



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2014

Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59620-0701
August 7, 2014

Ravalli County Commissioners

Dear Interested Person:

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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is requesting public review and comment on proposed 2014 Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations for ducks, geese, swans and coots and a proposed 2015 Annual Work Plan for Elk Management Guidelines in Areas with Brucellosis. Additional information is below including the deadline for public comment.

2014 Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations – Proposed

Proposed changes noted below. All other late season migratory bird regulations are proposed to remain unchanged from 2013. The 2013 regulations are available for review on the fwp.mt.gov website.

Central Flyway

- Youth Waterfowl Season: Sept. 27-28 (2 days – limits below apply)
- Duck, Coot, Goose, and Tundra Swan Seasons: *Zone 2/ducks/coots/swans:* Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, and Prairie Counties; *Zone 2/geese:* Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Prairie, Carbon, and Yellowstone Counties; *Zone 1/ducks/coots/swans:* Montana's portion of Central Flyway minus Zone 2/ ducks/coots/swans; *Zone 1/geese:* Montana's portion of Central Flyway minus Zone 2/ geese
 - Ducks: Daily bag limit shall be 6 ducks or mergansers, possession limit 3 times daily limit. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 5 mallards no more than 2 of which may be hens, 2 redheads, 2 hooded mergansers, 3 wood ducks, 2 pintails, and 1 canvasback. During the first 16 days of the regular duck season in both Zones (Oct. 4 – 19), the daily bag may include 2 additional *blue-winged teal*.
 - Coots: 15 daily, possession limit 3 times the daily limit
 - Geese: Dark- 5 daily; White – 20 daily; possession limit 3 times the daily limit for both dark and white.
- Duck, Coot, and Tundra Swan (500 permits only) Seasons: *Zone 1/ducks/coots/swans* – Oct. 4 – Jan. 8; *Zone 2/ducks/coots/swans:* Oct. 4 – Oct. 19 AND Nov. 1 – Jan. 20 (*Zone 2/ducks/coots/swans* closed Oct. 20– 31)
- Goose Season: *Zone 1/geese* – Oct. 4 – Jan. 11 AND Jan. 17-21 (*Zone 1/geese* closed Jan. 12 – 16)
Zone 2/geese – Oct. 4 – Oct. 19 AND Nov. 1 – Jan. 28 (*Zone 2/geese* closed Oct. 20 – 31)
- Falconry: Ducks and coots: *Zone 1/ducks/coots:* Sept. 24 – Jan. 8; *Zone 2/ducks/coots:* Sept. 24 – Oct. 19 AND Nov. 1 – Jan. 20. Geese: *Zone 1/geese:* Oct. 4 - Jan. 11 AND Jan. 17 – 21; *Zone 2/geese:* Oct. 4 – 19 AND Nov. 1 – Jan. 28.

Pacific Flyway

- Youth Waterfowl Season: Sept. 27-28 (2 days – limits below apply)
- Ducks and coots: Oct. 4–Jan. 11 AND Jan. 17-21 (105 days); closed Jan. 12-16.
 - Ducks: Daily bag limit shall be 7 ducks or mergansers, possession limit 3 times the daily limit. Daily bag limit shall not include more than 2 hen mallards, 2 pintails, 2 redheads, and 1 canvasback.
 - Coots: 25 daily and in possession
- Goose season: Oct. 4-Jan. 11 AND Jan. 17-21 (105 days); closed Jan. 12-16.

- Geese: Dark - 4 daily, possession limit 3 times the daily limit
White - 20 daily, possession limit 3 times the daily limit
- Swan (500 permits only) Season: Oct. 11–Dec. 1
- Falconry dates: Ducks, coots, and geese: Oct. 4 – Jan. 11 AND Jan. 17-21; closed Jan. 12-16.

2015 Annual Work Plan for Elk Management Guidelines in Areas with Brucellosis – Proposed

The proposed plan is available for review on the fwp.mt.gov website under “Opportunity for Public Comment” on the Hunting home page.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE AND FINAL ADOPTION MEETINGS

The public comment period on proposed 2014 Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations will extend through 5 p.m., Friday, August 22 with final adoption at the August 26 commission conference call.

The public comment period on the proposed 2015 Annual Work Plan for Elk Management Guidelines in Areas with Brucellosis will extend through 5 p.m., Monday, September 8 with final adoption currently scheduled for the October 9 commission meeting.

TO MAKE COMMENT

For further clarification, you may call the Wildlife Bureau office at 406-444-2612. To submit comments electronically, this letter with the imbedded links below can be found under “Opportunity for Public Comment” on the Hunting home page at the fwp.mt.gov website. Written comments can be sent to: FWP – Wildlife Bureau, Attn: Public Comment, POB 200701, Helena MT 59620-0701.

2014 Late Season Migratory Bird Regulations – Proposed

The deadline for public comment on this item is 5 p.m., Friday, August 22.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HGXG37W>

2015 Annual Work Plan for Elk Management Guidelines in Areas with Brucellosis – Proposed

The deadline for public comment on this item is 5 p.m., Monday, September 8.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PV6GRBG>