

WAC 220-413-100 and WAC 220-416-060

Migratory Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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Wildlife Program

Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons Authorities

- USFWS Authority:
Federal Framework
 - Earliest opening date
 - Latest closing date
 - Limits
 - Season length
- State Discretion:
WAC within Federal Framework
 - Can be more restrictive but not more liberal
 - Season timing within outside dates



Washington's Waterfowl Diversity

Ducks (27 species)

- Dabbling (9)
- Diving (5)
- Seaduck (11)
- Wood duck
- Ruddy duck



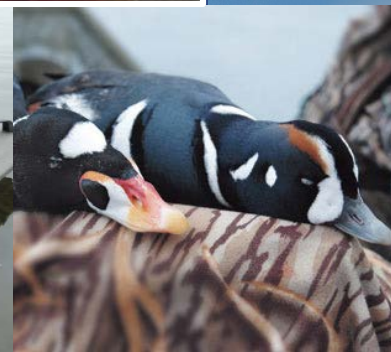
Geese (12 populations)

- Canada/cackling (7 – **one closed**)
- White (Light) (2)
- White-fronted (1)
- Brant (2)

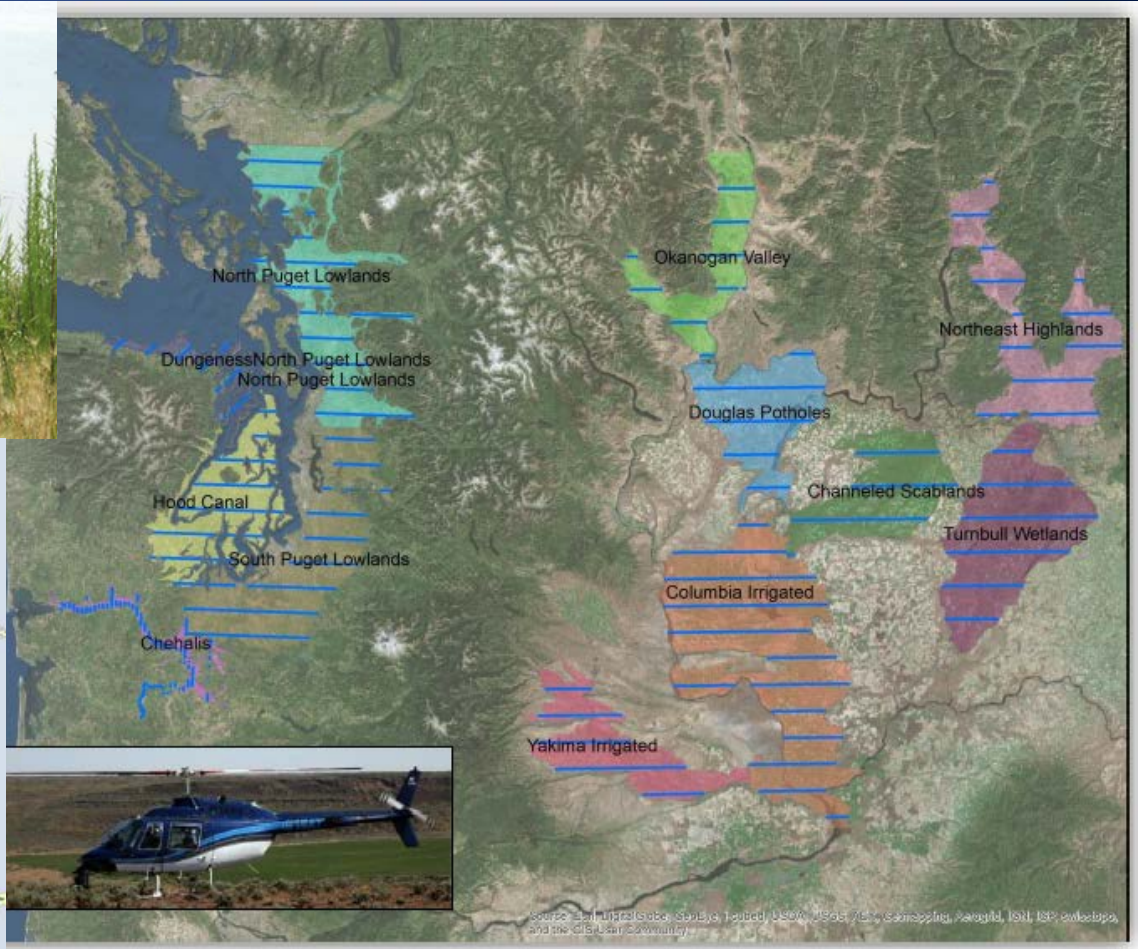
Swans (2 species – **closed to harvest**)

Other migratory gamebirds

- Doves
- Band-tailed Pigeons
- Coot
- Snipe



Duck Population Status and Season Proposals



2018-2019 Duck Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060

- Proposed general duck season dates and limits similar to 2017-2018, except pintail bag limit and youth hunt dates
 - 107 days
 - 2-day youth hunt w/recommended adjustment: Sept. 22-23, 2018 in western Washington (West Zone); Sept. 29-30, 2018 in eastern Washington (East Zone)
 - 105 day general season
 - 7 ducks, to include not more than:
 - 2 hen mallard, 2 pintail
 - 2 redhead, 2 canvasback, 3 scaup (86-day season, Nov. 3)
 - W. WA: 2 scoter, 2 long-tail, 2 goldeneye, 1 harlequin (season limit)

Goose Population Status and Season Proposals



2018-2019 Goose Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060



Canada/Cackling Geese
Bag limit = 4



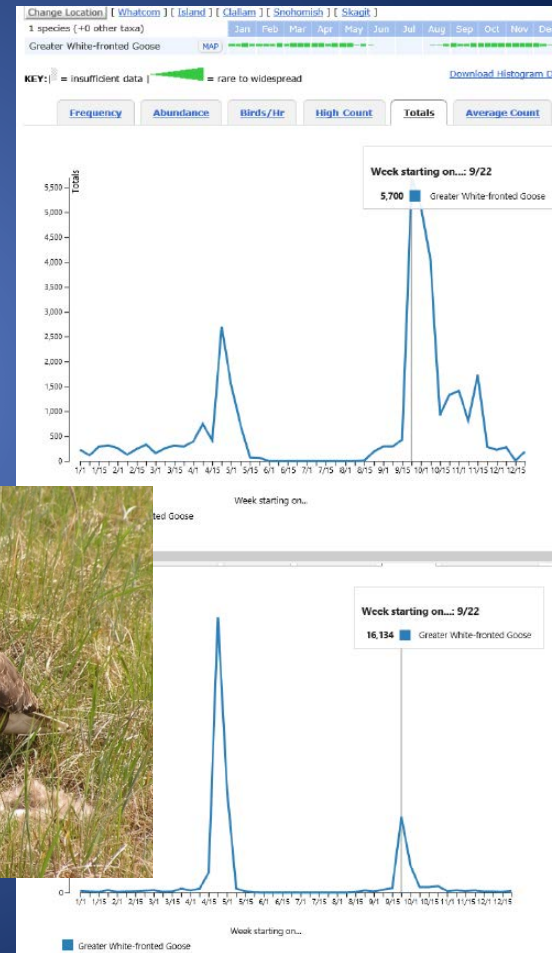
Snow Geese (white Geese)
Bag limit = 6



White-fronted Geese
Bag limit = 10

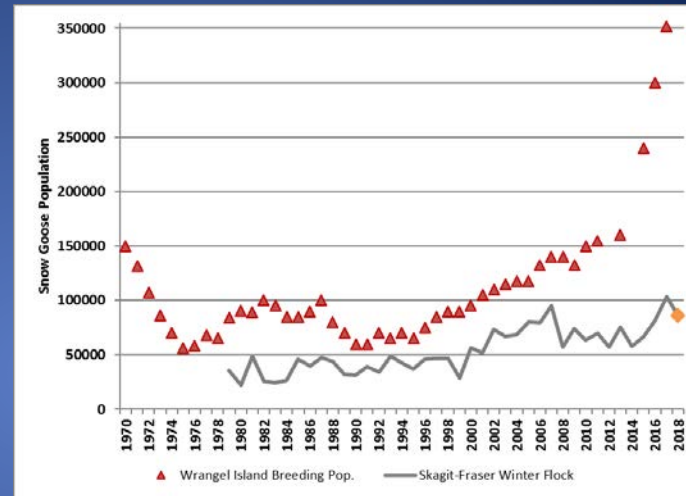
Aligning Youth Opportunities with the Waterfowl Resources

- 2-day youth hunt w/recommended adjustment: Sept. 22-23, 2018 in western Washington (West Zone); Sept. 29-30, 2018 in eastern Washington (East Zone)
- Include both Canada and White-fronted Geese



2018-2019 Goose Season Proposals

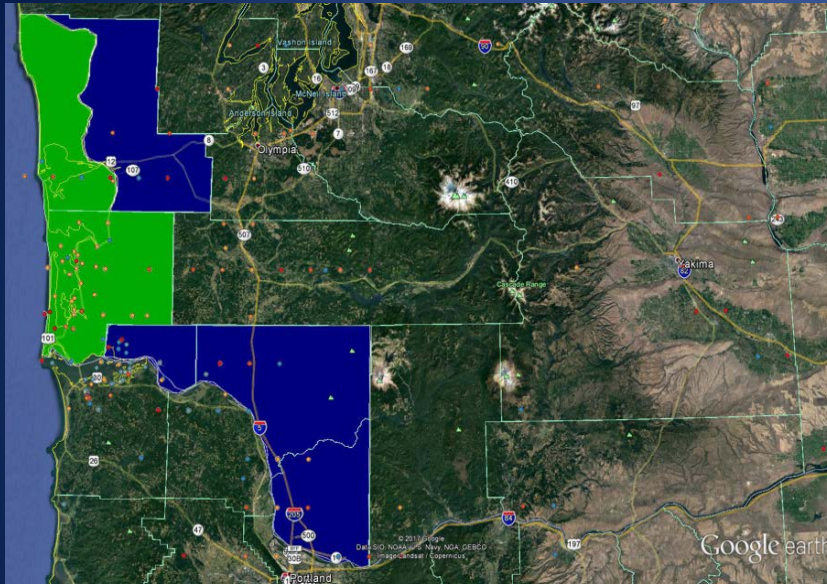
WAC 220-416-060 – GMA1 Snow Geese



- 50-70K Skagit-Fraser winter objective; Recent 3-yr = 90K
- Adjust season days later to address agricultural depredation concern
- Last year's action = increased to a 6 white goose bag limit
- Recommended adjustments (12-day period Feb. 9-20, 2019; and during this period specified WDFW lands in Skagit Snohomish Counties closed, that portion of Snohomish County east of Interstate-5 closed)

2018-19 Goose Season Proposals

WAC 220-416-060 – GMA2 Re-zone



- 54 effective goose days in 2016-17 season
- 63 effective goose days in 2017-18 season
- 78 effective goose days in 2018-19 season; includes:
 - Youth weekend
 - Sept goose
 - Regular season
 - Overlapping
 - Non-overlapping periods

2 - Inland	BLUE POLYGON								
Period	Start	End	# days						
First	Oct 13	Oct 28	7-days per week						
Second	Nov 24	Jan 13	Sat, Sun, Wed only* - Ridgefield NWR hunts Tues, Thurs, Sat						
Third	Feb 9	Mar 9	Sat, Sun, Wed only						
2 - Coast	GREEN POLYGON								
Period	Start	End	# days						
First	Oct 13	Oct 28	7-days per week						
Second	Nov 1	Dec 2	Sat, Sun, Wed only						
Third	Dec 22	Jan 20	Sat, Sun, Wed only						
Fourth	Feb 2	Feb 16	Sat, Sun, Wed only						

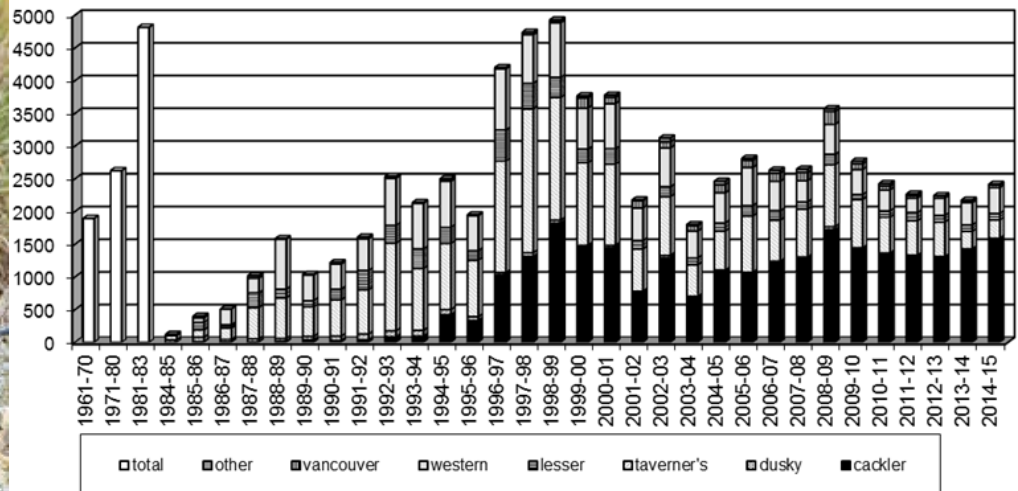
Brant Season

- No changes to brant bag limit
- Season dates between 12-27 Jan;
- Specified by county
 - Clallam: 3 days
 - Whatcom: 3 days
 - Skagit: 0, 3, or 8 days
 - Pacific: 10 days



Mandatory Report WAC 220-413-100

- Add report requirement for SW Canada goose; No extra fee.
- Move deadline to **March 20th** (from Feb 15th) for all waterfowl (brant, sea duck, snow goose, and SW Canada goose)



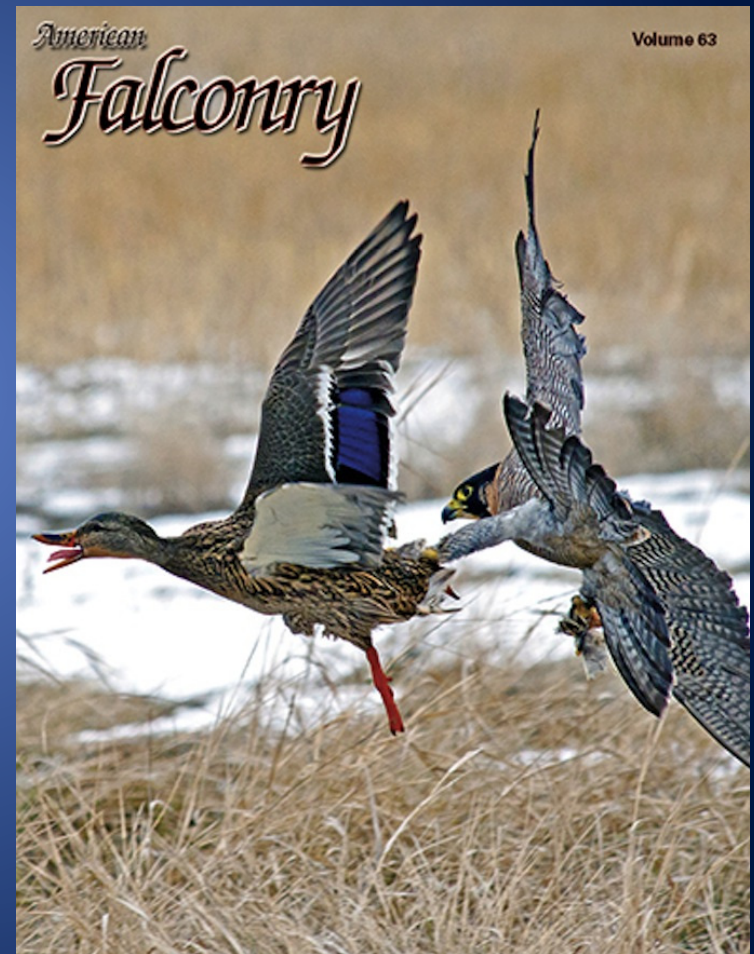
Status of Other Migratory Bird Populations and Season Proposals



No changes to season dates or bag limits.

Falconry Season Adjustment

- Season dates tied to Duck Season framework dates.
- WA currently uses 105 of 107 days.
- Increases in Bald Eagles have caused constraints to later season utility.
- Ideal to have early season success for training techniques.
- Recommended adjustment (p. 14; add section for extended falconry Sept. 22-23, 2018 in western Washington (West Zone); Sept. 29-30, 2018 in eastern Washington (East Zone))
- Includes ducks, coot, Canada geese and White-fronted geese.



Questions?

