

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 20

RIN 1018-AE93

Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Frameworks for Late-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule prescribes final late-season frameworks from which States may select season dates, limits, and other options for the 1998–99 migratory bird hunting seasons. These late seasons include most waterfowl seasons, the earliest of which generally commence on or about October 1, 1998. The effect of this final rule is to facilitate the selection of hunting seasons by the States to further the annual establishment of the late-season migratory bird hunting regulations. These selections will be published in the **Federal Register** as amendments to §§ 20.101 through 20.107, and § 20.109 of title 50 CFR part 20.

DATES: This rule takes effect on September 29, 1998

ADDRESSES: States should send their season selections to: Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, ms 634-ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. The public may inspect comments during normal business hours in room 634, Arlington Square, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert J. Blohm, Acting Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (703) 358-1838.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Regulations Schedule for 1998**

On March 20, 1998, the Service published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 13748) a proposal to amend 50 CFR part 20. The proposal dealt with the establishment of seasons, limits, and other regulations for migratory game birds under §§ 20.101 through 20.107, 20.109, and 20.110 of subpart K. On May 29, 1998, the Service published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 29518) a second document providing supplemental proposals for early- and late-season migratory bird hunting regulations frameworks and the proposed regulatory alternatives for the 1998–99 duck hunting season. The May 29 supplement also provided detailed

information on the 1998–99 regulatory schedule and announced the Service Migratory Bird Regulations Committee and Flyway Council meetings. On June 25, 1998, the Service held a public hearing in Washington, DC, as announced in the March 20 and May 29 **Federal Registers** to review the status of migratory shore and upland game birds. The Service discussed hunting regulations for these species and for other early seasons. On July 17, 1998, the Service published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 38700) a third document specifically dealing with proposed early-season frameworks for the 1998–99 season. The July 17 supplement also established the final regulatory alternatives for the 1998–99 duck hunting season for all States except Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. On August 5, 1998, the Service published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 41926) a fourth document dealing specifically with the final regulatory alternatives for the 1998–99 duck hunting season for the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. On August 6, 1998, the Service held a public hearing in Washington, DC, as announced in the March 20, May 29, and July 17 **Federal Registers**, to review the status of waterfowl. Proposed hunting regulations were discussed for late seasons. On August 25, 1998, the Service published a fifth document (63 FR 45350) which dealt specifically with proposed frameworks for the 1998–99 late-season migratory bird hunting regulations. On August 28, 1998, the Service published a sixth document (63 FR 46124) containing final frameworks for early migratory bird hunting seasons from which wildlife conservation agency officials from the States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands selected early-season hunting dates, hours, areas, and limits for the 1998–99 season. On August 31, 1998, the Service published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 46336) a seventh document consisting of a final rule amending subpart K of title 50 CFR part 20 to set hunting seasons, hours, areas, and limits for early seasons. This document, which establishes final frameworks for late-season migratory bird hunting regulations for the 1998–99 season, is the eighth in the series.

Review of Flyway Council Recommendations, Public Comments, and the Service's Response The preliminary proposed rulemaking, which appeared in the March 20 **Federal Register**, opened the public-comment period for late-season migratory game bird hunting

regulations. The Service received recommendations from all four Flyway Councils. Public-hearing and written comments received through September 8, 1998, relating to the proposed late-season frameworks are summarized and discussed in the order used in the March 20 **Federal Register**. Only the numbered items pertaining to late seasons for which written comments were received are included. Flyway Council recommendations shown below include only those involving changes from the 1997–98 late-season frameworks. For those topics where a Council recommendation is not shown, the Council supported continuing the same frameworks as in 1997–98.

General

Written Comments: The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) expressed concern that the general public was not well represented in the regulations-development process and requested establishment of a system directly involving the non-hunting public. In addition, they recommended that the Service undertake efforts to obtain population estimates for all hunted species and that all seasons open at noon, mid-week, to reduce the large kills associated with the traditional Saturday openings. They also recommend that pre-sunrise shooting be disallowed.

Service Response: As we have stated previously, when the preliminary proposed rulemaking document was published in the **Federal Register** on March 20, 1998, the Service announced the comment periods for the early-season and late-season proposals and gave notice that the process of promulgating hunting regulations "must, by its nature, operate under time constraints." Ample time must be given to gather and interpret survey data, consider recommendations and develop proposals, and to receive public comment. Scheduled dates are set to give the greatest possible opportunity for public input. The Service is obligated to, and does, give serious consideration to all information received as public comment. The Service has long recognized the problems associated with the length of time necessary to establish the final frameworks, and in conjunction with States, Flyway Councils, and the public, continues to seek new ways to streamline and improve the process.

Regarding the Service's efforts to obtain population estimates, the long-term objectives of the Service 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. Annually, the Service evaluates the status of populations and considers the potential impacts of hunting. The Service believes that the hunting seasons provided herein are consistent with the current status of waterfowl populations and long-term population goals.

Regarding the Humane Society's recommendation for mid-week season openings, the Service has previously stated in the **Federal Register** (58 FR 50190) that a State may choose to delay its opening date to correspond with a particular day of the week or to close earlier to maximize the number of weekends that hunting is allowed.

In regard to shooting hours, the Service has compiled information which demonstrates that shooting hours beginning one-half hour before sunrise do not contribute significantly to the harvest of non-target species. Consistent with the Service's long-term strategy for shooting hours, published in the September 21, 1990, **Federal Register** (55 FR 38898), the frameworks herein provide for shooting hours of one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, unless otherwise specified.

1. Ducks

The categories used to discuss issues related to duck harvest management are as follows: (A) General Harvest Strategy, (B) Framework Dates, (C) Season Length, (D) Closed Seasons, (E) Bag Limits, (F) Zones and Split Seasons, and (G) Special Seasons/Species Management. Only those categories containing substantial recommendations are included below.

A. General Harvest Strategy

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council, the Upper-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council, the Central Flyway Council, and the Pacific Flyway Council recommended adopting the "liberal" alternative for the 1998-99 duck hunting season.

The Lower-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended adoption of the "liberal" alternative with a modification of the framework closing date. Specific details are discussed in B. Framework Dates.

The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the Service and/or the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) Working Group consider: (1) the definition of the blank cells in the AHM matrix, (2) the utility of eliminating the "very restrictive" regulations package, and (3) the utility of a constraint that the

packages may change by no more than one level between consecutive hunting seasons.

Written Comments: The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife concurred with the continuation of the "liberal" package for 1998-99. However, they noted that mallard numbers, as measured by the Northeastern States plot survey, had declined for the third straight year as season lengths have increased. They believed the situation should be closely monitored.

The Minnesota Waterfowl Association recommended a more conservative approach in establishing the 1998-99 regulations in light of anticipated waterfowl population declines. The Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) strongly supported the Service's determination to continue using the AHM approach to setting seasons and bag limits. WMI agreed that an extended period of set regulatory alternatives is essential to maximizing the successful implementation of AHM.

An individual from Maryland recommended decreasing the bag limits over the next two years and the discontinuance of all waterfowl hunting by the year 2000.

Service Response: In 1995, the Service endorsed the concept of adaptive resource management for regulating duck harvests in the United States. The adaptive approach explicitly recognizes that the consequences of hunting regulations cannot be predicted with certainty, and provides a framework for making objective decisions in the face of that uncertainty. Moreover, AHM relies on the iterative cycle of monitoring, assessment, and decision-making to clarify relationships among hunting regulations, harvests, and waterfowl abundance.

A critical need for the successful implementation of AHM is a set of regulatory alternatives that remain fixed for an extended period. When AHM was first implemented in 1995, three regulatory alternatives characterized as liberal, moderate, and restrictive were defined based on recent regulatory experience. The 1995 regulatory alternatives also were used for the 1996 hunting season. In 1997, the regulatory alternatives were modified in response to requests from the Flyway Councils. Changes included provisions for additional hunting opportunity under the moderate and liberal alternatives, as well as the addition of a very restrictive alternative. For the 1998-99 season, no further changes in the set of regulatory alternatives have been made.

To date, AHM has focused primarily on midcontinent mallards, but progress

is being made on extending the process to account for mallards breeding eastward and westward of the midcontinent region. The ultimate goal is to develop Flyway-specific harvest strategies, which represent an average of optimal strategies for each mallard breeding population, weighted by the relative contribution of each population to the respective Flyways. Geographic boundaries used to define midcontinent and eastern mallards have been established, and mathematical models of population dynamics are available for predicting regulatory impacts.

Investigations regarding the geographic bounds and population dynamics of western mallards are ongoing.

AHM strategies for 1998 were derived for midcontinent and eastern mallards, but they do not yet allow for Flyway-specific regulatory choices. The strategy for midcontinent mallards was based on: (1) an objective to maximize long-term harvest and achieve a population goal of 8.7 million; (2) the regulatory alternatives for 1998; and (3) current understanding of regulatory impacts. Based on a breeding population size of 10.6 million mallards (traditional surveyed area plus the Lake States) and 2.5 million ponds in Prairie Canada, the optimal regulatory choice for midcontinent mallards in 1998 is the liberal alternative. The strategy for eastern mallards was based on: (1) an objective to maximize long-term harvest; (2) the regulatory alternatives for 1998; and (3) a "working model" of population dynamics. Based on a breeding population size of 1.0 million mallards and spring precipitation of 11.6 inches, the optimal regulatory choice for eastern mallards in 1998 also is the liberal alternative. Therefore, the Service agrees with the Flyway Councils and will utilize the liberal alternative for the 1998 duck hunting season.

The framework closing date recommended by the Lower-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council differed from those in the "liberal" alternative established in the August 5 **Federal Register**. The Service's frameworks are consistent with the "liberal" alternative outlined in the July 17 and August 5 **Federal Registers** and was supported by the other three Flyway Councils as well as the Mississippi Flyway Council's Upper-Region Regulations Committee.

The Service understands the desire of the Mississippi Flyway Council to clarify some aspects of the current AHM strategies. The "blank cells in the AHM matrix" represent combinations of mallard population size and environmental conditions that are insufficient for an open season on

mallards, given current regulatory alternatives. In the case of midcontinent mallards, the prescriptions for closed seasons largely are a result of the harvest management objective, which emphasizes population growth at the expense of hunting opportunity when mallard numbers are below the NAWMP goal. The Service will request that the AHM working group investigate the implications of eliminating the very restrictive option, and of constraining annual changes among alternatives.

B. Framework Dates

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended that the Service not allow framework date extensions in any States during the 1998–99 season, and that the Service work with the National Flyway Council to develop a process and timetable for addressing the issue.

The Lower-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended framework dates from October 3 to January 31. Any State opting for a framework closure later than the Sunday nearest January 20 would be assessed a 10% penalty in days.

Public Hearing Comments: Mr. Brad Bales, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, spoke on behalf of the Pacific Flyway Council. He indicated that the Council supported and appreciated the Service's decision on the framework issue and was also in strong support of the proposed National Flyway Council review of this issue.

Written Comments: The HSUS recommended that season openings be delayed by 2 weeks in all breeding areas in order to allow ducks time to leave natal marshes before being subjected to hunting.

Service Response: In the August 5 **Federal Register**, the Service outlined the reasons why it did not support an expansion of the framework dates at this time.

Regarding HSUS's comment on the framework opening date, the Service reiterates previous responses that the frameworks provided herein are appropriate and that there is no evidence to indicate that they have adversely impacted local populations.

F. Zones and Split Seasons

Written Comments: The Ohio Division of Wildlife requested elimination of the Pymatuning Waterfowl Hunting Area in Ohio and incorporation of the affected area into the North Zone beginning in the 1998–99 season.

The HSUS urged the Service to discontinue all split and special seasons and recommended that any State

establishing such seasons reduce the total number of hunting days by a minimum of 10 days.

Service Response: In the past, hunting seasons in that portion of Ohio had to be the same as those selected for that portion of Pennsylvania. Beginning this year, the Pymatuning Area will no longer be included in the Federal waterfowl hunting frameworks as a separate area, and will be considered part of Ohio's North Zone.

In regard to the recommendation that split and special seasons be discontinued, the Service notes that States always have the option of selecting a continuous season with no splits. Furthermore, the Service is not aware of any information suggesting that split and special seasons are causing detrimental impacts to populations.

G. Special Seasons/Species Management

1. Black Ducks

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended that the individual Atlantic Flyway States achieve a 42 percent reduction in their black duck harvest during the 1998–99 season compared with the 1977–81 base-line harvest.

Service Response: The Service agrees with the Atlantic Flyway Council's recommendation and acknowledges the Council's concern for the population status of black ducks. Black duck populations remain below the North American Wildlife Management Plan goal and while the decline seems to have halted, little increase is evident. The Service believes the harvest restrictions identified in the 1983 Environmental Assessment should be maintained until a revised harvest strategy is developed.

ii. Canvasbacks. The Service continues to support the canvasback harvest strategy adopted in 1994. Current population and habitat status suggest that a daily bag limit of 1 canvasback during the 1998–99 season will result in a harvest within levels allowed by the strategy.

iii. Pintails. **Council Recommendations:** All four Flyway Councils recommended a daily bag limit of 1 pintail in the 1998–99 hunting season as prescribed by the Interim Pintail Harvest Strategy.

Written Comments: Delta Waterfowl Foundation recommended suspension of the Interim Pintail Strategy pending further review and revision and a daily bag limit of 1 pintail for all Flyways in 1998.

An individual from Washington was concerned with the liberalization of

pintail harvest last year and urged the Service to review the status of pintails.

Service Response: The Service concurs with the Councils' recommendations.

iv. Scaup. **Council recommendations:** The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended a 4-bird daily bag limit for scaup in the Atlantic Flyway, and that the Atlantic Flyway cooperate with the other Flyway Councils and the Service to develop a conservation plan for scaup, to include a harvest management strategy.

The Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the Mississippi Flyway cooperate with other Flyway Councils and the Service to develop a harvest management strategy for scaup prior to the 1999–2000 hunting season. The Council believes that the strategy should address the criteria recommended by the Service in the July 22, 1996 **Federal Register** (61 FR 37994) prior to changing species harvest management: (1) An assessment of how the population responds to harvest and environmental conditions; (2) Criteria that prescribe when regulations should be changed; (3) The levels of changes in regulations that will be considered (e.g., ranges of bag limits and season lengths); and (4) Considerations for determining the efficacy of the harvest strategy. The Council further recommended that the Service take the lead to coordinate strategy development. The Council believes that this is the highest priority of the new species-specific management issues for consideration in developing 1999–2000 duck hunting regulations packages.

The Central Flyway Council recommended no change in scaup regulations for the 1998–99 hunting season and suggested that the Service establish a study group of MBMO biologists and a representative from each of the four Flyways to develop a draft Scaup Harvest Management Strategy prior to the spring 1999 Flyway Technical Committee meetings.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended no internal bag limit restrictions on scaup in the Pacific Flyway for the 1998–99 hunting season. Further, the Council offered their assistance to a cooperative effort to investigate causes of the decline in scaup populations while noting the harvest in the Pacific Flyway was small relative to other Flyways.

Written Comments: The Minnesota Waterfowl Association recommended consideration of a reduction in the daily bag limit for scaup in view of the further decreases in scaup populations. They recommended a 3-bird daily bag limit as a starting point for consideration.

Service Response: The Service supports the Flyway Councils' recommendations for scaup hunting regulations. However, the Service remains concerned about the declining trend in the size of the scaup breeding population and believes that substantial reductions in hunting opportunity may soon be necessary. The Service intends to cooperate with the Flyway Councils in an effort to develop a strategy for guiding scaup harvest management regulations beginning in 1999. This strategy will build upon information in a status report on scaup that the Service currently is preparing.

v. Wood Ducks. Written Comments: The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stated concerns about the effects of longer seasons on total wood duck harvest and the increasing disparity in the harvest between northern and southern States. They noted that wood duck harvest in the Atlantic Flyway had increased 86 percent from 30-day seasons to 60-day seasons and that most of this increased harvest had occurred in the southeastern States of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

They looked forward to developing a fair and equitable harvest strategy for wood ducks.

4. Canada Geese

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended the Service not open the regular hunting season on Atlantic Population (AP) Canada geese during the 1998-99 season. However, the Council recommended that the Service adopt a regular season on the newly defined North Atlantic Population of Canada geese. This season would be offered in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and portions of Massachusetts (Coastal and Central Zones), Connecticut (except for Hartford and Litchfield Counties west of the Connecticut River), and New York (Long Island Zone) and would consist of a 40-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit between October 1 and December 15 (December 31 in New York's Long Island Zone). The Council also recommended that New York be permitted to change the boundary of their regular Canada goose season in western New York (portions of Genesee, Niagara, and Wyoming Counties).

The Upper-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the 1998 regular goose season opening date be as early as September 19 throughout Michigan. The Committee also recommended several changes in Canada goose quotas, season lengths, etc., based on population status and

population management plans and programs.

The Central Flyway Council made several recommendations on goose frameworks. In the East Tier, the Council recommended a Canada goose (or any other goose species except light geese and white-fronted geese) season of 93 days with a daily bag limit of 3. Outside framework dates would be the Saturday nearest October 1 (Oct. 3, 1998) and the Sunday nearest February 15 (Feb. 14, 1999). The Council further recommended that the boundary between Nebraska's East and West Units be modified and that Southwest and Northwest Dark Goose Hunt Units be established in Nebraska. In the West Tier, the Council recommended dark goose outside framework dates of the Saturday nearest October 1 (October 3, 1998) and the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 14, 1999), with a daily bag and possession limits of 4 and 12, respectively. In the western goose zone of Texas, the Council recommended a daily bag limit of 4 Canada geese and 1 white-fronted goose and a possession limit of 14, including no more than 12 Canada geese and 2 white-fronted geese. The Council further recommended an expansion of New Mexico's Middle Rio Grande Valley dark goose zone to include Valencia and the remainder of Socorro Counties.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended that the bag limit for dark geese be increased from 3 to 4 in the Oregon and Washington Special Goose Management Area for both the regular and Special late seasons. The Council also recommended that this limit include no internal restrictions on cackling Canada geese. In addition, the Council recommended that a portion of Grays Harbor County, Washington, be added to the Washington Special Goose Management Area.

Public Hearing Comments: Mr. Brad Bales, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, spoke on behalf of the Pacific Flyway Council. He expressed the support of the States of Washington and Oregon as well as the Council for the Service's endorsement of the proposed changes in dark goose regulations in the dusky Canada goose control zones.

Written Comments: The Michigan Department of Natural Resources disagreed with the Service's reduction in the daily bag limit of Canada geese from 2 birds to 1 in the South Zone during the last 2 days of their proposed early-opening regular Canada goose season if these days coincide with the first two days of the duck season; stating that this change is unnecessarily restrictive to hunters.

The California Department of Fish and Game recommended increasing the possession limit for dark geese in the Southern Zone of California to twice the daily bag limit.

The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission expressed concerns for the problem of crop losses on the State's Eastern Shore, caused by too many Canada geese and the lack of a hunting season. Also, they cite the lack of winter foods for geese since there is no longer an economic incentive to make food available. The Commission recommended consideration of a hunting season on AP Canada geese as soon as the geese can withstand it biologically. Other individuals from Maryland and Virginia recommended consideration of reopening the regular season on AP Canada geese.

An individual from Illinois questioned how the distribution of the Canada goose quota was determined for Illinois' goose zones.

An individual from Minnesota questioned the proposed restrictions for Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) Canada geese in Minnesota. He believes Minnesota shoulders an unfair burden for reducing the EPP harvest compared to South Dakota and North Dakota and recommended a voluntary restraint program. Another individual from Minnesota urged reconsideration of the EPP restrictions.

Service Response: The Service supports the Atlantic Flyway Council's request to adopt a regular season on the North Atlantic Population of Canada geese in the areas described. Monitoring and assessment programs specified in the newly developed interim management plan, 1998-2000, appear to be adequate to determine the status of this population and evaluate the impacts of hunting. Breeding ground surveys in Labrador indicate that this population currently exceeds the population goal stipulated in the plan. The harvest strategy in the plan has targeted a range of harvest rates to be achieved under each regulatory alternative. The "moderate" alternative recommended seems to be appropriate at this time. The Service encourages further development of the management plan during the interim period to include the addition of portions of Newfoundland and Quebec in the breeding survey database and to expand the banding program beyond Prince Edward Island to late-summer staging areas in Newfoundland and Labrador. This information will facilitate updating the population goal and improving harvest-rate estimates. The Service appreciates the efforts of the Council and its Technical Section to delineate

and improve the management of this population.

The Service recognizes the problems related to a closed hunting season on the Atlantic Population but maintains that the recovery to acceptable numbers must be sustained into the future. The good production recorded on the breeding grounds in 1997 and 1998 will help speed the recovery and is encouraging news. A regular season harvest of AP Canada geese will be considered when the breeding population index indicates a sustained recovery and exceeds 60,000 pairs. Until then, no additional harvest is prescribed in any portion of the populations' range that might slow or jeopardize its recovery to objective levels.

The Service concurs with the boundary modification to New York's regular Canada goose season in the western hunt area.

Regarding the Michigan proposal, the Service believes that this change will assist in accomplishing the Mississippi Flyway Council's harvest-management objectives for this hunting season to reduce the harvest of Mississippi Valley Population Canada geese and not increase the harvest of the Southern James Bay Population. The season will still provide additional opportunity, with the earlier opening and retention of the 2-bird daily bag limit for most of the season, to harvest Canada geese from the State's burgeoning resident population.

The Service concurs with the Central Flyway's request for expansion of Canada goose seasons in the east tier. However, this expansion would include a liberalization for Eastern Prairie Population (EPP) of Canada geese in a small portion of Grant County, South Dakota. The Service believes that restrictions for EPP that have been put into effect this year in the Mississippi Flyway should also apply to this area. Historically, this area accounted for about 5% of the EPP recoveries, but has declined to 1.5% in recent years. Neck-collar observations also indicate that the majority of EPP geese do not use this area until after December 1. To address the status of these EPP geese, the Service proposes a bag limit of 3 birds until November 30, and 1 bird thereafter for this area (Power Plant Area) in Grant County, South Dakota. This would be a reduction from the 2-bird daily bag limit last year.

The Service concurs with the Central Flyway Council's recommendation for a boundary modification in Nebraska.

Regarding the Central Flyway Council's recommendations in the West Tier, the Service concurs with the recommendation for a change in the framework closing date for dark geese

from January 31 to the Sunday nearest February 15; however, the Service does not support the change in the possession limit from twice to three times the daily bag limit. The Service maintains a general practice of setting possession limits for all migratory game birds as twice the daily bag limit throughout the conterminous U.S., with the only exceptions for light geese and under certain circumstances for Canada geese, where harvest quotas are in place. Attempts to encourage hunter participation by increasing possession limits have not been shown to be effective, and changes in the general approach of altering possession limits would result in law enforcement concerns. The Service does support the expansion of New Mexico's Middle Rio Grande Valley dark goose zone.

The Service concurs with the Pacific Flyway Council and California's recommendations.

C. Special Late Seasons

Council Recommendations: The Lower-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended that the Service work closely with the Council's Technical Section in evaluating the cumulative effects that special seasons may have on non-target populations.

Written Comments: The Humane Society opposed special late seasons targeting resident geese. They believe that such hunts fail to target the populations ostensibly responsible for conflicts with humans and as such are ineffective.

Service Response: The Service concurs with the Council recommendation and will work with the Council's Technical Section as requested.

Regarding the HSUS's comment that such hunts fail to target specific populations, we recognize the problems caused by increasing populations of resident geese and the continuing concern for the status of certain migratory flocks. However, as we have stated previously, we remain committed to focusing these special seasons on locally-breeding and/or injurious Canada goose populations. The Service and the Flyway Councils have cooperatively reviewed and structured these special seasons to accomplish that objective while protecting migratory flocks. We do not wish to increase the composition of migrants in the harvest beyond that which is currently identified in the criteria for these seasons.

5. White-fronted Geese

Council Recommendations: The Central Flyway Council recommendations regarding dark geese in the West Tier involve white-fronted geese (see item 4. Canada Geese). For the East Tier, the Council recommended a season of 72 days with a daily bag limit of 2 white-fronted geese, or a season of 86 days with a daily bag limit of 1 white-fronted goose.

Service Response: The Service concurs with the recommendation.

7. Snow and Ross' Geese

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended an increase in the daily bag limit to 15, a possession limit of 45, shooting hours ending one-half hour after sunset, and the use of electronic calling devices when other seasons are closed. The Council requested that these changes in basic regulations be implemented as soon as legally possible.

The Upper-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended liberalization of daily bag limits, possession limits, tagging requirements, shooting hours, and hunting methods (electronic calls and unplugged guns) for light geese, following the close of the other waterfowl seasons in an area, to help reduce the population size of snow geese.

The Central Flyway Council recommended a light goose hunting season of 107 days, with a daily bag limit of 20 and a possession limit of 80. The Council also recommended no limit on the number of splits or zones within a season. For the Rainwater Basin area of Nebraska, the Council recommended that the Service eliminate the use of refuges and alternate-day hunting for snow geese during the spring migration period. The Council further recommended that the Service develop a proposed rule to amend the portions of 50 CFR part 20 pertaining to the methods of taking light geese including the use of electronic calls, live decoys and other techniques in the Central Flyway States during regular hunting seasons when other seasons are closed and prior to March 10, with the goal of having those changes in place prior to the beginning of the 1999-2000 light goose season.

Written Comments: The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission provided an alternative to the proposed frameworks for the hunting of light geese during the late-winter period in the Rainwater Basin Area. This alternative includes a four-year study proposal and hunt strategy that would

have an alternating open/closed approach for the western half of the area, i.e. in 1999 the western portion would be closed, in 2000 the entire area would be open, in 2001 the western portion would be closed, and finally in 2002 the entire area would again be open.

The Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) supported the increase of the light goose daily bag limit to 20 with elimination of the possession limit. WMI believes that a daily bag limit of 20 is preferable to larger bag limits or elimination of bag limits.

The HSUS believes that the proposed bag limits for snow geese are too high, devaluing the birds.

An individual from North Dakota recommended all-day hunting for light geese in North Dakota, no bag limits, and discontinuation of the 3-shotgun shell restriction.

Service Response: The Service concurs with the recommendation for a change in the daily bag limit for light geese from 10 to 20; but does not support the recommended change in the possession limit from 40 to 80. Upon review, the Service believes that possession limits for light geese are no longer a useful management tool and proposes to eliminate the possession limit.

The Service does not support the recommendation for use of unlimited splits during light goose seasons. In 1997, the Service allowed an increase from 2 to 3 season segments for geese in all four Flyways. This increase resulted in a more consistent use of split-season options among all Flyways. In addition, within any established season, a State may also designate certain days as non-hunt days, if that hunt strategy is desired. The use of zoning for light geese remains a management tool that is currently not contained by specific guidelines for use by a State. The Service believes that the current ability to divide a 107-day season into 3 segments with the unlimited use of zones provides adequate flexibility for States to set seasons for light geese.

The Service does not support the Central Flyway Council's proposal to eliminate the use of refuges and alternate day hunting for light geese during the late winter-early spring migration period in Nebraska's Rainwater Basin area. The Service continues to have concerns about potential negative impacts on other migratory birds caused by light goose hunting during this period. The Council's current proposal would result in a termination of the experimental late-winter hunting strategy and evaluation proposed by the Council in

1997 and supported by the Service. Finally, the Council's current proposal contains no evaluation component and has the potential to concentrate birds even more than with the experimental approach, contrary to the Council's and Service's objective of reducing light goose concentrations in the area.

Although the Service supports continuation of the experimental approach initiated in February, 1998, to evaluate the impacts of light goose hunting on northern pintails, white-fronted geese, and light geese and to investigate the influence of hunting on the incidence of avian cholera. The Service is prepared to cooperate with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission to develop a mutually acceptable, multi-year experimental approach to hunting light geese in this internationally significant migration area. The Service believes that information gained from experimentation is critical to the development of a strategy that will contribute to reducing the abundance of the mid-continent light goose species while minimizing the negative impacts to other migratory birds.

The study proposal submitted by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has not been fully evaluated at this time, but Service staff will work with representatives from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and research biologists from the U.S. Geological Survey's Biological Resources Division in design of an acceptable research proposal for Nebraska's Rainwater Basin Area. The Service believes that a multi-year strategy must contain an evaluation component that facilitates the most powerful statistical analyses for testing effects of hunting and a valid test for hunting-by-region interaction. Specific effects of hunting on body condition, nutrient-reserve dynamics, time-activity budgets, and daily energy expenditure of lesser snow geese, greater white-fronted geese, and northern pintails should be investigated in this evaluation. Where possible the hunt strategy should also allow for evaluation of the influence of hunting on the incidence of avian cholera. If a mutually acceptable and funded study can be designed by December 1, 1998, the Service would allow this strategy to be implemented during late winter-early spring of 1999.

Further, the Service does not support the recommendation to hunt snow geese after sunset because of the problems involving incidental take of non-target species, retrieving crippled or downed birds, disturbance to roosting sites for other waterfowl, and potential safety

problems created by the increasing darkness.

The Service acknowledges the Councils' requests that would require a change in the basic regulation contained in the 50 Code of Federal Regulations part 20. Such changes are beyond the scope of annual regulation changes addressed in this document. In the coming year, the Service will consider this request and will explore opportunities to initiate a process to evaluate changes in the basic regulations for the hunting of light geese when other seasons are closed, if staff time becomes available.

8. Swans

Written Comments: The HSUS requested that the Service close swan hunting seasons in Utah, Nevada, and the Pacific Flyway portion of Montana, citing that these seasons threatened trumpeter swans.

Service Response: The Service would refer the HSUS to our detailed response in the September 27, 1995, **Federal Register** (60 FR 50042) concerning the establishment of a general swan season. Enhancing Rocky Mountain Population trumpeter swan range expansion while retaining most aspects of tundra swan hunting were covered in detail in our 1995 Environmental Assessment "Proposal to Establish General Swan Seasons in Parts of the Pacific Flyway for the 1995-99 Seasons" (August 1995) which compares various alternative strategies for reconciling conflicting swan management strategies. Copies are available from the Service at the address indicated under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

10. Coots

Written Comments: The HSUS believes that the bag limits for coots are too high, devaluing the birds.

Service Response: Available information indicates that harvest pressure on coots is relatively light and there is no evidence to suggest the frameworks provided are not appropriate.

10. Moorhens and Gallinules

Written Comments: The HSUS believes that the bag limits for moorhens and gallinules are too high, devaluing the birds.

Service Response: Available information indicates that harvest pressure on these birds is relatively light and there is no evidence to suggest the frameworks provided are not appropriate.

23. Other

A. *Compensatory Days*

Written Comments: The HSUS opposes granting compensatory days in those Atlantic Flyway states where Sunday hunting is prohibited. The HSUS believes that hunters in those States should work for the passage of legislation to change State law regarding Sunday closures rather than requesting that the Service compensate them.

Service Response: In 1995, the Service committed to working with the Atlantic Flyway Council to review and better clarify the issue of compensatory days for those States prohibiting Sunday hunting in an attempt to resolve this long-standing issue. In the past, the Service had maintained the policy that this problem was an individual State issue, to be resolved by each State removing their self-imposed restrictions. However, recognizing the difficulties involved with changing State law, the Service was sympathetic to the loss of hunting opportunity that results from the existing prohibitions on Sunday hunting. A 1997 Service assessment suggested that compensatory days for Sunday closures would result in a slight increase in the harvest rates of mallards breeding in eastern Canada and the northeastern U.S., which would be accompanied by a small decrease in average breeding population size. A similar effect was expected on other species. Thus, after examining the various technical and policy concerns, the Service believed that any additional harvest impacts could be adjusted by changing regulatory frameworks where needed and that various administrative and procedural concerns could be managed. Thus, during the 1997–98 hunting season, the Service offered compensatory days to States in accordance to the following guidelines: (1) Only States in the Atlantic Flyway that prohibit Sunday hunting Statewide by State law prior to 1997 were eligible (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia); (2) All Sundays would be closed to all take (including extended falconry) of migratory waterfowl (including mergansers and coots) by Federal rulemaking. Other migratory game species would not be eligible for compensatory days; (3) Season days must run consecutively within prescribed framework dates and season length, excluding the Sunday closure, and conform to existing split-season criteria. Total season days (including extended falconry) must not exceed 107 days. The Service sees no compelling reason to change this policy

and, therefore, will continue to offer compensatory days to those States in the Atlantic Flyway that meet the above outlined conditions/guidelines.

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 EPA on June 9, 1988. The Service published a Notice of Availability in the June 16, 1988, **Federal Register** (53 FR 22582). The Service published its Record of Decision on August 18, 1988 (53 FR 31341). Copies of these documents are available from the Service at the address indicated under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

Endangered Species Act Considerations

As in the past, the Service designs hunting regulations to remove or alleviate chances of conflict between migratory game bird hunting seasons and the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened species. Consultations have been conducted to ensure that actions resulting from these regulatory proposals will 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 and may cause modification of some regulatory measures previously proposed. The final frameworks reflect any modifications. The Service's biological opinions resulting from its Section 7 consultation are public documents available for public inspection in the Service's Division of Endangered Species and MBMO, at the address indicated under the caption **ADDRESSES**.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

In the March 20, 1998, **Federal Register**, the Service reported measures it took to comply with requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. One measure was to update the 1996 Small Entity Flexibility Analysis (Analysis) documenting the significant beneficial economic effect on a substantial number of small entities. The 1996 Analysis estimated that migratory bird hunters would spend between \$254 and \$592 million at small businesses. The Service has updated the 1996 Analysis with information from the 1996 National Hunting and Fishing Survey. Nationwide, the Service now estimates that migratory bird hunters will spend between \$429 and \$1,084 million at

small businesses in 1998. Copies of the 1998 Analysis are available upon request from the Office of Migratory Bird Management.

Executive Order (E.O.) 12866

This rule is economically significant and was reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under E.O. 12866.

E.O. 12866 requires each agency to write regulations that are easy to understand. The Service invites comments on how to make this rule easier to understand, including answers to questions such as the following: (1) Are the requirements in the rule clearly stated? (2) Does the rule contain technical language or jargon that interferes with its clarity? (3) Does the format of the rule (grouping and order of sections, use of headings, paragraphing, etc.) aid or reduce its clarity? (4) Would the rule be easier to understand if it were divided into more (but shorter) sections? (5) Is the description of the rule in the "Supplementary Information" section of the preamble helpful in understanding the rule? What else could the Service do to make the rule easier to understand? Send a copy of any comments that concern how this rule could be made easier to understand to: Office of Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Interior, Room 7229, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240. Comments may also be e-mailed to: Exsec@ios.doi.gov.

Congressional Review

In accordance with Section 251 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 8), this rule has been submitted to Congress and has been declared major. Because this rule establishes hunting seasons, this rule qualifies for an exemption under 5 U.S.C. 808(1); therefore, the Department determines that this rule shall take effect immediately.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The Service examined these regulations under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. 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, the information collection requirements of the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program have been approved by OMB and assigned clearance number 1018–0015 (expires 09/30/2001). This information is used to provide a sampling frame for voluntary national

surveys to improve Service harvest estimates for all migratory game birds in order to better manage these populations. The Service 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

The Service has determined and certifies in compliance with the requirements of the Unfunded Mandates 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.

Civil Justice Reform—Executive Order 12988

The Department, in promulgating this rule, has determined that these regulations meet the applicable standards provided in Sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988.

Takings Implication Assessment

In accordance with Executive Order 12630, these rules, authorized by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, do not have significant takings implications and do not affect any constitutionally protected property rights. These rules 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 privileges that would be otherwise unavailable; and, therefore, reduce restrictions on the use of private and public property.

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. The Service annually prescribes frameworks from which the States make selections and employs 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 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 allows States to participate in the development of frameworks from which they will make selections, thereby having an influence on their own regulation. 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 12612, these regulations do not have significant federalism effects and do not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

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) and 512 DM 2, we have evaluated possible effects on Federally recognized Indian tribes and have determined that there are no effects.

Regulations Promulgation

The rulemaking process for migratory game bird hunting must, by its nature, operate under severe time constraints. However, the Service intends that the public be given the greatest possible opportunity to comment on the regulations. Thus, when the preliminary proposed rulemaking was published, the Service established what it believed were the longest periods possible for public comment. In doing this, the Service 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, the States would have insufficient time to select season dates and limits; to communicate those selections to the Service; and to establish and publicize the necessary regulations and procedures to implement their decisions. Therefore, the Service, under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (July 3, 1918), as amended, (16 U.S.C. 703-711), prescribes 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 and option selections from these officials, the Service will publish in the **Federal Register** a final rulemaking amending 50 CFR part 20 to reflect seasons, limits, and shooting hours for the conterminous United States for the 1998-99 season.

The Service therefore finds that "good cause" exists, within the terms of 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and these alternatives will, therefore, take effect immediately upon publication.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 20

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

The rules that eventually will be promulgated for the 1998-99 hunting season are authorized under 16 U.S.C. 703-712 and 16 U.S.C. 742 a-j.

Dated: September 18, 1998.

Donald J. Barry,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

Final Regulations Frameworks for 1998-99 Late Hunting Seasons on Certain Migratory Game Birds

Pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and delegated authorities, the Department has approved frameworks for season lengths, shooting hours, bag and possession limits, and outside dates within which States may select seasons for hunting waterfowl and coots between the dates of September 1, 1998, and March 10, 1999.

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 twice the daily bag limit.

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.

Management Units

High Plains Mallard Management Unit—roughly defined as that portion of the Central Flyway which lies west of the 100th meridian.

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

Dark geese—Canada geese, white-fronted geese, brant, and all other goose species except light geese.

Light geese—snow (including blue) geese and Ross' geese.

Area, Zone, and Unit Descriptions: Geographic descriptions related to late-season 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.

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

*Atlantic Flyway**Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots*

Outside Dates: Between October 1 and January 20.

Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits: 60 days and daily bag limit of 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (2 hens), 4 scaup, 1 black duck, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 2 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, and 4 scoters.

Closures: The season on harlequin ducks is closed.

Sea 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 duck 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) and possession limits.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit of mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser.

Coot Limits: The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

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

Zoning and Split Seasons: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North

Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia may split their seasons into three segments; Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and West Virginia may select hunting seasons by zones and may split their seasons into two segments in each zone.

Canada Geese

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: Specific regulations for Canada geese are shown below by State. The Canada goose season is suspended throughout a major portion of the Flyway except as noted. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.

Connecticut: Statewide, except for Hartford and Litchfield Counties west of the Connecticut River, a 40-day season may be held between October 1 and December 15 with a daily bag of 2. A special experimental season may be held in the South Zone between January 15 and February 15, with 5 geese per day.

Florida: A 70-day season may be held between November 15 to February 15, with 5 geese per day.

Georgia: In specific areas, a 70-day season may be held between November 15 and February 15, with a limit of 5 Canada geese per day.

Maine: A 40-day season may be held Statewide between October 1 and December 15 with a daily bag of 2.

Maryland: In designated areas, a 40-day season may be held between November 15 to January 14, with 2 geese per day. An experimental season in designated areas of western Maryland may be held from January 15 to February 15, with 5 geese per day.

Massachusetts: In the Central Zone and a portion of the Coastal Zone a 40-day season may be held between October 1 to December 15 with a daily bag of 2, and a special season may be held from January 15 to February 15, with 5 geese per day.

New Hampshire: A 40-day season may be held statewide between October 1 and December 15 with a daily bag of 2.

New Jersey: An experimental season may be held in designated areas of North and South New Jersey from January 15 to February 15, with 5 geese per day.

New York: In designated areas, a 70-day season may be held between November 15 and January 30, with 2 geese per day. In the Long Island Zone, a 40-day season may be held between October 1 and December 31 with a daily bag of 2. An experimental season may be held between January 15 and

February 15, with 5 geese daily in designated areas of Chemung, Delaware, Tioga, Broome, Sullivan, Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk, Orange, Dutchess, Putnam, and Rockland Counties.

North Carolina: A 46-day season may be held between October 1 and November 15, with 2 geese per day Statewide, except for the Northeast Hunt Unit and Northampton County.

Pennsylvania: In designated areas, a 40-day season may be held between November 15 to January 14, with 2 geese per day. In Erie, Mercer, and Butler Counties, a 70-day season may be held between October 1 and January 31, with 2 geese per day. In Crawford County, a 35-day season may be held between October 1 and January 20, with 1 goose per day. An experimental season may be held in the designated areas of western Pennsylvania from January 15 to February 15 with 5 geese per day.

Rhode Island: A 40-day season may be held between October 1 and December 15 with a daily bag of 2. An experimental season may be held in a designated area from January 15 to February 15, with 5 geese per day.

South Carolina: In designated areas, a 70-day season may be held during November 15 to February 15, with a daily bag limit of 5 birds.

Virginia: In designated areas, a 40-day season may be held between November 15 to January 14, with 2 geese per day. An experimental season may be held between January 15 to February 15, with 5 geese per day, in all areas west of Interstate 95.

West Virginia: a 70-day season may be held between October 1 and January 31, with 3 geese per day.

Light Geese

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with 15 geese per day and no possession limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.

Brant

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: States may select a 50-day season between October 1 and January 20, with 2 brant per day. States may split their seasons into two segments.

*Mississippi Flyway**Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots*

Outside Dates: Between the Saturday nearest October 1 (October 3) and the Sunday nearest January 20 (January 17).

Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits: 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),

3 mottled ducks, 1 black duck, 1 pintail, 2 wood ducks, 1 canvasback, and 2 redheads.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser.

Coot Limits: The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

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

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

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

Geese

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

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: States may select seasons for geese not to exceed 70 days for dark geese between the Saturday nearest October 1 (October 3) and January 31, and 107 days for light geese between the Saturday nearest October 1 (October 3) and March 10. The daily bag limit is 20 light geese, 2 white-fronted geese, and 2 brant. There is no possession limit for light geese. Specific regulations for Canada geese and exceptions to the above general provisions are shown below by State.

Alabama: In the Southern James Bay Population (SJB) Goose Zone, the season for Canada geese may not exceed 35 days. Elsewhere, the season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days in the respective duck-hunting zones. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Arkansas: The season for Canada geese may extend for 23 days in the East Zone and 16 days in the West Zone. In both zones, the season may extend to February 15. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese. In the remainder of the State, the season for Canada geese is closed. For white-fronted geese, the season may extend to February 15.

Illinois: The total harvest of Canada geese in the State will be limited to 40,800 birds. Limits are 1 Canada goose daily and 10 in possession, except for the last 14 days in each zone, when the limit is 2 Canada geese daily.

(a) North Zone—The season for Canada geese will close after 67 days or when 5,600 birds have been harvested

in the Northern Illinois Quota Zone, whichever occurs first. The season may be split into 3 segments.

(b) Central Zone—The season for Canada geese will close after 67 days or when 7,100 birds have been harvested in the Central Illinois Quota Zone, whichever occurs first. The season may be split into 3 segments.

(c) South Zone—The harvest of Canada geese in the Southern Illinois and Rend Lake Quota Zones will be limited to 13,100 and 2,300 birds, respectively. The season for Canada geese in each zone will close after 67 days or when the harvest limit has been reached, whichever occurs first. In the Southern Illinois Quota Zone, if any of the following conditions exist after December 20, the State, after consultation with the Service, will close the season by emergency order with 48 hours notice:

(1) Average body weights of adult female geese less than 3,200 grams as measured from a weekly sample of a minimum of 50 geese.

(2) Starvation or a major disease outbreak resulting in observed mortality exceeding 5,000 birds in 10 days, or a total mortality exceeding 10,000 birds.

In the remainder of the South Zone, the season may extend for 67 days or until both the Southern Illinois and Rend Lake Quota Zones have been closed, whichever occurs first.

Indiana: The total harvest of Canada geese in the State will be limited to 10,500 birds. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(a) Posey County—The season for Canada geese will close after 66 days or when the Canada goose harvest at the Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area exceeds 760 birds, whichever occurs first.

(b) North Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 51 days, except in the SJB Zone, where the season may not exceed 35 days.

(c) Remainder of the State—The season for Canada geese may extend for 56 days.

Iowa: The season may extend for 70 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese through October 31 and 1 Canada goose thereafter, except in the South Zone where the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese beginning December 1.

Kentucky

(a) Western Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 50 days (65 days in Fulton County), and the harvest will be limited to 9,000 birds. Of the 9,000-bird quota, 5,800 birds will be allocated to the Ballard Reporting Area and 1,800 birds will be allocated to the Henderson/Union Reporting Area. If the

quota in either reporting area is reached prior to completion of the 50-day season, the season in that reporting area will be closed. If this occurs, the season in those counties and portions of counties outside of, but associated with, the respective reporting area (listed in State regulations) may continue for an additional 7 days, not to exceed a total of 50 days (65 days in Fulton County). The season in Fulton County may extend to February 15. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(b) Pennyroyal/Coalfield Zone—The season may extend for 35 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(c) Remainder of the State—The season may extend for 50 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Louisiana: The season for Canada geese may extend for 9 days. During the season, the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, no more than 1 of which may be a Canada goose. Hunters participating in the Canada goose season must possess a special permit issued by the State. The season for white-fronted geese may extend to February 15.

Michigan: The total harvest of Canada geese in the State will be limited to 22,900 birds. The framework opening date for all geese is September 19.

(a) North Zone—If the season for Canada geese opens September 19, it may extend for 16 days. If the season opens October 3 or later, it may extend for 7 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(b) Middle Zone—If the season for Canada geese opens September 19, it may extend for 16 days. If the season opens October 3 or later, it may extend for 7 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(c) South Zone.

(1) Allegan County GMU—The season for Canada geese will close after 21 days or when 880 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(2) Muskegon Wastewater GMU—The season for Canada geese will close after 22 days or when 280 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(3) Saginaw County GMU—The season for Canada geese will close after 50 days or when 2,000 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(4) Tuscola/Huron GMU—The season for Canada geese will close after 50 days or when 750 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(5) Remainder of South Zone—If the season for Canada geese opens September 19, it may extend for 16

days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese, except during that portion of the season that overlaps the duck season, when the daily bag limit is one Canada goose. If the season opens October 3 or later, it may extend for 9 days with a daily bag limit of 1 Canada goose.

(d) Southern Michigan GMU—A special Canada goose season may be held between January 9 and February 7. The daily bag limit is 5 Canada geese.

(e) Central Michigan GMU—An experimental special Canada goose season may be held between January 9 and February 7. The daily bag limit is 5 Canada geese.

Minnesota

(a) West Zone.

(1) West Central Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 20 days. In the Lac Qui Parle Zone, the season will close after 20 days or when 10,000 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. Throughout the West Central Zone, the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(2) Remainder of West Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 25 days. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(b) Northwest Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 20 days. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

(c) Northeast Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(d) Remainder of the State—The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days, except in the Twin Cities Metro Zone and Olmsted County, where the season may not exceed 80 days. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose for the first 30 days of the season, and 2 Canada geese thereafter.

(e) Fergus Falls/Alexandria Zone—A special Canada goose season of up to 10 days may be held in December. During the special season, the daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Mississippi: The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days. The daily bag limit is 3 Canada geese.

Missouri

(a) Swan Lake Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 40 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese through November 30, and 1 Canada goose thereafter.

(b) Schell-Osage Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 40 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese through November 30, and 1 Canada goose thereafter.

(c) Remainder of the State:

(1) North Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 60 days, with no more than 30 days after November 30. The season may be split

into 3 segments, provided that one segment of at least 9 days occurs prior to October 15. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(2) Middle Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 60 days with no more than 30 days after November 30. The season may be split into 3 segments, provided that at least one segment occurs prior to December 1. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(3) South Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 60 days. The season may be split into 3 segments, provided that at least one segment occurs prior to December 1. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Ohio: The season may extend for 70 days in the respective duck-hunting zones, with a daily bag limit of 2 Canada geese, except in the Lake Erie SJBZ Zone, where the season may not exceed 30 days and the daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose.

Tennessee

(a) Northwest Zone—The season for Canada geese will close after 65 days or when 3,400 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. The season may extend to February 15. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(b) Southwest Zone—The season for Canada geese may extend for 50 days, and the harvest will be limited to 400 birds. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

(c) Kentucky/Barkley Lakes Zone—The season for Canada geese will close after 50 days or when 1,800 birds have been harvested, whichever occurs first. All geese harvested must be tagged. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese. In lieu of the quota and tagging requirement above, the State may select either a 50-day season with a 1-bird daily bag limit or a 35-day season with a 2-bird daily bag limit for this Zone.

(d) Remainder of the State—The season for Canada geese may extend for 70 days. The daily bag limit is 2 Canada geese.

Wisconsin: The total harvest of Canada geese in the State will be limited to 32,500 birds.

(a) Horicon Zone—The framework opening date for all geese is September 19. The harvest of Canada geese is limited to 15,500 birds. The season may not exceed 86 days. All Canada geese harvested must be tagged. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose and the season limit will be the number of tags issued to each permittee.

(b) Collins Zone—The framework opening date for all geese is September 19. The harvest of Canada geese is limited to 500 birds. The season may not exceed 68 days. All Canada geese

harvested must be tagged. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose and the season limit will be the number of tags issued to each permittee.

(c) Exterior Zone—The framework opening date for all geese is October 3. The harvest of Canada geese is limited to 12,000 birds, with 500 birds allocated to the Mississippi River Subzone. The season may not exceed 49 days, except in the Mississippi River Subzone, where the season may not exceed 70 days. The daily bag limit is 1 Canada goose. In that portion of the Exterior Zone outside the Mississippi River Subzone, the progress of the harvest must be monitored, and the season closed, if necessary, to ensure that the harvest does not exceed 12,000 birds.

Additional Limits: In addition to the harvest limits stated for the respective zones above, an additional 4,500 Canada geese may be taken in the Horicon Zone under special agricultural permits.

Quota Zone Closures: When it has been determined that the quota of Canada geese allotted to the Northern Illinois, Central Illinois, Southern Illinois, and Rend Lake Quota Zones in Illinois, Posey County in Indiana, the Ballard and Henderson-Union Subzones in Kentucky, the Allegan County, Muskegon Wastewater, Saginaw County, and Tuscola/Huron Goose Management Units in Michigan, the Lac Qui Parle Zone in Minnesota, the Northwest and Kentucky/Barkley Lakes (if applicable) Zones in Tennessee, and the Exterior Zone in Wisconsin will have been filled, the season for taking Canada geese in the respective zone (and associated area, if applicable) will be closed by either the Director upon giving public notice through local information media at least 48 hours in advance of the time and date of closing, or by the State through State regulations with such notice and time (not less than 48 hours) as they deem necessary.

Central Flyway

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

Outside Dates: Between the Saturday nearest October 1 (October 3) and the Sunday nearest January 20 (January 17).

Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits:

(1) High Plains Mallard Management Unit (roughly defined as that portion of the Central Flyway which lies west of the 100th meridian): 97 days and a daily bag limit of 6 ducks, including no more than 5 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be hens) 1 mottled duck, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, and 2 wood ducks. The last 23 days may start no earlier than the Saturday nearest December 10 (December 12).

(2) Remainder of the Central Flyway: 74 days and a daily bag limit of 6 ducks, including no more than 5 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be hens), 1 mottled duck, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail, 2 redheads, and 2 wood ducks.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit is 5 mergansers, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser.

Coot Limits: The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

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

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

In Colorado, the season may be split into three segments.

Geese

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 October 1 (October 3) and the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 14), except for white-fronted geese in east tier States, where the closing date is January 31. For light geese, outside dates for seasons may be selected between the Saturday nearest October 1 (October 3) and March 10, except in the Rainwater Basin Light Goose Area of Nebraska where the closing date is February 1 in the West and March 10 in the East with temporal and spatial restrictions consistent with the experimental late-winter snow goose hunting strategy endorsed by the Central Flyway Council in July 1997, or with an alternative multi-year experimental strategy that includes evaluation of the impacts of hunting light geese on other species of migratory birds if such an alternative can be mutually developed by the Service and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission by December 1, 1998.

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 20 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 93 days with a daily bag limit of 3. For white-fronted geese, these States may select either a season of 72 days with a bag limit of 2 or an 86-day season with a bag limit of 1.

In South Dakota, for Canada geese in the Power Plant Area of Dark Goose Unit 1, the daily bag limit is 3 until November 30 and 1 thereafter.

In Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming, States may select seasons not to exceed 107 days. The daily bag limit for dark geese is 4 in the aggregate.

In the Western Goose Zone of Texas, the season may not exceed 107 days. The daily bag limit for Canada geese (or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese) is 4. The daily bag limit for white-fronted geese is 1.

Pacific Flyway

Ducks, Mergansers, Coots, and Common Moorhens

Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits: Concurrent 107 days and daily bag limit of 7 ducks and mergansers, including no more than 2 female mallards, 1 pintail, 2 redheads and 1 canvasback.

The season on coots and common moorhens may be between the outside dates for the season on ducks, but not to exceed 107 days.

Coot and Common Moorhen Limits: The daily bag and possession limits of coots and common moorhens are 25, singly or in the aggregate.

Outside Dates: Between the Saturday nearest October 1 (October 3) and the Sunday nearest January 20 (January 17).

Zoning and Split Seasons: Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington may select hunting seasons by zones.

Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington may split their seasons into two segments.

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

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

Geese

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: Except as subsequently noted, 100-day seasons may be selected, with outside dates between the Saturday nearest October 1 (October 3), and the Sunday nearest January 20 (January 17), and the basic daily bag limits are 3 light geese and 4 dark geese, except in California, Oregon, and Washington,

where the dark goose bag limit does not include brant.

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.

Brant Season—A 16-consecutive-day season may be selected in Oregon and Washington, and a 30-consecutive-day season may be selected in California. In these States, the daily bag limit is 2 brant and is in addition to dark goose limits.

Closures: There will be no open season on Aleutian Canada geese in the Pacific Flyway. The States of California, Oregon, and Washington must include a statement on the closure for that subspecies in their respective regulations leaflet. Emergency closures may be invoked for all Canada geese should Aleutian Canada goose distribution patterns or other circumstances justify such actions.

Arizona: The daily bag limit for dark geese is 2.

California

Northeastern Zone—White-fronted geese and cackling Canada geese may be taken only during the first 23 days of the goose season. The daily bag limit is 3 geese and may include no more than 2 dark geese; including not more than 1 cackling Canada goose.

Colorado River Zone—The seasons and limits must be the same as those selected in the adjacent portion of Arizona (South Zone).

Southern Zone—The daily bag limit for dark geese is 2 geese, including not more than 1 cackling Canada goose.

Balance-of-the-State Zone—A 79-day season may be selected. Limits may not include more than 3 geese per day and 6 in possession, of which not more than 2 daily and 4 in possession may be white-fronted geese and not more than 1 daily or 2 in possession may be cackling Canada geese.

Three areas in the Balance-of-the-State Zone are restricted in the hunting of certain geese:

(1) In the Counties of Del Norte and Humboldt, there will be no open season for Canada geese.

(2) In the Sacramento Valley Area, the season on white-fronted geese must end on or before December 14, and, except in the Western Canada Goose Hunt Area, there will be no open season for Canada geese.

(3) In the San Joaquin Valley Area, the hunting season for Canada geese will close no later than November 23.

Colorado: The daily bag limit for dark geese is 2 geese.

Idaho

Northern Unit—The daily bag limit is 4 geese, including 4 dark geese, but not more than 3 light geese.

Southwest Unit and Southeastern Unit—The daily bag limit on dark geese is 4.

Montana

West of Divide Zone and East of Divide Zone—The daily bag limit of dark geese is 4.

Nevada

Lincoln and Clark County Zone—The daily bag limit of dark geese is 2.

New Mexico: The daily bag limit of dark geese is 3.

Oregon: Except as subsequently noted, the dark goose daily bag limit is 4, including not more than 1 cackling Canada goose.

Harney, Lake, Klamath, and Malheur Counties Zone—The season length may be 100 days. The dark goose limit is 4, including not more than 2 white-fronted geese and 1 cackling Canada goose.

Western Zone—In the Special Canada Goose Management Area, except for designated areas, there shall be no open season on Canada geese. In the designated areas, individual quotas shall be established which collectively shall not exceed 165 dusky Canada geese. See section on quota zones. In those designated areas, the daily bag limit of dark geese is 4 and may include 4 cackling Canada geese.

Utah: The daily bag limit for dark geese is 2 geese.

Washington: The daily bag limit is 4 geese, including 4 dark geese but not more than 3 light geese.

West Zone—In the Lower Columbia River Special Goose Management Area, except for designated areas, there shall be no open season on Canada geese. In the designated areas, individual quotas shall be established which collectively shall not exceed 85 dusky Canada geese. See section on quota zones. In this area, the daily bag limit of dark geese is 4 and may include 4 cackling Canada geese.

Wyoming: The daily bag limit is 4 dark geese.

Quota Zones: Seasons on dark geese must end upon attainment of individual quotas of dusky Canada geese allotted to the designated areas of Oregon and Washington. The September Canada goose season, the regular goose season, any special late dark goose season, and any extended falconry season, combined, must not exceed 107 days and the established quota of dusky Canada geese must not be exceeded.

Hunting of dark geese in those designated areas shall only be by hunters possessing a State-issued permit authorizing them to do so. In a Service-approved investigation, the State must obtain quantitative information on hunter compliance of those regulations aimed at reducing the take of dusky Canada geese and eliminating the take of Aleutian Canada geese.

In the designated areas of the Washington Quota Zone, a special late dark goose season may be held between January 23 and March 10. The daily bag limit may not include Aleutian Canada geese. In the Special Canada Goose Management Area of Oregon, the framework closing date is extended the Sunday closest to March 1 (Feb. 28).

Swans

In designated areas of Utah, Nevada, and the Pacific Flyway portion of Montana, an open season for taking a limited number of swans may be selected. Permits will be issued by States and will authorize each permittee to take no more than 1 swan per season. The season may open no earlier than the Saturday nearest October 1 (October 3). The States must implement a harvest-monitoring program to measure the species composition of the swan harvest. In Utah and Nevada, 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. All States should use appropriate measures to maximize hunter compliance in providing bagged swans for examination or, in the case of Montana, reporting bill-measurement and color information. All States must provide to the Service by June 30, 1998, a report covering harvest, hunter participation, reporting compliance, and monitoring of swan populations in the designated hunt areas. These seasons will be subject to the following conditions:

In Utah, no more than 2,750 permits may be issued. The season must end no later than the first Sunday in December (December 6) or upon attainment of 15 trumpeter swans in the harvest, whichever occurs earliest.

In Nevada, no more than 650 permits may be issued. The season must end no later than the Sunday following January 1 (January 3) or upon attainment of 5 trumpeter swans in the harvest, whichever occurs earliest.

In Montana, no more than 500 permits may be issued. The season must end no later than December 1.

Tundra Swans

In Central Flyway portion of Montana, and in North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota (east of the Missouri River), and Virginia, an open season for taking a limited number of tundra swans may be selected. Permits will be issued by the States and will authorize each permittee to take no more than 1 tundra swan per season. The States must obtain harvest and hunter participation data. These seasons will be subject to the following conditions:

In the Atlantic Flyway

- The season will be experimental.
- The season may be 90 days, from October 1 to January 31.
- In North Carolina, no more than 5,000 permits may be issued.
- In Virginia, no more than 600 permits may be issued.

In the Central Flyway

- The season may be 107 days and must occur during the light goose season.
- In the Central Flyway portion of Montana, no more than 500 permits may be issued.
- In North Dakota, no more than 2,000 permits may be issued.
- In South Dakota, no more than 1,500 permits may be issued.

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 and Maine border 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 Interstate Highway 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 United States border.

South Zone: Remainder of the State.

Massachusetts

Western Zone: That portion of the State west of a line extending south from the Vermont border 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 border.

Central Zone: That portion of the State east of the Berkshire Zone and west of a line extending south from the New Hampshire border 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 border; 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

Coastal Zone: That portion of the State east of a line extending west from Maine border in Rollinsford on NH 4 to the city of Dover, south to NH 108, south along NH 108 through Madbury, Durham, and Newmarket to NH 85 in Newfields, south to NH 101 in Exeter, east to NH 51 (Exeter-Hampton Expressway), east to I-95 (New Hampshire Turnpike) in Hampton, and south along I-95 to the Massachusetts border.

Inland Zone: That portion of the State north and west of the above boundary.

New Jersey

Coastal Zone: That portion of the State seaward of a line beginning at the New York border in Raritan Bay and extending west along the New York border to NJ 440 at Perth Amboy; west on NJ 440 to the Garden State Parkway; south on the Garden State Parkway to the shoreline at Cape May and continuing to the Delaware border 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 border 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: The U.S. portion of Lake Champlain and that area east and north of a line extending along NY 9B from the Canadian border 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 border.

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 border.

Northeastern Zone: That area north of a line extending from Lake Ontario east along the north shore of the Salmon River to I-81, south along I-81 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 I-87, north along I-87 to U.S. 9 (at Exit 20), north along U.S. 9 to NY 149, east along NY 149 to U.S. 4, north along U.S. 4 to the Vermont border, 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 the Canadian border.

Interior Zone: The remaining portion of Vermont.

West Virginia

Zone 1: That portion outside the boundaries in Zone 2.

Zone 2 (Allegheny Mountain Upland): That area bounded by a line extending south along U.S. 220 through Keyser to U.S. 50; U.S. 50 to WV 93; WV 93 south to WV 42; WV 42 south to Petersburg; WV 28 south to Minnehaha Springs; WV 39 west to U.S. 219; U.S. 219 south to I-64; I-64 west to U.S. 60; U.S. 60 west to U.S. 19; U.S. 19 north to I-79, I-79

north to U.S. 48; U.S. 48 east to the Maryland border; and along the border to the point of beginning.

Mississippi Flyway

Alabama

South Zone: Mobile and Baldwin Counties.

North Zone: The remainder of Alabama.

Illinois

North Zone: That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the Iowa border along Illinois Highway 92 to Interstate Highway 280, east along I-280 to I-80, then east along I-80 to the Indiana border.

Central Zone: That portion of the State south of the North Zone to a line extending east from the Missouri border along the Modoc Ferry route to Modoc Ferry Road, east along Modoc Ferry Road to Modoc Road, northeasterly along Modoc Road and St. Leo's Road to Illinois Highway 3, north along Illinois 3 to Illinois 159, north along Illinois 159 to Illinois 161, east along Illinois 161 to Illinois 4, north along Illinois 4 to Interstate Highway 70, east along I-70 to the Bond County line, north and east along the Bond County line to Fayette County, north and east along the Fayette County line to Effingham County, east and south along the Effingham County line to I-70, then east along I-70 to the Indiana border.

South Zone: The remainder of Illinois.

Indiana

North Zone: That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the Illinois border along State Road 18 to U.S. Highway 31, north along U.S. 31 to U.S. 24, east along U.S. 24 to Huntington, then southeast along U.S. 224 to the Ohio border.

Ohio River Zone: That portion of the State south of a line extending east from the Illinois border along Interstate Highway 64 to New Albany, east along State Road 62 to State 56, east along State 56 to Vevay, east and north on State 156 along the Ohio River to North Landing, north along State 56 to U.S. Highway 50, then northeast along U.S. 50 to the Ohio border.

South Zone: That portion of the State between the North and Ohio River Zone boundaries.

Iowa

North Zone: That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the Nebraska border along State Highway 175 to State 37, southeast along State 37 to U.S. Highway 59, south along U.S. 59 to Interstate Highway 80, then east along I-80 to the Illinois 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

West Zone: That portion of the State west of a line extending south from the Arkansas border along Louisiana Highway 3 to Bossier City, east along Interstate Highway 20 to Minden, south along Louisiana 7 to Ringgold, east along Louisiana 4 to Jonesboro, south along U.S. Highway 167 to Lafayette, southeast along U.S. 90 to Houma, then south along the Houma Navigation Channel to the Gulf of Mexico through Cat Island Pass.

East Zone: The remainder of Louisiana.

Catahoula Lake Area: All of Catahoula Lake, including those portions known locally as Round Prairie, Catfish Prairie, and Frazier's Arm. See State regulations for additional information.

Michigan

North Zone: The Upper Peninsula.

Middle Zone: That portion of the Lower Peninsula north of a line beginning at the Wisconsin border 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, east along U.S. 10 BR to U.S. 10, east along U.S. 10 to Interstate Highway 75/U.S. Highway 23, north along I-75/U.S. 23 to the U.S. 23 exit at Standish, east along U.S. 23 to Shore Road in Arenac County, east along Shore Road to the tip of Point Lookout, then on a line directly east 10 miles into Saginaw Bay, and from that point on a line directly northeast to the Canada border.

South Zone: The remainder of Michigan.

Mississippi

Zone 1: Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties.

Zone 2: The remainder of Mississippi.

Missouri

North Zone: That portion of Missouri north of a line running west from the Illinois border along Interstate Highway 70 to U.S. Highway 54, south along U.S.

54 to U.S. 50, then west along U.S. 50 to the Kansas border.

South Zone: That portion of Missouri south of a line running west from the Illinois border along Missouri Highway 34 to Interstate Highway 55; south along I-55 to U.S. Highway 62, west along U.S. 62 to Missouri 53, north along Missouri 53 to Missouri 51, north along Missouri 51 to U.S. 60, west along U.S. 60 to Missouri 21, north along Missouri 21 to Missouri 72, west along Missouri 72 to Missouri 32, west along Missouri 32 to U.S. 65, north along U.S. 65 to U.S. 54, west along U.S. 54 to Missouri 32, south along Missouri 32 to Missouri 97, south along Missouri 97 to Dade County NN, west along Dade County NN to Missouri 37, west along Missouri 37 to Jasper County N, west along Jasper County N to Jasper County M, west along Jasper County M to the Kansas border.

Middle Zone: The remainder of Missouri.

Ohio

North Zone: The Counties of Darke, Miami, Clark, Champaign, Union, Delaware, Licking (excluding the Buckeye Lake Area), Muskingum, Guernsey, Harrison and Jefferson and all counties north thereof.

Ohio River Zone: The Counties of Hamilton, Clermont, Brown, Adams, Scioto, Lawrence, Gallia and Meigs.

South Zone: That portion of the State between the North and Ohio River Zone boundaries, including the Buckeye Lake Area in Licking County bounded on the west by State Highway 37, on the north by U.S. Highway 40, and on the east by State 13.

Tennessee

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

State Zone: The remainder of Tennessee.

Wisconsin

North Zone: That portion of the State north of a line extending east from the Minnesota border along State Highway 77 to State 27, south along State 27 and 77 to U.S. Highway 63, and continuing south along State 27 to Sawyer County Road B, south and east along County B to State 70, southwest along State 70 to State 27, south along State 27 to State 64, west along State 64/27 and south along State 27 to U.S. 12, south and east on State 27/U.S. 12 to U.S. 10, east on U.S. 10 to State 310, east along State 310 to State 42, north along State 42 to State 147, north along State 147 to State 163, north along State 163 to Kewaunee County Trunk A, north along County Trunk A to State 57, north along State

57 to the Kewaunee/Door County Line, west along the Kewaunee/Door County Line to the Door/Brown County Line, west along the Door/Brown County Line to the Door/Oconto/Brown County Line, northeast along the Door/Oconto County Line to the Marinette/Door County Line, northeast along the Marinette/Door County Line to the Michigan border.

South Zone: The remainder of Wisconsin.

Central Flyway

Kansas

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

Low Plains Early Zone: That portion of the State east of the High Plains Zone and west of a line extending south from the Nebraska border along KS 28 to U.S. 36, east along U.S. 36 to KS 199, south along KS 199 to Republic County Road 563, south along Republic County Road 563 to KS 148, east along KS 148 to Republic County Road 138, south along Republic County Road 138 to Cloud County Road 765, south along Cloud County Road 765 to KS 9, west along KS 9 to U.S. 24, west along U.S. 24 to U.S. 281, north along U.S. 281 to U.S. 36, west along U.S. 36 to U.S. 183, south along U.S. 183 to U.S. 24, west along U.S. 24 to KS 18, southeast along KS 18 to U.S. 183, south along U.S. 183 to KS 4, east along KS 4 to I-135, south along I-135 to KS 61, southwest along KS 61 to KS 96, northwest on KS 96 to U.S. 56, west along U.S. 56 to U.S. 281, south along U.S. 281 to U.S. 54, then west along U.S. 54 to U.S. 283.

Low Plains Late Zone: The remainder of Kansas.

Montana (Central Flyway Portion)

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

Zone 2: The remainder of Montana.

Nebraska

High Plains Zone: That portion of the State west of highways U.S. 183 and U.S. 20 from the South Dakota border to Ainsworth, NE 7 and NE 91 to Dunning, NE 2 to Merna, NE 92 to Arnold, NE 40 and NE 47 through Gothenburg to NE 23, NE 23 to Elwood, and U.S. 283 to the Kansas border.

Low Plains Zone 1: That portion of the State east of the High Plains Zone and north and east of a line extending from the South Dakota border along NE 26E Spur to U.S. 20, west on U.S. 20 to NE 12, west on NE 12 to the Knox/Keya

Paha County line, south along the county line to the Niobrara River and along the Niobrara River to U.S. 183 (the High Plains Zone line). Where the Niobrara River forms the boundary, both banks will be in Zone 1.

Low Plains Zone 2: That portion of the State east of the High Plains Zone and bounded by designated highways and political boundaries starting on U.S. 73 at the Kansas border, north to NE 67, north to U.S. 75, north to NE 2, west to NE 43, north to U.S. 34, east to NE 63, north and west to U.S. 77, north to NE 92, west to U.S. 81, south to NE 66, west to NE 14, south to U.S. 34, west to NE 2, south to I-80, west to Hamilton/Hall County line (Gunbarrel Road), south to Giltner Road; west to U.S. 34, west to U.S. 136, east on U.S. 136 to NE 10, south to the State line, west to U.S. 283, north to NE 23, west to NE 47, north to U.S. 30, east to NE 14, north to NE 52, northeasterly to NE 91, west to U.S. 281, north to NE 91 in Wheeler County, west to U.S. 183, north to northerly boundary of Loup County, east along the north boundaries of Loup, Garfield, and Wheeler County, south along the east Wheeler County line to NE 70, east on NE 70 from Wheeler County to NE 14, south to NE 39, southeast to NE 22, east to U.S. 81, southeast to U.S. 30, east along U.S. 30 to U.S. 75, north along U.S. 75 to the Washington/Burt County line; then east along the county line to the Iowa border.

Low Plains Zone 3: The area east of the High Plains Zone, excluding Low Plains Zone 1, north of Low Plains Zone 2.

Low Plains Zone 4: The area east of the High Plains Zone and south of Zone 2.

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 border 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: 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 border 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, west along OK 33 to I-35, north along I-35 to U.S. 60, west along U.S. 60 to U.S. 64, west along U.S. 64 to OK 132, then north along OK 132 to the Kansas border.

Low Plains Zone 2: The remainder of Oklahoma.

South Dakota

High Plains Unit: That portion of the State west of a line beginning at the North Dakota border and extending south along U.S. 83 to U.S. 14, east along U.S. 14 to Blunt-Canning Road in Blunt, south along Blunt-Canning Road to SD 34, east to SD 47, south to I-90, east to SD 47, south to SD 49, south to Colome and then continuing south on U.S. 183 to the Nebraska border.

North Zone: That portion of northeastern South Dakota east of the High Plains Unit and north of a line extending east along US 212 to SD 15, then north along SD 15 to Big Stone Lake at the Minnesota border.

South Zone: That portion of Gregory County east of SD 47, Charles Mix County south of SD 44 to the Douglas County line, south on SD 50 to Geddes, east on the Geddes Hwy. to U.S. 281, south on U.S. 281 and U.S. 18 to SD 50, south and east on SD 50 to 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 border 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 border at Orange, Texas.

Low Plains South Zone: The remainder of Texas.

Wyoming (Central Flyway Portion)

Zone 1: The Counties of Converse, Goshen, Hot Springs, Natrona, Platte, Washakie, and that portion of Park County south of T58N and not within

the boundary of the Shoshone National Forest.

Zone 2: The remainder of Wyoming.
Pacific Flyway

Arizona—Game Management Units (GMU) as follows:

South Zone: Those portions of GMUs 6 and 8 in Yavapai County, and GMUs 10 and 12B-45.

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

California

Northeastern Zone: That portion of the State east and north of a line beginning at the Oregon border; south and west along the Klamath River to the mouth of Shovel Creek; south along Shovel Creek to Forest Service Road 46N10; south and east along FS 46N10 to FS 45N22; west and south along FS 45N22 to U.S. 97 at Grass Lake Summit; south and west along U.S. 97 to I-5 at the town of Weed; south along I-5 to CA 89; east and south along CA 89 to the junction with CA 49; east and north on CA 49 to CA 70; east on CA 70 to U.S. 395; south and east on U.S. 395 to the Nevada border.

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 seven 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.

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

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

Idaho

Zone 1: Includes all lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private inholdings; Bannock County; Bingham County, except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; and Power County east of ID 37 and ID 39.

Zone 2: Includes the following Counties or portions of Counties: Adams; Bear Lake; Benewah; Bingham within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; those portions of Blaine west of ID 75, south and east of U.S. 93, and between ID 75 and U.S. 93 north of U.S. 20 outside the Silver Creek drainage; Bonner; Bonneville; Boundary; Butte; Camas; Caribou except the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; Cassia within the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge; Clark; Clearwater; Custer; Elmore within the Camas Creek drainage; Franklin; Fremont; Idaho; Jefferson; Kootenai; Latah; Lemhi; Lewis; Madison; Nez Perce; Oneida; Power within the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge; Shoshone; Teton; and Valley Counties.

Zone 3: Includes the following Counties or portions of Counties: Ada; Blaine between ID 75 and U.S. 93 south of U.S. 20 and that additional area between ID 75 and U.S. 93 north of U.S. 20 within the Silver Creek drainage; Boise; Canyon; Cassia except within the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge; Elmore except the Camas Creek drainage; Gem; Gooding; Jerome; Lincoln; Minidoka; Owyhee; Payette; Power west of ID 37 and ID 39 except that portion within the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge; Twin Falls; and Washington Counties.

Nevada

Lincoln and Clark County Zone: All of Clark and Lincoln Counties.

Remainder-of-the-State Zone: The remainder of Nevada.

Oregon

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

Columbia Basin Mallard Management Unit: Gilliam, Morrow, and Umatilla Counties.

Zone 2: The remainder of the State.

Utah

Zone 1: All of 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.

Washington

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

Columbia Basin Mallard Management Unit: Same as East Zone.

West Zone: All areas to the west of the East Zone.

Geese

Atlantic Flyway

Connecticut

Same zones as for ducks, but in addition:

Atlantic Population Canada Goose Closed Area: Litchfield County and that 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.

Maryland

Special Regular and Late Seasons for Canada Geese: Allegheny, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Washington counties and the portion of Montgomery County south of Interstate 270 and west of Interstate 495 to the Potomac River.

Massachusetts

Special Area for Canada Geese: Central Zone (same as for ducks) and that portion of the Coastal Zone that lies north of route 139 from Green Harbor.

New Hampshire

Same zones as for ducks.

New Jersey

Special Area for Canada Geese: North—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 tollbridge in Columbia; then north along the Pennsylvania State boundary in the Delaware River to the beginning point.

South—that portion of the State within a continuous line that runs west from the Atlantic Ocean at Ship Bottom along Route 72 to the Garden State Parkway; then south along the Garden State Parkway to Route 9; then south along Route 9 to Route 542; then west along Route 542 to the Mullica River (at Pleasant Mills); then north (upstream) along the Mullica River 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 south along Route 49 to Route 50; then east 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

Special Late Season Area for Canada Geese: that area of Chemung County lying east of a continuous line extending south along State Route 13 from the Schuyler County line to State Route 17 and then south along Route 17 to the New York-Pennsylvania boundary; all of Tioga and Broome Counties; that area of Delaware, Sullivan, and Orange Counties lying southwest of a continuous line extending east along State Route 17 from the Broome County line to U.S. Route 209 at Wurtsboro and then south along Route 209 to the New York-Pennsylvania boundary at Port Jervis, excluding areas on or within 50 yards of the Delaware River between the confluence of the West Branch and East Branch below Hancock and the mouth of the Shingle Kill (3 miles upstream from Port Jervis); that area of Orange, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester Counties lying southeast of a continuous line extending north along Route 17 from the New York-New Jersey boundary at Suffern to Interstate Route 87, then north along Route 87 to Interstate Route 84, then east along Route 84 to the northern boundary of Putnam County, then east along that boundary to the New York-Connecticut boundary; that area of Nassau and Suffolk Counties lying north of State Route 25A and west of a continuous line extending northward from State Route 25A along Randall Road (near

Shoreham) to North Country Road, then east to Sound Road and then north to Long Island Sound and then due north to the New York-Connecticut boundary.

Regular Season Area in Southwest for Canada Geese: all of Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautaugus Counties; that area of Erie, Wyoming and Niagara Counties lying south and west of a continuous line extending from the Rainbow Bridge below Niagara Falls, north along the Robert Moses Parkway to US Route 62A, then east along Route 62A to US Route 62, then southeast along US Route 62 to Interstate Route 290, then south along Route 290 to Exit 50 of the NYS Thruway, then east along the NYS Thruway to Exit 48 in Batavia, then south along State Route 98 to the Cattaraugus County line; and that area of Steuben and Chemung Counties lying south of State Route 17.

North Carolina

Regular Season for Canada Geese: Statewide, except for Northampton County and the Northeast Hunt Unit—Counties of Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington.

Pennsylvania

Erie, Mercer, and Butler Counties: All of Erie, Mercer, and Butler Counties.

Regular Season Area for Canada Geese: Area from New York State line west of U.S. Route 220 to intersection of I-180, west of I-180 to intersection of SR 147, west of SR 147 to intersection of U.S. Route 322, west of U.S. Route 322 to intersection of I-81, west of I-81 to intersection of I-83, west of I-83 to I-283, west of I-283 to SR 441, west of SR 441 to U.S. Route 30, west of U.S. Route 30 to I-83, west of I-83 to Maryland State line, except for the Counties of Erie, Mercer, Butler, and Crawford.

Special Late Season Area for Canada Geese: Same as Regular Season Area and the area from New York State line east of U.S. Route 220 to intersection of I-180, east of I-180 to intersection of SR 147, east of SR 147 to intersection of U.S. Route 322, east of Route 322 to intersection of I-81, north of I-81 to intersection of I-80, north 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 Clarendon County and that portion of Lake Marion in Orangeburg County and Berkeley County.

Virginia

Regular and Special Late Season Area for Canada Geese: All areas west of I-95.

Back Bay Area: Defined for white geese as the waters of Back Bay and its tributaries and the marshes adjacent thereto, and on the land and marshes between Back Bay and the Atlantic Ocean from Sandbridge to the North Carolina line, and on and along the shore of North Landing River and the marshes adjacent thereto, and on and along the shores of Binson Inlet Lake (formerly known as Lake Tecumseh) and Red Wing Lake and the marshes adjacent thereto.

West Virginia

Same zones as for ducks.

Mississippi Flyway

Alabama

Same zones as for ducks, but in addition:

SJBP Zone: That portion of Morgan County east of U.S. Highway 31, north of State Highway 36, and west of U.S. 231; that portion of Limestone County south of U.S. 72; and that portion of Madison County south of Swancott Road and west of Triana Road.

Arkansas

East Zone: Arkansas, Ashley, Chicot, Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Desha, Drew, Greene, Independence, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Lonoke, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Poinsett, Prairie, Pulaski, Randolph, St. Francis, White, and Woodruff Counties.

West Zone: Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Cleburne, Conway, Crawford, Faulkner, Franklin, Fulton, Izard, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Newton, Pope, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, and Washington Counties, and those portions of Logan, Perry, Sebastian, and Yell Counties lying north of a line extending east from the Oklahoma border along State Highway 10 to Perry, south on State 9 to State 60, then east on State 60 to the Faulkner County line.

Illinois

Same zones as for ducks, but in addition:

North Zone

Northern Illinois Quota Zone: The Counties of McHenry, Lake, Kane,

DuPage, and those portions of LaSalle and Will Counties north of Interstate Highway 80.

Central Zone

Central Illinois Quota Zone: The Counties of Grundy, Woodford, Peoria, Knox, Fulton, Tazewell, Mason, Cass, Morgan, Pike, Calhoun, and Jersey, and those portions of LaSalle and Will Counties south of Interstate Highway 80.

South Zone

Southern Illinois Quota Zone: Alexander, Jackson, Union, and Williamson Counties.

Rend Lake Quota Zone: Franklin and Jefferson Counties.

Indiana

Same zones as for ducks, but in addition:

SJBP Zone: Jasper, LaGrange, LaPorte, Starke, and Steuben Counties, and that portion of the Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area in Pulaski County.

Iowa

Same zones as for ducks.

Kentucky

Western Zone: That portion of the State west of a line beginning at the Tennessee border at Fulton and extending north along the Purchase Parkway to Interstate Highway 24, east along I-24 to U.S. Highway 641, north along U.S. 641 to U.S. 60, northeast along U.S. 60 to the Henderson County line, then south, east, and northerly along the Henderson County line to the Indiana border.

Ballard Reporting Area: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the northwest city limits of Wickliffe in Ballard County and extending westward to the middle of the Mississippi River, north along the Mississippi River and along the low-water mark of the Ohio River on the Illinois shore to the Ballard-McCracken County line, south along the county line to Kentucky Highway 358, south along Kentucky 358 to U.S. Highway 60 at LaCenter; then southwest along U.S. 60 to the northeast city limits of Wickliffe.

Henderson-Union Reporting Area: Henderson County and that portion of Union County within the Western Zone.

Pennyroyal/Coalfield Zone: Butler, Daviess, Ohio, Simpson, and Warren Counties and all counties lying west to the boundary of the Western Goose Zone.

Michigan

Same zones as for ducks, but in addition:

South Zone

Tuscola/Huron Goose Management Unit (GMU): Those portions of Tuscola and Huron Counties bounded on the south by Michigan Highway 138 and Bay City Road, on the east by Colwood and Bay Port Roads, on the north by Kilmanagh Road and a line extending directly west off the end of Kilmanagh Road into Saginaw Bay to the west boundary, and on the west by the Tuscola-Bay County line and a line extending directly north off the end of the Tuscola-Bay County line into Saginaw Bay to the north boundary.

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 ½ mile 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.

Saginaw County GMU: That portion of Saginaw County bounded by Michigan Highway 46 on the north; Michigan 52 on the west; Michigan 57 on the south; and Michigan 13 on the east.

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.

Special Canada Goose Seasons:

Southern Michigan GMU: That portion of the State, including the Great Lakes and interconnecting waterways and excluding the Allegan County GMU, south of a line beginning at the Ontario border at the Bluewater Bridge in the city of Port Huron and extending westerly and southerly along Interstate Highway 94 to I-69, westerly along I-69 to Michigan Highway 21, westerly along Michigan 21 to I-96, northerly along I-96 to I-196, westerly along I-196 to Lake Michigan Drive (M-45) in Grand Rapids, westerly along Lake Michigan Drive to the Lake Michigan shore, then directly west from the end of Lake Michigan Drive to the Wisconsin border.

Central Michigan GMU: That portion of the South Zone north of the Southern Michigan GMU, excluding the Tuscola/Huron GMU, Saginaw County GMU, and Muskegon Wastewater GMU.

Minnesota

West Zone: That portion of the state encompassed by a line beginning at the junction of State Trunk Highway (STH) 60 and the Iowa border, then north and east along STH 60 to U.S. Highway 71, north along U.S. 71 to Interstate Highway 94, then north and west along I-94 to the North Dakota border.

West Central Zone: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of State Trunk Highway (STH) 29 and U.S. Highway 212 and extending west along U.S. 212 to U.S. 59, south along U.S. 59 to STH 67, west along STH 67 to U.S. 75, north along U.S. 75 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 30 in Lac qui Parle County, west along CSAH 30 to County Road 70 in Lac qui Parle County, west along County 70 to the western boundary of the State, north along the western boundary of the State to a point due south of the intersection of STH 7 and CSAH 7 in Big Stone County, and continuing due north to said intersection, then north along CSAH 7 to CSAH 6 in Big Stone County, east along CSAH 6 to CSAH 21 in Big Stone County, south along CSAH 21 to CSAH 10 in Big Stone County, east along CSAH 10 to CSAH 22 in Swift County, east along CSAH 22 to CSAH 5 in Swift County, south along CSAH 5 to U.S. 12, east along U.S. 12 to CSAH 17 in Swift County, south along CSAH 17 to CSAH 9 in Chippewa County, south along CSAH 9 to STH 40, east along STH 40 to STH 29, then south along STH 29 to the point of beginning.

Lac qui Parle Zone: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of U.S. Highway 212 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 27 in Lac qui Parle County and extending north along CSAH 27 to CSAH 20 in Lac qui Parle County, west along CSAH 20 to State Trunk Highway (STH) 40, north along STH 40 to STH 119, north along STH 119 to CSAH 34 in Lac qui Parle County, west along CSAH 34 to CSAH 19 in Lac qui Parle County, north and west along CSAH 19 to CSAH 38 in Lac qui Parle County, west along CSAH 38 to U.S. 75, north along U.S. 75 to STH 7, east along STH 7 to CSAH 6 in Swift County, east along CSAH 6 to County Road 65 in Swift County, south along County 65 to County 34 in Chippewa County, south along County 34 to CSAH 12 in Chippewa County, east along CSAH 12 to CSAH 9 in Chippewa County, south along CSAH 9 to STH 7, southeast along STH 7 to Montevideo and along the municipal boundary of Montevideo to U.S. 212; then west along U.S. 212 to the point of beginning.

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.

Northeast Zone—That portion of the state encompassed by the following boundary: Beginning on State Trunk Highway (STH) 72 at the northern boundary of the state, thence along STH 72 to the Tamarac River in Beltrami County, thence along the southerly shore of the Tamarac River to Upper Red Lake, thence along the easterly and southerly shores of Upper Red Lake to the easterly boundary of the Red Lake Indian Reservation, thence along the easterly boundary of said Reservation to STH 1, thence along STH 1 to STH 72, thence along STH 72 to U.S. Highway 71, thence along U.S. 71 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 39 in Beltrami County, thence along CSAH 39 to CSAH 20, thence along CSAH 20 to CSAH 53, thence along CSAH 53 to CSAH 12, thence along CSAH 12 to CSAH 51, thence along CSAH 51 to CSAH 8, thence along CSAH 8 to CSAH 25, thence along CSAH 25 to CSAH 4, thence along CSAH 4 to CSAH 46, thence along CSAH 46 to U.S. Highway 2, thence along U.S. 2 to CSAH 45, thence along CSAH 45 to CSAH 9, thence along CSAH 9 to CSAH 69, thence along CSAH 69 to CSAH 5, thence along CSAH 5 to CSAH 39, thence along CSAH 39 to County Road (CR) 94, thence along CR 94 to CSAH 31, thence along CSAH 31 to STH 200, thence along STH 200 to STH 371, thence along STH 371 to STH 84, thence along STH 84 to CSAH 2, thence along CSAH 2 to CSAH 1, thence along CSAH 1 to STH 6, thence along STH 6 to STH 18, thence along STH 18 to U.S.

Highway 169, thence due east to the west shore of Mille Lacs Lake, thence along the westerly and southerly shores of said lake to a point due north of the junction of U.S. 169 and STH 27, thence due south to said junction, thence along U.S. 169 to STH 23, thence along STH 23 to STH 65, thence along STH 65 to STH 70, thence along STH 70 to the east boundary of the state, thence along the easterly and northerly boundaries of the state to the point of beginning.

Special Canada Goose Seasons:

Fergus Falls/Alexandria Zone: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of State Trunk Highway (STH) 55 and STH 28 and extending east along STH 28 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 33 in Pope County, north along CSAH 33 to CSAH 3 in Douglas County, north along CSAH 3 to CSAH 69 in Otter Tail County, north along CSAH 69 to CSAH 46 in Otter Tail County, east along CSAH 46 to the eastern boundary of Otter Tail County, north along the east boundary of Otter Tail County to CSAH 40 in Otter Tail County, west along CSAH 40 to CSAH 75 in Otter Tail County, north along CSAH 75 to STH 210, west along STH 210 to STH 108, north along STH 108 to CSAH 1 in Otter Tail County, west along CSAH 1 to CSAH 14 in Otter Tail County, north along CSAH 14 to CSAH 44 in Otter Tail County, west along CSAH 44 to CSAH 35 in Otter Tail County, north along CSAH 35 to STH 108, west along STH 108 to CSAH 19 in Wilkin County, south along CSAH 19 to STH 55, then southeast along STH 55 to the point of beginning.

Missouri

Same zones as for ducks but in addition:

North Zone

Swan Lake Zone: That area bounded by U.S. Highway 36 on the north, Missouri Highway 5 on the east, Missouri 240 and U.S. 65 on the south, and U.S. 65 on the west.

Middle Zone

Schell-Osage Zone: That portion of the State encompassed by a line extending east from the Kansas border along U.S. Highway 54 to Missouri Highway 13, north along Missouri 13 to Missouri 7, west along Missouri 7 to U.S. 71, north along U.S. 71 to Missouri 2, then west along Missouri 2 to the Kansas border.

Ohio

Same zones as for ducks but in addition:

North Zone

Lake Erie SJBZ Zone: That portion of the State encompassed by a line extending south from the Michigan border along Interstate Highway 75 to I-280, south along I-280 to I-80, and east along I-80 to the Pennsylvania border.

Tennessee

Southwest Zone: That portion of the State south of State Highways 20 and 104, and west of U.S. Highways 45 and 45W.

Northwest Zone: Lake, Obion and Weakley Counties and those portions of Gibson and Dyer Counties not included in the Southwest Tennessee Zone.

Kentucky/Barkley Lakes Zone: That portion of the State bounded on the west by the eastern boundaries of the Northwest and Southwest Zones and on the east by State Highway 13 from the Alabama border to Clarksville and U.S. Highway 79 from Clarksville to the Kentucky border.

Wisconsin

Horicon Zone: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of State Highway 21 and the Fox River in Winnebago County and extending westerly along State 21 to the west boundary of Winnebago County, southerly along the west boundary of Winnebago County to the north boundary of Green Lake County, westerly along the north boundaries of Green Lake and Marquette Counties to State 22, southerly along State 22 to State 33, westerly along State 33 to U.S. Highway 16, westerly along U.S. 16 to Weyh Road, southerly along Weyh Road to County Highway O, southerly along County O to the west boundary of Section 31, southerly along the west boundary of Section 31 to the Sauk/Columbia County boundary, southerly along the Sauk/Columbia County boundary to State 33, easterly along State 33 to Interstate Highway 90/94, southerly along I-90/94 to State 60, easterly along State 60 to State 83, northerly along State 83 to State 175, northerly along State 175 to State 33, easterly along State 33 to U.S. Highway 45, northerly along U.S. 45 to the east shore of the Fond Du Lac River, northerly along the east shore of the Fond Du Lac River to Lake Winnebago, northerly along the western shoreline of Lake Winnebago to the Fox River, then westerly along the Fox River to State 21.

Collins Zone: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of Hilltop Road and Collins Marsh Road in Manitowoc County and extending westerly along Hilltop Road to Humpty Dumpty Road, southerly along Humpty Dumpty Road to Poplar Grove Road, easterly and southerly along Poplar Grove Road to County Highway JJ, southeasterly along County JJ to Collins Road, southerly along Collins Road to the Manitowoc River, southeasterly along the Manitowoc River to Quarry Road, northerly along Quarry Road to Einberger Road, northerly along Einberger Road to Moschel Road, westerly along Moschel Road to Collins Marsh Road, northerly along Collins Marsh Road to Hilltop Road.

Exterior Zone: That portion of the State not included in the Horicon or Collins Zones.

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

Rock Prairie Subzone: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of the Illinois border and Interstate Highway 90 and extending north along I-90 to County Highway A, east along County A to U.S. Highway 12, southeast along U.S. 12 to State Highway 50, west along State 50 to State 120, then south along 120 to the Illinois border.

Brown County Subzone: That area encompassed by a line beginning at the intersection of the Fox River with Green Bay in Brown County and extending southerly along the Fox River to State Highway 29, northwesterly along State 29 to the Brown County line, south, east, and north along the Brown County line to Green Bay, due west to the midpoint of the Green Bay Ship Channel, then southwest along the Green Bay Ship Channel to the Fox River.

Central Flyway

Colorado (Central Flyway Portion)

Northern Front Range Area: All lands in Adams, Boulder, Clear Creek, Denver, Gilpin, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld Counties west of I-25 from the Wyoming border south to I-70; west on I-70 to the Continental Divide; north along the Continental Divide to the Jackson-Larimer County Line to the Wyoming border.

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

North Park Area: Jackson County.

Arkansas Valley Area: Baca, Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, and Prowers Counties.

Pueblo County Area: Pueblo County.
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.

Kansas

Light Geese

Unit 1: That portion of Kansas east of a line beginning at the intersection of

the Nebraska border and KS 99, extending south along KS 99 to I-70 to U.S. 75, south on U.S. 75 to U.S. 54, west on U.S. 54 to KS 99, and then south on KS 99 to the Oklahoma border.

Unit 2: The remainder of Kansas, laying west of Unit 1.

Dark Geese

Marais des Cygnes Valley Unit: The area is bounded by the Missouri border to KS 68, KS 68 to U.S. 169, U.S. 169 to KS 7, KS 7 to KS 31, KS 31 to U.S. 69, U.S. 69 to KS 239, KS 239 to the Missouri border.

South Flint Hills Unit: The area is bounded by highways U.S. 50 to KS 57, KS 57 to U.S. 75, U.S. 75 to KS 39, KS 39 to KS 96, KS 96 to U.S. 77, U.S. 77 to U.S. 50.

Flint Hills Unit: That part of Kansas bounded by a line from the junction of I-35 and K-57, then south and east on K-57 to its junction with US-75, then south on US-75 to its junction with K-39, then south and west on K-39 to its junction with K-96, then west on K-96 to its junction with US-77, then north on US-77 to its junction with I-70, then east on I-70 to its junction with US-75, then south on US-75 to its junction with I-35, then west on I-35 to its junction with K-57, except federal and state sanctuaries.

Montana (Central Flyway Portion)

Sheridan County: Includes all of Sheridan County.

Remainder: Includes the remainder of the Central Flyway portion of Montana.

Nebraska

Dark Geese

North Unit: Keya Paha County east of U.S. 183 and all of Boyd County, including the boundary waters of the Niobrara River, all of Knox County and that portion of Cedar County west of U.S. 81.

Southcentral Unit: That area south and west of U.S. 281 at the Kansas/Nebraska border, north to Giltner Road (near Doniphan), east to NE 14, north to NE 91, west to U.S. 183, south to NE 92, west to NE 61, north to U.S. 2, west to the intersection of Garden, Grant, and Sheridan counties, then west along the northern border of Garden, Morrill, and Scotts Bluff counties to the Wyoming border.

Northcentral Unit: That area north of the Southwest Unit and west of U.S. 183.

East Unit: The remainder of Nebraska.

Light Geese

Rainwater Basin Light Goose Area (West): The area bounded by the junction of U.S. 283 and U.S. 30 at

Lexington, east on U.S. 30 to U.S. 281, south on U.S. 281 to NE 4, west on NE 4 to U.S. 34, continue west on U.S. 34 to U.S. 283, then north on U.S. 283 to the beginning.

Rainwater Basin Light Goose Area (East): The area bounded by the junction of U.S. 281 and U.S. 30 at Grand Island, north and east on U.S. 30 to NE 92, east on NE 92 to NE 15, south on NE 15 to NE 4, west on NE 4 to U.S. 281, north on U.S. 281 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

Dark Geese

Missouri River Zone: That area encompassed by a line extending from the South Dakota border north on U.S. 83 and I-94 to ND 41, north to ND 53, west to U.S. 83, north to ND 23, west to ND 37, south to ND 1804, south approximately 9 miles to Elbowoods Bay on Lake Sakakawea, south and west across the lake to ND 8, south to ND 200, east to ND 31, south to ND 25, south to I-94, east to ND 6, south to the South Dakota border, and east to the point of origin.

Statewide: All of North Dakota.

South Dakota

Canada Geese

Unit 1: Statewide except for Units 2 and 3.

Power Plant Area: That portion of Grant County east of SD 15 and north of SD 20.

Unit 2: Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Dewey, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, and Walworth Counties and that portion of Corson County east of State Highway 65.

Unit 3: Charles Mix and Gregory Counties.

Texas

West Unit: That portion of the State laying west of a line from the international toll bridge at Laredo; north along I-35 and I-35W to Fort Worth; northwest along U.S. 81 and U.S. 287 to Bowie; and north along U.S. 81 to the Oklahoma border.

East Unit: Remainder of State.

Wyoming (Central Flyway Portion)

Area 1: Hot Springs, Natrona, and Washakie Counties, and that portion of Park County south of T58N.

Area 2: Converse and Platte County.

Area 3: Albany, Big Horn, Campbell, Crook, Fremont, Johnson, Laramie, Niobrara, Sheridan, and Weston Counties and those portions of Carbon County east of the Continental Divide and Park County north of T58N.

Area 4: Goshen County.

Pacific Flyway

Arizona

GMU 22 and 23: Game Management Units 22 and 23.

Remainder of State: The remainder of Arizona.

California

Northeastern Zone: That portion of the State east and north of a line beginning at the Oregon border; south and west along the Klamath River to the mouth of Shovel Creek; south along Shovel Creek to Forest Service Road 46N10; south and east along FS 46N10 to FS 45N22; west and south along FS 45N22 to U.S. 97 at Grass Lake Summit; south and west along U.S. 97 to I-5 at the town of Weed; south along I-5 to CA 89; east and south along CA 89 to the junction with CA 49; east and north on CA 49 to CA 70; east on CA 70 to U.S. 395; south and east on U.S. 395 to the Nevada border.

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 seven 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.

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

Del Norte and Humboldt Area: The Counties of Del Norte and Humboldt.

Sacramento Valley Area: That area bounded by a line beginning at Willows in Glenn County proceeding south on I-5 to Hahn Road north of Arbuckle in Colusa County; easterly on Hahn Road and the Grimes Arbuckle Road to Grimes on the Sacramento River; southerly on the Sacramento River to the Tisdale Bypass to O'Banion Road; easterly on O'Banion Road to CA 99; northerly on CA 99 to the Gridley-Colusa Highway in Gridley in Butte County; westerly on the Gridley-Colusa Highway to the River Road; northerly on the River Road to the Princeton Ferry; westerly across the Sacramento River to CA 45; northerly on CA 45 to CA 162; northerly on CA 45-162 to Glenn; westerly on CA 162 to the point of beginning in Willows.

Western Canada Goose Hunt Area: That portion of the above described Sacramento Valley Area lying east of a line formed by Butte Creek from the Gridley-Colusa Highway south to the Cherokee Canal; easterly along the Cherokee Canal and North Butte Road to West Butte Road; southerly on West Butte Road to Pass Road; easterly on Pass Road to West Butte Road; southerly on West Butte Road to CA 20; and westerly along CA 20 to the Sacramento River.

San Joaquin Valley Area: That area bounded by a line beginning at Modesto in Stanislaus County proceeding west on CA 132 to I-5; southerly on I-5 to CA 152 in Merced County; easterly on CA 152 to CA 165; northerly on CA 165 to CA 99 at Merced; northerly and westerly on CA 99 to the point of beginning.

Colorado (Pacific Flyway Portion)

West Central Area: Archuleta, Delta, Dolores, Gunnison, LaPlata, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, San Juan, and San Miguel Counties and those portions of Hinsdale, Mineral and Saguache Counties west of the Continental Divide.

State Area: The remainder of the Pacific-Flyway Portion of Colorado.

Idaho

Zone 1: Bear Lake, Benewah, Bonner, Bonneville, Boundry, Butte, Clark, Clearwater, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Idaho, Jefferson, Kootenai, Latah, Lemhi, Lewis, Madison, Nez Perce, Oneida, Shoshone, and Teton Counties,

and those portions of Bingham County within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage and Caribou County, except for the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

Zone 2: Ada, Adams, Blaine, Boise, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, and Washington Counties, and those portions of Power County west of ID 37 and ID 39.

Zone 3: All lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private holdings; Bannock County, Bingham County, except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage, and Power County east of ID 37 and ID 39.

In addition, goose frameworks are set by the following geographical areas:

Northern Unit: Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Shoshone Counties.

Southwestern Unit: That area west of the line formed by U.S. 93 north from the Nevada border to Shoshone, northerly on ID 75 (formerly U.S. 93) to Challis, northerly on U.S. 93 to the Montana border (except the Northern Unit and except Custer and Lemhi Counties).

Southeastern Unit: That area east of the line formed by U.S. 93 north from the Nevada border to Shoshone, northerly on ID 75 (formerly U.S. 93) to Challis, northerly on U.S. 93 to the Montana border, including all of Custer and Lemhi Counties.

Montana (Pacific Flyway Portion)

East of the Divide Zone: The Pacific Flyway portion of the State located east of the Continental Divide.

West of the Divide Zone: The remainder of the Pacific Flyway portion of Montana.

Nevada

Lincoln Clark County Zone: All of Lincoln and Clark Counties

Scripps/Washoe Lake Zone: Scripps Wildlife Management Area and Washoe Lake State Park.

Remainder-of-the-State Zone: The remainder of Nevada.

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

Southwest Zone: Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine and Jackson Counties.

Northwest Special Permit Zone: That portion of western Oregon west and

north of a line running south from the Columbia River in Portland along I-5 to OR 22 at Salem; then east on OR 22 to the Stayton Cutoff; then south on the Stayton Cutoff to Stayton and due south to the Santiam River; then west along the north shore of the Santiam River to I-5; then south on I-5 to OR 126 at Eugene; then west on OR 126 to Greenhill Road; then south on Greenhill Road to Crow Road; then west on Crow Road to Territorial Hwy; then west on Territorial Hwy to OR 126; then west on OR 126 to OR 36; then north on OR 36 to Forest Road 5070 at Brickerville; then west and south on Forest Road 5070 to OR 126; then west on OR 126 to the Pacific Coast.

Northwest Zone: Those portions of Clackamas, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, and Washington Counties outside of the Northwest Special Permit Zone.

Closed Zone: Those portions of Coos, Curry, Douglas and Lane Counties west of US 101.

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

Harney, Klamath, Lake and Malheur Counties Zone: All of Harney, Klamath, Lake, and Malheur Counties.

Utah

Washington County Zone: All of Washington County.

Remainder-of-the-State Zone: The remainder of Utah.

Washington

Eastern Washington: All areas east of the Pacific Crest Trail and east of the Big White Salmon River in Klickitat County.

Area 1: Lincoln, Spokane, and Walla Walla Counties; that part of Grant County east of a line beginning at the Douglas-Lincoln County line on WA 174, southwest on WA 174 to WA 155, south on WA 155 to US 2, southwest on US 2 to Pinto Ridge Road, south on Pinto Ridge Road to WA 28, east on WA 28 to the Stratford Road, south on the Stratford Road to WA 17, south on WA 17 to the Grant-Adams County line; those parts of Adams County east of State Highway 17; those parts of Franklin County east and south of a line beginning at the Adams-Franklin County line on WA 17, south on WA 17 to US 395, south on US 395 to I-182, west on I-182 to the Franklin-Benton County line; those parts of Benton County south of I-182 and I-82; and those parts of Klickitat County east of U.S. Highway 97.

Area 2: All of Okanogan, Douglas, and Kittitas Counties and those parts of

Grant, Adams, Franklin, and Benton Counties not included in Eastern Washington Goose Management Area 1.

Area 3: All other parts of eastern Washington not included in Eastern Washington Goose Management Areas 1 and 2.

Western Washington: All areas west of the East Zone.

Area 1: Skagit, Island, and Snohomish Counties.

Area 2: Clark County, except portions south of the Washougal River, Cowlitz, Pacific, and Wahkiakum Counties, and that portion of Grays Harbor County south of U.S. highway 12 and east of U.S. highway 101.

Area 3: All parts of western Washington not included in Western Washington Goose Management Areas 1 and 2.

Lower Columbia River Early-Season Canada Goose Zone: Beginning at the Washington-Oregon border on the I-5 Bridge near Vancouver, Washington; north on I-5 to Kelso; west on Highway 4 from Kelso to Highway 401; south and west on Highway 401 to Highway 101

at the Astoria-Megler Bridge; west on Highway 101 to Gray Drive in the City of Ilwaco; west on Gray Drive to Canby Road; southwest on Canby Road to the North Jetty; southwest on the North Jetty to its end; southeast to the Washington-Oregon border; upstream along the Washington-Oregon border to the point of origin.

Wyoming (Pacific Flyway Portion): See State Regulations.

Bear River Area: That portion of Lincoln County described in State regulations.

Salt River Area: That portion of Lincoln County described in State regulations.

Eden-Farson Area: Those portions of Sweetwater and Sublette Counties described in State regulations.

Swans

Central Flyway

South Dakota: Aurora, Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Clark, Codington, Davison, Deuel, Day, 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 south of State Hwy 30, I-80/84, west of I-15, and north of I-80.

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