

WAC 220-413-100 and WAC 220-416-060

Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons Authorities

- USFWS Authority:
Federal Framework
 - Earliest opening date
 - Latest closing date
 - Limits
 - Season length
- State Discretion:
WAC within Federal Framework
 - Can be more restrictive but not more liberal
 - Season timing within outside dates



Washington's Waterfowl Diversity

Ducks (27 species)

- Dabbling (9)
- Diving (5)
- Seaduck (11)
- Wood duck
- Ruddy duck



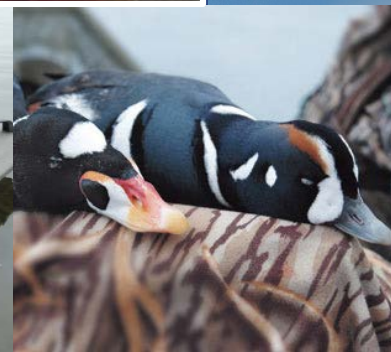
Geese (12 populations)

- Canada/cackling (7 – **one closed**)
- White (Light) (2)
- White-fronted (1)
- Brant (2)

Swans (2 species – **closed to harvest**)

Other migratory gamebirds

- Doves
- Band-tailed Pigeons
- Coot
- Snipe



Process for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations

Framework Changes

Pacific Flyway Meetings
August - September



USFWS
Service Regulations
Committee
October

State Season Selections
Due in Late April

Non-framework Changes

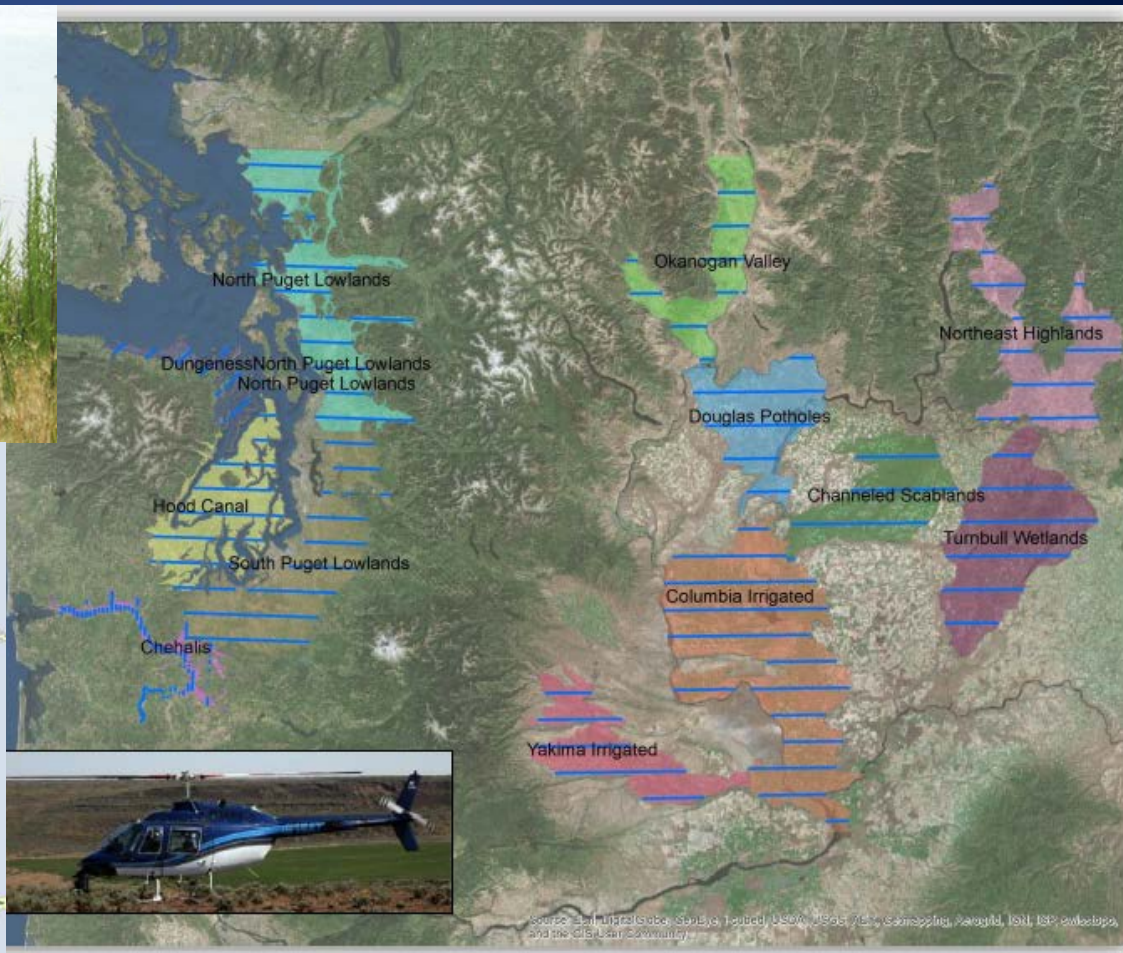
Commission - March



Commission - April



Duck Population Status and Season Proposals



2018-2019 Duck Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060

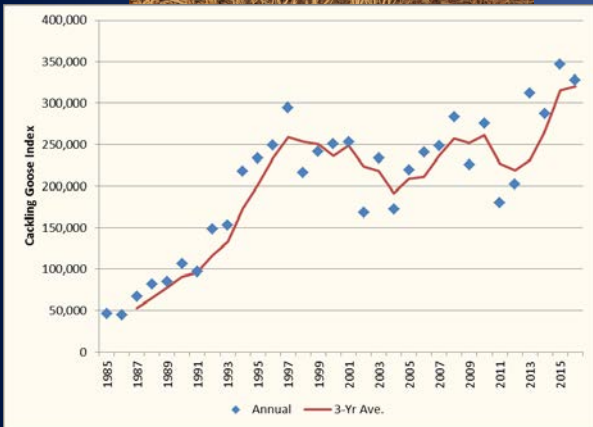
- Proposed general duck season dates and limits similar to 2016-2017, except pintail bag limit
 - 107 days
 - 2-day youth hunt w/recommended adjustment: Sept. 22-23, 2018 in western Washington (West Zone); Sept. 29-30, 2018 in eastern Washington (East Zone)
 - 105 day general season
 - 7 ducks, to include not more than:
 - 2 hen mallard, 2 pintail
 - 2 redhead, 2 canvasback, 3 scaup
 - W. WA: 2 scoter, 2 long-tail, 2 goldeneye, 1 harlequin (season limit)

Goose Population Status and Season Proposals

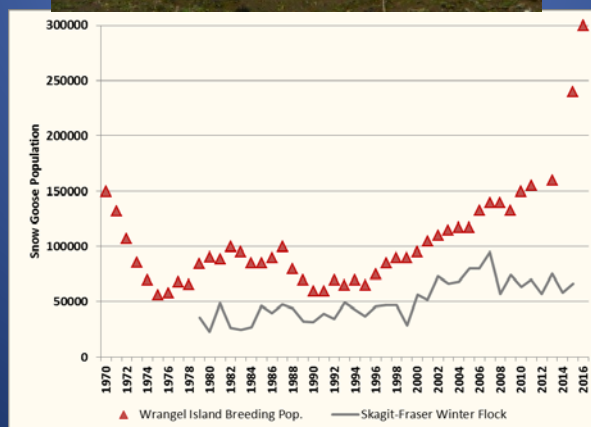


2018-2019 Goose Season Proposals

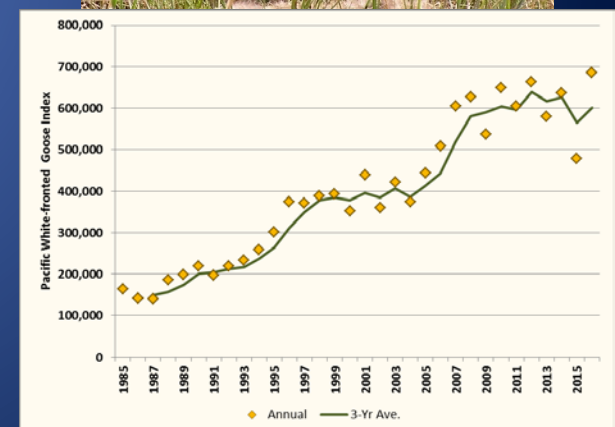
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Canada/Cackling Geese
Bag limit = 4



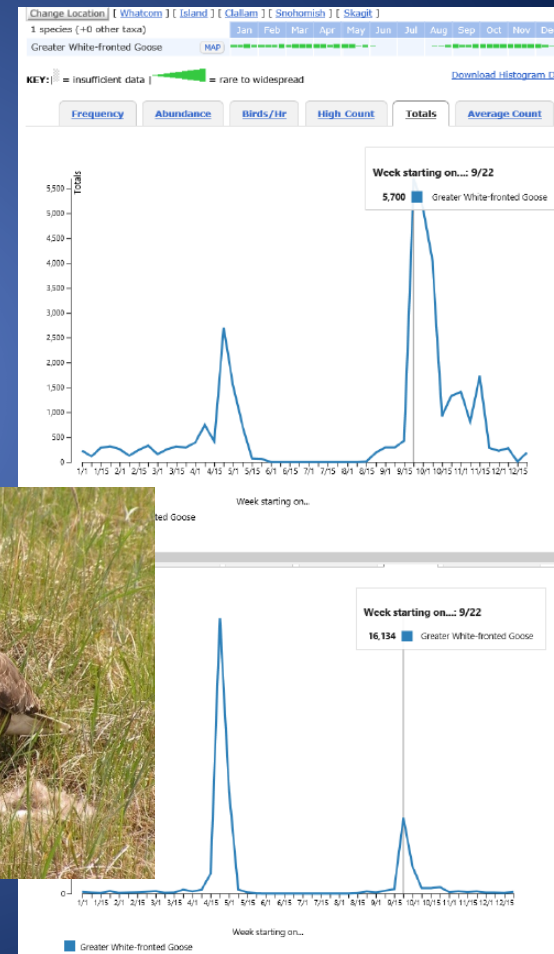
Snow Geese (white geese)
Bag limit = 6



White-fronted Geese
Bag limit = 10

Aligning Youth Opportunities with the Waterfowl Resources

- 2-day youth hunt w/recommended adjustment: Sept. 22-23, 2018 in western Washington (West Zone); Sept. 29-30, 2018 in eastern Washington (East Zone)
- Include both Canada and White-fronted Geese



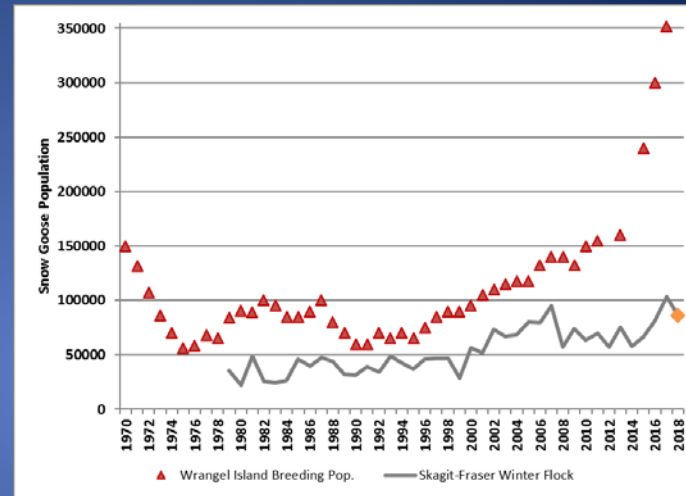
Brant Season

- No changes to brant bag limit
- Season dates between 12-27 Jan;
- Specified by county
 - Clallam: 3 days
 - Whatcom: 3 days
 - Skagit: 0, 3, or 8 days
 - Pacific: 10 days



2018-2019 Goose Season Proposals

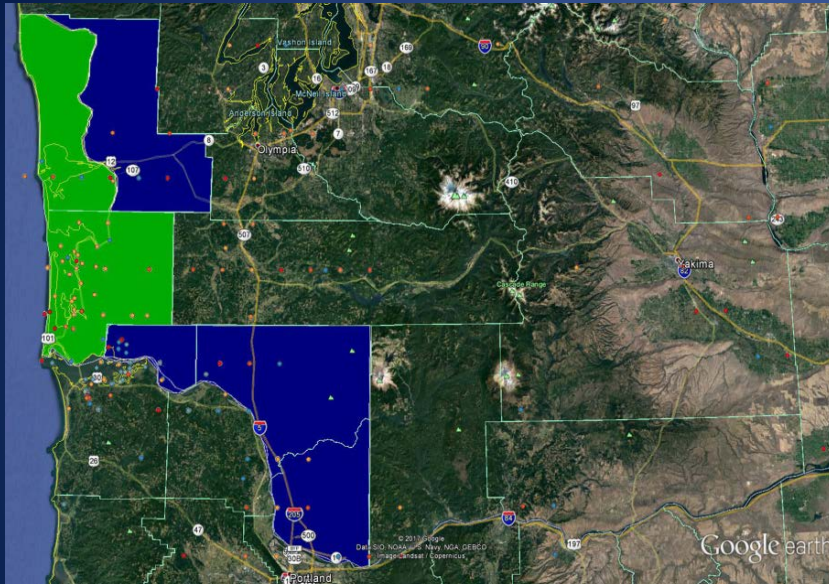
WAC 220-416-060 – GMA1 Snow Geese



- 50-70K Skagit-Fraser winter objective; Recent 3-yr = 90K
- Adjust season days later to address agricultural depredation concern
- Last year's action = increased to a 6 white goose bag limit
- Recommended adjustments (12-day period Feb. 9-20, 2019; and during this period specified WDFW lands in Skagit County closed, that portion of Snohomish County east of Interstate-5 closed)

2018-19 Goose Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060 – GMA2 Re-zone



- 54 effective goose days in 2016-17 season
- 63 effective goose days in 2017-18 season
- 78 effective goose days in 2018-19 season; includes:
 - Youth weekend
 - Sept goose
 - Regular season
 - Overlapping
 - Non-overlapping periods

2 - Inland BLUE POLYGON			
Period	Start	End	# days
First	Oct 13	Oct 28	7-days per week
Second	Nov 24	Jan 13	Sat, Sun, Wed only* - Ridgefield NWR hunts Tues, Thurs, Sat
Third	Feb 9	Mar 9	Sat, Sun, Wed only
2 - Coast GREEN POLYGON			
Period	Start	End	# days
First	Oct 13	Oct 28	7-days per week
Second	Nov 1	Dec 2	Sat, Sun, Wed only
Third	Dec 22	Jan 20	Sat, Sun, Wed only
Fourth	Feb 2	Feb 16	Sat, Sun, Wed only

Public Comment

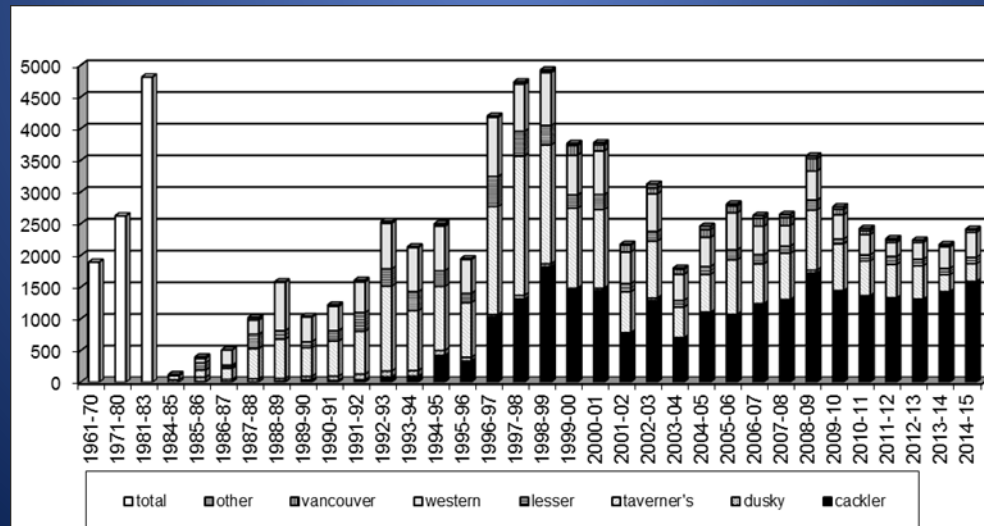
Waterfowl Season Proposals

- 25 comments
 - 15 generally agreed
 - 5 opposed
 - 5 neutral
- Youth Hunt Dates
 - Too early
- GMA 1 – Snow goose
 - Concern regarding overlap of dates with birding festival
 - Concern regarding late season influence beyond targeted objective of agricultural lands of Skagit Valley & Stillaguamish Delta
- GMA 2 – Coast/Inland Re-zone and Dates
 - Continued ask to increase to 7-days/week



Mandatory Report WAC 220-413-100

- Add report requirement for SW Canada goose; No extra fee.
- Move deadline to **March 20th** (from Feb 15th) for all waterfowl (brant, sea duck, snow goose, and SW Canada goose)



Public Comment Mandatory Report

- 14 comments received
- 7 generally agreed
 - Better to have a later deadline
- 2 opposed
 - Questioned need for additional reporting for goose hunters
- 5 neutral



Dusky Encountered Harvest						
	November	December	January	February	March	Total Harvest
2012-2013	2	5	7	0	0	14
2013-2014	4	7	1	0	2	14
2014-2015	1	6	6	2	1	16
2015-2016	5	1	6	0	0	12
2016-2017	0	3	5	2	1	11
Total	12	22	25	4	4	67

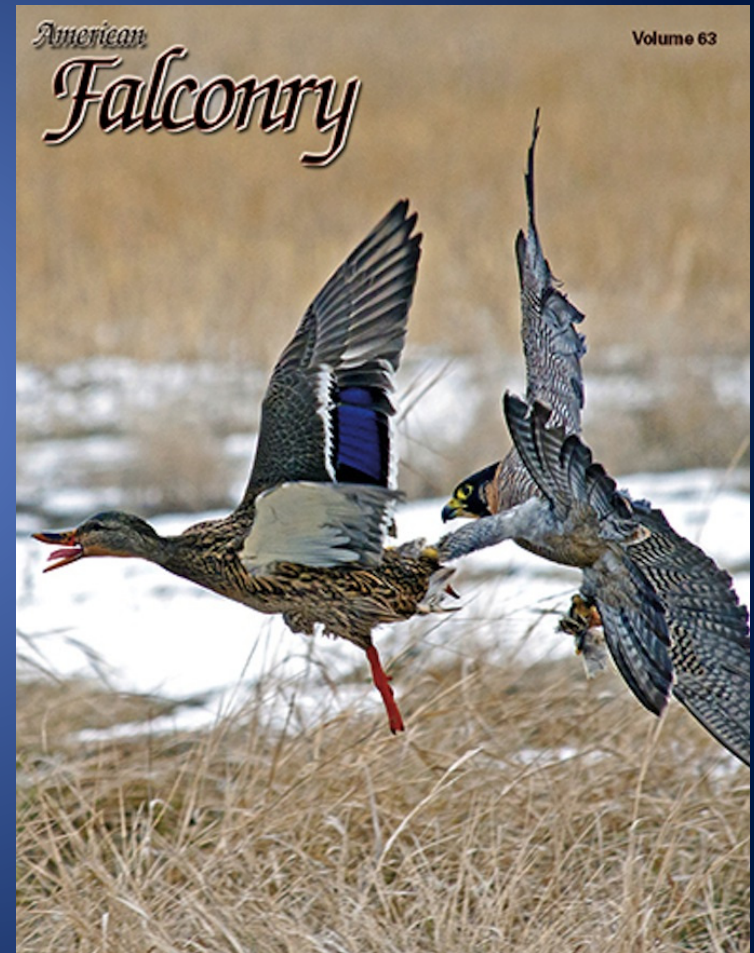
Status of Other Migratory Bird Populations and Season Proposals



No changes to season dates or bag limits.

Falconry Season Adjustment

- Season dates tied to Duck Season framework dates.
- WA currently uses 105 of 107 days.
- Increases in Bald Eagles have caused constraints to later season utility.
- Ideal to have early season success for training techniques.
- Recommended adjustment (p. 14; add section for extended falconry Sept. 22-23, 2018 in western Washington (West Zone); Sept. 29-30, 2018 in eastern Washington (East Zone))
- Includes ducks, coot, Canada geese and White-fronted geese.



Questions?

