

Agenda Item 7

Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations And Closures

Decision



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Don Kraege

**Waterfowl Section Manager
Game Division, Wildlife Program**

Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons Authorities

- **USFWS Authority: Federal Framework**
 - Earliest opening date
 - Latest closing date
 - Limits
 - Season length
- **State Discretion: WAC within Federal Framework**
 - Can be more restrictive but not more liberal
 - Season timing within outside dates



Duck Season Proposals



2016-17 Duck Season Proposals

WAC 232-28-436

- Proposed general duck season dates and limits similar to 2015-16
 - 107 days
 - 2 day youth hunt
 - 105 day general season
 - 7 ducks, to include not more than:
 - 2 hen mallard, 2 pintail
 - 2 redhead, 2 canvasback, 3 scaup
 - W. WA: 2 scoter, 2 long-tail, 2 goldeneye, 1 harlequin
- **Recommended adjustment: p. 3 (2016-17)**

Goose Season Proposals



2016-17 Goose Season Proposals

WAC 232-28-436

- Seasons similar to last year in Areas 1, 3, 4, and 5
- Standardize most Sept. Canada goose season limits to 5
- **Recommended adjustment (p. 11):**
 - Change possession limit for E. WA Sept. season from 15 to 10

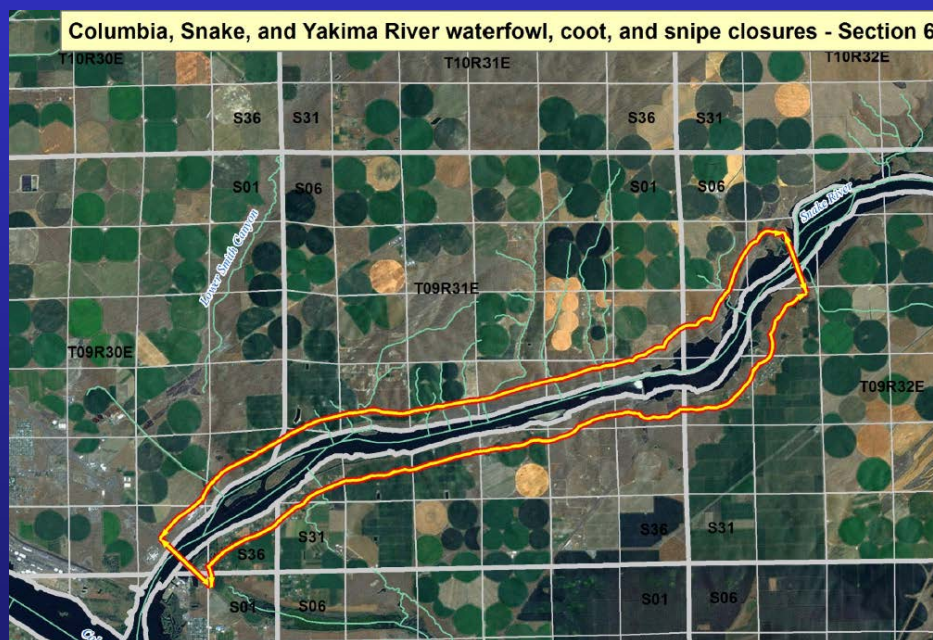


2016-17 SW Goose Season Proposals

- Combine Areas 2A and 2B into one area: Area 2
- Area 2 proposed season:
 - Allow Canada geese in youth hunt bag limit
 - 9 day September season
 - 9 day October season
 - Remainder of days late Nov. – early Mar.
- **Recommended adjustment (p. 8):**
 - Change late season closed area from *public lands* to *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) and WDFW Wildlife Areas*
- Rationale for changes: Reduce regulation complexity; maximize length and timing of the goose season to address depredation concerns

Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Waterfowl, Coot, and Snipe Closures

WAC 232-16-740



Minor change to Section 6 Snake River closure:
change Nav. Marker from 4 to 5

Questions?

