

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

CHAPTER 39

EARLY MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS

Section 1. Authority. This regulation is promulgated by authority of W.S. §23-1-302 and §23-2-105(d).

Section 2. Hunting Seasons Established. There shall be open seasons for the hunting of migratory game birds as set forth in this Chapter, and in accordance with Chapter 2, General Hunting Regulation. This regulation shall remain in effect until modified or repealed by the Commission.

Section 3. Definitions. For the purpose of this regulation, definitions shall be as set forth in Title 23, Wyoming Statutes and the Commission also adopts the following definitions:

(a) “Central Flyway” means that portion of Wyoming east of the Continental Divide, excluding the Great Divide Basin.

(b) “Daily bag limit” means the maximum number of migratory game birds or waterfowl that may be legally taken in a single day.

(c) “Federal Duck Stamp” means Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.

(d) “Migratory game bird” means all migratory game birds defined under federal law.

(e) “Nontoxic shot” means steel or any other federally-approved nontoxic shot.

(f) “Pacific Flyway” means that portion of Wyoming west of the Continental Divide, including the Great Divide Basin.

(g) “Possession limit” means the maximum number of migratory game birds or waterfowl that may be legally in possession. Migratory game birds in transit or storage shall be considered in possession. When a person hunts in more than one (1) state or flyway, the person’s total possession limit shall not exceed the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the states or flyways in which the hunting takes place.

(h) “Season limit” means the maximum number of migratory game birds or waterfowl that may be legally taken during the entire season.

(i) “Waterfowl” means ducks, geese, coots and mergansers.

Section 4. Hunting Regulations.

(a) Wounding and Retrieving. No person shall wound or kill any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it and reduce it to possession.

(b) Federal Regulations. 16 USC 703-711 and 718a; 50 CFR 10, 50 CFR 20 revised as of October 1, 2010, which do not include any later amendments or editions of the incorporated matter, governing the hunting, taking and possession of migratory birds and migratory game birds, the requirement for a valid migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp and the requirement for state participation in the National Harvest Information Program are adopted as regulations of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. Violations of these federal statutes and regulations shall be violations of the Commission regulations. A copy of Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations can be viewed at Department Regional Offices.

(i) Automatic loading, pump, or repeating shotguns shall be plugged to admit no more than one (1) shell in the chamber and two (2) shells in the magazine.

(ii) Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. A federal duck stamp is required for persons sixteen (16) years of age and older to hunt ducks, geese and mergansers, but a federal duck stamp is not required to hunt coots, sandhill cranes, crows, mourning doves, rail or snipe.

(iii) National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. Each licensed hunter who hunts migratory game birds shall complete a current Wyoming validation for the National Harvest Information Program (HIP) and shall obtain a Wyoming HIP permit. This requirement also applies to holders of pioneer and lifetime hunting licenses. Each licensed hunter engaged in the act of hunting doves, ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, rails, cranes or snipe shall be in possession of a Wyoming HIP permit. Each person obtaining a HIP permit for the purpose set forth in this section shall validate the permit by signing the person's name in ink across the face of the permit. Hunters who acquire a HIP permit through the Electronic Licensing System shall not be required to meet the signature provision of this Section. HIP permits expire on June 30 each year. HIP permits are not transferrable to other states. A separate validation is required from each state in which you hunt.

(c) Evidence of Species. One fully-feathered wing or the feathered head shall remain naturally attached to the carcass as a means of identification of migratory game birds, except mourning doves, in the field and while the birds are being transported.

(d) Nontoxic Shot Restrictions.

(i) Nontoxic Shot. No person shall hunt cranes, ducks, geese, mergansers or coots while possessing shot shells loaded with shot other than nontoxic shot. Nontoxic shot shall also be required when hunting any game with a shotgun on all of the lands in the Springer and Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Areas and on all national wildlife refuges open for hunting.

(e) Limited Quota Sandhill Crane Permits. Applications for limited quota sandhill crane permits shall be available at Wyoming Game and Fish Department Regional Offices and selected license selling agents in Bighorn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Park, Sublette, Sweetwater, and Washakie Counties. Application forms may also be downloaded from the Department’s website at <http://gf.state.wy.us>. Party applications shall be accepted. Maximum party size shall be two (2). Party applications shall be in the same envelope and shall specify the same hunt area preference. Permit applications shall be submitted to: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, License Draw, 5400 Bishop Boulevard, Cheyenne, WY 82006, between 8:00 a.m. July 1 and 5:00 p.m. July 31, 2011.

(f) General Sandhill Crane Permits. Applications for federal permits to hunt in the general sandhill crane season (Hunt Area 7) shall be available at Wyoming Game and Fish Department Regional Offices and selected license selling agents in Campbell, Converse, Crook, Goshen, Johnson, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte, Sheridan and Weston counties. Application forms may also be downloaded from the Department’s website at <http://gf.state.wy.us>.

(g) Species, Hunt Areas and Limitations, Season Dates, Shooting Hours, Closed Areas, and Bag Limit.

(i) Mourning Doves, Rails and Snipe – Statewide

MOURNING DOVES, RAILS AND SNIPE						
Species, Hunt Areas and Limitations	Dates of Season		Shooting Hours	Closed Areas Section 5 Subsections	Bag Limit	
	Opens	Closes			Daily	Possession
MOURNING DOVE - STATEWIDE	Sept. 1	Nov. 9	See Sec. 6	b, d, e	15	30
SORA AND VIRGINIA RAIL - STATEWIDE	Sept. 1	Nov. 9	See Sec. 6	b, d, e	25	25
SNIPE – STATEWIDE	Sept. 1	Dec. 16	See Sec. 6	b, d, e a after Nov. 18 c after Nov. 14	8	16

(ii) Sandhill Crane – Central and Pacific Flyways (see Section 8 for hunt area descriptions)

LIMITED QUOTA SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS						
Species, Hunt Areas and Limitations	Dates of Season		Shooting Hours	Closed Areas Section 5 Subsections	Season Bag Limit	
	Opens	Closes				
Hunt Area 1 – Limited quota; 25 permits any sandhill crane	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	See Sec. 6		1 (one)	
Hunt Area 2 – Limited quota; 25 permits any sandhill crane	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	See Sec. 6	e	1 (one)	
Hunt Area 3 – Limited quota; 95 permits any sandhill crane	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	See Sec. 6	d	1 (one)	
Hunt Area 4 – Limited quota; 90 permits any sandhill crane	Sept. 17	Oct. 9	See Sec. 6		1 (one)	
Hunt Area 5 – Limited quota; 10 permits any sandhill crane	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	See Sec. 6		1 (one)	
Hunt Area 6 – Limited quota; 105 permits any sandhill crane	Sept. 17	Oct. 2	See Sec. 6		1 (one)	

GENERAL SANDHILL CRANE SEASON						
Species, Hunt Areas and Limitations	Dates of Season		Shooting Hours	Closed Areas Section 5 Subsections	Bag Limit	
	Opens	Closes			Daily	Possession
Hunt Area 7 – Permit required, any sandhill crane	Sept. 17	Nov. 13	See Sec. 6	b	3	6

(iii) Early Canada Goose – Pacific Flyway

EARLY CANADA GOOSE						
Species, Hunt Areas and Limitations	Dates of Season		Shooting Hours	Closed Areas Section 5 Subsections	Bag Limit	
	Opens	Closes			Daily	Possession
Pacific Flyway – Any Canada goose or cackling goose	Sept. 1	Sept. 8	See Sec. 6	d, e	2	4

(h) Permits. All persons, regardless of age, hunting sandhill cranes shall possess a permit valid for the area in which they are hunting. No person shall apply for or receive more than one (1) limited quota permit to hunt sandhill cranes. A person may also obtain a federal crane permit valid for the general sandhill crane season in Hunt Area 7.

(i) Tagging Sandhill Cranes. When a sandhill crane is killed under a limited quota permit, the permittee shall detach, sign and date the proper coupon and attach the coupon to the carcass before leaving the site of kill. The coupon shall remain on the crane carcass at all times until the meat undergoes processing, except that during transportation of the carcass the coupon may be removed to prevent its loss. If the coupon is removed for transportation of the carcass, it must be in possession of the person accompanying the carcass at all times. When dating a carcass coupon, the entire wedge or block shall be cut out for the date and the month of kill. The carcass coupon shall be attached to the carcass of a crane in such a manner as to be plainly visible. Sandhill cranes killed during the general crane season in Hunt Area 7 are not required to be tagged.

Section 5. Description of Closed Areas. The areas described in this Section shall be closed for the species and dates specified in the tables in Section 4.

(a) Goshen County

(i) Hawk Springs Reservoir. Beginning where the east fence of the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way meets the south fence enclosing Hawk Springs Reservoir; due east along said fence to Goshen County Road 51; northerly along said road to the access road to the northeast dam of the reservoir; southwesterly along said road to the northeast dam and the fence enclosing the reservoir; northwesterly along said fence to the second gate; southwesterly from said gate to the northwest corner of the fence enclosing the reservoir; southerly along said fence to the beginning point.

(ii) Springer Reservoir. Beginning on U.S. Highway 85 at the George Marlatt farmhouse; westerly along the fence between the farm land and the pasture land to the west end of the west pump lake; southerly to the northwest corner of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Springer Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA); southerly along the Springer WHMA boundary south of the Game and Fish Department buildings; due south across the Whispering Wings LLC property to the Craig and Roberta Fulmer pasture fence; southerly and westerly along said fence to the Yoder-Bump-Sullivan Road (Goshen County Road 37); southerly along said road to the county road (Goshen County Road 42) on the south boundary of the Springer WHMA; easterly along said road to U.S. Highway 85; northerly along said highway to the George Marlatt farmhouse. Also that portion of the Springer WHMA south of Goshen County Road 42.

(iii) Pond No. 1 Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area. Pond No. 1 and adjacent lands as marked by colored signs and posts.

(iv) Miller Lake (Glomill Reservoir). Miller Lake and all lands within three hundred (300) yards of the normal high water line.

(v) North Platte River. That portion of the North Platte River and all lands within three hundred (300) yards of each bank of said river located between the two river crossings of Wyoming Highway 157.

(vi) Bump-Sullivan Managed Goose Hunt. From November 19, 2011 through February 15, 2012 no access shall be allowed to Bump-Sullivan Reservoir and lands within the Bump-Sullivan Managed Goose Hunt during dark goose shooting hours without a Bump-Sullivan Managed Goose Hunt Registration (see Chapter 14, Sections 8 and 9).

(b) Platte County

(i) Festo Lake. Festo Lake and all lands within three hundred (300) yards of the normal high water line shall be closed to all migratory game bird hunting.

(ii) Wheatland Reservoir No. 1. Wheatland Reservoir No. 1 and all lands within three hundred (300) yards of the normal high water line and all Wheatland Irrigation District lands adjacent to the reservoir, in addition to those included in the three hundred (300) yard closure, shall be closed to hunting.

(c) Fremont County

(i) Ocean Lake. The waters of Ocean Lake and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission lands within approximately one-half (1/2) mile of the aeration system on the north side of the lake shall be closed to migratory game bird hunting beginning November 15 through December 31 and January 1 through March 10 of each year. Beginning December 15 through March 10, the area shall be closed to all human presence, except for Wyoming Game and Fish Department administrative access, within one-half (1/2) mile of the aerator on the ice and as marked by signs on Wyoming Game and Fish Commission lands around the aerator.

(d) Sweetwater County

(i) Eden Reservoir. Eden Reservoir and all lands within three hundred (300) yards of the normal high water line shall be closed to all migratory game bird hunting.

(ii) Seedskae National Wildlife Refuge. All lands within Seedskae National Wildlife Refuge shall be closed to goose hunting during the early Canada goose season.

(e) Lincoln County

(i) Palisades Reservoir. Beginning at the junction of the McCoy Creek Road and U.S. Highway 89; northerly on U.S. Highway 89 for 1.6 miles to the Palisades Reservoir high water line; westerly along said high water line to the Wyoming-Idaho state line; southerly along said state line to the McCoy Creek Road; southeasterly along the McCoy Creek Road to U.S. Highway 89 shall be closed to all migratory game bird hunting.

Section 6. Shooting Hours. Shooting hours for the hunting of all migratory game birds shall be from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset as determined from the shooting hours table in this section.

(a) 2011 Shooting Hours Table. This table (including adjustments for daylight savings time) lists the official shooting hours (one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset) adopted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission for the taking of migratory game birds. (Do not use tables from other sources.) ST=Starting Time, QT= Quitting Time.

	AREA A		AREA B		AREA C		AREA D	
	ST	QT	ST	QT	ST	QT	ST	QT
September								
1-7	6:17	7:49	6:11	7:43	6:03	7:35	5:57	7:29
8-14	6:24	7:37	6:18	7:31	6:10	7:23	6:04	7:17
15-21	6:32	7:24	6:26	7:18	6:18	7:10	6:12	7:04
22-30	6:40	7:09	6:34	7:03	6:26	6:55	6:20	6:49
October								
1-7	6:50	6:56	6:44	6:50	6:36	6:42	6:30	6:36
8-14	6:58	6:44	6:52	6:38	6:44	6:30	6:38	6:24
15-21	7:06	6:32	7:00	6:26	6:52	6:18	6:46	6:12
22-31	7:16	6:19	7:10	6:13	7:02	6:05	6:56	5:59
November								
1-5	7:26	6:09	7:20	6:03	7:12	5:55	7:06	5:49
*6-14	6:35	5:01	6:29	4:55	6:21	4:47	6:15	4:41
15-21	6:44	4:54	6:38	4:48	6:30	4:40	6:24	4:34
22-30	6:54	4:48	6:48	4:42	6:40	4:34	6:34	4:28
December								
1-7	7:03	4:45	6:57	4:39	6:49	4:31	6:43	4:25
8-16	7:11	4:45	7:03	4:39	6:57	4:31	6:51	4:25

*Start Mountain Standard Time

AREA A - Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton, Uinta Counties

AREA B - Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, Washakie Counties

AREA C - Albany, Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Johnson, Natrona, Sheridan Counties

AREA D - Crook, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte, Weston Counties

Section 7. Falconry Seasons. Migratory game birds may be taken by the use of falcons in the possession of properly licensed falconers during the regular hunting season and special extended seasons in accordance with the limitations in this Section, Section 6, Section 5 and Section 4 (a), (b), (c), (e) and (h) and the closures identified in Section 4 (g). No person shall be in possession of any firearm while hunting with a falcon.

(a) Falconry Bag and Possession Limits. The daily bag limit shall not exceed three (3) migratory game birds in the aggregate nor shall the possession limit exceed six (6) migratory game

birds in the aggregate for falconry during the open hunting season or special extended falconry season. The falconry bag and possession limits are not in addition to the bag and possession limits listed in Section 4, Hunting Regulations.

FALCONRY						
Species and Hunt Areas	Dates of Season		Open Hours	Closed Areas Section 5 Subsections	AGGREGATE Bag Limit	
	Opens	Closes			Daily	Possession
Mourning Doves - Statewide	Sept. 1	Nov. 9	See Sec. 6	Limitations in effect in Sections 4 and 5 shall apply	3**	6**
Sora Rail, Virginia Rail and Snipe - Statewide	Sept. 1	Dec. 16				
Dark Geese - Pacific Flyway	Sept. 1	Sept. 8				

**The daily bag and possession limits, singly or in the aggregate, may include any species and sex of ducks, geese, coots, mergansers, rail, snipe and mourning doves when seasons for those species are open.

Section 8. Hunt Area Descriptions.

(a) General and Limited Quota Sandhill Crane Areas.

- (i) Area 1. All of the Bear River and Ham’s Fork River drainages in Lincoln County.
- (ii) Area 2. All of the Salt River drainage in Lincoln County south of the McCoy Creek Road.
- (iii) Area 3. All lands within the Bureau of Reclamation’s Eden Project in Sweetwater County.
- (iv) Area 4. All lands within the Bureau of Reclamation’s Riverton and Boysen Unit boundaries; those lands within Boysen State Park south of Cottonwood Creek, west of Boysen Reservoir, and south of U.S. Highway 20-26; and all non-Indian owned fee title lands within the exterior boundaries of the Wind River Reservation, excluding those lands within Hot Springs County.
- (v) Area 5. All of Uinta County.
- (vi) Area 6. All of Big Horn, Hot Springs, Park and Washakie counties.
- (vii) Area 7. All of Campbell, Converse, Crook, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte and Weston counties; that portion of Johnson County east of Interstate Highway 25 from the Natrona County line north to Interstate Highway 90 and east of Interstate Highway 90 from the

intersection with Interstate Highway 25 to the Sheridan County line; and that portion of Sheridan County east of Interstate Highway 90.

Section 9. Savings Clause. If any provision of this regulation shall be held to be illegal or unconstitutional, such a ruling shall not affect other provisions of this regulation which can be given effect without the illegal or unconstitutional provision; and, to this end, the provisions of this regulation shall be severable.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

By:
Fred Lindzey, President

Dated: April 27, 2011