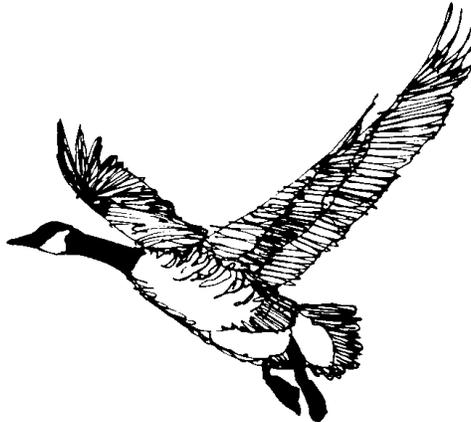


**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**Rod Sando, Director**

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

**Progress Report**



**WATERFOWL FALL AND WINTER SURVEYS, BANDING, AND HARVEST**

Study II, Job 3

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October 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

STUDY OBJECTIVES..... 1

PROCEDURES..... 1

ABSTRACT..... 1

RESULTS ..... 2

    DUCKS (ALL SPECIES) ..... 2

        1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan Goals..... 2

        Management Areas ..... 2

            Management Area 1 ..... 2

            Management Area 2 ..... 4

            Management Area 3 ..... 6

        Population Surveys ..... 7

        Harvest Characteristics ..... 8

        Climatic Conditions ..... 8

        Youth Waterfowl Hunt ..... 8

        Management Implications ..... 8

    GEESE (ALL SPECIES) ..... 9

        1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan Goals..... 9

        Management Areas ..... 10

            Management Area 1 ..... 10

            Management Area 2 ..... 11

            Management Area 3 ..... 12

            Management Area 4 ..... 13

            Management Area 5 ..... 13

        Population Surveys ..... 14

        Harvest Characteristics ..... 15

        Climatic Conditions ..... 15

        Management Implications ..... 15

    TRUMPETER SWAN ..... 15

    TUNDRA SWAN ..... 16

    AMERICAN COOT..... 16

    COMMON SNIPE ..... 16

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

SANDHILL CRANE .....	16
LITERATURE CITED .....	16
APPENDIX 1 .....	24

### LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Birds counted during the midwinter waterfowl survey, 1989-1999. ....	17
Table 2. Estimated statewide harvest of ducks obtained from the telephone survey, 1988-1999.....	18
Table 3. Results of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's waterfowl hunter survey for Idaho, 1988-1999 <sup>a</sup> .....	18
Table 4. Canada geese counted in Idaho during the midwinter survey, by Survey Area, 1966 to 2000 <sup>a</sup> . ....	19
Table 5. Estimated harvest of Canada geese from the Pacific Population obtained from the telephone survey, 1988-1999 <sup>a</sup> .....	20
Table 6. Estimated harvest of Canada geese from the Rocky Mountain Population obtained from the telephone survey, 1988-1999 <sup>a</sup> . ....	21
Table 7. Estimated statewide harvest of Canada geese obtained from the telephone survey, 1988-1999.....	22

### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Federal regulations for Canada goose seasons and bag and possession limits for Idaho, 1999-2000 season. ....	23
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**PROGRESS REPORT  
SURVEYS AND INVENTORY**

STATE: Idaho                      STUDY NAME: Upland Game and Waterfowl  
PROJECT NO.: W-170-R-24                      Population Status and Trends  
SUBPROJECT: 1-7                      JOB TITLE: Waterfowl Fall and Winter  
STUDY: II                      Surveys, Banding, and Harvest  
JOB: 3  
PERIOD COVERED: October 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000

**STUDY OBJECTIVES**

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

**PROCEDURES**

1. Conduct fall and winter aerial counts of waterfowl.
2. Evaluate the usefulness of fall surveys and consider new techniques to assess waterfowl numbers.
3. Conduct a telephone survey of hunting license buyers.
4. Operate check stations or field checks.
5. Band waterfowl and monitor movements and survival rates.

Harvest data were collected and analyzed by the Bureau of Wildlife. All other data were collected by personnel stationed in the state's 7 regions and 1 subregion.

**ABSTRACT**

Results of waterfowl population surveys conducted by regional personnel and results of harvest surveys are summarized and discussed. Ducks counted during the 2000 midwinter waterfowl survey were 13% below the number counted during the previous year. The Department did not conduct a telephone survey to estimate the 1999-2000 duck harvest; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) estimate was 2% above the previous year. The Department is likely continuing to meet its 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals of reversing the decline in number of duck hunters and ducks harvested. Canada geese counted during the midwinter survey were up

nearly 200% from the previous year. The Department did not conduct a telephone survey to estimate the 1999-2000 goose harvest and the FWS's estimate was down about 50%. The Department is likely continuing to meet its 1991-1995 management goals for wintering geese, total geese harvested, geese harvested per hunter per season, and total days hunted. No trumpeter swans were translocated from Harriman State Park during the reporting period; the Department continued its involvement in trumpeter swan management by assisting in monitoring swan distribution and movements across Idaho.

## **RESULTS**

### DUCKS (ALL SPECIES)

#### 1991-1995 Waterfowl 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 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 FWS.

### Management Areas

#### Management Area 1

Description: See Appendix 1.

Season: See Appendix 1.

Daily Bag Limit: See Appendix 1.

Possession Limit After First Day of Season: See Appendix 1.

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area 1 was established in 1985 by emergency order of the Fish and Game Commission. This order came as a result of a 1985 FWS regulation which allows Indian tribes to have hunting

seasons for non-tribal members which differ from the remainder of the state. The first boundaries of Area 1 included only part of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and were arrived at after negotiations between the Department, FWS, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The Department did not object to the Tribe's request for a special hunt area because impacts to resident and migrant ducks and law enforcement problems were expected to be minimal.

Area 1 was enlarged after the 1985-1986 hunting season to include the entire Fort Hall Indian Reservation and portions of adjacent counties. The purpose was to place the entire reservation under 1 set of rules to avoid disputes between the Tribes and the State over Reservation boundaries.

Several times during the late 1980s and early 1990s, the FWS denied the Department's request to rezone the state. This rezoning would have placed all of northern, central, and southeastern Idaho in 1 area and southwestern Idaho in another. The FWS's reasons for denial were low duck numbers continent wide, a fear of increased harvest, and a strict moratorium on rezoning until duck populations rebounded.

Prior to the 1985-1986 hunting season the state was divided into 2 areas - those counties and parts of counties within the Columbia Basin Mallard Wintering Area (northern and southwestern Idaho), and the remainder of the state (central and southeastern Idaho). Bag and possession limits prior to the 1985-1986 season were 7 and 14, respectively. Beginning in 1985-1986, season length and bag and possession limits were reduced as mandated by the FWS, because of poor duck production and recruitment continent-wide resulting from drought and habitat degradation.

Early in 1991, the FWS and Pacific Flyway evaluated the effects of zones on duck harvests. They concluded that zones do not influence harvest and consequently the moratorium was lifted on changing zones beginning with the 1991-1992 season. As a result, the Department rezoned the state. It retained Area 1 with its previous boundaries and divided the remainder of the state into 2 zones or hunt areas.

Duck seasons in Area 1 from 1991-1992 through 1994-1995 opened on the fourth Saturday of October and ran continuously for 59 days. For the 1994-1995 season, the FWS offered the State and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes 2 duck season options - a 59-day season with a 5-bird daily bag limit (4 mallards, only 1 female; 1 pintail; 1 canvasback; 2 redheads) or a 69-day season with a 4-bird daily bag limit (3 mallards, only 1 female; 1 pintail; 1 canvasback; 2 redheads). The Tribes selected the 59-day/4 mallard option; the Department did not object. The 1994-1995 season opened 2 weeks later than the goose season.

For 1995-1996, the FWS offered the State and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes a 93-day season with a 6-bird daily bag limit (only 1 female mallard, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback). The Tribes chose a 93-day, October 7 through January 7 season and maximum limits; the Department did not object. The duck and goose seasons opened on the same day.

For 1996-1997, the FWS offered the State and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes a 93-day season with a 7-bird daily bag limit (only 1 female mallard, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback) and a 1-day special youth hunt. The Tribes chose a 93-day, October 5 through January 5 season, maximum limits, and a special 1-day youth hunt on September 28; the Department did not object. The duck season opened 1 week after the goose season.

For 1997-1998, the FWS offered the State and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes a 107-day season with a 7-bird bag limit (only 2 female mallards, 3 pintails, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback) and the option for a 1-day special youth hunt. The Tribes chose a 106-day, October 4 through January 17 season, maximum limits, and a special 1-day youth hunt on September 27; the Department did not object. The duck season opened the same day as the goose season.

For 1999-2000, the FWS offered the State and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes the same season frameworks as in 1998-1999, except the scaup bag and possession limits were reduced to 4 and 8, respectively. The State and the Tribes chose a 106-day, October 2 through January 15 season, maximum limits, and a special 1-day youth hunt on September 25 with full duck, coot, and goose limits. Duck and goose seasons opened the same day.

## Management Area 2

Description: See Appendix 1.

Season: See Appendix 1.

Daily Bag Limit: See Appendix 1.

Possession Limit After First Day of Season: See Appendix 1.

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area 2 was established in 1991 as a result of the FWS lifting its moratorium on zone changes. This area includes those counties which generally freeze up early. From 1985-1986 through 1990-1991, this portion of the state was included with south central and southwestern Idaho because the FWS prohibited more than 2 zones (the Fort Hall area, and the remainder of the state). Prior to 1985-1986, much of Area 2 was included in the Columbia Basin Mallard Wintering Area which had a 100-day season and bag and possession limits of 7 and 14, respectively.

Prior to the 1988-1989 season, bag and possession limits for wood ducks in the northern 5 counties (Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties) were restricted to 2. In 1988-1989, this restriction was lifted to take advantage of increasing local populations of wood ducks.

The 1991-1992 duck season in Area 2 opened 2 weeks earlier than in 1990-1991 and ran continuously for 59 days. It also opened the same time as the goose season. In 1992-1993, the 59-day duck season was split at the request of some southeast Idaho hunters who requested some late season hunting; the season dates were October 10 through November 29, and December 26 through January 2; the season opened 1 week later than the goose season. The 1993-1994 season was identical to the 1992-1993 season except for the 1-day calendar shift.

For the 1994-1995 season, the FWS offered the State 2 options - a 59-day season with a 5-bird daily bag limit (4 mallards, only 1 female; 1 pintail; 1 canvasback; 2 redheads) or a 69-day season with a 4-bird daily bag limit (3 mallards, only 1 female; 1 pintail; 1 canvasback; 2 redheads). The Department selected the 69-day/3 mallard option. The Area 2 season was split into 2 segments and opened 1 week after the goose season.

For 1995-1996, the FWS offered the State a 93-day season with a 6-bird daily bag limit (only 1 female mallard, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback). The Department selected a 93-day, October 7 through January 7 season; the goose season opened 1 week before the duck season.

For 1996-1997, the FWS offered the State a 93-day season with a 7-bird daily bag limit (only 1 female mallard, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback) and a special 1-day youth hunt. The Department selected a 93-day, October 5 through January 5 season, and a September 28 youth hunt; the goose season opened 1 week before the duck season.

For 1997-1998, the FWS offered the State a 107-day season with a 7-bird daily bag limit (only 2 female mallards, 3 pintails, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback) and the option for a 1-day youth hunt. The Department selected a statewide, 106-day, October 4 through January 17 season, and a September 27 youth hunt; the duck and goose seasons opened on the same day.

For 1998-1999, the FWS offered the State the same season frameworks as in 1997-1998, except the pintail bag and possession limits were reduced from 3 and 6, respectively, to 2 and 4, respectively, and a full goose limit was added to the youth hunt. The Department selected a statewide, 106-day, October 3 through January 16 season, and a September 26 youth hunt with full duck, coot, and goose limits. Duck and goose seasons opened the same day.

For 1999-2000, the FWS offered the State the same season frameworks as in 1998-1999, except the scaup bag and possession limits were reduced to 4 and 8, respectively. The Department selected a statewide, 106-day, October 2 through January 15 season, and a September 25 youth hunt with full duck, coot, and goose limits. Duck and goose seasons opened the same day.

### Management Area 3

Description: See Appendix 1.

Season: See Appendix 1.

Daily Bag Limit: See Appendix 1.

Possession Limit After First Day of Season: See Appendix 1.

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area 3 was established in 1991-1992 as a result of the FWS lifting its moratorium on zone changes. This area includes those counties which normally freeze up later than those in Area 2. From 1985-1986 through 1990-1991, this portion of the state was included with north and eastern Idaho because the FWS prohibited more than 2 zones (the Fort Hall area, and the remainder of the state). Prior to 1985-1986, Area 3 was included in the Columbia Basin Mallard Wintering Area which had a 100-day season and bag and possession limits of 7 and 14, respectively.

Seasons in 1991-1992 through 1993-1994 were 59 days in length and split into 2 segments. The first season of 8 days opened on the second Saturday of October; the second season opened on the third Saturday of November in 1991 and on the second Saturday of November in 1992 and 1993. In 1993-1994, the first portion of the season opened 1 week later than the goose season.

For the 1994-1995 season, the FWS offered the State 2 options - a 59-day season with a 5-bird daily bag limit (4 mallards, only 1 female; 1 pintail; 1 canvasback; 2 redheads) or a 69-day season with a 4-bird daily bag limit (3 mallards, only 1 female; 1 pintail; 1 canvasback; 2 redheads). The Department selected the 69-day/3 mallard option. The Area 3 season was split into 2 segments and opened 1 week after the goose season.

For 1995-1996, the FWS offered the State a 93-day season with a 6-bird daily bag limit (only 1 female mallard, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback). The Department selected a split, 93-day (October 7 through October 15, and October 26 through January 19) season. The goose season opened 1 week before the duck season.

For 1996-1997, the FWS offered the State a 93-day season with a 7-bird daily bag limit (only 1 female mallard, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback)) and the option for a 1-day youth hunt. The Department chose a split 93-day season (October 5 through 13, and October 26 through January 17) and a September 28 youth hunt. The goose season opened 1 week before the duck season.

For 1997-1998, the FWS offered the State a 107-day season with a 7-bird daily bag limit (only 2 female mallards, 3 pintails, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback)) and the option for a 1-day youth hunt. The Department selected a statewide, 106-day, October 4 through January 17 season, and a September 27 youth hunt; the duck and goose seasons opened on the same day.

For 1998-1999, the FWS offered the State the same season frameworks as in 1997-1998, except the pintail bag and possession limits were reduced from 3 and 6, respectively, to 2 and 4, respectively, and a full goose limit was added to the youth hunt. The Department selected a statewide, 106-day, October 3 through January 16 season, and a September 26 youth hunt with full duck, coot, and goose limits. Duck and goose seasons opened the same day.

For 1999-2000, the FWS offered the State the same season frameworks as in 1998-1999, except the scaup bag and possession limits were reduced to 4 and 8, respectively. The Department selected a statewide, 106-day, October 2 through January 15 season, and a September 25 youth hunt with full duck, coot, and goose limits. Duck and goose seasons opened the same day.

### Population Surveys

Midwinter Survey: The midwinter survey was the only population survey made during the reporting period. This survey is done annually in cooperation with the FWS. The 2000 survey was scheduled for January 4-8, but was actually conducted from January 3-18 because of poor flying weather. One hundred percent of important waterfowl habitat within survey areas was covered.

The number of ducks counted during the 2000 midwinter survey was 13% below the number of ducks counted during the same survey in 1999, and 68% above the previous 10-year average (Table 1). Mallards made up 83% of the ducks counted. Mallards counted were down 8% from 1999, but up 85% from the previous 10-year average.

The FWS's preliminary fall flight forecast for ducks, made in July 1999, for North America for the 1999-2000 season was for about 94 million birds, up from the predicted 84 million ducks for 1998 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1999). The FWS predicted an overall mallard fall flight of 13.6 million birds, which is 15% higher than the value for 1998 of 11.8 million. Consequently, a midwinter count similar to or above the 1999 count was anticipated.

## Harvest Characteristics

Telephone Survey: Due to budget reductions, the Department did not estimate the Idaho waterfowl harvest for the 1999-2000 hunting season; estimates for previous years appear in Table 2.

Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program: The Department entered the Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (FMGBHIP) in early 1996. The goal of the program is to obtain improved harvest estimates for all species; by federal mandate, states provide the FWS with names and addresses of all migratory game bird hunters from which the FWS draws samples of hunters to survey. Due to computer problems, the Department was not able to comply for the 1996-1997 season and the FWS was unable to estimate harvests using the FMGBHIP. The Department complied fully with the FWS's request for information for the 3 seasons from 1997-1998 through 1999-2000 seasons.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Hunter and Harvest Survey: The FWS's preliminary estimate for the 1999-2000 duck harvest appears in Table 3.

## Climatic Conditions

The winter of 1999-2000 was very similar to other recent winters, in that precipitation was generally above normal statewide and temperatures were generally mild to near normal. As a result, the timing of freeze-up was normal to later than normal; some areas never froze; generally, northern flights of ducks did not arrive in Idaho until later in the hunting season; the distribution of ducks during the fall migration was somewhat atypical; and duck hunting was generally poor to only fair throughout much of the season.

## Youth Waterfowl Hunt

For the third year the FWS offered all states the option of holding a 1-day youth waterfowl hunt during the 1999-2000 season; it added a full goose limit to the frameworks. Pacific Flyway states choosing the option were required to reduce their regular seasons by 1 day so as not to exceed the 107-day maximum length for migratory bird seasons. States were permitted to hold the hunt outside the regular season framework and regular-season limits applied. The Fish and Game Commission chose to take the option and selected September 25 for the hunt, which was open to youth 12 through 15 years of age; it also chose full duck (including merganser), coot, and goose limits. The Department did not conduct surveys to estimate the number of participating youth; however, field personnel reported that participation was low.

## Management Implications

Data collected during this reporting period indicate that the number of ducks wintering in Idaho has steadily increased during recent winters and support the FWS's predictions of improved fall flights during the same period. The midwinter count of 2000 was 362,960, one of the highest in recent years. Although the telephone harvest survey was not conducted for the 1999-2000

season, the Department continued to meet its 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals of reversing the decline in number of duck hunters and ducks harvested, since duck numbers remained good, hunter waterfowl validations (stamps) sold remained nearly stable, and the HIP harvest estimates continued to be strong.

The 1987 Legislature approved a \$5.00 (\$6.50 with the vendor fee) migratory waterfowl stamp which hunters 17 years of age and older were required to buy beginning with the 1987-1988 hunting season. In October 1987, the Department initiated a new Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) funded by the revenue generated by this stamp, the upland game habitat stamp which was also authorized in 1987, and the sale of associated artwork. The migratory waterfowl stamp was reauthorized by the 1995 Legislature, with no change in fee. Waterfowl stamp and artwork monies are being used to purchase wetlands and develop and improve wetlands on private and government property through the use of cooperative agreements. Over the long term these wetlands will help to increase numbers of ducks passing through and wintering in Idaho; they will also increase Idaho's duck production and help to offset reduced flights of ducks out of Canada. It must be noted, however, that improved habitat and increased duck production in Idaho can only help to "buffer" the effect of fewer Canadian ducks; Idaho will never be able to fully compensate for reduced flights of ducks out of Canada.

Between 1988 and 1998, \$244,511.25 from the sale of state waterfowl stamp prints was paid to Ducks Unlimited to sponsor wetland development in Canada. The development of wetlands outside Idaho is mandated by state law. This money was used to sponsor the Keho Lake Project (\$340,700) and Kanegawa Project (\$74,200) in southern Alberta. Both projects have already been completed. The Kanegawa project has been paid off in full; the balance due on the Keho Lake Project was \$170,388.75 at the beginning of this reporting period. In February 1999, an additional \$2,401.72 was paid on the Keho Lake project, leaving a balance due of \$167,987.03.

During the 2000 legislative session, the Department sponsored legislation that ended the habitat stamp program. The cost of these programs was integrated into the general hunting license. Further funding of Canadian projects is unclear.

Future management of ducks in Idaho will focus on improving habitat to attract more migrating and wintering birds; increasing local duck production; monitoring local production, especially on wildlife management areas; adopting federal harvest regulations designed to take advantage of increasing duck populations, and continuing to implement nontoxic shot regulations as mandated by the FWS.

## GEESE (ALL SPECIES)

### 1991-1995 Waterfowl 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: See Appendix 1.

Season: See Appendix 1.

Daily Bag Limit: See Appendix 1.

Possession Limit After First Day of Season: See Appendix 1.

Background and Management Philosophy: Area 1 (north Idaho) includes geese from the Pacific Population. Area 1 was created in 1990 to implement changes in seasons, limits, and hunt area boundaries identified in the 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan. Federal regulations for Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, and Shoshone Counties have for many years allowed for a 93-day season normally ending the third Sunday in January; and bag and possession limits of 3 and 6 geese, respectively, in the aggregate (Fig. 1). During the hunting seasons of 1986-1987 through 1989-1990, the Department established generally 86-day goose seasons and bag and possession limits of 3 and 6 geese, respectively, of which no more than 2 and 4, respectively, could be dark geese. The purpose for the shorter season and reduced limits was to reduce the harvest of locally-produced birds and encourage population growth. The season was lengthened and limits increased to the maximum allowed (93 days, bag and possession limits of 3 and 6, respectively) beginning with the 1990-1991 season to provide increased hunting opportunity because an analysis of banding data indicated harvest was not limiting the local population. Beginning with the 1993-1994 season, federal regulations allowed for a 100-day season and bag and possession limits of 4 and 8 respectively, which is what the Department selected (Fig. 1). The counties of Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce were added to Area 1 in 1993-1994 to take advantage of an increasing resident Canada goose flock. For 1998-1999, Area 2 and Area 4 were combined (they have the same season and limits) to simplify the hunting brochure.

The 1990-1991 goose season opened 2 weeks prior to the duck season. The 1991-1992 goose season opened the same weekend as the duck season. The 1992-1993, 1993-1994, 1994-1995, 1995-1996, and 1996-1997 goose seasons opened 1 week before the duck season. The 1997-1998, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 goose seasons opened the same weekend as the duck season.

## Management Area 2

Description: See Appendix 1.

Season: See Appendix 1.

Daily Bag Limit: See Appendix 1.

Possession Limit After the First Day of Season: See Appendix 1.

**Background and Management Philosophy:** Management Area 2 (southwestern and central Idaho) includes Canada geese from the Pacific Population. 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 (part of the Southwest Region) was Area 3 and had restricted limits for part of the season to protect local breeding flocks. For the 1991-1992 season, southwestern Idaho was combined with the rest of central Idaho (the Clearwater Region; the remainder of the Southwest Region; and parts of the Magic Valley, Southeast, Upper Snake, and Salmon Regions) to create the new Area 2. This was possible because southwestern Idaho flocks had exceeded breeding pair objectives and it was determined they could sustain the additional harvest resulting from a 93-day season and bag and possession limits of 2 and 4, respectively, season long. This season and limits were the maximum allowed by federal regulations for southwestern Idaho, but not for the Clearwater Region. In 1992-1993, Area 2 was reduced slightly in size to simplify the boundary between Area 2 and Area 4. This was accomplished by placing all of Custer and Lemhi Counties in Area 4, rather than splitting the counties on Highways 75 and 93. For the 1993-1994 season, Area 2 was reduced further by placing 5 northern counties (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce) in the more liberal Area 1 to take advantage of an increasing local flock of Canada geese.

For the 1994-1995 season, federal regulations allowed for a 100-day season and bag and possession limits of 4 and 8, respectively (Fig. 1). The Department selected the 100-day season to take advantage of the healthy local population and strong migrant population, but chose bag and possession limits of 3 and 6 dark geese, respectively, instead of the maximum allowed over concerns that a daily bag of 4 would result in an overharvest of local geese. The boundaries for Area 2 for the 1994-1995 season were not changed from the preceding year.

For 1995-1996, 1996-1997, 1997-1998, and 1998-1999 seasons, federal regulations remained unchanged; the Department retained its 100-day seasons and bag and possession limits of 3 and 6 dark geese, respectively. However, for the 1998-1999 season the Department combined Area 2 and Area 3 (south-central Idaho) to simplify the hunting rules and hunting brochure.

In 1990-1991 the goose season in Area 2 opened 2 weeks prior to the duck season. The 1991-1992 goose season opened the same weekend as the duck season in the northern portion, and 1 week earlier than the duck season in the southern portion. In 1992-1993, 1993-1994, 1994-1995, 1995-1996, and 1996-1997, the goose seasons opened 1 week prior to the duck season. The 1997-1998, 1998-1999, and 1999-2000 goose and duck seasons opened on the same day.

### Management Area 3

Description: See Appendix 1.

Season: See Appendix 1.

Daily Bag Limit: See Appendix 1.

Possession Limit After First Day of Season: See Appendix 1.

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area 3 (south-central Idaho) has been under restrictive harvest management (more conservative than allowed by federal regulations) for many years to minimize the harvest of local geese. Seasons have had delayed opening dates and/or reduced bag and possession limits for all or part of the season. Management Area 3 was Management Area 4 prior to the 1991-1992 season. It includes both Pacific Population and Rocky Mountain Population geese. The boundary between the 2 populations is U.S. Highway 93 from the Idaho-Nevada border to Shoshone, State Highway 75 from Shoshone to Challis, and U.S. Highway 93 from Challis to the Montana-Idaho border; the Pacific Population occurs west of this boundary, the Rocky Mountain Population occurs to the east. The area was enlarged slightly for the 1991-1992 season to include parts of Camas and Elmore Counties and an additional portion of Blaine County because of low goose production. The area was enlarged again in 1992-1993 to include all of Blaine and Camas Counties because of low goose production.

The 1990-1991 season was the first season for many years that ran the maximum of 93 days allowed by federal regulations. From 1994-1995 through 1997-1998, seasons were extended to 100 days, the maximum allowed, but restrictive limits (2 dark geese) were retained to protect local flocks (Fig. 1). For 1998-1999 the dark goose daily limit was increased to 3 and Area 3 was combined with Area 2 to simplify hunting rules and the hunting brochure; the number designation for the Area was changed to 2.

The 1990-1991 goose season opened 2 weeks prior to the duck season. Beginning in 1991-1992, goose seasons in Area 3 have opened 1 week prior to the duck season. The 1997-1998, 1998-1999, and 1999-2000 goose and duck seasons opened on the same day.

## Management Area 4

Description: See Appendix 1.

Season: See Appendix 1.

Daily Bag Limit: See Appendix 1.

Possession Limit After First Day of Season: See Appendix 1.

Background and Management Philosophy: Management Area 4 (eastern Idaho) was created in 1991-1992 to take advantage of increased limits and a 93-day season allowed by federal regulations. Bag and possession limits were increased from 2 and 4, respectively, to 3 and 6, respectively, for 1991-1992 due to increasing numbers of geese throughout the population. Beginning in 1993-1994, the season was increased to 100 days, the maximum allowed by federal regulations (Fig. 1). Beginning in 1995-1996, daily bag and possession limits were increased to 4 and 8, respectively.

Prior to 1991-1992, eastern Idaho was combined with central Idaho to form Area 2. Goose seasons for Area 4 have always been set to take full advantage of all days and maximum limits allowed by federal regulations. The 1990-1991 goose season in eastern Idaho opened 2 weeks prior to the duck season. In 1991-1992, the Area 4 goose season opened the same weekend as the duck season. In 1992-1993, 1993-1994, 1994-1995, 1995-1996, and 1996-1997, the goose season opened 1 week prior to the duck season. The 1997-1998 goose and duck seasons opened on the same day.

For 1998-1999, Area 1 and Area 2 (they have the same season and limits) were combined to simplify the hunting brochure; the number designation for the area was changed to 1. The west half of Power County was placed in the new Area 2 (southwest and south-central Idaho) to simplify boundaries and the hunting brochure. The duck and goose seasons opened the same day in 1999-2000, also.

White goose hunting has been closed in Fremont and Teton Counties for a number of years to reduce the accidental shooting of trumpeter swans.

## Management Area 5

Description: See Appendix 1.

Season: See Appendix 1.

Daily Bag Limit: See Appendix 1.

Possession Limit After First Day of Season: See Appendix 1.

Background and Management Philosophy: Area 5 was created in 1987 to conform with Area 1 for ducks. This was made necessary because the Shoshone-Bannock Indian Tribes requested a goose hunting season for non-tribal members which differed from the rest of the state. See "Ducks, Management Area 1" for additional information. The Department has not objected to the Tribes' request for a special goose season because their impacts on local and migrant geese and law enforcement problems have been minimal.

Management Area 5 includes Rocky Mountain Population Canada geese. Federal regulations allowed for a 93-day season from 1990-1991 through 1992-1993; prior to that time 86 days were permitted. Beginning in 1993-1994, federal regulations permitted a 100-day season, but the Tribes chose not to take the additional 7 days available in 1993-1994 and 1994-1995; they did take all 100 days beginning in 1995-1996. Bag and possession limits were increased from 2 and 4 respectively, to 3 and 6, respectively, beginning with the 1991-1992 season to take advantage of increasing numbers of geese throughout the population (Fig. 1). Beginning in 1995-1996, bag and possession limits were increased to 4 and 8, respectively. For 1998-1999 the Tribes selected opening and closing dates the same as the rest of the state. Because Areas 1 and 4 and 2 and 3 were combined, the number designation for Area 5 was changed to 3.

The 1990-1991 goose season in Area 5 opened 1 week prior to the duck season. From 1991-1992 through 1994-1995, the goose season opened 2 weeks prior to the duck season. In 1995-1996 and 1996-1997, the duck and goose seasons opened at the same time. In 1997-1998, the goose season opened 6 days after the duck season. In 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 the duck and goose seasons again opened at the same time.

### Population Surveys

Midwinter Survey: The midwinter survey was the only population survey made during the reporting period. This survey is done annually in cooperation with the FWS. The 2000 survey was scheduled for January 4-8, but was actually conducted from January 3-18. One hundred percent of important waterfowl habitat within survey areas was covered.

The number of Canada geese counted during the 2000 midwinter survey was down 43% from 1999 and down 21% from the previous 10-year average (Table 1). The count in the Pacific Population was 30,184 geese (69%) and 7,778 (21%) in the Rocky Mountain Population (Table 4).

## Harvest Characteristics

Telephone Survey: Due to budget reductions, the Department did not estimate the waterfowl harvest for Idaho for the 1999-2000 hunting season; estimates for previous years appear in Tables 5, 6, and 7.

Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program: The Department entered the Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (FMGBHIP) in early 1996. The goal of the program is to obtain improved harvest estimates for all species; by federal mandate, states provide the FWS with names and addresses of all migratory game bird hunters from which the FWS draws samples of hunters to survey. Due to computer problems, the Department was not able to comply for the 1996-1997 season and the FWS was unable to estimate harvests using the FMGBHIP. The Department complied fully with the FWS's request for information for the 1997-1998, 1998-1999, and 1999-2000 seasons.

The FWS's preliminary estimate for the 1999-2000 goose harvest was 28,100, down dramatically from 55,900 in 1998-1999. The FWS's harvest estimates for previous years appear in Table 3.

## Climatic Conditions

Precipitation during the winter of 1999-2000 was generally above normal statewide; temperatures were generally mild to near normal. As a result, the timing of freeze-up was normal to later than normal; some areas never froze. Generally, goose hunters reported only fair hunting season long.

## Management Implications

Although the telephone harvest survey was not conducted for the 1999-2000 season, the Department continued to meet its 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals for the total harvest, harvest per hunter per season, and total days hunted statewide, since goose numbers remained good in 1999-2000 and hunter validations (stamps) sold remained nearly stable.

The Department's new waterfowl stamp and HIP (discussed previously in the duck section) will do much to improve wetland habitat for Canada geese. Future management will be directed toward improving habitat through HIP to attract greater numbers of geese to migrate through and winter in Idaho, increasing local production, continuing to implement nontoxic shot regulations as mandated by the FWS, and providing maximum hunting opportunity within the framework authorized by the FWS and within the amount allowable while still meeting local population objectives.

## TRUMPETER SWAN

No trumpeter swans were translocated from Harriman State Park during the reporting period. The Department continued its involvement in trumpeter swan management by assisting in monitoring swan movements and distribution across Idaho.

## TUNDRA SWAN

The Department's 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals for the tundra swan are to (1) maintain current migrations through Idaho and (2) meet the demand for nonconsumptive use. However, during the reporting period this species received little management emphasis in Idaho. This is because the tundra swan is not classified by the state as a game bird and the species benefits indirectly from other wildlife management programs. Only 110 tundra swans were counted in Idaho during the 1999 midwinter waterfowl survey (Table 1).

## AMERICAN COOT

The Department's 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals for the American coot are to (1) maintain Idaho's population; (2) increase the harvest; and (3) provide maximum recreational opportunity. 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. The coot harvest was not estimated for the 1999-2000 season.

## COMMON SNIPE

The Department's 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals for the common snipe are to (1) maintain Idaho's common snipe population; and (2) maintain the harvest. 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. The snipe harvest was not estimated for the 1999-2000 season.

## SANDHILL CRANE

The Department's 1991-1995 Waterfowl Management Plan goals for the sandhill crane are to (1) maintain current breeding populations and their distribution; (2) maintain current migrations through Idaho; and (3) meet the demand for nonconsumptive use. In 1997, the Fish and Game Commission reaffirmed its earlier decision to reclassify the sandhill crane from a nongame bird to a migratory game bird. This decision came as a result of increased crop damage complaints. Also in 1997, the Bureau of Wildlife prepared and submitted to the Commission a plan titled "Management Plan for Reducing Sandhill Crane Crop Damage in Eastern Idaho"; the plan was subsequently approved by the Commission on April 17, 1997. Activities during this reporting period were limited to developing recommendations for 2000 hunts.

## **LITERATURE CITED**

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999. Waterfowl population status, 1999. U.S. Fish Wildl. Serv., Office of Migratory Bird Mgmt., Laurel, Maryland, USA.

Table 1. Birds counted during the midwinter waterfowl survey, 1989-1999.

Species	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Percent Change	
												From Previous	10-Yr Avg.
Mallard	73,689	142,674	112,477	136,731	152,968	171,300	149,479	159,160	140,230	304,126	284,670	-6	+85
Gadwall	128	676	877	542	60	1,505	973	1,482	191	279	186	-33	-72
Wigeon	3,194	6,842	7,189	14,539	7,444	10,624	10,763	9,884	3,463	2,130	3,686	+73	-52
Grn-Winged Teal	863	931	1,722	650	748	705	673	1,702	126	55	118	+115	-85
Blue-Winged/ Cinnamon Teal	30	53	0	1	20	48	0	0	0	0	0	--	--
Shoveler	160	65	65	77	233	376	23	368	151	31	271	+742	-83
Pintail	478	717	4,275	426	112	8,792	432	6,671	2,150	362	1,649	+356	-32
Wood duck	23	37	306	33	147	35	147	334	157	314	277	-12	+81
Redhead	16,543	14,400	12,575	3,781	4,249	8,293	32,829	11,431	16,731	8,209	23,589	+187	+83
Canvasback	3,938	2,100	1,288	360	309	161	215	107	168	19	323	+1,600	-63
Scaup	9,374	9,758	3,328	5,969	2,919	1,713	877	5,177	3,498	2,342	5,275	+125	+17
Ringneck	1,584	6,058	3,229	3,234	965	1,782	4,657	1,404	566	353	734	+108	-69
Goldeneye	9,037	11,952	10,214	16,437	15,873	13,774	13,775	14,842	10,822	14,090	21,731	+54	+66
Bufflehead	517	510	621	952	431	507	675	1,829	935	1,197	3,141	+162	+284
Ruddy duck	632	200	20	158	57	118	84	79	50	52	225	+333	+130
Merganser	5,954	10,758	3,534	4,246	1,380	2,849	3,460	5,111	2,760	3,835	3,418	-11	-22
Unident. ducks	<u>2,274</u>	<u>42,814</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>1,368</u>	<u>4,529</u>	<u>3,928</u>	<u>20,037</u>	<u>7,841</u>	<u>23,154</u>	<u>3,894</u>	<u>13,667</u>	<u>+251</u>	<u>+24</u>
Total ducks	128,418	250,545	162,017	189,504	192,444	226,510	239,099	227,422	205,152	341,288	362,960	+6	+68
Snow goose	13	2	5	1	1	3	0	10	1	18	4	-78	--
Ross'	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	--	--
Canada goose	26,214	49,562	22,508	72,233	27,681	33,755	43,855	70,254	41,433	58,430	66,384	+14	+49
Lesser Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--
Cackling goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	--	--
White-front	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
Total geese	26,227	49,564	22,513	72,234	27,682	33,758	43,856	70,267	41,435	58,448	66,389	+14	+49
Tundra swan	242	278	55	137	5	56	167	148	154	85	110	+29	-17
Trumpeter swan	0	176	195	167	1,052	275	0	0	0	0	0	--	--
Unknown swan	<sup>a</sup> 633	<sup>a</sup> 935	<sup>a</sup> 938	<sup>a</sup> 787	<sup>a</sup> 1,109	244	<sup>a</sup> 1,193	<sup>a</sup> 1,263	<sup>a</sup> 1,411	<sup>a</sup> 1,283	<sup>a</sup> 1,474	+15	+50
Coot	<u>12,439</u>	<u>14,652</u>	<u>12,669</u>	<u>12,919</u>	<u>3,054</u>	<u>9,164</u>	<u>13,958</u>	<u>26,109</u>	<u>14,665</u>	<u>15,324</u>	<u>20,712</u>	<u>+35</u>	<u>+53</u>
Total waterfowl	167,959	315,974	198,368	275,776	224,461	270,784	298,548	325,209	262,817	416,428	451,645	+8	+64

<sup>a</sup> Primarily trumpeter swans.

Table 2. Estimated statewide harvest of ducks obtained from the telephone survey, 1988-1999.

Year	% of License Buyers Sampled	Harvest	Average Birds Per Hunter Per Year	Hunters	Days Hunted	Days Hunted Per Hunter Per Year
1988	4.6	154,400 ± 21,700	9.1	17,000 ± 1,100	111,100 ± 9,300	6.5
1989	3.0	147,000 ± 24,300	8.9	16,500 ± 1,400	116,700 ± 11,500	7.1
1990	3.0	157,800 ± 22,600	9.6	16,400 ± 1,300	120,800 ± 9,800	7.4
1991	4.0	181,500 ± 25,400	10.5	17,300 ± 1,200	156,000 ± 13,000	9.0
1992	2.5	210,700 ± 36,300	11.7	18,000 ± 1,700	145,100 ± 14,300	8.1
1993 <sup>c,d</sup>	2.5 <sup>b</sup>	252,100 ± <sup>c</sup>	13.4	18,800 ± <sup>c</sup>	217,400 ± <sup>c</sup>	11.6
1994 <sup>c,d</sup>	5.3	300,300 ± 23,400	15.6	19,400 ± 4,000	243,900 ± 16,200	12.6
1995 <sup>d</sup>	3.9 <sup>b</sup>	416,300 ± 33,300	17.9±1.4 <sup>a</sup>	23,300 ± 4,000	309,400 ± 33,500	13.3 ±.7 <sup>a</sup>
1996 <sup>e</sup>						
1997 <sup>e</sup>						
1998 <sup>e</sup>						
1999 <sup>e</sup>						

<sup>a</sup> 95% confidence interval.

<sup>b</sup> Approximate.

<sup>c</sup> Confidence intervals not available.

<sup>d</sup> Survey was conducted by a private contractor using some procedures which differed from those used by the Department in preceding years. Consequently, estimates are not comparable to those for preceding years.

<sup>e</sup> No harvest estimate; survey not conducted.

Table 3. Results of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's waterfowl hunter survey for Idaho, 1988-1999<sup>a</sup>.

Year	Number Duck Stamps Sold	Estimated Active Adult Hunters	Total Geese Harvested	Total Ducks Harvested
1988	16,597	14,271	26,600	112,900
1989	16,894	14,073	30,500	119,600
1990	17,036	13,443	36,800	96,700
1991	17,151	14,144	39,500	117,880
1992	17,717	14,132	31,700	126,700
1993	21,761	17,972	45,600	153,200
1994	21,229	17,418	61,100	141,300
1995	21,097	18,395	46,900	203,400
1996	22,382	19,751	61,100	245,800
1997	23,697	22,241	40,700	248,600
1998	23,515	21,006	55,900	254,700
1999	24,035	20,799	28,100	228,300

<sup>a</sup> Adjusted for exaggeration memory bias and juvenile hunter density.

Table 4. Canada geese counted in Idaho during the midwinter survey, by Survey Area, 1966 to 2000<sup>a</sup>.

Year	Survey Area #1	Survey Area #2	Survey Area #3	Survey Area #4	Survey Area #5	Survey Area #6	Survey Area #7A	Survey Area #7B	Survey Area #7	Survey Area #8A	Survey Area #8B	Survey Area #9	Survey Area #10	Survey Area #11	Total	Rocky Mtn. Popu. <sup>b</sup>	%	Pacific Popu. <sup>b</sup>	%	PP Plan Unit 2 <sup>c</sup>	PP Plan Unit 4 <sup>c</sup>
1966															12,956	5,602	30	12,956	70	11,331	1,625
1967															16,330	6,388	39	9,942	61	7,883	2,059
1968															5,113	2,149	42	2,964	58	1,978	986
1969															7,735	3,508	45	4,227	55	4,121	106
1970															8,430	5,348	63	3,082	37	2,012	1,070
1971	395	2,462	23	0	120	140	92		0	1,305		4,303	1,107		9,947	3,218	32	6,729	68	5,622	1,107
1972	0	100	0	0	10,081	780	769		0	939		3,525	411		16,605	11,615	70	4,990	30	4,579	411
1973	571	1,339	0	0	2,439	630	99		0	1,219		4,200	30		10,527	5,063	48	5,464	52	5,434	30
1974	520	1,844	0	0	7,496	0	171		0	836		6,750	500		18,117	10,005	55	8,112	45	7,612	500
1975	1,323	1,618	0	0	8,957	8	933		0	874		3,800	1,730		19,243	12,738	66	6,505	34	4,775	1,730
1976	2,054	108	0	0	16,455	18	1,353		0	1,460		2,440	257		24,145	19,675	81	4,470	19	4,213	257
1977	2,886	40	35	0	14,017	415	1,793		0	2,045		1,110	812		23,153	18,723	81	4,430	19	3,618	812
1978	2,797	344	0	0	20,447	1,394	2,305		0	4,072		3,700	571		35,630	26,269	74	9,361	26	8,790	571
1979	1,492	169	0	0	29,513	612	258		27	408	1,446	1,450	250		35,625	31,885	90	3,740	10	3,490	250
1980	1,401	1	0	0	22,832	485	4,090		0	977	2,186	2,440	2,038		36,450	27,976	77	8,474	23	6,436	2,038
1981	1,643	834	1	0	45,881	1,524	2,631		0	1,211	3,541	1,130	860		59,256	52,204	88	7,052	12	6,192	860
1982	2,192	498	0	0	16,210	115	4,111		200	654	870	2,125	3,385		30,360	21,564	71	8,796	29	5,411	3,385
1983	1,116	430	0	15	9,460	128	5,384		423	1,178	865	1,950	2,351		23,300	15,256	65	8,044	35	5,693	2,351
1984	926	71	0	0	783	106	8,813		43	445	1,268	1	1,363		13,819	7,765	56	6,054	44	4,691	1,363
1985	865	39	0	0	16,440	5,103	4,905		2,500	1,814	2,231	783	1,017		35,697	28,812	81	6,885	19	5,868	1,017
1986	1,780	0	20	0	2,430	0	3,169		96	3,451	535	40	829		12,350	6,130	50	6,220	50	5,391	829
1987	1,185	0	0	0	13,842	517	1,730		356	817	1,156	8,200	5,853		33,656	16,946	50	16,710	50	10,857	5,853
1988	1,952	0	1	0	14,711	300	4,176		1,200	2,606	3,437	2,499	2,947		33,829	19,229	57	14,600	43	11,653	2,947
1989	948	0	0	0	7,529	780	1,847		2,569	2,753	3,549	3,050	3,202		26,227	10,138	39	16,139	61	12,937	3,202
1990	1,904	0	0	0	18,962	10	3,198		3,426	2,239	1,926	3,873	12,827	1,197	49,562	22,474	45	27,088	55	13,064	4,024
1991	1,346	0	0	0	11,982	350	1,746		1,138	171	4,457	222	401	700	22,508	14,522	65	7,986	35	6,885	1,101
1992	1,271	0	0	0	41,646	920	2,852	4,754	4,171	2,819	4,321	1,074	7,200	1,205	72,233	46,689	65	25,544	35	17,139	8,400
1993	709	0	0	0	6,179	656	1,666	3,595	298	6,349	6,488	550	976	215	27,681	9,210	33	18,471	67	17,280	1,191
1994	1,418	0	0	0	2,262	7	7,512	5,436	1,685	2,384	3,001	3,460	6,549	41	33,755	11,199	33	22,556	67	15,966	6,590
1995	1,845	0	0	0	6,517	225	2,349	2,514	2,794	9,381	2,968	7,218	7,286	758	43,855	10,936	25	32,919	75	24,875	8,044
1996	1,448	0	0	0	38,968	2,158	4,496	2,322	98	4,891	2,736	3,893	6,814	2,433	70,257	47,070	67	23,187	33	13,940	9,247
1997	1,386	0	0	0	17,318	974	4,438	2,652	4,014	3,362	2,479	2,314	1,189	1,307	41,433	24,116	58	17,317	42	14,821	2,496
1998	817	0	28	0	14,891	2,425	4,717	2,953	3,861	2,610	4,575	5,639	14,519	1,395	58,430	22,878	39	35,552	61	19,638	15,914
1999	843	0	37	0	29,310	314	3,280	1,261	4,453	14,075	4,730	3,366	4,309	406	66,384	33,784	51	32,600	49	27,885	4,715
2000	1,331	0	0	0	5,720	25	702	278	604	5,080	1,029	7,498	14,130	1,560	37,962	7,778	21	30,184	69	14,494	15,690

<sup>a</sup> Blanks indicate data are not available. Survey Areas are as follows:

- # 1 South Fork Snake River to Palisades Reservoir, Teton River, Buffalo River, Island Park Reservoir, North Fork (Henry's Fork) of the Snake River and tributaries
- # 2 Market Lake Wildlife Management Area, Roberts Slough
- # 3 Mud Lake Wildlife Management Area, Camas Creek, Independent Canal
- # 4 Camas National Wildlife Refuge
- # 5 American Falls Reservoir, Snake River from Massacre Rocks to Blackfoot, Clear Creek, Spring Creek
- # 6 Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge
- # 7A Snake River, Massacre Rocks to U.S. Hwy. 93
- # 7B Snake River, U.S. Hwy. 93 to State Hwy. 51

- # 7 Hagerman Wildlife Management Area (this was Area 7B prior to 1992)
- # 8A Snake River from State Hwy. 51 to the Ada-Canyon County line (except the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge portion), C.J. Strike Wildlife Management Area, Payette River, Boise River
- # 8B Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge portion of the Snake River (Ada-Canyon County line to Farewell Bend)
- # 9 Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (Lake Lowell only)
- #10 Pend Oreille River, Clark Fork River, Pend Oreille Lake, Coeur d'Alene Lake, Coeur d'Alene River
- #11 Lower Clearwater River, Mann's Lake (new survey area added in 1990)

<sup>b</sup> Rocky Mountain Population includes Survey Areas 1 through 6 and 7A; Pacific Population includes Survey Areas 7B, 7, and 8A through 11.

<sup>c</sup> Pacific Population Canada Goose Management Plan Units, Pacific Flyway. PP Plan Unit 2 includes Survey Areas 7B, 7, 8A, 8B, and 9. PP Plan Unit 4 includes Survey Areas 10 and 11.

Table 5. Estimated harvest of Canada geese from the Pacific Population obtained from the telephone survey, 1988-1999<sup>a</sup>.

Year	% of License Buyers Sampled	Harvest		Hunters		Days Hunted	
1988	4.6	19,700	± 5,300	5,800	± 700	45,800	± 5,500
1989	3.0	20,900	± 5,900	6,600	± 900	50,100	± 8,500
1990	3.0	27,300	± 8,300	5,300	± 800	43,900	± 6,800
1991	4.0	42,700	± 19,300	5,300	± 700	52,700	± 7,300
1992	2.5	40,900	± 14,200	8,100	± 1,200	67,500	± 10,500
1993 <sup>c</sup>	2.5	<sup>d</sup> 43,000	± <sup>e</sup>	10,400	± <sup>e</sup>	88,700	± <sup>e</sup>
1994 <sup>c</sup>	5.5	<sup>d</sup> 73,000	± <sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	± <sup>e</sup>	<sup>e</sup>	± <sup>e</sup>
1995 <sup>c</sup>	<sup>d</sup> 3.9	64,700	± 8,500	15,300	± 3,500	140,000	± <sup>e</sup>
1996 <sup>f</sup>							
1997 <sup>f</sup>							
1998 <sup>f</sup>							
1999 <sup>f</sup>							

<sup>a</sup> Generally west of U.S. Highway 93 (Ada, Adams, Benewah, Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Idaho, Jerome, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, Owyhee, Payette, Shoshone, Twin Falls, Valley, and Washington Counties).

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.

<sup>c</sup> Survey was conducted by a private contractor using some procedures which differed from those used by the Department in preceding years. Consequently, estimates are not comparable to those for preceding years.

<sup>d</sup> Rough estimate.

<sup>e</sup> Not available.

<sup>f</sup> No harvest estimate; survey not conducted.

Table 6. Estimated harvest of Canada geese from the Rocky Mountain Population obtained from the telephone survey, 1988-1999<sup>a</sup>.

Year	% of License Buyers Sampled	Harvest	Hunters	Days Hunted
1988	4.6	18,600 ± 6,900	4,300 ± 600	32,300 ± 5,800
1989	3.0	25,600 ± 9,300	5,000 ± 800	45,600 ± 14,100
1990	3.0	31,400 ± 12,700	6,300 ± 800	54,100 ± 14,100
1991	4.0	28,500 ± 8,000	7,700 ± 800	64,400 ± 6,900
1992	2.5	20,100 ± 8,300	4,300 ± 900	31,700 ± 6,900
1993 <sup>c</sup>	2.5	<sup>d</sup> 31,100 ± e	6,400 ± e	56,700 ± e
1994 <sup>c</sup>	5.5	<sup>d</sup> 29,400 ± e	e ± e	e ± e
1995 <sup>c</sup>	<sup>d</sup> 3.9	33,400 ± 6,600	5,700 ± 2,100	61,600 ± e
1996 <sup>f</sup>				
1997 <sup>f</sup>				
1998 <sup>f</sup>				
1999 <sup>f</sup>				

<sup>a</sup> Generally east of U.S. Highway 93 (Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Blaine, Bonneville, Caribou, Cassia, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Lincoln, Madison, Minidoka, Oneida, Power, and Teton Counties).

<sup>b</sup> 95% confidence interval.

<sup>c</sup> Survey was conducted by a private contractor using some procedures which differed from those used by the Department in preceding years. Consequently, estimates are not comparable to those for preceding years.

<sup>d</sup> Rough estimate.

<sup>e</sup> Not available.

<sup>f</sup> No harvest estimate; survey not conducted.

Table 7. Estimated statewide harvest of Canada geese obtained from the telephone survey, 1988-1999.

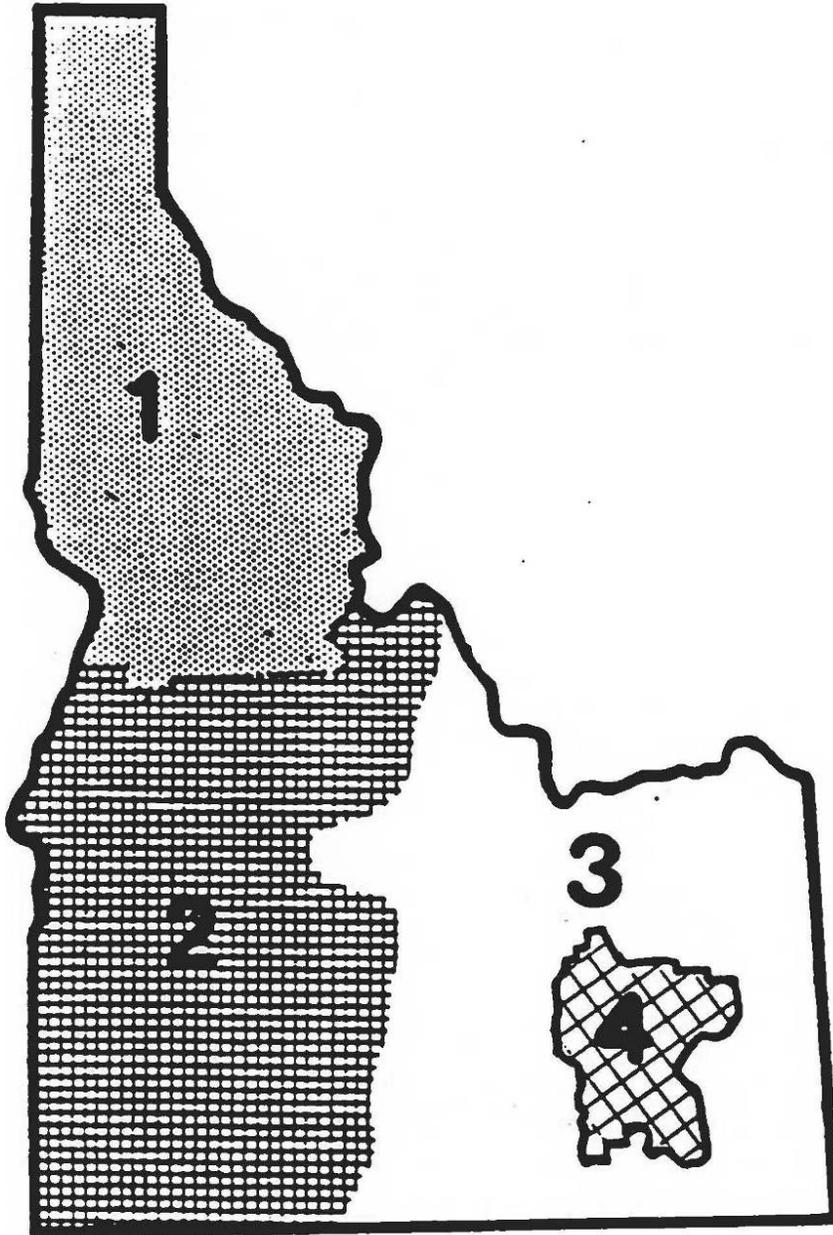
Year	% of License Buyers Sampled	Harvest	Average Birds Per Hunter Per Year	Hunters	Days Hunted	Days Hunted Per Hunter Per Year
1988	4.6	38,300 ± 7,000	3.8	10,200 ± 900	78,200 ± 8,100	7.7
1989	3.0	46,500 ± 10,400	4.0	11,600 ± 1,200	95,700 ± 14,000	8.3
1990	3.0	58,700 ± 15,100	5.1	11,600 ± 1,100	98,000 ± 9,700	8.4
1991	4.0	71,200 ± 19,800	5.5	13,000 ± 1,100	117,100 ± 10,100	9.0
1992	2.5	61,000 ± 17,000	4.9	12,400 ± 1,500	99,200 ± 12,100	8.0
1993 <sup>c</sup>	2.5 <sup>b</sup>	74,100 ± 11,500	4.4	16,800 ± 400	145,400 ± 12,600	8.7
1994 <sup>c</sup>	5.5	102,500 ± 11,500	5.6	17,800 ± 4,000	178,000 ± 13,400	10.1
1995 <sup>c</sup>	3.9 <sup>b</sup>	98,000 ± 10,800	4.7±.5 <sup>a</sup>	21,000 ± 4,100	201,600 ± 13,200	9.6 ±.6 <sup>a</sup>
1996 <sup>d</sup>						
1997 <sup>f</sup>						
1998 <sup>f</sup>						
1999 <sup>f</sup>						

<sup>a</sup> 95% confidence interval.

<sup>b</sup> Approximate.

<sup>c</sup> Survey was conducted by a private contractor using some procedures which differed from those used by the Department in preceding years. Consequently, estimates are not comparable to those for preceding years.

<sup>d</sup> No harvest estimate; survey not conducted.



Zone 1: 100-day season between October 3, 1998, and January 17, 1999. Daily bag limit - 4 geese including not more than 3 light geese and 2 white-fronted geese. Possession limit - twice the daily bag limit. (Pacific Population)

Zone 2: Same as Zone 1. (Pacific Population)

Zone 3: 100-day season between October 3, 1998 and January 17, 1999. Daily bag limit - 4 geese including not more than 2 white-fronted geese. Possession limit - twice the daily bag limit. (Rocky Mountain Population)

Zone 4: Same as Zone 3. This zone includes the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and some adjacent land. This zone does not appear in federal regulations; it is shown here because federal regulations permit the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to establish seasons on their reservation for nontribal members.

Figure 1. Federal regulations for Canada goose seasons and bag and possession limits for Idaho, 1999-2000 season.

**APPENDIX 1**

IDAHO

1999–2000 SEASON

WATERFOWL 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.

**SEASON: OCTOBER 2, 1999 THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2000**

### 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.

**SEASON: OCTOBER 2, 1999 THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2000**

### 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.

**SEASON: OCTOBER 2, 1999 THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2000**

*Season dates listed for Area 3 were tentative but had not yet been adopted by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Council at the time this brochure was printed. Hunters may confirm the official season dates by calling the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe or an IDFG office before hunting in Area 3.*

### SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAY

- Duck (including merganser), goose, and coot hunting open one day only on September 25, 1999 to youth 12 through 15 years of age.
- Hunting license — **REQUIRED**. Idaho waterfowl validation — **NOT 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!**

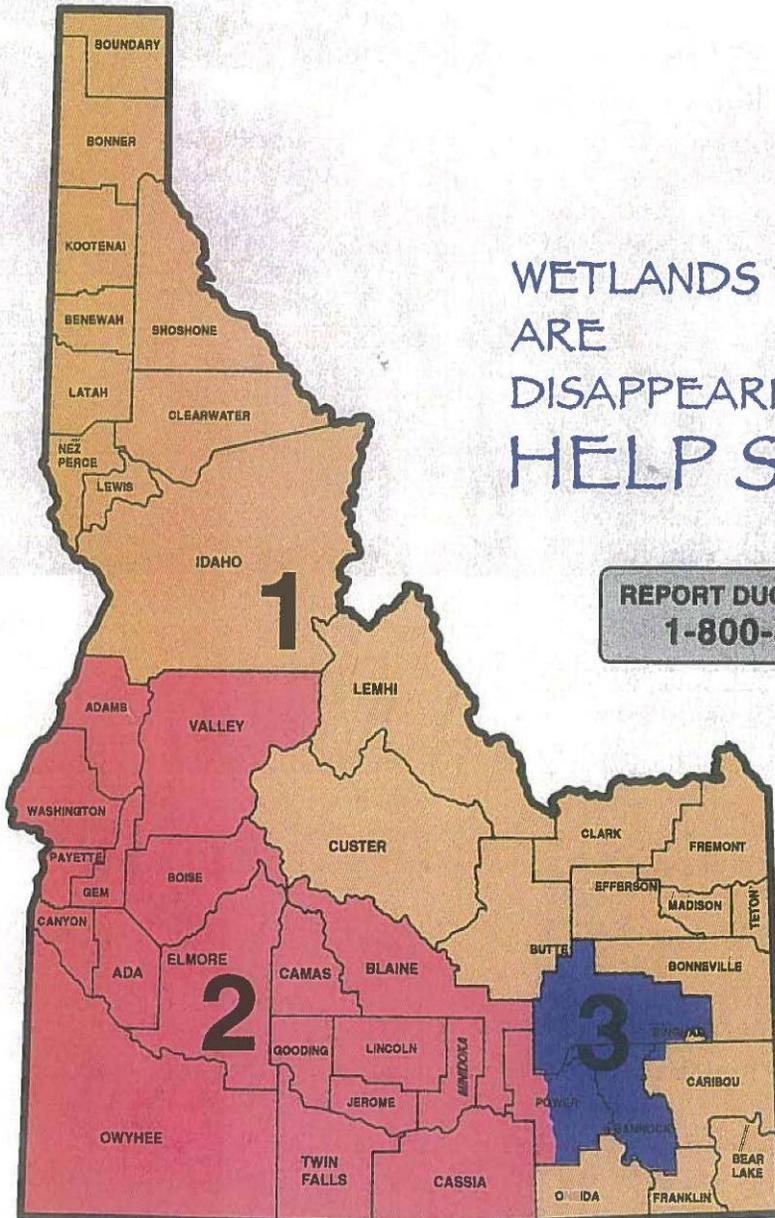
# GOOSE LIMITS AND HUNT AREAS

## AREAS 1 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 2

**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)



WETLANDS  
 ARE  
 DISAPPEARING...  
 HELP SAVE ONE!

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

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

SEASONS: OCTOBER 2, 1999 THROUGH JANUARY 15, 2000

## 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



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

*Season dates for the Fort Hall Reservation had not yet been adopted by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Council at the time this brochure was printed. Hunters may confirm the official season dates by calling the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe or an IDFG office before hunting on the Fort Hall Reservation.*

## SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAY

- Duck (including merganser), goose, and coot hunting open one day only on September 25, 1999 to youth 12 through 15 years of age.
- Hunting license — **REQUIRED**. Idaho waterfowl validation — **NOT 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!**

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
600 SOUTH WALNUT  
BOISE, IDAHO 83707

EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASONS FOR 1999-2000

APPROVED BY THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION IN AUGUST

DUCKS: No extended season. All 107 days of the Federal framework are consumed by the firearms seasons.

DOVES: Statewide - November 1 through January 16

GEESE: No extended season.

SNIPE: No extended season.

CROW: No extended season.

Submitted by:

*Tom Hemker*

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Tom Hemker  
Wildlife Program Coordinator

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

*Wayne Melquist*

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Wayne Melquist  
Federal Aid Coordinator

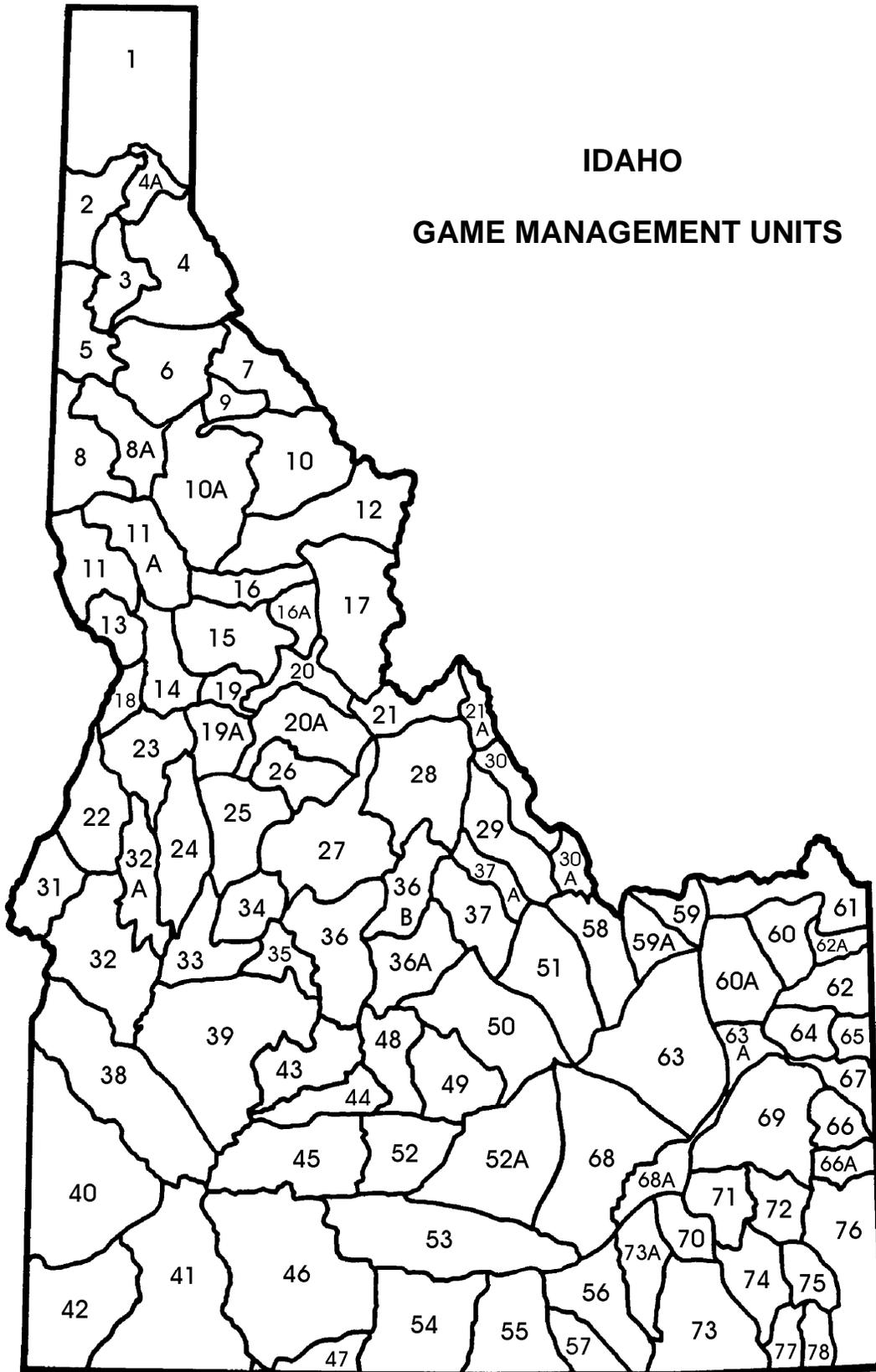
*Steven M. Huffaker*

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Steven M. Huffaker, Chief  
Bureau of Wildlife

# IDAHO

## GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS



## FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

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

