

## Regulation Change Notification: Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons for Colorado 2020-2021

Prepared by: Jim Gammonley, Draft 12 November 2019

These CPW staff proposals for regulations for migratory game bird hunting seasons (Chapter 5) in Colorado are preliminary and contingent upon final federal regulation frameworks. Federal frameworks for 2020-2021 are expected to be published in the federal register in January 2020, and the proposed season dates and bag/possession limits presented below assume no changes to 2019-2020 federal frameworks, except as noted with an asterisk. The proposed season dates include adjustments for the 2020-2021 calendar, and adjustments for waterfowl and crane seasons to provide an open season during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Season	2020-2021 Proposed Regulations			2019-2020 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 3-Nov 29	58	3	Oct 5-Dec 1	58	3
Crow	Nov 1-Feb 28	120	no limit	Nov 1-Feb 29	120	no limit
Falconry	No extended season			No extended season		
<u>Pacific Flyway Waterfowl, Coot</u>						
Western Duck, Coot Zone	Oct 3-Oct 21	19	7, 25	Oct 5-Oct 23	19	7, 25
	Nov 7-Jan 31	86	7, 25	Nov 7-Jan 31	86	7, 25
(scaup)	Oct 3-Oct 21, Nov 7-Jan 12 (86 days total)			Oct 5-Oct 23, Nov 7-Jan 12 (86 days total)		
Eastern Duck, Coot Zone	Oct 3-Jan 14	105	7, 25	Oct 5-Jan 16	105	7, 25
(scaup)	Oct 3-Dec 27 (86 days total)			Oct 5-Dec 29 (86 days total)		
September Canada Goose Season	Sep 1-9	9	4	Sep 1-9	9	4
Western Goose Zone	Oct 3-Oct 12	10	4 dark	Oct 5-Oct 14	10	4 dark
	Nov 7-Jan 31	86	10 light	Nov 2-Jan 26	86	10 light
Eastern Goose Zone	Oct 3-Jan 6	96	4 dark, 10 light	Oct 5-Jan 8	96	4 dark, 10 light

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Season	2020-2021 Proposed Regulations			2019-2020 Regulations		
	Proposed dates	Days	Daily bag limit	Dates	Days	Daily bag limit
<u>Central Flyway Waterfowl, Coot</u>						
September Teal Season	Sep 12-20	9	6	Sep 14-22	9	6
Mountain/Foothills Duck Zone	Oct 3-Nov 30	59	6, 15	Oct 5-Dec 2	59	6, 15
	Dec 26-Jan 31	37	6, 15	Dec 26-Jan 31	37	6, 15
Northeast Duck Zone	Oct 10-Nov 30	52	6, 15	Oct 12-Dec 2	52	6, 15
	Dec 19-Jan 31	44	6, 15	Dec 19-Jan 26	44	6, 15
Southeast Duck Zone	Oct 28-Jan 31	96	6, 15	Oct 28-Jan 31	96	6, 15
North Park Dark Goose Zone	Oct 3-Jan 15	105	5	Oct 5-Jan 17	105	5
South Park Dark Goose Zone	Oct 3-Jan 15	105	5	Oct 5-Jan 17	105	5
San Luis Valley Dark Goose Zone	Oct 3-Oct 21	19	5	Oct 5-Oct 23	105	5
	Nov 21-Feb 14	86		Nov 23-Feb 16		
Northern Front Range Dark Goose Zone	Oct 3-Oct 21	19	5	Oct 5-Oct 23	12	5
	Nov 21-Feb 14	86		Nov 23-Feb 16	93	
Remainder Central Flyway Dark Goose Zone	Nov 2-Feb 14	105	5	Nov 4-Feb 16	105	5
Central Flyway light goose	Oct 31-Feb 14	107	50	Nov 2-Feb 16	107	50
Light goose conservation order	Feb 15-Apr 30	75	no limit	Feb 17-Apr 30	72	no limit
<u>**Youth/Military Waterfowl Weekends</u>						
Pacific Flyway Western Zone	Oct 24-25	2		Oct 26-27	2	
Pacific Flyway Eastern Zone	Sep 26-27	2		Sep 28-29	2	
Central Flyway Mountain/Foothills	Sep 26-27	2		Sep 28-29	2	
Central Flyway Northeast Zone	Oct 3-4	2		Oct 5-6	2	
Central Flyway Southeast Zone	Oct 24-25	2		Oct 19-20	2	

Possession limits for all seasons are three times the daily bag limit, with the exception that there is no possession limit for Eurasian collared-dove, crow, Central Flyway light goose, and the light goose conservation order. Overall daily bag limits for ducks include the following restrictions: Pacific Flyway – no more than 2 female mallards, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup; Central

Flyway – up to 5 mallards, but no more than 2 can be female mallards, 1 pintail, 2 canvasbacks, 2 redheads, 3 wood ducks, 1 scaup; in addition to the daily duck bag, 5 mergansers may be taken, 2 of which can be hooded mergansers.

\*The scaup daily bag limit has been decreased from 3 to 2 in the Pacific Flyway and from 3 to 1 in the Central Flyway.

\*\*The youth waterfowl weekends in each duck zone may be expanded to allow participation by veterans and active members of the military (see issue paper).

# 2020-2021 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						

- 9 = September Teal
- 2 = Youth Weekend
- 73 = Regular duck season
- 23 = High Plains Unit Days

# 2020-2021 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
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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						

- 9 = September Teal
- 2 = Youth Weekend
- 73 = Regular duck season
- 23 = High Plains Unit Days

# 2020-2021 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
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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
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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						

- 9 = September Teal
- 2 = Youth Weekend
- 73 = Regular duck season
- 23 = High Plains Unit Days

# 2020-20210 Central Flyway Northern Front Range and San Luis Valley 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
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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
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## December

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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

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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
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# 2020-2021 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
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## November

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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## December

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## January

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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
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# 2020-2021 Remainder Central Flyway 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

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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## November

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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## December

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## January

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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
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# 2020-2021 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

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## December

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		1	2	3	4	5
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27	28	29	30	31		

## January

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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
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# 2020-2021 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						

- 9 = September Canada goose
- 2 = Youth Weekend
- 105 = Regular duck season
- 96 = Regular goose season

# 2020-2021 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						

- 9 = September Canada goose
- 2 = Youth Weekend
- 105 = Regular duck season
- 96 = Regular goose season

## ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 12/17/2019

<b>ISSUE:</b>	<b>Should the current youth waterfowl days be expanded to also permit waterfowl hunting by veterans and active military members, and should an additional two days for youth, veterans, and active military be provided?</b>
<b>DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):</b>	
<p>Since 1998, federal frameworks have allowed states to have two days of waterfowl hunting for youth hunters, outside of the regular duck hunting season. Colorado has established youth waterfowl hunting weekends in each duck hunting zone in the state, and permits youth hunters to harvest ducks and geese (dark geese only in the Central Flyway) on these weekends.</p> <p>These youth days count toward the maximum of 107 total hunting season days allowed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In the Pacific Flyway portion of Colorado, federal frameworks currently allow 107-day regular hunting seasons for ducks, a 15-day September Canada goose season, a 107-day regular season for geese, and the 2-day youth hunt. In order to meet the 107-day maximum season limits, Colorado has a 9-day September Canada goose season, and a 105-day regular duck season, a 96-day regular goose season, and a 2-day youth weekend in each Pacific Flyway zone. In the Central Flyway portion of Colorado, current federal frameworks allow for a 107-day dark goose season and a 97-day regular duck season, a 16-day September teal season, and the 2-day youth hunt. In order to meet the 107-day maximum season limits, Colorado has a 105-day dark goose regular season in each Central Flyway goose zone, a 96-day regular duck season in each Central Flyway duck zone, a 9-day September teal season, and the 2-day youth hunt in each Central Flyway duck zone. Thus, the current youth weekends replace 2 regular season duck and goose days.</p> <p>New federal regulations allow states to have up to four days of waterfowl hunting opportunity directed at youth, veteran, and active military hunters. The days could be the same or separate for youth and veterans/active military. Additional days used for these special seasons would have to be subtracted from regular season duck and goose seasons. The federal regulations are as follows:</p> <p><i>Special Youth, Veteran, and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days</i></p> <p><i>Outside Dates:</i> States may select 2 days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days,” and 2 days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days,” in addition to their regular duck seasons. The days may be held concurrently. The Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days must be held outside any regular duck season on weekends, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. Both sets of 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.</p> <p><i>Daily Bag Limits:</i> The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and those allowed in the regular season. Flyway species and area restrictions would remain in effect.</p> <p><i>Shooting Hours:</i> One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.</p> <p><i>Participation Restrictions for Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days:</i> States may use their established definition of age for youth hunters. However, youth hunters must be under the age of 18. In addition, an adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day. Youth hunters 16 years of age and older must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp). Swans may only be taken by participants possessing applicable swan permits.</p> <p><i>Participation Restrictions for Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days:</i> Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may participate. All hunters must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp). Swans may only be taken by participants possessing applicable swan permits.</p>	

<p>When these new federal regulations were first proposed in 2019, CPW Regulation Review Managers discussed them and indicated that in Colorado we would likely add veterans and active military to the current youth weekends, rather than establish separate days for youth and military hunters, in order to minimize impacts on the length of regular waterfowl seasons. Having concurrent youth and military days potentially could pose challenges. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult, but it is unclear whether a military hunter could both hunt and accompany youth hunters. Competition for hunting areas may increase if both youth and military hunters are sharing the same days. CPW has no information on current participation in youth days, or information on interest among veterans and active military personnel in Colorado in having designated military hunting days.</p>	
<p><b>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:</b></p>	
<p><b>*IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.</b></p>	
<p>No formal input process.</p>	
<p><b>ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):</b></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>*Preferred Alternative*:</b> Beginning with the 2020-2021 seasons, modify the existing youth waterfowl hunting weekends to also allow hunting by veterans and active military.</li> <li>2. No change in current regulations.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Issue Raised by:</b></p>	<p>Jim Gammonley</p>
<p><b>Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):</b></p>	
<p><b>CC:</b></p>	<p>Jeff Ver Steeg, Brian Dreher, Jeff Yost, Regional Managers, Area Managers, Senior Terrestrial Biologists</p>
<p><b>APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:</b></p>	<p><b>JEFF VER STEEG</b></p>
<p><b>REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p><b>ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>
<p><b>REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION</b></p>	<p>Research, Policy and Planning, Regions</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO</p>