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Steven M. Huffaker, Director

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STATEWIDE SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES

April 1, 2002 to September 30, 2002



WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AND SUMMER BANDING

PROGRESS REPORT

STUDY II, JOB 2

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**PROGRESS REPORT
SURVEYS AND INVENTORY**

STATE:	<u>Idaho</u>	JOB TITLE:	<u>Waterfowl Production and</u>
PROJECT:	<u>W-170-R-26</u>		<u>Summer Banding</u>
SUBPROJECT:	<u>1-7</u>	STUDY NAME:	<u>Upland Game and Waterfowl</u>
STUDY:	<u>II</u>		<u>Population Status and Trends</u>
JOB:	<u>2</u>		
PERIOD COVERED:	<u>April 1, 2002 to September 30, 2002</u>		

ABSTRACT

Data collected on resident ducks, Canada geese, sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, and tundra swans from 1 April 2002 through 30 September 2002 are reported. Data were collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel stationed in the state's 7 regions and 1 subregion. Data are presented in regional reports prepared by regional personnel and compiled by Bureau of Wildlife personnel.

In 2002, the twelfth year of a Pacific Flyway preseason mallard and pintail banding program, Idaho banded 254 mallards. To date, 29,180 mallards have been banded in Idaho. Active nests of Pacific Population (PP) Canada geese counted on man-made structures on 6 survey areas in north Idaho totaled 360 in 2002. Indicated breeding pairs of PP Canada geese on survey areas in southern Idaho were only counted in 2 areas and 1 exceeded objectives and 1 did not in 2001. Waterfowl Management Plan (WMP) active nest or indicated breeding pair objectives based upon 3-year averages (1998-2000). Indicated breeding pairs of Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) Canada geese counted on 23 survey areas totaled 2,302 in 2001. Of 14 RMP Canada geese flocks with objectives, 4 are meeting or exceeding the WMP indicated breeding pair objectives based upon 3-year averages (1999-2001). Four hundred thirty-five geese (289 goslings and 146 adults) were transplanted in 2002 in response to property damage/depredation complaints in the Southwest Region. No geese were banded during the reporting period. One early September Canada goose hunt was held in 2002 to help reduce crop damage. An undetermined number of geese were harvested in this hunt near Lewiston, Idaho. Data collection continued in 2002 on RMP greater sandhill cranes in 3 southern regions to provide information on recruitment rates, arrival dates of sub-adults and family groups into pre-migration areas, whooping crane use periods, and total sandhill cranes present in mid-September. Seven thousand six hundred ninety-eight sandhill cranes were counted during September aerial surveys of staging areas. Controlled hunts were held in early September on sandhill cranes in 3 areas to help reduce crop damage; 194 were harvested. Tundra swans, American coots, and common snipe received little management emphasis; these species benefit from statewide programs aimed at other species. The Department's management area descriptions; duck, goose, and sandhill crane hunting season structures; and bag and possession limits for the previous season are provided.

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.

RESULTS

DUCKS (ALL SPECIES)

1991-1995 Management Plan Goals

1. Reverse the decline in 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 1 region in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Management Areas

Description: Statewide.

Season and Limits: See Appendix A.

Background and Management Philosophy: Management of duck hunting in Idaho has undergone various changes during the previous 2 decades. Season structure and limits for 1990-2002 are summarized in Appendix B.

Regional Reports

Panhandle Region:

Population Surveys: Approximately 85% of over 1,000 wood duck nest boxes in the 5 northern counties were available for nesting in 2002. Cavity nesting ducks (wood ducks, goldeneye, and hooded mergansers) used 39% of the boxes checked. Documented nest success was 17% for waterfowl using the nest boxes.

Breeding pair/brood duck production surveys were conducted on the Boundary Creek and McArthur Lake Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in 2002. Two breeding pair surveys were conducted in May, followed by brood counts conducted in June (2x) and July (1x). These dates are within the suggested time window for surveys in northern Idaho.

At Boundary Creek WMA, 68 of 360 duck pairs produced broods (0.19 broods per pair) and on McArthur Lake WMA, 38 of 123 duck pairs counted produced broods (0.31 broods per pair). The majority of breeding pairs observed throughout the Panhandle Region were mallards and wood ducks.

Documented duck production in the Panhandle Region fell below expectations this year at 0.22 broods per pair, which does not meet the waterfowl plan goal of 0.30 broods per pair and is below the 2001 average of 0.31 broods per pair.

Trapping and Transplanting: A total of 1,001 ducks were trapped and banded by Department personnel in the Panhandle Region during the summer of 2002. Mallards comprised 81% of the sample. Banding occurred at the Coeur d'Alene River WMA and Boundary Creek WMA. No transplanting projects were conducted.

Management Studies: Since 1991, a total of 7,077 locally produced ducks have been banded during the breeding season at the Boundary Creek, McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs.

Waterfowl check stations were operated at the Boundary Creek, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs on Saturday and Sunday of the duck season opener. A total of 154 hunters were checked and 540 hours of hunter effort were expended. A total of 535 ducks were harvested at 3.47 ducks/hunter and 1 duck/hour.

Management Implications: The installation of nest boxes in appropriate wetland habitat throughout the Panhandle Region has significantly increased production of cavity-nesting ducks. Although wood ducks are the target species for this effort, common goldeneye and hooded mergansers are also frequent users of these boxes. Through the Habitat Improvement Program, many of these nest boxes are now placed on private lands and contribute to the overall improvement in duck production throughout the region.

Wetland restoration efforts were completed on Boundary Creek WMA in 2002 and water levels attained the maximum possible elevation for the first time. Completion of wetland developments on the area resulted in the addition of a significant waterfowl breeding area to the Panhandle.

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.

Few wood ducks nest in the Clearwater Region. Since 1988, in an attempt to enhance this species' presence, nest boxes have been erected in conjunction with the Department's Habitat Improvement Program. Seventy-two nest boxes were available in 2002; 10 (14%) were reported used by wood ducks. Use of these wood duck nest boxes has been commonly shared with other nongame species.

Trapping and Transplanting: The Region was not requested to band ducks during this reporting period (Tables 1-4).

Management Implications: Data on ducks in the Clearwater Region may become more available as returns from ducks banded in the Region are reported. Future production surveys may be worthwhile at trapping sites if numbers increase.

Southwest Region:

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

Trapping and Transplanting: The Southwest Region did not band ducks this year. The Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge banded 255 ducks in 2002.

Habitat Conditions: Precipitation in the Southwest Region was below normal during the winter and below average during the spring and summer. Because no regional wetland surveys are conducted, the exact extent of wetlands is unknown. The waterfowl production from these wetlands is also unknown.

The Southwest Region did not inventory wood duck nest boxes in 2000.

Management Implications: As the Department implements the statewide HIP program, it is anticipated that the number of acres of wetland will increase, contributing to the goal of increasing Idaho's resident and wintering duck populations.

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

Magic Valley Region:

Population Surveys: Breeding pair and brood surveys were not conducted in the Magic Valley Region during the 2002 reporting period.

Habitat Conditions: Precipitation during the 2001-2002 winter, spring, and summer was below average in all major watersheds in the Magic Valley Region. Nesting conditions near ponds, reservoirs, and canals was poor as many of these areas dried up early in the summer. Snake River flows, as usual, fluctuated widely during the nesting season.

Trapping and Transplanting: No ducks were banded in the Region during 2002 (Tables 1-3).

Management Implications: Although ducks are produced annually on Hagerman, Niagara, Billingsley Creek, Centennial Marsh, and Carey Lake WMAs, most of the Region's duck production occurs on canals, small lakes, and stock ponds. Without average to above average precipitation during the winter of 2002-2003, duck production in 2003 along canals, small lakes, and stock ponds will be very limited. At WMAs, where duck production is a priority, breeding pair and brood surveys may be conducted when personnel and budget constraints allow.

Southeast Region:

Population Survey: Duck pair counts and brood surveys were conducted on the Sterling WMA during the report period. One hundred and twelve pairs and thirty-seven broods were observed for a nest success rate of 33%. In an effort to increase nesting success at the Sterling WMA, mammalian nest predators were trapped and removed from the American Game, Johnson, and Fingal segments. These segments have been part of a treatment program (Russian olive removal) to improve nest success. Twenty predators were removed after 1,396 trap nights between 18 March and 1 August 2002. Department staff also removed predator den sites when practical.

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

Climatic Conditions: Precipitation during winter and spring 2002 were below average. During the nesting period, precipitation was significantly below normal. Ponds and other wetlands available for waterfowl nesting and rearing were less than average.

Trapping and Transplanting: No trapping or banding of ducks was conducted during the report period (Tables 1-2).

Management Implications: The 1991-1995 WMP identified a goal of increasing resident duck populations in the Southeast Region. Since no surveys are being conducted to monitor overall resident population, it is unknown whether this goal has been met. In prior years, waterfowl mortalities due to botulism have been noted within the region. Aerial and boating surveys of American Falls Reservoir were conducted in July and August 2002 to identify waterfowl mortalities, but none were found.

Upper Snake Region:

Population Surveys: Limited nest searches were conducted at Market Lake WMA during May 2002 on Triangle Marsh, the Jones Well area, and Sandy Marsh. A total of 17 nests were located (6 short-eared owl, 1 northern harrier and 10 duck nests). The sample size was too small to do a Mayfield estimate of nest success. However, apparent nest success was 41%; 3 duck nests and 4 short-eared owl nests were successful.

No other production surveys were conducted during the 2002 reporting period.

Climatic Conditions: Climatic conditions during the 2002 nesting season were dry and hot from spring throughout summer. These conditions provide only marginal nesting conditions for both over-water and upland nesters.

Habitat Conditions: Most ducks in the Region are produced on Market Lake and Mud Lake WMAs and Camas 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, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to improve the quality of nesting habitat through HIP.

The best wood duck habitat in the Region is on the North Fork of the Snake River below St. Anthony, the South Fork of the 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 the Cartier Slough WMA, the Deer Parks Wildlife Mitigation Area, and the Warm Slough Access Area, the land ownership is a mix of private and BLM. Market Lake, Mud Lake, and Sand Creek WMAs have limited wood duck nesting habitat around the edges of marshes and ponds.

Trapping and Transplanting: No ducks were banded in the Region during 2002.

Waterfowl die-offs: Botulism was confirmed at Market Lake WMA during July 2002. During late summer, marshes 2, 3, and 4 at Market Lake were monitored biweekly for avian botulism. A total of 124 bird mortalities were collected; 9% were classified as waterfowl, 87% were juvenile California gull and Franklin gull and the remaining 4% were classified as shorebirds. Two green-winged teal tested positive to avian botulism during July, however no outbreaks were observed. In addition, 7 gull mortalities were sent to the National Wildlife Health Lab and cause of death was deemed poor body condition/emaciation.

No other waterfowl die-offs were noted in the region during the summer 2002.

Depredations: The Region received 1 waterfowl depredation complaint involving ducks and geese on a new alfalfa seeding around Mud Lake WMA during September 2002. Two zon guns were given to the complainant to address the depredation.

Predator Control: The Department contracted with a private trapper to reduce predator numbers on Market Lake and Mud Lake WMAs. Trapping was conducted from 1 March through 4 August 2002. The trapper spent 878 trap nights on Market Lake WMA and captured 63 magpie, 2 raccoon, 7 skunk, 8 coyote, and 1 weasel and 1,074 trap nights at Mud Lake WMA capturing 25 magpie, 10 skunk, 3 coyote, 5 red fox, and 1 feral cat. The trapper was paid \$2,244.89 for his services at Market Lake WMA and \$2,988.82 for his services at Mud Lake WMA. No surveys were done to determine the impact of the predator removal on waterfowl populations or nest success.

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.

Mayfield nest success estimates at Market Lake WMA have been around 20% each year that surveys have been 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 habitat patches.

Results from the 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 have 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 is established along the Snake River.

Salmon Region:

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

McCall Subregion:

Population Surveys: No population surveys are conducted for ducks in the McCall subregion. Ducks are numerous and mostly associated with the Cascade Reservoir 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.

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.

CANADA GOOSE

1991-1995 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

Management Area 1:

Description, Season, and Limits: See Appendix A.

Background and Management Philosophy: Area 1 contains both PP and RMP Canada geese (Figure 1). Idaho goose hunting management areas have changed on an annual basis. Area 1 was originally created in 1990 to implement changes in seasons, limits, and hunt area boundaries identified in the 1991-1995 WMP. Federal regulations for north Idaho counties have for many years allowed for a 93-day season normally ending the third Sunday in January, with bag and possession limits of 3 and 6 geese, respectively, in the aggregate. Season lengths, bag limits and the counties encompassed in Area 1 has continued to increase to take advantage of increasing resident Canada geese (Appendix B).

For 2001-2002, the FWS offered the State a 100-day season with a 4-bird bag limit (only 3 light geese or 2 white-fronted geese).

Management Area 2:

Description, Season, and Limits: See Appendix A.

Background and Management Philosophy: Area 2 (southwestern and central Idaho) contains PP Canada geese (Figure 1). The area was created for the 1991-1992 hunting season to take advantage of increasing numbers of geese in southwestern Idaho. Prior to the 1991-1992 season, southwestern Idaho had restricted limits for part of the season to protect local breeding flocks. During the 1991-1992 season, southwestern Idaho was combined with the rest of central Idaho to create the new Area 2. Since 1991, only minor changes have been made to the boundaries and season structure of Area 2 (Appendix B).

For 2001-2002, the FWS offered the State a 100-day season with a 3-bird bag limit (only 2 white-fronted geese).

Management Area 3:

Description, Season, and Limits: See Appendix A.

Background and Management Philosophy: Area 3 contains RMP Canada geese and was created in 1987 to conform to Area 1 for ducks (Figure 1). This was made necessary because the Shoshone-Bannock Indian Tribes requested a goose hunting season for nontribal members who differed from the rest of the state. The Department has not objected to the Tribes' request for special goose seasons because their impacts on local and migrant geese and law enforcement problems have been minimal. Since 1995, bag and possession limits for Area 3 have been 4 and 8 respectively (Appendix B).

Early September Seasons

Description: All of Nez Perce County. Restrictions: All hunting closures remain in effect. These include the Mann Lake Closure, Lewiston Preserve, Lewiston City limits, and Hellsgate State Park.

Season and Limits: See Appendix A.

Background and Management Philosophy: Urban Canada goose nuisance problems have been increasing in the Lewiston area, as well as in the Clarkston, Washington area across the Snake River. The resident goose population has been growing for several years through natural reproduction. In the early 1990's, several hundred geese were translocated to the Lewiston area from adjacent states and other areas in Idaho to provide sport hunting opportunities. Property damage complaints have increased along with the size of the resident flock. Damage to city and county parks, golf courses, beaches, and lawns are now common yearlong. Liberal hunting seasons during the "regular" fall-winter season have not kept growth of the flock in check, primarily because many of the local birds spend most of their time inside city limits or other sanctuaries where hunting is not permitted.

For 2002, the Commission once again authorized a 7-day, "general" hunt the second week of September (September 7-13); bag and possession limits remained 4 and 8, respectively (Appendix A).

Regional Reports

Panhandle Region:

Population Surveys: Nest surveys on Pacific Population (PP) Canada geese were conducted on the McArthur Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Pend Oreille WMA, and Coeur d'Alene River WMA in 2002. The total number of nests identified was 184. This figure is not comparable to previous years as the Coeur d'Alene River WMA was not surveyed.

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 and the number of goose nests declined to 24 and stayed suppressed. In 2001, only 12 nests were observed. A goose pasture renovation was completed in 2001 to stimulate production. Production subsequently increased to 31 nests in 2002.

The Coeur d'Alene River WMA began with few nests in 1979 and, after an aggressive gosling transplant program, coupled with erecting nest structures, the population increased dramatically. During normal runoff years, successful ground nesting in this area is impossible due to spring flooding. In April 1997, severe flooding on the Coeur d'Alene River damaged or swept away 50% of the elevated nest structures on the WMA for the second consecutive year. The number of nests declined from 86 in 1997 to 77 in 1998. The nest platforms were replaced during the summer of 1998 and the number of nests increased to 92 in 1999, 104 in 2000, and 94 in 2001. In 2002, nest surveys were not completed due to a position vacancy, but all elevated nest structures were repaired, greatly increasing the number of secure nesting sites available to geese.

The Pend Oreille WMA consists of scattered parcels along Pend Oreille Lake and the Pend Oreille River. A total of 153 goose nests were located in 2002. This represents a 4% increase from 2001 (147 nests).

The Boundary Creek WMA was not surveyed for Canada goose production in 2002, but production was evident. A gang brood of 40+ goslings fledged from the site. Production on the area is expected to increase dramatically as nesting patterns are established and more nesting structures are installed.

Trapping and Transplanting: No Canada goose goslings were trapped or transplanted in the Panhandle Region in 2002.

Management Studies: No Canada goose-related management studies were conducted in the Panhandle Region in 2002.

Management Implications: Canada goose nesting has increased in the Panhandle Region due to the placement of man-made nest structures and transplanting goslings. On 2 WMAs where there were few nesting geese, populations are now established. The placement of nest structures will continue in areas of favorable habitat, primarily where flooding prevents successful ground nesting.

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.

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, as 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 5-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. The mean (unadjusted for nonreporting bias) direct recovery rate for Canada geese banded in the Panhandle Region for 23 years was 11.2%.

The number of active nests on the Coeur d'Alene River and Pend Oreille WMAs currently meets the Department's 1991-1995 WMP objective; active nests on the McArthur Lake WMA are below objective (Connelly and Wackenhut 1990).

Clearwater Region:

Population Surveys: An established flock of Pacific Population Canada geese nest in the Clearwater Region (Figure 1). These birds nest along the lower 22 miles of the Clearwater River, primarily from Lewiston upstream to Peck. Their nesting success has been enhanced in this area with man-made nest structures placed on islands in the 1980s. Numbers of active nests in this area have been counted consistently since 1981, with improvements in data quality beginning in 1985. Use of man-made nest structures was observed in 21 (57%) of the 37 available structures (Table 4). An estimated 100 goslings were produced from structures in 2002. The total number of nest structures has slowly declined, as those found unserviceable have been removed. These structures were in close proximity to Lewiston and will not be replaced. Natural ground nesting on the islands will be encouraged. The 34 active nests on the lower Clearwater River in 2002 were below the minimum 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan objective; the previous 3-year average was 37 active nests (Table 4). However, 5 years of 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 Manns Lake, Middle Fork Clearwater River, Palouse River, Potlatch River, and Red River. Fifty-two active nests were located in 2002 in these areas, a decrease of 27% from 2001 (Table 5). A lower return rate on data cards was observed this year, possibly affecting this number.

Consistent data collection of goose nest structure use in the Clearwater Region did not begin until 1988. The number of structures available to geese has increased dramatically since that time due primarily to the influence of the Department's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) and cooperating landowners. Over 100 nest structures issued are still available for geese. Use of available structures was comparable from 2001 to 2002, with landowners reporting 55% use.

Depredations: Number of complaints has decreased over the reporting period. Only one call was taken involving Canada Geese. Report was of large winter flocks grazing in newly seeded winter wheat in the Lewiston City limits. The lack of complaints reported around the Mann Lake area may be the result of the Department's reduction in the waterfowl hunting closure boundaries in 2001.

Management Studies: Continued 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. Managed goose hunts have helped with moving locally raised geese from these areas. No trapping operations were conducted this year.

To address the concerns about the increasing Canada goose numbers in the Lewiston-Clarkston area, the Urban Goose Task Force continues working together to apply management options available to control local goose numbers. The early September goose hunt provides an opportunity to harvest some of the local population.

In July, the Commission adopted rules authorizing a September 7-13 early general hunting season. The hunt area included all of Nez Perce County in an effort to target resident geese; all hunting closures remained in effect.

No estimates of hunter harvest were available during this early hunt. Overall, the hunt provided additional waterfowl hunting opportunity, harvested some local Canada geese, and increased the avoidance response of the local geese to humans. This hunt is one of several strategies needed to address the urban goose issue.

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) allowed a Special Permit goose hunt in the southern portion of Hell's Gate State Park during the regular 2001-2002 season. Access and permit issuance was administered by IDPR and hunting limited to 1 hunting party of 6 each per day. The hunt was allowed from

25 November 2001 to 10 January 2002. No phone survey was conducted, but hunter participation and success was reported to be low.

During the 2001-2002 season, several managed goose hunts were initiated to target urban geese and areas of chronic crop damage. The Department administered 3 one-day supervised goose hunts in December and January along portions of the Clearwater and Snake River within Lewiston and Clarkston city limits. Approximately 280 geese were harvested within these areas traditionally closed to hunting. The hunting pressure resulted in additional goose harvest in other areas open to hunting in the valley.

Management Implications: The 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan minimum objective of 70 active nests on structures on the lower Clearwater River is not currently being met; the current 3-year average is 37 (Table 4). Urban goose nuisance problems will continue to persist in the Lewiston-Clarkston area. Continued liberal goose seasons and bag limits during the general waterfowl season, combined with early September goose hunting, limited hunting inside Hell's Gate State Park, and managed goose hunts, will help to keep the local goose flock at a manageable level.

Southwest Region:

Population Surveys: The breeding pair survey for geese was flown 3-5 April 2002. The conditions were good the first two days but the light was poor with overcast skies the last day. The pair count is above the minimum goal of 900 pairs, with an increase from the last several years. A total of 2,483 Canada geese and 1,226 breeding pairs were seen plus large flocks of white front geese and several flocks of snow geese.

Habitat Conditions: Precipitation in the Southwest Region was below normal during the winter of 2002.

Trapping and Transplanting: During summer 2002, 435 local geese (289 goslings and 146 adults) were moved out of the urban area of Boise to the Payette River near New Plymouth in attempts to minimize property damage complaints and prevent growth of the urban goose population.

Management Studies: No Canada geese were banded during summer 2002.

Management Implications: The current 3-year average (of highest counts) of indicated Canada goose breeding pairs, when combined for the Payette and Snake Rivers, exceeds minimum pair objectives identified in the 1991-1995 WMP (Connelly and Wackenhut 1990; Table 4). Therefore, the Southwest Region will continue with liberalized seasons and limits.

Magic Valley Region:

Population Surveys: A fixed-wing aerial survey of Canada goose breeding pairs was conducted on April 20, 2002. The number of indicated pairs of PP geese on the Camas Prairie (survey area 12) and Snake River below U.S. Highway 93 (survey area 13) decreased 11% from the 2001 level (Tables 4-5). Total geese counted on the Camas Prairie and Snake River was similar to 2001 levels (Tables 4-5).

For RMP geese between American Falls Dam and U.S. Highway 93 (survey areas 14 and 15) on the Snake River, indicated pairs increased 18% while total geese decreased 11% from 2001 (Tables 4-5).

No survey area in the Magic Valley Region met both the minimum breeding pair and total geese objectives as outlined in the 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan. The Camas Prairie was the only survey area that met the breeding pair objective for the Region. Data for the American Falls Dam to Minidoka Dam survey area indicate both breeding pair and total geese objectives are not being met (Connelly and Wackenhut 1990). The remaining two survey areas of the Snake River, U.S. Highway 93 to Minidoka Dam and State Highway 51 to U.S. Highway 93, both met total geese objectives but were below objective for breeding pairs (Table 4).

Use of man-made nest structures by Canada geese is monitored during the annual breeding pair survey. During the April 2002 survey, geese were observed to be using 180 of 336 structures.

Habitat Conditions: Precipitation during the 2001-2002 winter and spring was below average in all major watersheds in the Magic Valley Region. Summer 2002 was very dry. Upland nesting conditions near ponds, reservoirs, and canals was poor due to minimal water reserves from the overwinter precipitation. Snake River flows, as usual, fluctuated widely during the nesting season but no adverse effects were documented.

Depredations: The Region continued work with the City of Burley to minimize damage caused by geese to the Burley Golf Course.

Management Implications: No survey area in the Region met both minimum breeding pair and total geese criteria in 2002. Increased bag limits in 1998, poor nesting conditions in 2001 and 2002, and reduced availability of artificial nesting structures have contributed to the survey areas not meeting objective. Goose breeding pair and total geese objectives can be met in the Region if goose limits are reduced and goose nest structures are maintained. Many of the Region's structures 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.

Southeast Region:

Population Surveys: Spring aerial surveys of RMP Canada geese found a 23% decrease from 2001 to 2002 in the number of breeding pairs counted (Tables 4-5). Current surveys appear similar in both pairs and total counts to the averages from previous years (Table 4). Current 3-year averages for breeding pair counts and total geese are generally below management objectives (Table 4).

Early September controlled hunts were held in 1996 and 1997 to address sandhill crane and goose depredation in areas around Chesterfield, Grays Lake, and Blackfoot Reservoir. Because the Blackfoot Reservoir sandhill crane permits were available and goose numbers were generally below objectives; no early September hunt for geese have been offered since 1998.

Management Implications: Goose populations, as measured by breeding pair counts and total counts, are generally below the 1991-1995 WMP objectives (Connelly and Wakenhut 1990, Table 4). No formal depredation complaints were filed with the Department during this reporting period; however, WS personnel normally deal with waterfowl depredations.

Upper Snake Region:

Population Surveys: Two surveys (counts of indicated pairs and total geese) are conducted annually on the RMP Canada Geese to estimate breeding population trends (Tables 4-5, Figure 2). Indicated pairs are below management plan objective for Market Lake WMA, the Teton Basin, and the North Fork of the Snake River.

Climatic Conditions: Climatic conditions during 2002 were dry throughout the spring and summer. These conditions provide only marginal goose nesting conditions.

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

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

Habitat in the Teton Basin is being lost to summer home development. The Department's Habitat Improvement 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 the nesting season were optimal for goose production. However, releases are scheduled to meet irrigation water rights, which reduces goose production due to nest flooding most years.

Depredations: The Region received 4 goose depredation complaints during 2002. One chronic complaint and a new complaint involve geese depredating on malt barley around Gem Lake. The other 2 complaints were on grain in the Osgood area. All complaints were addressed by providing zon guns, electronic noisemakers, and cracker shells to the complainants.

Early September controlled goose hunts were discontinued in the Region in 2000. It was believed that the disturbance from sandhill crane hunters would disburse the geese enough to prevent depredation problems. The Region received no goose depredation complaints in the traditional September controlled hunt areas in 2002.

Management Implications: Goose pair counts were conducted on 7 production areas in 2002. Of the 7 areas monitored for indicated breeding pairs, 3 were below 1991-1995 WMP objectives (Connelly and Wackenhut 1990) (Table 4). Those that were below objective include Mud Lake WMA, Teton Basin, and the North Fork of the Snake River above Ashton.

Canada goose production can be increased in the Region by erecting additional nest structures on the South Fork, Island Park Reservoir, and Teton River. Annual maintenance of structures is a problem.

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. The Department should pursue the possibility of obtaining goose forage agreements with private landowners in the area.

Salmon Region:

Population Surveys: The Salmon River (U.S. Highway 93 bridge at Challis to North Fork) was surveyed from the ground for indicated breeding pairs and total geese in mid-April to estimate breeding population trends of Rocky Mountain

Population Canada geese in 2002 (Figure 1). A total of 333 indicated pairs and 857 total geese were counted (Table 4). Total geese counted increased by 4% and indicated pairs counted decreased by 12% from 2001, increasing the 5-year average.

Habitat Conditions: Custer and Lemhi Counties contain very limited wetlands associated primarily with the Salmon, Lemhi, and Pahsimeroi Rivers. Goose nesting is closely associated with cliffs, islands, and man-made nest structures along these rivers. When the broods fledge, these geese often move to nearby private and public lands (small grain, alfalfa, or pasture fields) to graze.

Twenty-six Department-supplied nest structures exist in the Region (10 along the Lemhi River, 9 along the Pahsimeroi River, and 7 along the Salmon River). Nesting structure placement and mapping is through the Habitat Improvement Program (HIP). A few additional private and U.S. Forest Service structures also exist along the Lemhi and Salmon Rivers. Structure use was not evaluated for 2002.

Depredations: A few depredation complaints are serviced each year - typically on newly-seeded grain, alfalfa fields, or pastures. Most complaints are handled by scaring the birds off with propane cannons, firecrackers, or shotguns.

Management Implications: The Salmon River nesting population is currently above objective (Table 4). Goose production could be enhanced in the Region by establishing more artificial nest structures. Although many suitable sites exist, the number of nest structures is currently constrained by limited manpower and cooperators available to construct and maintain the structures. It should also be recognized that more nest structures may be undesirable since they could eventually lead to increased depredation complaints.

McCall Subregion:

Population Surveys: Widely fluctuating water levels and insufficient personnel in the McCall subregion precluded conducting population surveys on Lake Cascade and the Snake River reservoirs (Brownlee, Oxbow, and Hells Canyon) during the reporting period. These radically fluctuating reservoir water levels and high watercraft use on the Snake River reservoirs during the spring breeding/nesting season may be causing some geese to abandon the reservoirs. The most recent 3-year average of monitoring criteria for the Snake River is below minimum objectives listed in the 1991-1995 WMP (Connelly and Wackenhut 1990) (Table 4).

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 the Habitat Improvement Program.

Management Implications: The 1991-1995 WMP directs the Department to reduce the harvest when the 3-year average falls below minimum objectives. Monitoring criteria for the McCall subregion was developed for the plan without baseline data. Management objectives for these areas should be refined, using the available data, before recommendations are made to reduce the harvest. 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.

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). Management goals for RMP greater sandhill cranes are:

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

The RMP sandhill crane populations continued to receive increased management emphasis during the reporting period in the Magic Valley, Southeastern, and Upper Snake Regions because of continuing landowner concerns over crop damage. Surveys of RMP greater sandhill cranes in these 3 regions were initiated in 1995 to document total sandhill crane numbers, arrival dates, distribution, and age ratios.

Management Areas

Description, Season and Limits: See Appendix A.

Background and Management Philosophy: RMP greater sandhill cranes have been damaging crops in eastern Idaho for decades. Early season crop damage occurs primarily in spring and summer before September 1st. This early damage is caused by generally small family groups of sandhill cranes rather than large flocks. The most frequently damaged crop is potatoes and, to a lesser degree, small grain crops. Fields damaged are usually those closest to night roosts and they are damaged repeatedly year after year.

The most significant sandhill crane crop damage occurs during the late summer and early fall when the sandhill cranes begin staging for fall migration. In August, this damage is caused mostly by small to medium-sized groups comprised of families and nonbreeders, while in September, large flocks comprised of families and nonbreeders are usually the problem. The crops most frequently damaged are small grains and damage can range from very minor to

severe. Fields damaged are those generally closest to night roosts and they are damaged repeatedly year after year. During hot, dry summers and falls, the small grains mature relatively early, are harvested early, and the sandhill cranes feed predominately in stubble of harvested fields, causing little or no damage. During wet summers and falls, the grain harvest is generally delayed. This forces sandhill cranes to feed in and damage unharvested fields.

During late 1994 and early 1995, grain producers in eastern Idaho became increasingly intolerant of sandhill crane (and Canada goose) damage and on numerous occasions requested relief from the Fish and Game Commission. The FWS had denied the Department a kill permit to remove small numbers of offending sandhill cranes in 1994 and 1995. The FWS's reasons for denying Idaho's requests were due to its regional policy of not allowing kill permits for migratory game birds in cases where the state had the option of establishing a sport hunt.

The process was further confounded by the Pacific Flyway's management plan for RMP sandhill cranes that did not recognize the use of kill permits as a management tool.

In May 1995, the Commission directed the Department to "...lead a committee effort to develop solutions to crop damage problems in eastern Idaho..." caused by RMP sandhill cranes. Throughout the remainder of 1995 and early 1996, an 11-member Sandhill Crane Work Group developed 10 recommendations to reduce sandhill crane (and Canada goose) crop damage in the Southeast and Upper Snake Regions (IDFG 1996). Based upon the work groups' recommendations, the Commission adopted rules that changed the classification of sandhill cranes from migratory nongame birds to migratory game birds, and established an experimental controlled hunt in 3 areas conducted by WS personnel. The Commission's intent in adopting these rules was to deliver control to very select areas as quickly and as efficiently as possible. In adopting these rules, the Commission also directed the Department to obtain Pacific Flyway Council and FWS approval.

The Pacific Flyway Council denied Idaho's initial request for hunt approval because the RMP sandhill crane plan specifies that lethal control be accomplished only by sport hunters. Authorizing only state and federal personnel to hunt sandhill cranes was contrary to the Plan and in violation of federal migratory game bird regulations, which require that sandhill crane removal follow plan criteria. The Council did, however, approve a 20-bird harvest allocation for Idaho and controlled hunts by "sportsmen only" using a random method of issuing permits. The Commission subsequently adopted rules establishing controlled, sport hunts in 3 areas with a total of 30 permits. The hunt areas selected were only those that met RMP sandhill crane plan criteria (areas for which the Department had 3 years of biological data) and included the Grays Lake Outlet

area in Bonneville County, Blackfoot Reservoir area in Caribou County, and the Teton River area in Teton County.

In 1997, the Commission adopted rules establishing 7 controlled hunts in the same hunt areas created in 1996 (Grays Lake Outlet, 3 hunts, 15 permits in each; Blackfoot Reservoir Area, 3 hunts, 40 permits in each; Teton River, 1 hunt, 50 permits). The 215 permits were expected to harvest 148 sandhill cranes, the entire Idaho harvest allocation authorized by the Pacific Flyway and FWS. In 1998, the Commission adopted rules that abolished the hunt in the Grays Lake Outlet area, created 7 hunts with 30 permits each in the Blackfoot Reservoir area and enlarged the area to include new damage complaints, and reauthorized the Teton County hunt with 50 permits. The 260 permits were expected to harvest 170 sandhill cranes, the entire allocation for Idaho. In 1999, the Commission established 7 hunts with 47 permits, 1 hunt with 50 permits, and 1 hunt with 75 permits.

Regional Reports

Magic Valley Region:

Population Surveys: A ground-based vehicle survey for RMP greater sandhill cranes was conducted on September 12, 2002 in the Camas Prairie, Silver Creek Valley, and Carey Lake areas in conjunction with the Idaho Falls Staging Survey coordinated by the USFWS. The number of cranes observed on the survey fluctuates widely from year to year. Three hundred twenty-nine cranes were observed in 2002, a 38% decrease from 2001 (Table 7).

Southeast Region:

Population Surveys: Greater sandhill cranes nest in several areas in the Southeast Region. Sandhill cranes are counted incidental to spring goose breeding pair surveys; however, the usefulness of that data as an index to population is unknown.

Beginning in 1995, Department personnel began collecting data at Chesterfield, Blackfoot Reservoir, and Grays Lake to provide information on sandhill crane abundance, juvenile recruitment rates in fall premigration flocks, arrival dates of subadults and family groups into premigration 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, FWS personnel collected the sandhill crane information at Grays Lake NWR for the Department. Personnel for the FWS and a private contractor collected aerial survey information to determine total sandhill crane abundance during September in selected areas of the Southeast Region; this survey was coordinated by the Pacific Flyway and the Idaho portion was paid for by the Department (Table 7).

Harvest Characteristics: Sandhill crane harvest within the Southeast Region was estimated at 109 birds by 124 hunters (88% success rate) in 247 hunter days (Table 9). Hunters were not required to comply with a mandatory check requirement in 2002.

Hunters were mailed self-addressed postcard surveys to determine participation and harvest. Useable returns were filed by 75% of those being mailed surveys. Adults made up 77% of the total known-age harvest (Table 10).

Although whooping cranes are known to use areas within the Southeast Region, none were observed in any of the areas surveyed.

Climatic Conditions: Precipitation during winter and spring 2002 was below average. Summer and fall precipitation was significantly below normal.

Management Implications: Concerns expressed by grain producers 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.

Upper Snake Region:

Population Surveys: Greater sandhill cranes were surveyed from the ground in the Fremont County area and in the Teton County area prior to the opening of the September hunts and the week after the hunts closed (Table 8). Data collected during each survey included the time of observation, group size, cover type, and location. This survey protocol is designed to provide insight into sandhill crane numbers in the survey area (pre-migration staging area), as well as whooping crane use periods.

In the Fremont County area, 149 sandhill cranes were counted preseason and 126 postseason (Table 8). One thousand eight hundred seventy-six sandhill cranes were counted in the Ashton-St. Anthony area on the fixed-wing September RMP sandhill crane survey coordinated by the Pacific Flyway and the FWS and paid for by the Department (Table 7).

In the Teton County area, 117 sandhill cranes were counted preseason and 828 postseason (Table 8). One thousand five hundred-four sandhill cranes were counted in the Teton Basin on the September RMP sandhill crane survey by fixed-wing aircraft (Table 7).

Whooping Crane Use Periods: No whooping cranes were observed on either the preseason or postseason sandhill crane surveys in 2002.

Harvest Characteristics: A mail-in card survey with a follow-up telephone survey of non-respondents was used to estimate hunter participation and harvest of sandhill cranes for each hunt. Non-responders were contacted by telephone in November. For each hunt there were 75 permits available and all 75 permits were issued. Controlled hunts in the Fremont County area had a minimum of 47 hunters participate in the sandhill crane hunt with an estimated 64% success rate per permit issued (Table 9). The estimated harvest was 48 sandhill cranes. Controlled hunts in the Teton County area had a minimum of 44 hunters participate in the sandhill crane hunt with an estimated 49% success rate per permit issued. The estimated harvest was 37 sandhill cranes (Table 9).

Climatic Conditions: Weather conditions were dry and hot throughout the summer 2002.

Depredation Complaints: The Region received 1 depredation complaint from sandhill cranes damaging standing grain in September in the Swan Valley area. No action was taken because by the time the depredation was reported the grain harvest had already started.

Management Implications: Sandhill crane composition surveys were conducted in the Upper Snake Region for the first time in 1995. Baseline data that could be used to help identify strategies to reduce depredation concerns were collected on pre-migration staging areas in the Fremont County area and in Teton County area. Two controlled hunts with a total of 75 permits were authorized in the Teton County area in 2002, resulting in an estimated harvest of 37 sandhill cranes (Table 9). Two controlled hunts with a total of 75 permits were also authorized for the Fremont County area in 2002, resulting in an estimated harvest of 48 sandhill cranes (Table 9).

The purpose for the hunts was to reduce damage to grain crops by sandhill cranes. In the Fremont County area, an estimated 70% of the grain was harvested by 30 August. Potato harvest had not started yet by 19 September, but 100% of the grain had been harvested and many of the stubble fields were already disked by this date. In the Teton County area, an estimated <1% of the grain had been harvested on 29 August. By 20 September, 95% of the grain had been harvested but still no potatoes.

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 because the Department's annual nongame report does not include all available data.

Regional Reports

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 or the attempt was brief and unsuccessful.

Successful nesting by trumpeter swans was also documented in 1995 and 1996 at the IDFG Highway 46 Pond near Fairfield in Camas County. During 2002, one adult trumpeter utilized this pond for the entire summer. Also in 2002, a pair of trumpeter swans successfully nested and reared three juveniles on a private pond approximately 6 miles southeast of the IDFG Highway 46 Pond.

Southeast Region:

Fish and Wildlife Service personnel at Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge conducted aerial surveys of trumpeter swan production throughout the summer.

Upper Snake Region:

The Upper Snake Region participated in trumpeter swan nest and population monitoring again during the 2002 nesting season. Aerial surveys were conducted in the Upper Snake Region to monitor nesting trumpeter swans and wetlands. During 2002, there were 16 occupied nesting territories, but only 10 verified nesting pairs. Seven of the ten nests were successful (hatching at least one young), but only one nest successfully fledged cygnets (3 cygnets were fledged). September surveys (US Fish and Wildlife Service) over southeast Idaho counted fewer swans than average (September survey report not available at this time.)

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.

Regional Reports

Upper Snake Region:

Tundra swans migrate through the Region in spring and fall, and some winter on the North Fork of the Snake River and Teton River, but none are known to nest in the Region. The Region does no monitoring of tundra swans during the summer. Counts are made incidental to other waterfowl during the midwinter waterfowl count and the midwinter tri-state trumpeter swan survey; these counts are reported in the winter waterfowl progress report.

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 an important game bird in Idaho and because it benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs.

COMMON SNIPE

The Department's 1991-1995 WMP goals for the common snipe are to (1) maintain Idaho's common 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 common snipe is not an important game bird in Idaho and because it benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs.

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Figure 1. Distribution of Pacific and Rocky Mountain Canada geese populations within Idaho.

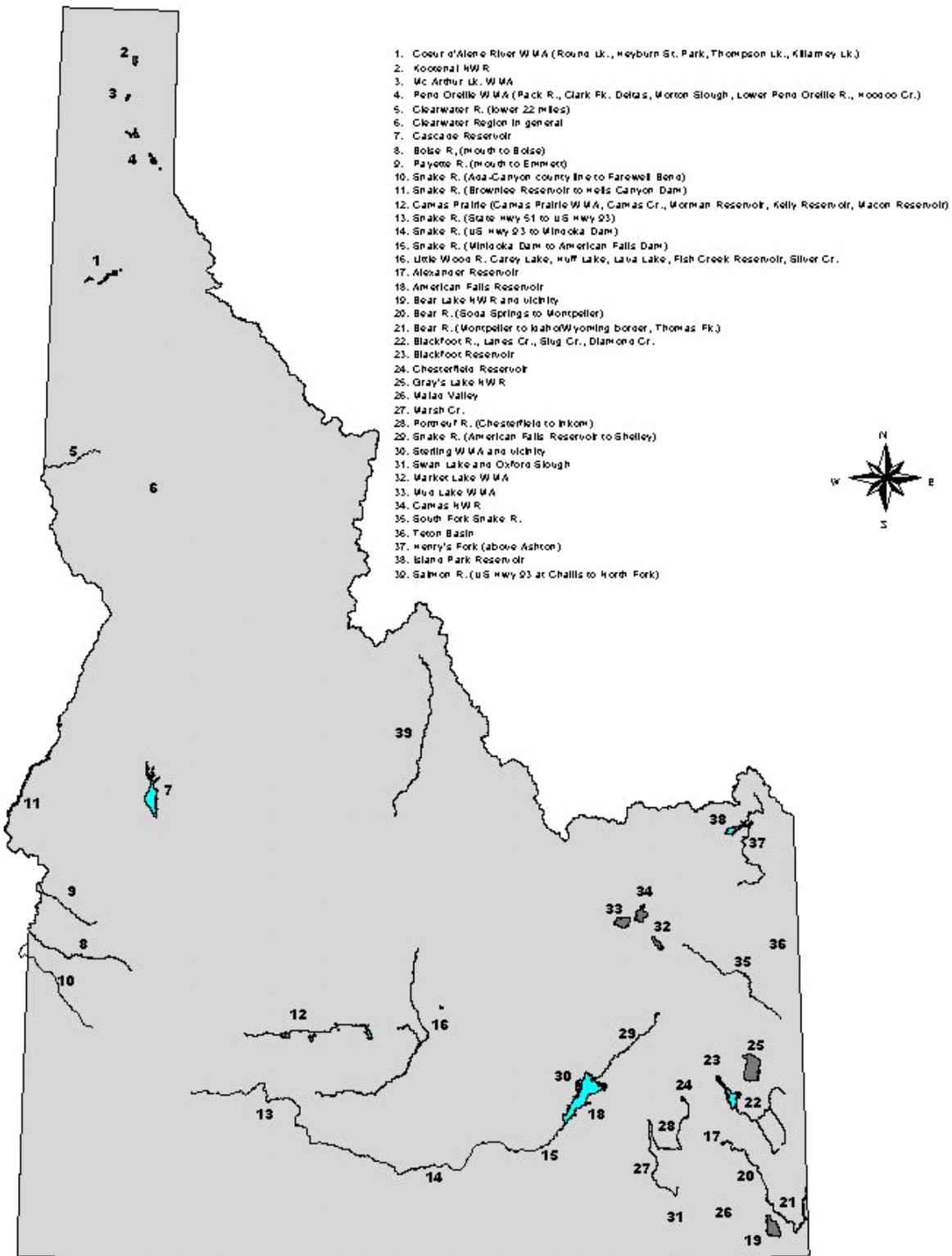


Figure 2. Idaho Canada goose nesting survey areas.

Table 1. Ducks banded in Idaho by IDFG and FWS personnel, 2002.

Species	Panhandle	Clearwater	Southwest	Magic Valley	Southeast	Upper Snake	Salmon	Total
Mallard	809	0	254	0	0	0	0	1,063
Wood Duck	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	92
Ring-necked	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Redhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pintail	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Widgeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teal	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	920	0	255	0	0	0	0	1,175

Table 2. Sex and age composition of mallards banded in Idaho, 2002.

IDFG Region	Local			Hatch Year		After Hatch Year		Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Panhandle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	809
Clearwater	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwest	0	0	0	50	114	36	54	254
Magic Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southeast ^a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upper Snake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salmon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	50	114	36	54	1,063

^a Grays Lake NWR and Bear Lake NWR

Table 3. Mallards banded in Idaho by IDFG and FWS personnel, 1993-2002.

IDFG Region	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
Panhandle	469	616	550	888	1,177	569	688	187	294	1,001	6,439
Kootenai NWR	418	0	129	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	675
Clearwater	20	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Southwest	276	255	313	560	0	0	0	0	192	0	1,596
Deer Flat NWR	285	219	536	239	514	261	228	181	161	255	2,879
Magic Valley	237	136	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	451
Minidoka NWR	367	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	367
Southeast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grays Lake NWR	937	2,072	630	312	289	453	404	331	614	0	6,042
Bear Lake NWR	498	852	585	191	0	191	144	0	0	0	2,461
Upper Snake	393	88	456	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	937
Camas NWR	321	232	222	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	775
Tribal	0	241	289	203	398	0	0	0	0	0	1,131
Salmon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4,221	4,723	3,788	2,521	2,378	1,474	1,464	699	1,261	1,256	23,785

Table 4. Idaho goose population survey areas (Rocky Mountain in gray), 2002 counts, 3-year averages, and management objectives.

Region/Survey Area ^b	2002 Counts			Average 2000-2002			Objectives ^a (min.)		
	Nests	Pairs	Total	Nests	Pairs	Total	Nests	Pairs	Total
Panhandle									
1 Coeur d'Alene River WMA	-	-	-	99	-	-	35	-	-
2 Kootenai NWR	-	-	-	30	68	315	-	-	-
3 McArthur WMA	31	-	-	23	-	-	70	-	-
4 Pend Oreille WMA	153	-	-	134	-	-	85	-	-
Clearwater									
5 Clearwater River	34	-	187	55	-	-	70	-	-
6 Remainder of Region (farm ponds etc.)	74	-	407	78	-	-	-	-	-
Southwest^c									
7 Cascade Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	225
8 Boise River	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
9 Payette River	-	215	440	-	240	484	-	200	450
10 Snake River South	-	1,011	2,043	-	973	1,988	-	700	1,800
11 Snake River North	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	100
Magic Valley									
12 Camas Prairie	-	390	617	-	354	659	-	285	700
13 Snake River (Hwy 51 to Hwy 93)	-	141	336	-	142	386	-	175	350
14 Snake River (Hwy 93 to Minidoka)	-	63	148	-	58	134	-	60	120
15 Snake River (Minidoka to American Falls)	-	38	76	-	39	105	-	120	275
16 Little Wood River	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southeast^c									
17 Alexander Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18 American Falls Reservoir	-	14	32	-	26	53	-	-	-
19 Bear Lake NWR	-	377	797	-	462	866	-	640	1,400
20 Bear River(Soda Springs-Montpelier)	-	56	120	-	76	148	-	-	-
21 Bear River(Montpelier-ID/WY border)	-	86	191	-	96	195	-	-	-
22 Blackfoot Reservoir(upper)	-	97	254	-	-	-	-	150	375
23 Blackfoot Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 Chesterfield Reservoir	-	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 Grays Lake NWR	-	78	164	-	152	291	-	350	840
26 Malad Valley	-	9	18	-	12	44	-	-	-
27 Marsh Creek	-	0	0	-	25	64	-	190	380
28 Portneuf River(Chesterfield-Inkom)	-	1	2	-	18	49	-	-	-
29 Snake River(American Falls-Shelley)	-	54	108	-	56	119	-	-	-
30 Sterling WMA	-	16	36	-	18	36	-	-	-
31 Swan Lake and Oxford Slough	-	27	54	-	26	68	-	100	250
Upper Snake									
32 Market Lake WMA	-	86	129	-	84	122	-	85	-
33 Mud Lake WMA	-	94	167	-	101	182	-	95	-
34 Camas NWR	-	104	355	-	140	328	-	130	-
35 South Fork Snake River	-	16	31	-	38	80	-	-	-
36 Teton Basin	-	34	73	-	42	91	-	90	-
37 North Fork Snake River	-	17	29	-	11	27	-	15	-
38 Island Park Reservoir	-	160	791	-	159	723	-	60	-
Salmon									
39 Salmon River	-	333	857	-	353	863	-	175	-

^a Connelly and Wackenhut (1990).

^b See Figure 2.

^c Two-year average. There were no flights in 2001 on geese in the Southwest Region.

Table 5. Active nests, indicated pairs and total number of Pacific and Rocky Mountain (in gray) Canada geese in Idaho, 1993-2002.

Area ^a	1993			1994			1995			1996			1997			1998			1999			2000			2001			2002		
	N	P	T	N	P	T	N	P	T	N	P	T	N	P	T	N	P	T	N	P	T	N	P	T	N	P	T	N	P	T
1	88	-	-	97	-	-	97	-	-	94	-	-	86	-	-	77	-	-	92	-	-	104	-	-	92	-	-	-	-	-
2	31	62	-	31	54	-	31	61	-	33	56	-	31	53	-	31	57	-	31	63	387	30	68	315	-	-	-	-	-	
3	52	-	-	53	-	-	24	-	-	39	-	-	23	-	-	33	-	-	27	-	-	26	-	-	12	-	-	31	-	-
4	57	-	-	57	-	-	68	-	-	104	-	-	99	-	-	91	-	-	97	-	-	102	-	-	147	-	-	153	-	-
5	44	-	-	50	-	-	49	-	-	37	-	-	36	-	-	42	-	-	43	-	-	37	-	-	38	-	-	34	-	187
6	60	-	-	92	-	-	105	-	-	95	-	-	91	-	-	85	-	-	92	-	-	89	-	-	71	-	-	74	-	407
7	-	38	84	-	46	249	-	39	187	-	73	158	-	122	190	-	^b 28	^b 105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
8	-	92	-	-	124	-	-	113	196	-	101	170	-	68	461	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
9	-	256	712	-	229	492	-	176	332	-	163	315	-	160	308	-	214	436	-	202	452	-	264	528	-	-	-	-	215	440
10	-	1,013	2,386	-	892	2,629	-	836	2,025	-	780	1,424	-	820	1,877	-	742	1,552	-	889	1,812	-	935	1,932	-	-	-	-	1,011	2,043
11	-	45	77	-	27	110	-	46	115	-	^b 19	^b 34	-	^b 25	^b 48	-	21	57	-	-	-	-	35	79	-	-	-	-	-	
12	-	263	405	-	381	821	-	288	520	-	^b 128	^b 214	-	318	713	-	375	966	77	377	1,055	-	376	741	-	296	618	-	390	617
13	-	239	560	-	307	762	-	190	713	-	^b 116	^b 311	-	173	571	-	291	794	42	154	309	-	132	375	-	152	448	-	141	336
14	-	69	124	-	102	247	-	89	184	-	^b 44	^b 118	-	71	170	-	110	270	9	59	235	-	47	129	-	63	126	-	63	148
15	-	115	193	-	102	179	-	54	154	-	^b 52	^b 129	-	-	-	-	99	232	4	42	184	-	27	143	-	51	95	-	38	76
16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	-	43	257	-	47	244	-	23	57	-	23	50	-	21	102	-	30	50	-	35	103	-	28	47	-	37	79	-	14	32
19	-	747	1,447	-	697	1,472	-	587	1,066	-	476	1,200	-	696	1,662	-	590	1,213	-	868	1,606	-	534	789	-	475	1,011	-	377	797
20	-	161	295	-	67	269	-	62	123	-	62	155	-	165	68	-	187	272	-	120	209	-	117	198	-	55	127	-	56	120
21	-	134	250	-	107	304	-	129	261	-	89	188	-	92	171	-	108	191	-	135	292	-	128	206	-	75	188	-	86	191
22	-	479	1,420	-	139	353	-	110	589	-	117	241	-	164	483	-	148	382	-	-	-	-	179	462	-	194	605	-	97	254
23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	151	365	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	-	18	32	-	22	37	-	11	19	-	13	33	-	14	209	-	16	96	-	20	44	-	23	41	-	-	-	-	1	8
25	-	411	839	-	185	337	-	145	426	-	95	193	-	261	467	-	278	447	-	213	354	-	254	411	-	125	299	-	78	164
26	-	77	137	-	48	84	-	24	59	-	16	32	-	14	40	-	-	-	-	29	78	-	20	51	-	7	62	-	9	18
27	-	266	563	-	201	365	-	47	79	-	89	204	-	55	142	-	44	101	-	61	112	-	52	94	-	22	97	-	0	0
28	-	153	297	-	113	192	-	49	90	-	88	176	-	46	55	-	20	50	-	64	66	-	28	67	-	24	79	-	1	2
29	-	42	100	-	7	7	-	23	68	-	32	67	-	79	47	-	40	74	-	47	73	-	95	202	-	19	47	-	54	108
30	-	64	203	-	-	-	-	29	85	-	10	62	-	19	50	-	37	83	-	41	48	-	27	48	-	12	24	-	16	36
31	-	153	352	-	127	255	-	62	122	-	70	130	-	62	121	-	48	141	-	75	135	-	34	75	-	17	75	-	27	54
32	-	-	-	-	91	161	-	136	264	-	-	-	-	92	136	-	53	85	-	26	76	-	95	169	-	71	122	-	86	129
33	-	-	-	-	103	243	-	173	524	-	-	-	-	117	265	-	106	201	-	36	199	-	82	164	-	127	214	-	94	167
34	-	-	-	-	83	173	-	117	269	-	-	-	-	142	324	-	115	234	-	73	260	-	109	273	-	207	355	-	104	355
35	-	-	-	-	53	96	-	41	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	35	-	66	122	-	33	87	-	16	31
36	-	70	150	-	65	132	-	45	89	-	36	87	-	32	64	-	32	133	-	22	39	-	65	161	-	27	40	-	34	73
37	-	11	58	-	6	27	-	12	24	-	-	-	-	8	15	-	10	13	-	9	14	-	10	27	-	7	24	-	17	29
38	-	116	235	-	146	1,170	-	45	165	-	-	-	-	121	296	-	128	244	-	112	753	-	120	252	-	197	1,125	-	160	791
39	-	222	603	-	220	651	-	244	611	-	447	982	-	236	572	-	257	577	-	238	662	-	346	909	-	379	824	-	333	857

^a See Figure 2. N = # of active nests; P = # of indicated pairs; T = total # of geese.

^b Incomplete count.

Table 6. Early season Canada goose permit hunt summary, 1996-2002.

Hunt Area ^a	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Lewiston							
# of Permits	200	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated # of Hunters	65	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated # of Hunter Days	155	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Harvest	200	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashton							
# of Permits	30	30	30	30	0	0	0
Estimated # of Hunters	26	26	20	20	0	0	0
Estimated # of Hunter Days	77	49	39	66	0	0	0
Estimated Harvest	6	26	35	84	0	0	0
Teton Basin							
# of Permits	30	30	30	30	0	0	0
Estimated # of Hunters	22	23	23	18	0	0	0
Estimated # of Hunter Days	72	75	96	62	0	0	0
Estimated Harvest	36	29	61	32	0	0	0

^a Estimates are derived from telephone surveys of sampled permit holders. The Lewiston hunt became a 7-day general hunt in 1997.

Table 7. September aerial counts of Rocky Mountain Population greater sandhill cranes in eastern Idaho, 1987-2002.

Region/Area	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Magic Valley																
Camas Prairie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	17	137	0
Carey Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	0	6	2
Silver Creek	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115	524	385	327
Southeast																
American Falls Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	14	8	-	44	74	97	104	66
Bear Lake Valley	442	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	476	403	416	439	444	217	253
Bear River Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	568	617	668	760	734	823	598	790
Blackfoot Reservoir	1,535	-	-	-	-	310	-	-	2,110	1,388	1,232	1,626	1,188	1,168	698	441
Chesterfield Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	196	249	273	218	355	149	170	86
Grays Lake	-	-	-	-	-	343	-	-	636	606	747	1,156	1,144	1,529	1,734	1,467
Marsh Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	182	45	172	244	324	284	192	277
Oxford Slough	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	330	47	316	52	418	94	143	242
Upper Snake																
Ashton-St. Anthony	416	-	-	-	-	898	-	-	1,076	1,659	1,844	987	1,516	1,405	1,485	1,876
Camas NWR	254	-	-	-	-	131	-	-	229	212	418	268	192	429	257	331
Henry's Lake Flats	5	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	139	633	539	532	695	436	31	102
Island Park Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	0	4	5	2	0	0	13
Kilgore	4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	121	0	17	2	0	0	0	0
Market Lake WMA	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	2	0	0	0	2	2	2
Mud Lake WMA	-	-	-	-	-	257	-	-	-	50	50	130	62	105	94	172
Teton Basin	3,940	-	-	-	-	2,989	-	-	1,006	2,186	1,036	1,048	1,470	1,831	907	1,504
Total	6,596	-	-	-	-	4,943	-	-	6,637	8,178	7,719	7,488	8,761	9,337	7,160	7,698

Table 8. Sandhill cranes counted during ground-based surveys in eastern Idaho, 1996-2002.

Area	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Ashton							
Pre-season	-	-	-	425	504	570	149
Mid-season	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post-season	-	-	-	542	1,128	531	126
Teton Basin							
Pre-season	190	-	-	177	317	528	117
Mid-season	739	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post-season	2,953	-	-	728	1,477	1,972	828
Blackfoot Reservoir Vicinity							
Pre-season	529	247	344	409	-	-	-
Mid-season	992	541	506	-	-	-	-
Post-season	787	423	318	968	1,168	-	-

Table 9. Sandhill crane permit levels, estimated hunter participation and harvest, 1996-2002.

Hunt Area	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Blackfoot Reservoir-Chesterfield ^a							
Permits Available	15	120	210	329	350	350	263
Permits Issued	15	115	196	221	239	323	231
Total Hunters	12	102	178	197	186	246	124
Days Hunted	21	139	237	275	281	369	247
% Success	92	71	58	60	61	63	47
Harvest	11	73	104	118	114	156	109
Ashton-St. Anthony ^b							
Permits Available	-	-	-	50	100	100	75
Permits Issued	-	-	-	-	38	91	75
Total Hunters	-	-	-	39	37	65	^c 47
Days Hunted	-	-	-	62	57	115	85
% Success	-	-	-	88	95	73	64
Harvest	-	-	-	34	35	66	48
Teton Basin ^b							
Permits Available	10	50	50	75	100	100	75
Permits Issued	10	50	50	75	69	96	75
Total Hunters	10	48	47	59	61	80	^c 44
Days Hunted	-	102	84	130	101	149	94
% Success	70	81	67	64	72	58	49
Harvest	7	27	16	38	44	56	37

^a Mandatory harvest report data.

^b Total hunters, days hunted, and success is derived from mail-in and telephone surveys. Harvest estimate is derived from percent success of total hunters.

^c Known minimum number of hunters; not extrapolated for non-respondents.

Table 10. Sex and age composition of sandhill crane harvest^a, 1996-2002.

Hunt Area	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Blackfoot Reservoir-Chesterfield							
Male							
Juvenile	2	6	6	-	-	-	-
Adult	2	32	45	-	-	-	-
Unknown	0	1	0	-	-	-	-
Female							
Juvenile	0	1	3	-	-	-	-
Adult	6	28	40	-	-	-	-
Unknown	0	1	0	-	-	-	-
Unknown							
Juvenile	1	1	0	10	15	34	25
Adult	0	2	4	108	99	122	84
Unknown	0	1	6	0	0	0	0
Ashton-St. Anthony							
Male							
Juvenile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Female							
Juvenile	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unknown							
Juvenile	-	-	-	-	5	11	5
Adult	-	-	-	-	30	55	43
Unknown	-	-	-	-	0	0	^b 0
Teton Basin							
Male							
Juvenile	0	1	1	-	-	-	-
Adult	4	7	4	-	-	-	-
Unknown	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
Female							
Juvenile	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Adult	0	7	6	-	-	-	-
Unknown	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
Unknown							
Juvenile	0	1	0	-	5	13	7
Adult	2	10	2	-	38	43	30
Unknown	0	0	2	-	1	0	^b 0

^a A mandatory check has not been required since 1999.

^b All harvested birds were categorized as juveniles or adults based on rates reported in mail and telephone surveys.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Idaho 2001-2002 season waterfowl rules,
2002 Sandhill crane rules
and
early September Canada goose season rules

GOOSE SEASONS AND HUNT AREA DESCRIPTIONS

(Including: DARK GEESE — Canada and White-fronted;
LIGHT GEESE — Ross' and Snow)

AREA 1

Area 1 includes the following counties or portions of counties:

Bear Lake; Benewah; Bingham within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Bonner; Bonneville; Boundary; Butte; Caribou EXCEPT the Fort Hall Indian Reservation; Clark; Clearwater; Custer; Franklin; Fremont; Idaho; Jefferson; Kootenai; Latah; Lemhi; Lewis; Madison; Nez Perce; Oneida; Shoshone; and Teton counties. EXCEPT, Fremont and Teton counties are CLOSED to the taking of light geese.

OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 19, 2002 THROUGH JANUARY 24, 2003

AREA 2

Area 2 includes the following counties or portions of counties:

Ada; Adams; Boise; Canyon; Elmore west and north of State Highway 20 and west of State Highway 51; Gem; Owyhee west of State Highway 51; Payette; Valley; and Washington counties.

OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 19, 2002 THROUGH JANUARY 24, 2003

AREA 3

Area 3 includes the following counties or portions of counties:

Bannock; Bingham EXCEPT that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Power east of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39; and all lands, including private holdings, within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 5, 2002 THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2003

AREA 4

Area 4 includes the following counties or portions of counties:

Blaine; Camas; Cassia; Elmore east and south of State Highway 20 and east of State Highway 51; Gooding; Jerome; Lincoln; Minidoka; Owyhee east of Highway 51; Power west of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39; and Twin Falls counties.

OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 19, 2002 THROUGH JANUARY 24, 2003

SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

- Duck (including merganser and pintails), goose, and coot hunting open for two days only, on September 28 and 29, 2002, to youth 12 through 15 years of age.
- Hunting license — **REQUIRED.**
- Federal migratory game bird harvest information program validation — **REQUIRED.**
- Federal migratory bird stamp — **NOT REQUIRED.**
- **Daily duck (including merganser), goose, and coot bag limits:** Same limits statewide that are in effect during regular seasons.
- At least one adult 18 years of age or older having a valid hunting license, must accompany each youth into the field at all times. **ADULTS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO HUNT.**
- All other state rules and federal regulations pertaining to the taking of migratory game birds are in effect for this hunt.

**HELP PRESERVE THE TRADITION —
TAKE A KID WATERFOWL HUNTING!**

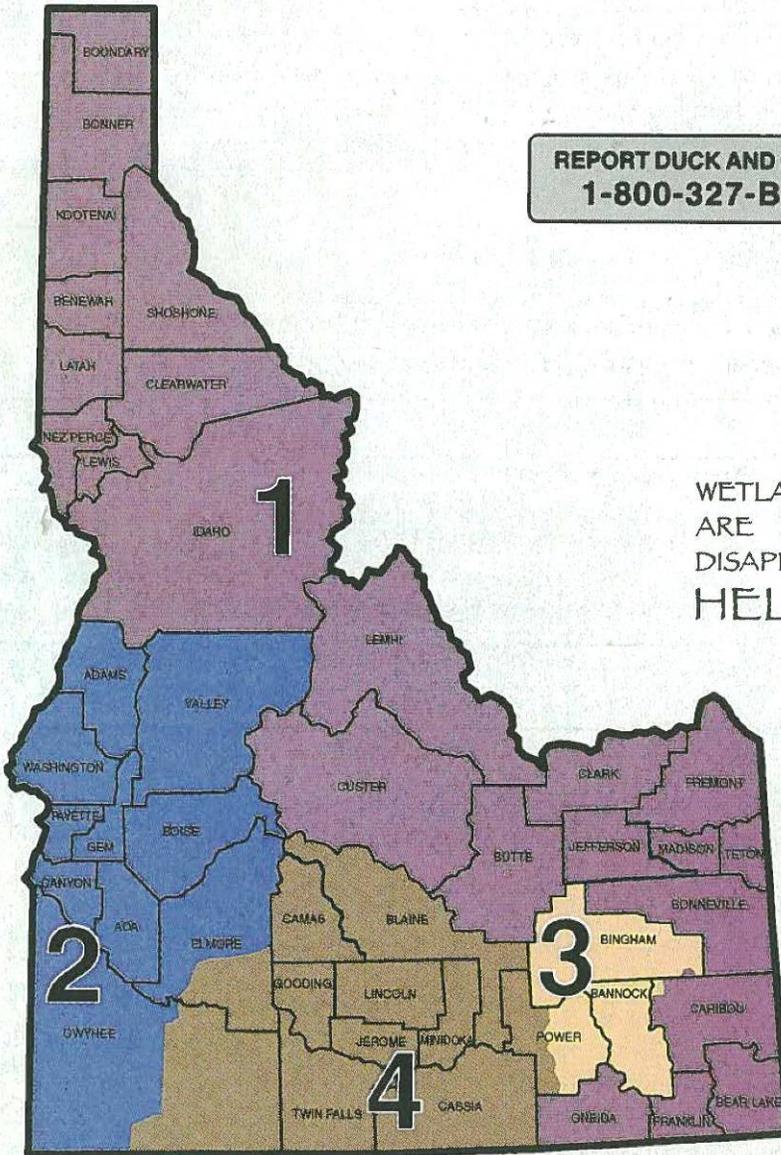
GOOSE LIMITS AND HUNT AREAS

AREAS 1, 2, AND 3

Daily Bag Limit: 4 of any kind (only 3 light geese or 2 white-fronted geese).
Possession Limit After First Day of Season: 8 of any kind (only 6 light geese or 4 white-fronted geese).

AREA 4

Daily Bag Limit: 3 of any kind (only 2 white-fronted geese).
Possession Limit After First Day of Season: 6 of any kind (only 4 white-fronted geese).



**REPORT DUCK AND GOOSE LEG BANDS
 1-800-327-BAND (2263)**



WETLANDS
 ARE
 DISAPPEARING...
HELP SAVE ONE!

STATEWIDE DUCK (Including merganser), COMMON SNIPE AND AMERICAN COOT SEASONS AND LIMITS

CANVASBACK SEASON IS CLOSED—PINTAIL SEASON IS 60 DAYS ONLY

AREA 1

Area 1 includes the following counties or portions of counties:

Bannock; Bingham EXCEPT that portion within the Blackfoot Reservoir drainage; Power east of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39; and all lands, including private holdings, within the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

REGULAR SEASON: OCTOBER 5, 2002 THROUGH JANUARY 17, 2003

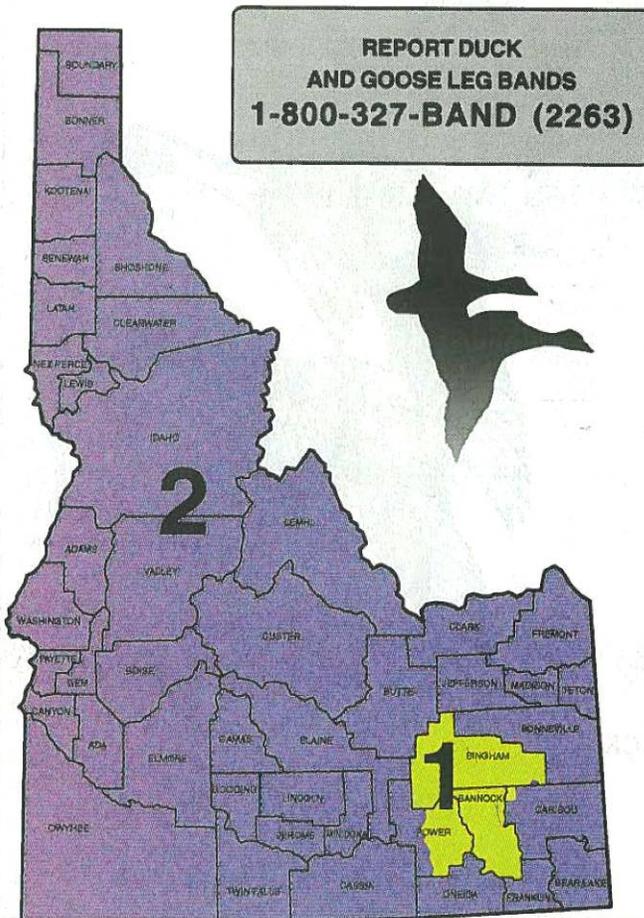
PINTAIL SEASON: OCTOBER 5, 2002 THROUGH DECEMBER 3, 2002

AREA 2

Area 2 includes all parts of the state NOT included in Area 1.

OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 12, 2002 THROUGH JANUARY 24, 2003

PINTAIL SEASON: OCTOBER 12, 2002 THROUGH DECEMBER 10, 2002



YOUTH WATERFOWL SEASON
see page 11.

DUCKS (INCLUDING MERGANSERS)

Daily Bag Limit:

7 of any kind.

Shall not include more than the following:

- 2 female mallards
- 1 pintail
- 2 redheads
- 4 scaup (lesser or greater in the aggregate)

CANVASBACK CLOSED

Possession Limit After First Day of Season:

14 of any kind.

Shall not include more than the following:

- 4 female mallards
- 2 pintails
- 4 redheads
- 8 scaup (lesser or greater in the aggregate)

CANVASBACK CLOSED

COOTS

Daily Bag Limit: 25

Possession Limit After First Day of Season: 25

COMMON SNIPE

Daily Bag Limit: 8

Possession Limit After First Day of Season: 16

2002 EARLY GOOSE SEASON AND LIMITS NEZ PERCE COUNTY GENERAL SEASON

Hunt Area: All of Nez Perce County (see restrictions below)

2002 Season: September 7 through September 13, 2002.

Daily Bag Limit: 4

Possession Limit after First Day of Season: 8

Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program Validation— REQUIRED

Federal Migratory Bird Stamp— REQUIRED

Nontoxic Shot— REQUIRED

Restrictions: All hunting closures remain in effect. These include the following:

- **Mann Lake Closure** in Lewiston Orchards. This includes all of the lake and 300 yards beyond the Bureau of Reclamation property encompassing the lake.
- **Lewiston Preserve** along the Clearwater River from Lewiston city limits to Spalding between Highway 12-95 on the north side of the river and the Camas Prairie Railroad on the south side.
- **Lewiston city limits** on the Clearwater River and the Snake River.
- **Hellsgate State Park** along the Snake River from the north end of the park upstream to the basalt bluffs opposite Asotin.

SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS, LIMITS AND PERMITS

Hunt Area	Hunt No.	Season	Permits
1	9501	September 1- 2	80
1	9502	September 3- 5	80
1	9503	September 6- 8	35
1	9504	September 9- 11	35
1	9505	September 12- 15	33
2	9506	September 1- 7	40
2	9507	September 8- 15	35
3	9508	September 1- 7	40
3	9509	September 8- 15	35

Note: Daily limit is 2 for all hunts. The season limit is 9

On August 30, 2002, any controlled hunt permits that remain unsold after the controlled hunt drawing may be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. In 2002, hunters may purchase as many as 9 permits and tags to hunt cranes. Each additional permit to harvest a crane will cost \$14.50.

The purpose of these hunts is to help reduce crop damage by Sandhill cranes. Check with local landowners or Department offices for information on crane use areas and remember: always—
“Ask First to Hunt on Private Property.”

Sandhill Crane Controlled 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.
- Area 3** — Includes all of Fremont County.

No mandatory check required for cranes in 2002.

Appendix B. Idaho waterfowl management, season structure and limits, 1990-2002.

	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02
Duck												
Management Areas	2	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Season Length (days)	59	59	59	59	59	93	107	107	107	107	107	107
Daily Limit	4	4	4	4	4	6	7	7	7	7	7	7
Goose												
Management Areas	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	3
Season Length (days)	93	93	93	93	93	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Daily Limit ^a	3	3	3	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)

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

Submitted by:

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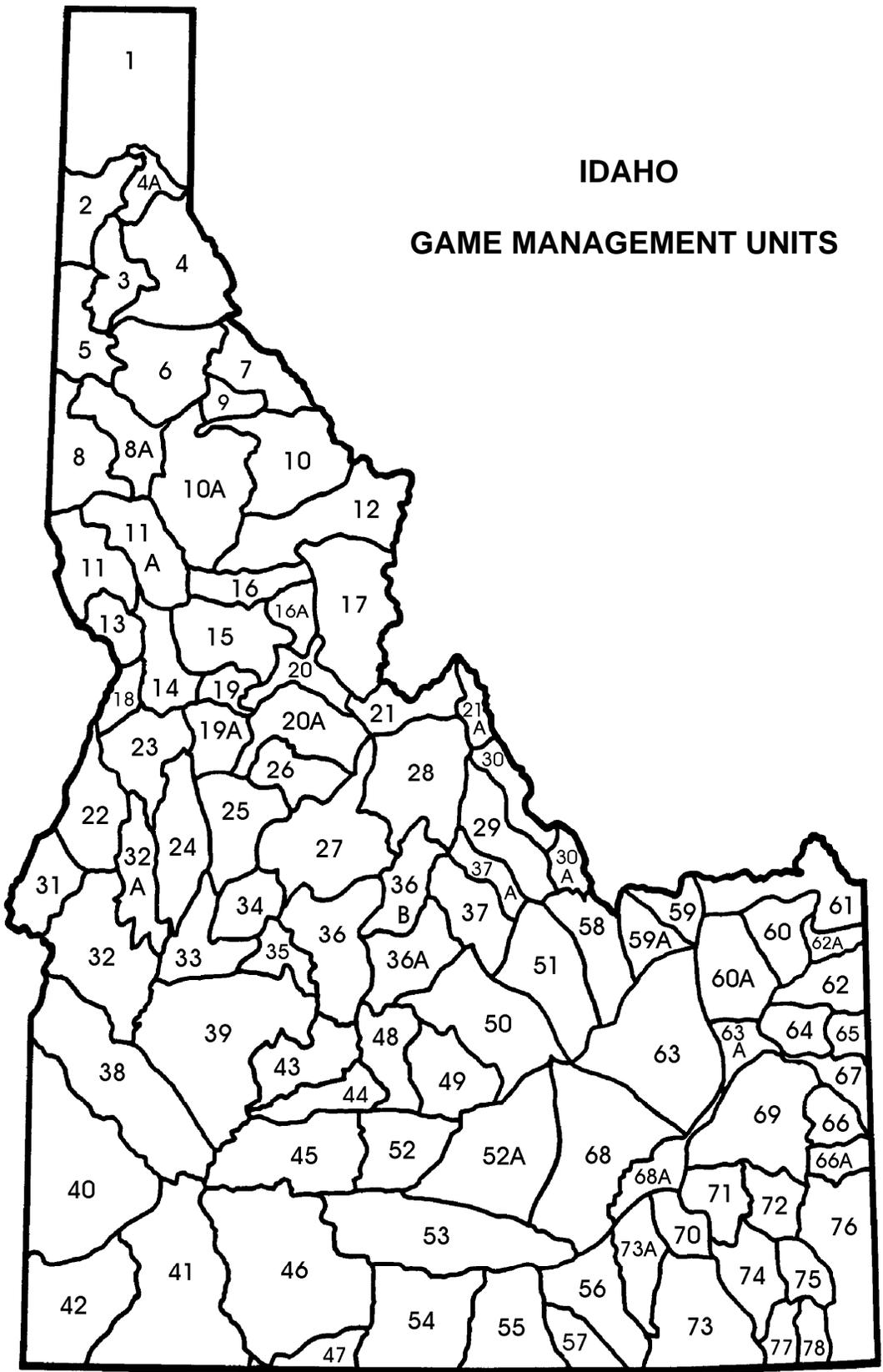
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Regional Wildlife Manager

Justin Naderman
Acting Regional Wildlife Manager

Approved by: IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Dale E. Towell
Dale E. Towell
Wildlife Program Coordinator
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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.

