

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**Rod Sando, Director**

**Project W-170-R-24**

**Progress Report**



**WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AND SUMMER BANDING**

Study II, Job 2

Prepared By:

Jim Hayden..... Panhandle Region  
Jay Crenshaw, Miles Benker ..... Clearwater Region  
Lou Nelson, Neil Johnson ..... Southwest Region  
Jeff Rohlman .....Southwest (McCall) Region  
Randy Smith, Bruce Palmer ..... Magic Valley Region  
Carl Anderson, Daryl Meints ..... Southeast Region  
Brad Compton, Justin Naderman, Dave Koehler ..... Upper Snake Region  
Mike Scott .....Salmon Region

Compiled By: Tom Hemker, Wildlife Program Coordinator

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**PROGRESS REPORT  
SURVEYS AND INVENTORY**

<b>STATE:</b>	<u>Idaho</u>	<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	<u>Waterfowl Production and</u>
<b>PROJECT:</b>	<u>W-170-R-24</u>		<u>Summer Banding</u>
<b>SUBPROJECT:</b>	<u>1-7</u>	<b>STUDY NAME:</b>	<u>Upland Game and Waterfowl</u>
<b>STUDY:</b>	<u>II</u>		<u>Population Status and Trends</u>
<b>JOB:</b>	<u>2</u>		
<b>PERIOD COVERED:</b> <u>April 1, 2000 to September 30, 2000</u>			

**ABSTRACT**

Data collected on resident ducks, Canada geese, sandhill cranes, trumpeter swans, and tundra swans from April 1, 2000 through September 30, 2000 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 2000, the tenth year of a Pacific Flyway preseason mallard and pintail banding program, Idaho banded 699 mallards and 2 pintails. To date, 27,665 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 388 in 2000. Indicated breeding pairs of PP Canada geese on survey areas in southern Idaho totaled 1,242 in 2000. Of 9 PP Canada geese flocks monitored in 2000, 7 are meeting or exceeding the Department's 1991-1995 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 2,486 in 2000. Of 12 RMP Canada geese flocks with objectives, 4 are meeting or exceeding the WMP indicated breeding pair objectives based upon 3-year averages (1998-2000). Four hundred seventy-six geese (all goslings) were transplanted in 2000 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 2000 to help reduce crop damage. An undetermined number of geese were harvested in the northern Idaho hunt. Data collection continued in 2000 on RMP greater sandhill cranes in 3 southern regions to provide information on recruitment rates, arrival dates of sub-adults and family groups into premigration areas, whooping crane use periods, and total sandhill cranes present in mid-September. Nine thousand three hundred thirty-seven 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; 193 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 declines 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 1986-2000 are summarized in Appendix B.

## Regional Reports

### Panhandle Region:

Population Surveys: Approximately 85% of over one thousand wood duck nest boxes in the five northern counties were available for nesting in year 2000. Cavity nesting ducks used 58% of the boxes checked. The majority of these nests (80%) were by wood ducks, with common goldeneye and hooded mergansers accounting for the remainder. Nest success was 68% across all species using the nest boxes.

Duck production surveys were conducted on 3 Panhandle Region Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) in 2000. Breeding pair/brood surveys were done at McArthur Lake WMA, Coeur d'Alene River WMA, and Pend Oreille WMA. Breeding pair counts were conducted on May 2 for early nesters and May 16 for late nesters. Brood counts were conducted on June 6, June 28, and July 26. These dates are within the suggested time window for surveys in northern Idaho.

At McArthur Lake WMA, 48 of 128 duck pairs counted produced broods (0.38 broods per pair); on the Coeur d'Alene River WMA, 20 of 31 duck pairs produced broods (0.64 broods per pair); and on the Pend Oreille WMA, 18 of 69 duck pairs produced broods (0.26 broods per pair) this year. The majority of breeding pairs observed throughout the Panhandle Region were mallards, wood ducks, and three species of teal – 65% on McArthur Lake WMA, 97% on Coeur d'Alene River WMA, and 71% on Pend Oreille WMA. These results are not directly comparable to previous years on the Coeur d'Alene River and Pend Oreille WMAs because of changes in survey areas and personnel.

Overall duck production in the Panhandle Region was fair this year at 0.38 broods per pair, which exceeds the waterfowl plan goal of 0.30 broods per pair and is slightly higher than last year's average of 0.35 broods per pair.

Trapping and Transplanting: A total of 209 ducks were trapped and banded by Department personnel in the Panhandle Region during the summer of 2000. Mallards comprised 90% of the individuals. All ducks were trapped at McArthur Lake WMA. This is a significant reduction from previous years' efforts due to personnel changes in the region. No transplanting projects were conducted.

Management Studies: Since 1991, there have been 5,734 locally produced ducks banded during the summer at McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs. This year's banding effort was limited to McArthur Lake WMA,

where 21 ducks (10% of the sample) were recaptures from previous years. All but one of the recaptures were females.

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.

Monitoring of production through breeding pair/brood counts will continue annually on the McArthur Lake, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs.

#### 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 2000; 16 (23%) were used by wood ducks. Use of these wood duck nest boxes has been commonly shared with other nongame species.

Trapping and Transplanting: The Clearwater Region was not requested to band ducks during this reporting period (Tables 1-3).

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: One hundred ninety-two mallard ducks were banded by the Department and FWS personnel on Deer Flat NWR as part of a statewide and Pacific Flyway-wide effort to gather information on derivation of harvest, band recovery rates, and survival if sample sizes are adequate (Tables 1-2). The Southwest Region's banding quota for 2000 was 240 mallards (60 juvenile males, 60 adult males, 60 juvenile females, and 60 adult females).

Habitat Conditions: Precipitation in the Southwest Region was near normal during the winter but 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.

#### Magic Valley Region:

Population Surveys: Breeding pair and brood surveys were not conducted in the Magic Valley Region during the 2000 reporting period.

Habitat Conditions: Precipitation during the 1999-2000 winter and spring was near average in all major watersheds in the Magic Valley Region. Summer 2000 was very dry. Upland nesting conditions near ponds, reservoirs, and canals were good and remained relatively unchanged from previous years. Snake River flows, as usual, fluctuated widely during the nesting season.

Trapping and Transplanting: No ducks were banded in the Region during 2000 (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. 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 Surveys. Duck pair counts and brood surveys were conducted on the Sterling WMA during the report period. Eighty-two pairs and 17 broods were observed for a nest success rate of 21%. 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. Seven predators were removed after 665 trap nights between 18 April and 22 June 2000. Department staff also removed predator den sites when practical.

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 2000 were near 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: Trapping and banding of ducks was conducted at 1 site (Gray's Lake NWR) in the region in 2000 as part of a statewide and Pacific Flyway-wide effort to ascertain derivation of harvest, band recovery rates, and survival if samples are adequate. A total of 331 mallards were banded, including 217 adult males (Tables 1-2). Banding was done cooperatively by Department employees, reservists, and FWS refuge employees.

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 populations, 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 2000 to identify waterfowl mortalities, but none were found.

#### Upper Snake Region:

Population Surveys: No nest or production surveys were conducted in the Region during 2000.

Climatic Conditions: Climatic conditions during the 2000 nesting season were dry and hot from spring throughout summer. These conditions provide only marginal nesting conditions for both overwater species 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 threatened by drainage for agricultural crops or housing development. The Region is working with private landowners, 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 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 2000.

Botulism was not detected at Market Lake WMA or Mud Lake WMA in 2000. Fifty Franklin's gulls were picked up on Market Lake WMA, but the gulls inspected were all emaciated, suggesting some other cause of death. Botulism was confirmed at Camas NWR where 106 waterfowl, mostly ducks, were picked up in late July and August.

Depredations: The Region received 3 duck depredation complaints on newly-seeded alfalfa around Mud Lake WMA during spring 2000. Zon guns were given to the complainants to address the depredation.

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 appears to be caused by both avian and mammalian predators. Mammalian predation appears higher on nests in large *Juncus* habitat blocks while avian predation appears 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.

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

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. Some nesting boxes have been placed along the Snake River by Adopt-A-Wetland groups and habitat biologists. Incidental observations suggest a wood duck nesting population is establishing 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 (Fig. 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 1999-2000 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 (Fig. 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 1999-2000 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 (Fig. 1). This was made necessary because the Shoshone-Bannock Indian Tribes requested a goose hunting season for nontribal members which 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: Nez Perce County within the following boundary: beginning at the Snake River at the Idaho-Washington state line, then north along the Idaho-Washington state line to the Nez Perce-Latah county line, then east along the Nez Perce county line to the Potlatch River, then south along the east bank of the Potlatch River to the Clearwater River, then west along the south bank of the

Clearwater River to Lapwai Creek, then south along Lapwai Creek to Webb Creek Road, then west along Webb Creek Road to Waha Road, then south along Waha Road to Ten-Mile Creek, then northwest along Ten-Mile Creek to the Snake River, the point of beginning.

Season and Limits: See Appendix 1.

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 1990s 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 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 2000 the Commission once again authorized a 7-day, “general” hunt the first week of September (September 2-8); bag and possession limits remained 4 and 8, respectively.

### Regional Reports

#### Panhandle Region:

Population Surveys: Nest surveys on Pacific Population (PP) Canada geese are conducted annually on the McArthur Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Pend Oreille WMA, and Coeur d’Alene River WMA. The total number of nests on the three survey areas in 2000 was 232, which is a 7% increase over the 1999 count of 216 nests.

McArthur Lake WMA produced the greatest number of geese in the Panhandle Region for many years, with a peak of 117 nests in 1982. By 1987 this number had declined to 55 nests, attributable primarily to raven depredation. Predator control efforts have been effective on a short-term basis. During dam reconstruction the reservoir was drained from September 1994 to March 1995, and the number of goose nests declined to 24. The 1995-1999 average for goose nests on McArthur Lake has been 29, and this year there were only 26 nests observed, which is 52% lower than the average before dam reconstruction.

The Coeur d’Alene River WMA began with few nests in 1979 and, after an aggressive gosling transplant program, coupled with erecting nest structures, this population has increased considerably. 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. By the end of August 1998, the number of nest structures had been restored to pre-flood levels due to an accelerated construction program of driving pilings and erecting freestanding nest structures. In 1999 the number of nests increased to 92, and in 2000 there were 104 nests.

The Pend Oreille WMA consists of scattered parcels along Pend Oreille Lake and the Pend Oreille River. While the number of nests varied throughout the early 1990s, in 1996 a new record high number of 104 nests were located. The majority of this increase was due to heavy use of 3 small islands near the mouth of Priest River. After a total of 97 nests in 1999, this year's count reached 102.

The number of nest structures available to geese during the 2000 nesting season totaled 1,191. This is an increase of 16% from 1998 and 20% greater than the previous 10-year average. Canada geese used 29% of the structures that were checked in 2000. Since 1988 the Department's Habitat Improvement Program has provided funds for erecting goose nest structures on private land. Approximately 600 structures have been added to the Panhandle Region total in 12 years.

Trapping and Transplanting: No Canada goose goslings were trapped or transplanted in the Panhandle Region in 2000.

Management Studies: Band recovery information from 2,735 Canada geese banded from 1973 to 1996 indicates 23% (636) of all banded birds in the Panhandle Region have been taken by hunters. Fifty-five percent of all returns came from geese harvested in Idaho; 15% were taken in Washington; 6% in California; 8% in Oregon; 10% in Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories; and the remaining 6% were recovered in Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

The breakdown on kill locations for Idaho recoveries indicates over 90% of banded birds are harvested locally. The dryland farm belt in eastern Washington accounts for almost all the band returns taken in that state. Almost 50% of the Washington bands are recovered in December or later, indicating a good portion of the geese produced in northern Idaho winter in eastern Washington. Band returns from Canada are also associated with agricultural areas. However, about 50% of the Canadian recoveries occur prior to Idaho's waterfowl opener after many yearling geese and unsuccessful nesters from the Panhandle have made molt migrations to Canada.

The mean (unadjusted for nonreporting bias) direct recovery rates for Canada geese banded from 1973 to 1996 at the McArthur Lake and Coeur d'Alene River WMAs have been 11.5% and 11.0%, respectively.

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 (608) than there are on Department property (594).

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 (Fig. 1). These birds nest along the lower 22 miles of the Clearwater River, primarily from Lewiston upstream to Peck. Numbers of active nests in this area have been counted consistently since 1981, with improvements in data quality beginning in 1985. The total number of nests counted in 2000 on man-made structures was 37, a decrease from 43 in 1999 (Table 4). Estimated total goslings produced in 2000 decreased from 218 in 1999 to 180 in 2000. The 48 active nests on the lower Clearwater River in 1998-2000 were below the minimum 1991-95 Waterfowl Management Plan objective; the previous 3-year average was 52 active nests.

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. Eighty-nine active nests were located in 2000 in these areas, a decrease of 3% from 1999 (Table 4). The established minimum objective for these areas of 70 indicated breeding pairs was again surpassed in 2000 (Table 4).

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. Use of available structures was slightly higher from 1999 to 2000, with 62% use reported.

Depredations: Increasing numbers of depredation complaints involving Canada geese have been received during the reporting period. Most occur in newly-seeded winter wheat in the Lewiston area and near Manns Lake within the waterfowl hunting closure boundaries.

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. 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 2-8 general hunting season. The hunt area was within part of Nez Perce County to target urban 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 1999-2000 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 November 25, 1999 to January 8, 2000. No phone survey was conducted, but hunter success was reported to be poor. The two sites normally used for the hunt were not mowed, this resulted in lower goose use in the field.

During the 1999/2000 season, several managed goose hunts were initiated to target urban geese and areas of chronic crop damage. The Department administered 2 one-day supervised goose hunts along portions of the Clearwater and Snake Rivers within Lewiston and Clarkston city limits. A third hunt was administered on the Clarkston side in mid-January. Approximately 180 resident

geese were harvested within these areas traditionally closed to hunting. Hunting pressure also resulted in geese redistributed to other areas.

Management Implications: The 1991-95 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 40 (Table 4). The minimum objective of 70 active nests on structures was met for the remainder of the Region; the 3-year average is currently 89 active nests. Urban goose nuisance problems will continue to persist in the Lewiston-Clarkston area. Continued liberal goose seasons and limits during the “regular” hunt, 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 tolerable level.

#### Southwest Region:

Population Surveys: Breeding pair surveys of PP Canada geese were flown in April using fixed-wing aircraft along the Snake River from the Ada-Canyon County line to Farewell Bend and the Payette River from Emmett to Payette (Tables 4-5) (Fig. 2). Beginning in 1986, 3 successive flights were flown each year. The highest of the 3 counts increased 7% on the Snake River from 1999 to 2000; the count increased 17% on the Payette River. The 3-year average of indicated Canada goose breeding pairs (based upon annual high counts) on the Snake and Payette Rivers combined is currently above Plan objective (Table 4).

Habitat Conditions: Precipitation in the Southwest Region was about normal during the winter of 2000.

Trapping and Transplanting: During summer 2000, 476 local geese (all goslings) 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 2000. Since 1990 nearly 9,000 Canada geese have been banded in the Southwest Region. These data are currently being analyzed.

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, even though total counts of all Canada geese on both the Payette and Snake Rivers remain slightly below minimum objectives. We will also continue to work with other agencies and organizations to improve goose nesting habitat and increase the number of nesting structures available to geese, as well as improving brood rearing habitat in locations that will not lead to increased depredation problems.

## Magic Valley Region:

Population Surveys: A fixed-wing aerial survey of Canada goose breeding pairs was conducted on 12 April 2000. 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 4% from the 1999 level (Tables 4-5). Total geese counted on the Camas Prairie and Snake River decreased by 18% from the 1999 level (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 and total geese observed decreased by 27% and 35%, respectively, from 1999 (Tables 4-5).

Minimum breeding pair and total geese objectives in the 1991-1995 WMP were achieved in the 2 Snake River survey areas below Minidoka Dam and the Camas Prairie survey area. 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) (Table 4).

Use of man-made nest structures by Canada geese is monitored during the annual breeding pair survey. During the April 2000 survey, geese were observed to be using 162 of 394 structures (41%).

Habitat Conditions: Precipitation during the 1999-2000 winter and spring was below average in all major watersheds in the Magic Valley Region. Summer 2000 was very dry. Upland nesting conditions near ponds, reservoirs, and canals were good and remained relatively unchanged from previous years. 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 cause by geese to the Burley Golf Course.

Management Implications: Minimum breeding pair and total geese criteria are being met in all survey areas except on the Snake River between Minidoka Dam and American Falls Dam. Goose breeding pair objectives can be met in the Region only if 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 20% increase from 1999 to 2000 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 depredations in areas around Chesterfield, Grays Lake, and Blackfoot Reservoir. Because the Blackfoot Reservoir sandhill crane hunt area was enlarged to include the Chesterfield area, more 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 Wackenhut 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) (Fig. 2).

Climatic Conditions: Climatic conditions during 2000 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 is both on structures and islands, while nesting in the Teton Basin and the North Fork of the Snake River occurs primarily on the ground.

Habitat in the Teton Basin is being lost to summer home development and overgrazing. 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 3 goose depredation complaints during 2000. One chronic complaint involves geese depredating on malt barley around Gem

Lake. The other 2 complaints were on alfalfa in the Menan and mouth of the Dry Bed areas. All complaints were addressed by providing zong guns 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 hunt areas in 2000.

Management Implications: Goose pair counts were conducted on 7 production areas in 2000. Of the 7 areas monitored for indicated breeding pairs, 4 were below 1991-1995 WMP objectives (Connelly and Wackenhut 1990) (Table 4). Those that were below objective include Mud Lake WMA, Camas NWR, Teton Basin, and the North Fork of the Snake River above Ashton. The survey area for South Fork of the Snake River was reduced for safety reasons from the entire river to just that portion from the confluence with the North Fork to the Heise measuring cable.

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 2000 (Fig. 1). A total of 346 indicated pairs and 909 total geese were counted (Table 4). Total geese counted increased by 37% and indicated pairs counted increased by 45% from 1999, returning closer to the 3-year average (Table 4).

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 2000.

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) (Appendix 2). 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: No survey was conducted on Cascade Reservoir due to low water levels. Widely fluctuating water levels and insufficient personnel in the McCall subregion precluded conducting population surveys on 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 8 September 2000 in the Camas Prairie, Silver Creek Valley, and Carey Lake areas in conjunction Idaho Falls Staging Survey coordinated by the USFWS. The number of cranes observed on the survey fluctuates widely from year to year. Five hundred forty-one cranes were observed in 2000, a 286% increase from 1999 (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 surveys were not conducted during the report period (Table 7).

Harvest Characteristics: Sandhill crane harvest within the Southeast Region was estimated at 114 birds by 186 hunters (61% success rate) in 260 hunter days (Table 9). Hunters were not required to comply with a mandatory check requirement in 2000.

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 87% of the total known-age harvest (Table 10). Harvest success was 61% for all hunts, and ranged from 28% to 82% by hunt.

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

Habitat Conditions: Precipitation during winter and spring 2000 was below normal. Summer and fall precipitation was below average, and likely delayed migration. Sandhill cranes were observed in the region through late October.

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 Ashton-St. Anthony area and in the Teton Basin the week 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 (premigration staging area), as well as whooping crane use periods.

In the Ashton-St. Anthony area, 504 sandhill cranes were counted preseason and 1,128 postseason (Table 8). One thousand four hundred five sandhill cranes were counted 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 Basin area, 317 sandhill cranes were counted preseason and 1,477 postseason (Table 8). One thousand eight hundred thirty-one sandhill cranes were counted on the September RMP sandhill crane survey by fixed-wing aircraft (Table 7).

Whooping Crane Use Periods: One whooping crane was observed on the preseason and postseason sandhill crane surveys in the Ashton-St. Anthony area. However, the whooping crane, along with a flock of sandhill cranes, appeared to move south of the hunt area during the hunting season. No whooping cranes were observed during ground surveys in the Teton Basin in 2000.

Harvest Characteristics: A mail-in card survey with a follow-up telephone survey of nonrespondents was used to estimate hunter participation and harvest of sandhill cranes for each hunt. Nonresponders were contacted by telephone in October. Controlled hunts in the Ashton-St. Anthony area had an estimate of 37 hunters participate in the sandhill crane hunt with 95% success harvesting a sandhill crane (Table 9). The estimated harvest was 35 sandhill cranes. Controlled hunts in the Teton Basin had an estimate of 61 hunters participate in the sandhill crane hunt with 72% success harvesting a sandhill crane. The estimated harvest was 44 sandhill cranes (Table 9).

Climatic Conditions: Weather conditions were dry and hot throughout the summer 2000.

Depredation Complaints: The Region received 1 depredation complaint from sandhill cranes damaging standing grain in September in the St. Anthony area. This is the second year for this complaint. A zon gun was given to the complainant to disperse the crane; however, extensive damage had already occurred before the Department was contacted. Next year the Region plans to expand the controlled crane hunt boundary to address this problem.

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 premigration staging areas in the Ashton-St. Anthony area and in Teton Basin. Two controlled hunts with 50 permits each were authorized in the Teton Basin in 2000, resulting in an estimated harvest of 44 sandhill cranes (Table 9). Two controlled hunts with 50 permits each were also authorized in the Ashton-St Anthony area in 2000, resulting in an estimated harvest of 35 sandhill cranes (Table 9).

The purpose for the hunts was to reduce damage to grain crops by sandhill cranes. In the St. Anthony-Ashton area an estimated 85% of the grain was harvested by August 30. Potato harvest had not started yet by September 19, but 100% of the grain had been harvested and many of the stubble fields already disced by this date. In the Teton Valley area an estimated 70% of the grain had been harvested on August 29. By September 20, 100% 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 Highway 46 Pond near Fairfield in Camas County. There has been no spring or summer use of the pond by trumpeter swans since then. In 1999 a pair of trumpeter swans successfully nested and reared three juveniles on a private pond along Highway 46 approximately 2 miles south 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 Department funds aerial flights in eastern Idaho to monitor nesting trumpeter swans and wetlands for potential nesting. During the past decade 15-20 pairs of trumpeter swans have nested annually in the Upper Snake Region. Surveys were generally flown in late June or early July to document early brood locations and occupied territories, but this year's and the 1999 surveys were conducted in May due to concerns over potential early nest abandonment related to unsuccessful nesting. Subsequent nesting activity, cygnet hatching, and survival were documented from the ground throughout the summer.

A total of 20 occupied territories were identified in the Upper Snake Region, with an additional occupied territory identified in East Bergman marsh in Wyoming adjacent to the Idaho-Wyoming boundary. Sixty-one adult swans were observed, with 16 pairs confirmed nesting. Eleven of the pairs produced 48 cygnets.

## 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 1991-95 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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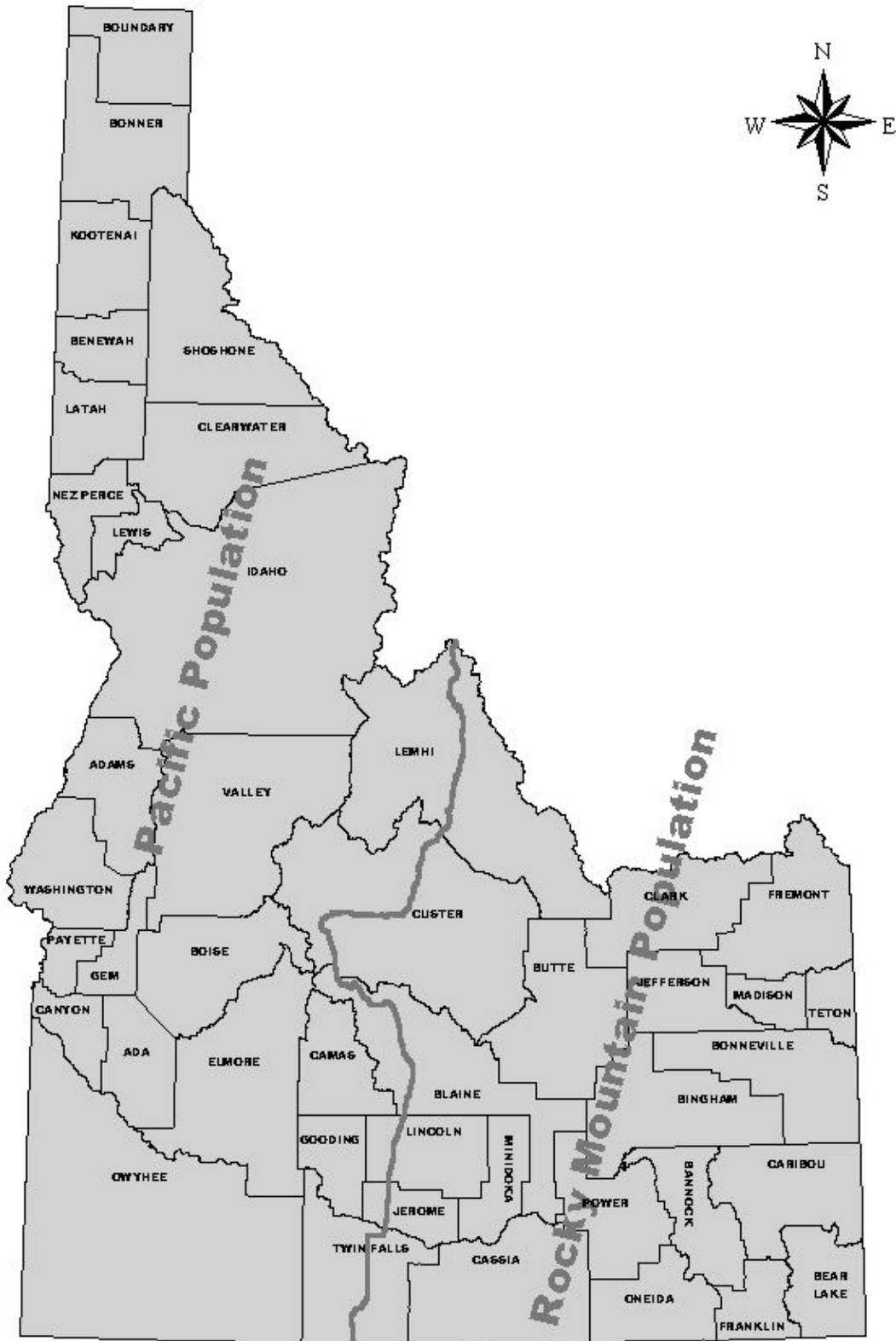


Fig. 1. Distribution of Pacific and Rocky Mountain Canada geese populations within Idaho.

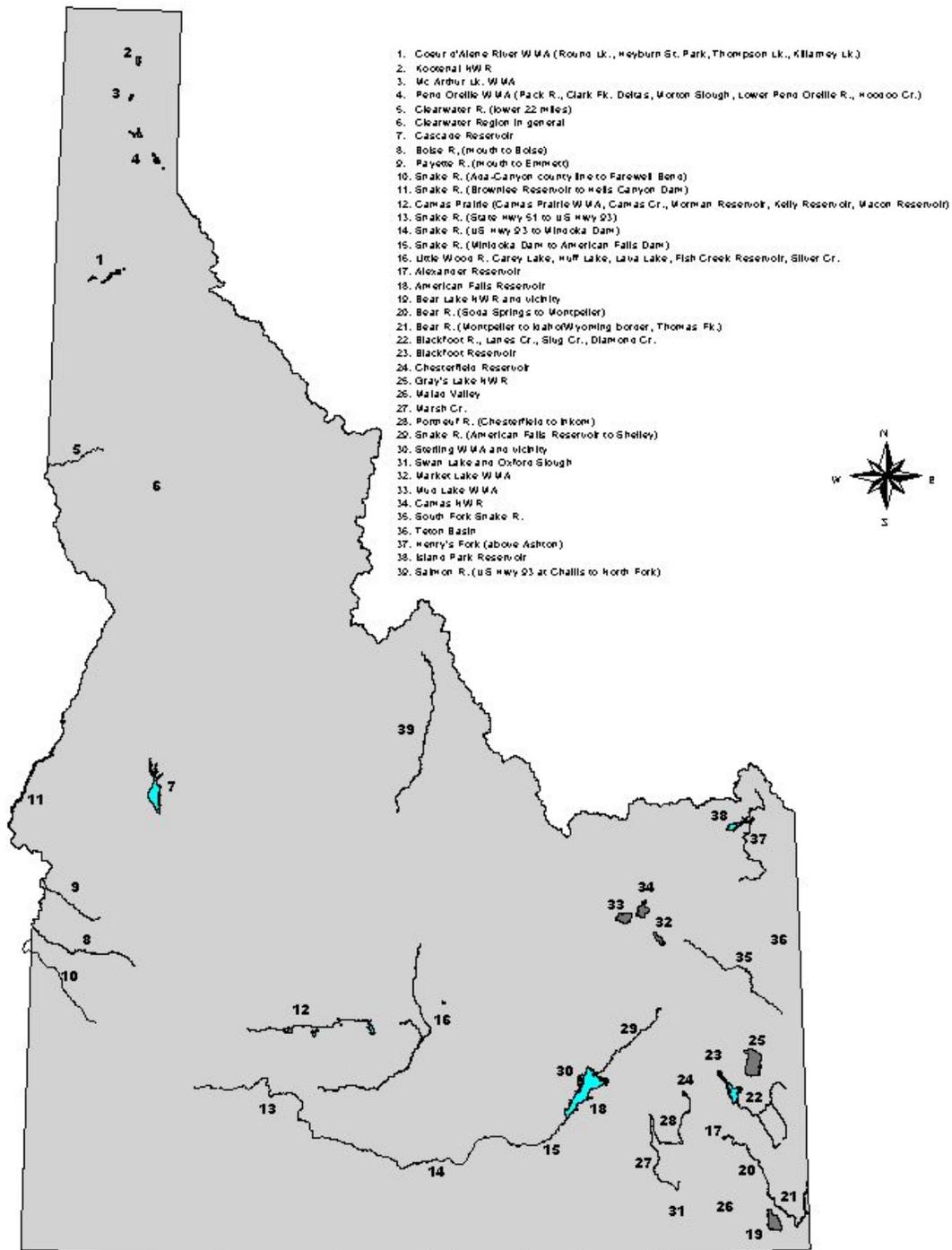


Fig. 2. Idaho Canada goose survey areas.

Table 1. Ducks banded in Idaho by IDFG and FWS personnel, 2000.

Species	Panhandle	Clearwater	Southwest	Magic		Upper		Total
				Valley	Southeast	Snake	Salmon	
Mallard	187	0	181	0	331	0	0	699
Wood Duck	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Redhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pintail	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	10
Widgeon	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Teal	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Gadwall	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>732</b>

Table 2. Sex and age composition of mallards banded in Idaho, 2000.

IDFG Region	Local			Hatch Year		After Hatch Year		Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Panhandle	4	5	1	31	50	38	58	187
Clearwater	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Southwest <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-	31	92	23	35	181
Magic Valley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Southeast <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	0	2	217	112	331
Upper Snake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>699</b>

<sup>1</sup> Deer Flat NWR

<sup>2</sup> Grays Lake NWR and Bear Lake NWR

Table 3. Mallards banded in Idaho by IDFG and FWS personnel, 1991-2000.

<b>IDFG Region</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>Total</b>
Panhandle	45	204	469	616	550	888	1,177	569	688	187	5,393
Kootenai NWR	320	370	418	0	129	128	0	0	0	0	1,365
Clearwater	29	37	20	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	98
Southwest	293	459	276	255	313	560	0	0	0	0	2,156
Deer Flat NWR	3	440	285	219	536	239	514	261	228	181	2,906
Magic Valley	318	457	237	136	78	0	0	0	0	0	1,226
Minidoka NWR	328	127	367	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	822
Southeast	16	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
Grays Lake NWR	458	736	937	2,072	630	312	289	453	404	331	6,622
Bear Lake NWR	355	644	498	852	585	191	0	191	144	0	3,460
Upper Snake	316	4	393	88	456	0	0	0	0	0	1,257
Camas NWR	0	0	321	232	222	0	0	0	0	0	775
Tribal	206	217	0	241	289	203	398	0	0	0	1,554
Salmon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>3,710</b>	<b>4,221</b>	<b>4,723</b>	<b>3,788</b>	<b>2,521</b>	<b>2,378</b>	<b>1,474</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>27,665</b>

Table 4. Idaho goose population survey areas, 2000 counts, 3-year averages, and management objectives.

Region/Survey Area <sup>b</sup>	2000 Counts			Average 1998-2000			Objectives* (min.)		
	Nests	Pairs	Total	Nests	Pairs	Total	Nests	Pairs	Total
<u>Panhandle</u>									
1 Coeur d'Alene River WMA	104	-	-	85	-	-	35	-	-
2 Kootenai NWR	30	68	315	31	58	-	-	-	-
3 McArthur WMA	26	-	-	28	-	-	70	-	-
4 Pend Oreille WMA	102	-	-	96	-	-	85	-	-
<u>Clearwater</u>									
5 Clearwater River	37	-	-	40	-	-	70	-	-
6 Remainder of Region (farm ponds etc.)	89	-	-	89	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Southwest</u>									
7 Cascade Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	225
8 Boise River	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
9 Payette River	-	264	528	-	210	431	-	200	450
10 Snake River South	-	935	1,932	-	855	1,793	-	700	1,800
11 Snake River North	-	35	79	-	-	57 <sup>a</sup>	-	50	100
<u>Magic Valley</u>									
12 Camas Prairie	-	376	741	-	376	921	-	285	700
13 Snake River (Hwy 51 to Hwy 93)	-	132	375	-	192	493	-	175	350
14 Snake River (Hwy 93 to Minidoka)	-	47	129	-	72	211	-	60	120
15 Snake River (Minidoka to American Falls)	-	27	143	-	56	186	-	120	275
16 Little Wood River	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Southeast</u>									
17 Alexander Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18 American Falls Reservoir	-	28	47	-	31	67	-	-	-
19 Bear Lake NWR	-	534	789	-	664	1,203	-	640	1,400
20 Bear River(Soda Springs-Montpelier)	-	117	198	-	141	223	-	-	-
21 Bear River(Montpelier-ID/WY border)	-	128	206	-	124	230	-	-	-
22 Blackfoot Reservoir(upper)	-	179	462	-	159	403	-	150	375
23 Blackfoot Reservoir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 Chesterfield Reservoir	-	23	41	-	20	60	-	-	-
25 Grays Lake NWR	-	254	411	-	248	404	-	350	840
26 Malad Valley	-	20	51	-	25 <sup>a</sup>	65 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-
27 Marsh Creek	-	52	94	-	52	102	-	190	380
28 Portneuf River(Chesterfield-Inkom)	-	28	67	-	37	61	-	-	-
29 Snake River(American Falls-Shelley)	-	95	202	-	61	116	-	-	-
30 Sterling WMA	-	27	48	-	35	60	-	-	-
31 Swan Lake and Oxford Slough	-	34	75	-	52	117	-	100	250
<u>Upper Snake</u>									
32 Market Lake WMA	-	95	169	-	58	110	-	85	-
33 Mud Lake WMA	-	82	164	-	75	188	-	95	-
34 Camas NWR	-	109	273	-	99	256	-	130	-
35 South Fork Snake River	-	66	122	-	36	73	-	-	-
36 Teton Basin	-	65	161	-	40	111	-	90	-
37 North Fork Snake River	-	10	27	-	10	18	-	15	-
38 Island Park Reservoir	-	120	252	-	120	450	-	60	-
<u>Salmon</u>									
39 Salmon River	-	346	909	-	280	716	-	175	-

\* Connelly and Wackenhut (1990).  
Pacific Canada goose population.

<sup>a</sup> 2-year average. <sup>b</sup> See Fig. 2.  
Rocky Mountain Canada goose population.

Table 5. Active nests, indicated pairs and total number of Pacific and Rocky Mountain (in gray) Canada geese in Idaho, 1990-2000.

Area <sup>a</sup>	1990			1991			1992			1993			1994			1995			1996			1997			1998			1999			2000						
	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	56			65			67			88			97			97			94			86			77			92			104	-	-				
2	35	54		32	51		30	56		31	62		31	54		31	61		33	56		31	53		31	57		31	63	387	30	68	315				
3	86			89			56			52			53			24			39			23			33			27			26	-	-				
4	94			93			57			57			57			68			104			99			91			97			102	-	-				
5	46			46			48			44			50			49			37			36			42			43			37	-	-				
6							36			60			92			105			95			91			85			92			89	-	-				
7		110	223		44	89		47	126		38	84		46	249		39	187		73	158		122	190		28^	105^				-	-	-				
8					141			29			92			124			113	196		101	170		68	461				100			-	-	-				
9		257	460		244	692		201	703		256	712		229	492		176	332		163	315		160	308		214	436		202	452	-	264	528				
10		897	1,950		1,165	3,855		895	2,107		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				
11		49	110		9	30		55	107		45	77		27	110		46	115		19^	34^		25^	48^		21	57				-	35	79				
12		332	787		266	754		213	523		263	405		381	821		288	520		128^	214^		318	713		375	966		77	377	1,055	-	376	741			
13		256	487		258	546		272	648		239	560		307	762		190	713		116^	311^		173	571		291	794		42	154	309	-	132	375			
14		64	156		70	141		40	80		69	124		102	247		89	184		44^	118^		71	170		110	270		9	59	235	-	47	129			
15		150	299		141	390		125	277		115	193		102	179		54	154		52^	129^					99	232		4	42	184	-	27	143			
16																																	-	-	-		
17																																	-	-	-		
18					29	177		44	95		43	257		47	244		23	57		23	50		21	102		30	50		35	103	-	28	47				
19		678	1,732		978	2,139		862	1,531		747	1,447		697	1,472		587	1,066		476	1,200		696	1,662		590	1,213		868	1,606	-	534	789				
20					75	335		57	151		161	295		67	269		62	123		62	155		165	68		187	272		120	209	-	117	198				
21		100	549		201	525		183	405		134	250		107	304		129	261		89	188		92	171		108	191		135	292	-	128	206				
22		132	350		109	561		185	544		479	1,420		139	353		110	589		117	241		164	483		148	382				-	179	462				
23																																			-	-	-
24		19	35		13	22		15	40		18	32		22	37		11	19		13	33		14	209		16	96		20	44	-	23	41				
25		353	668		235	583		243	871		411	839		185	337		145	426		95	193		261	467		278	447		213	354	-	254	411				
26					38	90		49	128		77	137		48	84		24	59		16	32		14	40					29	78	-	20	51				
27		177	329		117	266		122	463		266	563		201	365		47	79		89	204		55	142		44	101		61	112	-	52	94				
28		96	204		93	165		75	217		153	297		113	192		49	90		88	176		46	55		20	50		64	66	-	28	67				
29					28	67		21	88		42	100		7	7		23	68		32	67		79	47		40	74		47	73	-	95	202				
30					30	57		44	95		64	203		29	85		29	85		10	62		19	50		37	83		41	48	-	27	48				
31		113	244		111	383		64	234		153	352		127	255		62	122		70	130		62	121		48	141		75	135	-	34	75				
32		75	339		115	200		80	163		91	161		91	161		136	264		92	136		92	136		53	85		26	76	-	95	169				
33		101	387		115	261		115	269		103	243		103	243		173	524		117	265		117	265		106	201		36	199	-	82	164				
34		108	542		172	331		105	209		83	173		83	173		117	269		83	173		142	324		115	234		73	260	-	109	273				
35		119	330		96	260		56	136		53	96		53	96		41	84		41	84					11	35		11	35	-	66	122				
36		51	313		60	182		82	191		70	150		65	132		45	89		36	87		32	64		32	133		22	39	-	65	161				
37		9	38		8	14		11	34		11	58		6	27		12	24		6	27		8	15		10	13		9	14	-	10	27				
38		54	321		127	372		65	196		116	235		146	1,170		45	165					121	296		128	244		112	753	-	120	252				
39											222	603		220	651		244	611		447	982		236	572		257	577		238	662	-	346	909				

<sup>a</sup> see Fig. 2.    ^ incomplete count    N = # of active nests    P = # of indicated pairs    T = total # of geese    Rocky Mountain Canada goose population.

Table 6. Early season Canada goose hunt summary, 1996-2000.

	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b><u>Lewiston</u></b>					
<b># Permits</b>	200	0	0	0	0
<b>Estimated # of Hunters</b>	65	–	–	–	–
<b>Estimated # of Hunter Days</b>	155	–	–	–	–
<b>Estimated Harvest</b>	200	–	–	–	–
<b><u>Ashton</u></b>					
<b># Permits</b>	30	30	30	30	0
<b>Estimated # of Hunters</b>	26	26	20	20	–
<b>Estimated # of Hunter Days</b>	77	49	39	66	–
<b>Estimated Harvest</b>	6	26	35	84	–
<b><u>Teton Basin</u></b>					
<b># Permits</b>	30	30	30	30	0
<b>Estimated # of Hunters</b>	22	23	23	18	–
<b>Estimated # of Hunter Days</b>	72	75	96	62	–
<b>Estimated Harvest</b>	36	29	61	32	–

Note: Estimates are derived from telephone surveys of sampled permit holders.

Table 7. September aerial counts of Rocky Mountain Population greater sandhill cranes in eastern Idaho, 1987-2000.

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

Table 8. Sandhill cranes counted during ground-based surveys in eastern Idaho, 1996-2000.

		<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b><u>Ashton</u></b>						
	Preseason	-	-	-	425	504
	Midseason	-	-	-	-	-
	Postseason	-	-	-	542	1,128
<b><u>Teton Basin</u></b>						
	Preseason	190	-	-	177	317
	Midseason	739	-	-	-	-
	Postseason	2,953	-	-	728	1,477
<b><u>Blackfoot Reservoir Vicinity</u></b>						
	Preseason	529	247	344	409	-
	Midseason	992	541	506	-	-
	Postseason	787	423	318	968	1,168

Table 9. Sandhill crane permit levels, estimated hunter participation and harvest, 1996-2000.

<b>Hunt Area</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	
<b>Blackfoot Reservoir/ Chesterfield<sup>a</sup></b>						
	Permits available	15	120	210	329	350
	Permits issued	15	115	196	221	239
	Total hunters	12	102	178	197	186
	Days hunted	21	139	237	275	281
	Percent Success	92	71	58	60	61
	Harvest	11	73	104	118	114
<b>Ashton-St.Anthony<sup>b</sup></b>						
	Permits available	-	-	-	50	100
	Permits issued	-	-	-	-	38
	Total hunters	-	-	-	39	37
	Days hunted	-	-	-	62	57
	Percent Success	-	-	-	88	95
	Harvest	-	-	-	34	35
<b>Teton Basin<sup>b</sup></b>						
	Permits available	10	50	50	75	100
	Permits issued	10	50	50	75	69
	Total hunters	10	48	47	59	61
	Days hunted	-	102	84	130	101
	Percent Success	70	81	67	64	72
	Harvest	7	27	16	38	44

<sup>a</sup> Mandatory harvest report data.

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

Table 10. Sex and age composition of sandhill crane harvest 1996-2000.

<b>Hunt Area</b>		<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>2000</b>
Blackfoot Reservoir/Chesterfield						
	Males					
	Juvenile	2	6	6	-	-
	Adult	2	32	45	-	-
	Unknown	0	1	0	-	-
	Females					
	Juvenile	0	1	3	-	-
	Adult	6	28	40	-	-
	Unknown	0	1	0	-	-
	Unknown					
	Juvenile	1	1	0	10	15
	Adult	0	2	4	108	99
	Unknown	0	1	6	0	0
Ashton-St. Anthony						
	Males					
	Juvenile	-	-	-	-	-
	Adult	-	-	-	-	-
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-
	Females					
	Juvenile	-	-	-	-	-
	Adult	-	-	-	-	-
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	-
	Unknown					
	Juvenile	-	-	-	-	5
	Adult	-	-	-	-	30
	Unknown	-	-	-	-	0
Teton Basin						
	Males					
	Juvenile	0	1	1	-	-
	Adult	4	7	4	-	-
	Unknown	0	0	0	-	-
	Females					
	Juvenile	1	1	1	-	-
	Adult	0	7	6	-	-
	Unknown	0	0	0	-	-
	Unknown					
	Juvenile	0	1	0	-	5
	Adult	2	10	2	-	38
	Unknown	0	0	2	-	1

<sup>a</sup> A mandatory check was not required in 1999.

**APPENDIX A**

IDAHO 2000-2001 SEASON WATERFOWL RULES,

2000 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 7, 2000 THROUGH OCTOBER 18, 2000**

**CLOSED SEASON: OCTOBER 19, 2000 THROUGH OCTOBER 27, 2000**

**OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 28, 2000 THROUGH JANUARY 21, 2001**

### AREA 2

Area 2 includes the following counties or portions of counties:

Ada; Adams; Blaine; Boise; Camas; Canyon; Cassia; Elmore; Gem; Gooding; Jerome; Lincoln; Minidoka; Owyhee; Payette; Power west of State Highway 37 and State Highway 39; Twin Falls; Valley; and Washington counties.

**OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 7, 2000 THROUGH OCTOBER 18, 2000**

**CLOSED SEASON: OCTOBER 19, 2000 THROUGH OCTOBER 27, 2000**

**OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 28, 2000 THROUGH JANUARY 21, 2001**

### 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 14, 2000 THROUGH JANUARY 19, 2001**

## SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

- Duck (including merganser), goose, and coot hunting open for two days only on September 23 and 24, 2000 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!**



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

### 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.

**OPEN Season: October 7, 2000 THROUGH JANUARY 19, 2001**

### AREA 2

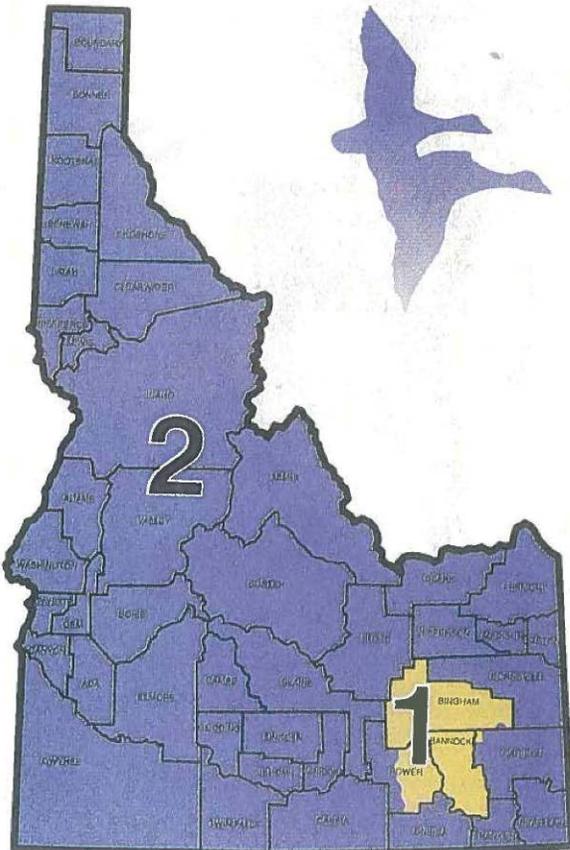
Area 2 includes all parts of the state NOT included in Area 1.

**OPEN Season: October 7, 2000 THROUGH OCTOBER 18, 2000**

**CLOSED SEASON: OCTOBER 19, 2000 THROUGH OCTOBER 20, 2000**

**OPEN SEASON: OCTOBER 21, 2000 THROUGH JANUARY 21, 2001**

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



### DUCKS (INCLUDING MERGANSERS)

**Daily Bag Limit:**

7 of any kind.

**Shall not include more than the following:**

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

**Possession Limit After First Day of Season:**

14 of any kind.

**Shall not include more than the following:**

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

### 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**

**APPENDIX B: IDAHO WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT, SEASON STRUCTURE AND LIMITS, 1986-2000.**

	86/87	87/88	88/89	89/90	90/91	91/92	92/93	93/94	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01
<b>Duck</b>															
Management Areas	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1
Season Length (days)	79	79	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	93	107	107	107	107	107
Daily Limit	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	6	7	7	7	7	7
<b>Goose</b>															
Management Areas	4	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	3	3	3
Season Length (days)	93	86	86	86	93	93	93	93	93	100	100	100	100	100	100
Daily Limit*	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)

\*Numbers in parenthesis indicate management areas had different daily limits. See Appendix A.

Submitted by:

*Tom Hemker*

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Tom Hemker  
Wildlife Program Coordinator

Approved By:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

*Steven M. Huffaker*

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Steven M. Huffaker, Chief  
Bureau of Wildlife

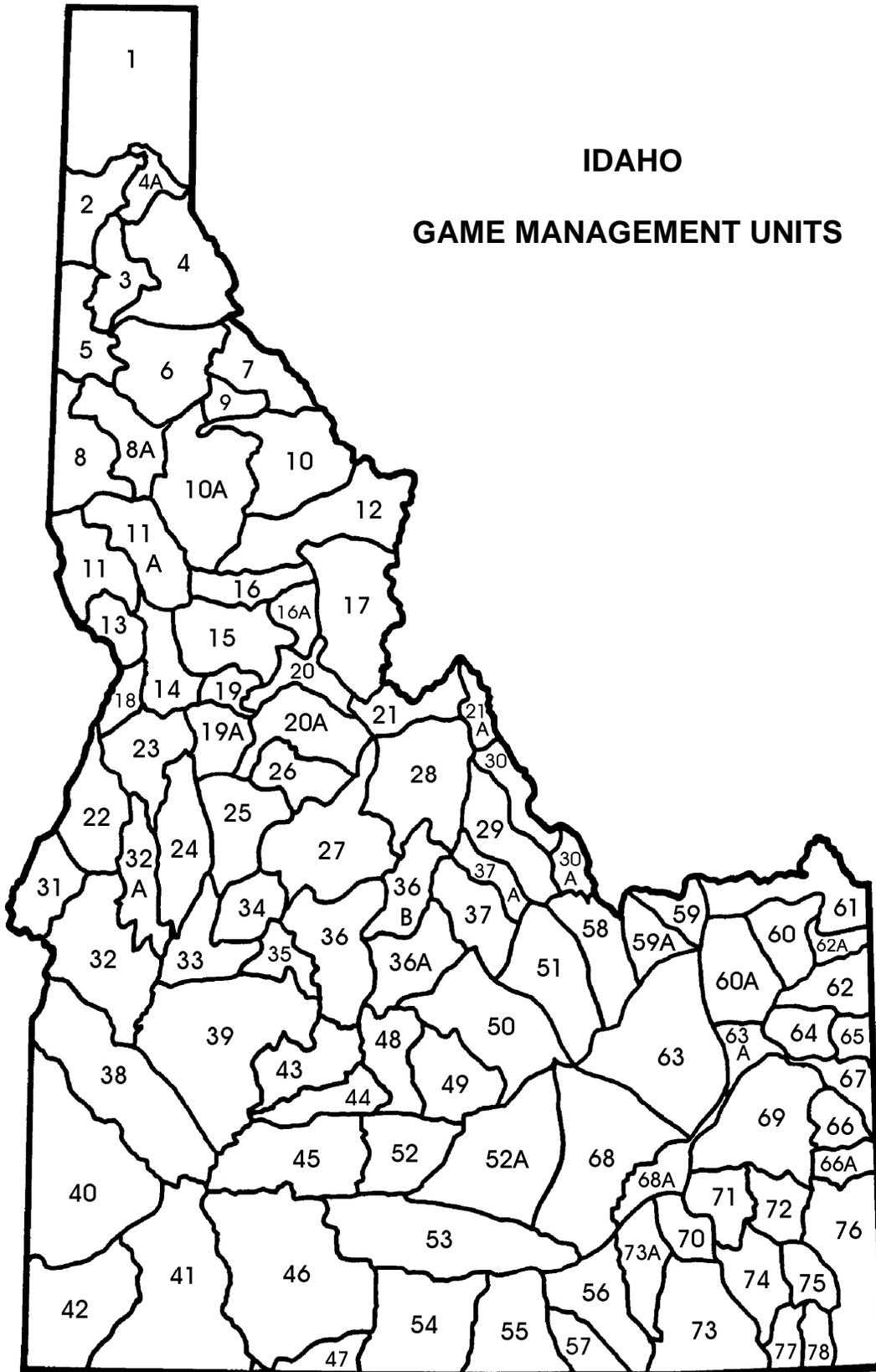
*Wayne Melquist*

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Wayne Melquist  
Nongame Wildlife Manager  
Federal Aid Coordinator

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.

