

FINAL 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 an electronic stamp license issued through the Integrated Parks and Wildlife System (IPAWS) Total Licensing System that provides a receipt as proof of purchase. -This proof of purchase is 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 ~~on the license 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.

AS APPROVED - 01/15/2020
Basis and Purpose
Chapter W-5 - Migratory Birds

Basis and Purpose:

Allowing the use of a TAN (Temporary Authorization Number) as valid documentation of Colorado Waterfowl and Federal Duck Stamp purchase for up to 14 days from the date of purchase

In 2008, the Commission approved using an electronic stamp and a unique code as proof of purchase of the Federal Duck Stamp for up to 45 days before receiving the physical copy in the mail. In 2017, the Commission approved allowing a TAN be issued for all telephone or internet sales, except for state or federal waterfowl stamps or licenses that require a carcass tag, which allows the license holder to use the license prior to receiving it in the mail. These two regulations were confusing and inconvenient for waterfowl hunters, who previously either had to purchase the Waterfowl Stamp early and wait for a physical copy to be delivered or went to a CPW license agent to buy it. Regulations W-0 002.C and related regulations in W-5 503.B have been changed to allow a TAN to be used for both Colorado Waterfowl and Federal Duck Stamps for up to 14 days from the date of purchase, until the purchaser receives the physical license.

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 MARCH 1, 2020 AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL REPEALED, AMENDED OR SUPERSEDED.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THIS 15TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.

APPROVED:
Michelle Zimmerman
Acting Chair

ATTEST:
James Vigil
Secretary