

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Virgil Moore, Director

Surveys and Inventories

2013 Statewide Report



**WATERFOWL FALL AND WINTER SURVEYS, PRODUCTION
(October 2012-March 2013),**

**WATERFOWL SPRING SURVEYS, SUMMER BANDING, AND HARVEST
(April 2013-September 2013)**

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STATEWIDE REPORT SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Waterfowl Fall and Winter Surveys, Banding, and Harvest

STUDY NAME: Waterfowl Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies

PERIOD COVERED: October 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

WATERFOWL FALL AND WINTER SURVEYS, BANDING, AND HARVEST

ABSTRACT

The results of harvest surveys and the midwinter waterfowl survey are summarized and discussed. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) estimated duck harvest was up 32.6% and goose harvest was up 44.9% from 2011-2012 levels. The Department discontinued a separate waterfowl harvest survey for Idaho during 2010. Idaho held a late-winter light goose hunt from 18 February to 10 March 2013 in the Southwest and Magic Valley regions, and a portion of the Southeast Region. The midwinter waterfowl survey was not conducted in January 2013. The Department continues to conduct a flight safety review during which needs/risk assessment are completed, and the midwinter waterfowl survey is being considered in greater detail. -

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT

For the twelfth year, the USFWS offered all states the option of holding a two-day youth waterfowl hunt during the 2012-2013 season. Pacific Flyway states that chose the option were required to reduce their regular seasons by two days so as not to exceed the 107-day maximum length for migratory bird seasons. States were permitted to hold the hunt outside the regular season framework, but regular-season limits applied. The Commission selected the option and chose September 29-30 for the hunt that was open to youth 12-15 years-of-age; it also chose full duck (including merganser), coot, and goose limits.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

1. Determine production and trends of resident waterfowl.
2. Estimate waterfowl harvest, hunter participation, and hunter opinions.
3. Determine waterfowl movements, distribution, and survival rates.

PROCEDURES

1. Conduct fall and winter aerial counts of waterfowl.
2. Evaluate the usefulness of fall surveys and consider new techniques to assess waterfowl numbers.
3. Conduct a telephone survey of hunting license buyers.

4. Operate check stations or field checks.
5. Band waterfowl and monitor movements and survival rates.

Harvest data were collected and analyzed by the Bureau of Wildlife. Personnel stationed in the state's seven regions and one sub-region collected all other data.

RESULTS

DUCKS (ALL SPECIES)

Current Management Plan Goals

1. Reverse the decline in the number of duck hunters.
2. Reverse the decline in duck harvest.
3. Determine duck nesting success at least twice (every other year) on all Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) where waterfowl production is a priority.
4. Maintain a 30% nest success for upland nesting ducks on WMAs where waterfowl production is a priority.
5. Develop and implement a predator management strategy for priority WMAs where nest success is less than 30%.
6. Establish duck production surveys in at least one region in cooperation with the USFWS.

Management Areas

Background and Management Philosophy: See the 2007 Waterfowl Annual Reports (Study II, Jobs 2 & 3) for a thorough history of the duck management areas in Idaho.

For the 2012-2013 season, the USFWS offered a 107-day season for ducks, snipe, and coot statewide. The regular season was 105 days with no split, and the two-day youth waterfowl season was held September 29-30.

The description, season framework, and bag and possession limits for each Management Area are found in Appendix A.

Population Surveys

During 2010, two helicopter crashes occurred with Department personnel on board. In one instance, the pilot and both passengers sustained serious injuries, and in the other the pilot and both passengers were fatally injured. As a result, the Department continues to conduct a flight safety review during which needs/risk assessment are completed. There are some surveys that were discontinued, some that are being considered in greater detail, and others that will continue, but with a greater emphasis on efficiency and safety to reduce risks for those involved. The midwinter waterfowl survey was under review and not conducted in January 2012 (Table 1). Mid-winter waterfowl surveys were conducted in the Clearwater region, Urban-Boise, and Hagerman areas in 2013.

In 2013, the estimated mallard abundance was 10.6 million birds, which was 13% above the 2011 9.2 million birds and 22% above the long-term average (USFWS 2013).

Harvest Characteristics

Telephone Survey: In an effort to reduce costs and increase efficiency, the Department discontinued annual telephone harvest surveys for waterfowl in 2010. The USFWS annually estimates statewide harvest through the Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program Harvest (Table 2).

Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program: The goal of the program is to obtain improved harvest estimates for all species. By federal mandate, states provide the USFWS with names and addresses of all migratory game bird hunters, from which the USFWS draws a sample of hunters to survey. The Department has complied fully with the USFWS's request for information every year since the 1997-1998 season. The USFWS estimated 277,700 ducks were harvested in Idaho during the 2012-2013 hunting season, which was up 18% from the 2011-2012 estimate. According to USFWS HIP estimates, the average number of adult duck hunters in Idaho was 16,200 (Table 2).

Waterfowl check stations were operated at the Boundary Smith Creek, McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs on the opening Saturday and Sunday of the 2012-2013 duck season. A total of 122 hunters expended 434 hours of effort to harvest 301 ducks (2.5 ducks/hunter; 0.7 hours/duck).

Management Implications

The Department continued to meet its 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan (WMP) goals to reverse the decline in the number of duck hunters and ducks harvested. However, the WMP is outdated and needs to be updated to reflect current waterfowl management issues in Idaho.

See the 2007 Waterfowl Annual Reports (Study II, Jobs 2 & 3) for a thorough history of the Idaho migratory waterfowl stamp and how the revenue it generated was spent. Currently, there is an annual budget of \$155,700 in the Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) for waterfowl habitat improvement or enhancement.

Future management will be directed toward improving and restoring wetland habitat to attract more ducks and other wetland birds as they migrate through Idaho. Habitat improvement will seek to increase local production and improve wetland functions across the landscape.

GEESE (ALL SPECIES)

Current Management Plan Goals

1. Increase Idaho's breeding Canada goose populations and wintering populations.
2. Increase the annual goose harvest to 50,000 birds.
3. Maintain the average number of geese harvested per hunter per season above 3.0.

4. Increase hunter days to 130,000 annually.

Management Areas

Background and Management Philosophy: Two populations of western Canada geese are recognized for management purposes, in the Pacific Flyway (Subcommittee on Rocky Mountain Canada Geese 2000). They include the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) and the Pacific Population (PP). Both populations occur in Idaho (Figure 1). See the 2007 Waterfowl Annual Reports (Study II, Jobs 2 & 3) for a thorough history of the goose management areas in Idaho.

For the 2012-2013 season, the USFWS offered a 107-day season for geese statewide. The regular season for dark geese was 105 days with no split, and the two-day youth waterfowl season was held 29-30 September. The duck and dark goose seasons have opened concurrently since the 2003-2004 waterfowl season.

During the 2008-2009 regulations cycle, the Pacific Flyway Council extended the white goose framework for Interior states to 10 March. Idaho implemented a late-winter light goose season from 16 February to 10 March, 2013. The regular season for light geese was 105 days with no split in the Panhandle, Clearwater, Upper Snake, and Salmon regions, and most of the Southeast Region. The remainder of the state had a season for light geese that was 105 days with a split to allow for hunting in late February and early March.

The description, season framework, and bag and possession limits for each Management Area are found in Appendix A.

Population Surveys

During 2010, two helicopter crashes occurred with Department personnel on board. In one instance, the pilot and both passengers sustained serious injuries, and in the other the pilot and both passengers were fatally injured. As a result, the Department continues to conduct a flight safety review during which needs/risk assessment are completed. There are some surveys that were discontinued, some that are being considered in greater detail, and others that will continue, but with a greater emphasis on efficiency and safety to reduce risks for those involved. The midwinter waterfowl survey is currently under review (Table 1).

Harvest Characteristics

Telephone Survey: In an effort to reduce costs and increase efficiency, the Department discontinued annual telephone harvest surveys for waterfowl in 2010. The USFWS annually estimates statewide harvest through the Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program Harvest.

The Department used a mail-in/telephone survey to estimate the light goose harvest from the spring season. The survey estimated that 942 hunters harvested 4,628 light geese during the 18 February to 10 March season, which was up over 71% from the 2012 season.

Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program: The goal of the program is to obtain improved harvest estimates for all species. By federal mandate, states provide the USFWS with names and addresses of all migratory game bird hunters, from which the USFWS draws samples of hunters to survey. The Department has complied fully with the USFWS's request for information every year since the 1997-1998 season. The USFWS estimated 73,900 geese were harvested in Idaho during the 2012-2013 hunting season, which was up 24% from the 2011-2012 estimates (Table 2). Historic harvest data for Canada geese can be found in Tables 4-6.

Management Implications

The Department met its 1991-1995 WMP goal for total harvest and harvest per hunter per season, but did not meet the goal for total days hunted statewide. However, the WMP is outdated and needs to be updated to reflect current waterfowl management issues in Idaho.

The Department will continue to implement the HIP program (discussed previously in the duck section) to improve wetland habitat for Canada geese and other wetland birds. Goose depredation problems are becoming significant in some urban areas and will require new strategies to manage these nuisance birds.

SANDHILL CRANE

The Department's goals and objectives for the sandhill crane are the same as those for the Pacific Flyway (Subcommittee on Rocky Mountain Population Greater Sandhill Cranes 2007), which is available at the Pacific Flyway website at: www.pacificflyway.org.

The RMP sandhill crane population continued to receive increased management emphasis during the reporting period in the Magic Valley, Southeast, and Upper Snake regions because of continued landowner concerns over crop damage. Surveys of RMP greater sandhill cranes in these three regions were initiated in 1995 to document total sandhill crane numbers, arrival dates, distribution, and age ratios.

TRUMPETER SWAN

The Department's goals and objectives for the trumpeter swans are the same as those for the Pacific Flyway (Subcommittee on Rocky Mountain Population Trumpeter Swans 2012), which is available at the Pacific Flyway website at: www.pacificflyway.org.

TUNDRA SWAN

The Department's 1991-1995 WMP goals for tundra swan are to: (1) maintain current migrations through Idaho, and (2) meet the demand for non-consumptive use. However, during the reporting period, this species received little management emphasis in Idaho. This is because the tundra swan is not classified by the state as a game bird and the species benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs.

AMERICAN COOT

The Department's 1991-1995 WMP goals for American coot are to: (1) maintain Idaho's population, (2) increase the harvest, and (3) provide maximum recreational opportunity. However, this species received little management emphasis during the reporting period. This is because the American coot is not a popular game bird in Idaho and because it benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs.

WILSON'S SNIPE

The Department's 1991-1995 WMP goals for Wilson's snipe are to: (1) maintain Idaho's Wilson's snipe population and (2) maintain the harvest. However, during the reporting period, this species received little management attention. This is because the Wilson's snipe is not a popular game bird in Idaho and because it benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs.

STATEWIDE REPORT SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Waterfowl Spring Surveys, Summer Banding, and Fall Harvest

STUDY NAME: Waterfowl Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies

PERIOD COVERED: April 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013

WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AND SUMMER BANDING

ABSTRACT

In 2013, Idaho banded 1,556 mallards. Since 2008, 7,570 mallards have been banded by Department personnel in Idaho. In 2013, active nests of Pacific Population (PP) Canada geese were counted from the ground on 2 survey areas in Idaho, and totaled 236. The Department continues to conduct a flight safety review during which needs/risk assessment are completed. There are some surveys that were discontinued, some that are being considered in greater detail, and others that will continue, but with a greater emphasis on efficiency and safety to reduce risks for those involved. Canada goose breeding pair surveys are currently under review and were not conducted in 2013. Furthermore, the Pacific Flyway Study Committee is currently revising the management plan for the Rocky Mountain and Pacific populations of Canada geese. As part of this process, new survey methodologies are being considered.

The combination fixed-wing and ground count of sandhill crane in September was completed in 2013. A total of 5,228 cranes were counted in Idaho. In 2013, 275 sandhill crane tags were again available on a first-come first-served basis. The hunts were held in September in 6 areas and an estimated 135 cranes were harvested.

Tundra swans, American coots, and Wilson's snipe received little management emphasis; these species benefit from statewide programs aimed at other species. Department management area descriptions: duck, goose, and sandhill crane hunting season structures, and bag and possession limits for the previous season are provided in Appendix A.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

1. Determine production and trends of resident waterfowl.
2. Determine movements, distribution, and survival rates of resident waterfowl.

PROCEDURES

1. Conduct Canada goose breeding pair aerial surveys and nest searches for specific survey areas and implement a triggering mechanism for determining when to reduce the goose harvest.
2. Band locally-produced waterfowl and monitor movements and survival rates.

3. Trap Canada goose goslings and transplant them into areas where new flocks may be started or to supplement existing low populations.

REGIONAL REPORTS

DUCKS (All Species)

Panhandle Region

Population Surveys: Approximately 390 wood duck nest boxes located in the Panhandle were available for nesting in 2012. A total of 177 boxes were evaluated. Cavity-nesting ducks (wood ducks, common goldeneye, bufflehead, and hooded mergansers) utilized 90 (51%) of the boxes evaluated and all species had a 37% nest success. Wood ducks comprised 27% of the nest box use and saw a 67% nest success. Hooded Mergansers used 24% of the boxes and had 71% nest success.

Breeding pair/brood duck production surveys were conducted on the Boundary Creek and McArthur Lake in 2013. Due to staffing issues and other project priorities, breeding pair/brood surveys were not conducted along the Coeur d'Alene River or Pend Oreille WMA. Two breeding pair surveys were conducted in May, followed by brood counts conducted in June (once), July (once), and August (once). In the Northern Panhandle Habitat District, a total of 298 breeding duck pairs produced 67 observed broods (22.5% success) and 404 ducklings (6.0 ducklings per brood). While a wide variety of duck species were recorded during the pair counts, many of these species leave prior to breeding and consequently artificially lower the referenced success rates. The dominant breeding duck species in the Panhandle are mallards, wood ducks, and to a lesser extent, blue-winged and green-winged teal.

Trapping and Transplanting: A total of 1,784 ducks were trapped and banded by Department personnel in the Panhandle Region during August and September 2013 (Tables 3 and 4). Mallards comprised 67% of the sample. Banding occurred at the Coeur d'Alene River, Pend Oreille, McArthur Lake, and Boundary Creek WMAs. No transplanting projects were conducted.

Management Studies: Since 1991, a total of 21,256 locally-produced ducks have been banded during breeding season at the Boundary Creek, McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs.

McArthur Lake WMA long-term management goals include a complete lake drawdown once every 7-10 years, with partial, moist-soil drawdowns completed approximately every five years in the interim years. Wetland impoundments with stable water levels often see a decline in emergent vegetation and a loss of productivity over time. Periodic drawdowns expose bottom sediments, generating aerobic decomposition and the consolidation of sediment. The mudflats favor the germination of plants typical of early marsh succession which are usually outcompeted by cattail during longer periods of flooding. These species generally produce an abundance of seed and provide excellent food and habitat for wildlife. The exposed mudflats and decomposition also support abundant invertebrate populations that provide an important food

source for wildlife, including shorebirds and waterfowl. Water levels are kept below full capacity the following year to avoid over flooding the new plant species to allow them to become established.

The McArthur Lake draw down was initiated in May 2012. Water levels dropped an average of 1 foot per week, dropping approximately 7 feet total. Due to extreme flooding conditions in Boundary County during summer 2012, 1 foot of boards was replaced on the dam during late June to alleviate flooding conditions to landowners downstream of McArthur Lake. June rain levels of 4.39 inches set a new record for Bonners Ferry. The drawdown was resumed early July and low lake levels were reached by mid-August. Re-flooding began 1 October, with levels increasing an average of 1 foot per week during October, for a total of 4 feet. Water levels remained 3 feet lower than normal over the winter and spring and were gradually re-flooded in late summer of 2013. Benefits of the drawdown include the germination of abundant wetland vegetation, increase in waterfowl, shorebird and white pelican use of the lake.

McArthur Lake had a tremendous amount of smartweed species (*Polygonum spp.*) and nodding beggars tick (*Bidens cerna*) in the exposed drawdown areas. Smartweed can produce up to 2,000 lbs per acre of seed. Beggars tick has 5,177 energy calories per kilogram, which is higher than rice at 3,560 energy calories per kilogram. These 2 plant species are highly desirable to waterfowl. Other notable wetland plant species were Chamisso sedge (*Carex pachystachya*), Northwest Territory sedge (*Carex utriculata*), slough grass (*Beckmannia syzigachne*), wool grass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), and golden dock (*Rumex marimus*).

Waterfowl use of the reservoir increased substantially during the following fall 2012 and spring 2013 migrations. Prior to the drawdown, in 2011, fall migration surveys showed 83 ducks, 425 coots, and no Canada geese. Fall migration surveys after the drawdown, in 2012, showed 816 ducks (including 337 mallards and 473 wigeon), 303 Canada geese, and no coots. The following spring migration in 2013 had 2,286 ducks (including 862 pintail, 699 mallards, 685 wigeon), 172 Canada geese and 200 coots. Similar increases in migrating waterfowl were observed after a drawdown in 2002, in which the fall surveys showed 2,493 ducks, 67 Canada geese, and 2400 coots.

The exposed mudflats during the draw down also created excellent habitat for shorebirds. Shorebird species observed during July 2012 were least sandpipers, western sandpipers, Baird's sandpipers, solitary sandpipers, spotted sandpipers, killdeer, and yellowlegs. White pelicans also occurred in large numbers (>100) during the draw down, feeding on the fish trapped in shallow waters.

Waterfowl check stations were operated at the Boundary Creek, McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs on the opening Saturday and Sunday of the 2012 duck season. A total of 125 hunters expended 450 hours of effort to harvest 328 ducks (2.6 ducks/hunter; 1.4 hours/duck). Mallards comprised 29% of the harvest and wood ducks 12%.

Management Implications: The installation of nest boxes in appropriate wetland habitat throughout the Panhandle Region has significantly increased production of cavity-nesting ducks,

as seen in the significant percentage of wood ducks in the opening weekend waterfowl check station survey. Although wood ducks are the target species for this effort; common goldeneye and hooded mergansers also frequently use these boxes. Through the Habitat Improvement Program (HIP), many of these nest boxes are now placed on private lands and contribute to the overall improvement in duck production throughout the region.

Clearwater Region

Population Surveys: The number of ducks present in the Clearwater Region is so small that little active management is possible. No population surveys for ducks are conducted within the region.

A small breeding population of wood ducks nests in the Clearwater Region. From 1988-1998, in an attempt to enhance this species' presence, nest boxes were erected in conjunction with the Department's HIP program. A landowner survey of wood duck use of nest boxes was discontinued in 2005 due to poor return rates on data cards. Many of these structures are no longer usable. Since 2001, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has installed over 30 wood duck nest boxes along the lower Snake and Clearwater River levee ponds and sloughs. A resident population resides in the valley and disperses out from this source.

Trapping and Transplanting: No ducks were banded in the Clearwater Region during this reporting period.

Management Implications: The development of ponds and shallow water areas through the HIP program has improved local duck nesting in the region, though no production surveys are conducted to monitor this. Future production surveys may be worthwhile at trapping sites if numbers increase.

Southwest (Nampa) Region

Population Surveys: No surveys for estimating duck nesting success and production were conducted on WMAs during the reporting period.

Trapping and Transplanting: No ducks were trapped during this reporting period.

Disease Testing: No sampling took place in 2013.

Habitat Conditions: No regional wetland surveys are conducted; therefore, the exact extent of wetlands is unknown. The waterfowl production from these wetlands is also unknown.

Management Implications: No new wetlands have been created during this reporting period.

Prescribed fire and herbicide are being used on WMAs to open up dense stands of vegetation. Opening these stands will make them more attractive and productive to waterfowl broods.

Southwest (McCall) Region

Population Surveys: No population surveys are conducted for ducks in the McCall sub-region. Ducks are numerous and mostly associated with the Lake Cascade ecosystem.

Various local groups, such as the Boy Scouts and Reservoir Association, erect wood duck nest boxes. No effort was made to monitor the number of boxes installed by these private organizations. Maintenance of these boxes is encouraged annually.

Trapping and Transplanting: No ducks were banded by the Southwest (McCall) Region during this reporting period.

Management Implications: The HIP program and other programs will be utilized to enhance duck nest production. Priority will be placed on projects that stabilize water levels and enhance nest production on Cascade Reservoir.

Magic Valley Region

Population Surveys: Magic Valley regional staff conducts an annual ground waterfowl survey in conjunction with the midwinter waterfowl survey at Hagerman Wildlife Management Area. The count for this reporting period was conducted on 16 January, 2013 and involved 5 field personnel. A total of 23,088 ducks were observed including 18,722 dabblers and 2,785 divers.

Habitat Conditions: Precipitation during the 2012-2013 winter was near average in all major watersheds in the Magic Valley Region. Snake River flows, as usual, were low during nesting season.

Trapping and Transplanting: No ducks were banded in the Magic Valley Region during this reporting period (Tables 3 and 4).

Management Implications: Although ducks are produced annually on the Hagerman, Niagara, Billingsley Creek, Centennial Marsh, and Carey Lake WMAs, much of the region's duck production occurs in cultivated areas along canals and near small reservoirs and stock ponds. In general, wetland habitats are limited in the region. At WMAs, where duck production is a priority, breeding pair and brood surveys are currently not conducted.

Southeast Region

Population Surveys: Duck nest success and brood surveys have been conducted on the Sterling WMA periodically since the mid-1990s. During this reporting period 14 breeding pairs and approximately 6 broods were detected on the WMA with an estimated nest success rate of 42.9%. After incorporating species, observability correction factors the number of broods increased to 12 with an estimated nesting success of 85.7%. Water levels at American Falls Reservoir and all ponds on Sterling WMA were satisfactory during the nesting and brood-rearing season.

Twenty-four wood duck nest boxes are located in the region. No boxes were checked during this report period.

Predator Management: Graduate student research from 1993-1995 indicated high magpie populations on the Sterling WMA in association with dense Russian olive stands. Russian olive stands were removed in the late 1990s in an attempt to reduce predation and increase waterfowl nest success. Subsequent field observations suggested that mammalian predators began to replace magpies following tree removal. Mammalian predator removal efforts were initiated in 1997 and continued through 2009, but have not been carried out since.

Trapping and Transplanting: No ducks were banded in the Southeast Region during this reporting period.

Waterfowl die-offs: One large die-off occurred on American Falls Reservoir during the 2009 reporting period where over 20,000 waterfowl and water birds died due to an avian botulism outbreak. Another, much smaller (~ 250 waterfowl), botulism outbreak occurred in the Shelly City Sewer lagoon during the 2009 reporting period. In August 2010, one small botulism outbreak where approximately 20 ducks died occurred at an industrial settling pond. Climatic conditions during this reporting period, however, were more favorable and no botulism or other waterfowl die-offs were detected.

Upper Snake Region

Population Surveys: A waterfowl brood count was conducted on Sand Creek WMA in the spring of 2013. A total of 30 broods and 163 Ducklings/Goslings were observed with an average brood size of 5.21

Habitat Conditions: Most ducks in the region are produced on Market Lake and Mud Lake WMAs and Camas National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Duck production on all of these areas is influenced by water levels. Abnormally wet or dry years can reduce production. Numerous other areas of duck habitat, ranging from small beaver ponds and potholes to riparian communities along the Snake River occur throughout the region. Some areas are severely impacted by livestock grazing while other areas are impacted by irrigation withdrawal, invasive noxious weeds, or housing development. The region is working with private landowners, local weed control areas, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and other non-government groups to improve the quality of nesting and brood-rearing habitat through HIP.

The best wood duck habitat in the region is on the North Fork Snake River below St. Anthony, the South Fork Snake River below Burns Creek, and the Snake River above Roberts. These areas have excellent cottonwood riparian communities and numerous slow-flowing and backwater sloughs. Except for Cartier Slough WMA, Deer Parks WMA, and the Warm Slough Access Area, the land ownership is a mix of private and BLM lands. Market Lake, Mud Lake, and Sand Creek WMAs have limited wood duck nesting habitat around the edges of marshes and ponds.

Habitat Improvements: On Market Lake WMA, 154 acres were farmed during 2013, and an additional 500 acres were burned to benefit waterfowl and upland game. A variety of crops were planted and left standing for waterfowl and upland game use.

On Mud Lake WMA, 100 acres were planted to food plots to benefit waterfowl and upland game in 2013. Additionally, four wood duck boxes were maintained at Mud Lake WMA.

On Chester Wetlands and Sand Creek WMAs, 169 acres of food plots were planted to improve habitat.

Trapping and Transplanting: No ducks were trapped for transplanting in the Upper Snake Region during this reporting period. Habitat biologists banded 597 ducks during this reporting period.

Waterfowl Die-offs: At Market Lake WMA from 29 July to 24 September 2013, botulism killed a total of 69 ducks.

Depredation: No depredation complaints were received during this reporting period.

Predator Control: Mud Lake WMA and Market Lake WMA conducted Magpie removal during the spring months. A total of 308 adult magpies were removed along with approximately 200 eggs destroyed. Hunters and trappers remove some predators during normal furbearer seasons.

Management Implications: Management direction in the 1991-1995 WMP is to maintain at least 30% duck nesting success on important duck-producing WMAs and increase duck production by improving nesting habitat on WMAs and through HIP. Production surveys are to be used on WMAs where duck production is a priority to monitor production and measures taken to increase production where it is low.

Nest success has not been monitored since the early 1990s. Mayfield nest success estimates at Market Lake WMA were around 20% each year that surveys were done. This is below the objective of 30% for the WMA. Nest predation appeared to be caused by both avian and mammalian predators. Mammalian predation appeared higher on nests in large *Juncus* habitat blocks while avian predation appeared higher in fragmented cattail and hardstem bulrush habitat patches.

Results from nest searches and nest success estimates on Market Lake suggest that ducks are not using some plant communities for nesting. Very few nests were found in the old *Juncus* meadows. Reseeding at least some of these communities to cover providing more structure (e.g., a rank bunchgrass) should be considered and the areas then monitored for nest attempts and success.

Duck nest surveys conducted on Mud Lake WMA generally indicated above 30% nesting success.

The region has some excellent wood duck habitat along the Snake River but has lacked nesting boxes. Adopt-A-Wetland groups and habitat biologists have placed some nesting boxes along the Snake River. Incidental observations suggest a wood duck nesting population has established along the Snake River. Eight new wood duck boxes were installed on Gem State WHA.

Salmon Region

Population Surveys: No population surveys are conducted for ducks in the Salmon Region.

Trapping and Transplanting: No ducks were banded in the Salmon Region during this reporting period.

Wood duck nest boxes in the region were visited and cleaned.

GEESE (All Species)

Panhandle Region

Population Surveys: Canada goose nest surveys were conducted on the Boundary Creek, McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs in 2013 (Figure 2). A total of 315 nests were located. Three hundred and eighty one nest platforms were checked with a total of 126 active platforms had active nests for a use rate of 33%. The remaining 255 nests detected were all ground nests with the majority being detected on Pearl Island of the POWMA.

Historically, McArthur Lake WMA produced the greatest number of geese in the Panhandle Region, peaking at 117 nests in 1982. By 1987, this number had declined to 55 nests, attributable primarily to raven depredation. Predator control efforts were implemented and helped to stabilize production. During dam reconstruction, the reservoir was drained from September 1994 to March 1995. The number of goose nests declined to 24 and remained low thereafter. In 2013, 25 nests were observed (Table 6).

The Coeur d'Alene River WMA supported >10 nesting pairs of geese in 1979. Following a decade-long gosling transplant program, the population increased dramatically. The population was further bolstered by the addition of ~150 goose nesting platforms. Nesting pair numbers increased to ~100 pairs during the 1990s. A decline was evident over the last 10+ years, which could be a result of nest boxes not being replaced and high spring water levels during the nesting season flooding ground nests. A low of 49 nests were located in 2005 after which significant effort was directed towards nest platform maintenance. A total of 63 nests were observed in 2013. The increase could be attributed to the increased nest box maintenance efforts since Northern Idaho has had high spring water years in 2011 and 2012.

The Pend Oreille WMA consists of scattered parcels along Pend Oreille Lake and the Pend Oreille River. The number of nesting geese located on the Pend Oreille has remained high in recent years as a result of acquisitions, including the addition of Pearl Island to the WMA. Pearl Island on the POWMA is now the leading site for Canada goose production with a three year average (2011-13) of *144 nests*. A total of 262 goose nests were located on the WMA in 2013.

Ten Canada goose nests were located on the Boundary Creek WMA during 2009. This increased to 29 goose nests in 2013. Production on the area is expected to increase as nesting patterns are established and more nesting structures are installed.

Trapping and Transplanting: No Canada geese were banded or transplanted in the Panhandle Region during the reporting period.

Management Implications: Canada goose nesting initially increased in the Panhandle Region in response to the placement of man-made nest structures and a gosling transplant program. Production declined in the early 2000's, presumably in response to a lack of platform maintenance. An increased emphasis was placed on maintaining existing nest structures beginning in 2005, and the number of nesting geese initially increased. Numbers of nesting geese are currently considered to be static.

HIP has significantly increased the number of nest structures erected on private property since 1988. There are more structures on private land than there are on Department property; however these are not surveyed at this time.

From 1973 through 1996, Canada geese goslings were banded each summer at McArthur Lake WMA, as well as all goslings transplanted to the Coeur d'Alene River WMA. This program was terminated in 1997. The region's banding efforts are now concentrated on ducks.

Slightly over half (55%) of the band returns from hunter-harvested geese came from the five-county area of the Panhandle Region. Locally-produced geese winter primarily in eastern Washington and the Tri-cities area along the Columbia River, besides Pend Oreille and Coeur d'Alene Lakes in the Panhandle Region.

Clearwater Region

Population Surveys: An established flock of PP Canada geese nest in the Clearwater Region. These birds nest along the lower 22 miles of the Clearwater River, primarily from Lewiston upstream to Peck (Figure 2). The 2013 breeding pair survey of this area resulted in a count of 25 indicated pairs and a total of 63 Canada geese (Table 6). Numbers of active nests in this area were counted consistently from 1981 through 2006. Nesting success had been enhanced in this area with man-made nest structures placed on islands in the 1980s and early 1990s. Consistent data collection of goose nest structure use in the Clearwater Region began in 1988. The number of structures peaked at 80 in the early 1990s. Issues related to a burgeoning population in the late 1990s resulted in a change in management direction. The total number of structures slowly declined as those found unserviceable were removed. The last structures were removed after the 2006 nesting season. Management direction will encourage natural ground nesting on the islands. Annual summer goose counts conducted in the Lewiston/Clarkston valley indicate a stable local goose population.

Additional areas were surveyed for nests beginning in 1992. These included farm ponds in the region where nesting structures were issued to landowners, and Mann Lake, Middle Fork

Clearwater River, Palouse River, Potlatch River, and Red River. These surveys have been discontinued, as they applied to nest structure use only. Poor return rates on data cards were another factor in discontinuing this survey. Few of these structure remain intact for use by geese.

Depredation: The number of goose complaints remained low over the reporting period. The increased hunting pressure and harvest in and around past depredation complaint areas has effectively reduced calls concerning crop damage. Three complaints of crop damage were taken involving Canada geese. The lack of complaints reported around the Mann Lake area are likely a result of the Department's reduction in the size of the waterfowl hunting closure in 2001.

Trapping and Transplanting: No Canada geese were trapped or transplanted in the Clearwater Region during the reporting period.

Management Studies: Problems associated with large numbers of geese at local parks, golf courses, and the Lewiston airport have subsided somewhat due to favorable habitat conditions and dispersal of birds. No trapping operations were conducted this year.

To address concerns about Canada geese in the urban environment of the Lewiston-Clarkston valley, interested parties continue to work together to apply management options available to control local goose numbers. Deterrent measures such as hazing and vegetation manipulation have been conducted by private businesses, state, and federal agencies in the area.

In 2004, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) applied for a limited permit from the USFWS to take waterfowl using egg addling in specified areas on the Washington levee system and associated parks, and on one island shared by both Washington and Idaho. These sites were determined to have heavy nesting concentrations within city limits. Much of the local goose problem is tied to these areas. The USACE now annually treats between 30 to 60 nests in the specified areas. Nest searches by USACE in April 2013 resulted in treatment of 51 nests (277eggs). The program is reportedly significantly reducing the level of complaints and human health issues related to the local goose population.

Management Implications: Beginning in 2007, the region changed the method of monitoring Canada geese on the lower Clearwater River (Survey Area 5) from structure and ground nest search to a pair and total goose count. Survey Area 6 was dropped as it tracked only the use of nest structures issued to landowners throughout the region. These structures are no longer being maintained for goose nesting and most have been removed. The adjusted management objectives for Survey Area 5 are a minimum of 40 breeding pairs and minimum of 100 total geese (Table 5 and 6).

Southwest (Nampa) Region

Population Surveys: The breeding pair flight survey for geese was discontinued in 2011 due to safety concerns.

The ground-based, mid-winter waterfowl survey goose count in Boise documented 3,265 geese in January 2013.

An urban Canada goose survey was conducted in Boise in May 2013 to document prevalence and distribution of urban geese. It was hoped urban goose counts would correlate with the annual spring pair counts on the Snake and Payette Rivers, which have declined in recent years. Geese were counted in all parks and golf courses in three segments in the greater Boise area. A total of 701 geese were counted in 2013. Numbers appear to be increasing in recent years (586 in 2007, 596 in 2008, 875 in 2009, and 1,137 in 2010, and 1,209 in 2011), despite the low count in 2013. This urban population will be closely monitored and evaluated with other regional goose surveys.

Climatic Conditions: Precipitation in the Southwest Region was near or below average during winter in the Weiser, Bruneau, Boise, Payette, and Owyhee Basins. Precipitation during spring and early summer was below average in the Weiser, Bruneau, Boise, Payette, and Owyhee Basins. Because no regional wetland surveys are conducted, the exact extent of wetlands is unknown. The waterfowl production from these wetlands is also unknown.

Trapping and Transplanting: During summer 2013, no local geese (goslings or adults) were moved out of the urban area of Boise

Disease Testing: No disease sampling was conducted in the region.

Management Implications: Breeding pair counts along the Snake and Payette Rivers have been below management objectives for six consecutive years (prior to 2011). This survey was curtailed in 2011 due to safety concerns, but the downward trend will likely continue. Canada goose surveys on the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge also detected a marked decline in production coinciding with spring pair counts (decrease of 45% from 10 year average).

The Southwest Region will continue to closely monitor populations, seasons, harvest, and limits to determine if the situation warrants action.

Observations of geese in Boise parks, indicate only 2% of all birds observed in winter are marked. Whereas, 50% of all birds observed during spring/summer are marked. Because nuisance goose complaints occur during winter, managing “non-resident” nuisance geese during this period is challenging and likely unproductive. The Southwest Region continues to work with Boise Parks and Recreation and other agencies on this issue. Geese were marked with color-coded bands. Boise Parks and Rec employees are recording daily observations of banded geese in local parks throughout the year. This effort will aid managers in determining what management actions may be appropriate and the specific time of year that those actions could benefit the management of urban Canada geese. Juvenile geese banded in Meridian and Boise were reported as harvested in at least 7 states and 2 Canadian provinces.

Southwest (McCall) Region

Population Surveys: Dangerous water levels due to fluctuating water management precluded conducting population surveys in a timely manner on the Snake River reservoirs (Brownlee, Oxbow, and Hells Canyon) during the reporting period. A population survey was conducted on

Lake Cascade. A total of 173 geese was observed and 80 indicated pairs noted. The 3-year average for indicated pairs was 99, which approximates the 3-year minimum monitoring criteria of 100 indicated pairs (Table 5 and 6).

Nesting survey and nest structure use data were not collected during the reporting period. Distribution of existing goose nest structures is coordinated region-wide through HIP.

Trapping and Transplanting: No Canada geese were trapped or transplanted in the Southwest (McCall) Region during the reporting period.

Management Implications: The 1991-1995 WMP directs the Department to reduce the harvest when the three-year average falls below minimum objectives. The minimum objective for Lake Cascade is 225 geese observed and 100 indicated pairs. The 3-year average for indicated pairs is approximately at this objective. These monitoring criteria were developed for the plan without baseline data. Management objectives for these areas should be refined, using available data. These refined objectives should be incorporated into any updates to the 1991-1995 WMP. Population survey data collection will be continued according to guidelines in the 1991-1995 WMP.

Magic Valley Region

Population Surveys: Canada goose breeding pair surveys and midwinter waterfowl counts were discontinued in 2011 per statewide direction.

Habitat Conditions: Precipitation during the 2012-2013 winter was near average in all major watersheds in the Magic Valley Region. Snake River flows, as usual, were low during nesting season.

Depredation: No goose depredation complaints were received in the region during this reporting period.

Trapping and Transplanting: No Canada geese were trapped or transplanted in the Magic Valley Region during the reporting period.

Management Implications: Prior to 2011 when breeding pair surveys were discontinued, none of the survey areas in the region have met both minimum breeding pair and total geese criteria. Increased bag limits (from 2/day to 4/day), poor nesting conditions, and reduced availability of artificial nesting structures are all factors that may have contributed to decline in observed spring goose numbers. Many of the nesting structures in the Magic Valley were constructed in the late 1970s and are no longer functional or are located in areas that are no longer suitable. Current budget constraints and personnel shortages will negatively affect maintenance and monitoring of goose nest structures in the region except on WMAs.

Southeast Region

Population Surveys: No surveys were conducted during this reporting period.

Trapping and Transplanting: No Canada geese were trapped or transplanted in the Southeast Region during this reporting period.

Management Implications: Goose populations, as measured by breeding pair counts and total counts, are generally below the 1991-1995 WMP objectives (Connelly and Wackenhut 1990; Table 10). No formal depredation complaints were filed with the Department during this reporting period; however, Wildlife Services personnel normally deal with waterfowl depredations.

Waterfowl die-offs: No die-offs were detected during this reporting period.

Upper Snake Region

Population Surveys: Two surveys (counts of indicated pairs and total geese) were conducted annually on RMP Canada geese to estimate breeding population trends through 2011 (Tables 5 and 6). These flights were discontinued in 2012 for employee safety reasons.

Habitat Conditions: Most goose nesting on Department WMAs occurs on nesting structures. Nesting on the South Fork Snake River occurs on islands, while nesting at Camas NWR, in the Teton Basin, the North Fork Snake River, and Island Park Reservoir occurs primarily on the ground.

Habitat on the South Fork Snake River and lower Henrys Fork Snake River is being impacted by the invasion of noxious weeds. The Department is a cooperating partner with local weed control districts to address this problem.

Habitat in the Teton Basin is being lost to summer home development. The Department's HIP program has the potential to reduce this loss if landowner cooperation can be obtained.

Goose production along the South Fork is dependent upon water releases from Palisades Reservoir. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Department jointly researched river flows for optimal goose production during the early to mid-1970s. This study indicated that flows between 8,000 and 16,000 cfs during nesting season were optimal for goose production. However, releases are scheduled to meet irrigation water rights and fisheries needs, which reduces goose production due to nest flooding most years.

Depredation: Canada goose nests located on islands in Gem Lake were oiled with corn oil under a permit from USFWS using license dollars. This effort has helped reduce goose depredations on grain fields near Gem Lake south of Idaho Falls. Landowners around the Mud Lake WMA and the Camas National Wildlife Refuge have seen elevated levels of geese over the past two years and have requested help from the Department and the USFWS. Several landowners throughout the Upper Snake region were provided snow fencing and zong guns to prevent goose depredations.

Predator Control: Mud Lake WMA and Market Lake WMA conducted Magpie removal during the spring months. A total of 308 adult magpies were removed along with approximately 200 eggs destroyed. Hunters and trappers remove some predators during normal furbearer seasons.

Trapping and Transplanting: During this reporting period, Mud Lake WMA banded 68 Canada Geese and Market Lake WMA banded 173 with a regional total of 241 geese banded.

Waterfowl Die-offs: Four lesser snow geese were found dead from a single event on Mud Lake WMA.

Habitat Improvements: On Market Lake WMA, 15 goose platforms were maintained for use in 2012. At Chester Wetlands, 30 goose boxes were maintained for nesting, and 25 artificial nest structures were maintained on Sand Creek WMA. On Mud Lake WMA, 107 goose platforms were maintained.

On Market Lake WMA, 154 acres were farmed during 2013, and an additional 500 acres were burned to benefit waterfowl and upland game. A variety of crops were planted and left standing for waterfowl and upland game use.

On Mud Lake WMA, 100 acres were planted to food plots to benefit waterfowl and upland game in 2013.

On Chester Wetlands and Sand Creek WMAs, 169 acres of food plots were planted to improve habitat.

Management Implications: Canada goose production was increased in the region by erecting additional nest structures on the South Fork Snake River, Island Park Reservoir, and Teton River. Annual maintenance of structures on the South Fork was discontinued years ago and most have fallen into disrepair. There is no plan to rebuild these nest boxes due to increased resident populations and the potential for high depredations. Habitat biologists are also no longer servicing platforms on Island Park Reservoir because of conflicts with reservoir recreationalists. Annual maintenance of structures on other non-WMA areas of the region is not being done as needed for goose nesting.

Geese produced around Gem Lake cause annual depredations on malt barley. Goose platforms were erected around Gem Lake as mitigation for the Idaho Falls hydropower project; however, no brood habitat was included in the mitigation plan. These geese are basically urban geese and difficult to harvest and control numbers. In 2013, the Department once again obtained permission from the USFWS to oil nests in Bonneville County. This appeared to decrease the level of depredation to an acceptable level. This work was accomplished utilizing license dollars under the Department's depredation prevention program.

Salmon Region

The Pacific Flyway Study Committee is currently revising the management plan for the Rocky Mountain and Pacific populations of Canada geese. As part of this process, new survey methodologies are being considered. In light of this, the Department has decided to postpone spring Canada goose surveys until the new methodologies have been designed and the management plan has been completed and approved the Pacific Flyway Council.

Trapping and Transplanting: No Canada geese were trapped or transplanted in the Salmon Region during this reporting period.

SANDHILL CRANE

The Department's goals and objectives for the sandhill crane are the same as those for the Pacific Flyway (Subcommittee on Rocky Mountain Greater Sandhill Cranes 1997).

Current Goals

1. Maintain current sandhill crane breeding populations and their distribution.
2. Maintain current sandhill crane migrations through Idaho.
3. Meet the demand for non-consumptive uses.

The RMP sandhill crane population continued to receive increased management emphasis during the reporting period in the Magic Valley, Southeast, and Upper Snake regions because of continuing landowner concerns over crop damage. Surveys of RMP greater sandhill cranes in these three regions were initiated in 1995 to document total sandhill crane numbers, arrival dates, distribution, and age ratios.

Background and Management Philosophy: RMP greater sandhill cranes have caused crop damage in eastern Idaho for decades. In 1996, the Commission adopted rules that changed the classification of sandhill cranes from migratory nongame birds to migratory game birds and directed the Department to obtain Pacific Flyway Council and USFWS approval for an experimental controlled hunt in three areas. See the 2007 Waterfowl Annual Reports (Study II, Jobs 2 & 3) for a thorough history of the sandhill crane management areas in Idaho.

In 2009, the Commission authorized sandhill crane seasons that were no longer administered through controlled hunts. Tags were available on a first-come first-served basis. This decision was made because the harvest allocation for Idaho had increased in recent years, but the number of birds harvested had remained relatively steady. In 2012, the number of tags was reduced from 680 to 460 due to a decline in the number of cranes observed during the September survey. In 2012 the daily limit was increased to three cranes per day per hunter with a season limit of 9 cranes. Due to a licensing error, the Department sold more tags than expected and exceeded the harvest allocation from the Pacific Flyway (Table 8). The description, season framework, and bag and possession limits can be found in Appendix A.

Southwest (McCall) Region

Breeding pairs of sandhill cranes occur in the Lake Cascade, North Fork Payette River, and Little Salmon River drainages. No management data are collected on these birds.

Magic Valley Region

Population Surveys: Ground surveys were conducted on 13 September 2013 in the Silver Creek Valley and around Carey Lake. No cranes were observed near Carey Lake and 281 cranes were observed in the Silver Creek area, for a total of 431 cranes observed.

Southeast Region

Population Surveys: Greater sandhill cranes nest in several areas in the Southeast Region. Large concentrations of cranes are present in several areas in the eastern part of the region prior to migration in the fall.

Department personnel in 1995-1997 began collecting data at Chesterfield, Blackfoot Reservoir, and Grays Lake to provide information on sandhill crane abundance, juvenile recruitment rates in fall pre-migration flocks, arrival dates of sub-adults and family groups into pre-migration areas, and whooping crane use periods. These same data were collected for the Bear River Valley between Soda Springs and Montpelier beginning in 1996 (Table 7). Beginning in 1996, USFWS personnel collected the sandhill crane information at Grays Lake NWR for the Department. Personnel for the USFWS and a private contractor normally collected aerial and ground survey information to determine total sandhill crane abundance during September in selected areas of the Southeast Region.

Harvest Characteristics: Harvest allocation and permit numbers were 195 for this reporting period. An estimated 85 people hunted cranes and harvested approximately 102 birds, 85 (83%) of which were adults (Tables 8 and 9). Hunters have not been required to comply with a mandatory check requirement since 1998.

Management Implications: Concerns expressed by grain producers during the mid-1990s prompted the Department to collect baseline information that could be used to identify strategies to reduce depredation. Chesterfield Reservoir, Blackfoot Reservoir, Bear River Valley, and Grays Lake were identified as primary sites due to a history of depredation concerns. However, sandhill cranes stage and use grain fields throughout the region including Marsh Valley, Malad Valley, Swan Lake/Oxford Slough area, Bear Lake Valley, American Falls Reservoir, and Thomas Fork Valley. Future ground surveys may need to be conducted in some or all of these areas.

There were 11 crane depredations accounted for in the Southeast region. Over half of the complaints were flocks of 100-500 cranes that were staging. The remainder of complaints were regarding resident cranes in groups of 10-20.

Upper Snake Region

Population Surveys: Personnel for the USFWS and a private contractor collect aerial survey information to determine total sandhill crane abundance during September in selected areas of the Upper Snake Region (Table 7).

Harvest Characteristics: A mail-in survey with a follow-up telephone survey of non-respondents was used to estimate hunter participation and harvest of sandhill crane for each hunt (Table 8). Sportsmen harvested 0, 23, 8, and 2 sandhill cranes from Bonneville, Fremont, Jefferson, and Teton counties respectively.

Depredation: The region received no sandhill crane depredation complaints during this reporting period.

Management Implications: Fall pre-migration staging area sandhill crane composition surveys were conducted in the Upper Snake Region for the first time in 1995. These baseline data were used to help identify strategies to reduce depredation concerns on pre-migration staging areas in the Fremont County area and the Teton County area.

Salmon Region

Sandhill cranes occur as scattered breeding pairs in the Lemhi, Pahsimeroi, and Salmon River valleys from Salmon to Stanley. No management data are collected on these birds.

TRUMPETER SWAN

The trumpeter swan is included in the 1991-1995 Nongame Species Plan; the Department's goals and objectives are the same as those of the Pacific Flyway. The 1991-1995 WMP contains no goals for this species. Data for trumpeter swans are included in this report for the historical record.

Magic Valley Region

In 1994, 1995, and 1996, a pair of trumpeter swans successfully nested at White Arrow Ponds north of Bliss in Gooding County. Since then, the trumpeter swans have made no attempt to nest at that site or attempts were brief and unsuccessful.

Successful nesting by trumpeter swans was also documented in 1995 and 1996 at the Department's Highway 46 Pond in Camas County. In 2002, a pair of trumpeter swans successfully nested and reared 3 juveniles on a private pond approximately 6 miles southeast of the Department's Highway 46 Pond.

During August 2006, Department staff found a pair of adult trumpeter swans with 3 cygnets on Spring Creek Reservoir in Camas County. No nesting trumpeters were documented in the region during 2007; however, a pair of adults was observed at Thorn Creek Reservoir by Department personnel on 23 August, 2007. Trumpeters with cygnets were observed on the Snake River and at White Arrow Ponds during a February, 2009 survey. No evidence of nesting trumpeters has been documented in the region since 2009.

Southeast Region

The trumpeter swan is included in the 1991-1995 Nongame Species Plan; the Department's goals and objectives are the same as those of the Pacific Flyway. The 1991-1995 WMP contains no goals for this species. Data for trumpeter swans are included in this report for the historical record.

Upper Snake Region

The trumpeter swan is included in the 1991-1995 Nongame Species Plan; the Department's goals and objectives are the same as those of the Pacific Flyway. The 1991-1995 WMP contains no goals for this species. Data for trumpeter swans are included in this report for the historical record.

In the Upper Snake Region, trumpeter swans have been a principal catalyst for thousands of acres of habitat protection and wetland restoration on private lands funded by such federal and state programs as the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA), the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Idaho's Landowner Incentive Program. Some of the most meaningful wetlands conservation/restoration work has occurred in Teton Basin, Idaho.

Motivated by the goals defined in the 2008 Pacific Flyway Management Plan, the strategic location of Teton Basin for Greater Yellowstone swan conservation, and increasing concern about possible extirpation of trumpeter swans in Yellowstone National Park, *The Teton Basin Trumpeter Swan Breeding Habitat Suitability Assessment* was completed by IDFG, Teton Regional Land Trust and Intermountain Aquatics (IMA). This assessment formally evaluated the suitability of Teton Basin wetlands for supporting nesting trumpeter swans and identifies locations where landowners are willing to participate in future swan translocations. As a result, the Greater Yellowstone Trumpeter Swan Working Group and Pacific Flyway Council voted to add Teton Basin to the list of priority sites approved for translocations of captive-reared swans from the Wyoming Wetland Society facility in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Project partners initiated trumpeter swan translocations in Teton Basin in summer 2013 with the following project objective: Establish a minimum of two active nest sites in Teton Basin over a 10 year period. Project implementation was led by IDFG and TRLT and focuses on 1) maintaining location records of released birds, 2) maintaining optimal habitat management at breeding marshes and 3) maintaining viable partner-landowner relationships.

The first trumpeter swan release in Teton Basin was completed in late August 2013 at Lazy K Marsh. Five young-of-the-year cygnets and an adult flightless female (surrogate mother) were released within an enclosed area of the marsh. The release was supposed to be conducted with 70-day old cygnets. This allows occupancy of the Marsh for at least a month, which instills natal philopatry in released birds. Unfortunately the released birds were closer to 100 days old and fledged in only a week. The birds were tracked through the fall in Teton Basin, but they were not observed again by project partners or others.

TUNDRA SWAN

The Department's 1991-1995 WMP goals for the tundra swan are the same as those of the Pacific Flyway (Connelly and Wackenhut 1990). However, during the reporting period, this species received little management emphasis in Idaho. This is because the tundra swan is not classified by the state as a game bird and the species benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs.

Tundra swans migrate through the region in spring and fall, and some winter on the Snake River, the North Fork Snake River and the Teton River, but none are known to nest in the state. Counts are made incidental to other waterfowl during the mid-winter waterfowl count (Table 1) and the mid-winter tri-state trumpeter swan survey.

AMERICAN COOT

The Department's 1991-1995 WMP goals for the American coot are to 1) maintain the Idaho population, 2) increase the harvest, and 3) provide maximum recreational opportunity (Connelly and Wackenhut 1990). However, during the reporting period, this species received little management emphasis. This is because the American coot is not a popular game bird in Idaho and because it benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs.

WILSON'S SNIPE

The Department's 1991-1995 WMP goals for the Wilson's snipe are to 1) maintain Idaho's Wilson's snipe population and 2) maintain the harvest (Connelly and Wackenhut 1990). However, during the reporting period, this species received little management attention. This is because the Wilson's snipe is not a popular game bird in Idaho and because it benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs.

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Table 1. Birds counted during the mid-winter waterfowl survey, 2000-2010. No count in 2004, 2011, or 2012.

| Species | 2000 | 2001 ^a | 2002 | 2003 ^b | 2005 ^c | 2006 ^d | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2000-2009 10-yr. avg. | 2010 | % Change from | |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------------|---------|------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | Previous year | 10-yr. avg. |
| Mallard | 261,425 | 106,516 | 168,844 | 108,034 | 164,425 | 103,467 | 207,741 | 142,700 | 196,801 | 162,217 | 153,018 | -22 | -6 |
| Gadwall | 1,058 | 45 | 261 | 602 | 599 | 894 | 552 | 296 | 37 | 483 | 849 | 2,195 | 76 |
| Widgeon | 4,164 | 1,189 | 1,412 | 6,900 | 9,665 | 5,067 | 3,416 | 4,139 | 2,184 | 4,237 | 6,428 | 194 | 52 |
| Green-winged Teal | 202 | 142 | 249 | 363 | 402 | 301 | 134 | 108 | 27 | 214 | 57 | 111 | -73 |
| Blue-winged/ Cinnamon Teal | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 55 | 5500 | 698 |
| Shoveler | 88 | 1 | 17 | 25 | 183 | 7 | 44 | 49 | 140 | 62 | 107 | -24 | 74 |
| Pintail | 405 | 1,696 | 179 | 49 | 121 | 252 | 124 | 300 | 404 | 392 | 88 | -78 | -78 |
| Wood duck | 290 | 38 | 503 | 55 | 213 | 336 | 580 | 411 | 372 | 311 | 165 | -56 | -47 |
| Redhead | 17,643 | 12,750 | 35,993 | 21,324 | 22,463 | 15,909 | 13,111 | 21,266 | 14,610 | 19,452 | 3,324 | -77 | -83 |
| Canvasback | 165 | 0 | 333 | 20 | 57 | 312 | 1,029 | 441 | 12 | 263 | 63 | 425 | -76 |
| Scaup | 3,398 | 7,436 | 12,313 | 9,900 | 5,556 | 4,114 | 10,185 | 6,262 | 4,395 | 7,062 | 6,130 | 39 | -13 |
| Ringneck | 1,232 | 282 | 4,445 | 3,411 | 1,060 | 4,281 | 3,816 | 420 | 1,114 | 2,229 | 1,372 | 23 | -38 |
| Goldeneye | 19,674 | 11,921 | 15,219 | 12,018 | 18,214 | 21,473 | 22,035 | 30,837 | 27,641 | 19,892 | 33,492 | 21 | 68 |
| Bufflehead | 654 | 752 | 1,193 | 763 | 1,080 | 1,045 | 949 | 1,012 | 627 | 897 | 665 | 6 | -26 |
| Ruddy duck | 13 | 0 | 7 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 6 | -54 | -13 |
| Merganser | 3,952 | 1,732 | 2,792 | 1,571 | 1,103 | 1,196 | 413 | 855 | 582 | 1,577 | 470 | -19 | -70 |
| Unidentified ducks | 752 | 324 | 835 | 225 | 260 | 14,922 | 17,831 | 12,353 | 11,066 | 6,508 | 13,368 | 21 | 105 |
| Total ducks | 317,115 | 144,824 | 246,609 | 165,272 | 225,407 | 173,628 | 281,967 | 221,451 | 260,025 | 226,255 | 219,657 | -16 | -3 |
| Snow goose | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 500 | 800 |
| Ross' | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Canada goose | 37,961 | 39,474 | 29,374 | 43,489 | 53,506 | 39,078 | 44,912 | 44,570 | 37,292 | 41,073 | 45,855 | 23 | 12 |
| Lesser Canada | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cackling goose | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| White-front | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total geese | 37,962 | 39,474 | 29,375 | 43,489 | 53,509 | 39,078 | 44,915 | 44,570 | 37,292 | 41,074 | 45,860 | 23 | 12 |
| Tundra swan | 220 | 174 | 205 | 178 | 384 | 243 | 615 | 352 | 4 | 264 | 25 | 525 | -91 |
| Trumpeter swan | 139 | 0 | 1,783 | 1,730 | 0 | 2,016 | 2,922 | 2,614 | 2,856 | 1562 | 2,083 | -27 | 33 |
| Unidentified swan ^e | 1,940 | 201 | 5 | 150 | 454 | 333 | 0 | 178 | 453 | 413 | 149 | -67 | -64 |
| Coot | 38,253 | 25,763 | 33,285 | 16,042 | 5,325 | 21,473 | 24,639 | 37,807 | 12,686 | 23,919 | 2,049 | -84 | -91 |
| Total waterfowl | 395,629 | 210,436 | 311,262 | 226,861 | 285,079 | 236,771 | 355,058 | 306,972 | 300,630 | 292,078 | 268,172 | -11 | -8 |

^a About 1/3 of the state's winter habitat was not counted in 2001 because of a fatal aircraft crash and subsequent flying moratorium.

^b About 15% of the state's winter habitat was not counted in 2003 because of inclement weather in Magic Valley Region.

^c About 28% of the state's winter habitat was not counted in 2005 because of inclement weather in Upper Snake Region.

^d About 10% of the state's winter habitat was not counted in 2006 because of inclement weather in Panhandle Region.

^e Primarily trumpeter swans 1995-2000.

Table 2. Estimated waterfowl harvest numbers from USFWS’s waterfowl hunter survey for Idaho, 1988-2013.

| Year | Duck stamps sold | Estimated adult hunters | Total ducks harvested ^a | Total geese harvested ^a |
|------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1988 | 16,597 | 14,271 | 112,900 | 26,600 |
| 1989 | 16,894 | 14,073 | 119,600 | 30,500 |
| 1990 | 17,036 | 13,443 | 96,700 | 36,800 |
| 1991 | 17,151 | 14,144 | 117,880 | 39,500 |
| 1992 | 17,717 | 14,132 | 126,700 | 31,700 |
| 1993 | 21,761 | 17,972 | 153,200 | 45,600 |
| 1994 | 21,229 | 17,418 | 141,300 | 61,100 |
| 1995 | 21,097 | 18,395 | 203,400 | 46,900 |
| 1996 | 22,382 | 19,751 | 245,800 | 61,100 |
| 1997 | 23,697 | 22,241 | 248,600 | 40,700 |
| 1998 | 23,515 | 21,006 | 254,700 | 56,700 |
| 1999 | 26,709 | 20,795 | 228,300 | 28,500 |
| 2000 | 28,206 | 23,306 | 173,200 | 86,200 |
| 2001 | 26,173 | 12,000/14,900 ^b | 138,600 | 64,400 |
| 2002 | 24,937 | 14,500 / 9,900 ^b | 160,600 | 36,700 |
| 2003 | 24,878 | 18,200/15,400 ^b | 262,900 | 84,200 |
| 2004 | 24,320 | 17,100/13,300 ^b | 188,500 | 62,700 |
| 2005 | 23,724 | 18,500/16,000 ^b | 258,300 | 74,300 |
| 2006 | 25,726 | 18,400/14,500 ^b | 278,000 | 77,800 |
| 2007 | 27,137 | 17,500/11,178 ^b | 229,100 | 40,900 |
| 2008 | ^c | 20,000/13,700 ^b | 257,600 | 64,500 |
| 2009 | ^c | 15,400/11,100 ^b | 286,600 | 58,300 |
| 2010 | ^c | 16,900/11,100 ^b | 156,600 | 31,400 |
| 2011 | ^c | 14,200/12,800 ^b | 209,500 | 51,000 |
| 2012 | ^c | 16,200/12,700 ^b | 277,700 | 73,900 |
| 2013 | ^c | 19,400/15,600 | 320,400 | 70,300 |

^a Adjusted for exaggeration memory bias and juvenile hunter density.

^b The first number is estimated number of duck hunters and the second number is estimated number of goose hunters.

^c Data is no longer available.

Table 3. Ducks banded in Idaho by Department and USFWS personnel, 2013.

| Species | Panhandle | Clearwater | Southwest | Magic Valley | Southeast | Upper Snake | Salmon | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-------------|----------|--------------|
| American Green Winged Teal | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 19 |
| American Widgeon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Blue Winged Teal | 62 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 89 |
| Com. Goldeneye | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 246 | 0 | 299 |
| Canvas Back | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Cinn Teal | 245 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 94 | 0 | 339 |
| Gadwall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 57 | 0 | 57 |
| Mallard | 1,176 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 380 | 0 | 1,556 |
| Northern Pintail | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Northern Shoveler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Redhead | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| Ring-necked | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ruddy Duck | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| Lesser Scaup | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Wood Duck | 271 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 271 |
| Total | 1,770 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 848 | 0 | 2,674 |

Table 4. Mallards banded in Idaho by Department personnel, 1991-2013.

| IDFG Region | 1991-2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | Total |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------|---------------|
| Panhandle | 13,440 | 1,392 | 1,315 | 1,065 | 1,086 | 971 | 455 | 1,776 | 21,422 |
| Clearwater | 98 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 113 |
| Southwest | 2,348 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 63 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,451 |
| Magic Valley | 1,226 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,285 |
| Southeast | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| Upper Snake | 1,334 | 147 | 309 | 977 | 633 | 788 | 14 | 380 | 4,609 |
| Total | 18,477 | 1,539 | 1,624 | 2,022 | 1,844 | 1,759 | 469 | | 29,881 |

Table 5. Idaho goose population survey areas (RMP in gray), 2013 counts, three-year averages, and management objectives.

| Region/Survey Area | 2013 Counts | | Average 2011-2013 | | Objectives ^a (min.) | |
|---|-------------|-------|-------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Nests | Pairs | Nests | Pairs | Nests | Pairs |
| Panhandle | | | | | | |
| 1 Coeur d' Alene River WMA | NA | | 90 | | 35 | |
| 2 Boundary Creek WMA | 29 | | 23 | | | |
| 3 McArthur WMA | 24 | | 39 | | 70 | |
| 4 Pend Oreille WMA | 262 | | 235 | | 85 | |
| Clearwater | | | | | | |
| 5 Clearwater River | | 25 | | 27 | | 40 |
| 6 Remainder of Region (discontinued) | | | | | | |
| Southwest | | | | | | |
| 7 Lake Cascade | | | | | | 100 |
| 8 Boise River | | ND | | ND | | 100 |
| 9 Payette River | | ND | | ND | | 200 |
| 10 Snake River South | | ND | | ND | | 700 |
| 11 Snake River North | | ND | | ND | | 50 |
| Magic Valley | | | | | | |
| 12 Camas Prairie | | ND | | ND | | 285 |
| 13 Snake River (Hwy 51 to Hwy 93) | | ND | | ND | | 175 |
| 14 Snake River (Hwy 93 to Minidoka) | | ND | | ND | | 60 |
| 15 Snake River (Minidoka to American Falls) | | ND | | ND | | 120 |
| 16 Little Wood River | | ND | | ND | | |
| Southeast | | | | | | |
| 17 Alexander Reservoir | | ND | | ND | | |
| 18 American Falls Reservoir | | ND | | ND | | |
| 19 Bear Lake NWR | | ND | | ND | | 640 |
| 20 Bear River(Soda Springs-Montpelier) | | ND | | ND | | |
| 21 Bear River(Montpelier-ID/WY border) | | ND | | ND | | |
| 22 Blackfoot Reservoir-(upper) | | ND | | ND | | 150 |
| 23 Blackfoot Reservoir | | ND | | ND | | |
| 24 Chesterfield Reservoir | | ND | | ND | | |
| 25 Grays Lake NWR | | ND | | ND | | 350 |
| 26 Malad Valley | | ND | | ND | | |
| 27 Marsh Creek | | ND | | ND | | 190 |
| 28 Portneuf River(Chesterfield-Inkom) | | ND | | ND | | |
| 29 Snake River(American Falls-Shelley) | | ND | | ND | | |
| 30 Sterling WMA | | ND | | ND | | |
| 31 Swan Lake and Oxford Slough | | ND | | ND | | 100 |
| Upper Snake | | | | | | |
| 32 Market Lake WMA | | ND | | ND | | 85 |
| 33 Mud Lake WMA | | ND | | ND | | 95 |
| 34 Camas NWR | | ND | | ND | | 130 |
| 35 South Fork Snake River | | ND | | ND | | |
| 36 Teton Basin | | ND | | ND | | 90 |
| 37 North Fork Snake River | | ND | | ND | | 15 |
| 38 Island Park Reservoir | | ND | | ND | | 60 |
| Salmon | | | | | | |
| 39 Salmon River | | ND | | ND | | 175 |

^a Connelly and Wackenhut (1990).

^b Changed survey from nests to pairs in 2007, because nesting platforms were removed.

Table 6. Active nests, indicated pairs, and total number of Canada geese (RMP in gray) in Idaho for the past five years.

| Survey Area | 2009 | | | 2010 | | | 2011 | | | 2012 | | | 2013 | | |
|-------------|------|-----|-------|------|-----|-------|------|----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|----|-----|
| | N | P | T | N | P | T | N | P | T | N | P | T | N | P | T |
| Region 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 76 | | 76 | 57 | | 57 | 83 | | 83 | 97 | | 97 | NA | | NA |
| 2 | 10 | | 10 | 15 | | 15 | 21 | | 21 | 21 | | 21 | 29 | | 29 |
| 3 | 47 | | 47 | 31 | | 31 | 42 | | 42 | 49 | | 49 | 24 | | 24 |
| 4 | 152 | | 152 | 261 | | 261 | 203 | | 203 | 234 | | 234 | 262 | | 262 |
| Region 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | 52 | 108 | | 40 | 124 | | 25 | 55 | | 32 | 70 | | 25 | 63 |
| 6 (Disc.) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Region 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | 44 | 85 | | 138 | 426 | | 61 | 234 | | 131 | 251 | | | |
| 8 | | 117 | 290 | | 87 | 215 | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | 112 | 246 | | 124 | 550 | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | 552 | 1,338 | | 504 | 1,161 | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Region 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | 145 | 358 | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | | 22 | 170 | | 109 | 239 | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | 54 | 184 | | 12 | 23 | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | 7 | 26 | | 39 | 79 | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Region 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | 14 | 64 | 2 | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 | | 2 | 16 | 11 | 3 | 25 | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | | 10 | 52 | 23 | 8 | 54 | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | | 48 | 194 | 46 | 25 | 117 | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 | | 55 | 191 | 57 | 60 | 171 | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | | 45 | 140 | 31 | 36 | 108 | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | | 19 | 54 | 27 | 7 | 18 | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | | 27 | 120 | 32 | 52 | 254 | | | | | | | | | |
| Region 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | | 13 | 45 | | 12 | 41 | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | | 16 | 69 | | 26 | 83 | | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | | 12 | 34 | | 9 | 52 | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | | 6 | 14 | | 5 | 10 | | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | | 7 | 18 | | 11 | 57 | | | | | | | | | |
| 37 | | 12 | 81 | | 13 | 39 | | | | | | | | | |
| 38 | | 38 | 534 | | 54 | 721 | | | | | | | | | |
| Region 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | 5 | 257 | 788 | 11 | 262 | 758 | 11 | | | | | | | | |

N = # of active nests; P = # of indicated pairs.

Table 7. September aerial and ground-based counts of RMP greater sandhill cranes in eastern Idaho, 2006-2013.

| Region/Area | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Magic Valley | | | | | | | | |
| Camas Prairie | a | 2 | b | 103 | 5 | 32 | ND | 21 |
| Carey Lake | a | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Silver Creek | a | 316 | 397 | 381 | 309 | 399 | 281 | 421 |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | |
| American Falls Reservoir | a | 89 | 124 | 91 | 68 | 52 | 103 | 288 |
| Bear River Valley | a | 1,690 | 321 | 780 | 1,211 | 908 | 559 | 410 |
| Blackfoot Reservoir | a | 284 | 752 | 361 | 429 | 298 | 434 | 333 |
| Chesterfield Reservoir | a | 27 | 111 | 109 | 103 | 135 | 40 | 103 |
| Grays Lake | a | 1,943 | 41 | 1,483 | 1,115 | 972 | 262 | 907 |
| Malad River | | | | 277 | ND | 271 | 96 | 248 |
| Marsh Valley | a | 127 | 304 | 167 | 117 | 135 | 193 | 122 |
| Oxford Slough | a | 373 | 152 | 231 | 366 | 241 | 136 | 136 |
| Upper Snake | | | | | | | | |
| Ashton-St. Anthony | | 807 | 798 | 830 | 444 | 400 | 950 | 662 |
| Camas NWR | 313 | 632 | 475 | 806 | 664 | 430 | 60 | 200 |
| Henry's Lake Flats | a | 8 | 3 | 28 | 112 | 144 | 72 | 59 |
| Island Park Reservoir | a | 0 | 8 | 34 | 5 | 5 | 65 | 0 |
| Kilgore | a | 0 | 0 | 0 | ND | ND | ND | ND |
| Market Lake WMA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| Mud Lake WMA | 291 | 364 | 94 | ND | 137 | 13 | 103 | 248 |
| Teton Basin | a | 1,477 | 1,591 | 1,253 | 688 | 592 | 572 | 1,065 |
| Total | 604 | 8,457 | 5,472 | 6,934 | 5,776 | 5,029 | 3,432 | 5,228 |

^a Aerial counts not conducted in 2006 due to aircraft mechanical problems.

^b Pre-count reports from the Camas Prairie indicated that there were no cranes; therefore, the survey was not completed

Table 8. Sandhill crane tag levels, estimated hunter participation, and harvest based on mail and telephone surveys, 2006-2013.

| Hunt Areas 1-6 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---------------------------------|------|-----------------|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Bear Lake-Caribou County | | | | | | | | |
| Tags available | 300 | 300 | 300 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 295 | 180 |
| Tags issued | 224 | 261 | 221 | 332 | 335 | 355 | 279 | 180 |
| Total hunters | 119 | 223 | 112 | 170 | 152 | 201 | 131 | 87 |
| Days hunted | 293 | 336 | 230 | 449 | 523 | 595 | 389 | 207 |
| % Success ^a | 59 | 48 | 44 | 50 | 45 | 44 | 20 | 51 |
| Harvest | 132 | 117 | 90 | 150 | 150 | 141 | 139 | 93 |
| Teton County | | | | | | | | |
| Tags available | 100 | 80 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 40 | 25 |
| Tags issued | 92 | 83 | 73 | 100 | 50 | 52 | 49 | 25 |
| Total hunters | 57 | 67 | 53 | 53 | 37 | 36 | 27 | 18 |
| Days hunted | 101 | 84 | 109 | 124 | 114 | 86 | 44 | 38 |
| % Success ^a | 66 | 58 | 65 | 50 | 66 | 59 | 59 | 7 |
| Harvest | 61 | 45 | 47 | 35 | 33 | 30 | 29 | 2 |
| Fremont County | | | | | | | | |
| Tags available | 100 | 80 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 65 | 40 |
| Tags issued | 82 | 78 | 71 | 100 | 98 | 91 | 98 | 40 |
| Total hunters | 66 | 63 | 62 | 71 | 58 | 65 | 57 | 34 |
| Days hunted | 121 | 103 | 98 | 192 | 167 | 143 | 124 | 53 |
| % Success ^a | 52 | 60 | 55 | 56 | 48 | 69 | 55 | 58 |
| Harvest | 43 | 40 | 34 | 50 | 47 | 61 | 54 | 23 |
| Bonneville County | | | | | | | | |
| Tags available | | 20 ^b | 40 ^b | 40 | 40 | 40 | 10 | 5 |
| Tags issued | | 17 | 6 | 22 | 22 | 9 | 14 | 5 |
| Total hunters | | 8 | 4 | 15 | 15 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| Days hunted | | 17 | 8 | 38 | 23 | 11 | 9 | 7 |
| % Success ^a | | 25 | 25 | 28 | 41 | 37 | 50 | 0 |
| Harvest | | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 0 |
| Jefferson County | | | | | | | | |
| Tags available | | 20 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| Tags issued | | 13 | 26 | 31 | 26 | 36 | 40 | 11 |
| Total hunters | | 8 | 20 | 17 | 15 | 18 | 17 | 7 |
| Days hunted | | 18 | 20 | 49 | 46 | 55 | 59 | 9 |
| % Success ^a | | 75 | 61 | 49 | 54 | 69 | 73 | 73 |
| Harvest | | 8 | 13 | 12 | 14 | 26 | 29 | 8 |
| Bannock County | | | | | | | | |
| Tags available | | | | | | | 30 | 15 |
| Tags issued | | | | | | | 30 | 15 |
| Total hunters | | | | | | | 19 | 11 |
| Days hunted | | | | | | | 46 | 38 |
| % Success ^a | | | | | | | 60 | 60 |
| Harvest | | | | | | | 18 | 9 |
| State Total | | | | | | | | |
| Tags available | 500 | 500 | 580 | 680 | 680 | 680 | 460 | 275 |
| Tags issued | 398 | 452 | 397 | 585 | 531 | 543 | 510 | 276 |
| Total hunters | 241 | 293 | 238 | 326 | 278 | 285 | 255 | 161 |
| Days hunted | 515 | 558 | 465 | 852 | 875 | 891 | 671 | 352 |
| % Success ^a | 59 | 52 | 51 | 50 | 48 | 53 | 60 | 49 |
| Harvest | 235 | 211 | 185 | | 253 | 261 | 275 | 135 |

^a Success rate shown is harvest per permit issued.

^b Data shown is for Hunt # 9506, 1-7 September. No hunters from Hunt # 9507, 8-15 September, responded to the survey.

Table 9. Age composition of sandhill crane harvest based on mail and telephone surveys, 2006-2013.

| Hunt Areas 1-6 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Bear Lake-Caribou County | | | | | | | | |
| Juvenile | 26 | 18 | 13 | 24 | 19 | 26 | 21 | 8 |
| Adult | 105 | 99 | 77 | 126 | 131 | 115 | 118 | 85 |
| Unknown | | | | | | | | |
| Teton County | | | | | | | | |
| Juvenile | 19 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Adult | 42 | 33 | 40 | 31 | 27 | 27 | 24 | 2 |
| Unknown | 0a | | | | | | | |
| Fremont County | | | | | | | | |
| Juvenile | 5 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 1 |
| Adult | 38 | 43 | 27 | 40 | 38 | 51 | 43 | 22 |
| Unknown | 0a | | | | | | | |
| Bonneville County | | | | | | | | |
| Juvenile | | 0 ^b | 1 ^b | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Adult | | 2 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Unknown | | | | | | | | |
| Jefferson County | | | | | | | | |
| Juvenile | | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| Adult | | 8 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 19 | 25 | 7 |
| Unknown | | | | | | | | |
| Bannock County | | | | | | | | |
| Juvenile | | | | | | | 2 | 0 |
| Adult | | | | | | | 16 | 9 |
| Unknown | | | | | | | | |

^a Birds not classified as adult were assumed to be juvenile.

^b Data shown is for Hunt # 9506, 1-7 September. No hunters from Hunt # 9507, 8-15 September, responded to the survey.

APPENDIX A

IDAHO

2012-2013 SEASON

WATERFOWL RULES

2012 Waterfowl Seasons and Rules



Photo courtesy Clair Kofoed

Including: Wilson's Snipe and American Coot

- Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Validation - Required
- Nontoxic Shot - Required
- Federal Migratory Bird (Duck) Stamp - Required (all hunters 16 or older)

Visit our website: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>



RULES

**September 2012
through
March 2013**

Dark Goose

Area 1

Oct. 6, 2012 - Jan. 18, 2013

Area 2

Oct. 13, 2012 - Jan. 25, 2013

Light Goose

Area 1

Oct. 6, 2012 - Jan. 18, 2013

Area 2

Oct. 29, 2012 - Jan. 18, 2013 and
Feb. 16, 2013 - Mar. 10, 2013

Area 3

Nov. 5, 2012 - Jan. 25, 2013 and
Feb. 16, 2013 - Mar. 10, 2013

Area 4

Oct. 13, 2012 - Jan. 25, 2013

Statewide Duck

Area 1

Oct. 6, 2012 - Jan. 18, 2013

Area 2

Oct. 13, 2012 - Jan. 25, 2013

**Special Youth Hunt!
Sept. 29-30, 2012**



WATERFOWL SEASONS AND RULES 2012 September 2012 through March 2013

New for 2012

- Duck and dark goose seasons in Area 2 will start one week later than in Area 1.

Key Dates:

- Dark Goose Season Area 1: October 6, 2012 - January 18, 2013.
- Dark Goose Season Area 2: October 13, 2012 - January 25, 2013.
- Light Goose Season Area 1: October 6, 2012 - January 18, 2013.
- Light Goose Season Area 2: October 29, 2012 - January 18, 2013 and February 16, 2013 - March 10, 2013.
- Light Goose Season Area 3: November 5, 2012 - January 25, 2013 and February 16, 2013 - March 10, 2013.
- Light Goose Season Area 4: October 13, 2012 - January 25, 2013.
- Duck Season Area 1: October 6, 2012 - January 18, 2013.
- Duck Season Area 2: October 13, 2012 - January 25, 2013.
- Special Youth Hunt: September 29 and 30, 2012.
- Buy a Chance at a Super Hunt Tag, Help Pay for Access Yes!
- Check out Hunt Planner Maps at our website: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/huntplanner/>.

Required:

- Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program Validation.
- Federal Migratory Bird Stamp for all hunters 16 or older.
- Nontoxic shot.

It is the responsibility of the hunter to become familiar with the rules that affect the hunt in which he or she is participating. This brochure provides seasons for waterfowl hunting, and it provides a summary of rules that govern waterfowl hunting in Idaho. For details about the rules, please refer to these links: Idaho Administrative Procedures Act, <http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/13/index.html>; Idaho Code <http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title36/T36.htm>.



Remember!

**If you are 16 or older,
you need to purchase a
Federal Migratory Bird
(Duck) Stamp.**

The receipts (good for 45 days) for the stamps are available for \$17.75 at:
Idaho Fish and Game Offices and
All Vendors

Check with Your Local Post Office on
availability of the stamp (\$15)

DARK GOOSE

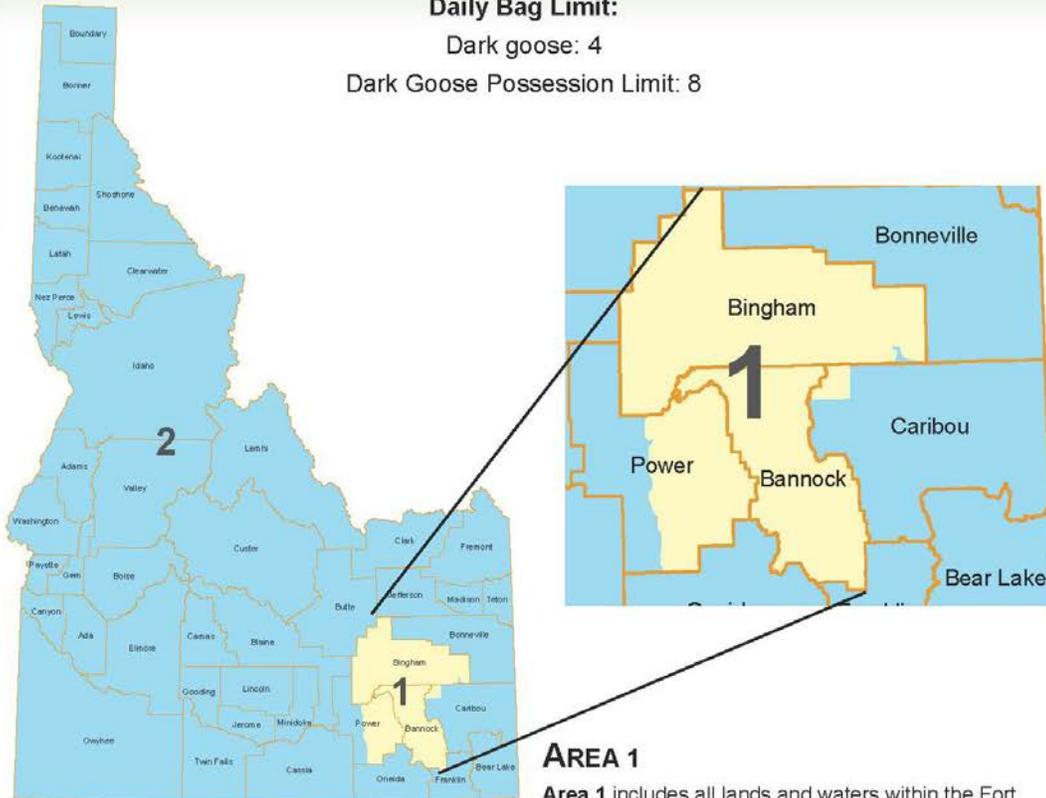
Dark Goose Seasons & Hunt Area Descriptions

(Including: Canada and White-fronted Geese)

Daily Bag Limit:

Dark goose: 4

Dark Goose Possession Limit: 8



AREA 1

Area 1 includes all lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private in-holdings; Bannock County; Bingham County, except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Caribou County within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; and Power County east of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39. (See yellow area on map).

Open Season:
October 6, 2012 - January 18, 2013

AREA 2

Area 2 includes all parts of the state **not** included in Area 1. (See blue area on map).

Open Season:
October 13, 2012 - January 25, 2013



Photo courtesy Clair Kofoed

Light Goose Seasons & Hunt Area Descriptions

(Including: Blue, Ross's and Snow Geese)

Daily Bag Limit:

Light goose: 10

Light Goose Possession Limit: 20

AREA 1

Open Season:

- **Light Goose**
October 6, 2012 - January 18, 2013

Area 1 includes all lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private in-holdings; Bannock County; Bingham County east of the west bank of the Snake River and the American Falls Reservoir bluff, except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Caribou County within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; and Power County east of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39. (See red area on map).

AREA 2

Open Season:

- **Light Goose**
October 29, 2012 - January 18, 2013 and
February 16, 2013 - March 10, 2013.

Area 2 includes Bingham County west of the west bank of the Snake River and the American Falls Reservoir bluff; Power County north of Interstate 86 and west of the west bank of the Snake River and the American Falls Reservoir bluff. (See green area on map).

AREA 3

Open Season:

- **Light Goose**
November 5, 2012 - January 25, 2013 and
February 16, 2013 - March 10, 2013.

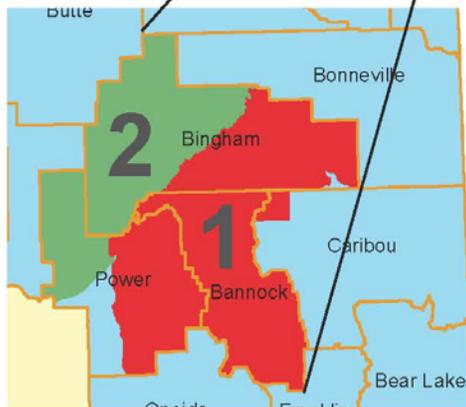
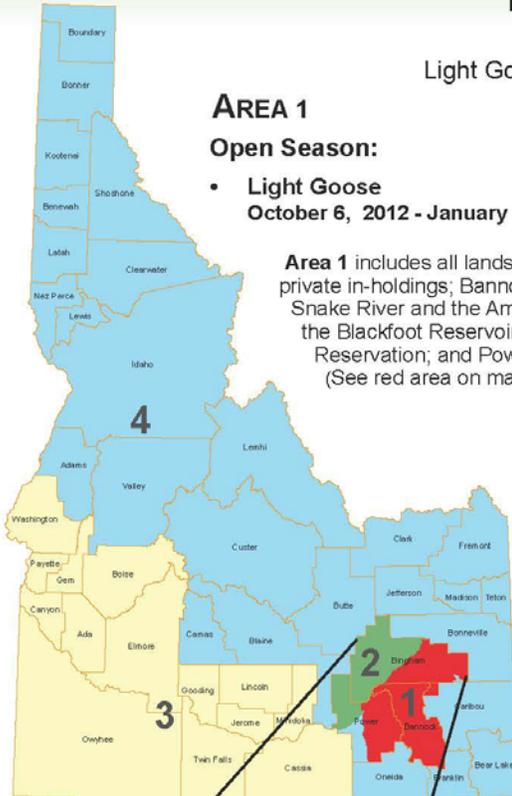
Area 3 includes the following counties: Ada, Boise, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, and Washington counties. (See yellow area on map).

AREA 4

Open Season:

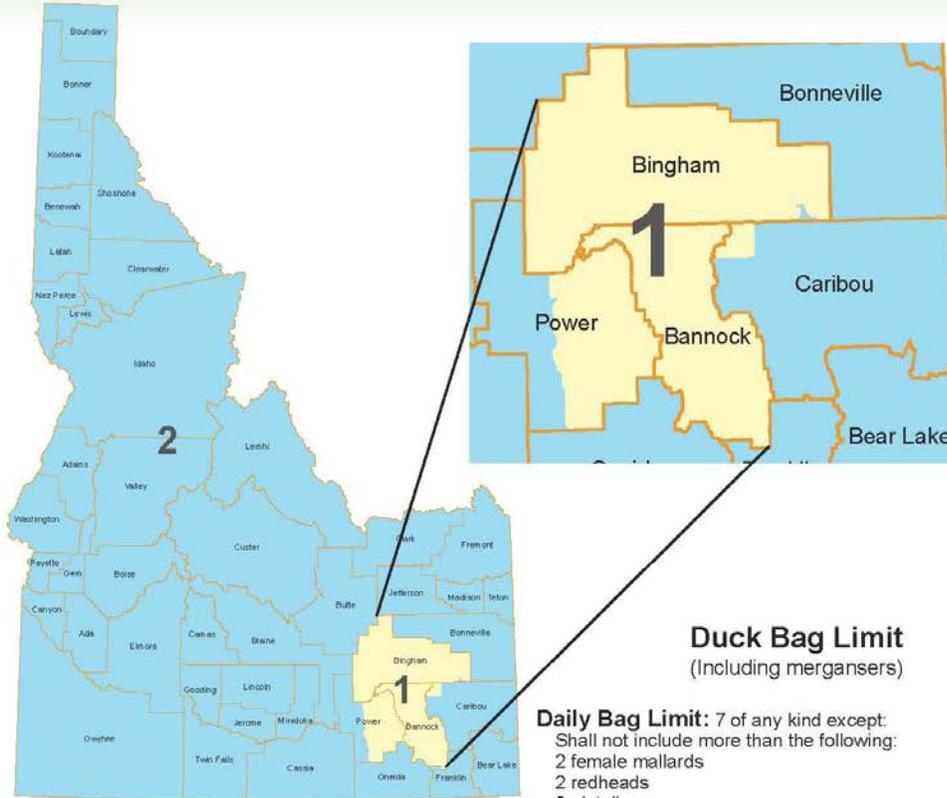
- **Light Goose**
October 13, 2012 - January 25, 2013

Area 4 includes all parts of the state not included in Areas 1, 2, and 3. (See blue area on map).



DUCK

**Statewide Duck (Including Merganser),
Wilson's Snipe and American Coot Seasons & Hunt Area Descriptions**



Duck Bag Limit
(Including mergansers)

Daily Bag Limit: 7 of any kind except:
Shall not include more than the following:
2 female mallards
2 redheads
2 pintails
1 canvasback

Possession Limit After First Day of Season:

14 of any kind except:
Shall not include more than the following:
4 female mallards
4 redheads
4 pintails
2 canvasbacks

Bag Limits For Wilson's Snipe and Coots

Wilson's Snipe

Daily Bag Limit: 8
Possession Limit After First Day of Season: 16

Coots

Daily Bag Limit: 25
Possession Limit After First Day of Season: 25

AREA 1

Area 1 includes all lands and waters within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, including private in-holdings; Bannock County; Bingham County, except that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Caribou County within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; and Power County east of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39. (See yellow area on map).

Open Season:

October 6, 2012 - January 18, 2013

AREA 2

Area 2 includes all parts of the state **not** included in Area 1. (See blue area on map).

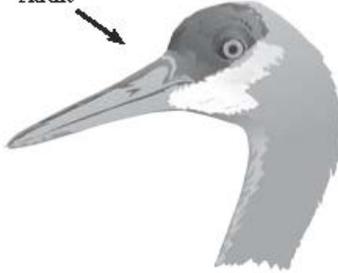
Open Season:

October 13, 2012 - January 25, 2013

KNOW YOUR CRANE!

Please note the age of the crane you harvested. This data is important for crane harvest management.

Adult



An adult sandhill crane stands nearly four feet tall. Grayish plumage is accented by a featherless red head patch. Juveniles have tannish brown heads with no red.

Juvenile



Hunting Cranes:

One of the purposes of these hunts is to help reduce crop damage by sandhill cranes. Check with local landowners or Fish and Game offices for information on crane use areas and always remember to:

**Ask First
For Permission to Hunt
on Private Property**



The Idaho Department of Fish and Game adheres to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility of Fish and Game, or if you desire further information, please write to Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P.O. Box 23, Boise, ID 83707. OR The Office of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20260.

Information in this brochure summarizes the rules and is the official proclamation of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission for the hunting of sandhill cranes in calendar year 2013. Further explanation is available in the current upland game seasons brochure. The official rules are available from the Division of Statewide Administrative Rules, Department of Administration, Statehouse Mall, Boise, ID 83720.

Costs associated with this publication are available from IDFG in accordance with section 60-207, Idaho Code § 60-207-2013720041918

2013 IDAHO SANDHILL CRANE

Season Information



Photo courtesy: Steve Jones

Tags will be available for purchase August 1, first-come, first-served.

Tags are available at any Fish and Game license vendor, by telephone (1-800-554-8685), or the Fish and Game website: fishandgame.idaho.gov.

License, Tag and Validation Requirements:

To hunt sandhill cranes, hunters must have in possession the appropriate hunting license, sandhill crane tag and Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) validation. All are available at any license vendor, Fish and Game office, by telephone (1-800-554-8685), or Fish and Game website: fishandgame.idaho.gov.

Tags will be available for purchase on August 1, first-come, first-served.

Fees - includes vendor fee:

Sandhill Crane Tag \$15.00

Federal HIP Validation \$1.75

The HIP validation is required with the first tag only.

Daily/Season Limits

Daily Limit — for all hunts 2

Season limit 4

Shot & Weapon Restriction:

- Shot Sizes: Sandhill cranes may legally be taken with shot size T (0.2 inches in diameter) or smaller (lead or non-toxic).
- No person may take migratory game birds with any shotgun capable of holding more than three shells unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun.

Sandhill Crane Seasons, Limits and Tags

| Hunt Area | Season | Tags |
|--|----------------|------|
| 1 | September 1-15 | 180 |
| 2 | September 1-15 | 25 |
| 3 | September 1-15 | 40 |
| 4 | September 1-15 | 5 |
| 5 | September 1-15 | 10 |
| 6 | September 1-15 | 15 |
| <p>Note: Daily limit is 2 for all hunts. The season limit is 4.</p> | | |

Tagging:

Immediately after any sandhill crane is harvested, the tag must be validated and securely attached. The tag must remain attached so long as the sandhill crane is in transit or storage.

Species Identification:

To legally transport any migratory game bird, one feathered wing or head must be left attached at all times while being transported until they reach their final destination.

Shooting Hours:

Shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. For exact time, check the current upland game brochure on Page 19. For general sandhill crane season rules, see pages 16-19 of the current Upland Game Rules Brochure or online at: fishandgame.idaho.gov.



Sandhill Crane Hunt Areas include the following:

- Area 1** — Includes all of Bear Lake County and all of Caribou County **except that portion downstream from the dam at Alexander Reservoir south of U.S. Highway 30, and that portion lying within the Grays Lake Basin.**
- Area 2** — Includes all of Teton County **except that portion lying west of state Highway 33 and south of Packsaddle Road (West 400 North) and north of the North Cedron Road (West 600 South) and east of the west bank of the Teton River.**
- Area 3** — Includes all of Fremont County **except the Chester Wetlands Wildlife Management Area.**
- Area 4** — Includes all of Bonneville County.
- Area 5** — Includes all of Jefferson County.
- Area 6** — Includes Blaine County east of Interstate-15 and south of U.S. Highway 30, and Franklin County west of U.S. Highway 91 from the Utah state line north to the junction of state Highway 34 in Preston and everything west of state Highway 34 north to the Franklin County-Caribou County line.

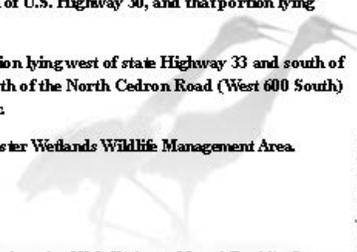


Photo courtesy: Steve Tomasa

Appendix Table A-1. Idaho waterfowl management, season structure, and limits, 1990-present.

| Year | Duck | | | Dark Goose | | |
|-----------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| | Management Areas | Season Length (days) | Daily Limit ^a | Management Areas | Season Length (days) | Daily Limit ^a |
| 1990-1991 | 2 | 59 | 4 | 5 | 93 | 3 |
| 1991-1992 | 3 | 59 | 4 | 5 | 93 | 3 |
| 1992-1993 | 3 | 59 | 4 | 5 | 93 | 3 |
| 1993-1994 | 3 | 59 | 4 | 5 | 93 | 4 (3) |
| 1994-1995 | 3 | 59 | 4 | 5 | 93 | 4 (3) |
| 1995-1996 | 3 | 93 | 6 | 5 | 100 | 4 (3) |
| 1996-1997 | 3 | 107 | 7 | 5 | 100 | 4 (3) |
| 1997-1998 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 5 | 100 | 4 (3) |
| 1998-1999 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 3 | 100 | 4 (3) |
| 1999-2000 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 3 | 100 | 4 (3) |
| 2000-2001 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 3 | 100 | 4 (3) |
| 2001-2002 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 3 | 100 | 4 (3) |
| 2002-2003 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 4 | 100 | 4 (3) |
| 2003-2004 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 3 | 107 | 4 (3) |
| 2004-2005 | 3 | 107 | 7 (5) | 3 | 107 | 4 (3) |
| 2005-2006 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 2 | 107 | 4 |
| 2006-2007 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 2 | 107 | 4 |
| 2007-2008 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 2 | 107 | 4 |
| 2008-2009 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 2 | 107 | 4 |
| 2009-2010 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 2 | 107 | 4 |
| 2010-2011 | 2 | 107 | 7 | 2 | 107 | 4 |
| 2011-2012 | | | | | | |
| 2012-2013 | | | | | | |
| 2013-2014 | | | | | | |

^a Numbers in parenthesis indicate management areas had different daily limits.

Submitted by:

Jim Hayden
Regional Wildlife Manager

Jay Crenshaw
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Jeff Rohlman
Regional Wildlife Manager

Randy Smith
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Toby Boudreau
Regional Wildlife Manager

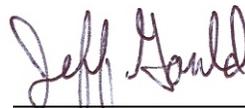
Daryl Meints
Regional Wildlife Manager

Tom Keegan
Regional Wildlife Manager

Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



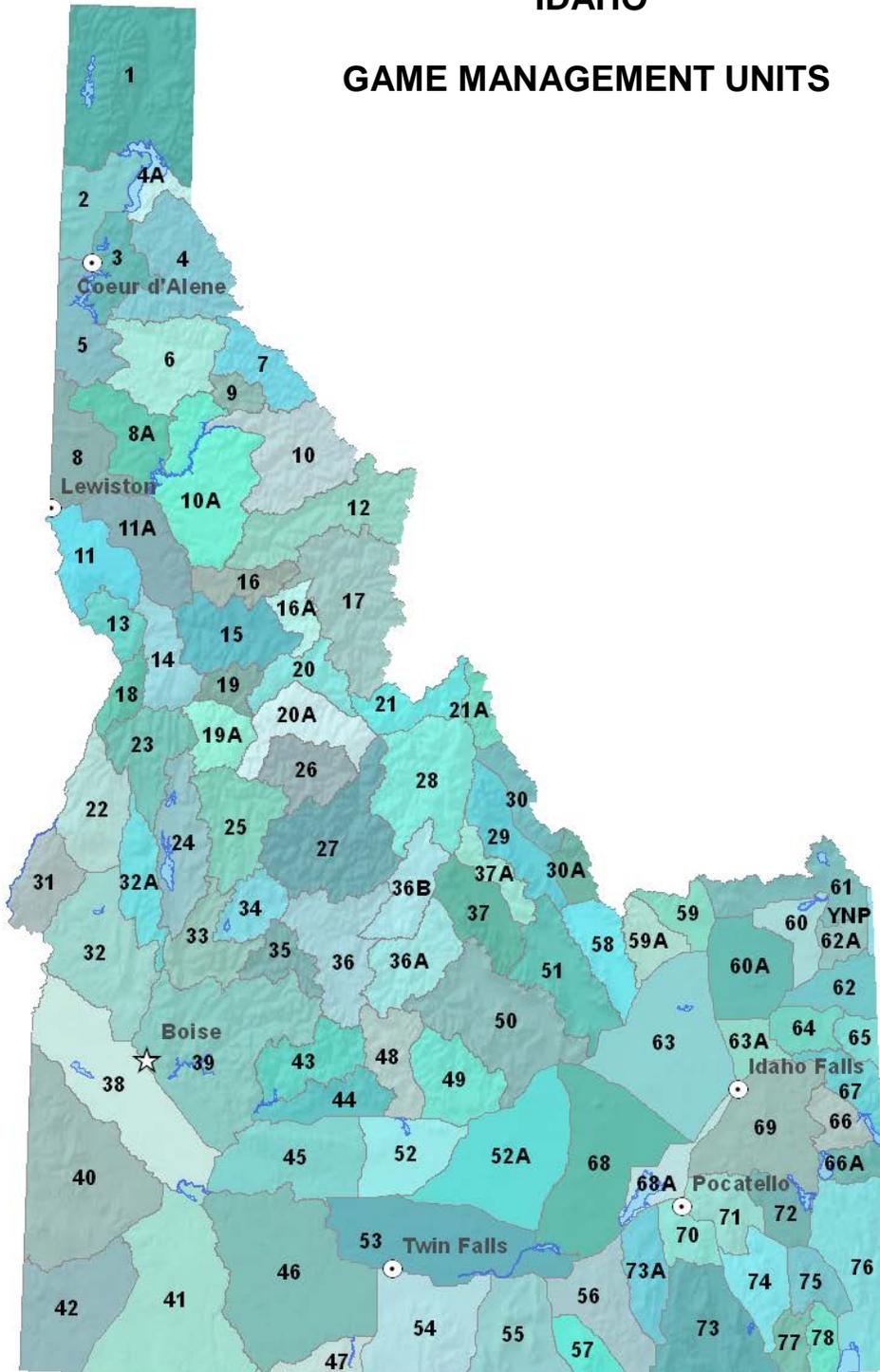
Brad Compton, Asst. Chief
Bureau of Wildlife



Jeff Gould, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife

IDAHO

GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS



FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program consists of funds from a 10% to 11% manufacturer's excise tax collected from the sale of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. The Federal Aid program then allots the funds back to states through a formula based on each state's geographic area and the number of paid hunting license holders in the state. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game uses the funds to help restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals for the public benefit. These funds are also used to educate hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be responsible, ethical hunters. Seventy-five percent of the funds for this project are from Federal Aid. The other 25% comes from license-generated funds.

