limit for light geese is 50 with no possession limit.

*Dark Geese:* In Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and the Eastern Goose Zone of Texas, States may select a season for Canada geese (or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese) not to exceed 107 days with a daily bag limit of 8. For white-fronted geese, these States may select either a season of 74 days with a bag limit of 3, or an 88-day season with a bag limit of 2, or a season of 107 days with a bag limit of 1.

In Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, States may select seasons not to exceed 107 days. The daily bag limit for dark geese is 5 in the aggregate.

In the Western Goose Zone of Texas, the season may not exceed 95 days. The daily bag limit for Canada geese (or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese) is 5. The daily bag limit for white-fronted geese is 2.

##### Pacific Flyway

##### Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

*Outside Dates:* Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and the last Sunday in January (January 28).

*Hunting Seasons and Duck and Merganser Limits:* 107 days. The daily bag limit is 7 ducks and mergansers, including no more than 2 female mallards, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 3 scaup, and 2 redheads. For scaup, the season length is 86 days, which may be split according to applicable zones and split duck hunting configurations approved for each State.

*Coot, Common Moorhen, and Purple Gallinule Limits:* The daily bag limit of coots, common moorhens, and purple gallinules is 25, singly or in the aggregate.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming may select hunting seasons by zones and may split their seasons into two segments.

Montana and New Mexico may split their seasons into three segments.

*Colorado River Zone, California:* Seasons and limits should be the same as seasons and limits selected in the adjacent portion of Arizona (South Zone).

##### Geese

*Special Early Canada Goose Seasons:* A Canada goose season of up to 15 days during September 1–20 may be selected. The daily bag limit may not exceed 5

Canada geese, except in Pacific County, Washington, where the daily bag limit may not exceed 15 Canada geese. Areas open to hunting of Canada geese in each State must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

#### Regular Goose Seasons

#### Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits

*Canada geese and brant:* Except as subsequently noted, 107-day seasons may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and the last Sunday in January (January 28). In Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, the daily bag limit is 4 Canada geese and brant in the aggregate. In California, Oregon, and Washington, the daily bag limit is 4 Canada geese. For brant, Oregon and Washington may select a 16-day season and California a 37-day season. Days must be consecutive. Washington and California may select hunting seasons for up to two zones. The daily bag limit is 2 brant and is in addition to other goose limits. In Oregon and California, the brant season must end no later than December 15.

*White-fronted geese:* Except as subsequently noted, 107-day seasons may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and March 10. The daily bag limit is 10.

*Light geese:* Except as subsequently noted, 107-day seasons may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and March 10. The daily bag limit is 20.

*Split Seasons:* Unless otherwise specified, seasons for geese may be split into up to 3 segments. Three-way split seasons for Canada geese and white-fronted geese require Pacific Flyway Council and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approval and a 3-year evaluation by each participating State.

*California:* The daily bag limit for Canada geese is 10.

*Balance of State Zone:* A Canada goose season may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and March 10. In the Sacramento Valley Special Management Area, the season on white-fronted geese must end on or before December 28, and the daily bag limit is 3 white-fronted geese. In the North Coast Special Management Area, hunting days that occur after the last Sunday in January (January 28) should be concurrent with Oregon's South Coast Zone.

*Oregon:* The daily bag limit for light geese is 6 on or before the last Sunday in January (January 28).

*Harney and Lake County Zone:* For Lake County only, the daily white-fronted goose bag limit is 1.

*Northwest Permit Zone:* A Canada goose season may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and March 10. Goose seasons may be split into 3 segments. The daily bag limit of light geese is 6. In the Tillamook County Management Area, the hunting season is closed on geese.

*South Coast Zone:* A Canada goose season may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and March 10. The daily bag limit of Canada geese is 6. Hunting days that occur after the last Sunday in January (January 28) should be concurrent with California's North Coast Special Management Area. Goose seasons may be split into 3 segments.

*Utah:* A Canada goose and brant season may be selected in the Wasatch Front Zone with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and the first Sunday in February (February 4).

*Washington:* The daily bag limit for light geese is 6.

*Area 1:* Goose season outside dates are between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and the last Sunday in January (January 28).

*Areas 2A and 2B (Southwest Permit Zone):* A Canada goose season may be selected with outside dates between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and March 10. Goose seasons may be split into 3 segments.

*Area 4:* Goose seasons may be split into 3 segments.

*Permit Zones:* In Oregon and Washington permit zones, the hunting season is closed on dusky Canada geese. A dusky Canada goose is any dark-breasted Canada goose (Munsell 10 YR color value five or less) with a bill length between 40 and 50 millimeters. Hunting of geese will only be by hunters possessing a State-issued permit authorizing them to do so. Shooting hours for geese may begin no earlier than sunrise. Regular Canada goose seasons in the permit zones of Oregon and Washington remain subject to the Memorandum of Understanding entered into with the Service regarding monitoring the impacts of take during the regular Canada goose season on the dusky Canada goose population.

#### Swans

In portions of the Pacific Flyway (Montana, Nevada, and Utah), an open

season for taking a limited number of swans may be selected. Permits will be issued by the State and will authorize each permittee to take no more than 1 swan per season with each permit. Nevada may issue up to 2 permits per hunter. Montana and Utah may issue only 1 permit per hunter. Each State's season may open no earlier than the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 30). These seasons are also subject to the following conditions:

*Montana:* No more than 500 permits may be issued. The season must end no later than December 1. The State must implement a harvest-monitoring program to measure the species composition of the swan harvest and should use appropriate measures to maximize hunter compliance in reporting bill measurement and color information.

*Utah:* No more than 2,000 permits may be issued. During the swan season, no more than 10 trumpeter swans may be taken. The season must end no later than the second Sunday in December (December 10) or upon attainment of 10 trumpeter swans in the harvest, whichever occurs earliest. The Utah season remains subject to the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement entered into with the Service in August 2003, regarding harvest monitoring, season closure procedures, and education requirements to minimize the take of trumpeter swans during the swan season.

*Nevada:* No more than 650 permits may be issued. During the swan season, no more than 5 trumpeter swans may be taken. The season must end no later than the Sunday following January 1 (January 7) or upon attainment of 5 trumpeter swans in the harvest, whichever occurs earliest.

In addition, the States of Utah and Nevada must implement a harvest-monitoring program to measure the species composition of the swan harvest. The harvest-monitoring program must require that all harvested swans or their species-determinant parts be examined by either State or Federal biologists for the purpose of species classification. The States should use appropriate measures to maximize hunter compliance in providing bagged swans for examination. Further, the States of Montana, Nevada, and Utah must achieve at least an 80-percent hunter compliance rate, or subsequent permits will be reduced by 10 percent. All three States must provide to the Service by June 30, 2018, a report detailing harvest, hunter participation, reporting compliance, and monitoring of swan populations in the designated hunt areas.

*Tundra Swans*

In portions of the Atlantic Flyway (North Carolina and Virginia) and the Central Flyway (North Dakota, South Dakota [east of the Missouri River], and that portion of Montana in the Central Flyway), an open season for taking a limited number of tundra swans may be selected. Permits will be issued by the States that authorize the take of no more than 1 tundra swan per permit. A second permit may be issued to hunters from unused permits remaining after the first drawing. The States must obtain harvest and hunter participation data. These seasons are also subject to the following conditions:

## In the Atlantic Flyway

- The season may be 90 days, between October 1 and January 31.
- In North Carolina, no more than 6,250 permits may be issued.
- In Virginia, no more than 750 permits may be issued.

## In the Central Flyway

- The season may be 107 days, between the Saturday nearest October 1 (September 30) and January 31.
- In the Central Flyway portion of Montana, no more than 625 permits may be issued.
- In North Dakota, no more than 2,500 permits may be issued.
- In South Dakota, no more than 1,875 permits may be issued.

*Sandhill Cranes*

## Regular Seasons in the Mississippi Flyway

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and February 28 in Minnesota, and between September 1 and January 31 in Kentucky and Tennessee.

*Hunting Seasons:* A season not to exceed 37 consecutive days may be selected in the designated portion of northwestern Minnesota (Northwest Goose Zone), and a season not to exceed 60 consecutive days in Kentucky and Tennessee.

*Daily Bag Limit:* 2 sandhill cranes in Kentucky and Minnesota, 3 sandhill cranes in Tennessee. In Kentucky and Tennessee, the seasonal bag limit is 3 sandhill cranes.

*Permits:* Each person participating in the regular sandhill crane seasons must have a valid Federal or State sandhill crane hunting permit.

*Other Provisions:* The number of permits (where applicable), open areas, season dates, protection plans for other species, and other provisions of seasons must be consistent with the management plans and approved by the Mississippi Flyway Council.

## Regular Seasons in the Central Flyway

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and February 28.

*Hunting Seasons:* Seasons not to exceed 37 consecutive days may be selected in designated portions of Texas (Area 2). Seasons not to exceed 58 consecutive days may be selected in designated portions of the following States: Colorado, Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Seasons not to exceed 93 consecutive days may be selected in designated portions of the following States: New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

*Daily Bag Limits:* 3 sandhill cranes, except 2 sandhill cranes in designated portions of North Dakota (Area 2) and Texas (Area 2).

*Permits:* Each person participating in the regular sandhill crane season must have a valid Federal or State sandhill crane hunting permit.

## Special Seasons in the Central and Pacific Flyways

Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming may select seasons for hunting sandhill cranes within the range of the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) subject to the following conditions:

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and January 31.

*Hunting Seasons:* The season in any State or zone may not exceed 30 consecutive days.

*Bag limits:* Not to exceed 3 daily and 9 per season.

*Permits:* Participants must have a valid permit, issued by the appropriate State, in their possession while hunting.

*Other Provisions:* Numbers of permits, open areas, season dates, protection plans for other species, and other provisions of seasons must be consistent with the management plan and approved by the Central and Pacific Flyway Councils, with the following exceptions:

A. In Utah, 100 percent of the harvest will be assigned to the RMP quota;

B. In Arizona, monitoring the racial composition of the harvest must be conducted at 3-year intervals;

C. In Idaho, 100 percent of the harvest will be assigned to the RMP quota; and

D. In New Mexico, the season in the Estancia Valley is experimental, with a requirement to monitor the level and racial composition of the harvest; greater sandhill cranes in the harvest will be assigned to the RMP quota.

*Common Moorhens and Purple Gallinules*

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and the last Sunday in January (January

28) in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. States in the Pacific Flyway have been allowed to select their hunting seasons between the outside dates for the season on ducks, mergansers, and coots; therefore, frameworks for common moorhens and purple gallinules are included with the duck, merganser, and coot frameworks.

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag*

*Limits:* Seasons may not exceed 70 days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. Seasons may be split into 2 segments. The daily bag limit is 15 common moorhens and purple gallinules, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

*Zoning:* Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

*Rails*

*Outside Dates:* States included herein may select seasons between September 1 and the last Sunday in January (January 28) on clapper, king, sora, and Virginia rails.

*Hunting Seasons:* Seasons may not exceed 70 days, and may be split into 2 segments.

## Daily Bag Limits

*Clapper and King Rails:* In Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, 10, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. In Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, 15, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

*Sora and Virginia Rails:* In the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways and the Pacific Flyway portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, 25 rails, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. The season is closed in the remainder of the Pacific Flyway.

*Snipe*

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and February 28, except in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia, where the season must end no later than January 31.

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits:* Seasons may not exceed 107 days and may be split into two segments. The daily bag limit is 8 snipe.

*Zoning:* Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

*American Woodcock*

*Outside Dates:* States in the Eastern Management Region may select hunting seasons between October 1 and January 31. States in the Central Management

Region may select hunting seasons between the Saturday nearest September 22 (September 23) and January 31.

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag*

*Limits:* Seasons may not exceed 45 days in the Eastern and Central Regions. The daily bag limit is 3. Seasons may be split into two segments.

*Zoning:* New Jersey may select seasons in each of two zones. The season in each zone may not exceed 36 days.

*Band-tailed Pigeons*

Pacific Coast States (California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada)

*Outside Dates:* Between September 15 and January 1.

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag*

*Limits:* Not more than 9 consecutive days, with a daily bag limit of 2.

*Zoning:* California may select hunting seasons not to exceed 9 consecutive days in each of two zones. The season in the North Zone must close by October 3.

Four-Corners States (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah)

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and November 30.

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag*

*Limits:* Not more than 14 consecutive days, with a daily bag limit of 2.

*Zoning:* New Mexico may select hunting seasons not to exceed 14 consecutive days in each of two zones. The season in the South Zone may not open until October 1.

*Doves*

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and January 15, except as otherwise provided, States may select hunting seasons and daily bag limits as follows:

Eastern Management Unit

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag*

*Limits:* Not more than 90 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* States may select hunting seasons in each of two zones. The season within each zone may be split into not more than three periods. Regulations for bag and possession limits, season length, and shooting hours must be uniform within specific hunting zones.

Central Management Unit

For All States Except Texas

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag*

*Limits:* Not more than 90 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* States may select hunting seasons in each of two

zones. The season within each zone may be split into not more than three periods.

Texas

*Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag*

*Limits:* Not more than 90 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning, white-winged, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be white-tipped doves.

*Zoning and Split Seasons:* Texas may select hunting seasons for each of three zones subject to the following conditions:

A. The hunting season may be split into not more than two periods, except in that portion of Texas in which the special white-winged dove season is allowed, where a limited take of mourning and white-tipped doves may also occur during that special season (see Special White-winged Dove Area).

B. A season may be selected for the North and Central Zones between September 1 and January 25; and for the South Zone between the Friday nearest September 20 (September 22), but not earlier than September 17, and January 25.

C. Except as noted above, regulations for bag and possession limits, season length, and shooting hours must be uniform within each hunting zone.

*Special White-winged Dove Area in*

*Texas:* In addition, Texas may select a hunting season of not more than 4 days for the Special White-winged Dove Area of the South Zone between September 1 and September 19. The daily bag limit may not exceed 15 white-winged, mourning, and white-tipped doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 2 may be mourning doves and no more than 2 may be white-tipped doves.

Western Management Unit

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits

*Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington:* Not more than 60 days, which may be split between two periods. The daily bag limit is 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

*Arizona and California:* Not more than 60 days, which may be split between two periods, September 1–15 and November 1–January 15. In Arizona, during the first segment of the season, the daily bag limit is 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 10 could be white-winged doves. During the remainder of the season, the daily bag limit is 15 mourning doves. In California, the daily bag limit is 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which no more than 10 could be white-winged doves.

Alaska

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and January 26.

*Hunting Seasons:* Alaska may select 107 consecutive days for waterfowl, sandhill cranes, and common snipe in each of 5 zones. The season may be split without penalty in the Kodiak Zone. The seasons in each zone must be concurrent.

*Closures:* The hunting season is closed on spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits

*Ducks:* Except as noted, a basic daily bag limit of 7 ducks. Daily bag limits in the North Zone are 10, and in the Gulf Coast Zone, they are 8. The basic limits may include no more than 2 canvasbacks daily and may not include sea ducks.

In addition to the basic duck limits, Alaska may select sea duck limits of 10 daily, singly or in the aggregate, including no more than 6 each of either harlequin or long-tailed ducks. Sea ducks include scoters, common and king eiders, harlequin ducks, long-tailed ducks, and common and red-breasted mergansers.

*Light Geese:* The daily bag limit is 6.

*Canada Geese:* The daily bag limit is 4 with the following exceptions:

A. In Units 5 and 6, the taking of Canada geese is permitted from September 28 through December 16.

B. On Middleton Island in Unit 6, a special, permit-only Canada goose season may be offered. A mandatory goose identification class is required. Hunters must check in and check out. The bag limit is 1 daily and 1 in possession. The season will close if incidental harvest includes 5 dusky Canada geese. A dusky Canada goose is any dark-breasted Canada goose (Munsell 10 YR color value five or less) with a bill length between 40 and 50 millimeters.

C. In Units 9, 10, 17, and 18, the daily bag limit is 6 Canada geese.

*White-fronted Geese:* The daily bag limit is 4 with the following exceptions:

A. In Units 9, 10, and 17, the daily bag limit is 6 white-fronted geese.

B. In Unit 18, the daily bag limit is 10 white-fronted geese.

*Emperor Geese:* Open seasons for emperor geese may be selected subject to the following conditions:

A. All seasons are by permit only.

B. No more than 1 emperor goose may be authorized per permit.

C. Total harvest may not exceed 1,000 emperor geese.

D. In State Game Management Unit 18, the Kodiak Island Road Area is

closed to hunting. The Kodiak Island Road Area consists of all lands and water (including exposed tidelands) east of a line extending from Crag Point in the north to the west end of Saltery Cove in the south and all lands and water south of a line extending from Termination Point along the north side of Cascade Lake extending to Anton Larsen Bay. Marine waters adjacent to the closed area are closed to harvest within 500 feet from the water's edge. The offshore islands are open to harvest, for example: Woody, Long, Gull, and Puffin islands.

*Brant:* The daily bag limit is 3.

*Snipe:* The daily bag limit is 8.

*Sandhill cranes:* The daily bag limit is 2 in the Southeast, Gulf Coast, Kodiak, and Aleutian Zones, and Unit 17 in the North Zone. In the remainder of the North Zone (outside Unit 17), the daily bag limit is 3.

*Tundra Swans:* Open seasons for tundra swans may be selected subject to the following conditions:

A. All seasons are by permit only.

B. All season framework dates are September 1–October 31.

C. In Unit 17, no more than 200 permits may be issued during this operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit, with no more than 1 permit issued per hunter per season.

D. In Unit 18, no more than 500 permits may be issued during the operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit. No more than 1 permit may be issued per hunter per season.

E. In Unit 22, no more than 300 permits may be issued during the operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit. No more than 1 permit may be issued per hunter per season.

F. In Unit 23, no more than 300 permits may be issued during the operational season. No more than 3 tundra swans may be authorized per permit. No more than 1 permit may be issued per hunter per season.

#### Hawaii

*Outside Dates:* Between October 1 and January 31.

*Hunting Seasons:* Not more than 65 days (75 under the alternative) for mourning doves.

*Bag Limits:* Not to exceed 15 (12 under the alternative) mourning doves.

**Note:** Mourning doves may be taken in Hawaii in accordance with shooting hours and other regulations set by the State of Hawaii, and subject to the applicable provisions of 50 CFR part 20.

#### Puerto Rico

##### Doves and Pigeons

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and January 15.

*Hunting Seasons:* Not more than 60 days.

*Daily Bag and Possession Limits:* Not to exceed 20 Zenaida, mourning, and white-winged doves in the aggregate, of which not more than 10 may be Zenaida doves and 3 may be mourning doves. Not to exceed 5 scaly-naped pigeons.

*Closed Seasons:* The season is closed on the white-crowned pigeon and the plain pigeon, which are protected by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

*Closed Areas:* There is no open season on doves or pigeons in the following areas: Municipality of Culebra, Desecheo Island, Mona Island, El Verde Closure Area, and Cidra Municipality and adjacent areas.

##### Ducks, Coots, Moorhens, Gallinules, and Snipe

*Outside Dates:* Between October 1 and January 31.

*Hunting Seasons:* Not more than 55 days may be selected for hunting ducks, common moorhens, and common snipe. The season may be split into two segments.

##### Daily Bag Limits

*Ducks:* Not to exceed 6.

*Common moorhens:* Not to exceed 6.

*Common snipe:* Not to exceed 8.

*Closed Seasons:* The season is closed on the ruddy duck, white-cheeked pintail, West Indian whistling duck, fulvous whistling duck, and masked duck, which are protected by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The season also is closed on the purple gallinule, American coot, and Caribbean coot.

*Closed Areas:* There is no open season on ducks, common moorhens, and common snipe in the Municipality of Culebra and on Desecheo Island.

#### Virgin Islands

##### Doves and Pigeons

*Outside Dates:* Between September 1 and January 15.

*Hunting Seasons:* Not more than 60 days for Zenaida doves.

*Daily Bag and Possession Limits:* Not to exceed 10 Zenaida doves.

*Closed Seasons:* No open season is prescribed for ground or quail doves or pigeons.

*Closed Areas:* There is no open season for migratory game birds on Ruth Cay (just south of St. Croix).

*Local Names for Certain Birds:*

Zenaida dove, also known as mountain dove; bridled quail-dove, also known as

Barbary dove or partridge; common ground-dove, also known as stone dove, tobacco dove, rola, or tortolita; scaly-naped pigeon, also known as red-necked or scaled pigeon.

##### Ducks

*Outside Dates:* Between December 1 and January 31.

*Hunting Seasons:* Not more than 55 consecutive days.

*Daily Bag Limits:* Not to exceed 6.

*Closed Seasons:* The season is closed on the ruddy duck, white-cheeked pintail, West Indian whistling duck, fulvous whistling duck, and masked duck.

##### Special Falconry Regulations

Falconry is a permitted means of taking migratory game birds in any State meeting Federal falconry standards in 50 CFR 21.29. These States may select an extended season for taking migratory game birds in accordance with the following:

*Extended Seasons:* For all hunting methods combined, the combined length of the extended season, regular season, and any special or experimental seasons must not exceed 107 days for any species or group of species in a geographical area. Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of 3 segments.

*Framework Dates:* Seasons must fall between September 1 and March 10.

*Daily Bag Limits:* Falconry daily bag limits for all permitted migratory game birds must not exceed 3 birds, singly or in the aggregate, during extended falconry seasons, any special or experimental seasons, and regular hunting seasons in all States, including those that do not select an extended falconry season.

*Regular Seasons:* General hunting regulations, including seasons and hunting hours, apply to falconry in each State listed in 50 CFR 21.29. Regular season bag limits do not apply to falconry. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to gun limits.

##### Area, Unit, and Zone Descriptions

###### *Ducks (Including Mergansers) and Coots*

###### Atlantic Flyway

###### Connecticut

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of I-95.

*South Zone:* Remainder of the State.

###### Maine

*North Zone:* That portion north of the line extending east along Maine State Highway 110 from the New Hampshire-Maine State line to the intersection of Maine State Highway 11 in Newfield;

then north and east along Route 11 to the intersection of U.S. Route 202 in Auburn; then north and east on Route 202 to the intersection of I-95 in Augusta; then north and east along I-95 to Route 15 in Bangor; then east along Route 15 to Route 9; then east along Route 9 to Stony Brook in Baileyville; then east along Stony Brook to the U.S. border.

*Coastal Zone:* That portion south of a line extending east from the Maine-New Brunswick border in Calais at the Route 1 Bridge; then south along Route 1 to the Maine-New Hampshire border in Kittery.

*South Zone:* Remainder of the State.

#### Maryland

*Special Teal Season Area:* Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia State Line.

#### Massachusetts

*Western Zone:* That portion of the State west of a line extending south from the Vermont State line on I-91 to MA 9, west on MA 9 to MA 10, south on MA 10 to U.S. 202, south on U.S. 202 to the Connecticut State line.

*Central Zone:* That portion of the State east of the Berkshire Zone and west of a line extending south from the New Hampshire State line on I-95 to U.S. 1, south on U.S. 1 to I-93, south on I-93 to MA 3, south on MA 3 to U.S. 6, west on U.S. 6 to MA 28, west on MA 28 to I-195, west to the Rhode Island State line; except the waters, and the lands 150 yards inland from the high-water mark, of the Assonet River upstream to the MA 24 bridge, and the Taunton River upstream to the Center St.-Elm St. bridge shall be in the Coastal Zone.

*Coastal Zone:* That portion of Massachusetts east and south of the Central Zone.

#### New Hampshire

*Northern Zone:* That portion of the State east and north of the Inland Zone beginning at the Jct. of Rte. 10 and Rte. 25-A in Orford, east on Rte. 25-A to Rte. 25 in Wentworth, southeast on Rte. 25 to Exit 26 of Rte. I-93 in Plymouth, south on Rte. I-93 to Rte. 3 at Exit 24 of Rte. I-93 in Ashland, northeast on Rte. 3 to Rte. 113 in Holderness, north on Rte. 113 to Rte. 113-A in Sandwich, north on Rte. 113-A to Rte. 113 in

Tamworth, east on Rte. 113 to Rte. 16 in Chocorua, north on Rte. 16 to Rte. 302 in Conway, east on Rte. 302 to the Maine-New Hampshire border.

*Inland Zone:* That portion of the State south and west of the Northern Zone, west of the Coastal Zone, and includes the area of Vermont and New Hampshire as described for hunting reciprocity. A person holding a New Hampshire hunting license that allows the taking of migratory waterfowl or a person holding a Vermont resident hunting license that allows the taking of migratory waterfowl may take migratory waterfowl and coots from the following designated area of the Inland Zone: The State of Vermont east of Rte. I-91 at the Massachusetts border, north on Rte. I-91 to Rte. 2, north on Rte. 2 to Rte. 102, north on Rte. 102 to Rte. 253, and north on Rte. 253 to the border with Canada and the area of New Hampshire west of Rte. 63 at the Massachusetts border, north on Rte. 63 to Rte. 12, north on Rte. 12 to Rte. 12-A, north on Rte. 12-A to Rte. 10, north on Rte. 10 to Rte. 135, north on Rte. 135 to Rte. 3, north on Rte. 3 to the intersection with the Connecticut River.

*Coastal Zone:* That portion of the State east of a line beginning at the Maine-New Hampshire border in Rollinsford, then extending to Rte. 4 west to the city of Dover, south to the intersection of Rte. 108, south along Rte. 108 through Madbury, Durham, and Newmarket to the junction of Rte. 85 in Newfields, south to Rte. 101 in Exeter, east to Interstate 95 (New Hampshire Turnpike) in Hampton, and south to the Massachusetts border.

#### New Jersey

*Coastal Zone:* That portion of the State seaward of a line beginning at the New York State line in Raritan Bay and extending west along the New York State line to NJ 440 at Perth Amboy; west on NJ 440 to the Garden State Parkway; south on the Garden State Parkway to NJ 109; south on NJ 109 to Cape May County Route 633 (Lafayette Street); south on Lafayette Street to Jackson Street; south on Jackson Street to the shoreline at Cape May; west along the shoreline of Cape May beach to COLREGS Demarcation Line 80.503 at Cape May Point; south along COLREGS Demarcation Line 80.503 to the Delaware State line in Delaware Bay.

*North Zone:* That portion of the State west of the Coastal Zone and north of a line extending west from the Garden State Parkway on NJ 70 to the New Jersey Turnpike, north on the turnpike to U.S. 206, north on U.S. 206 to U.S. 1 at Trenton, west on U.S. 1 to the

Pennsylvania State line in the Delaware River.

*South Zone:* That portion of the State not within the North Zone or the Coastal Zone.

#### New York

*Lake Champlain Zone:* That area east and north of a continuous line extending along U.S. 11 from the New York-Canada International boundary south to NY 9B, south along NY 9B to U.S. 9, south along U.S. 9 to NY 22 south of Keesville; south along NY 22 to the west shore of South Bay, along and around the shoreline of South Bay to NY 22 on the east shore of South Bay; southeast along NY 22 to U.S. 4, northeast along U.S. 4 to the Vermont State line.

*Long Island Zone:* That area consisting of Nassau County, Suffolk County, that area of Westchester County southeast of I-95, and their tidal waters.

*Western Zone:* That area west of a line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to I-81, and south along I-81 to the Pennsylvania State line.

*Northeastern Zone:* That area north of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to I-81, south along I-81 to NY 31, east along NY 31 to NY 13, north along NY 13 to NY 49, east along NY 49 to NY 365, east along NY 365 to NY 28, east along NY 28 to NY 29, east along NY 29 to NY 22, north along NY 22 to Washington County Route 153, east along CR 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

*Southeastern Zone:* The remaining portion of New York.

#### Pennsylvania

*Lake Erie Zone:* The Lake Erie waters of Pennsylvania and a shoreline margin along Lake Erie from New York on the east to Ohio on the west extending 150 yards inland, but including all of Presque Isle Peninsula.

*Northwest Zone:* The area bounded on the north by the Lake Erie Zone and including all of Erie and Crawford Counties and those portions of Mercer and Venango Counties north of I-80.

*North Zone:* That portion of the State east of the Northwest Zone and north of a line extending east on I-80 to U.S. 220, Route 220 to I-180, I-180 to I-80, and I-80 to the Delaware River.

*South Zone:* The remaining portion of Pennsylvania.

#### Vermont

*Lake Champlain Zone:* The U.S. portion of Lake Champlain and that area north and west of the line extending

from the New York border along U.S. 4 to VT 22A at Fair Haven; VT 22A to U.S. 7 at Vergennes; U.S. 7 to VT 78 at Swanton; VT 78 to VT 36; VT 36 to Maquam Bay on Lake Champlain; along and around the shoreline of Maquam Bay and Hog Island to VT 78 at the West Swanton Bridge; VT 78 to VT 2 in Alburg; VT 2 to the Richelieu River in Alburg; along the east shore of the Richelieu River to the Canadian border.

*Interior Zone:* That portion of Vermont east of the Lake Champlain Zone and west of a line extending from the Massachusetts border at Interstate 91; north along Interstate 91 to U.S. 2; east along U.S. 2 to VT 102; north along VT 102 to VT 253; north along VT 253 to the Canadian border.

*Connecticut River Zone:* The remaining portion of Vermont east of the Interior Zone.

Mississippi Flyway  
Illinois

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Peotone-Beecher Road to Illinois Route 50, south along Illinois Route 50 to Wilmington-Peotone Road, west along Wilmington-Peotone Road to Illinois Route 53, north along Illinois Route 53 to New River Road, northwest along New River Road to Interstate Highway 55, south along I-55 to Pine Bluff-Lorenzo Road, west along Pine Bluff-Lorenzo Road to Illinois Route 47, north along Illinois Route 47 to I-80, west along I-80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

*Central Zone:* That portion of the State south of the North Duck Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's Road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

*South Zone:* That portion of the State south and east of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 70, south along U.S. Highway 45, to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Greenbriar Road, north on Greenbriar Road to Sycamore Road, west on Sycamore Road to N. Reed Station Road, south on N. Reed Station Road to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Illinois Route 127, south along Illinois Route 127 to State Forest Road (1025 N), west along State Forest Road to Illinois Route 3, north along Illinois Route 3 to the south bank of the Big Muddy River, west along the south bank of the Big Muddy River to the Mississippi River, west across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

*South Central Zone:* The remainder of the State between the south border of the Central Zone and the North border of the South Zone.

Indiana

*North Zone:* That part of Indiana north of a line extending east from the Illinois border along State Road 18 to U.S. 31; north along U.S. 31 to U.S. 24; east along U.S. 24 to Huntington; southeast along U.S. 224; south along State Road 5; and east along State Road 124 to the Ohio border.

*Central Zone:* That part of Indiana south of the North Zone boundary and north of the South Zone boundary.

*South Zone:* That part of Indiana south of a line extending east from the Illinois border along U.S. 40; south along U.S. 41; east along State Road 58; south along State Road 37 to Bedford; and east along U.S. 50 to the Ohio border.

Iowa

*North Zone:* That portion of Iowa north of a line beginning on the South Dakota-Iowa border at Interstate 29, southeast along Interstate 29 to State Highway 175, east along State Highway 175 to State Highway 37, southeast along State Highway 37 to State Highway 183, northeast along State Highway 183 to State Highway 141, east along State Highway 141 to U.S. Highway 30, and along U.S. Highway 30 to the Illinois border.

*Missouri River Zone:* That portion of Iowa west of a line beginning on the South Dakota-Iowa border at Interstate 29, southeast along Interstate 29 to State Highway 175, and west along State Highway 175 to the Iowa-Nebraska border.

*South Zone:* The remainder of Iowa.

Kentucky

*West Zone:* All counties west of and including Butler, Daviess, Ohio, Simpson, and Warren Counties.

*East Zone:* The remainder of Kentucky.

Louisiana

*East Zone:* That area of the State between the Mississippi State line and a line going south on Hwy 79 from the Arkansas border to Homer, then south on Hwy 9 to Arcadia, then south on Hwy 147 to Hodge, then south on Hwy 167 to Turkey Creek, then south on Hwy 13 to Eunice, then west on Hwy 190 to Kinder, then south on Hwy 165 to Iowa, then west on I-10 to its junction with Hwy 14 at Lake Charles, then south and east on Hwy 14 to its junction with Hwy 90 in New Iberia, then east on Hwy 90 to the Mississippi State line.

*West Zone:* That area between the Texas State line and a line going east on I-10 from the Texas border to Hwy 165 at Iowa, then north on Hwy 165 to Kinder, then east on Hwy 190 to Eunice, then north on Hwy 13 to Turkey Creek, then north on Hwy 167 to Hodge, then north on Hwy 147 to Arcadia, then north on Hwy 9 to Homer, then north on Hwy 79 to the Arkansas border.

*Coastal Zone:* Remainder of the State.

Michigan

*North Zone:* The Upper Peninsula.

*Middle Zone:* That portion of the Lower Peninsula north of a line beginning at the Wisconsin State line in Lake Michigan due west of the mouth of Stony Creek in Oceana County; then due east to, and easterly and southerly along the south shore of Stony Creek to Scenic Drive, easterly and southerly along Scenic Drive to Stony Lake Road, easterly along Stony Lake and Garfield Roads to Michigan Highway 20, east along Michigan 20 to U.S. Highway 10 Business Route (BR) in the city of Midland, easterly along U.S. 10 BR to U.S. 10, easterly along U.S. 10 to Interstate Highway 75/U.S. Highway 23, northerly along I-75/U.S. 23 to the U.S. 23 exit at Standish, easterly along U.S. 23 to the centerline of the Au Gres River, then southerly along the centerline of the Au Gres River to Saginaw Bay, then on a line directly east 10 miles into Saginaw Bay, and from that point on a line directly northeast to the Canadian border.

*South Zone:* The remainder of Michigan.

Minnesota

*North Duck Zone:* That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the North Dakota State line along State Highway 210 to State Highway 23 and

east to State Highway 39 and east to the Wisconsin State line at the Oliver Bridge.

*South Duck Zone:* The portion of the State south of a line extending east from the South Dakota State line along U.S. Highway 212 to Interstate 494 and east to Interstate 94 and east to the Wisconsin State line.

*Central Duck Zone:* The remainder of the State.

#### Missouri

*North Zone:* That portion of Missouri north of a line running west from the Illinois border at Lock and Dam 25; west on Lincoln County Hwy. N to Mo. Hwy. 79; south on Mo. Hwy. 79 to Mo. Hwy. 47; west on Mo. Hwy. 47 to I-70; west on I-70 to the Kansas border.

*Middle Zone:* The remainder of Missouri not included in other zones.

*South Zone:* That portion of Missouri south of a line running west from the Illinois border on Mo. Hwy. 74 to Mo. Hwy. 25; south on Mo. Hwy. 25 to U.S. Hwy. 62; west on U.S. Hwy. 62 to Mo. Hwy. 53; north on Mo. Hwy. 53 to Mo. Hwy. 51; north on Mo. Hwy. 51 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Mo. Hwy. 21; north on Mo. Hwy. 21 to Mo. Hwy. 72; west on Mo. Hwy. 72 to Mo. Hwy. 32; west on Mo. Hwy. 32 to U.S. Hwy. 65; north on U.S. Hwy. 65 to U.S. Hwy. 54; west on U.S. Hwy. 54 to U.S. Hwy. 71; south on U.S. Hwy. 71 to Jasper County Hwy. M (Base Line Blvd.); west on Jasper County Hwy. M (Base Line Blvd.) to CRD 40 (Base Line Blvd.); west on CRD 40 (Base Line Blvd.) to the Kansas border.

#### Ohio

*Lake Erie Marsh Zone:* Includes all land and water within the boundaries of the area bordered by a line beginning at the intersection of Interstate 75 at the Ohio-Michigan State line and continuing south to Interstate 280, then south on I-280 to the Ohio Turnpike (I-80/I-90), then east on the Ohio Turnpike to the Erie-Lorain County line, then north to Lake Erie, then following the Lake Erie shoreline at a distance of 200 yards offshore, then following the shoreline west toward and around the northern tip of Cedar Point Amusement Park, then continuing from the westernmost point of Cedar Point toward the southernmost tip of the sand bar at the mouth of Sandusky Bay and out into Lake Erie at a distance of 200 yards offshore continuing parallel to the Lake Erie shoreline north and west toward the northernmost tip of Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, then following a direct line toward the southernmost tip of Wood Tick Peninsula in Michigan to a point that

intersects the Ohio-Michigan State line, then following the State line back to the point of the beginning.

*North Zone:* That portion of the State, excluding the Lake Erie Marsh Zone, north of a line extending east from the Indiana State line along U.S. Highway (U.S.) 33 to State Route (SR) 127, then south along SR 127 to SR 703, then south along SR 703 and including all lands within the Mercer Wildlife Area to SR 219, then east along SR 219 to SR 364, then north along SR 364 and including all lands within the St. Mary's Fish Hatchery to SR 703, then east along SR 703 to SR 66, then north along SR 66 to U.S. 33, then east along U.S. 33 to SR 385, then east along SR 385 to SR 117, then south along SR 117 to SR 273, then east along SR 273 to SR 31, then south along SR 31 to SR 739, then east along SR 739 to SR 4, then north along SR 4 to SR 95, then east along SR 95 to SR 13, then southeast along SR 13 to SR 3, then northeast along SR 3 to SR 60, then north along SR 60 to U.S. 30, then east along U.S. 30 to SR 3, then south along SR 3 to SR 226, then south along SR 226 to SR 514, then southwest along SR 514 to SR 754, then south along SR 754 to SR 39/60, then east along SR 39/60 to SR 241, then north along SR 241 to U.S. 30, then east along U.S. 30 to SR 39, then east along SR 39 to the Pennsylvania State line.

*South Zone:* The remainder of Ohio not included in the Lake Erie Marsh Zone or the North Zone.

#### Tennessee

*Reelfoot Zone:* All or portions of Lake and Obion Counties.

*Remainder of State:* That portion of Tennessee outside of the Reelfoot Zone.

#### Wisconsin

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the Minnesota State line along U.S. Highway 10 into Portage County to County Highway HH, east on County Highway HH to State Highway 66 and then east on State Highway 66 to U.S. Highway 10, continuing east on U.S. Highway 10 to U.S. Highway 41, then north on U.S. Highway 41 to the Michigan State line.

*Mississippi River Zone:* That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway and the Illinois State line in Grant County and extending northerly along the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway to the city limit of Prescott in Pierce County, then west along the Prescott city limit to the Minnesota State line.

*South Zone:* The remainder of Wisconsin.

#### Central Flyway

##### Colorado (Central Flyway Portion)

*Special Teal Season Area:* Lake and Chaffee Counties and that portion of the State east of Interstate Highway 25.

*Northeast Zone:* All areas east of Interstate 25 and north of Interstate 70.

*Southeast Zone:* All areas east of Interstate 25 and south of Interstate 70, and all of El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano, and Las Animas Counties.

*Mountain/Foothills Zone:* All areas west of Interstate 25 and east of the Continental Divide, except El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano, and Las Animas Counties.

#### Kansas

*High Plains Zone:* That portion of the State west of U.S. 283.

*Low Plains Early Zone:* That part of Kansas bounded by a line from the Federal highway U.S.-283 and State highway U.S.-96 junction, then east on Federal highway U.S.-96 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-183, then north on Federal highway U.S.-183 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-24, then east on Federal highway U.S.-24 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then north on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-36, then east on Federal highway U.S.-36 to its junction with State highway K-199, then south on State highway K-199 to its junction with Republic County 30th Road, then south on Republic County 30th Road to its junction with State highway K-148, then east on State highway K-148 to its junction with Republic County 50th Road, then south on Republic County 50th Road to its junction with Cloud County 40th Road, then south on Cloud County 40th Road to its junction with State highway K-9, then west on State highway K-9 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-24, then west on Federal highway U.S.-24 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-181, then south on Federal highway U.S.-181 to its junction with State highway K-18, then west on State highway K-18 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then south on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with State highway K-4, then east on State highway K-4 to its junction with interstate highway I-135, then south on interstate highway I-135 to its junction with State highway K-61, then southwest on State highway K-61 to its junction with McPherson County 14th Avenue, then south on McPherson County 14th Avenue to its junction with McPherson County Arapaho Rd, then west on McPherson County Arapaho Rd to its junction with State highway K-61,

then southwest on State highway K-61 to its junction with State highway K-96, then northwest on State highway K-96 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-56, then southwest on Federal highway U.S.-56 to its junction with State highway K-19, then east on State highway K-19 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then south on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-54, then west on Federal highway U.S.-54 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-183, then north on Federal highway U.S.-183 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-56, then southwest on Federal highway U.S.-56 to its junction with North Main Street in Spearville, then south on North Main Street to Davis Street, then east on Davis Street to Ford County Road 126 (South Stafford Street), then south on Ford County Road 126 to Garnett Road, then east on Garnett Road to Ford County Road 126, then south on Ford County Road 126 to Ford Spearville Road, then west on Ford Spearville Road to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-400, then northwest on Federal highway U.S.-400 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-283, and then north on Federal highway U.S.-283 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-96.

*Low Plains Late Zone:* That part of Kansas bounded by a line from the Federal highway U.S.-283 and Federal highway U.S.-96 junction, then north on Federal highway U.S.-283 to the Kansas-Nebraska State line, then east along the Kansas-Nebraska State line to its junction with the Kansas-Missouri State line, then southeast along the Kansas-Missouri State line to its junction with State highway K-68, then west on State highway K-68 to its junction with interstate highway I-35, then southwest on interstate highway I-35 to its junction with Butler County NE 150th Street, then west on Butler County NE 150th Street to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-77, then south on Federal highway U.S.-77 to its junction with the Kansas-Oklahoma State line, then west along the Kansas-Oklahoma State line to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-283, then north on Federal highway U.S.-283 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-400, then east on Federal highway U.S.-400 to its junction with Ford Spearville Road, then east on Ford Spearville Road to Ford County Road 126 (South Stafford Street), then north on Ford County Road 126 to Garnett Road, then west on Garnett Road to Ford County Road 126, then north on Ford County Road 126 to Davis Street, then west on Davis Street to North Main Street, then

north on North Main Street to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-56, then east on Federal highway U.S.-56 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-183, then south on Federal highway U.S.-183 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-54, then east on Federal highway U.S.-54 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then north on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with State highway K-19, then west on State highway K-19 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-56, then east on Federal highway U.S.-56 to its junction with State highway K-96, then southeast on State highway K-96 to its junction with State highway K-61, then northeast on State highway K-61 to its junction with McPherson County Arapaho Road, then east on McPherson County Arapaho Road to its junction with McPherson County 14th Avenue, then north on McPherson County 14th Avenue to its junction with State highway K-61, then east on State highway K-61 to its junction with interstate highway I-135, then north on interstate highway I-135 to its junction with State highway K-4, then west on State highway K-4 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then north on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with State highway K-18, then east on State highway K-18 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-181, then north on Federal highway U.S.-181 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-24, then east on Federal highway U.S.-24 to its junction with State highway K-9, then east on State highway K-9 to its junction with Cloud County 40th Road, then north on Cloud County 40th Road to its junction with Republic County 50th Road, then north on Republic County 50th Road to its junction with State highway K-148, then west on State highway K-148 to its junction with Republic County 30th Road, then north on Republic County 30th Road to its junction with State highway K-199, then north on State highway K-199 to its junction with federal highway U.S.-36, then west on Federal highway U.S.-36 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-281, then south on Federal highway U.S.-281 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-24, then west on Federal highway U.S.-24 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-183, then south on Federal highway U.S.-183 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-96, and then west on Federal highway U.S.-96 to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-283.

*Southeast Zone:* That part of Kansas bounded by a line from the Missouri-Kansas State line west on K-68 to its

junction with I-35, then southwest on I-35 to its junction with Butler County, NE 150th Street, then west on NE 150th Street to its junction with Federal highway U.S.-77, then south on Federal highway U.S.-77 to the Oklahoma-Kansas State line, then east along the Kansas-Oklahoma State line to its junction with the Kansas-Missouri State line, then north along the Kansas-Missouri State line to its junction with State highway K-68.

Montana (Central Flyway Portion)

*Zone 1:* The Counties of Blaine, Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Valley, Wheatland, and Wibaux.

*Zone 2:* The Counties of Big Horn, Carbon, Custer, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure, and Yellowstone.

Nebraska

*Special Teal Season Area (south):*

That portion of the State south of a line beginning at the Wyoming State line; east along U.S. 26 to Nebraska Highway L62A east to U.S. 385; south to U.S. 26; east to NE 92; east along NE 92 to NE 61; south along NE 61 to U.S. 30; east along U.S. 30 to the Iowa border.

*Special Teal Season Area (north):* The remainder of the State.

*High Plains:* That portion of Nebraska lying west of a line beginning at the South Dakota-Nebraska border on U.S. Hwy. 183; south on U.S. Hwy. 183 to U.S. Hwy. 20; west on U.S. Hwy. 20 to NE Hwy. 7; south on NE Hwy. 7 to NE Hwy. 91; southwest on NE Hwy. 91 to NE Hwy. 2; southeast on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 92; west on NE Hwy. 92 to NE Hwy. 40; south on NE Hwy. 40 to NE Hwy. 47; south on NE Hwy. 47 to NE Hwy. 23; east on NE Hwy. 23 to U.S. Hwy. 283; and south on U.S. Hwy. 283 to the Kansas-Nebraska border.

*Zone 1:* Area bounded by designated Federal and State highways and political boundaries beginning at the South Dakota-Nebraska border west of NE Hwy. 26E Spur and north of NE Hwy. 12; those portions of Dixon, Cedar, and Knox Counties north of NE Hwy. 12; that portion of Keya Paha County east of U.S. Hwy. 183; and all of Boyd County. Both banks of the Niobrara River in Keya Paha and Boyd counties east of U.S. Hwy. 183 shall be included in Zone 1.

*Zone 2:* The area south of Zone 1 and north of Zone 3.

*Zone 3:* Area bounded by designated Federal and State highways, County Roads, and political boundaries beginning at the Wyoming-Nebraska

border at the intersection of the Interstate Canal; east along northern borders of Scotts Bluff and Morrill Counties to Broadwater Road; south to Morrill County Rd 94; east to County Rd 135; south to County Rd 88; southeast to County Rd 151; south to County Rd 80; east to County Rd 161; south to County Rd 76; east to County Rd 165; south to County Rd 167; south to U.S. Hwy 26; east to County Rd 171; north to County Rd 68; east to County Rd 183; south to County Rd 64; east to County Rd 189; north to County Rd 70; east to County Rd 201; south to County Rd 60A; east to County Rd 203; south to County Rd 52; east to Keith County Line; east along the northern boundaries of Keith and Lincoln Counties to NE Hwy 97; south to U.S. Hwy 83; south to E Hall School Rd; east to N Airport Road; south to U.S. Hwy 30; east to NE Hwy 47; north to Dawson County Rd 769; east to County Rd 423; south to County Rd 766; east to County Rd 428; south to County Rd 763; east to NE Hwy 21 (Adams Street); south to County Rd 761; east to the Dawson County Canal; south and east along the Dawson County Canal to County Rd 444; south to U.S. Hwy 30; east to U.S. Hwy 183; north to Buffalo County Rd 100; east to 46th Avenue; north to NE Hwy 40; south and east to NE Hwy 10; north to Buffalo County Rd 220 and Hall County Husker Hwy; east to Hall County Rd 70; north to NE Hwy 2; east to U.S. Hwy 281; north to Chapman Rd; east to 7th Rd; south to U.S. Hwy 30; east to Merrick County Rd 13; north to County Rd O; east to NE Hwy 14; north to NE Hwy 52; west and north to NE Hwy 91; west to U.S. Hwy 281; south to NE Hwy 22; west to NE Hwy 11; northwest to NE Hwy 91; west to U.S. Hwy 183; south to Round Valley Rd; west to Sargent River Rd; west to Drive 443; north to Sargent Rd; west to NE Hwy S21A; west to NE Hwy 2; west and north to NE Hwy 91; north and east to North Loup Spur Rd; north to North Loup River Rd; east to Pleasant Valley/Worth Rd; east to Loup County Line; north to Loup-Brown County line; east along northern boundaries of Loup and Garfield Counties to Cedar River Rd; south to NE Hwy 70; east to U.S. Hwy 281; north to NE Hwy 70; east to NE Hwy 14; south to NE Hwy 39; southeast to NE Hwy 22; east to U.S. Hwy 81; southeast to U.S. Hwy 30; east to U.S. Hwy 75; north to the Washington County line; east to the Iowa-Nebraska border; south to the Missouri-Nebraska border; south to Kansas-Nebraska border; west along Kansas-Nebraska border to Colorado-Nebraska border; north and west to Wyoming-Nebraska border; north to

intersection of Interstate Canal; and excluding that area in Zone 4.

*Zone 4:* Area encompassed by designated Federal and State highways and County Roads beginning at the intersection of NE Hwy 8 and U.S. Hwy 75; north to U.S. Hwy 136; east to the intersection of U.S. Hwy 136 and the Steamboat Trace (Trace); north along the Trace to the intersection with Federal Levee R-562; north along Federal Levee R-562 to the intersection with Nemaha County Rd 643A; south to the Trace; north along the Trace/Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way to NE Hwy 2; west to U.S. Hwy 75; north to NE Hwy 2; west to NE Hwy 50; north to U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 63; north to NE Hwy 66; north and west to U.S. Hwy 77; north to NE Hwy 92; west to NE Hwy Spur 12F; south to Butler County Rd 30; east to County Rd X; south to County Rd 27; west to County Rd W; south to County Rd 26; east to County Rd X; south to County Rd 21 (Seward County Line); west to NE Hwy 15; north to County Rd 34; west to County Rd H; south to NE Hwy 92; west to U.S. Hwy 81; south to NE Hwy 66; west to Polk County Rd C; north to NE Hwy 92; west to U.S. Hwy 30; west to Merrick County Rd 17; south to Hordlake Road; southeast to Prairie Island Road; southeast to Hamilton County Rd T; south to NE Hwy 66; west to NE Hwy 14; south to County Rd 22; west to County Rd M; south to County Rd 21; west to County Rd K; south to U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 2; south to U.S. Hwy I-80; west to Gunbarrel Rd (Hall/Hamilton county line); south to Giltner Rd; west to U.S. Hwy 281; south to Lochland Rd; west to Holstein Avenue; south to U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 10; north to Kearney County Rd R and Phelps County Rd 742; west to U.S. Hwy 283; south to U.S. Hwy 34; east to U.S. Hwy 136; east to U.S. Hwy 183; north to NE Hwy 4; east to NE Hwy 10; south to U.S. Hwy 136; east to NE Hwy 14; south to NE Hwy 8; east to U.S. Hwy 81; north to NE Hwy 4; east to NE Hwy 15; south to U.S. Hwy 136; east to Jefferson County Rd 578 Avenue; south to PWF Rd; east to NE Hwy 103; south to NE Hwy 8; east to U.S. Hwy 75.

New Mexico (Central Flyway Portion)

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of I-40 and U.S. 54.

*South Zone:* The remainder of New Mexico.

North Dakota

*High Plains Unit:* That portion of the State south and west of a line from the South Dakota State line along U.S. 83 and I-94 to ND 41, north to U.S. 2, west to the Williams-Divide County line,

then north along the County line to the Canadian border.

*Low Plains Unit:* The remainder of North Dakota.

Oklahoma

*High Plains Zone:* The Counties of Beaver, Cimarron, and Texas.

*Low Plains Zone 1:* That portion of the State east of the High Plains Zone and north of a line extending east from the Texas State line along OK 33 to OK 47, east along OK 47 to U.S. 183, south along U.S. 183 to I-40, east along I-40 to U.S. 177, north along U.S. 177 to OK 33, east along OK 33 to OK 18, north along OK 18 to OK 51, west along OK 51 to I-35, north along I-35 to U.S. 412, west along U.S. 412 to OK 132, then north along OK 132 to the Kansas State line.

*Low Plains Zone 2:* The remainder of Oklahoma.

South Dakota

*High Plains Zone:* That portion of the State west of a line beginning at the North Dakota State line and extending south along U.S. 83 to U.S. 14, east on U.S. 14 to Blunt, south on the Blunt-Canning Rd to SD 34, east and south on SD 34 to SD 50 at Lee's Corner, south on SD 50 to I-90, east on I-90 to SD 50, south on SD 50 to SD 44, west on SD 44 across the Platte-Winner bridge to SD 47, south on SD 47 to U.S. 18, east on U.S. 18 to SD 47, south on SD 47 to the Nebraska State line.

*North Zone:* That portion of northeastern South Dakota east of the High Plains Unit and north of a line extending east along U.S. 212 to the Minnesota State line.

*South Zone:* That portion of Gregory County east of SD 47 and south of SD 44; Charles Mix County south of SD 44 to the Douglas County line; south on SD 50 to Geddes; east on the Geddes Highway to U.S. 281; south on U.S. 281 and U.S. 18 to SD 50; south and east on SD 50 to the Bon Homme County line; the Counties of Bon Homme, Yankton, and Clay south of SD 50; and Union County south and west of SD 50 and I-29.

*Middle Zone:* The remainder of South Dakota.

Texas

*High Plains Zone:* That portion of the State west of a line extending south from the Oklahoma State line along U.S. 183 to Vernon, south along U.S. 283 to Albany, south along TX 6 to TX 351 to Abilene, south along U.S. 277 to Del Rio, then south along the Del Rio International Toll Bridge access road to the Mexico border.

*Low Plains North Zone:* That portion of northeastern Texas east of the High Plains Zone and north of a line beginning at the International Toll Bridge south of Del Rio, then extending east on U.S. 90 to San Antonio, then continuing east on I-10 to the Louisiana State line at Orange, Texas.

*Low Plains South Zone:* The remainder of Texas.

#### Wyoming (Central Flyway Portion)

*Zone C1:* Big Horn, Converse, Goshen, Hot Springs, Natrona, Park, Platte, and Washakie Counties; and Fremont County excluding the portions west or south of the Continental Divide.

*Zone C2:* Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Niobrara, Sheridan, and Weston Counties.

*Zone C3:* Albany and Laramie Counties; and that portion of Carbon County east of the Continental Divide.

#### Pacific Flyway

##### Arizona

*North Zone:* Game Management Units 1-5, those portions of Game Management Units 6 and 8 within Coconino County, and Game Management Units 7, 9, and 12A.

*South Zone:* Those portions of Game Management Units 6 and 8 in Yavapai County, and Game Management Units 10 and 12B-45.

##### California

*Northeastern Zone:* In that portion of California lying east and north of a line beginning at the intersection of Interstate 5 with the California-Oregon line; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Walters Lane south of the town of Yreka; west along Walters Lane to its junction with Easy Street; south along Easy Street to the junction with Old Highway 99; south along Old Highway 99 to the point of intersection with Interstate 5 north of the town of Weed; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Highway 89; east and south along Highway 89 to Main Street Greenville; north and east to its junction with North Valley Road; south to its junction of Diamond Mountain Road; north and east to its junction with North Arm Road; south and west to the junction of North Valley Road; south to the junction with Arlington Road (A22); west to the junction of Highway 89; south and west to the junction of Highway 70; east on Highway 70 to Highway 395; south and east on Highway 395 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada State line; north along the California-Nevada State line to the junction of the California-Nevada-Oregon State lines; west along

the California-Oregon State line to the point of origin.

*Colorado River Zone:* Those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties east of a line extending from the Nevada State line south along U.S. 95 to Vidal Junction; south on a road known as "Aqueduct Road" in San Bernardino County through the town of Rice to the San Bernardino-Riverside County line; south on a road known in Riverside County as the "Desert Center to Rice Road" to the town of Desert Center; east 31 miles on I-10 to the Wiley Well Road; south on this road to Wiley Well; southeast along the Army-Milpitas Road to the Blythe, Brawley, Davis Lake intersections; south on the Blythe-Brawley paved road to the Ogilby and Tumco Mine Road; south on this road to U.S. 80; east 7 miles on U.S. 80 to the Andrade-Algodones Road; south on this paved road to the Mexican border at Algodones, Mexico.

*Southern Zone:* That portion of southern California (but excluding the Colorado River Zone) south and east of a line extending from the Pacific Ocean east along the Santa Maria River to CA 166 near the City of Santa Maria; east on CA 166 to CA 99; south on CA 99 to the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains at Tejon Pass; east and north along the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains to CA 178 at Walker Pass; east on CA 178 to U.S. 395 at the town of Inyokern; south on U.S. 395 to CA 58; east on CA 58 to I-15; east on I-15 to CA 127; north on CA 127 to the Nevada State line.

*Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone:* All of Kings and Tulare Counties and that portion of Kern County north of the Southern Zone.

*Balance of State Zone:* The remainder of California not included in the Northeastern, Colorado River, Southern, and the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zones.

#### Colorado (Pacific Flyway Portion)

*Eastern Zone:* Routt, Grand, Summit, Eagle, and Pitkin Counties, those portions of Saguache, San Juan, Hinsdale, and Mineral in the Pacific Flyway (*i.e.*, west of the Continental Divide), and Gunnison County except the following area: the portion of Gunnison County west of Curecanti Creek, west of the Gunnison River-North Fork of Gunnison River divide to Kebler Pass, west of Kebler Pass and the Ruby Range summit, and west and south of the Pitkin/Gunnison County line west of the Ruby Range. This area corresponds to the North Fork of Gunnison River Valley, and is already established by Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife as the Gunnison County portions of Game Management Unit (GMU) 521, 53, and 63.

*Western Zone:* The remainder of the Pacific Flyway portion of Colorado not included in the Eastern Zone.

##### Idaho

*Zone 1:* All lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private in-holdings; Bannock County; Bingham County except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Caribou County within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; and Power County east of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

*Zone 2:* Bear Lake, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton Counties; Bingham County within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; and Caribou County except within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

*Zone 3:* Ada, Adams, Benewah, Blaine, Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Clearwater, Custer, Elmore, Franklin, Gem, Gooding, Idaho, Jerome, Kootenai, Latah, Lemhi, Lewis, Lincoln, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Oneida, Owyhee, Payette, Shoshone, Twin Falls, and Washington Counties; and Power County west of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

*Zone 4:* Valley County.

##### Nevada

*Northeast Zone:* Elko and White Pine Counties.

*Northwest Zone:* Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, and Washoe Counties.

*South Zone:* Clark and Lincoln Counties.

*Moapa Valley Special Management Area:* That portion of Clark County including the Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers.

##### Oregon

*Zone 1:* Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Gilliam, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Morrow, Multnomah, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Umatilla, Wasco, Washington, and Yamhill, Counties.

*Zone 2:* The remainder of Oregon not included in Zone 1.

##### Utah

*Zone 1:* Box Elder, Cache, Daggett, Davis, Duchesne, Morgan, Rich, Salt Lake, Summit, Uintah, Utah, Wasatch, and Weber Counties, and that part of Toole County north of I-80.

*Zone 2:* The remainder of Utah not included in Zone 1.

## Washington

*East Zone:* All areas east of the Pacific Crest Trail and east of the Big White Salmon River in Klickitat County.

*West Zone:* The remainder of Washington not included in the East Zone.

## Wyoming (Pacific Flyway Portion)

*Snake River Zone:* Beginning at the south boundary of Yellowstone National Park and the Continental Divide; south along the Continental Divide to Union Pass and the Union Pass Road (U.S.F.S. Road 600); west and south along the Union Pass Road to U.S.F.S. Road 605; south along U.S.F.S. Road 605 to the Bridger-Teton National Forest boundary; along the national forest boundary to the Idaho State line; north along the Idaho State line to the south boundary of Yellowstone National Park; east along the Yellowstone National Park boundary to the Continental Divide.

*Balance of State Zone:* The remainder of the Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming not included in the Snake River Zone.

## Geese

## Atlantic Flyway

## Connecticut

*Early Canada Goose Seasons:*

*South Zone:* Same as for ducks.

*North Zone:* Same as for ducks.

## Regular Seasons

*AP Unit:* Litchfield County and the portion of Hartford County west of a line beginning at the Massachusetts border in Suffield and extending south along Route 159 to its intersection with Route 91 in Hartford, and then extending south along Route 91 to its intersection with the Hartford-Middlesex County line.

*Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (AFRP) Unit:* Starting at the intersection of I-95 and the Quinnipiac River, north on the Quinnipiac River to its intersection with I-91, north on I-91 to I-691, west on I-691 to the Hartford County line, and encompassing the rest of New Haven County and Fairfield County in its entirety.

*NAP H-Unit:* All of the rest of the State not included in the AP or AFRP descriptions above.

*South Zone:* Same as for ducks.

## Maine

Same zones as for ducks.

## Maryland

## Early Canada Goose Seasons

*Eastern Unit:* Calvert, Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Harford, Kent, Queen

Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties; and that part of Anne Arundel County east of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County east of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County east of Route 301 to the Virginia State line.

*Western Unit:* Allegany, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington Counties and that part of Anne Arundel County west of Interstate 895, Interstate 97, and Route 3; that part of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; and that part of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia State line.

## Regular Seasons

*Resident Population (RP) Zone:* Allegany, Frederick, Garrett, Montgomery, and Washington Counties; that portion of Prince George's County west of Route 3 and Route 301; that portion of Charles County west of Route 301 to the Virginia State line; and that portion of Carroll County west of Route 31 to the intersection of Route 97, and west of Route 97 to the Pennsylvania line.

*AP Zone:* Remainder of the State.

## Massachusetts

*NAP Zone:* Central and Coastal Zones (see duck zones).

*AP Zone:* The Western Zone (see duck zones).

*Special Late Season Area:* The Central Zone and that portion of the Coastal Zone (see duck zones) that lies north of the Cape Cod Canal, north to the New Hampshire line.

## New Hampshire

Same zones as for ducks.

## New Jersey

*AP Zone:* North and South Zones (see duck zones).

*RP Zone:* The Coastal Zone (see duck zones).

*Special Late Season Area:* In northern New Jersey, that portion of the State within a continuous line that runs east along the New York State boundary line to the Hudson River; then south along the New York State boundary to its intersection with Route 440 at Perth Amboy; then west on Route 440 to its intersection with Route 287; then west along Route 287 to its intersection with Route 206 in Bedminster (Exit 18); then north along Route 206 to its intersection with Route 94; then west along Route 94 to the toll bridge in Columbia; then north along the Pennsylvania State boundary in the Delaware River to the beginning point. In southern New Jersey, that portion of the State within

a continuous line that runs west from the Atlantic Ocean at Ship Bottom along Route 72 to Route 70; then west along Route 70 to Route 206; then south along Route 206 to Route 536; then west along Route 536 to Route 322; then west along Route 322 to Route 55; then south along Route 55 to Route 553 (Buck Road); then south along Route 553 to Route 40; then east along Route 40 to route 55; then south along Route 55 to Route 552 (Sherman Avenue); then west along Route 552 to Carmel Road; then south along Carmel Road to Route 49; then east along Route 49 to Route 555; then south along Route 555 to Route 553; then east along Route 553 to Route 649; then north along Route 649 to Route 670; then east along Route 670 to Route 47; then north along Route 47 to Route 548; then east along Route 548 to Route 49; then east along Route 49 to Route 50; then south along Route 50 to Route 9; then south along Route 9 to Route 625 (Sea Isle City Boulevard); then east along Route 625 to the Atlantic Ocean; then north to the beginning point.

## New York

*Lake Champlain Goose Area:* The same as the Lake Champlain Waterfowl Hunting Zone, which is that area of New York State lying east and north of a continuous line extending along Route 11 from the New York-Canada International boundary south to Route 9B, south along Route 9B to Route 9, south along Route 9 to Route 22 south of Keeseville, south along Route 22 to the west shore of South Bay along and around the shoreline of South Bay to Route 22 on the east shore of South Bay, southeast along Route 22 to Route 4, northeast along Route 4 to the New York-Vermont boundary.

*Northeast Goose Area:* The same as the Northeastern Waterfowl Hunting Zone, which is that area of New York State lying north of a continuous line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to Interstate 81, south along Interstate Route 81 to Route 31, east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 22 at Greenwich Junction, north along Route 22 to Washington County Route 153, east along CR 153 to the New York-Vermont boundary, exclusive of the Lake Champlain Zone.

*East Central Goose Area:* That area of New York State lying inside of a continuous line extending from Interstate Route 81 in Cicero, east along Route 31 to Route 13, north along Route 13 to Route 49, east along Route 49 to

Route 365, east along Route 365 to Route 28, east along Route 28 to Route 29, east along Route 29 to Route 147 at Kimball Corners, south along Route 147 to Schenectady County Route 40 (West Glenville Road), west along Route 40 to Touareuna Road, south along Touareuna Road to Schenectady County Route 59, south along Route 59 to State Route 5, east along Route 5 to the Lock 9 bridge, southwest along the Lock 9 bridge to Route 5S, southeast along Route 5S to Schenectady County Route 58, southwest along Route 58 to the NYS Thruway, south along the Thruway to Route 7, southwest along Route 7 to Schenectady County Route 103, south along Route 103 to Route 406, east along Route 406 to Schenectady County Route 99 (Windy Hill Road), south along Route 99 to Dunnsville Road, south along Dunnsville Road to Route 397, southwest along Route 397 to Route 146 at Altamont, west along Route 146 to Albany County Route 252, northwest along Route 252 to Schenectady County Route 131, north along Route 131 to Route 7, west along Route 7 to Route 10 at Richmondville, south on Route 10 to Route 23 at Stamford, west along Route 23 to Route 7 in Oneonta, southwest along Route 7 to Route 79 to Interstate Route 88 near Harpursville, west along Route 88 to Interstate Route 81, north along Route 81 to the point of beginning.

*West Central Goose Area:* That area of New York State lying within a continuous line beginning at the point where the northerly extension of Route 269 (County Line Road on the Niagara-Orleans County boundary) meets the International boundary with Canada, south to the shore of Lake Ontario at the eastern boundary of Golden Hill State Park, south along the extension of Route 269 and Route 269 to Route 104 at Jeddo, west along Route 104 to Niagara County Route 271, south along Route 271 to Route 31E at Middleport, south along Route 31E to Route 31, west along Route 31 to Griswold Street, south along Griswold Street to Ditch Road, south along Ditch Road to Foot Road, south along Foot Road to the north bank of Tonawanda Creek, west along the north bank of Tonawanda Creek to Route 93, south along Route 93 to Route 5, east along Route 5 to Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road, south on Crittenden-Murrays Corners Road to the NYS Thruway, east along the Thruway 90 to Route 98 (at Thruway Exit 48) in Batavia, south along Route 98 to Route 20, east along Route 20 to Route 19 in Pavilion Center, south along Route 19 to Route 63, southeast along Route 63 to Route 246, south along Route 246 to

Route 39 in Perry, northeast along Route 39 to Route 20A, northeast along Route 20A to Route 20, east along Route 20 to Route 364 (near Canandaigua), south and east along Route 364 to Yates County Route 18 (Italy Valley Road), southwest along Route 18 to Yates County Route 34, east along Route 34 to Yates County Route 32, south along Route 32 to Steuben County Route 122, south along Route 122 to Route 53, south along Route 53 to Steuben County Route 74, east along Route 74 to Route 54A (near Pulteney), south along Route 54A to Steuben County Route 87, east along Route 87 to Steuben County Route 96, east along Route 96 to Steuben County Route 114, east along Route 114 to Schuyler County Route 23, east and southeast along Route 23 to Schuyler County Route 28, southeast along Route 28 to Route 409 at Watkins Glen, south along Route 409 to Route 14, south along Route 14 to Route 224 at Montour Falls, east along Route 224 to Route 228 in Odessa, north along Route 228 to Route 79 in Mecklenburg, east along Route 79 to Route 366 in Ithaca, northeast along Route 366 to Route 13, northeast along Route 13 to Interstate Route 81 in Cortland, north along Route 81 to the north shore of the Salmon River to shore of Lake Ontario, extending generally northwest in a straight line to the nearest point of the international boundary with Canada, south and west along the international boundary to the point of beginning.

*Hudson Valley Goose Area:* That area of New York State lying within a continuous line extending from Route 4 at the New York-Vermont boundary, west and south along Route 4 to Route 149 at Fort Ann, west on Route 149 to Route 9, south along Route 9 to Interstate Route 87 (at Exit 20 in Glens Falls), south along Route 87 to Route 29, west along Route 29 to Route 147 at Kimball Corners, south along Route 147 to Schenectady County Route 40 (West Glenville Road), west along Route 40 to Touareuna Road, south along Touareuna Road to Schenectady County Route 59, south along Route 59 to State Route 5, east along Route 5 to the Lock 9 bridge, southwest along the Lock 9 bridge to Route 5S, southeast along Route 5S to Schenectady County Route 58, southwest along Route 58 to the NYS Thruway, south along the Thruway to Route 7, southwest along Route 7 to Schenectady County Route 103, south along Route 103 to Route 406, east along Route 406 to Schenectady County Route 99 (Windy Hill Road), south along Route 99 to Dunnsville Road, south along Dunnsville Road to Route 397, southwest along Route 397 to Route 146

at Altamont, southeast along Route 146 to Main Street in Altamont, west along Main Street to Route 156, southeast along Route 156 to Albany County Route 307, southeast along Route 307 to Route 85A, southwest along Route 85A to Route 85, south along Route 85 to Route 443, southeast along Route 443 to Albany County Route 301 at Clarksville, southeast along Route 301 to Route 32, south along Route 32 to Route 23 at Cairo, west along Route 23 to Joseph Chadderdon Road, southeast along Joseph Chadderdon Road to Hearts Content Road (Greene County Route 31), southeast along Route 31 to Route 32, south along Route 32 to Greene County Route 23A, east along Route 23A to Interstate Route 87 (the NYS Thruway), south along Route 87 to Route 28 (Exit 19) near Kingston, northwest on Route 28 to Route 209, southwest on Route 209 to the New York-Pennsylvania boundary, southeast along the New York-Pennsylvania boundary to the New York-New Jersey boundary, southeast along the New York-New Jersey boundary to Route 210 near Greenwood Lake, northeast along Route 210 to Orange County Route 5, northeast along Orange County Route 5 to Route 105 in the Village of Monroe, east and north along Route 105 to Route 32, northeast along Route 32 to Orange County Route 107 (Quaker Avenue), east along Route 107 to Route 9W, north along Route 9W to the south bank of Moodna Creek, southeast along the south bank of Moodna Creek to the New Windsor-Cornwall town boundary, northeast along the New Windsor-Cornwall town boundary to the Orange-Dutchess County boundary (middle of the Hudson River), north along the county boundary to Interstate Route 84, east along Route 84 to the Dutchess-Putnam County boundary, east along the county boundary to the New York-Connecticut boundary, north along the New York-Connecticut boundary to the New York-Massachusetts boundary, north along the New York-Massachusetts boundary to the New York-Vermont boundary, north to the point of beginning.

*Eastern Long Island Goose Area (NAP High Harvest Area):* That area of Suffolk County lying east of a continuous line extending due south from the New York-Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Roanoke Avenue in the Town of Riverhead; then south on Roanoke Avenue (which becomes County Route 73) to State Route 25; then west on Route 25 to Peconic Avenue; then south on Peconic Avenue to County Route (CR) 104 (Riverleigh Avenue); then south on CR 104 to CR 31

(Old Riverhead Road); then south on CR 31 to Oak Street; then south on Oak Street to Potunk Lane; then west on Stevens Lane; then south on Jessup Avenue (in Westhampton Beach) to Dune Road (CR 89); then due south to international waters.

**Western Long Island Goose Area (RP Area):** That area of Westchester County and its tidal waters southeast of Interstate Route 95 and that area of Nassau and Suffolk Counties lying west of a continuous line extending due south from the New York–Connecticut boundary to the northernmost end of Sound Road (just east of Wading River Marsh); then south on Sound Road to North Country Road; then west on North Country Road to Randall Road; then south on Randall Road to Route 25A, then west on Route 25A to the Sunken Meadow State Parkway; then south on the Sunken Meadow Parkway to the Sagtikos State Parkway; then south on the Sagtikos Parkway to the Robert Moses State Parkway; then south on the Robert Moses Parkway to its southernmost end; then due south to international waters.

**Central Long Island Goose Area (NAP Low Harvest Area):** That area of Suffolk County lying between the Western and Eastern Long Island Goose Areas, as defined above.

**South Goose Area:** The remainder of New York State, excluding New York City.

#### North Carolina

**SJBP Hunt Zone:** Includes the following counties or portions of counties: Anson, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Halifax (that portion east of NC 903), Montgomery (that portion west of NC 109), Northampton, Richmond (that portion south of NC 73 and west of U.S. 220 and north of U.S. 74), Rowan, Stanly, Union, and Wake.

**RP Hunt Zone:** Includes the following counties or portions of counties: Alamance, Alleghany, Alexander, Ashe, Avery, Beaufort, Bertie (that portion south and west of a line formed by NC 45 at the Washington Co. line to U.S. 17 in Midway, U.S. 17 in Midway to U.S. 13 in Windsor, U.S. 13 in Windsor to the Hertford Co. line), Bladen, Brunswick, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Carteret, Caswell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Davie, Duplin, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Graham, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax (that portion west of NC 903), Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hertford, Hoke, Iredell, Jackson, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Lincoln, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Martin, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Montgomery (that portion that

is east of NC 109), Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pender, Person, Pitt, Polk, Randolph, Richmond (all of the county with exception of that portion that is south of NC 73 and west of U.S. 220 and north of U.S. 74), Robeson, Rockingham, Rutherford, Sampson, Scotland, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Vance, Warren, Watauga, Wayne, Wilkes, Wilson, Yadkin, and Yancey.

**Northeast Hunt Unit:** Includes the following counties or portions of counties: Bertie (that portion north and east of a line formed by NC 45 at the Washington County line to U.S. 17 in Midway, U.S. 17 in Midway to U.S. 13 in Windsor, U.S. 13 in Windsor to the Hertford Co. line), Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington.

#### Pennsylvania

**Resident Canada Goose Zone:** All of Pennsylvania except for SJBP Zone and the area east of route SR 97 from the Maryland State Line to the intersection of SR 194, east of SR 194 to intersection of U.S. Route 30, south of U.S. Route 30 to SR 441, east of SR 441 to SR 743, east of SR 743 to intersection of I–81, east of I–81 to intersection of I–80, and south of I–80 to the New Jersey State line.

**SJBP Zone:** The area north of I–80 and west of I–79 including in the city of Erie west of Bay Front Parkway to and including the Lake Erie Duck zone (Lake Erie, Presque Isle, and the area within 150 yards of the Lake Erie Shoreline).

**AP Zone:** The area east of route SR 97 from Maryland State Line to the intersection of SR 194, east of SR 194 to intersection of U.S. Route 30, south of U.S. Route 30 to SR 441, east of SR 441 to SR 743, east of SR 743 to intersection of I–81, east of I–81 to intersection of I–80, south of I–80 to New Jersey State line.

#### Rhode Island

**Special Area for Canada Geese:** Kent and Providence Counties and portions of the towns of Exeter and North Kingston within Washington County (see State regulations for detailed descriptions).

#### South Carolina

**Canada Goose Area:** Statewide except for the following area:

East of U.S. 301: That portion of Clarendon County bounded to the North by S–14–25, to the East by Hwy 260, and to the South by the markers delineating the channel of the Santee River. West of U.S. 301: That portion of Clarendon County bounded on the North by S–14–26 extending southward

to that portion of Orangeburg County bordered by Hwy 6.

#### Vermont

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Virginia

**AP Zone:** The area east and south of the following line—the Stafford County line from the Potomac River west to Interstate 95 at Fredericksburg, then south along Interstate 95 to Petersburg, then Route 460 (SE) to City of Suffolk, then south along Route 32 to the North Carolina line.

**SJBP Zone:** The area to the west of the AP Zone boundary and east of the following line: the “Blue Ridge” (mountain spine) at the West Virginia–Virginia Border (Loudoun County–Clarke County line) south to Interstate 64 (the Blue Ridge line follows county borders along the western edge of Loudoun–Fauquier–Rappahannock–Madison–Greene–Albemarle and into Nelson Counties), then east along Interstate Rt. 64 to Route 15, then south along Rt. 15 to the North Carolina line.

**RP Zone:** The remainder of the State west of the SJBP Zone.

#### Mississippi Flyway

#### Arkansas

**Northwest Zone:** Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Conway, Crawford, Faulkner, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Madison, Marion, Newton, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Searcy, Sebastian, Scott, Van Buren, Washington, and Yell Counties.

#### Illinois

Early Canada Goose Seasons:

**North September Canada Goose Zone:** That portion of the State north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 80 to I–39, south along I–39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

**Central September Canada Goose Zone:** That portion of the State south of the North September Canada Goose Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I–70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo’s Road, south along St. Leo’s road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast

along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

*South September Canada Goose Zone:* That portion of the State south and east of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 70, south along U.S. Highway 45, to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Greenbriar Road, north on Greenbriar Road to Sycamore Road, west on Sycamore Road to N. Reed Station Road, south on N. Reed Station Road to Illinois Route 13, west along Illinois Route 13 to Illinois Route 127, south along Illinois Route 127 to State Forest Road (1025 N), west along State Forest Road to Illinois Route 3, north along Illinois Route 3 to the south bank of the Big Muddy River, west along the south bank of the Big Muddy River to the Mississippi River, west across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

*South Central September Canada Goose Zone:* The remainder of the State between the south border of the Central September Canada Goose Zone and the North border of the South September Canada Goose Zone.

#### Regular Seasons

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of a line extending west from the Indiana border along Interstate 80 to I-39, south along I-39 to Illinois Route 18, west along Illinois Route 18 to Illinois Route 29, south along Illinois Route 29 to Illinois Route 17, west along Illinois Route 17 to the Mississippi River, and due south across the Mississippi River to the Iowa border.

*Central Zone:* That portion of the State south of the North Goose Zone line to a line extending west from the Indiana border along I-70 to Illinois Route 4, south along Illinois Route 4 to Illinois Route 161, west along Illinois Route 161 to Illinois Route 158, south and west along Illinois Route 158 to Illinois Route 159, south along Illinois Route 159 to Illinois Route 3, south along Illinois Route 3 to St. Leo's Road, south along St. Leo's road to Modoc Road, west along Modoc Road to Modoc Ferry Road, southwest along Modoc Ferry Road to Levee Road, southeast along Levee Road to County Route 12 (Modoc Ferry entrance Road), south along County Route 12 to the Modoc Ferry route and southwest on the Modoc Ferry route across the Mississippi River to the Missouri border.

*South Zone:* Same zone as for ducks.

*South Central Zone:* Same zone as for ducks.

#### Indiana

Same zones as for ducks but in addition:

*Late Canada Goose Season Zone:* That part of the State encompassed by the following counties: Adams, Allen, Boone, Clay, De Kalb, Elkhart, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Huntington, Johnson, Kosciusko, Lagrange, La Porte, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, Noble, Parke, Shelby, Starke, Steuben, St. Joseph, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo, Wells, and Whitley.

#### Iowa

##### Early Canada Goose Seasons

*Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Goose Zone:* Includes portions of Linn and Johnson Counties bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the west border of Linn County and Linn County Road E2W; then south and east along County Road E2W to Highway 920; then north along Highway 920 to County Road E16; then east along County Road E16 to County Road W58; then south along County Road W58 to County Road E34; then east along County Road E34 to Highway 13; then south along Highway 13 to Highway 30; then east along Highway 30 to Highway 1; then south along Highway 1 to Morse Road in Johnson County; then east along Morse Road to Wapsi Avenue; then south along Wapsi Avenue to Lower West Branch Road; then west along Lower West Branch Road to Taft Avenue; then south along Taft Avenue to County Road F62; then west along County Road F62 to Kansas Avenue; then north along Kansas Avenue to Black Diamond Road; then west on Black Diamond Road to Jasper Avenue; then north along Jasper Avenue to Robert Road; then west along Robert Road to Ivy Avenue; then north along Ivy Avenue to 340th Street; then west along 340th Street to Half Moon Avenue; then north along Half Moon Avenue to Highway 6; then west along Highway 6 to Echo Avenue; then north along Echo Avenue to 250th Street; then east on 250th Street to Green Castle Avenue; then north along Green Castle Avenue to County Road F12; then west along County Road F12 to County Road W30; then north along County Road W30 to Highway 151; then north along the Linn-Benton County line to the point of beginning.

*Des Moines Goose Zone:* Includes those portions of Polk, Warren, Madison, and Dallas Counties bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Northwest 158th Avenue and County Road R38 in Polk County; then south along R38 to Northwest 142nd Avenue; then east along Northwest 142nd Avenue to Northeast 126th Avenue;

then east along Northeast 126th Avenue to Northeast 46th Street; then south along Northeast 46th Street to Highway 931; then east along Highway 931 to Northeast 80th Street; then south along Northeast 80th Street to Southeast 6th Avenue; then west along Southeast 6th Avenue to Highway 65; then south and west along Highway 65 to Highway 69 in Warren County; then south along Highway 69 to County Road G24; then west along County Road G24 to Highway 28; then southwest along Highway 28 to 43rd Avenue; then north along 43rd Avenue to Ford Street; then west along Ford Street to Filmore Street; then west along Filmore Street to 10th Avenue; then south along 10th Avenue to 155th Street in Madison County; then west along 155th Street to Cumming Road; then north along Cumming Road to Badger Creek Avenue; then north along Badger Creek Avenue to County Road F90 in Dallas County; then east along County Road F90 to County Road R22; then north along County Road R22 to Highway 44; then east along Highway 44 to County Road R30; then north along County Road R30 to County Road F31; then east along County Road F31 to Highway 17; then north along Highway 17 to Highway 415 in Polk County; then east along Highway 415 to Northwest 158th Avenue; then east along Northwest 158th Avenue to the point of beginning.

*Cedar Falls/Waterloo Goose Zone:* Includes those portions of Black Hawk County bounded as follows: Beginning at the intersection of County Roads C66 and V49 in Black Hawk County, then south along County Road V49 to County Road D38, then west along County Road D38 to State Highway 21, then south along State Highway 21 to County Road D35, then west along County Road D35 to Grundy Road, then north along Grundy Road to County Road D19, then west along County Road D19 to Butler Road, then north along Butler Road to County Road C57, then north and east along County Road C57 to U.S. Highway 63, then south along U.S. Highway 63 to County Road C66, then east along County Road C66 to the point of beginning.

#### Regular Seasons

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Kentucky

*Northeast Goose Zone:* Bath, Menifee, Morgan (except the portion that lies within the Paintsville Lake Wildlife Management Area) and Rowan Counties except that no goose hunting is permitted on public land (U.S. Forest Service) and water within the block of land lying inside the boundaries of Hwy

801, Hwy 1274, Hwy 36, Hwy 211, Hwy 60, and Hwy 826.

*Remainder of State:* The remainder of Kentucky outside the Northeast Goose Zone.

#### Louisiana

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of the line from the Texas border at Hwy 190/12 east to Hwy 49, then south on Hwy 49 to I-10, then east on I-10 to I-12, then east on I-12 to I-10, then east on I-10 to the Mississippi State line.

*South Zone:* Remainder of the State.

#### Michigan

*North Zone:* Same as North duck zone.

*Middle Zone:* Same as Middle duck zone.

*South Zone:* Same as South duck zone.

*Allegan County GMU:* That area encompassed by a line beginning at the junction of 136th Avenue and Interstate Highway 196 in Lake Town Township and extending easterly along 136th Avenue to Michigan Highway 40, southerly along Michigan 40 through the city of Allegan to 108th Avenue in Trowbridge Township, westerly along 108th Avenue to 46th Street, northerly along 46th Street to 109th Avenue, westerly along 109th Avenue to I-196 in Casco Township, then northerly along I-196 to the point of beginning.

*Muskegon Wastewater GMU:* That portion of Muskegon County within the boundaries of the Muskegon County wastewater system, east of the Muskegon State Game Area, in sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, and 32, T10N R14W, and sections 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, and 25, T10N R15W, as posted.

#### Minnesota

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Missouri

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Ohio

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Tennessee

*Northwest Goose Zone:* Lake, Obion, and Weakley Counties, and Dyer County, excluding that portion south of State Highway 104; and Gibson County, excluding that portion south of State Highway 104 and west of U.S. Highways 45 and 45W.

*Remainder of State:* That portion of Tennessee outside of the Northwest Goose Zone.

#### Wisconsin

##### Early Canada Goose Seasons

*Early-Season Subzone A:* That portion of the State encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highway 141 and the Michigan border near Niagara, then south along U.S. 141 to State Highway 22, west and southwest along State 22 to U.S. 45, south along U.S. 45 to State 22, west and south along State 22 to State 110, south along State 110 to U.S. 10, south along U.S. 10 to State 49, south along State 49 to State 23, west along State 23 to State 73, south along State 73 to State 60, west along State 60 to State 23, south along State 23 to State 11, east along State 11 to State 78, then south along State 78 to the Illinois border.

*Early-Season Subzone B:* The remainder of the State.

##### Regular Seasons

Same zones as for ducks but in addition:

*Horicon Zone:* That portion of the State encompassed by a boundary beginning at the intersection of State 23 and State 73 and moves south along State 73 until the intersection of State 73 and State 60, then moves east along State 60 until the intersection of State 60 and State 83, and then moves north along State 83 until the intersection of State 83 and State 33 at which point it moves east until the intersection of State 33 and U.S. 45, then moves north along U.S. 45 until the intersection of U.S. 45 and State 23, at which point it moves west along State 23 until the intersection of State 23 and State 73.

##### Central Flyway

##### Colorado (Central Flyway Portion)

*Northern Front Range Area:* All areas in Boulder, Larimer, and Weld Counties from the Continental Divide east along the Wyoming border to U.S. 85, south on U.S. 85 to the Adams County line, and all lands in Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, and Jefferson Counties.

*North Park Area:* Jackson County.

*South Park and San Luis Valley Area:* All of Alamosa, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Custer, Fremont, Lake, Park, Rio Grande, and Teller Counties, and those portions of Saguache, Mineral and Hinsdale Counties east of the Continental Divide.

*Remainder:* Remainder of the Central Flyway portion of Colorado.

*Eastern Colorado Late Light Goose Area:* That portion of the State east of Interstate Highway 25.

##### Montana (Central Flyway Portion)

*Zone 1:* Same as Zone 1 for ducks and coots.

*Zone 2:* Same as Zone 2 for ducks and coots.

#### Nebraska

##### Dark Geese

*Niobrara Unit:* That area contained within and bounded by the intersection of the South Dakota State line and the eastern Cherry County line, south along the Cherry County line to the Niobrara River, east to the Norden Road, south on the Norden Road to U.S. Hwy 20, east along U.S. Hwy 20 to NE Hwy 14, north along NE Hwy 14 to NE Hwy 59 and County Road 872, west along County Road 872 to the Knox County Line, north along the Knox County Line to the South Dakota State line. Where the Niobrara River forms the boundary, both banks of the river are included in the Niobrara Unit.

*East Unit:* That area north and east of U.S. 81 at the Kansas-Nebraska State line, north to NE Hwy 91, east to U.S. 275, south to U.S. 77, south to NE 91, east to U.S. 30, east to Nebraska-Iowa State line.

*Platte River Unit:* That area north and west of U.S. 81 at the Kansas-Nebraska State line, north to NE Hwy 91, west along NE 91 to NE 11, north to the Holt County line, west along the northern border of Garfield, Loup, Blaine and Thomas Counties to the Hooker County line, south along the Thomas-Hooker County lines to the McPherson County line, east along the south border of Thomas County to the western line of Custer County, south along the Custer-Logan County line to NE 92, west to U.S. 83, north to NE 92, west to NE 61, south along NE 61 to NE 92, west along NE 92 to U.S. Hwy 26, south along U.S. Hwy 26 to Keith County Line, south along Keith County Line to the Colorado State line.

*Panhandle Unit:* That area north and west of Keith-Deuel County Line at the Nebraska-Colorado State line, north along the Keith County Line to U.S. Hwy 26, west to NE Hwy 92, east to NE Hwy 61, north along NE Hwy 61 to NE Hwy 2, west along NE 2 to the corner formed by Garden-Grant-Sheridan Counties, west along the north border of Garden, Morrill, and Scotts Bluff Counties to the intersection of the Interstate Canal, west to the Wyoming State line.

*North-Central Unit:* The remainder of the State.

##### Light Geese

*Rainwater Basin Light Goose Area:* The area bounded by the junction of NE

Hwy. 92 and NE Hwy. 15, south along NE Hwy. 15 to NE Hwy. 4, west along NE Hwy. 4 to U.S. Hwy. 34, west along U.S. Hwy. 34 to U.S. Hwy. 283, north along U.S. Hwy. 283 to U.S. Hwy. 30, east along U.S. Hwy. 30 to NE Hwy. 92, east along NE Hwy. 92 to the beginning.

*Remainder of State:* The remainder portion of Nebraska.

New Mexico (Central Flyway Portion)

Dark Geese

*Middle Rio Grande Valley Unit:*

Sierra, Socorro, and Valencia Counties.

*Remainder:* The remainder of the Central Flyway portion of New Mexico.

North Dakota

*Missouri River Canada Goose Zone:*

The area within and bounded by a line starting where ND Hwy 6 crosses the South Dakota border; then north on ND Hwy 6 to I-94; then west on I-94 to ND Hwy 49; then north on ND Hwy 49 to ND Hwy 200; then west on ND Hwy 200; then north on ND Hwy 8 to the Mercer/McLean County line; then east following the county line until it turns south toward Garrison Dam; then east along a line (including Mallard Island) of Lake Sakakawea to U.S. Hwy 83; then south on U.S. Hwy 83 to ND Hwy 200; then east on ND Hwy 200 to ND Hwy 41; then south on ND Hwy 41 to U.S. Hwy 83; then south on U.S. Hwy 83 to I-94; then east on I-94 to U.S. Hwy 83; then south on U.S. Hwy 83 to the South Dakota border; then west along the South Dakota border to ND Hwy 6.

*Rest of State:* Remainder of North Dakota.

South Dakota

Early Canada Goose Seasons

*Special Early Canada Goose Unit:* The Counties of Campbell, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Clark, Codington, Grant, Hamlin, Deuel, Walworth; that portion of Perkins County west of State Highway 75 and south of State Highway 20; that portion of Dewey County north of Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 8, Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 9, and the section of U.S. Highway 212 east of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Road 8 junction; that portion of Potter County east of U.S. Highway 83; that portion of Sully County east of U.S. Highway 83; portions of Hyde, Buffalo, Brule, and Charles Mix counties north and east of a line beginning at the Hughes-Hyde County line on State Highway 34, east to Lees Boulevard, southeast to State Highway 34, east 7 miles to 350th Avenue, south to Interstate 90 on 350th Avenue, south and east on State Highway 50 to Geddes, east on 285th Street to U.S. Highway 281, and north

on U.S. Highway 281 to the Charles Mix-Douglas County boundary; that portion of Bon Homme County north of State Highway 50; those portions of Yankton and Clay Counties north of a line beginning at the junction of State Highway 50 and 306th Street/County Highway 585 in Bon Homme County, east to U.S. Highway 81, then north on U.S. Highway 81 to 303rd Street, then east on 303rd Street to 444th Avenue, then south on 444th Avenue to 305th Street, then east on 305th Street/Bluff Road to State Highway 19, then south to State Highway 50 and east to the Clay/Union County Line; McPherson, Edmunds, Kingsbury, Brookings, Lake, Moody, Miner, Faulk, Hand, Jerauld, Douglas, Hutchinson, Turner, Aurora, Beadle, Davison, Hanson, Sanborn, Spink, Brown, Harding, Butte, Lawrence, Meade, Oglala Lakota (formerly Shannon), Jackson, Mellette, Todd, Jones, Haakon, Corson, Ziebach, and McCook Counties; and those portions of Minnehaha and Lincoln counties outside of an area bounded by a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Minnesota State line and Minnehaha County Highway 122 (254th Street) west to its junction with Minnehaha County Highway 149 (464th Avenue), south on Minnehaha County Highway 149 (464th Avenue) to Hartford, then south on Minnehaha County Highway 151 (463rd Avenue) to State Highway 42, east on State Highway 42 to State Highway 17, south on State Highway 17 to its junction with Lincoln County Highway 116 (Klondike Road), and east on Lincoln County Highway 116 (Klondike Road) to the South Dakota-Iowa State line, then north along the South Dakota-Iowa and South Dakota-Minnesota border to the junction of the South Dakota-Minnesota State line and Minnehaha County Highway 122 (254th Street).

Regular Seasons

*Unit 1:* Same as that for the September Canada goose season.

*Unit 2:* Remainder of South Dakota.

*Unit 3:* Bennett County.

Texas

*Northeast Goose Zone:* That portion of Texas lying east and north of a line beginning at the Texas-Oklahoma border at U.S. 81, then continuing south to Bowie and then southeasterly along U.S. 81 and U.S. 287 to I-35W and I-35 to the juncture with I-10 in San Antonio, then east on I-10 to the Texas-Louisiana border.

*Southeast Goose Zone:* That portion of Texas lying east and south of a line beginning at the International Toll Bridge at Laredo, then continuing north

following I-35 to the juncture with I-10 in San Antonio, then easterly along I-10 to the Texas-Louisiana border.

*West Goose Zone:* The remainder of the State.

Wyoming (Central Flyway Portion)

Dark Geese

*Zone G1:* Big Horn, Converse, Hot Springs, Natrona, Park, and Washakie Counties; and Fremont County excluding those portions south or west of the Continental Divide.

*Zone G1A:* Goshen and Platte Counties.

*Zone G2:* Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Niobrara, Sheridan, and Weston Counties.

*Zone G3:* Albany and Laramie Counties; and that portion of Carbon County east of the Continental Divide.

Pacific Flyway

Arizona

Same zones as for ducks.

California

*Northeastern Zone:* In that portion of California lying east and north of a line beginning at the intersection of Interstate 5 with the California-Oregon line; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Walters Lane south of the town of Yreka; west along Walters Lane to its junction with Easy Street; south along Easy Street to the junction with Old Highway 99; south along Old Highway 99 to the point of intersection with Interstate 5 north of the town of Weed; south along Interstate 5 to its junction with Highway 89; east and south along Highway 89 to main street Greenville; north and east to its junction with North Valley Road; south to its junction of Diamond Mountain Road; north and east to its junction with North Arm Road; south and west to the junction of North Valley Road; south to the junction with Arlington Road (A22); west to the junction of Highway 89; south and west to the junction of Highway 70; east on Highway 70 to Highway 395; south and east on Highway 395 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada State line; north along the California-Nevada State line to the junction of the California-Nevada-Oregon State lines west along the California-Oregon State line to the point of origin.

*Colorado River Zone:* Those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties east of a line extending from the Nevada border south along U.S. 95 to Vidal Junction; south on a road known as "Aqueduct Road" in San Bernardino County through the town of Rice to the San Bernardino-

Riverside County line; south on a road known in Riverside County as the "Desert Center to Rice Road" to the town of Desert Center; east 31 miles on I-10 to the Wiley Well Road; south on this road to Wiley Well; southeast along the Army-Milpitas Road to the Blythe, Brawley, Davis Lake intersections; south on the Blythe-Brawley paved road to the Ogilby and Tumco Mine Road; south on this road to U.S. 80; east 7 miles on U.S. 80 to the Andrade-Algodones Road; south on this paved road to the Mexican border at Algodones, Mexico.

*Southern Zone:* That portion of southern California (but excluding the Colorado River Zone) south and east of a line extending from the Pacific Ocean east along the Santa Maria River to CA 166 near the City of Santa Maria; east on CA 166 to CA 99; south on CA 99 to the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains at Tejon Pass; east and north along the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains to CA 178 at Walker Pass; east on CA 178 to U.S. 395 at the town of Inyokern; south on U.S. 395 to CA 58; east on CA 58 to I-15; east on I-15 to CA 127; north on CA 127 to the Nevada border.

*Imperial County Special Management Area:* The area bounded by a line beginning at Highway 86 and the Navy Test Base Road; south on Highway 86 to the town of Westmoreland; continue through the town of Westmoreland to Route S26; east on Route S26 to Highway 115; north on Highway 115 to Weist Road; north on Weist Road to Flowing Wells Road; northeast on Flowing Wells Road to the Coachella Canal; northwest on the Coachella Canal to Drop 18; a straight line from Drop 18 to Frink Road; south on Frink Road to Highway 111; north on Highway 111 to Niland Marina Road; southwest on Niland Marina Road to the old Imperial County boat ramp and the water line of the Salton Sea; from the water line of the Salton Sea, a straight line across the Salton Sea to the Salinity Control Research Facility and the Navy Test Base Road; southwest on the Navy Test Base Road to the point of beginning.

*Balance of State Zone:* The remainder of California not included in the Northeastern, Colorado River, and Southern Zones.

*North Coast Special Management Area:* Del Norte and Humboldt Counties.

*Sacramento Valley Special Management Area:* That area bounded by a line beginning at Willows south on I-5 to Hahn Road; easterly on Hahn Road and the Grimes-Arbuckle Road to Grimes; northerly on CA 45 to the junction with CA 162; northerly on CA 45/162 to Glenn; and westerly on CA

162 to the point of beginning in Willows.

#### Colorado (Pacific Flyway Portion)

Same zones as for ducks.

#### Idaho

##### Canada Geese and Brant

*Zone 1:* All lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private in-holdings; Bannock County; Bingham County, except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Caribou County within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; and Power County east of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

*Zone 2:* Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton Counties.

*Zone 3:* Ada, Adams, Benewah, Blaine, Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Clearwater, Custer, Elmore, Franklin, Gem, Gooding, Idaho, Jerome, Kootenai, Latah, Lemhi, Lewis, Lincoln, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Oneida, Owyhee, Payette, Shoshone, Twin Falls, and Washington Counties; and Power County west of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

*Zone 4:* Bear Lake County; Bingham County within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; and Caribou County, except that portion within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

*Zone 5:* Valley County.

#### White-Fronted Geese

*Zone 1:* All lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private in-holdings; Bannock County; Bingham County except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Caribou County within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; and Power County east of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

*Zone 2:* Bear Lake, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton Counties; Bingham County within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; and Caribou County except within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

*Zone 3:* Adams, Benewah, Blaine, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Clearwater, Custer, Franklin, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lemhi, Lewis, Nez Perce, Oneida, and Shoshone Counties; and Power County west of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39.

*Zone 4:* Ada, Boise, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, and Washington Counties.

*Zone 5:* Valley County.

#### Light Geese

*Zone 1:* All lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation,

including private in-holdings; Bannock County; Bingham County east of the west bank of the Snake River, west of the McTucker boat ramp access road, and east of the American Falls Reservoir bluff, except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Caribou County within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; and Power County below the American Falls Reservoir bluff, and within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

*Zone 2:* Franklin and Oneida Counties; Bingham County west of the west bank of the Snake River, east of the McTucker boat ramp access road, and west of the American Falls Reservoir bluff; Power County, except below the American Falls Reservoir bluff and those lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

*Zone 3:* Ada, Boise, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, and Washington Counties.

*Zone 4:* Adams, Benewah, Blaine, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Clearwater, Custer, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lemhi, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Shoshone Counties.

*Zone 5:* Bear Lake, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, and Teton Counties; Bingham County within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; and Caribou County except within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

*Zone 6:* Valley County.

#### Nevada

Same zones as for ducks.

#### New Mexico (Pacific Flyway Portion)

*North Zone:* The Pacific Flyway portion of New Mexico located north of I-40.

*South Zone:* The Pacific Flyway portion of New Mexico located south of I-40.

#### Oregon

*Northwest Permit Zone:* Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill Counties.

*Lower Columbia/N. Willamette Valley Management Area:* Those portions of Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington Counties within the Northwest Special Permit Zone.

*Tillamook County Management Area:* That portion of Tillamook County beginning at the point where Old Woods Rd crosses the south shores of Horn Creek, north on Old Woods Rd to Sand Lake Rd at Woods, north on Sand Lake Rd to the intersection with McPhillips Dr, due west (~200 yards) from the intersection to the Pacific coastline, south on the Pacific coastline to

Neskowin Creek, east along the north shores of Neskowin Creek and then Hawk Creek to Salem Ave, east on Salem Ave in Neskowin to Hawk Ave, east on Hawk Ave to Hwy 101, north on Hwy 101 to Resort Dr, north on Resort Dr to a point due west of the south shores of Horn Creek at its confluence with the Nestucca River, due east (~80 yards) across the Nestucca River to the south shores of Horn Creek, east along the south shores of Horn Creek to the point of beginning.

*Southwest Zone:* Those portions of Douglas, Coos, and Curry Counties east of Highway 101, and Josephine and Jackson Counties.

*South Coast Zone:* Those portions of Douglas, Coos, and Curry Counties west of Highway 101.

*Eastern Zone:* Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Hood River, Jefferson, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, and Wheeler Counties.

*Klamath County Zone:* Klamath County.

*Harney and Lake County Zone:* Harney and Lake Counties.

*Malheur County Zone:* Malheur County.

#### Utah

*East Box Elder County Zone:* Boundary begins at the intersection of the eastern boundary of Public Shooting Grounds Waterfowl Management Area and SR-83 (Promontory Road); east along SR-83 to I-15; south on I-15 to the Perry access road; southwest along this road to the Bear River Bird Refuge boundary; west, north, and then east along the refuge boundary until it intersects the Public Shooting Grounds Waterfowl Management Area boundary; east and north along the Public Shooting Grounds Waterfowl Management Area boundary to SR-83.

*Wasatch Front Zone:* Boundary begins at the Weber-Box Elder County line at I-15; east along Weber County line to US-89; south on US-89 to I-84; east and south on I-84 to I-80; south on I-80 to US-189; south and west on US-189 to the Utah County line; southeast and then west along this line to the Tooele County line; north along the Tooele County line to I-80; east on I-80 to Exit 99; north from Exit 99 along a direct line to the southern tip of Promontory Point and Promontory Road; east and north along this road to the causeway separating Bear River Bay from Ogden Bay; east on this causeway to the southwest corner of Great Salt Lake Mineral Corporations (GSLMC) west impoundment; north and east along GSLMC's west impoundment to the northwest corner of the

impoundment; north from this point along a direct line to the southern boundary of Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge; east along this southern boundary to the Perry access road; northeast along this road to I-15; south along I-15 to the Weber-Box Elder County line.

*Southern Zone:* boundary includes Beaver, Carbon, Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Juab, Kane, Millard, Piute, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier, Wayne, and Washington Counties, and that part of Tooele County south of I-80.

*Northern Zone:* The remainder of Utah not included in the East Box Elder County, Wasatch Front, and Southern Zones.

#### Washington

*Area 1:* Skagit, Island, and Snohomish Counties.

*Area 2A (Southwest Permit Zone):* Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties.

*Area 2B (Southwest Permit Zone):* Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties.

*Area 3:* All areas west of the Pacific Crest Trail and west of the Big White Salmon River that are not included in Areas 1, 2A, and 2B.

*Area 4:* Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Spokane, and Walla Walla Counties.

*Area 5:* All areas east of the Pacific Crest Trail and east of the Big White Salmon River that are not included in Area 4.

#### Brant

#### Pacific Flyway

#### California

*Northern Zone:* Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties.

*Balance of State Zone:* The remainder of the State not included in the Northern Zone.

#### Washington

*Puget Sound Zone:* Clallam, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties.

*Coastal Zone:* Pacific County.

#### Swans

#### Central Flyway

*South Dakota:* Aurora, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Clark, Codington, Davison, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Hanson, Hughes, Hyde, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Lake, Marshall, McCook, McPherson, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Potter, Roberts, Sanborn, Spink, Sully, and Walworth Counties.

#### Pacific Flyway

#### Montana (Pacific Flyway Portion)

*Open Area:* Cascade, Chouteau, Hill, Liberty, and Toole Counties and those portions of Pondera and Teton Counties lying east of U.S. 287-89.

#### Nevada

*Open Area:* Churchill, Lyon, and Pershing Counties.

#### Utah

*Open Area:* Those portions of Box Elder, Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, and Toole Counties lying west of I-15, north of I-80, and south of a line beginning from the Forest Street exit to the Bear River National Wildlife Refuge boundary; then north and west along the Bear River National Wildlife Refuge boundary to the farthest west boundary of the Refuge; then west along a line to Promontory Road; then north on Promontory Road to the intersection of SR 83; then north on SR 83 to I-84; then north and west on I-84 to State Hwy 30; then west on State Hwy 30 to the Nevada-Utah State line; then south on the Nevada-Utah State line to I-80.

#### Doves

#### Alabama

*South Zone:* Baldwin, Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Escambia, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Mobile Counties.

*North Zone:* Remainder of the State.

#### Florida

*Northwest Zone:* The Counties of Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington, Leon (except that portion north of U.S. 27 and east of State Road 155), Jefferson (south of U.S. 27, west of State Road 59 and north of U.S. 98), and Wakulla (except that portion south of U.S. 98 and east of the St. Marks River).

*South Zone:* Remainder of State.

#### Louisiana

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the Texas border along State Highway 12 to U.S. Highway 190, east along U.S. 190 to Interstate Highway 12, east along Interstate Highway 12 to Interstate Highway 10, then east along Interstate Highway 10 to the Mississippi border.

*South Zone:* The remainder of the State.

#### Mississippi

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north and west of a line extending west from the Alabama State line along U.S. Highway 84 to its junction with State

Highway 35, then south along State Highway 35 to the Louisiana State line.

*South Zone:* The remainder of Mississippi.

Texas

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of a line beginning at the International Bridge south of Fort Hancock; north along FM 1088 to TX 20; west along TX 20 to TX 148; north along TX 148 to I-10 at Fort Hancock; east along I-10 to I-20; northeast along I-20 to I-30 at Fort Worth; northeast along I-30 to the Texas-Arkansas State line.

*Central Zone:* That portion of the State lying between the North and South Zones.

*South Zone:* That portion of the State south and west of a line beginning at the International Bridge south of Del Rio, proceeding east on U.S. 90 to State Loop 1604 west of San Antonio; then south, east, and north along Loop 1604 to I-10 east of San Antonio; then east on I-10 to Orange, Texas.

*Special White-winged Dove Area in the South Zone:* Same as the South Zone.

Band-Tailed Pigeons

California

*North Zone:* Alpine, Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties.

*South Zone:* The remainder of the State not included in the North Zone.

New Mexico

*North Zone:* North of a line following U.S. 60 from the Arizona State line east to I-25 at Socorro and then south along I-25 from Socorro to the Texas State line.

*South Zone:* The remainder of the State not included in the North Zone.

Washington

*Western Washington:* The State of Washington excluding those portions lying east of the Pacific Crest Trail and east of the Big White Salmon River in Klickitat County.

Woodcock

New Jersey

*North Zone:* That portion of the State north of NJ 70.

*South Zone:* The remainder of the State.

Sandhill Cranes

Mississippi Flyway

Minnesota

*Northwest Zone:* That portion of the State encompassed by a line extending east from the North Dakota border along

U.S. Highway 2 to State Trunk Highway (STH) 32, north along STH 32 to STH 92, east along STH 92 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 in Polk County, north along CSAH 2 to CSAH 27 in Pennington County, north along CSAH 27 to STH 1, east along STH 1 to CSAH 28 in Pennington County, north along CSAH 28 to CSAH 54 in Marshall County, north along CSAH 54 to CSAH 9 in Roseau County, north along CSAH 9 to STH 11, west along STH 11 to STH 310, and north along STH 310 to the Manitoba border.

Tennessee

*Southeast Crane Zone:* That portion of the State south of Interstate 40 and east of State Highway 56.

*Remainder of State:* That portion of Tennessee outside of the Southeast Crane Zone.

Central Flyway

*Colorado:* The Central Flyway portion of the State except the San Luis Valley (Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Hinsdale, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache Counties east of the Continental Divide) and North Park (Jackson County).

*Kansas:* That portion of the State west of a line beginning at the Oklahoma border, north on I-35 to Wichita, north on I-135 to Salina, and north on U.S. 81 to the Nebraska border.

Montana

*Regular Season Open Area:* The Central Flyway portion of the State except for that area south and west of Interstate 90, which is closed to sandhill crane hunting.

*Special Season Open Area:* Carbon County.

New Mexico

*Regular-Season Open Area:* Chaves, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Lea, Quay, and Roosevelt Counties.

Special Season Open Areas

*Middle Rio Grande Valley Area:* The Central Flyway portion of New Mexico in Socorro and Valencia Counties.

*Estancia Valley Area:* Those portions of Santa Fe, Tarrant, and Bernallillo Counties within an area bounded on the west by New Mexico Highway 55 beginning at Mountainair north to NM 337, north to NM 14, north to I-25; on the north by I-25 east to U.S. 285; on the east by U.S. 285 south to U.S. 60; and on the south by U.S. 60 from U.S. 285 west to NM 55 in Mountainair.

*Southwest Zone:* Area bounded on the south by the New Mexico-Mexico border; on the west by the New Mexico-Arizona border north to Interstate 10; on the north by Interstate 10 east to U.S.

180, north to N.M. 26, east to N.M. 27, north to N.M. 152, and east to Interstate 25; on the east by Interstate 25 south to Interstate 10, west to the Luna County line, and south to the New Mexico-Mexico border.

North Dakota

*Area 1:* That portion of the State west of U.S. 281.

*Area 2:* That portion of the State east of U.S. 281.

*Oklahoma:* That portion of the State west of I-35.

*South Dakota:* That portion of the State west of U.S. 281.

Texas

*Zone A:* That portion of Texas lying west of a line beginning at the international toll bridge at Laredo, then northeast along U.S. Highway 81 to its junction with Interstate Highway 35 in Laredo, then north along Interstate Highway 35 to its junction with Interstate Highway 10 in San Antonio, then northwest along Interstate Highway 10 to its junction with U.S. Highway 83 at Junction, then north along U.S. Highway 83 to its junction with U.S. Highway 62, 16 miles north of Childress, then east along U.S. Highway 62 to the Texas-Oklahoma State line.

*Zone B:* That portion of Texas lying within boundaries beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 81 and the Texas-Oklahoma State line, then southeast along U.S. Highway 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 287 in Montague County, then southeast along U.S. Highway 287 to its junction with Interstate Highway 35W in Fort Worth, then southwest along Interstate Highway 35 to its junction with Interstate Highway 10 in San Antonio, then northwest along Interstate Highway 10 to its junction with U.S. Highway 83 in the town of Junction, then north along U.S. Highway 83 to its junction with U.S. Highway 62, 16 miles north of Childress, then east along U.S. Highway 62 to the Texas-Oklahoma State line, then south along the Texas-Oklahoma State line to the south bank of the Red River, then eastward along the vegetation line on the south bank of the Red River to U.S. Highway 81.

*Zone C:* The remainder of the State, except for the closed areas.

Closed Areas

(A) That portion of the State lying east and north of a line beginning at the junction of U.S. Highway 81 and the Texas-Oklahoma State line, then southeast along U.S. Highway 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 287 in Montague County, then southeast along U.S. Highway 287 to its junction with I-

35W in Fort Worth, then southwest along I-35 to its junction with U.S. Highway 290 East in Austin, then east along U.S. Highway 290 to its junction with Interstate Loop 610 in Harris County, then south and east along Interstate Loop 610 to its junction with Interstate Highway 45 in Houston, then south on Interstate Highway 45 to State Highway 342, then to the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, and then north and east along the shore of the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas-Louisiana State line.

(B) That portion of the State lying within the boundaries of a line beginning at the Kleberg-Nueces County line and the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, then west along the County line to Park Road 22 in Nueces County, then north and west along Park Road 22 to its junction with State Highway 358 in Corpus Christi, then west and north along State Highway 358 to its junction with State Highway 286, then north along State Highway 286 to its junction with Interstate Highway 37, then east along Interstate Highway 37 to its junction with U.S. Highway 181, then north and west along U.S. Highway 181 to its junction with U.S. Highway 77 in Sinton, then north and east along U.S. Highway 77 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87 in Victoria, then south and east along U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with State Highway 35 at Port Lavaca, then north and east along State Highway 35 to the south end of the Lavaca Bay Causeway, then south and east along the shore of Lavaca Bay to its junction with the Port Lavaca Ship Channel, then south and east along the Lavaca Bay Ship Channel to the Gulf of Mexico, and then south and west along the shore of the Gulf of Mexico to the Kleberg-Nueces County line.

#### Wyoming

*Regular Season Open Area:* Campbell, Converse, Crook, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte, and Weston Counties.

#### Special Season Open Areas

*Riverton-Boysen Unit:* Portions of Fremont County.

*Park and Big Horn County Unit:* All of Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie Counties.

*Johnson, Natrona, and Sheridan County Unit:* All of Johnson, Natrona, and Sheridan Counties.

#### Pacific Flyway

#### Arizona

*Zone 1:* Beginning at the junction of the New Mexico State line and U.S. Hwy 80; south along the State line to the U.S.-Mexico border; west along the border to the San Pedro River; north along the San Pedro River to the

junction with Arizona Hwy 77; northerly along Arizona Hwy 77 to the Gila River; northeast along the Gila River to the San Carlos Indian Reservation boundary; south then east and north along the reservation boundary to U.S. Hwy 70; southeast on U.S. Hwy 70 to U.S. Hwy 191; south on U.S. Hwy 191 to the 352 exit on I-10; east on I-10 to Bowie-Apache Pass Road; southerly on the Bowie-Apache Pass Road to Arizona Hwy 186; southeasterly on Arizona Hwy 186 to Arizona Hwy 181; south on Arizona Hwy 181 to the West Turkey Creek-Kuykendall cutoff road; southerly on the Kuykendall cutoff road to Rucker Canyon Road; easterly on Rucker Canyon Road to the Tex Canyon Road; southerly on Tex Canyon Road to U.S. Hwy 80; northeast on U.S. Hwy 80 to the New Mexico State line.

*Zone 2:* Beginning at I-10 and the New Mexico State line; north along the State line to Arizona Hwy 78; southwest on Arizona Hwy 78 to U.S. Hwy 191; northwest on U.S. Hwy 191 to Clifton; westerly on the Lower Eagle Creek Road (Pump Station Road) to Eagle Creek; northerly along Eagle Creek to the San Carlos Indian Reservation boundary; southerly and west along the reservation boundary to U.S. Hwy 70; southeast on U.S. Hwy 70 to U.S. Hwy 191; south on U.S. Hwy 191 to I-10; easterly on I-10 to the New Mexico State line.

#### Idaho

*Area 1:* All of Bear Lake County and all of Caribou County except that portion lying within the Grays Lake Basin.

*Area 2:* All of Teton County except that portion lying west of State Highway 33 and south of Packsaddle Road (West 400 North) and north of the North Cedron Road (West 600 South) and east of the west bank of the Teton River.

*Area 3:* All of Fremont County except the Chester Wetlands Wildlife Management Area.

*Area 4:* All of Jefferson County.

*Area 5:* All of Bannock County east of Interstate-15 and south of U.S. Highway 30; and all of Franklin County.

#### Montana

*Zone 1 (Warm Springs Portion of Deer Lodge County):* Those portions of Deer Lodge County lying within the following described boundary: beginning at the intersection of I-90 and Highway 273, then westerly along Highway 273 to the junction of Highway 1, then southeast along said highway to Highway 275 at Opportunity, then east along said highway to East Side County road, then north along said road to Perkins Lake, then west on said lane to

I-90, then north on said interstate to the junction of Highway 273, the point of beginning. Except for sections 13 and 24, T5N, R10W; and Warm Springs Pond number 3.

*Zone 2 (Ovando-Helmville Area):* That portion of the Pacific Flyway, located in Powell County lying within the following described boundary: beginning at the junction of State Routes 141 and 200, then west along Route 200 to its intersection with the Blackfoot River at Russell Gates Fishing Access Site (Powell-Missoula County line), then southeast along said river to its intersection with the Ovando-Helmville Road (County Road 104) at Cedar Meadows Fishing Access Site, then south and east along said road to its junction with State Route 141, then north along said route to its junction with State Route 200, the point of beginning.

*Zone 3 (Dillon/Twin Bridges/Cardwell Areas):* Beaverhead, Gallatin, Jefferson, and Madison Counties.

*Zone 4 (Broadwater County):* Broadwater County.

#### Utah

*Cache County:* Cache County.

*East Box Elder County:* That portion of Box Elder County beginning on the Utah-Idaho State line at the Box Elder-Cache County line; west on the State line to the Pocatello Valley County Road; south on the Pocatello Valley County Road to I-15; southeast on I-15 to SR-83; south on SR-83 to Lamp Junction; west and south on the Promontory Point County Road to the tip of Promontory Point; south from Promontory Point to the Box Elder-Weber County line; east on the Box Elder-Weber County line to the Box Elder-Cache County line; north on the Box Elder-Cache County line to the Utah-Idaho State line.

*Rich County:* Rich County.

*Uintah County:* Uintah County.

#### Wyoming

*Area 1 (Bear River):* All of the Bear River and Ham's Fork River drainages in Lincoln County.

*Area 2 (Salt River Area):* All of the Salt River drainage in Lincoln County south of the McCoy Creek Road.

*Area 3 (Eden Valley Area):* All lands within the Bureau of Reclamation's Eden Project in Sweetwater County.

*Area 5 (Uintah County Area):* Uinta County.

#### All Migratory Game Birds in Alaska

*North Zone:* State Game Management Units 11-13 and 17-26.

*Gulf Coast Zone:* State Game Management Units 5-7, 9, 14-16, and 10 (Unimak Island only).

*Southeast Zone:* State Game Management Units 1–4.

*Pribilof and Aleutian Islands Zone:* State Game Management Unit 10 (except Unimak Island).

*Kodiak Zone:* State Game Management Unit 8.

**All Migratory Game Birds in the Virgin Islands**

*Ruth Cay Closure Area:* The island of Ruth Cay, just south of St. Croix.

**All Migratory Game Birds in Puerto Rico**

*Municipality of Culebra Closure Area:* All of the municipality of Culebra.

*Desecheo Island Closure Area:* All of Desecheo Island.

*Mona Island Closure Area:* All of Mona Island.

*El Verde Closure Area:* Those areas of the municipalities of Rio Grande and Loiza delineated as follows: (1) All lands between Routes 956 on the west and 186 on the east, from Route 3 on the north to the juncture of Routes 956 and 186 (Km 13.2) in the south; (2) all lands between Routes 186 and 966 from the juncture of 186 and 966 on the north, to the Caribbean National Forest Boundary on the south; (3) all lands lying west of Route 186 for 1 kilometer from the juncture of Routes 186 and 956 south to Km 6 on Route 186; (4) all lands within Km 14 and Km 6 on the west and the Caribbean National Forest Boundary on the east; and (5) all lands within the Caribbean National Forest Boundary whether private or public.

*Cidra Municipality and adjacent areas:* All of Cidra Municipality and portions of Aguas Buenas, Caguas, Cayey, and Comerio Municipalities as encompassed within the following boundary: beginning on Highway 172 as it leaves the municipality of Cidra on the west edge, north to Highway 156, east on Highway 156 to Highway 1, south on Highway 1 to Highway 765, south on Highway 765 to Highway 763, south on Highway 763 to the Rio Guavate, west along Rio Guavate to Highway 1, southwest on Highway 1 to Highway 14, west on Highway 14 to Highway 729, north on Highway 729 to Cidra Municipality boundary to the point of the beginning.

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