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Part III

Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 20
Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2010–11 Early Season; Final Rule
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 20

RIN 1018–AX06

Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2010–11 Early Season

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule prescribes special early-season migratory bird hunting regulations for certain Tribes on Federal Indian reservations, off-reservation trust lands, and ceded lands. This rule responds to Tribal requests for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter Service or we) recognition of Tribal authority to regulate hunting under established guidelines. This rule allows the establishment of season bag limits and, thus, harvest, at levels compatible with populations and habitat conditions.

DATES: This rule takes effect on September 1, 2010.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of July 3, 1918 (40 Stat. 755; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, having due regard for the zones of temperature and for the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of flight of migratory game birds, to determine when, to what extent, and by what means such birds or any part, nest, or egg thereof may be taken, hunted, captured, killed, possessed, sold, purchased, shipped, carried, exported, or transported.

In the August 6, 2010, Federal Register (75 FR 47682), we proposed special migratory bird hunting regulations for the 2010–11 hunting season for certain Indian Tribes, under the guidelines described in the June 4, 1985, Federal Register (50 FR 23467). The guidelines respond to Tribal requests for Service recognition of their reserved hunting rights, and for some Tribes, recognition of their authority to regulate hunting by both Tribal members and nonmembers on their reservations. The guidelines include possibilities for:

(1) On-reservation hunting by both Tribal members and nonmembers, with hunting by tribal members on some reservations to take place within Federal frameworks but on dates different from those selected by the surrounding State(s);

(2) On-reservation hunting by Tribal members only, outside of usual Federal frameworks for season dates and length, and for daily bag and possession limits; and

(3) Off-reservation hunting by Tribal members on ceded lands, outside of usual framework dates and season length, with some added flexibility in daily bag and possession limits.

In all cases, the regulations established under the guidelines must be consistent with the March 10–September 1 closed season mandated by the 1916 Migratory Bird Treaty with Canada. We have successfully used the guidelines since the 1985–86 hunting season. We finalized the guidelines beginning with the 1988–89 hunting season (August 18, 1988, Federal Register [53 FR 31612]).

In the May 13, 2010, Federal Register (75 FR 27144), we requested that Tribes desiring special hunting regulations in the 2010–11 hunting season submit a proposal including details on:

(a) Harvest anticipated under the requested regulations;

(b) Methods that would be employed to measure or monitor harvest (such as bag checks, mail questionnaires, etc.);

(c) Steps that would be taken to limit level of harvest, where it could be shown that failure to limit such harvest would adversely impact the migratory bird resource; and

(d) Tribal capabilities to establish and enforce migratory bird hunting regulations.

No action is required if a Tribe wishes to observe the hunting regulations established by the State(s) in which an Indian reservation is located. On August 6, 2010, we published a proposed rule (75 FR 47682) that included special migratory bird hunting regulations for 30 Indian Tribes, based on the input we received in response to the May 13, 2010, proposed rule. All the regulations contained in this final rule were either submitted by the Tribes or approved by the Tribes and follow our proposals in the August 6 proposed rule.

Although the May 13 proposed rule included generalized regulations for both early- and late-season hunting, this rulemaking addresses only the early-season proposals. Therefore, it includes information for only 24 Tribes. The letter designations for the paragraphs pertaining to each Tribe in this rule are discontinuous because they follow the letter designations for the 30 Tribes discussed in the August 6 proposed rule, which set forth paragraphs (a) through (dd). Late-season hunting will be addressed in late September. As a general rule, early seasons begin during September each year and have a primary emphasis on such species as mourning and white-winged doves. Late seasons begin about October 1 or later each year and have a primary emphasis on waterfowl.

Population Status and Harvest

The following paragraphs provide preliminary information on the status of waterfowl and information on the status and harvest of migratory shore and upland game birds excerpted from various reports. For more detailed information and results, you may obtain complete copies of the various reports at the address indicated under ADDRESSES or from our Web site at http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewsPublicationsReports.html.

Waterfowl Breeding and Habitat Survey

Federal, provincial, and State agencies conduct surveys each spring to estimate the size of breeding populations and to evaluate the conditions of the habitats. These surveys are conducted using fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and ground crews and encompass principal breeding areas of North America, covering an area over 2.0 million square miles. The traditional survey area comprises Alaska, Canada, and the northcentral United States, and includes approximately 1.3 million square miles. The eastern survey area includes parts of Ontario, Quebec, Labrador, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, New York, and Maine, an area of approximately 0.7 million square miles.

Overall, habitat conditions during the 2010 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey were characterized by average to below-average moisture and a mild winter and early spring across the entire traditional (including the northern locally and eastern survey areas. The total pond estimate (Prairie Canada and U.S. combined) was
6.7 ± 0.2 million. This was similar to the 2009 estimate and 34 percent above the long-term average of 5.0 ± 0.03 million ponds.

Traditional Survey Area (U.S. and Canadian Prairies and Parklands)

Conditions across the Canadian prairies were similar to 2009. Portions of southern Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba improved, but a large area along the Alberta and Saskatchewan border remained dry, and moisture levels in portions of Manitoba declined from last year. The 2010 estimate of ponds in Prairie Canada was 3.7 ± 0.2 million. This was similar to last year’s estimate (3.6 ± 0.1 million) and to the 1955–2009 average (3.4 ± 0.03 million). Residual water remains in the Parklands and these were classified as fair to good. Most of the Prairie-Parkland region of Canada received abundant to historically high levels of precipitation during and after the survey, which, while possibly flooding some nests, will produce excellent brood-rearing habitat for successful nesters and lessen the impact of the normal summer drawdown, leading to beneficial wetland conditions next spring.

Wetland numbers and conditions remained fair to good in the eastern U.S. prairies, but habitat conditions declined through the western Dakotas and Montana. The 2010 pond estimate for the north-central United States was 2.9 ± 0.1 million, essentially unchanged from last year’s estimate (2.9 ± 0.1 million) and 87 percent above the long-term average (1.6 ± 0.02 million). Fall and winter precipitation in the eastern Dakotas generally improved good habitat conditions already present. However, wetlands in the western Dakotas and Montana were not recharged, resulting in a deterioration of conditions from 2009 at the time the survey was conducted.

Bush (Alaska, Northern Manitoba, Northern Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory, Western Ontario)

In the bush regions of the traditional survey area, spring breakup was early. Unlike in 2009, the majority of habitats were ice-free for arriving waterfowl. Habitat of most of the bush region, with the exception of Alaska and the Northwest Territories where conditions were normal, was classified as fair due to below-average moisture, but the early spring should benefit waterfowl across the entire area.

Eastern Survey Area

The boreal forest and Canadian Maritimes of the eastern survey area experienced an early spring as well. Much of southern Quebec and Ontario were classified as poor to fair due to dry conditions, with the exception of an area of adequate moisture in west-central Ontario. More northern boreal forest locations benefited from near-normal precipitation and early ice-free conditions. Although winter precipitation from southwestern Ontario along the St. Lawrence River Valley and into Maine was below average, waterfowl habitat was classified as good to excellent, as in 2009. The James and Hudson Bay Lowlands of Ontario (strata 57–59) were not surveyed in 2010, but reports indicated an early spring in these locations as well.

Breeding Population Status

In the traditional survey area, which includes strata 1–18, 20–50, and 75–77, the total duck population estimate was 40.9 ± 0.7 [SE] million birds. This estimate was similar to last year’s estimate of 42.0 ± 0.7 million birds and was 21 percent above the long-term average (1955–2009). Estimated mallard (Anas platyrhynchos) abundance was 8.4 ± 0.3 million birds, which was similar to the 2009 estimate of 8.5 ± 0.2 million birds and 12 percent above the long-term average. Estimated abundance of gadwall (A. strepera; 3.0 ± 0.2 million) was similar to the 2009 estimate and 67 percent above the long-term average. Estimated abundance of American wigeon (A. americana; 2.4 ± 0.1 million) was similar to 2009 and the long-term average. The estimated abundance of green-winged teal (A. crecca) was 3.5 ± 0.2 million, which was similar to the 2009 estimate and 78 percent above their long-term average of 1.9 ± 0.02 million. The estimate of blue-winged teal abundance (A. discors) was 6.3 ± 0.4 million, which was 14 percent below the 2009 estimate and 36 percent above their long-term average of 4.7 ± 0.04 million. The estimate for northern pintails (A. acuta; 3.5 ± 0.2 million) was similar to the 2009 estimate, and 13 percent below the long-term average of 4.0 ± 0.04 million. Estimates of northern shovelers (A. clypeata; 4.1 ± 0.2 million) and redheads (Aythya americana; 1.1 ± 0.1 million) were similar to their 2009 estimates and were 76 percent and 63 percent above their long-term averages of 2.3 ± 0.02 million and 0.7 ± 0.01 million, respectively. The canvasback estimate (A. valisineria; 0.6 ± 0.05 million) was similar to the 2009 estimate and to the long-term average. The scaup estimate (A. affinis and A. marila combined; 4.2 ± 0.2 million) was similar to that of 2009 and 16 percent below the long-term average of 5.1 ± 0.05 million.

The eastern survey area was restudied in 2005 and is now composed of strata 51–72. Estimates of mallards, scaup, scoters (black [Melanitta nigra], white-winged [M. fusca], and surf [M. perspicillata]), green-winged teal, American wigeon, bufflehead (Bucephala albeola), ring-necked duck (Aythya collaris), and goldeneyes (common [B. clangula] and Barrow’s [B. islandica]) all were similar to their 2009 estimates and long-term averages. The mergansers (red-breasted [Mergus serrator], common [M. merganser], and hooded [Lophodytes cucullatus]) estimate was 386.4 thousand, which was 15 percent below the 2009 estimate, and 14 percent below the long-term average of 450.8 thousand. The American black duck (Anas rubripes) estimate was similar to the 2009 estimate and 7 percent below the long-term average of 478.9 thousand.

Fall Flight Estimate

The mid-continent mallard population is composed of mallards from the traditional survey area (revised in 2008 to exclude Alaska mallards), Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and was estimated to be 10.3 ± 0.9 million in 2010. This was similar to the 2009 estimate of 10.3 ± 0.9 million.

Status of Geese and Swans

We provide information on the population status and productivity of North American Canada geese (Branta canadensis), brant (B. bernicla), snow geese (Chen caerulescens), Ross’ geese (C. rossii), emperor geese (C. canagica), white-fronted geese (Anser albifrons), and tundra swans (Cygnus columbianus). Temperatures in much of central and northern Canada from January through April were in excess of 5°C warmer than average. Substantially above-average temperatures continued into May and June in important goose habitats within eastern Canada. The resulting accelerated snowmelt contributed to favorable nesting conditions for many mid-latitude and arctic nesting goose populations in 2010. Persistent snow cover significantly delayed goose nesting activities only in the Queen Maud Gulf, Victoria Island, and Wrangel Island regions. Well-above or near-average wetland abundance in the U.S. and Canadian prairie regions and mild spring temperatures in many other temperate regions will likely improve production of Canada geese that nest at southern latitudes. Primary abundance indices for both populations of tundra swans decreased in 2010 from 2009 levels. Primary abundance indices decreased for 15 goose populations and...
increased for 12 goose populations in 2010 compared to 2009. The following populations displayed significant positive trends during the most recent 10-year period (P < 0.05): Mississippi Flyway Giant, Short Grass Prairie, Aleutian, and Eastern Prairie Canada geese; Western Arctic/Wrangell Island, and Western Central Flyway light geese; and Pacific white-fronted geese. No population showed a significant negative 10-year trend. The forecast for the production of geese and swans in North America for 2010 is regionally variable, but production for many populations will be much improved this year compared to the poor production widely experienced in 2009.

Waterfowl Harvest and Hunter Activity

National surveys of migratory bird hunters were conducted during the 2008 and 2009 hunting seasons. About 1.2 million waterfowl hunters harvested 13,635,700 (+4 percent) ducks and 3,792,600 (+5 percent) geese in 2008, and about 1.5 million waterfowl hunters harvested 13,139,800 (+4 percent) ducks and 3,327,000 (+5 percent) geese in 2009. Mallard, green-winged teal, gadwall, blue-winged/cinnamon teal, and wood duck (Aix sponsa) were the 5 most-harvested duck species in the United States, and Canada goose was the predominant goose species in the goose harvest. Coot hunters (about 31,100 in 2008 and 2009) harvested 275,900 (+43 percent) coots in 2008 and 219,000 (+34 percent) in 2009.

Comments and Issues Concerning Tribal Proposals

For the 2010–11 migratory bird hunting season, we proposed regulations for 30 Tribes and/or Indian groups that followed the 1985 guidelines and were considered appropriate for final rulemaking. Some of the Tribal proposals had both early- and late-season elements. However, as noted earlier, only those with early-season proposals are included in this final rulemaking; 24 Tribes have proposals with early seasons. The comment period for the proposed rule, published on August 6, 2010, closed on August 16, 2010. Because of the necessary brief comment period, we will respond to any comments on the proposed rule and/or these regulations postmarked by August 16, but not received prior to final action by us, in the September late-season final rule. At this time, we have not received any comments.

NEPA Consideration

NEPA considerations are covered by the programmatic document "Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Issuance of Annual Regulations Permitting the Sport Hunting of Migratory Birds (FSES 88–14)," filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on June 9, 1988. We published a notice of availability in the Federal Register on June 16, 1988 (53 FR 22582). We published our Record of Decision on August 18, 1988 (53 FR 31341). In addition, an August 1985 environmental assessment entitled “Guidelines for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands" is available from the address indicated under the caption ADDRESSES.

In a notice published in the September 8, 2005, Federal Register (70 FR 53376), we announced our intent to develop a new Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the migratory bird hunting program. Public scoping meetings were held in the spring of 2006, as detailed in a March 9, 2006, Federal Register (71 FR 12216). We released the draft SEIS on July 9, 2010 (75 FR 39577). The draft SEIS is available by either writing to the address indicated under ADDRESSES or by viewing on our Web site at http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds.

Endangered Species Act Consideration

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531–1543; 87 Stat. 884), 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 any 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 available for public inspection at the address indicated under ADDRESSES.

Executive Order 12866

The Office of Management and Budget has determined that this rule is significant and has reviewed this rule under Executive Order 12866. OMB bases its determination of regulatory significance upon the following four criteria:

(a) Whether the rule will have an annual effect of $100 million or more on the economy or adversely affect an economic sector, productivity, jobs, the environment, or other units of the government.

(b) Whether the rule will create inconsistencies with other Federal agencies’ actions.

(c) Whether the rule will materially affect entitlements, grants, user fees, loan programs, or the rights and obligations of their recipients.

(d) Whether the rule raises novel legal or policy issues.

An economic analysis was prepared for the 2008–09 season. This analysis was based on data from the 2006 National Hunting and Fishing Survey, the most recent year for which data are available (see discussion in Regulatory Flexibility Act section below). 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 2007–08 season, (2) Issue moderate regulations allowing more days than those in alternative 1, and (3) Issue liberal regulations identical to the regulations in the 2007–08 season. For the 2008–09 season, we chose alternative 3, with an estimated consumer surplus across all flyways of $205–$270 million. At this time, we are proposing no changes to the season frameworks for the 2010–11 season, and as such, we will again consider these three alternatives. However, final frameworks will depend on population status information available later this year. For these reasons, we have not conducted a new economic analysis, but the 2008–09 analysis is part of the record for this rule and is available at http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/


Regulatory Flexibility Act

The 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, and 2008. 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 2008 Analysis was based on the 2006 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 $1.2 billion at small businesses in 2008. Copies of the Analysis are available upon request from the Division of Migratory Bird Management (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT) or from our Web site at http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewReportsPublications/SpecialTopics/SpecialTopics.html#HuntingRegs or at http://www.regulations.gov at Docket No. FWS–R9–MB–2010–0040.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

This 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 has an annual effect on the economy of $100 million or more. However, because this rule establishes hunting seasons, we do not publish the effective date under the exemption contained in 5 U.S.C. 808(1).

Paperwork Reduction Act

We examined these regulations under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). The various recordkeeping and reporting requirements imposed under regulations established in 50 CFR part 20, subpart K, are utilized in the formulation of migratory game bird hunting regulations. Specifically, OMB has approved the information collection requirements of our Migratory Bird Surveys and assigned control number 1018–0023 (expires 2/28/2011). This information is used to provide a sampling frame for voluntary national surveys to improve our harvest estimates for all migratory game birds in order to better manage these populations.

OMB has also approved the information collection requirements of the Alaska game Household Survey, an associated voluntary annual household survey used to determine levels of subsistence take in Alaska, and assigned control number 1018–0124 (expires 4/30/2013).

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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 will 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 Executive Order 12988.

Taking Implication Assessment

In accordance with Executive Order 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 will not result in the physical occupancy of property, the physical invasion of property, or the regulatory taking of any property. In fact, these rules allow hunters to exercise otherwise unavailable privileges and, therefore, reduce restrictions on the use of private and public property.

Energy Effects—Executive Order 13211

Executive Order 13211 requires agencies to prepare Statements of Energy Effects when undertaking certain actions. While this rule is a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 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), Executive Order 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. However, in the May 13 Federal Register, we solicited proposals for special migratory bird hunting regulations for certain Tribes on Federal Indian reservations, off-reservation trust lands, and ceded lands for the 2010–11 migratory bird hunting season. The resulting proposals were contained in a separate proposed rule (75 FR 47681, August 6, 2010). By virtue of these actions, 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 Executive Order 13132, these regulations do not have significant federalism effects and do not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

Regulations Promulgation

The rulemaking process for migratory game bird hunting must, by its nature, operate under severe time constraints. However, we intend that the public be given the greatest possible opportunity to comment. Thus, when the preliminary proposed rulemaking was published, we established what we believed were the longest periods possible for public comment. In doing this, we recognized that when the comment period closed, time would be of the essence. That is, if there were a delay in the effective date of these regulations after this final rulemaking, States and Tribes would have insufficient time 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. We, therefore, find that “good cause” exists, within the terms of 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and these seasons will, therefore, take effect immediately upon publication.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 20

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

Accordingly, part 20, subchapter B, chapter I of title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as follows:

PART 20—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 20 continues to read as follows:


2. Section 20.110 is amended by revising paragraphs (a) through (u), (w), and (y) through (bb), and adding paragraph (cc), to read as set forth below (Current §20.110 was published at 74 FR 51707, September 2, 2009, and amended at 74 FR 49294, September 25, 2009).

§20.110 Seasons, limits, and other regulations for certain Federal Indian reservations, Indian Territory, and ceded lands.

(a) Colorado River Indian Tribes, Parker, Arizona (Tribal Members and Nontribal Hunters).

Doves

Season Dates: Open September 1, through September 15, 2010; then open November 12, through December 26, 2010.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: For the early season, daily bag limit is 10 mourning or white-winged doves, singly, or in the aggregate. For the late season, the daily bag limit is 10 mourning doves. Possession limits are twice the daily bag limits after the first day of the season.

General Conditions: All persons 14 years and older must be in possession of a valid Colorado River Indian Reservation hunting permit before taking any wildfowl on Tribal lands. Any person transporting game birds off the Colorado River Indian Reservation must have a valid transport declaration form. Other Tribal regulations apply, and may be obtained at the Fish and Game Office in Parker, Arizona.

(b) Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Flathead Indian Reservation, Pablo, Montana (Tribal Hunters).

Tribal Members Only

Ducks (Including Mergansers)

Season Dates: Open September 1, 2010, through March 9, 2011.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: The Tribe does not have specific bag and possession restrictions for Tribal members. The season on harlequin duck is closed.

Coots

Season Dates: Same as ducks.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: Same as ducks.

Geese

Season Dates: Same as ducks.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: Same as ducks.

General Conditions: Tribal and nontribal hunters must comply with all basic Federal migratory bird hunting regulations contained in 50 CFR part 20 regarding manner of taking. In addition, shooting hours are sunrise to sunset, and each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must carry on his/her person a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) signed in ink across the stamp face. Special regulations established by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes also apply on the reservation.

(c) Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Cloquet, Minnesota (Tribal Members Only).

Ducks

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories

Season Dates: Open September 18 and end November 28, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 15 mergansers, including no more than 6 hooded mergansers.

Reservation

Season Dates: Begin September 4 and end November 28, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 10 mergansers, including no more than 4 hooded mergansers.

Canada Geese: All Areas

Season Dates: Open September 1 and end November 28, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 20 geese.

Coots and Common Moorhens (Common Gallinules)

1854 and 1837 Ceded Territories

Season Dates: Begin September 18 and end November 28, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 20 coots and common moorhens, singly in the aggregate.

Sora and Virginia Rails: All Areas

Season Dates: Begin September 1 and end November 28, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 25 sora and Virginia rails, singly or in the aggregate.

Common Snipe: All Areas

Season Dates: Begin September 1 and end November 28, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: Eight common snipe.

Woodcock: All Areas

Season Dates: Begin September 1 and end November 28, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: Three woodcock.

Mourning Dove: All Areas

Season Dates: Begin September 1 and end October 30, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 30 mourning dove.

General Conditions:

1. While hunting waterfowl, a Tribal member must carry on his/her person a valid Tribal waterfowl hunting permit.

2. Except as otherwise noted, Tribal members will be required to comply with Tribal codes that will be no less restrictive than the provisions of Chapter 10 of the Model Off-Reservation Code. These regulations parallel Federal requirements in 50 CFR part 20 as to hunting methods, transportation, sale, exportation, and other conditions generally applicable to migratory bird hunting.

3. Band members in each zone will comply with State regulations providing
for closed and restricted waterfowl hunting areas.

4. There are no possession limits on any species, unless otherwise noted above. For purposes of enforcing bag and possession limits, all migratory birds in the possession or custody of band members on ceded lands will be considered to have been taken on those lands unless tagged by a Tribal or State conservation warden as having been taken on reservation. All migratory birds that fall on reservation lands will not count as part of any off-reservation bag or possession limit.

(d) Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Suttons Bay, Michigan (Tribal Members Only).

All Seasons in Michigan, 1836 Treaty Zone

Ducks


Daily Bag Limit: 20 ducks, which may include no more than 5 pintail, 3 canvasback, 5 black ducks, 1 hooded merganser, 5 wood ducks, 3 redheads, and 9 mallards (only 4 of which may be hens).

Canada and Snow Geese

Season Dates: Open September 1, through November 30, 2010; and open January 1, 2010, through February 8, 2011.

Daily Bag Limit: 10 geese.

Other Geese (White-Fronted Geese and Brant)

Season Dates: Open September 20, through November 30, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: Five geese.

Sora Rails, Common Snipe, and Woodcock

Season Dates: Open September 1, through November 14, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 10 rails, 10 snipe, and 5 woodcock.

Mourning Doves

Season Dates: Open September 1, through November 14, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 10 mourning doves.

General Conditions: A valid Grand Traverse Band Tribal license is required and must be in possession before taking any wildlife. All other basic regulations contained in 50 CFR part 20 are valid. Other Tribal regulations apply, and may be obtained at the Tribal office in Suttons Bay, Michigan.

(e) Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, Wisconsin (Tribal Members Only).

The 2010–11 waterfowl hunting season regulations apply to all treaty areas (accept where noted):

Ducks

Season Dates: Begin September 15 and end December 31, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 30 ducks, including no more than 5 black ducks, 5 pintails, and 5 canvasbacks.

Mergansers

Season Dates: Begin September 15 and end December 31, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 10 mergansers.

Geese

Season Dates: Begin September 1 and end December 31, 2010. In addition, any portion of the ceded territory that is open to State-licensed hunters for goose hunting after December 1 will also be open concurrently for Tribal members.

Daily Bag Limit: 20 geese in aggregate.

Other Migratory Birds

Coots and Common Moorhens (Common Gallinules)

Season Dates: Begin September 15 and end December 31, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 20 coots and common moorhens (common gallinules), singly or in the aggregate.

Sora and Virginia Rails

Season Dates: Begin September 15 and end December 31, 2010.

Daily Bag Limits: 20 Sora and Virginia rails, singly or in the aggregate.

Possession Limit: 25.

Common Snipe

Season Dates: Begin September 15 and end December 31, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 16 common snipe.

Woodcock

Season Dates: Begin September 7 and end December 1, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 10 woodcock.

Mourning Dove: 1837 and 1842 Ceded Territories

Season Dates: Begin September 1 and end November 9, 2010.

Daily Bag Limit: 15.

General Conditions

1. All Tribal members will be required to obtain a valid Tribal waterfowl hunting permit.

2. Except as otherwise noted, Tribal members will be required to comply with Tribal codes that will be no less restrictive than the model ceded territory conservation codes approved by Federal courts in the Lac Courte Oreilles v. State of Wisconsin (Voigt) and Mille Lacs Band v. State of Minnesota, and United States v. Michigan cases. Chapter 10 in each of these model codes regulates ceded territory migratory bird hunting. All versions of Chapter 10 parallel Federal requirements as to hunting methods, transportation, sale, exportation, and other conditions generally applicable to migratory bird hunting. They also automatically incorporate by reference the Federal migratory bird regulations contained in 50 CFR part 20.

3. Particular regulations of note include:

i. Nontoxic shot is required for all off-reservation waterfowl hunting by Tribal members.

ii. Tribal members in each zone shall comply with Tribal regulations providing for closed and restricted waterfowl hunting areas. These regulations generally incorporate the same restrictions contained in parallel State regulations.

iii. Possession limits for each species are double the daily bag limit, except on the opening day of the season, when the possession limit equals the daily bag limit, unless otherwise noted above. Possession limits are applicable only to transportation and do not include birds that are cleaned, dressed, and at a member’s primary residence. For purposes of enforcing bag and possession limits, all migratory birds in the possession and custody of Tribal members on ceded lands will be considered to have been taken on those lands unless tagged by a Tribal or State conservation warden as taken on reservation lands. All migratory birds that fall on reservation lands will not count as part of any off-reservation bag or possession limit.

iv. The baiting restrictions included in section 10.05(2)(h) of the model ceded territory conservation code will be amended to include language which parallels that in place for non-Tribal members as published at 64 FR 29799, June 3, 1999.

v. The shell limit restrictions included in section 10.05(2)(b) of the model ceded territory conservation code will be removed.

vi. Hunting hours shall be from a half hour before sunrise to 15 minutes after sunset.

4. Michigan—Duck Blinds and Decoys. Tribal members hunting in Michigan will comply with Tribal codes that contain provisions parallel to Michigan law regarding duck blinds and decoys.

(g) Kalispel Tribe, Kalispel Reservation, Usk, Washington (Tribal Members and Nontribal Hunters).

Nontribal Hunters on Reservation

Geese

Season Dates: Open September 1, through September 13, 2010, for the
early-season, and open October 2, 2010, through January 31, 2011, for the late-season. During this period, days to be hunted are specified by the Kalispel Tribe. Nontribal hunters should contact the Tribe for more detail on hunting days.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:**
- **Black ducks,** 3 wood ducks, 3 redheads, 2 canvasback, 1 hooded merganser, 3 ducks, including no more than 2 pintail, 5 hooded merganser, 5 scaup, and 5 canvasback.
- **Coots and Gallinules**
  - **Season Dates:** Open September 1, through December 31, 2010.
  - **Daily Bag Limit:** 20.

**Canada Geese**

- **Season Dates:** Open September 1, 2010, through February 8, 2011.
- **Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Five Canada geese and possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

**White-Fronted Geese, Snow Goose, Ross Geese, and Brant**

- **Season Dates:** Open September 20, through November 30, 2010.
- **Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Five birds and the possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

**Mourning Doves, Rails, Snipe, and Woodcock**

- **Season Dates:** Open September 1, through November 14, 2010.
- **Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Ten doves, 10 rails, 10 snipe, and 5 woodcock. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

**General**

1. All Tribal members are required to obtain a valid Tribal resource card and 2010–11 hunting license.
2. Except as modified by the Service rules adopted in response to this proposal, these amended regulations parallel all Federal regulations contained in 50 CFR part 20.
3. Particular regulations of note include:
   - i. Nontoxic shot will be required for all waterfowl hunting by Tribal members.
   - ii. Tribal members in each zone will comply with Tribal regulations providing for closed and restricted waterfowl hunting areas. These regulations generally incorporate the same restrictions contained in parallel State regulations.
   - iii. Possession limits for each species are double the daily bag limit, except on the opening day of the season, when the possession limit equals the daily bag limit, unless otherwise noted above.
   - iv. 4. Tribal members hunting in Michigan will comply with Tribal codes that contain provisions parallel to Michigan law regarding duck blinds and decoys.
   - (k) The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Petoskey, Michigan (Tribal Members Only).

**Ducks**

- **Season Dates:** Open September 15, 2010, through January 31, 2011.
- **Daily Bag Limits:** 20 ducks, including no more than 5 hen mallards, 5 black ducks, 5 redheads, 5 wood ducks, 5 pintail, 5 hooded merganser, 5 scaup, and 5 canvasback.

**Sora and Virginia Rails**

- **Season Dates:** Open September 1, through December 31, 2010.
- **Daily Bag Limit:** 20.

**Snipe**

- **Season Dates:** Open September 15, through December 31, 2010.
- **Daily Bag Limit:** 16.

**Tribal Members**

**Ducks, Mergansers and Coots**

- **Season Dates:** Open September 11, 2010, through March 10, 2011.
- **Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Six ducks, including no more than one hen mallard, two scaup, one mottled duck, two redheads, two wood ducks, one canvasback, and one pintail. Coot daily bag limit is 15. Merganser daily bag limit is five, including no more than two hooded merganser. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

(m) Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Port Angeles, Washington (Tribal Members Only).

**Ducks**

- **Season Dates:** Open September 18, through December 31, 2010.
- **Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** 20 ducks, including no more than two hen mallards, one pintail, one canvasback, and two redheads.
Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit. Bag and possession limits for harlequin ducks is one per season.

**Geese**

**Season Dates:** Open September 18, through December 31, 2010.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Four geese, and may include no more than three light geese. The seasons on Aleutian Canada geese and Brant are closed. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

**Coots**

**Season Dates:** Open September 18, through December 31, 2010.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** 25 and 50 coots, respectively.

**Mourning Doves**

**Season Dates:** Open September 18, through December 31, 2010.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** 10 and 20 doves, respectively.

**Snipe**

**Season Dates:** Open September 18, through December 31, 2010.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** 8 and 16 snipe, respectively.

**Band-Tailed Pigeon**

**Season Dates:** Open September 18, through December 31, 2010.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** 2 and 4 pigeons, respectively.

**General:** Tribal members must possess a Tribal hunting permit from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe pursuant to Tribal law. Hunters must observe all basic Federal migratory bird hunting regulations in 50 CFR part 20.

(n) Makah Indian Tribe, Neah Bay, Washington (Tribal Members).

(o) Navajo Nation, Navajo Indian Reservation, Window Rock, Arizona (Tribal Members and Nontribal Hunters).

**Band-Tailed Pigeon**

**Season Dates:** Open September 18, through October 31, 2010.

**Daily Bag Limit:** Two band-tailed pigeons.

**Ducks and Coots**

**Season Dates:** Open September 25, 2010, through January 30, 2011.

**Daily Bag Limit:** Seven ducks including no more than five mallards (only two of which can be a hen), one redhead, one pintail, three scaup, and one canvasback. The seasons on wood duck and harlequin are closed.

**Geese**

**Season Dates:** Open September 25, 2010, through January 30, 2011.

**Daily Bag Limit:** Four including no more than one brant. The seasons on Aleutian and dusky Canada geese are closed.

**Ducks (Including Mergansers)**

**Season Dates:** Open September 18, through November 19, 2010, and open November 29, through December 5, 2010.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Six, including no more than six mallards (three hen mallards), six wood ducks, one redhead, two pintail, and one hooded merganser. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

**Geese**

**Season Dates:** Open September 1, through November 19, 2010; and open November 29, through December 26, 2010.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** 5 and 10 Canada geese, respectively, from September 1, through September 19, 2010; and 3 and 6 Canada geese, respectively, the remainder of the season. Hunters will be issued five Tribal tags during the early season and three Tribal tags during the late season for geese in order to monitor goose harvest. An additional three tags will be issued each time birds are registered. A seasonal quota of 300 birds is adopted. If the quota is reached before the season concludes, the season will be closed at that time.

**Woodcock**

**Season Dates:** Open September 4, through November 7, 2010.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** 5 and 10 woodcock, respectively.

**Dove**

**Season Dates:** Open September 1, through November 7, 2010.

**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** 10 and 20 doves, respectively.

**General Conditions:** Tribal member shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Nontribal members hunting on the Reservation or on lands under the jurisdiction of the Tribe must comply with all State of Wisconsin regulations, including season dates, shooting hours, and bag limits which differ from Tribal member seasons. Tribal members and nontribal members hunting on the Reservation or on lands under the jurisdiction of the Tribe will observe all basic Federal migratory bird hunting regulations found in 50 CFR part 20, with the following exceptions: Tribal members are exempt from the purchase of the Migratory Waterfowl Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp); and shotgun capacity is not limited to three shells.

(q) Point No Point Treaty Council, Kingston, Washington (Tribal Members Only).
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe

Ducks

Season Dates: Open September 15, 2010, through March 10, 2011.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: Seven ducks, including no more than two hen mallards, one pintail, one canvasback, four scoters, and two redheads. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit. Bag and possession limits for harlequin ducks is one per season.

Geese

Season Dates: Open September 15, 2010, through March 10, 2011.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: Four geese, and may include no more than three light geese. The seasons on Aleutian and cackling Canada geese are closed. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Brant


Daily Bag and Possession Limits: Two and four, respectively.

Coots

Season Dates: Open September 15, 2010, through February 1, 2011.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: 25 and 50 coots, respectively.

Mourning Doves


Daily Bag and Possession Limits: 10 and 20 doves, respectively.

Snipe

Season Dates: Open September 15, 2010, through March 10, 2011.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: 8 and 16 snipe, respectively.

Band-Tailed Pigeon

Season Dates: Open September 15, 2010, through March 10, 2011.

Daily Bag and Possession Limits: 2 and 4 pigeons, respectively.

General: Tribal members must possess a Tribal hunting permit from the Point No Point Tribal Council pursuant to Tribal law. Hunting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Hunters must observe all other basic Federal migratory bird hunting regulations in 50 CFR part 20.


Mourning Doves


Daily Bag and Possession Limits: 10 and 20 doves, respectively.

Snipe


Daily Bag and Possession Limits: 8 and 16 snipe, respectively.

Band-Tailed Pigeon


Daily Bag and Possession Limits: 2 and 4 pigeons, respectively.

General Conditions: All hunters authorized to hunt migratory birds on the reservation must obtain a Tribal hunting permit from the respective Tribe. Hunters are also required to adhere to a number of special regulations available at the Tribal office. Hunters must observe all other basic Federal migratory bird hunting regulations in 50 CFR part 20.

(u) Spokane Tribe of Indians, Spokane Indian Reservation, Wellpinit, Washington (Tribal Members Only).

Ducks


Daily Bag and Possession Limits: Seven ducks, including no more than two hen mallards, one pintail, one canvasback, one harlequin per season, and two redheads. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.
Geese  
**Season Dates:** Open September 2, 2010, through January 31, 2011.  
**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Four dark geese and six light geese. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.  
**General Conditions:** All Tribal hunters must have a valid Tribal ID card on his or her person while hunting. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, and steel shot is required for all migratory bird hunting. Hunters must observe all other basic Federal migratory bird hunting regulations in 50 CFR part 20.  


**Band-Tailed Pigeon**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 1, through December 31, 2010.  
**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Two and four, respectively.  

**Mourning Dove**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 1, through December 31, 2010.  
**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** 10 and 20, respectively.  

Tribal members hunting on lands will observe all basic Federal migratory bird hunting regulations found in 50 CFR part 20, which will be enforced by the Stillaguamish Tribal Law Enforcement. Tribal members are required to use steel shot or a nontoxic shot as required by Federal regulations.  

**(y)** Tulalip Tribes, Tulalip, Washington (Tribal Members Only).

**Ducks**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 8, 2010, through February 28, 2011.  
**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Seven ducks, including no more than two hen mallards, two pintail, one canvasback, three scaup, and two redheads. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.  

**Snow Geese**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 8, 2010, and through February 28, 2011.  
**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** 8 and 16, respectively.  

**General Conditions:** All Tribal hunters must have a valid Tribal ID card on his or her person while hunting. Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, and steel shot is required for all migratory bird hunting. Hunters must observe all other basic Federal migratory bird hunting regulations in 50 CFR part 20.  

**(z)** Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Sedro Woolley, Washington (Tribal Members Only).

**Sora and Virginia Rails**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 1, through November 30, 2010.  
**Daily Bag Limit:** 20 coots.  

**Common Snipe and Woodcock**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 1, through November 30, 2010.  
**Daily Bag Limit:** 10 snipe and 10 woodcock.  

**Mourning Dove**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 1, through November 30, 2010.  
**Daily Bag Limit:** 25 doves.  
**General Conditions:** Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Nontoxic shot is required. All other basic Federal migratory bird hunting regulations contained in 50 CFR part 20 will be observed.  

**(cc)** White Mountain Apache Tribe, Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Whiteriver, Arizona (Tribal Members and Nontribal Hunters).

**Band-Tailed Pigeons (Wildlife Management Unit 10 and Areas South of Y–70 and Y–10 in Wildlife Management Unit 7, Only)**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 1 through 15, 2010.  
**Daily Bag and Possession Limits:** Three and six pigeons, respectively.  

**Mourning Doves (Wildlife Management Unit 10 and Areas South of Y–70 and Y–10 in Wildlife Management Unit 7, Only)**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 1 through 15, 2010.  
**Daily Bag Limit for Ducks:** 10 ducks, including no more than 2 female mallards, 1 pintail, and 1 canvasback.  

**Mergansers**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 18, through December 19, 2010.  

**Daily Bag Limit for Mergansers:** Five mergansers, including no more than two hooded mergansers.  

**Geese**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 1 through 26, 2010, and open September 27, through December 19, 2010.  
**Daily Bag Limit:** Eight geese through September 26 and five thereafter.  

**Coots**  
**Season Dates:** Open September 1, through November 30, 2010.  
**Daily Bag Limit:** 20 coots.  

**General Conditions:** All Tribal hunters hunting band-tailed pigeons and mourning doves on Reservation lands shall have in their possession a valid White Mountain Apache Daily or Yearly Small Game Permit. In addition to a small game permit, all nontribal hunters hunting band-tailed pigeons
must have in their possession a White Mountain Special Band-Tailed Pigeon Permit. Other special regulations established by the White Mountain Apache Tribe apply on the reservation. Tribal and nontribal hunters will comply with all basic Federal migratory bird hunting regulations in 50 CFR Part 20 regarding shooting hours and manner of taking.

Will Shafroth,
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.
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