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ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 12/20/2024

ISSUE:	Should the migratory gamebird hunting seasons and bag limits be updated for 2025-2026 seasons?
DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):	
<p>The attached table and calendars contain CPW staff recommendations for proposed 2025-2026 season dates and bag limits for migratory bird hunting seasons in Colorado. These proposed regulations are consistent with the preliminary proposed federal regulation frameworks approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on November 19, 2024; final federal frameworks are expected to be published in the federal register in January 2025. The proposed Colorado season dates include adjustments for the 2025-2026 calendar.</p> <p>In addition, the USFWS and Flyway Councils have approved a revised harvest management strategy for the northern pintail (hereafter pintail). The new strategy calls for a daily bag limit of 3 in both the Pacific and Central Flyways for the 2025-2026 season (an increase from 1 during 2024-2025). USFWS has incorporated this change in pintail bag limit in the federal frameworks for 2025-2026 regulations. Although relatively few pintails are harvested in Colorado, having a daily bag limit >1 provides more harvest opportunity and helps hunters avoid harvesting “mistake’ ducks that exceed species-specific daily bag limits.</p>	
<p>STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:</p> <p>*IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.</p>	
<p>The proposed regulations represent no change from 2024-2025 seasons, other than adjustments for the calendar, and an increase in the pintail daily bag limit (from 1 to 3) to match the change in the federal framework for pintails. No changes to seasons or bag limits have been proposed by the Regions.</p>	
ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):	
<p>1. *Preferred Alternative*: See attached table and calendars. Adjustments to season dates may be made that are within the outside season dates and total season length established by federal frameworks. State regulations can be more conservative, but not more liberal, than federal frameworks.</p>	
Issue Raised by:	Jim Gammonley, Terrestrial Branch
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Brian Dreher, Matt Eckert, Adam Behney
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brian Dreher
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	YES
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	All Regions
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	NO

Regulation Change Notification: Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons for Colorado 2025-2026

Prepared by: Jim Gammonley, Draft 22 November 2024

These CPW staff proposals for regulations for migratory game bird hunting seasons (Chapter W-5) in Colorado are preliminary and contingent upon final federal regulation frameworks. Federal frameworks for 2025-2026 are expected to be published in the federal register in January 2025, and the proposed season dates and bag/possession limits presented below reflect draft federal frameworks presented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in November 2024. The proposed season dates include adjustments for the 2025-2026 calendar, and adjustments for waterfowl and crane seasons to provide an open season during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Daily bag limits are unchanged from 2024-2025, except for an increase in the pintail bag limit (from 1 to 3) in accordance with the federal framework determined under a revised national pintail harvest strategy. ↯

Season	2025-2026 Proposed Regulations			2024-2025 Regulations		
	Proposed dates	Days	Daily bag limit	Dates	Days	Daily bag limit
Sora and Virginia Rail	Sep 1-Nov 9	70	25	Sep 1- Nov 9	70	25
Snipe	Sep 1-Dec 16	107	8	Sep 1-Dec 16	107	8
Band-tailed Pigeon	Sep 1-14	14	2	Sep 1-14	14	2
Doves (Mourning, White-winged)	Sep 1-Nov 29	90	15	Sep 1-Nov 29	90	15
Sandhill Crane (regular season)	Oct 4-Nov 30	58	3	Oct 5-Dec 1	58	3
Crow	Nov 1-Feb 28	120	no limit	Nov 1-Feb 28	120	no limit
Falconry	No extended season			No extended season		
<u>Pacific Flyway Waterfowl, Coot</u>						
September Canada Goose Season	Sep 1-9	9	5	Sep 1-9	9	5
Western Duck, Coot Zone (scaup)	Oct 4-21	18	7 duck, 25 coot	Oct 5-22	18	7, 25
	Nov 6-Jan 31	87	7, 25	Nov 6-Jan 31	87	7, 25
			Oct 4-21, Nov 6-Jan 12 (86 days)	Oct 5-22, Nov 6-Jan 12 (86 days)		
Eastern Duck, Coot Zone (scaup)	Oct 4-Jan 16	105	7, 25	Oct 5-Jan 17	105	7, 25
			Oct 4-Dec 28 (86 days)	Oct 5-Dec 29 (86 days)		
Western Goose Zone	Oct 4-12	9	5 dark, 10 light	Oct 5-13	9	5 dark, 10 light
	Nov 6-Jan 31	87		Nov 6-Jan 31	87	
Eastern Goose Zone	Oct 4-Jan 7	96	5 dark, 10 light	Oct 5-Jan 8	96	5 dark, 10 light

Regulation Change Notification: Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons for Colorado 2025-2026

Season	2025-2026 Proposed Regulations			2024-2025 Regulations		
	Proposed dates	Days	Daily bag limit	Dates	Days	Daily bag limit
<u>Central Flyway Waterfowl, Coot</u>						
September Teal Season	Sep 13-21	9	6	Sep 14-22	9	6
Mountain/Foothills Duck, Coot Zone	Oct 4-Nov 30	58	6 duck, 15 coot	Oct 5-Dec 1	58	6, 15
	Dec 25-Jan 31	38		6, 15		
Northeast Duck, Coot Zone	Oct 18-Nov 30	44	6, 15	Oct 19-Dec 1	44	6, 15
	Dec 11-Jan 31	52	6, 15	Dec 11-Jan 31	52	6, 15
Southeast Duck, Coot Zone	Oct 28-Jan 31	96	6, 15	Oct 28-Jan 31	96	6, 15
North Park Dark Goose Zone	Oct 4-Jan 16	105	5	Oct 5-Jan 17	105	5
South Park Dark Goose Zone	Oct 4-Jan 16	105	5	Oct 5-Jan 17	105	5
San Luis Valley Dark Goose Zone	Oct 4-22	19	5	Oct 5-23	19	5
	Nov 22-Feb 15	86		Nov 23-Feb 16	86	
Remainder Central Flyway Dark Goose Zone	Nov 3-Feb 15	105	5	Nov 4-Feb 16	105	5
Central Flyway light goose	Nov 1-Feb 15	107	50	Nov 2-Feb 16	107	50
Light goose conservation order	Feb 16-Apr 30	74	no limit	Feb 17-Apr 30	73	no limit
<u>Youth/Military Waterfowl Weekends</u>						
Pacific Flyway Western Zone	Oct 25-26	2	Same as regular season	Oct 26-27	2	Same as regular season
Pacific Flyway Eastern Zone	Sep 27-28	2				
Central Flyway Mountain/Foothills	Sep 27-28	2	Same as regular season for duck, coot, dark goose	Sep 28-29	2	Same as regular season for duck, coot, dark goose
Central Flyway Northeast Zone	Oct 11-12	2				
Central Flyway Southeast Zone	Oct 18-19	2				

Possession limits for all seasons are three times the daily bag limit, with the exception that there is no possession limit for crow, Central Flyway light goose, and the light goose conservation order. Overall daily bag limits for ducks include the following restrictions: Pacific Flyway (daily duck bag limit = 7) – no more than 2 female mallards, 3 pintails, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup; Central Flyway (daily duck bag limit = 6) – up to 5 mallards, but no more than 2 can be female mallards, 3 pintails, 3 wood ducks, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 1 scaup.

2025-2026 Central Flyway Northeast Duck Zone Seasons

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Number of days (107 total)	
9	= September Teal
2	= Youth/Military Weekend
73	= Regular duck season
23	= High Plains Unit Days
Holidays marked in red	

2025-2026 Central Flyway Southeast Duck Zone Seasons

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Number of days (107 total)	
9	= September Teal
2	= Youth/Military Weekend
73	= Regular duck season
23	= High Plains Unit Days
Holidays marked in red	

2025-2026 Central Flyway Mountain/Foothills Duck Zone Seasons

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Number of days (107 total)	
9	= September Teal
2	= Youth/Military Weekend
73	= Regular duck season
23	= High Plains Unit Days
Holidays marked in red	

2025-2026 Central Flyway San Luis Valley Dark Goose Season

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

2025-2026 Central Flyway North Park and South Park Dark Goose Seasons

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

2025-2026 Remainder Central Flyway Dark Goose Season

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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December

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

2025-2026 Central Flyway Light Goose Season

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

2025-2026 Pacific Flyway Western Waterfowl Zone Seasons

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Number of days (107 total)	
9	= September Canada goose
2	= Youth/Military Weekend
105	= Regular duck season
96	= Regular goose season
Holidays marked in red	

2025-2026 Pacific Flyway Eastern Waterfowl Zone Seasons

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Number of days (107 total)	
9	= September Canada goose
2	= Youth/Military Weekend
105	= Regular duck season
23	= Regular goose season
Holidays marked in red	