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EMERGENCY REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-5 -

MIGRATORY BIRDS ARTICLE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

#500 – DEFINITIONS:

A. "Migratory birds" means those migratory birds included in the terms and conventions between the United States and any foreign country for the protection of migratory birds.

B. "Migratory game birds" means sora, Virginia rail, sandhill crane, Wilson's snipe, mourning dove, white-winged dove, band-tailed pigeon, crows, ducks, coots, and geese.

C. "Waterfowl" means ducks and geese.

D. "Dark geese" means Canada geese, white-fronted geese, brant, cackling geese and all other species of geese except light geese.

E. "Light geese" means snow (including blue) geese, and Ross' geese.

F. "Manipulation" means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. Manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

G. "Natural vegetation" means any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. Natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

H. "Normal agricultural operation" means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with 50 C.F.R. 20.11 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 1, 2013).

I. "Normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation" means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain, that is conducted in accordance with 50 C.F.R. 20.11 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 1, 2013).

J. "Normal soil stabilization practice" means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with 50 C.F.R. 20.11 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 1, 2013).

K. "Non-toxic shot" means any shot type approved for use to take migratory game birds by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 50 C.F.R. 20.21, November 6, 2017. This federal regulation, but not later amendments to or editions thereof, has been incorporated by reference and can be viewed and copies obtained as set forth in the "Incorporated References" section of Chapter 0 of these regulations.

L. "Sinkbox" means a raft or any type of low floating device having a depression which affords a hunter a means of concealing himself below the surface of the water.

#501 – HUNTING HOURS

A. One-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

#502 – MANNER OF TAKING

The following are legal methods of take for game species listed in this chapter. Any method of take not listed herein shall be prohibited, except as otherwise provided by statute or Commission regulation.

A. Waterfowl and other migratory game birds:

1. Shotgun - Any shotgun not larger than 10 gauge, not firing single slugs and incapable of holding more than three (3) shells in the magazine and chamber combined and fired from the shoulder. Shotguns of any description originally capable of holding more than three (3) shells total capacity shall have the magazine so cut off, altered or plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so as to reduce the total gun capacity to hold no more than three (3) shells in the magazine and chamber combined.

2. Hand-held bow - With any hand-held bow provided that the arrow or bowstring is not held or drawn mechanically, except no bows may be used on any firing line designated by the Commission.

3. Blinds - In the open or from a blind or other place of concealment on land or water except a sink box. When camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, such camouflaging must not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed.

4. Vessels - From or by means of any vessel (excluding a sinkbox) having a motor or sails attached when the motor has been shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased or from a vessel that is drifting or being propelled by hand, or by the aid of a vessel when used solely as a means of picking up dead or injured birds.

5. Hawking or Falconry - By means of hawking or falconry.

6. Decoys, dogs, and calls - By the aid of a dog, artificial decoys, or with the aid and use of birdcalls except recorded or electrically amplified calls or sounds, unless their use has been authorized elsewhere in this chapter.

B. Non-toxic shot requirements

1. Shot size - No person shall possess or use non-toxic shot of size larger than size T while taking or attempting to take ducks, geese, or coots anywhere in Colorado.

2. Statewide, including all counties in Colorado in both the Central and Pacific flyways;
   a. No person shall use or possess shot (either in shot-shells or as loose shot for muzzle-loading) other than non-toxic shot while taking or attempting to take ducks, geese or coots.

3. Non-toxic shot is required on commercial wildlife parks, during field trials, and during dog training activities when taking captive-reared mallards in Colorado.

C. Prohibition of baiting

1. Migratory game birds and waterfowl may not be taken by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is a baited area. It is unlawful to place or direct the placement of bait on or adjacent to an area for

the purpose of causing, inducing, or allowing any person to take or attempt to take any migratory game bird by the aid of baiting or on or over the baited area.

2. As used in this sub-paragraph "baiting" means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. "Baited area" means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.

3. Nothing in this regulation shall prohibit the taking of any migratory game bird, including waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:
   a. Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice; or standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

4. Nothing in this regulation shall prohibit the taking of any migratory game bird, except waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:
   a. Areas where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of the manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

#503 – LICENSE AND STAMP REQUIREMENTS

A. License required

1. A small game license is required to take all migratory game birds listed in #500(B) for which an open season exists.

2. Each hunter must call 1-866-COLOHIP (1-866-265-6447) or register online (www.colohip.com) prior to their first hunting trip of the season to register their intent to hunt migratory birds, and to obtain permit numbers if hunting sandhill cranes, and to provide harvest information for the previous season. "Season" means the period September 1 through March 15.

B. Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp
Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no person who has attained the age of sixteen (16) years shall take any migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) unless at the time of such taking they have on their person an unexpired Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called duck stamp), validated by their signature written across the face of the stamp in ink, or an electronic stamp issued through the Total Licensing System that provides a receipt as proof of purchase. This proof of purchase contains a unique code given to the purchaser instantly, and constitutes valid proof of purchase of a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp for a period not to exceed 45 days from the date of purchase.

C. Colorado State Waterfowl Hunting Stamp
In addition to the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, no person who has attained the age of sixteen (16) years shall take any migratory waterfowl (ducks and

geese) unless they possess and carry on their person a valid Colorado State Waterfowl Hunting Stamp, validated by their signature written, in ink, across the face of the stamp.

1. A Colorado State Waterfowl Stamp may be obtained for collection or personal purposes, but shall not serve as the required state stamp for waterfowl hunting purposes.

D. Band-Tailed Pigeon Permit
Beginning with the 2016 band-tailed pigeon hunting season, no hunter shall take any band-tailed pigeons unless at the time of such taking they have on their person an annual band-tailed pigeon permit in addition to a small game license. An annual band-tailed pigeon permit can be purchased for $5.00.

#504 - SPECIAL CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS

A. General

The State of Colorado is divided into two migratory waterfowl flyways consisting of the Pacific Flyway which includes all lands west of the Continental Divide, and the Central Flyway which includes all lands east of the Continental Divide.

1. A person may take in any one day, during the open season prescribed, not to exceed the number of migratory game birds and waterfowl permitted in this chapter. When so taken such birds may be possessed in the numbers specified in this chapter, except that no person on the opening day of the season may possess any migratory game birds or waterfowl in excess of the applicable daily limits and no person may possess any freshly killed migratory game birds or waterfowl during the closed season for such birds.

2. Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to permit the taking of migratory game birds or waterfowl on any Federal reservation or sanctuary, or any area of the United States set aside under any law, proclamation, or executive order for use as a bird, game, or other wildlife reservation, breeding ground, or refuge, or on any area designated as a closed area under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act except as may be permitted by these regulations.

3. No migratory game bird or waterfowl may be taken at any time, or by any means, from, on or across any highway, road, designated trail, or other right-of-way, whether public or private, within the exterior boundaries of any established national wildlife refuge.

4. Open seasons are established only on such migratory game birds and waterfowl as are herein designated. Exceptions to daily bag and possession limits and to the hours of hunting stated in Federal Migratory Bird regulations shall be as prescribed in this chapter.

5. Descriptions of all closures, specific areas, and areas with special restrictions in this chapter begin with the northern boundary and are described in clockwise rotation, with all roads or designations listed connecting to the next in the progression. The following standard abbreviations are used throughout this chapter:
Colorado State highways: Colo
County: Co
County roads: Co Rd
Interstate highways: I-
Road: Rd
U.S. (Federal) highways: US

Note: Migratory bird hunting closures and special provisions and restrictions for Division properties are found in Chapter 9.

B. Possession of Live Birds

Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become a part of the daily bag limit. No person shall at any time, or by any means, possess or transport live migratory game birds taken under the provisions of this chapter.

C. Possession of Plumage and Skin of Migratory Birds and Waterfowl.

1. No permit is necessary to possess and transport for his own use the plumage and skins of lawfully taken migratory game birds and waterfowl.

2. Personal use of feathers or skins - any person for his own use may possess, transport, ship, import, and export without a permit the feathers and skins of lawfully taken migratory game birds.

D. Commercial Use of Feathers
Any person may possess, purchase, sell, barter, or transport for the making of fishing flies, bed pillows, and mattresses, and for similar commercial uses the feathers of migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) killed by hunting pursuant to these regulations, or seized and condemned by Federal or State game authorities except that:

1. No person shall purchase, sell, barter, or offer to purchase, sell, or barter for millinery or ornamental use the feathers of migratory game birds taken under authority of this chapter, and;

2. No person shall purchase, sell, barter, or offer to purchase, sell or barter mounted specimens of migratory game birds taken under authority of this chapter.

E. Most Restrictive Federal or State Law Shall Apply -
Federal and State laws and regulations govern the taking of all migratory birds, in all cases, the most restrictive State or Federal regulation shall apply by species.

F. Processing, Storage and Tagging Required
No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds or package or container of such birds has a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, the date such birds were killed, and the hunter's hunting license number.

G. Custody of Birds of Another Person
No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as required in item F.

H. Migratory Bird Preservation Facilities

No preservation facility shall:

1. Receive, possess or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment, unless accurate records are maintained showing (1) the number of each species, (2) the date such birds were received, (3) the date such birds were disposed of, and (4) the name and address of the person to whom such birds were delivered, or

2. Destroy any records required to be maintained under this section for a period of one (1) year following the last entry on the record, or

3. Prevent any person authorized to enforce the provisions of this regulation from entering such facilities at all reasonable hours and inspecting the records and the premises where such operations are being carried on.

I. Closures

1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited within the area bounded on the north by the Colorado-Wyoming state line; on the east and south by I-76, Colo 71, US 36, and I-70; and on the west by the Continental Divide and the Larimer-Jackson county line and in Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Mesa, Otero, and Prowers counties.
   a. Within fifty (50) yards on each side of the center line of any public road.
   b. Within one-hundred-fifty (150) yards of any dwelling including the air space directly above this closure, without first obtaining permission from the owner, occupant, or person in charge of the dwelling.

2. Hunting is restricted as specified below:
   a. Barr Lake State Park, Adams County
      1. A reservation is required to hunt and hunters must check-in and out at the check station. Reservations must be made in accordance with #901.A of these regulations.
      2. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited, except on opening day and Saturdays and Wednesdays. Hunters may only hunt the area reserved, and only from designated blinds with a maximum of three (3) hunters per blind.
      3. Dove hunting prohibited, except on opening day and Sundays and Mondays during the month of September. Dove hunters may only hunt from designated stations with a maximum of three (3) hunters per station.
      4. Hunting areas not reserved will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis after 5 am. Reserved hunting areas not occupied by 7:00 am are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
   b. Boyd Lake State Park, Larimer County
      1. A reservation is required to hunt waterfowl. Reservations must be made in accordance with #901.A, except that reservations are available on a first-come, first-serve basis starting 14 days in advance of the hunt date and may be made or canceled up to the starting time of the reserved time slot. Hunters may only hunt in the designated zone and time slot reserved.
      2. Leaving decoys set overnight is prohibited.
   c. Colorado River, Grand County–
      1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited after November 14, from Shadow Mountain Dam downstream to Twin Creek.
   d~~c~~. Colorado River, Mesa County–
      1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on and within 200 yards of the Colorado River from the Grand Avenue Bridge in Grand Junction to the west end of Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area (SWA) Wednesday through Friday of each week, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
      2. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on and within 200 yards of the river from Appleton Drain to the west end of the Walker SWA.
   e~~d~~. Grand Lake and Windy Gap Reservoir, Grand County–
      1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on the lakes and within 100 yards of the high water line.
   f~~e~~. Highline Lake State Recreation Area, Mesa County–
      1. Waterfowl and small game hunting on Highline Lake is prohibited on Saturdays and Sundays except for youth hunting waterfowl during the youth waterfowl season weekend.
      2. Small game hunting is limited to that portion of Highline Lake State Park bounded on the north and the east by the park property boundaries; on the south by the no wake buoy line; and on the west by Mack Mesa Reservoir.
      3. -A reservation is required to hunt waterfowl and hunters must check-in and out at

the check station. Reservations must be made in accordance with #901.A of these regulations. Hunters may only hunt the area reserved and only from designated blinds with a maximum of four (4) hunters per blind.

4. Hunting areas not reserved are available on a first-come, first-serve basis after 5:00 am. Reserved areas unoccupied by 7:00 am will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, any hunt area must be yielded at any time upon request of a hunter holding a valid and active reservation for that area.

gf. James M. Robb Colorado River State Park, Mesa County

1. Waterfowl hunting on the 34 Road Parcel is prohibited, except on Saturdays and Sundays. A reservation is required to hunt and hunters must check-in and out at check stations. Reservations must be made in accordance with #901.A of these regulations.
2. Hunters may only hunt the areas reserved and must park in designated areas. Hunters may only hunt from designated blinds, with a maximum of two (2) hunters per blind on the 34 Road Parcel and four (4) hunters per blind on the remainder of the state park.
3. Hunting areas not reserved are available on a first-come, first-serve basis after 5:00 am. Reserved areas unoccupied by 7:00 am will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, any hunt area must be yielded at any time upon request of a hunter holding a valid and active reservation for that area.

hg. Pueblo County - No person shall discharge a firearm or release an arrow for the purpose of hunting waterfowl within 150 yards of any dwelling, including the airspace directly above this closure, without first obtaining permission from the owner, occupant, or person in charge of the dwelling.

ih. Prewitt Reservoir, Logan and Washington counties

1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited as posted.

j. Stagecoach State Park, Routt County

1. Waterfowl hunting is limited to designated waterfowl hunting zones only, with a maximum of six (6) hunters per zone.
2. Waterfowl hunting on this property is by reservation only. Reservations must be made in accordance with #901.A of these regulations. Hunters with reservations may only hunt the hunt zone specified on the reservation. Hunters must follow check-in and out procedures as posted at the property.
3. Hunting zones not reserved are available on a first-come, first-serve basis after 5:00 am. Reserved hunting zones unoccupied by 7:00 am will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, any hunting zone must be yielded at any time upon request of a hunter holding a valid and active reservation for that zone.

kj. Sweitzer Lake, Delta County

1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited, except on Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays and legal holidays after Labor Day.

lk. Trinidad State Recreation Area, Las Animas County

1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited as posted.

ml. Turk's Ponds Area, Baca County

1. All human activity is prohibited within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the high water line around Turk's Pond including the administrative buildings, from the opening day of the regular duck season through the last day of the regular dark goose season as posted. Hunters are allowed inside the closure only to retrieve downed waterfowl. Hunters must leave firearms outside of closure.
2. No person shall discharge a firearm or release an arrow from, upon or across an area 50 yards on each side of the centerline of any public road.

nm. Vancil Reservoir, Morgan County

1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited as posted.

3. Hunting is prohibited in the areas listed below, as posted by the Division.

a. Crawford State Recreation Area, Delta County

1. Hunting is prohibited, except after Labor Day.

b. Lower Latham Reservoir, Weld County

c. Mack Mesa Reservoir State Recreation Area, Mesa County
d. Meredith Reservoir, Crowley County

4. Hunting geese is prohibited as specified in the areas listed below:
   a. Dillon Reservoir, Summit County
      1. Hunting geese is prohibited Saturday through Monday of Labor Day weekend.
   b. Empire Reservoir, Weld and Morgan Counties
      1. Hunting geese is prohibited below the high water line and from any portion of the dam and inlet structures.
   c. Fossil Creek Reservoir, Larimer County
      1. Hunting geese is prohibited as posted.
   d. Jumbo Reservoir, Logan and Sedgwick Counties
      1. Hunting geese is prohibited in the area bounded on the north by Logan Co Rd 70/Sedgwick Co Rd 28; on the east by Sedgwick Co Rd 3; on the south by Sedgwick Co Rd 24.8/Logan Co Rd 970; and on the west by Logan Co Rd 95.
   e. Ovid-Julesburg Corridor, Sedgwick County
      1. Hunting geese through the dark geese season is prohibited in the area bounded on the north by US 138; on the east by US 385; on the south by I-76; and on the west by Sedgwick Co Rd 29.

#505 – SORA AND VIRGINIA RAIL

A. Statewide:

1. Dates: September 1 - November 9 annually.
2. Daily Bag Limit: Twenty-five (25) soras or Virginia rails singly or in the aggregate.
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

#506 – SANDHILL CRANE

A. All areas east of the Continental Divide except North Park (Jackson County) and the San Luis Valley.

1. Dates: ~~September 29~~October 5 - ~~November 25~~December 1, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily Bag Limit: Three (3).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

#507 – WILSON'S SNIPE

A. Statewide

1. Dates: September 1 - December 16 annually.
2. Daily Bag Limit: Eight (8).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

#508 – MOURNING DOVE AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE

A. Statewide.

1. Dates: September 1 - November 29 annually.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Fifteen (15) mourning doves or white-winged doves singly or in the aggregate.
3. Possession Limit:
   a. Three (3) daily bag limits.
4. Special Conditions and Restrictions

a. While in the field or during transport, all dressed (not fully feathered) doves shall be counted against the daily bag or possession limit for mourning and white-winged doves.

#509 – BAND-TAILED PIGEON

A. Statewide.

1. Dates: September 1 - 14 annually.
2. Daily Bag Limit: Two (2).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

#510 – CROW

A. Statewide.

1. Dates: November 1, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~28~~29, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit: Unlimited.
3. Possession Limit: Unlimited.
4. Special Conditions and Restrictions - Recorded or electronically amplified calls may be used during this season.

#511 – DUCK AND COOT

A. Central Flyway Northeast Zone – All areas east of Interstate 25 and north of Interstate 70.

1. Dates:
   a. First season: October ~~6~~ 12 - ~~November 26~~December 2, ~~2018~~2019.
   b. Second season: December ~~15~~14, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~27~~26, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the six (6), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
   c. Coots: Fifteen (15).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

B. Central Flyway Southeast Zone – All areas east of Interstate 25 and south of Interstate 70, and all of El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties.

1. Dates:
   a. October ~~24~~23, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~27~~26, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the six (6), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
   c. Coots: Fifteen (15).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

C. Central Flyway Mountain/Foothills Zone – All areas west of Interstate 25 and east of the Continental Divide, except El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties.

1. Dates:
   a. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5 - ~~November 26~~December 2, ~~2018~~2019.
   b. Second season: December ~~22~~21, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~27~~26, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:

a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the six (6), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
c. Coots: Fifteen (15).

3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

D. Pacific Flyway Western Zone – All areas west of the Continental Divide not included in the Eastern Zone.

1. Dates:
a. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5 - ~~October 17~~October 23, ~~2018~~2019
b. Second season: November ~~3~~2, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~27~~26, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
a. Ducks and Mergansers: Seven (7) in the aggregate. Of the 7 (seven), no more than two (2) female mallards, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, and three (3) scaup. No scaup may be taken after January ~~8~~7, ~~2019~~2020.
b. Coots: Twenty-five (25).
3. Possession limit:
a. Three (3) daily bag limits.

E. Pacific Flyway Eastern Zone - All of Routt, Grand, Summit, Eagle, and Pitkin counties, those portions of Saguache, San Juan, Hinsdale, and Mineral counties west of the Continental Divide, and those portions of Gunnison County except the North Fork of the Gunnison River Valley (GMUs 521, 53, and 63), and that portion of Moffat County east of the northern intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line, south along Moffat County Rd 29 to the intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line (Elkhead Reservoir State Park).

1. Dates:
a. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~11~~16, ~~2019~~2020
2. Daily Bag Limit:
a. Ducks and Mergansers: Seven (7) in the aggregate. Of the 7 (seven), no more than two (2) female mallards, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, and three (3) scaup. No scaup may be taken after December ~~23~~29, ~~2018~~2019.
b. Coots: Twenty-five (25).
3. Possession limit:
a. Three (3) daily bag limits.

#512 – GOOSE

A. North Park – Jackson County

1. Dates:
a. Dark goose:
1. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~11~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
b. Light goose: November ~~3~~2, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
a. Dark goose: Five (5).
b. Light goose: Fifty (50).
3. Possession limit:
a. Dark goose: Three (3) daily bag limits.
b. Light goose: Unlimited.

B. South Park – All of Chafee, Custer, Fremont, Lake, Park, and Teller Counties. ~~and San Luis Valley - All of Alamosa, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Custer, Fremont, Lake, Park, Rio Grande~~

~~and Teller counties, and those portions of Saguache, Mineral and Hinsdale counties east of the Continental Divide~~.

1. Dates:
   a. Dark goose:
      1. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~11~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
   b. Light goose: November ~~3~~2, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Dark goose: Five (5).
   b. Light goose: Fifty (50).
3. Possession limit:
   a. Dark goose: Three (3) daily bag limits.
   b. Light goose: Unlimited.

C. San Luis Valley -- All of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, and Rio Grande counties, and those portions of Saguache, Mineral, and Hinsdale counties east of the Continental Divide.

1. Dates:
   a. Dark goose:
      1. First Season: October 5 – October 23, 2019.
      2. Second Season: November 23, 2019 - February 16, 2020.
   b. Light goose: November 2, 2019 - February 16, 2020.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Dark goose: Five (5).
   b. Light goose: Fifty (50).
3. Possession limit:
   a. Dark goose: Three (3) daily bag limits.
   b. Light goose: Unlimited.

~~C~~D. Northern Front Range - All areas in Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties from the Continental Divide east along the Wyoming border to Highway 85, south on Highway 85 to the Adams County Line, and all lands in Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, and Jefferson Counties.

1. Dates:
   a. Dark goose:
      1. First Season: ~~September 29~~October 5 - October ~~10~~23, ~~2018~~2019.
      2. Second Season: November ~~17~~23, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
   b. Light goose: November ~~3~~2, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Dark goose: Five (5).
   b. Light goose: Fifty (50).
3. Possession limit:
   a. Dark goose: Three (3) daily bag limits.
   b. Light goose: Unlimited.

~~D~~E. Balance of Central Flyway - All areas east of the Continental Divide, except North Park, Northern Front Range, South Park and San Luis Valley.

1. Dates:
   a. Dark goose: November ~~5~~4, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
   b. Light goose: November ~~3~~2, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Dark goose: Five (5).
   b. Light goose Fifty (50).
3. Possession limit:
   a. Dark goose: Three (3) daily bag limits.

b. Light goose: Unlimited.

~~E~~F. Pacific Flyway Western Zone - All areas west of the Continental Divide not included in the Eastern Zone.

1. Dates:
   a. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5 - October ~~8~~14, ~~2018~~2019.
   b. Second season: November ~~3~~2, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~27~~26, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Dark goose: Four (4).
   b. Light goose: Ten (10).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

~~F~~G. Pacific Flyway Eastern Zone - All of Routt, Grand, Summit, Eagle, and Pitkin counties, those portions of Saguache, San Juan, Hinsdale, and Mineral counties west of the Continental Divide, and those portions of Gunnison County except the North Fork of the Gunnison River Valley (GMUs 521, 53, and 63), and that portion of Moffat County east of the northern intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line, south along Moffat County Rd 29 to the intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line (Elkhead Reservoir State Park.

1. Dates:
   a. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~2~~8, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Dark goose: Four (4).
   b. Light goose: Ten (10).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

ARTICLE III - SPECIAL SEASONS, AREAS, DATES AND LIMITS

#513 - YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

A. Central Flyway Northeast Zone – All areas east of Interstate 25 and north of Interstate 70.

1. Dates: ~~September 29~~October 5 – ~~September 30~~October 6, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the 6 (six), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
   c. Coots: Fifteen (15).
   d. Dark Goose: Five (5).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

B. Central Flyway Southeast Zone – All areas east of Interstate 25 and south of Interstate 70, and all of El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties.

1. Dates: October ~~20~~ 19 - ~~21~~20, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the 6 (six), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
   c. Coots: Fifteen (15).
   d. Dark Goose: Five (5).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

C. Central Flyway Mountain/Foothills Zone – All areas west of Interstate 25 and east of the Continental Divide, except El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties.

1. Dates: September ~~22~~ 28 ~~-23~~29, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the six (6), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
   c. Coots: Fifteen (15).
   d. Dark Goose: Five (5).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

D. Pacific Flyway Western Zone – All areas west of the Continental Divide not included in the Eastern Zone.

1. Dates: October ~~27~~ 26 - ~~28~~27, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Ducks and Mergansers: Seven (7) in the aggregate. Of the 7 (seven), no more than two (2) female mallards, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Coots: Twenty-five (25).
   c. Dark Goose: Four (4).
   d. Light Goose: Ten (10).
3. Possession limit:
a. Three (3) daily bag limits.

E. Pacific Flyway Eastern Zone – All of Routt, Grand, Summit, Eagle, and Pitkin counties, those portions of Saguache, San Juan, Hinsdale, and Mineral counties west of the Continental Divide, and those portions of Gunnison County except the North Fork of the Gunnison River Valley (GMUs 521, 53, and 63), and that portion of Moffat County east of the northern intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line, south along Moffat County Rd 29 to the intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line (Elkhead Reservoir State Park).

1. Dates: September ~~22~~ 28 - ~~23~~29, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Ducks and Mergansers: Seven (7) in the aggregate. Of the 7 (seven), no more than two (2) female mallards, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Coots: Twenty-five (25).
   c. Dark Goose: Four (4).
   d. Light Goose: Ten (10).
3. Possession limit:
   a. Three (3) daily bag limits.

F. Youth seasons are restricted to hunting by youth 17 years of age and younger accompanied by a mentor. A mentor must be 18 years of age or older and hold a valid hunter education certificate or be born before January 1, 1949, and must accompany the youth while in the act of hunting. Mentors are not authorized to hunt ducks, geese, mergansers, or coots during this season.

#514 – SEPTEMBER TEAL

A. Lake and Chaffee counties and all areas east of I-25.

1. Dates: September ~~8~~ 14 - ~~16~~22, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily bag limit: Six (6).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

#515 – EARLY CANADA GOOSE

A. Pacific Flyway - All areas west of the Continental Divide.

1. Dates: September 1 - 9 annually.
2. Daily bag limit: Four (4).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

ARTICLE IV – CONSERVATION ORDER SEASONS, AREAS, DATES AND LIMITS

#516 – LIGHT GOOSE

A. Central Flyway – All areas east of I-25.

1. Dates:
   a. February ~~18~~ 17 - April 30, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily bag limit: Unlimited.
3. Possession limit: Unlimited.
4. Special Conditions and Restrictions
   a. Recorded or electronically amplified calls may be used to take light geese during the conservation order season.
   b. Hunting of light geese is allowed from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.
   c. A Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is not required to take light geese during the conservation order season.
   d. Shotguns capable of holding more than three rounds in the magazine and chamber combined may be used to take light geese during the conservation order season.
   e. All other regulations applicable to hunting migratory waterfowl in Colorado apply to taking light geese during the conservation order season.

ARTICLE V - VACANT

#517 – VACANT

ARTICLE VI - FALCONRY

#518 – SPECIAL FALCONRY REGULATIONS

A. Falconry is a permitted means of taking migratory game birds during regular or extended seasons.

1. Regular Seasons
   a. General hunting regulations prescribed in this chapter, including seasons and hunting hours, apply to falconry. General season bag and possession limits do not apply to falconry.
   b. Daily bag and possession limits for all permitted migratory game birds shall not exceed 3 and 9 birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to gun limits.
2. Extended Seasons
   a. There are no extended seasons.

Basis and Purpose:

These emergency regulations reflect changes made to the federal framework for migratory bird regulations in 2019.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission FINDS that adoption of these EMERGENCY REGULATIONS is imperatively necessary to comply with federal law, specifically C.F.R. Title 50, Part 20, as well as to meet federal season selection deadlines. Adoption of these emergency regulations will bring the Parks and Wildlife Commission's regulations into compliance with federal regulations with regard to hunting of pintail ducks in the Central and Pacific Flyway portions of Colorado. In addition, the Parks and Wildlife Commission FINDS that the immediate adoption of these EMERGENCY REGULATIONS is necessary to protect the public welfare- that is it allows the maximum opportunity for waterfowl hunting in Colorado allowed by federal regulations- and that compliance with the generally applicable notice and hearing requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act would prevent the Parks and Wildlife Commission from having an effective regulation in place prior to the season selection deadline. These regulations were noticed for rule-making in March of 2019, but extreme weather events forced the cancellation of that previously-scheduled meeting.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission has, to the extent it could, given notice of its emergency rule-making and allowed for public participation in the adoption of the emergency regulations.

Notice of the proposed emergency rule-making was posted at the state capitol, at the Division of Parks and Wildlife headquarters, Regional Service Centers, and Area Service Centers (area offices), indicating that the Parks and Wildlife Commission would consider the emergency regulation at its meeting on April 10, 2019, and an opportunity to comment was provided to members of the public at that time.

These proposed regulations reflect the upcoming 2019-2020 migratory bird seasons and are the result of an annual review of the entire chapter related to migratory birds. The established seasons are necessary to manage migratory bird populations in Colorado in accordance with federal laws regulating migratory birds. These regulations allow migratory birds to be harvested in a manner, which helps maintain the biological integrity of the migratory bird population while at the same time providing recreational opportunity for hunters and wildlife viewers. The regulations are also consistent with Federal guidelines provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be viewed and copies obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager, Policy and Planning Unit, 1313 Sherman, Room 111, Denver, CO 80203.

The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Wildlife Act, §§ 33-1-101 to 33-6-209, C.R.S., specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-1-106, C.R.S.

EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT FOR 120 DAYS.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THIS 10TH DAY OF APRIL, 2019.

EMERGENCY REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-5 -

MIGRATORY BIRDS ARTICLE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

#500 – DEFINITIONS:

A. "Migratory birds" means those migratory birds included in the terms and conventions between the United States and any foreign country for the protection of migratory birds.

B. "Migratory game birds" means sora, Virginia rail, sandhill crane, Wilson's snipe, mourning dove, white-winged dove, band-tailed pigeon, crows, ducks, coots, and geese.

C. "Waterfowl" means ducks and geese.

D. "Dark geese" means Canada geese, white-fronted geese, brant, cackling geese and all other species of geese except light geese.

E. "Light geese" means snow (including blue) geese, and Ross' geese.

F. "Manipulation" means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. Manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

G. "Natural vegetation" means any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. Natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

H. "Normal agricultural operation" means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with 50 C.F.R. 20.11 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 1, 2013).

I. "Normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation" means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain, that is conducted in accordance with 50 C.F.R. 20.11 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 1, 2013).

J. "Normal soil stabilization practice" means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with 50 C.F.R. 20.11 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 1, 2013).

K. "Non-toxic shot" means any shot type approved for use to take migratory game birds by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 50 C.F.R. 20.21, November 6, 2017. This federal regulation, but not later amendments to or editions thereof, has been incorporated by reference and can be viewed and copies obtained as set forth in the "Incorporated References" section of Chapter 0 of these regulations.

L. "Sinkbox" means a raft or any type of low floating device having a depression which affords a hunter a means of concealing himself below the surface of the water.

#501 – HUNTING HOURS

A. One-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to sunset, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

#502 – MANNER OF TAKING

The following are legal methods of take for game species listed in this chapter. Any method of take not listed herein shall be prohibited, except as otherwise provided by statute or Commission regulation.

A. Waterfowl and other migratory game birds:

1. Shotgun - Any shotgun not larger than 10 gauge, not firing single slugs and incapable of holding more than three (3) shells in the magazine and chamber combined and fired from the shoulder. Shotguns of any description originally capable of holding more than three (3) shells total capacity shall have the magazine so cut off, altered or plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so as to reduce the total gun capacity to hold no more than three (3) shells in the magazine and chamber combined.

2. Hand-held bow - With any hand-held bow provided that the arrow or bowstring is not held or drawn mechanically, except no bows may be used on any firing line designated by the Commission.

3. Blinds - In the open or from a blind or other place of concealment on land or water except a sink box. When camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, such camouflaging must not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed.

4. Vessels - From or by means of any vessel (excluding a sinkbox) having a motor or sails attached when the motor has been shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased or from a vessel that is drifting or being propelled by hand, or by the aid of a vessel when used solely as a means of picking up dead or injured birds.

5. Hawking or Falconry - By means of hawking or falconry.

6. Decoys, dogs, and calls - By the aid of a dog, artificial decoys, or with the aid and use of birdcalls except recorded or electrically amplified calls or sounds, unless their use has been authorized elsewhere in this chapter.

B. Non-toxic shot requirements

1. Shot size - No person shall possess or use non-toxic shot of size larger than size T while taking or attempting to take ducks, geese, or coots anywhere in Colorado.

2. Statewide, including all counties in Colorado in both the Central and Pacific flyways;
   a. No person shall use or possess shot (either in shot-shells or as loose shot for muzzle-loading) other than non-toxic shot while taking or attempting to take ducks, geese or coots.

3. Non-toxic shot is required on commercial wildlife parks, during field trials, and during dog training activities when taking captive-reared mallards in Colorado.

C. Prohibition of baiting

1. Migratory game birds and waterfowl may not be taken by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is a baited area. It is unlawful to place or direct the placement of bait on or adjacent to an area for

the purpose of causing, inducing, or allowing any person to take or attempt to take any migratory game bird by the aid of baiting or on or over the baited area.

2. As used in this sub-paragraph "baiting" means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them. "Baited area" means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.

3. Nothing in this regulation shall prohibit the taking of any migratory game bird, including waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:
   a. Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics); standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice; or standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

4. Nothing in this regulation shall prohibit the taking of any migratory game bird, except waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:
   a. Areas where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of the manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

#503 – LICENSE AND STAMP REQUIREMENTS

A. License required

1. A small game license is required to take all migratory game birds listed in #500(B) for which an open season exists.

2. Each hunter must call 1-866-COLOHIP (1-866-265-6447) or register online (www.colohip.com) prior to their first hunting trip of the season to register their intent to hunt migratory birds, and to obtain permit numbers if hunting sandhill cranes, and to provide harvest information for the previous season. "Season" means the period September 1 through March 15.

B. Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp
Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no person who has attained the age of sixteen (16) years shall take any migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) unless at the time of such taking they have on their person an unexpired Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called duck stamp), validated by their signature written across the face of the stamp in ink, or an electronic stamp issued through the Total Licensing System that provides a receipt as proof of purchase. This proof of purchase contains a unique code given to the purchaser instantly, and constitutes valid proof of purchase of a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp for a period not to exceed 45 days from the date of purchase.

C. Colorado State Waterfowl Hunting Stamp
In addition to the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, no person who has attained the age of sixteen (16) years shall take any migratory waterfowl (ducks and

geese) unless they possess and carry on their person a valid Colorado State Waterfowl Hunting Stamp, validated by their signature written, in ink, across the face of the stamp.

1. A Colorado State Waterfowl Stamp may be obtained for collection or personal purposes, but shall not serve as the required state stamp for waterfowl hunting purposes.

D. Band-Tailed Pigeon Permit
Beginning with the 2016 band-tailed pigeon hunting season, no hunter shall take any band-tailed pigeons unless at the time of such taking they have on their person an annual band-tailed pigeon permit in addition to a small game license. An annual band-tailed pigeon permit can be purchased for $5.00.

#504 - SPECIAL CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS

A. General

The State of Colorado is divided into two migratory waterfowl flyways consisting of the Pacific Flyway which includes all lands west of the Continental Divide, and the Central Flyway which includes all lands east of the Continental Divide.

1. A person may take in any one day, during the open season prescribed, not to exceed the number of migratory game birds and waterfowl permitted in this chapter. When so taken such birds may be possessed in the numbers specified in this chapter, except that no person on the opening day of the season may possess any migratory game birds or waterfowl in excess of the applicable daily limits and no person may possess any freshly killed migratory game birds or waterfowl during the closed season for such birds.

2. Nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to permit the taking of migratory game birds or waterfowl on any Federal reservation or sanctuary, or any area of the United States set aside under any law, proclamation, or executive order for use as a bird, game, or other wildlife reservation, breeding ground, or refuge, or on any area designated as a closed area under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act except as may be permitted by these regulations.

3. No migratory game bird or waterfowl may be taken at any time, or by any means, from, on or across any highway, road, designated trail, or other right-of-way, whether public or private, within the exterior boundaries of any established national wildlife refuge.

4. Open seasons are established only on such migratory game birds and waterfowl as are herein designated. Exceptions to daily bag and possession limits and to the hours of hunting stated in Federal Migratory Bird regulations shall be as prescribed in this chapter.

5. Descriptions of all closures, specific areas, and areas with special restrictions in this chapter begin with the northern boundary and are described in clockwise rotation, with all roads or designations listed connecting to the next in the progression. The following standard abbreviations are used throughout this chapter:
Colorado State highways: Colo
County: Co
County roads: Co Rd
Interstate highways: I-
Road: Rd
U.S. (Federal) highways: US

Note: Migratory bird hunting closures and special provisions and restrictions for Division properties are found in Chapter 9.

B. Possession of Live Birds

Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become a part of the daily bag limit. No person shall at any time, or by any means, possess or transport live migratory game birds taken under the provisions of this chapter.

C. Possession of Plumage and Skin of Migratory Birds and Waterfowl.

1. No permit is necessary to possess and transport for his own use the plumage and skins of lawfully taken migratory game birds and waterfowl.

2. Personal use of feathers or skins - any person for his own use may possess, transport, ship, import, and export without a permit the feathers and skins of lawfully taken migratory game birds.

D. Commercial Use of Feathers
Any person may possess, purchase, sell, barter, or transport for the making of fishing flies, bed pillows, and mattresses, and for similar commercial uses the feathers of migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese, and swans) killed by hunting pursuant to these regulations, or seized and condemned by Federal or State game authorities except that:

1. No person shall purchase, sell, barter, or offer to purchase, sell, or barter for millinery or ornamental use the feathers of migratory game birds taken under authority of this chapter, and;

2. No person shall purchase, sell, barter, or offer to purchase, sell or barter mounted specimens of migratory game birds taken under authority of this chapter.

E. Most Restrictive Federal or State Law Shall Apply -
Federal and State laws and regulations govern the taking of all migratory birds, in all cases, the most restrictive State or Federal regulation shall apply by species.

F. Processing, Storage and Tagging Required
No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds or package or container of such birds has a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, the date such birds were killed, and the hunter's hunting license number.

G. Custody of Birds of Another Person
No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as required in item F.

H. Migratory Bird Preservation Facilities

No preservation facility shall:

1. Receive, possess or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment, unless accurate records are maintained showing (1) the number of each species, (2) the date such birds were received, (3) the date such birds were disposed of, and (4) the name and address of the person to whom such birds were delivered, or

2. Destroy any records required to be maintained under this section for a period of one (1) year following the last entry on the record, or

3. Prevent any person authorized to enforce the provisions of this regulation from entering such facilities at all reasonable hours and inspecting the records and the premises where such operations are being carried on.

I. Closures

1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited within the area bounded on the north by the Colorado-Wyoming state line; on the east and south by I-76, Colo 71, US 36, and I-70; and on the west by the Continental Divide and the Larimer-Jackson county line and in Bent, Crowley, Kiowa, Mesa, Otero, and Prowers counties.
   a. Within fifty (50) yards on each side of the center line of any public road.
   b. Within one-hundred-fifty (150) yards of any dwelling including the air space directly above this closure, without first obtaining permission from the owner, occupant, or person in charge of the dwelling.

2. Hunting is restricted as specified below:
   a. Barr Lake State Park, Adams County
      1. A reservation is required to hunt and hunters must check-in and out at the check station. Reservations must be made in accordance with #901.A of these regulations.
      2. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited, except on opening day and Saturdays and Wednesdays. Hunters may only hunt the area reserved, and only from designated blinds with a maximum of three (3) hunters per blind.
      3. Dove hunting prohibited, except on opening day and Sundays and Mondays during the month of September. Dove hunters may only hunt from designated stations with a maximum of three (3) hunters per station.
      4. Hunting areas not reserved will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis after 5 am. Reserved hunting areas not occupied by 7:00 am are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
   b. Boyd Lake State Park, Larimer County
      1. A reservation is required to hunt waterfowl. Reservations must be made in accordance with #901.A, except that reservations are available on a first-come, first-serve basis starting 14 days in advance of the hunt date and may be made or canceled up to the starting time of the reserved time slot. Hunters may only hunt in the designated zone and time slot reserved.
      2. Leaving decoys set overnight is prohibited.
   c. Colorado River, Grand County–
      1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited after November 14, from Shadow Mountain Dam downstream to Twin Creek.
   dc. Colorado River, Mesa County–
      1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on and within 200 yards of the Colorado River from the Grand Avenue Bridge in Grand Junction to the west end of Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area (SWA) Wednesday through Friday of each week, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
      2. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on and within 200 yards of the river from Appleton Drain to the west end of the Walker SWA.
   ed. Grand Lake and Windy Gap Reservoir, Grand County–
      1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on the lakes and within 100 yards of the high water line.
   fe. Highline Lake State Recreation Area, Mesa County–
      1. Waterfowl and small game hunting on Highline Lake is prohibited on Saturdays and Sundays except for youth hunting waterfowl during the youth waterfowl season weekend.
      2. Small game hunting is limited to that portion of Highline Lake State Park bounded on the north and the east by the park property boundaries; on the south by the no wake buoy line; and on the west by Mack Mesa Reservoir.
      3. -A reservation is required to hunt waterfowl and hunters must check-in and out at

the check station. Reservations must be made in accordance with #901.A of these regulations. Hunters may only hunt the area reserved and only from designated blinds with a maximum of four (4) hunters per blind.

4. Hunting areas not reserved are available on a first-come, first-serve basis after 5:00 am. Reserved areas unoccupied by 7:00 am will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, any hunt area must be yielded at any time upon request of a hunter holding a valid and active reservation for that area.

gf. James M. Robb Colorado River State Park, Mesa County

1. Waterfowl hunting on the 34 Road Parcel is prohibited, except on Saturdays and Sundays. A reservation is required to hunt and hunters must check-in and out at check stations. Reservations must be made in accordance with #901.A of these regulations.
2. Hunters may only hunt the areas reserved and must park in designated areas. Hunters may only hunt from designated blinds, with a maximum of two (2) hunters per blind on the 34 Road Parcel and four (4) hunters per blind on the remainder of the state park.
3. Hunting areas not reserved are available on a first-come, first-serve basis after 5:00 am. Reserved areas unoccupied by 7:00 am will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, any hunt area must be yielded at any time upon request of a hunter holding a valid and active reservation for that area.

hg. Pueblo County - No person shall discharge a firearm or release an arrow for the purpose of hunting waterfowl within 150 yards of any dwelling, including the airspace directly above this closure, without first obtaining permission from the owner, occupant, or person in charge of the dwelling.

ih. Prewitt Reservoir, Logan and Washington counties

1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited as posted.

j. Stagecoach State Park, Routt County

1. Waterfowl hunting is limited to designated waterfowl hunting zones only, with a maximum of six (6) hunters per zone.
2. Waterfowl hunting on this property is by reservation only. Reservations must be made in accordance with #901.A of these regulations. Hunters with reservations may only hunt the hunt zone specified on the reservation. Hunters must follow check-in and out procedures as posted at the property.
3. Hunting zones not reserved are available on a first-come, first-serve basis after 5:00 am. Reserved hunting zones unoccupied by 7:00 am will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. However, any hunting zone must be yielded at any time upon request of a hunter holding a valid and active reservation for that zone.

kj. Sweitzer Lake, Delta County

1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited, except on Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays and legal holidays after Labor Day.

lk. Trinidad State Recreation Area, Las Animas County

1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited as posted.

ml. Turk's Ponds Area, Baca County

1. All human activity is prohibited within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the high water line around Turk's Pond including the administrative buildings, from the opening day of the regular duck season through the last day of the regular dark goose season as posted. Hunters are allowed inside the closure only to retrieve downed waterfowl. Hunters must leave firearms outside of closure.
2. No person shall discharge a firearm or release an arrow from, upon or across an area 50 yards on each side of the centerline of any public road.

nm. Vancil Reservoir, Morgan County

1. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited as posted.

3. Hunting is prohibited in the areas listed below, as posted by the Division.

a. Crawford State Recreation Area, Delta County

1. Hunting is prohibited, except after Labor Day.

b. Lower Latham Reservoir, Weld County

c. Mack Mesa Reservoir State Recreation Area, Mesa County
d. Meredith Reservoir, Crowley County

4. Hunting geese is prohibited as specified in the areas listed below:
   a. Dillon Reservoir, Summit County
      1. Hunting geese is prohibited Saturday through Monday of Labor Day weekend.
   b. Empire Reservoir, Weld and Morgan Counties
      1. Hunting geese is prohibited below the high water line and from any portion of the dam and inlet structures.
   c. Fossil Creek Reservoir, Larimer County
      1. Hunting geese is prohibited as posted.
   d. Jumbo Reservoir, Logan and Sedgwick Counties
      1. Hunting geese is prohibited in the area bounded on the north by Logan Co Rd 70/Sedgwick Co Rd 28; on the east by Sedgwick Co Rd 3; on the south by Sedgwick Co Rd 24.8/Logan Co Rd 970; and on the west by Logan Co Rd 95.
   e. Ovid-Julesburg Corridor, Sedgwick County
      1. Hunting geese through the dark geese season is prohibited in the area bounded on the north by US 138; on the east by US 385; on the south by I-76; and on the west by Sedgwick Co Rd 29.

#505 – SORA AND VIRGINIA RAIL

A. Statewide:

1. Dates: September 1 - November 9 annually.
2. Daily Bag Limit: Twenty-five (25) soras or Virginia rails singly or in the aggregate.
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

#506 – SANDHILL CRANE

A. All areas east of the Continental Divide except North Park (Jackson County) and the San Luis Valley.

1. Dates: ~~September 29~~October 5 - ~~November 25~~December 1, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily Bag Limit: Three (3).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

#507 – WILSON'S SNIPE

A. Statewide

1. Dates: September 1 - December 16 annually.
2. Daily Bag Limit: Eight (8).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

#508 – MOURNING DOVE AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE

A. Statewide.

1. Dates: September 1 - November 29 annually.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Fifteen (15) mourning doves or white-winged doves singly or in the aggregate.
3. Possession Limit:
   a. Three (3) daily bag limits.
4. Special Conditions and Restrictions

a. While in the field or during transport, all dressed (not fully feathered) doves shall be counted against the daily bag or possession limit for mourning and white-winged doves.

#509 – BAND-TAILED PIGEON

A. Statewide.

1. Dates: September 1 - 14 annually.
2. Daily Bag Limit: Two (2).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

#510 – CROW

A. Statewide.

1. Dates: November 1, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~28~~29, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit: Unlimited.
3. Possession Limit: Unlimited.
4. Special Conditions and Restrictions - Recorded or electronically amplified calls may be used during this season.

#511 – DUCK AND COOT

A. Central Flyway Northeast Zone – All areas east of Interstate 25 and north of Interstate 70.

1. Dates:
   a. First season: October ~~6~~ 12 - ~~November 26~~December 2, ~~2018~~2019.
   b. Second season: December ~~15~~19, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~27~~31, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the six (6), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
   c. Coots: Fifteen (15).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

B. Central Flyway Southeast Zone – All areas east of Interstate 25 and south of Interstate 70, and all of El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties.

1. Dates:
   a. October ~~24~~28, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~27~~31, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the six (6), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
   c. Coots: Fifteen (15).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

C. Central Flyway Mountain/Foothills Zone – All areas west of Interstate 25 and east of the Continental Divide, except El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties.

1. Dates:
   a. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5 - ~~November 26~~December 2, ~~2018~~2019.
   b. Second season: December ~~22~~26, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~27~~31, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:

a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the six (6), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
c. Coots: Fifteen (15).

3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

D. Pacific Flyway Western Zone – All areas west of the Continental Divide not included in the Eastern Zone.

1. Dates:
a. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5 - ~~October 17~~October 23, ~~2018~~2019
b. Second season: November ~~3~~7, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~27~~31, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
a. Ducks and Mergansers: Seven (7) in the aggregate. Of the 7 (seven), no more than two (2) female mallards, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, and three (3) scaup. No scaup may be taken after January ~~8~~12, ~~2019~~2020.
b. Coots: Twenty-five (25).
3. Possession limit:
a. Three (3) daily bag limits.

E. Pacific Flyway Eastern Zone - All of Routt, Grand, Summit, Eagle, and Pitkin counties, those portions of Saguache, San Juan, Hinsdale, and Mineral counties west of the Continental Divide, and those portions of Gunnison County except the North Fork of the Gunnison River Valley (GMUs 521, 53, and 63), and that portion of Moffat County east of the northern intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line, south along Moffat County Rd 29 to the intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line (Elkhead Reservoir State Park).

1. Dates:
a. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~11~~16, ~~2019~~2020
2. Daily Bag Limit:
a. Ducks and Mergansers: Seven (7) in the aggregate. Of the 7 (seven), no more than two (2) female mallards, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, and three (3) scaup. No scaup may be taken after December ~~23~~29, ~~2018~~2019.
b. Coots: Twenty-five (25).
3. Possession limit:
a. Three (3) daily bag limits.

#512 – GOOSE

A. North Park – Jackson County

1. Dates:
a. Dark goose:
1. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~11~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
b. Light goose: November ~~3~~2, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
a. Dark goose: Five (5).
b. Light goose: Fifty (50).
3. Possession limit:
a. Dark goose: Three (3) daily bag limits.
b. Light goose: Unlimited.

B. South Park – All of Chafee, Custer, Fremont, Lake, Park, and Teller Counties. ~~and San Luis Valley - All of Alamosa, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Custer, Fremont, Lake, Park, Rio Grande~~

~~and Teller counties, and those portions of Saguache, Mineral and Hinsdale counties east of the Continental Divide~~.

1. Dates:
   a. Dark goose:
      1. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~11~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
   b. Light goose: November ~~3~~2, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Dark goose: Five (5).
   b. Light goose: Fifty (50).
3. Possession limit:
   a. Dark goose: Three (3) daily bag limits.
   b. Light goose: Unlimited.

C. San Luis Valley -- All of Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, and Rio Grande counties, and those portions of Saguache, Mineral, and Hinsdale counties east of the Continental Divide.

1. Dates:
   a. Dark goose:
      1. First Season: October 5 – October 23, 2019.
      2. Second Season: November 23, 2019 - February 16, 2020.
   b. Light goose: November 2, 2019 - February 16, 2020.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Dark goose: Five (5).
   b. Light goose: Fifty (50).
3. Possession limit:
   a. Dark goose: Three (3) daily bag limits.
   b. Light goose: Unlimited.

~~C~~D. Northern Front Range - All areas in Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties from the Continental Divide east along the Wyoming border to Highway 85, south on Highway 85 to the Adams County Line, and all lands in Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, and Jefferson Counties.

1. Dates:
   a. Dark goose:
      1. First Season: ~~September 29~~October 5 - October ~~10~~23, ~~2018~~2019.
      2. Second Season: November ~~17~~23, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
   b. Light goose: November ~~3~~2, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Dark goose: Five (5).
   b. Light goose: Fifty (50).
3. Possession limit:
   a. Dark goose: Three (3) daily bag limits.
   b. Light goose: Unlimited.

~~D~~E. Balance of Central Flyway - All areas east of the Continental Divide, except North Park, Northern Front Range, South Park and San Luis Valley.

1. Dates:
   a. Dark goose: November ~~5~~4, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
   b. Light goose: November ~~3~~2, ~~2018~~ 2019 - February ~~17~~16, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Dark goose: Five (5).
   b. Light goose Fifty (50).
3. Possession limit:
   a. Dark goose: Three (3) daily bag limits.

b. Light goose: Unlimited.

~~E~~F. Pacific Flyway Western Zone - All areas west of the Continental Divide not included in the Eastern Zone.

1. Dates:
   a. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5 - October ~~8~~14, ~~2018~~2019.
   b. Second season: November ~~3~~2, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~27~~26, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Dark goose: Four (4).
   b. Light goose: Ten (10).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

~~F~~G. Pacific Flyway Eastern Zone - All of Routt, Grand, Summit, Eagle, and Pitkin counties, those portions of Saguache, San Juan, Hinsdale, and Mineral counties west of the Continental Divide, and those portions of Gunnison County except the North Fork of the Gunnison River Valley (GMUs 521, 53, and 63), and that portion of Moffat County east of the northern intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line, south along Moffat County Rd 29 to the intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line (Elkhead Reservoir State Park.

1. Dates:
   a. First season: ~~September 29~~October 5, ~~2018~~ 2019 - January ~~2~~8, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Dark goose: Four (4).
   b. Light goose: Ten (10).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

ARTICLE III - SPECIAL SEASONS, AREAS, DATES AND LIMITS

#513 - YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

A. Central Flyway Northeast Zone – All areas east of Interstate 25 and north of Interstate 70.

1. Dates: ~~September 29~~October 5 – ~~September 30~~October 6, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the 6 (six), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
   c. Coots: Fifteen (15).
   d. Dark Goose: Five (5).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

B. Central Flyway Southeast Zone – All areas east of Interstate 25 and south of Interstate 70, and all of El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties.

1. Dates: October ~~20~~ 19 - ~~21~~20, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the 6 (six), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
   c. Coots: Fifteen (15).
   d. Dark Goose: Five (5).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

C. Central Flyway Mountain/Foothills Zone – All areas west of Interstate 25 and east of the Continental Divide, except El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano and Las Animas Counties.

1. Dates: September ~~22~~ 28 ~~-23~~29, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily Bag Limit:
   a. Ducks: Six (6), excluding mergansers. Of the six (6), no more than five (5) mallards, of which no more than two (2) can be female, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, three (3) wood ducks, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Mergansers: Five (5), of which no more than two (2) may be hooded mergansers.
   c. Coots: Fifteen (15).
   d. Dark Goose: Five (5).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

D. Pacific Flyway Western Zone – All areas west of the Continental Divide not included in the Eastern Zone.

1. Dates: October ~~27~~ 26 - ~~28~~27, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Ducks and Mergansers: Seven (7) in the aggregate. Of the 7 (seven), no more than two (2) female mallards, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Coots: Twenty-five (25).
   c. Dark Goose: Four (4).
   d. Light Goose: Ten (10).
3. Possession limit:
a. Three (3) daily bag limits.

E. Pacific Flyway Eastern Zone – All of Routt, Grand, Summit, Eagle, and Pitkin counties, those portions of Saguache, San Juan, Hinsdale, and Mineral counties west of the Continental Divide, and those portions of Gunnison County except the North Fork of the Gunnison River Valley (GMUs 521, 53, and 63), and that portion of Moffat County east of the northern intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line, south along Moffat County Rd 29 to the intersection of Moffat County Rd 29 with the Moffat-Routt County line (Elkhead Reservoir State Park).

1. Dates: September ~~22~~ 28 - ~~23~~29, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily bag limit:
   a. Ducks and Mergansers: Seven (7) in the aggregate. Of the 7 (seven), no more than two (2) female mallards, ~~two~~ one (~~2~~1) pintail, two (2) canvasback, two (2) redheads, and three (3) scaup.
   b. Coots: Twenty-five (25).
   c. Dark Goose: Four (4).
   d. Light Goose: Ten (10).
3. Possession limit:
   a. Three (3) daily bag limits.

F. Youth seasons are restricted to hunting by youth 17 years of age and younger accompanied by a mentor. A mentor must be 18 years of age or older and hold a valid hunter education certificate or be born before January 1, 1949, and must accompany the youth while in the act of hunting. Mentors are not authorized to hunt ducks, geese, mergansers, or coots during this season.

#514 – SEPTEMBER TEAL

A. Lake and Chaffee counties and all areas east of I-25.

1. Dates: September ~~8~~ 14 - ~~16~~22, ~~2018~~2019.
2. Daily bag limit: Six (6).
3. Possession Limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

#515 – EARLY CANADA GOOSE

A. Pacific Flyway - All areas west of the Continental Divide.

1. Dates: September 1 - 9 annually.
2. Daily bag limit: Four (4).
3. Possession limit: Three (3) daily bag limits.

ARTICLE IV – CONSERVATION ORDER SEASONS, AREAS, DATES AND LIMITS

#516 – LIGHT GOOSE

A. Central Flyway – All areas east of I-25.

1. Dates:
   a. February ~~18~~ 17 - April 30, ~~2019~~2020.
2. Daily bag limit: Unlimited.
3. Possession limit: Unlimited.
4. Special Conditions and Restrictions
   a. Recorded or electronically amplified calls may be used to take light geese during the conservation order season.
   b. Hunting of light geese is allowed from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset.
   c. A Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is not required to take light geese during the conservation order season.
   d. Shotguns capable of holding more than three rounds in the magazine and chamber combined may be used to take light geese during the conservation order season.
   e. All other regulations applicable to hunting migratory waterfowl in Colorado apply to taking light geese during the conservation order season.

ARTICLE V - VACANT

#517 – VACANT

ARTICLE VI - FALCONRY

#518 – SPECIAL FALCONRY REGULATIONS

A. Falconry is a permitted means of taking migratory game birds during regular or extended seasons.

1. Regular Seasons
   a. General hunting regulations prescribed in this chapter, including seasons and hunting hours, apply to falconry. General season bag and possession limits do not apply to falconry.
   b. Daily bag and possession limits for all permitted migratory game birds shall not exceed 3 and 9 birds, respectively, singly or in the aggregate. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to gun limits.
2. Extended Seasons
   a. There are no extended seasons.

Basis and Purpose:

These emergency regulations reflect changes made to the federal framework for migratory bird regulations in 2019.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission FINDS that adoption of these EMERGENCY REGULATIONS is imperatively necessary to comply with federal law, specifically C.F.R. Title 50, Part 20, as well as to meet federal season selection deadlines. Adoption of these emergency regulations will bring the Parks and Wildlife Commission's regulations into compliance with federal regulations with regard to hunting of pintail ducks in the Central and Pacific Flyway portions of Colorado. In addition, the Parks and Wildlife Commission FINDS that the immediate adoption of these EMERGENCY REGULATIONS is necessary to protect the public welfare- that is it allows the maximum opportunity for waterfowl hunting in Colorado allowed by federal regulations- and that compliance with the generally applicable notice and hearing requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act would prevent the Parks and Wildlife Commission from having an effective regulation in place prior to the season selection deadline. These regulations were noticed for rule-making in March of 2019, but extreme weather events forced the cancellation of that previously-scheduled meeting.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission has, to the extent it could, given notice of its emergency rule-making and allowed for public participation in the adoption of the emergency regulations.

Notice of the proposed emergency rule-making was posted at the state capitol, at the Division of Parks and Wildlife headquarters, Regional Service Centers, and Area Service Centers (area offices), indicating that the Parks and Wildlife Commission would consider the emergency regulation at its meeting on April 10, 2019, and an opportunity to comment was provided to members of the public at that time.

These proposed regulations reflect the upcoming 2019-2020 migratory bird seasons and are the result of an annual review of the entire chapter related to migratory birds. The established seasons are necessary to manage migratory bird populations in Colorado in accordance with federal laws regulating migratory birds. These regulations allow migratory birds to be harvested in a manner, which helps maintain the biological integrity of the migratory bird population while at the same time providing recreational opportunity for hunters and wildlife viewers. The regulations are also consistent with Federal guidelines provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Wildlife Act, §§ 33-1-101 to 33-6-209, C.R.S., specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-1-106, C.R.S.

EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT FOR 120 DAYS.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THIS 10TH DAY OF APRIL, 2019.

APPROVED:
John V. Howard
Chairman

ATTEST:
James Vigil
Secretary

WATERFOWL HUNTING REGULATIONS IN COLORADO: A REFERENCE GUIDE

February 2019
Jim Gammonley
Avian Research Leader
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

The process of setting annual waterfowl hunting regulations is complex and can be confusing, for several reasons. First, there are multiple levels of governmental involvement and public input in the regulations process, and each level has specific constraints on timing and scope. Second, there are different types of waterfowl hunting seasons, and there are numerous types of waterfowl regulations, some of which are interdependent. Third, hunting regulations must be consistent with desired levels of harvest for multiple species or populations of waterfowl, and the status of different species or populations can vary in any given year, as well as over time. Fourth, managers rely on multiple annual monitoring programs and data sources for waterfowl populations and their habitats during the annual regulations-setting process.

Managers and administrators develop regulations for waterfowl using an informed decision-making approach. They set objectives for population sizes and appropriate levels of harvest, and develop alternative sets of hunting regulations (season lengths, bag limits, etc.) to achieve objective harvest levels. They use monitoring information to assess the status of waterfowl populations and predict (often using formal population models) the future status of populations under the various regulatory alternatives. Then they set the most appropriate set of regulations in relation to the management objectives. They use subsequent monitoring information to reassess the status of populations and the performance of the regulations, and the process resumes with the next annual cycle.

In this document, I provide a brief overview of the various components and timing of the regulations-setting process. I focus on waterfowl, but many of the same components apply to hunting regulations for other migratory game birds (doves, cranes, rails, etc.). I have attempted to organize the material so that the reader can easily find background information on a specific topic, and see how that topic fits into the overall process of setting waterfowl hunting regulations. I have also provided contacts at Colorado Parks and Wildlife for additional information.

1. REGULATION AUTHORITY

1.1 Federal Authority

Many waterfowl and other bird species in North America migrate across international boundaries during different times of the year. Representatives from the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) established primary federal authority and responsibility for migratory birds with the signing of the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds in 1916. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 implemented the convention in the United States. The United States later amended the MBTA to incorporate similar treaties with Mexico (1936), Japan (1972), and Russia (1976). Under the MBTA, compliance with these treaties is the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary has delegated this responsibility to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Regulations under the MBTA define migratory game birds as those species belonging to certain taxonomic families, including ducks, geese, and swans (Family Anatidae). The treaties allow hunting of migratory game birds only between 1 September and 10 March each year, and hunting seasons for any species cannot exceed 107 days in any area. The USFWS must consider the population status and distribution of migratory game birds each year before adopting regulations permitting hunting seasons.

1.2 Flyways

Most waterfowl in North America migrate between northern breeding and southern wintering areas. Managers have long recognized broad "flyways" or migration corridors spread out east-west across North America; relatively distinct population segments of many waterfowl species make their annual north-south movements within these flyway corridors. Consequently, management actions (such as hunting regulations) could potentially differ among flyways, but often should be coordinated north to south within a flyway. In addition, waterfowl numbers, habitat, and hunters are distributed differently across North America.

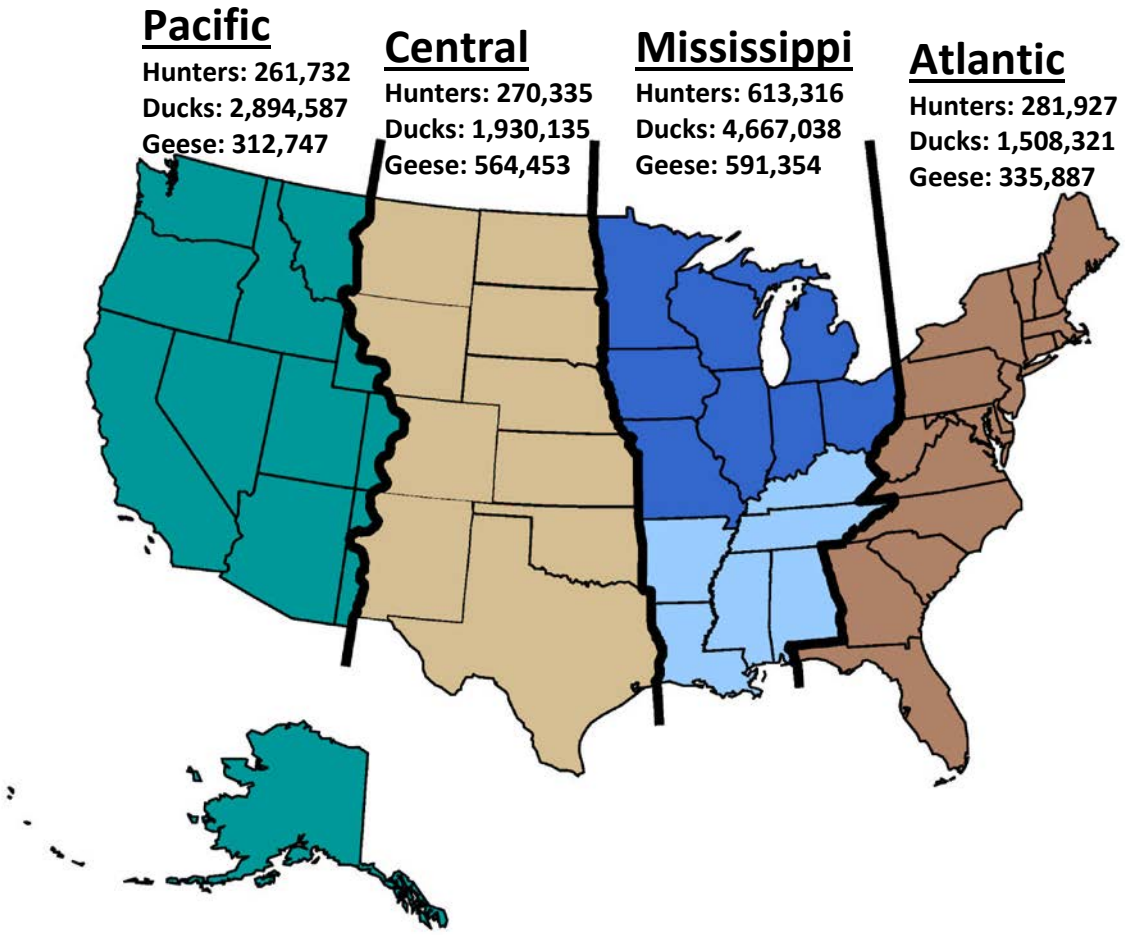
Based on these regional differences, the USFWS and states have divided the U.S. into four administrative Flyways (Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, and Pacific) for the primary purpose of managing migratory birds (Figure 1). Each Flyway has a Flyway Council, a formal organization established through the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, composed of members from each state and Canadian province in that Flyway. The four Flyway Councils also have technical committees that assist in researching and providing migratory game bird management information for federal, state, and provincial governments, as well as private conservation agencies and the public. Through these Councils, representatives from state agencies in the United States, as well as from Canada and Mexico, have major roles in coordinating management activities and developing recommendations for annual hunting regulations for waterfowl. The primary mechanism for a state to propose changes to federal regulation frameworks is to gain the support of the other states in the Flyway and forward the change to the USFWS as a Flyway recommendation. The USFWS considers the recommendations of the Flyway Councils and develops the annual frameworks, or outside limits, for waterfowl seasons for each Flyway. The USFWS retains final authority over hunting regulations for waterfowl.

1.3 Colorado

Once the USFWS establishes the Flyway-specific frameworks for season dates, season length, bag limits, and other regulations, each state in that Flyway selects regulations within those frameworks. The boundary between the Pacific and Central Flyways is the Continental Divide. In Colorado, the Parks and Wildlife Commission sets annual waterfowl hunting regulations in Chapter W-5. The Continental Divide is the boundary between the Pacific and Central Flyways. Thus, portions of Colorado are in each of these Flyways, and western and eastern Colorado are considered separate entities (states) for setting waterfowl regulations. Because federal frameworks for duck and goose hunting regulations differ between the Pacific Flyway and Central Flyway, season dates and bag limits usually do not "match" east and west of the Continental Divide in Colorado. This adds a layer of additional complexity to the state waterfowl regulations. While many waterfowl hunters are aware of Flyway boundaries and differences, sometimes it can be difficult to explain that regulations in adjacent areas of the state can have substantially different regulations primarily because the Flyway-specific federal frameworks differ.

States may always be more conservative in their regulations than the federal frameworks, but never more liberal. In general, Colorado has historically adopted the maximum season lengths and bag limits allowed by federal frameworks, for several reasons. First, Colorado is located between the major breeding and wintering areas of most waterfowl species that occur in the state during hunting seasons. Second, Colorado has relatively few waterfowl hunters and lower waterfowl harvests compared to many of the other states in the Pacific and Central Flyways. Third, other states in these Flyways also tend to adopt the maximum season lengths and bag limits permitted by federal frameworks each year. Consequently, more conservative regulations in Colorado would likely have little impact on waterfowl populations at the regional and continental scales at which they are managed, at the expense of hunting opportunity in our state.

Figure 1. Administrative Flyways in the U.S., with average annual estimated waterfowl hunters, duck harvest, and goose harvest in each Flyway.



Colorado does host (relatively small) local breeding populations of some waterfowl species. Substantial proportions of these waterfowl migrate out of Colorado during hunting seasons, however, and those that stay are generally greatly outnumbered by migrants from areas north of Colorado during the hunting seasons. Thus, historically Colorado has not considered imposing hunting regulations that are more conservative than the Flyway-specific federal frameworks as an effective way to "build up" local breeding populations of waterfowl, especially given the cost of lost hunting opportunity.

2. COMPONENTS OF REGULATIONS

In the United States, federal hunting regulations are considered either basic or annual (U. S. Department of Interior 1988). Basic regulations often remain the same from year to year, and include constraints such as methods of take, shooting hours, and ammunition types that can be used in hunting. Basic regulations are generally tied to safety issues and general views about ethical hunting practices. Details of basic regulations are not discussed in this document.

As the name implies, annual regulations can potentially change each year and are usually tied more closely to the current status of hunted populations. The specific federal frameworks for annual regulations differ among different groups of waterfowl. Managers also distinguish between regular seasons, which are applied at a Flyway scale and generally account for most waterfowl harvest, and special seasons, which provide harvest opportunities in addition to regular seasons, often address a particular waterfowl species or group of species, and sometimes are implemented at finer spatial scales than a Flyway. Federal frameworks for regulations in special seasons often change only periodically. Below, I first summarize the components of annual regulations for regular and special seasons for ducks (section 2.1), and regular and special seasons for geese (section 2.2), including dark geese (Canada geese and all other goose species except light geese) and light geese (snow and Ross's geese). Then I summarize the background and regulations for the youth waterfowl weekend (section 2.3), a special season which includes both ducks and geese.

2.1 Duck Seasons

Duck hunting regulations are relatively complicated, primarily because these seasons include numerous species, and regulations specific to certain species or sexes can be included in the overall duck hunting regulations. Continental duck populations are generally more variable over time than goose populations. In addition, some duck populations have experienced steady declines or have been well below continental population objectives in recent decades. Thus, duck hunting regulations are subject to careful scrutiny on an annual basis.

2.1.1 Regular Season: Outside Season Dates, Season Length, and Bag Limits

The MBTA restricts hunting seasons to occur between 1 September and 10 March. Within this period, the USFWS sets additional limits on the earliest opening dates and latest closing dates for duck seasons in each Flyway; since the early 2000s, the opening date framework for regular duck seasons has been in late September and the closing date framework has been late January. Each state within a Flyway can set its season any time between these dates to match when waterfowl are most abundant. States at the northern end of a Flyway tend to start their seasons as early as possible, while states at the southern end of a Flyway usually try to provide hunting opportunity as late in the winter as possible. Mid-latitude states like Colorado often try to spread out their hunting seasons to provide hunting opportunity early, mid-season, and late (see also section 2.1.3).

The MBTA limits duck hunting seasons to a maximum of 107 days. Within the outside frameworks for season dates, the USFWS annually establishes Flyway-specific season lengths based on the status of waterfowl populations. Over the past two decades the federal framework for regular duck season length has been 107 days in the Pacific Flyway and 74 days in the Central Flyway. The USFWS also establishes maximum daily bag limits for ducks in each Flyway. These limits include an overall daily duck bag limit, and lower species- or sex-specific bag limits within the overall bag for species that are declining or considered more vulnerable to harvest. Over the past two decades the federal framework for the regular duck season daily bag limit has been 7 ducks/day in the Pacific Flyway and 6 ducks/day in the Central Flyway. The federal framework for the possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

2.1.2 Adaptive Harvest Management and Other Duck Harvest Strategies

In 1995, the USFWS instituted a formal adaptive harvest management (AHM) approach to setting annual federal frameworks for regular duck hunting seasons. The AHM process is driven by the continental breeding population of mallards in each Flyway; the Western population occurs in the Pacific Flyway, the Mid-Continent population occurs in the Central and Mississippi Flyways, and the Eastern population occurs in the Atlantic Flyway. The AHM approach was initially focused on the mallard because it is the most well monitored and heavily harvested duck species in North America.

Managers established specific harvest objectives for each mallard population, as well as alternative "packages" of regulations (outside season dates, season length, and daily bag limits for total duck bag as well as male and female mallard bag) for the regular duck season in each Flyway. These regulation packages are relatively liberal, moderate, and restrictive, and have different expected mallard harvest rates. The harvest objectives and regulations packages are set at the population level. Thus, if a state wants to change these components (e.g., change the season length or bag limit in the Liberal package), the Flyway(s) and USFWS must agree to the change. In addition, managers developed population models describing how mallards respond to harvest. Each year, the USFWS uses results of continental population monitoring programs and the population models to select the most appropriate regulation package in each Flyway, in relation to the overall harvest objective for mallards. The USFWS also updates population models over time as we learn more about mallard population dynamics. The inception of AHM coincided with the start of a long period of relatively good continental breeding habitat conditions and high mallard abundance, and the USFWS has implemented the Liberal regulations package in all Flyways every year since 1995.

In recent years, separate formal harvest strategies have been developed for numerous other duck species, particularly those that appear to be more vulnerable to harvest than mallards (e.g., pintail, scaup, wood duck, canvasback). In these harvest strategies, specific harvest objectives and regulation alternatives are established, and managers select regulations each year depending on the current population status of that species. In some cases, these harvest strategies are adaptive (i.e., they formally account for uncertainty about population dynamics by including alternative population models), while others use established models that adequately predict subsequent breeding populations for different sets of regulations. Because bag limit restrictions alone are often not expected to reduce harvest enough to meet management objectives (especially under the Liberal AHM package season lengths in place over the past 20 years), these species-specific harvest strategies can include restrictions on both bag limits and season length, within the overall regular duck season frameworks (e.g., pintail, canvasback, scaup). In addition, some bag limit restrictions have been established for species that do not have formal harvest strategies (e.g., redhead, hooded merganser, mottled duck).

2.1.3 Regular Duck Season Zones and Splits

Federal frameworks further constrain how regular duck seasons can be set geographically and temporally within a state. A zone is defined as a geographic area or portion of a state (or flyway-portion of a state), with a contiguous boundary, for which season dates may be selected independently from other zones. Splitting refers to the ability of a state to divide the regular season into 2 or more temporal segments, with closed periods between segments. States have an interest in zoning and/or splitting their regular duck seasons because these tools provide flexibility in distributing duck hunting opportunity appropriately in relation to more local-scale differences in climate, habitat availability, and duck migration patterns.

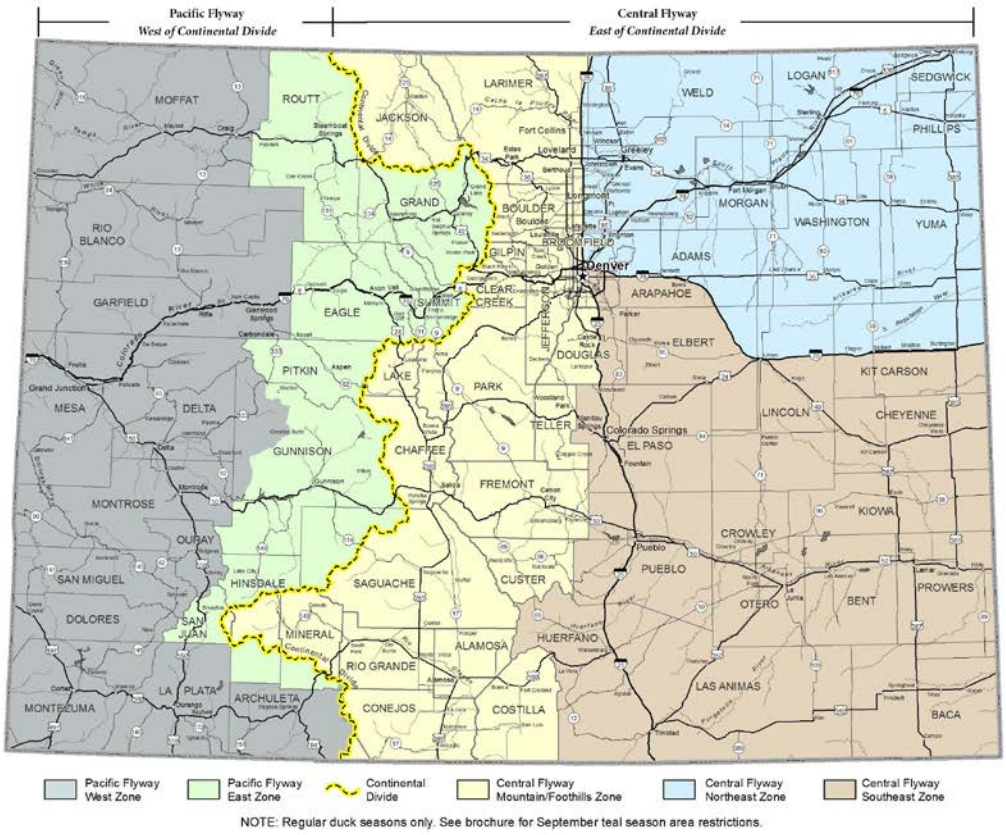
For many years, regular duck season zones and splits were considered annually in the regulations process. Beginning in 1991, the USFWS imposed a limited number of zones/split options that states could select for regular duck hunting seasons. The current options are:

1) No zones and a regular season that can be split into up to 3 segments.
2) Up to 3 zones which can have different season dates, and each of which could be divided into 2 segments.
3) Up to 4 zones which can have different season dates, but seasons could not be split in any zone.

Every 5 years, each state has the opportunity to change which of these options it wishes to use, as well as the configuration (boundaries) of its zones. The selections then must stay in place for the subsequent 5-year period (i.e., 1991-1995, 1996-2000, 2001-2005, 2006-2010, 2011-2015, 2016-2020, etc.).

Colorado is a topographically diverse state, and is split between the Pacific and Central Flyways. Colorado uses zones to distribute duck hunting opportunity geographically across the state (Figure 2). Colorado currently has two duck season zones in the Pacific Flyway portion of the state: a Western Zone that covers most of the lower elevation areas, where more late-season hunting opportunity is desired; and an Eastern Zone that includes most higher elevation areas where more early season hunting opportunity is desired. In the Central Flyway, Colorado has three duck season zones: a Mountain/Foothills Zone that covers higher elevation areas, a Southeast Zone that includes the eastern plains south of I-70, and a Northeast Zone that includes the eastern plains north of I-70. Split seasons are currently used in all zones except the Pacific Flyway Eastern Zone and the Central Flyway Southeast Zone. In other zones, seasons are split into two segments, to spread hunting opportunity over early, middle, and late portions of the hunting season.

Figure 2. Duck season zones in Colorado.

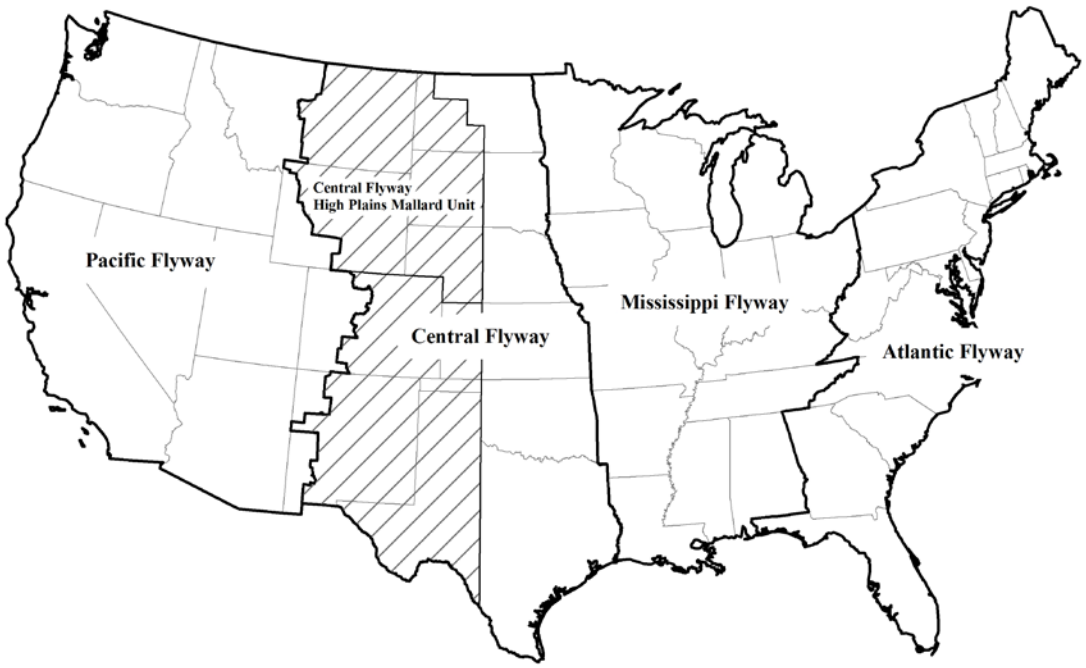


2.1.4 High Plains Mallard Management Unit (Special Season)

During the early 1960s, when duck hunting seasons were very restrictive, the Central Flyway Council began an effort to identify if additional hunting opportunity could be provided. Using existing and new data, the Council demonstrated that wintering duck populations in the western part of the Central Flyway could sustain additional hunting opportunity. The USFWS subsequently designated the portion of the Central Flyway west of approximately 100^{o} longitude as the High Plains Mallard Management Unit (HPMMU) (Figure 3). Within this area, federal frameworks allow states to add a

period of additional late-season (i.e., beginning on or after the Saturday closest to December 10) hunting days to the regular duck season; the number of HPMMU days (12 or 23 days) is dependent upon the AHM regulations package selected each year. Duck bag limits during the HPMMU days are the same as during the regular season. The entire Central Flyway portion of Colorado is in the HPMMU, and Colorado adds the HPMMU days to the end of the regular duck season in each Central Flyway zone, providing additional late-season hunting opportunity in eastern Colorado.

Figure 2. Boundaries of the High Plains Mallard Management Unit (HPMMU), in which late-season days of duck hunting are provided in addition to the regular duck season. Note that the entire Central Flyway portion of Colorado is in the HPMMU.



2.1.5 September Teal Seasons (Special Season)

Experimental September teal seasons were first conducted in the Central and Mississippi Flyways during 1965-1967. The USFWS made Special September teal seasons operational in 1969, suspended the season in 1988 due to concerns over low blue-winged teal populations, and reinstated the season in 1992. Beginning in 1998, teal seasons were expanded to the Atlantic Flyway. The focus of the September teal season is the blue-winged teal, which is an early fall migrant that is lightly harvested in the U.S. and that mainly occurs in the 3 eastern Flyways (Central, Mississippi and Atlantic). Green-winged and cinnamon teal were added to the teal season regulations to accommodate potential misidentification of these species by hunters.

A major concern with teal seasons is the potential for harvest of "non-target" species (ducks other than teal). During observations of hunting parties in the experimental teal season period, illegal harvest of non-target species was particularly high in states that had significant numbers of locally-breeding ducks (i.e., "production states"). In these states many ducks other than teal were present during September and these locally-breeding and locally-hatched ducks are relatively difficult to identify in September, before most species have molted into their brightly-colored winter plumage. To address this issue, the USFWS does not permit September teal seasons in production states. Production states in the Central Flyway include North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming; portions of Colorado and Nebraska are also considered production areas.

Colorado was initially considered a production state, but was able to demonstrate that non-target harvest was relatively low on the eastern plains and in Lake and Chaffee counties, so a teal season was permitted in these areas. Other parts of the Central Flyway portion of Colorado (i.e., east of the Continental Divide, including the Front Range foothills, North Park, South Park, and the San Luis Valley) are considered production areas and teal seasons are not permitted.

The Pacific Flyway has never participated in September teal seasons. One reason is that blue-winged teal, the primary focus of the season, are relatively uncommon in the Pacific Flyway. In addition, the Pacific Flyway enjoys longer regular duck seasons than all other Flyways; since 1997, the regular duck season in the Pacific Flyway has been 107 days, the maximum allowed under the MBTA. Creating a September teal season (which would count against the 107 duck season days) in the Pacific Flyway would require reducing the regular season length by the number of days in the teal season to ensure the total number of days did not exceed 107. Thus, a teal season has never been considered in Pacific Flyway portion of Colorado.

Federal frameworks prescribe that September teal seasons must occur between 1 September and 30 September, and can be a maximum of 9 or 16 consecutive days, depending upon the population status of blue-winged teal. All 3 species of teal may be harvested. The daily bag limit is 6 teal. In Colorado, this special season is permitted only east of I-25 and Lake and Chaffee counties.

2.2 Goose Seasons

Geese are managed at a continental population level, and there are numerous populations in each Flyway. The Flyways, in cooperation with the USFWS, have developed management plans for each population. Most of these plans do not include formal models of population dynamics, but they establish population objectives, monitoring programs, and "triggers" of population status when hunting regulation changes (i.e., more restrictive or more liberal) should be considered. Most goose populations in the Pacific and Central Flyways have been at or well above population objectives for many years, so compared to ducks there is greater emphasis on maximizing hunting opportunity.

2.2.1 Dark Goose Regular Seasons

Colorado regulations define dark geese as all goose species except snow and Ross's geese (light geese). Canada geese and cackling geese are the main dark goose species that occur in Colorado, but white-fronted geese regularly occur, and occasionally individual brant occur. In contrast to ducks, dark goose populations tend to have traditional breeding, migration, and wintering distributions that can be delineated at a finer spatial scale than a Flyway administrative unit. Consequently, dark goose hunting regulations can differ within a Flyway as they are directed at different populations that are distributed differently and have different harvest objectives. Conversely, Canada goose populations that differ in their breeding distributions often overlap extensively in their fall/winter distribution; when this situation occurs, regulations are set based on the status of the population requiring the most conservative regulations.

Dark goose season framework dates vary among Flyways. In the Pacific Flyway, regular dark goose seasons can occur between late September and late January, whereas in the Central Flyway seasons can occur between late September and mid-February. Federal frameworks for season lengths vary depending on the status of populations, but in recent years most dark goose regular season lengths have been at or near the maximum 107 days permitted by the MBTA. Bag limits for dark geese have traditionally been conservative (1 or 2) but in recent years have increased (up to 4 or 5) as Canada goose populations have increased and white-fronted goose populations have remained stable.

Unlike with ducks, states can create an unlimited number of zones for goose hunting, with different season dates in each zone. Federal frameworks permit dark goose seasons to be split into up to 3 segments. In the Pacific Flyway portion of Colorado, goose zones are the same as duck zones (Western and Eastern zones). In the Central Flyway portion of Colorado, there are dark goose zones in North Park, South Park, San Luis Valley, the Northern Front Range, and the remainder of the flyway.

2.2.2 September Canada Goose Seasons

The USFWS has established September Canada goose seasons, to provide states with additional opportunities to harvest local resident populations of Canada geese before geese migrating from other areas arrive. Current federal frameworks allow seasons of up to 30 days during 1 September to 30 September in the Central Flyway, and 15 days during 1 September to 15 September in the Pacific Flyway; the daily bag limit is 5 in both Flyways.

Colorado has implemented a September Canada goose season during September 1-9 in the Pacific Flyway portion of the state. A September season has not been implemented in the Central Flyway portion of Colorado.

2.2.3 Light Goose Regular Seasons

Light geese (snow and Ross's geese) are also managed by population. Many light goose populations are far above objective levels and continuing to increase, and federal frameworks for regulations reflect the desire of managers to maximize hunting opportunity and harvest of these geese. Outside season dates of late September and 10 March, and season lengths of 107 days, are established in federal frameworks in both the Pacific and Central Flyway portions of Colorado. Bag limit restrictions are 20 and 50 in the Pacific and Central Flyways, respectively; there is no possession limit in the Central Flyway. Seasons may be split into up to 3 segments.

2.5 Light Goose Conservation Order

The USFWS has established a conservation order (also referred to as conservation action, management action, management take) for light geese in the Central and Mississippi Flyways, due to concerns about rapidly increasing numbers of these geese. Conservation orders are distinguished from normal hunting seasons, and as such are not subject to all of the restrictions of the MBTA. Conservation orders must be implemented when other migratory game bird hunting seasons are closed. During these periods, hunters are permitted to use expanded methods of take that are not available in hunting seasons (electronic calls, unplugged shotguns, shooting until one-half hour past sunset), and there are no federally established bag or possession limits. States can impose additional regulations, and must measure and report hunter numbers, hunter activity, and harvest.

Colorado has implemented the conservation order for light geese east of I-25, after all waterfowl hunting seasons are closed and extending as late as 30 April.

2.3 Youth Waterfowl Seasons

In 1996, the USFWS established a Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day. The intent was to provide an opportunity to "introduce youth to the concepts of ethical utilization and stewardship of waterfowl and other natural resources, encourage youngsters and adults to experience the outdoors together, and contribute to the long-term conservation of the migratory bird resource" (Federal Register, Vol. 61, N0. 182, p. 49233, Sept. 18, 1996). Beginning in 1998, this special season was expanded to allow geese in the youth hunt bag. In 2000, the USFWS expanded the youth hunt to a weekend. The current federal frameworks include:

Outside Dates: Each states (or Flyway portions of a state) may select 2 consecutive days per duck hunting zone, designated as "Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days,'' in addition to their regular duck seasons. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holidays, or other non-schooldays when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. The days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season frameworks or within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds.

Daily Bag Limits: The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and gallinules and are the same as those allowed in the regular season. Flyway species and area restrictions remain in effect. Species with season restrictions (e.g., pintail, canvasback, scaup) are allowed in the daily bag during the youth hunt.

Participation Restrictions: Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger. In addition, an adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter in the field. This adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day.

Colorado has a youth waterfowl weekend in each duck zone in the state.

3. MONITORING PROGRAMS

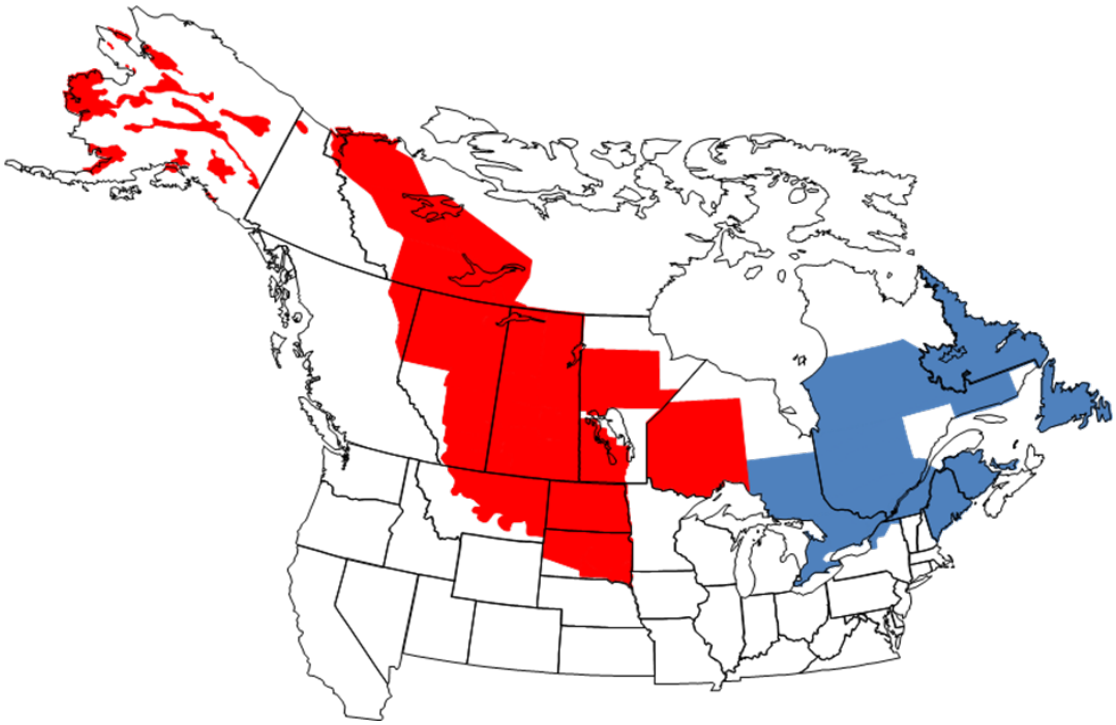
Federal mandates to consider the current status of waterfowl when setting hunting regulations motivated the development of extensive monitoring programs in North America. These monitoring programs support the annual regulatory process and consist of annual collection of data on abundance, production, distribution, harvest levels, and other population parameters, as well as habitat conditions.

3.1. Population and Habitat Surveys

A variety of operational surveys are conducted annually to obtain estimates or indices of the size of waterfowl populations. Since 1955, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service have conducted annual aerial transect surveys, coupled with ground counts in some areas to correct for visibility bias, during May to estimate numbers of ducks and geese in more than 3.6 million km^2 of breeding habitat in the north central United States, western and northern Canada, and Alaska (Figure 4). In recent decades survey coverage has been expanded to include eastern Canada and the northeastern United States, and efforts are being made to establish reliable population surveys in western North America. These survey areas cover the primary continental breeding ranges of many North American duck species. Breeding Canada geese are also recorded in the continental duck survey area, and additional operational surveys have also been established to track breeding populations of geese that occupy other areas.

Historically, Colorado Parks and Wildlife conducted breeding duck surveys in portions of the state, but these surveys were mostly discontinued by the late 1990s.

Figure 4. Areas included in the annual May Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service in the traditional survey area (red) and eastern survey area (blue).



Although variation in habitat conditions is considered an important influence on the status of many migratory game bird populations, few large-scale, operational surveys are conducted to assess the status of habitats. One exception is the annual monitoring of wetland numbers and conditions in northern prairie regions to assess habitat for breeding ducks (Smith et al. 1989). During the aerial waterfowl surveys conducted in May and July, observers record the number of ponds containing water along each transect in southern Canada and the north central United States. In addition, the Canadian Wildlife Service monitors wetland habitat conditions on a sample of survey transects each year in southern Canada.

3.2 Harvest Surveys

In the United States, annual waterfowl harvest estimates are obtained using surveys consisting of two components. The Hunter Questionnaire Survey, in operation since 1952, traditionally sampled names and addresses of hunters who purchased federal waterfowl stamps from randomly selected post offices. The Hunter Questionnaire Survey is used to obtain information on hunter activity and number of ducks and geese harvested each year. The Parts Collection Survey involves mailing of special envelopes to a sample of hunters who are asked to mail in wings of ducks and tail feathers of geese they shoot during the hunting season. These parts are identified to species, sex, and age by federal, state, and private biologists during annual “wing bees” conducted after each hunting season, to identify the composition of the annual waterfowl harvest in the United States.

In 1991, a new Harvest Information Program (HIP) was initiated to provide a more reliable, nation-wide sampling frame of all migratory bird hunters to conduct annual harvest surveys for all migratory game birds. Under HIP, each state is required to collect the name, address, and date of birth of each person hunting migratory game birds in that state; ask each hunter a series of screening

questions about their hunting success the previous year (for the purpose of improving the precision of estimates from subsequent harvest surveys; and provide this information to the USFWS each year. HIP became fully operational in 49 states (Hawaii is exempted) in 1998, and the traditional sampling procedure used in the federal waterfowl survey was replaced with the HIP sampling frame beginning with the 2002-03 hunting season.

The federal waterfowl harvest surveys provide harvest estimates for all species at the state level. Harvest estimates can also be obtained at the county level within states, but the precision of these estimates is generally poor due to small sample sizes. Colorado Parks and Wildlife historically conducted a separate state waterfowl harvest survey, but this survey was discontinued after 1997 when HIP-based federal surveys began to be conducted.

3.3 Banding

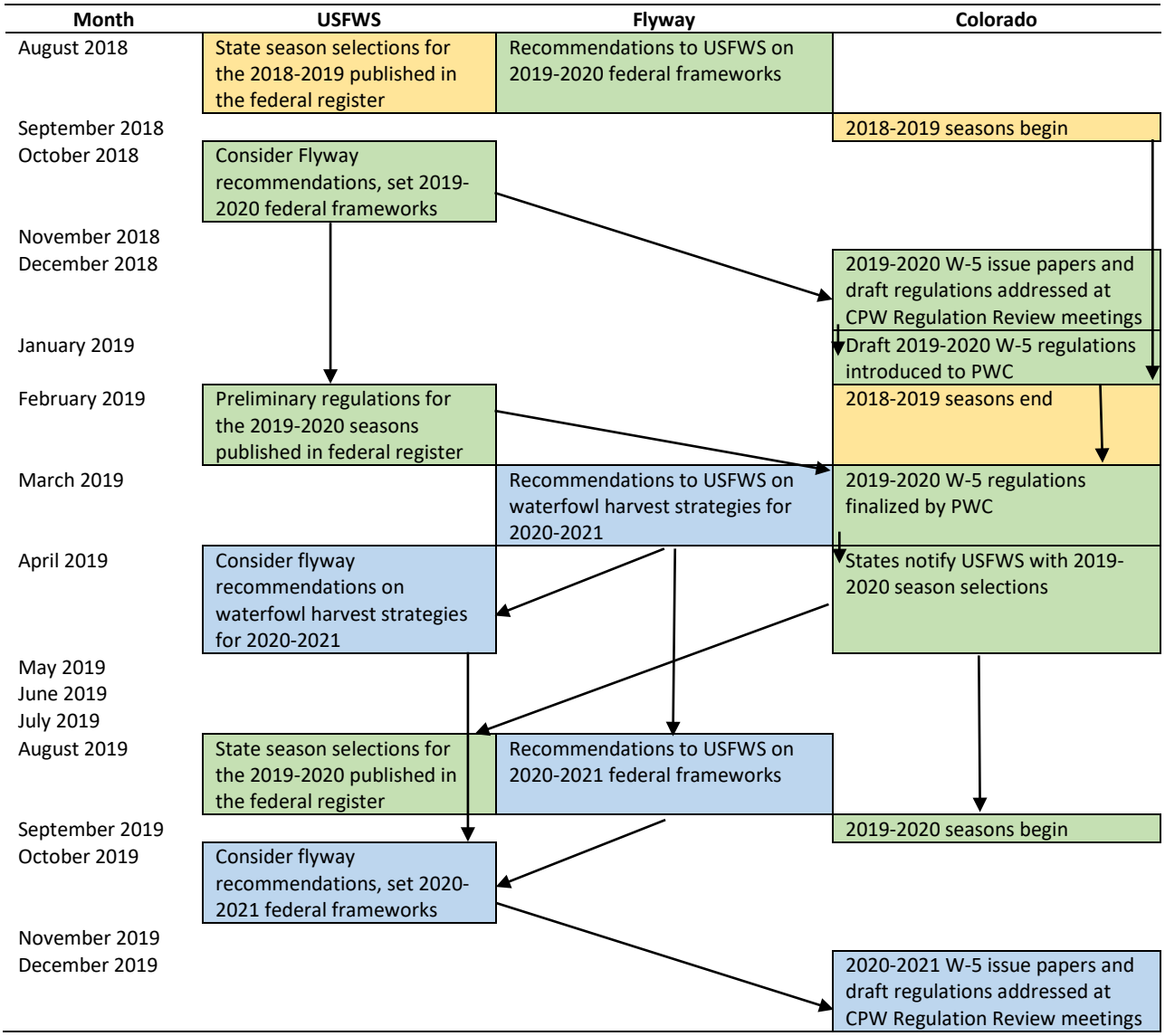
Mark-recovery methods enable managers to obtain important information about animal populations. To use these methods, biologists place individually numbered leg bands on waterfowl, usually just prior to the hunting season, and hunters are relied upon to report the band number, date, and location of harvest of banded birds they recover. Managers use banding information to identify the distribution of harvest and harvest areas associated with different breeding areas, to estimate harvest rates and relative vulnerabilities to harvest of different gender and age cohorts, and to estimate age- and gender-specific survival rates. Managers also use harvest rates from banding data and harvest estimates from harvest surveys to estimate population sizes of some waterfowl.

Banding has been particularly important in the management of waterfowl populations and their harvests. An operational duck-banding program has been in place in Canada and the United States for over 5 decades. Waterfowl managers increasingly incorporate banding information into harvest management as quantitative harvest strategies that use detailed models of population dynamics have become more widely used. Colorado Parks and Wildlife does not have any operational (i.e., on-going and annual) waterfowl banding programs, but regularly conducts banding in conjunction with specific research projects, and supports continental operational banding programs through the Flyway Councils.

4. THE ANNUAL REGULATORY PROCESS

The annual regulations process for waterfowl hunting begins more than a year before the hunting seasons begin (Figure 5). Each Flyway Council meets in March to review available monitoring data and develop recommendations for any changes to waterfowl harvest strategies. The USFWS Regulations Committee meets subsequently, with representatives from each Flyway, to make decisions on any proposed changes. The Flyway Councils meet again in late summer to develop detailed recommendations on federal frameworks for all waterfowl regulations for the following year. Individual states work through the Flyway Council to propose regulation changes. The USFWS Regulations Committee meets again in the fall to review the Flyway recommendations and determine final federal frameworks for seasons the following year. In December, CPW staff uses the federal frameworks in developing draft Chapter W-5 regulations. In January, the draft Chapter W-5 regulations are presented to the Parks and Wildlife Commission. The USFWS usually publishes the final federal frameworks in the federal register in late January or February. The Parks and Wildlife Commission finalizes Colorado's Chapter W-5 regulations in March. CPW notifies the USFWS with Colorado's season selections by the end of April, and the USFWS publishes the state season selections in the federal register before migratory game bird seasons begin in September.

Figure 5. Timing of events involved in the annual process for setting waterfowl regulations in Colorado during 2018 and 2019. Portions of three cycles are shown: 2018-2019 in orange, 2019-2020 in green, and 2020-2021 in blue. Responsibilities and actions are shown for the USFWS, Flyway Council, and state.



5. CONTACTS

The Pacific Flyway Council representative for Colorado is Craig McLaughlin.
The Pacific Flyway Study Committee representative for Colorado is Jeff Yost.
The Central Flyway Council representative for Colorado is Jeff Ver Steeg.
The Central Flyway Waterfowl Technical Committee representative for Colorado is Jim Gammonley.
Information on the Flyways is available at http://www.pacificflyway.gov/ (Pacific Flyway) and https://centralflyway.org/ (Central Flyway)