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Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

MAR 01 2017

Ravalli County Commissioners

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Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
February 13, 2017

Dear Interested Person:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is requesting public review and comment on the following items. Supporting information on this item can be found on our website under "Opportunity for Public Comment" at fwp.mt.gov/hunting/ or directly by using the links below.

2017 Migratory Bird (Waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes, Mourning Doves and Snipe) – Proposed

For the 2017-18 migratory bird regulations, FWP proposes:

- Expanding sandhill crane hunting opportunities in the Rocky Mountain Population by adding 7 days to sandhill crane seasons to equal the federal framework maximum of 30 days.
- Reduce the daily pintail bag limit from 2 to 1 in both flyways in accordance with the federal framework.
- Reduce the closed period in the Central Flyway Zone 2 split duck, coot, and goose seasons from 12 days (October 9-20) to 5 days (October 16-20). Central Flyway Zone 2 ducks would end January 9, and geese would end January 17.
- Increase the "bonus teal" opportunity, which allows 2 additional blue-winged teal in the daily bag, in the Central Flyway duck season from the first 9 days to the first 16 days.

All other elements of the 2017-18 season are proposed to remain unchanged except for calendar rotation.

The Nature Conservancy Biennial Rule Regulating Use on Recreation Management Area Lands – Proposed

This proposal represents no change from the previous version.

This proposal would extend for two years the Nature Conservancy Recreation Management Area biennial rule previously established by the Fish and Wildlife Commission in August 2015. During the winter of 2015 MTFWP met with The Nature Conservancy to discuss ideas for a possible land recreation management plan for their 163,883 acres in Missoula and Powell counties including their Clearwater – Blackfoot Project acquisition of 117,152 acres purchased from former Plum Creek Timber Company in January 2015. The proposed renewal of this biennial rule will provide continued year-round recreational access for public use.

TO MAKE A COMMENT

For further clarification or additional materials, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612 or email at fwpwld@mt.gov. Comments will be accepted: online by using any of the links below; in writing sent to the address above; and by email to fwpwld@mt.gov.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE & FINAL ADOPTION MEETING

All proposed items will be accepting public comments until March 15th at 5 p.m. with final adoption at the April Commission meeting.

✓ **2017 Migratory Bird (Waterfowl, Sandhill Cranes, Mourning Doves and Snipe) – Proposed**

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2017/migratoryBird.html>

✓ **The Nature Conservancy Biennial Rule Regulating Use on Recreation Management Area Lands – Proposed**

<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/publicComments/2017/region2TNC.html>



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