

**2023**  
**MIGRATORY GAME BIRD**  
**JOB COMPLETION**

September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023



Photo by N. Smith

By

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## **Introduction**

In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) Migratory Game Bird Section (MGBS) conducted annual surveys to derive population indices for management. The MGBS participated in dove banding in coordination with regional partners in the Central Management Unit. Flyway membership dues in 2023 helped support the Central Flyway pre-season duck banding project in North Dakota and funds from the MGBS supported habitat conservation efforts for breeding waterfowl in Prairie Canada. The MGBS remains strongly committed to Central Flyway management efforts, including the development and revision of management plans for the various migratory game bird populations and annual season setting. These processes are accomplished through participation on the Flyway Technical Committee meetings in winter and late summer. Wyoming sends representatives to both the Pacific Flyway and Central Flyway Technical and Council meetings.

Currently, the USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management (DMBM) establishes migratory game bird regulatory frameworks during an annual meeting in September. Proposed regulations are developed for the subsequent year hunting seasons based on data and analyses available at that time. Experience gained through the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) process, which began in 1995, indicates the most appropriate regulatory package and can be reliably selected a year in advance based on current year harvest, breeding population, and wetland condition data. The Central and Pacific Flyway Technical Committee and Council meet in August or September each year to formalize regulation selection, and the Technical Committee will meet in February or March to address management plans and other technical issues.

The MGBS is involved in the management of all migratory game birds in the Central and Pacific Flyway portions of Wyoming. The section also coordinates trumpeter swan management with the nongame program and assists with the maintenance of goose hunting pits located on the Springer Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). Annual projects vary and the Department regularly assists partners in research or management efforts. In the summer of 2023, the section deployed ten GPS/GSM transmitters on white-faced ibis at Hutton National Wildlife Refuge for a population-wide research effort led by USFWS researchers.

During the past year, substantial personnel time was devoted to wetland and habitat management projects across the state. Multiple projects at Department WHMAs are underway or in planning stages. Local involvement was maintained in the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV). The Department participated in the State Conservation Partnership (formerly the Wyoming Bird Habitat Conservation Partnership), which serves both the IWJV and Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV) in the state. The IWJV administrative boundary encompasses the majority of Wyoming and the NGPJV encompasses seven counties in northeast Wyoming.

## **Ducks and Mergansers**

### **Population Surveys**

The annual duck breeding ground survey historically flown by the WGFD was suspended after 1999. Forecasts of fall duck flights are based on trends in duck breeding populations and water conditions on breeding grounds throughout the traditional survey areas in the Northern US and Canada. The traditional survey area does not include Wyoming and survey data historically collected from within Wyoming were not used in developing fall flight predictions.

In 2023, conditions throughout much of the traditional survey areas in Canada were in poor condition, described as abnormally dry to extreme drought with wildfires across Canada and above average temperatures in the arctic areas in May and June. The U.S. prairies were in better condition, improved from 2022. The estimated number of ponds in all of the traditional survey area was 9% lower than the 2022 estimate and 5% lower than the long term average (LTA). The population of breeding ducks was 7% lower compared to 2022 and was 9% below the LTA. Further information is contained in the Waterfowl Population Status report (USFWS, 2023).

A midwinter waterfowl survey is conducted during early January. The number of ducks present in Wyoming is highly influenced by weather conditions and varies substantially from year to year. The mid-winter duck count in the Central Flyway portion of Wyoming was 78% below the long-term average in 2023 (Table 1).

### **2022-2023 Harvest**

In the 2022 season, the Department estimated 80,973 ducks were harvested in Wyoming (Tables 2-4). Since the early 2000s, trends in Wyoming duck harvest have not correlated well with the increasing duck population, possibly due to severe drought that prevailed throughout much of that period. Waterfowl management areas in Wyoming are depicted in Fig. 1.

Mallards are the most prevalent species harvested in Wyoming (Raftovich et al., 2023). American wigeon, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, and gadwall are also well represented. Harvest estimates derived from the USFWS's Harvest Information Program (HIP) have consistently deviated from the Department's estimates. These data can be found in Table 5. Historic season dates are summarized in Table 25.

## **Recommendations**

1. Continue to support and participate in the Flyway system of waterfowl management.
2. Continue to support objectives of the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) program and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
3. Work with Department personnel, joint ventures, the State Conservation Partnership, Ducks Unlimited, and other interests to identify and develop wetland habitat projects designed to increase local duck production, hold more birds in the spring and fall, and provide additional harvest opportunity.
4. Increase public access within key waterfowl harvest areas statewide.
5. Provide technical consultation to recommend and implement wetland management practices that attract and hold additional waterfowl on Commission-owned WHMAs.
6. Provide biological information when requested and make recommendations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the development and eventual management of refuge lands.
7. Support duck banding efforts in both the Central and Pacific Flyways.
8. Engage in state and regional research efforts to inform migratory game bird management and wetland habitat conservation.
9. Review and critique federal policies and regulations affecting waterfowl management in Wyoming.

# WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREAS IN WYOMING

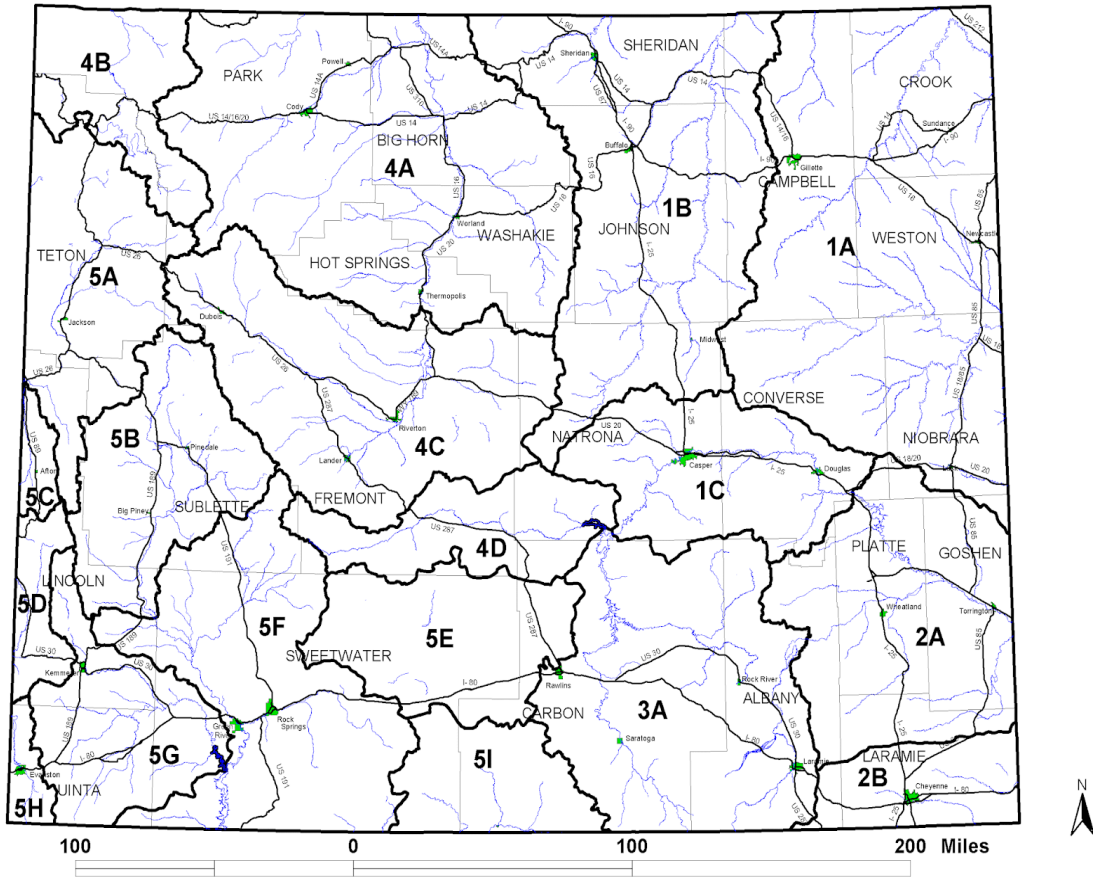


Fig. 1. Waterfowl management areas in Wyoming.

Table 1. Changes in ducks and mergansers counted during the mid-winter survey in Wyoming, 2022 to 2023.

Species	2023	2022	Percent Change from 2021	LTA <sup>a</sup>	Percent Change from LTA
Mallard	11,467	17,895	-36	49,965	-77
Gadwall	0	0	-	755	-
American wigeon	0	0	-	854	-
Green-winged teal	0	0	-	388	-
Northern shoveler	0	0	-	11	-
Northern pintail	0	0	-	149	-
Wood duck	0	0	-	17	-
Redhead	0	0	-	11	-
Canvasback	0	0	-	0	-
Scaup	0	0	-	22	-
Ringneck	0	0	-	82	-
Goldeneye	2,255	787	+187	7,081	-68
Bufflehead	0	0	-	96	-
Ruddy duck	0	0	-	6	-
Mergansers	159	36	+342	2,109	-92
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,881</b>	<b>18,718</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>62,435</b>	<b>-78</b>

<sup>a</sup>Long Term Average from 1992-2022

Source: WGFD data published in Cooper, 2023

Table 2. Duck harvest and hunter activity by flyway 2018-2022.

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>Central Flyway</b>					
No. Hunters	6,287	5,466	3,219	4,702	4,490
No. Days	37,506	29,422	18,343	24,479	22,744
Harvest	64,034	46,397	31,915	41,881	33,618
<b>Pacific Flyway</b>					
No. Hunters	2,043	2,065	1,095	1,593	1,568
No. Days	10,246	11,712	6,731	8,020	7,303
Harvest	16,939	19,735	10,955	15,305	13,906
<b>Total</b>					
No. Hunters	7,862	6,929	3,919	5,767	5,592
No. Days	47,752	41,134	25,074	32,499	30,047
Harvest	80,973	66,132	42,870	57,186	47,526

Source: WGFD 2019-2023

Table 3. Duck harvest and hunter activity within waterfowl management areas in the Central Flyway of Wyoming.

Management Area			2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Missouri/Cheyenne/ Little Powder Rivers	1A	No. Hunters	365	216	139	216	149
		No. Days	1,683	1,005	623	737	434
		Harvest	2,723	1,417	946	1,324	609
Tongue/Little Big Horn /Powder Rivers	1B	No. Hunters	296	323	165	273	286
		No. Days	1,524	1,326	1,087	1,339	1,250
		Harvest	3,516	1,177	2,817	2,964	1,978
Central North Platte River	1C	No. Hunters	996	793	431	662	769
		No. Days	6,448	5,223	2,835	4,534	4,790
		Harvest	11,915	9,246	4,831	7,177	6,906
Lower North Platte River	2A	No. Hunters	1,243	1,092	656	1,208	1,005
		No. Days	6,438	5,796	3,989	5,205	4,538
		Harvest	9,364	8,530	4,541	7,248	5,191
South Platte River	2B	No. Hunters	234	185	64	166	110
		No. Days	1,180	805	550	998	594
		Harvest	1,582	1,522	1,262	1,770	996
Upper North Platte River	3A	No. Hunters	531	545	413	428	468
		No. Days	3,183	2,130	2,534	1,917	2,207
		Harvest	6,399	3,843	5,517	3,390	3,838
Big Horn River	4A	No. Hunters	1,573	1,445	642	1,140	1,155
		No. Days	11,474	8,373	3,516	6,947	7,047
		Harvest	19,489	13,751	5,803	13,200	10,316
Yellowstone River	4B	No. Hunters	36	5	37	23	8
		No. Days	89	16	148	31	28
		Harvest	217	5	370	25	20
Wind River	4C	No. Hunters	912	776	521	521	501
		No. Days	5,052	4,083	2,558	2,457	1,697
		Harvest	7,935	6,392	4,898	4,126	3,268
Sweetwater River	4D	No. Hunters	101	86	151	65	39
		No. Days	435	665	503	314	159
		Harvest	894	514	930	657	496
Total Central Flyway		No. Hunters	6,287	5,466	3,219	4,702	4,490
		No. Days	37,506	29,422	18,343	24,479	22,744
		Harvest	64,034	46,397	31,915	41,881	33,618

Source: WGFD 2019-2023

Table 4. Duck harvest and hunter activity within waterfowl management areas in the Pacific Flyway of Wyoming.

Management Area			2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Snake River	5A	No. Hunters	340	303	302	254	341
		No. Days	1,578	1,509	1,535	1,477	1,626
		Harvest	2,593	2,684	2,056	2,357	2,482
Upper Green River Basin	5B	No. Hunters	319	208	93	164	280
		No. Days	1,885	1,173	301	741	1,070
		Harvest	2,474	1,803	476	1,297	1,485
Salt River	5C	No. Hunters	179	286	64	234	194
		No. Days	880	2,016	416	1,996	1,594
		Harvest	1,964	3,028	502	4,308	3,425
Lower Bear River	5D	No. Hunters	60	214	87	148	104
		No. Days	215	2,047	284	720	395
		Harvest	527	2,705	492	1,751	917
Great Divide Basin	5E	No. Hunters	55	20	53	82	25
		No. Days	249	189	395	357	108
		Harvest	284	73	1,534	556	201
Lower Green River Basin	5F	No. Hunters	538	511	199	467	311
		No. Days	2,650	2,210	1,380	1,543	1,406
		Harvest	3,965	4,165	2,350	2,805	2,494
Ham's/Black's Fork	5G	No. Hunters	54	32	23	47	140
		No. Days	486	96	46	535	469
		Harvest	1,385	290	89	923	1,249
Upper Bear River	5H	No. Hunters	395	408	217	144	122
		No. Days	1,887	2,283	1,534	518	542
		Harvest	3,028	4,567	2,795	791	1,373
Little Snake River	5I	No. Hunters	103	83	57	53	51
		No. Days	416	189	840	133	93
		Harvest	719	420	661	517	280
Total Pacific Flyway	No. Hunters	2,043	2,065	1,095	1,593	1,568	
	No. Days	10,246	11,712	6,731	8,020	7,303	
	Harvest	16,939	19,735	10,955	15,305	13,906	

Source: WGFD 2019-2023

Table 5. HIP estimates of duck harvest and hunter activity in Wyoming during the 2020-2022 hunting seasons.

Duck Species Composition	2022	%	2021	%	2020	%
Mallard	6,166	31.9	14,587	63.1	18,688	55.2
Gadwall	2,467	12.7	785	3.4	3,403	10.0
American Wigeon	2,941	15.2	3,352	14.5	2,565	7.6
Green-winged teal	2,467	12.7	1,812	7.8	2,251	6.6
Blue-winged Teal/Cinnamon teal	1,897	9.8	1,117	4.8	1,047	3.1
Northern shoveler	759	3.9	211	0.9	733	2.2
Northern pintail	474	2.4	393	1.7	262	0.8
Wood duck	95	0.5	272	1.2	681	2.0
Redhead	95	0.5	30	0.1	419	1.2
Canvasback	95	0.5	60	0.3	105	0.3
Lesser scaup	95	0.5	60	0.3	209	0.6
Ring-necked duck	854	4.4	211	0.9	262	0.8
Goldeneyes	379	2.0	91	0.4	2,931	8.7
Bufflehead	0	0.0	30	0.1	157	0.5
Ruddy duck	474	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Hooded merganser	95	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other mergansers	0	0.0	30	0.1	52	0.2
Other ducks	0	0.0	60	0.3	105	0.3
<b>Total Duck Harvest</b>	<b>19,353</b>		<b>23,101</b>		<b>33,870</b>	
<b>Total Active Duck hunters</b>	<b>3,300</b>		<b>3,700</b>		<b>3,700</b>	
<b>Total Duck Hunter Days a Field</b>	<b>8,900</b>		<b>19,400</b>		<b>17,800</b>	
<b>Seasonal Harvest Per Hunter</b>	<b>5.8</b>		<b>6.2</b>		<b>9.3</b>	
<b>Sample Sizes</b>	<b>204</b>		<b>765</b>		<b>647</b>	

Source: Raftovich et al. 2023

## Geese

### **Hi-Line Population of Canada Geese**

#### **Population Surveys**

The range wide count of HLP Canada geese was 325,000 during spring of 2023, up 2% from the 10 year LTA. Wetland conditions were fair in the Canadian portion, with some drought still present. The HLP range in southern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, and western Montana was generally good.

State and federal agencies conduct the MWS throughout the US during the first full week in January. The purpose is to estimate the continental population and distribution of wintering waterfowl. Numbers of geese present in Wyoming during the winter period can fluctuate markedly from year to year and within a year dependent on seasonal weather and water conditions. The 2023 count was 36.9% lower than that of 2022, and 11.8% lower than the 5-year average (Table 6).

#### **2022-23 Harvest**

According to the state harvest survey, during the 2022-23 hunting season, harvest of Hi-Line and CFAN geese increased by 107% from 2021 (Table 7). Harvest fluctuations from year to year tend to be more related to weather influences on goose distribution rather than to actual changes in the total population. Historic season dates are summarized in Table 26.

During 2022-23, the standard shooting hours for dark geese were ½ hour before sunrise until sunset except within the following areas: Goshen County north of Wyoming Highway 313 on the west side of U.S. Highway 85, and north of County Road 32 on the east side of U.S. Highway 85. Within these defined areas, the shooting hours were ½ hour before sunrise until 1:00 p.m., except when all-day hunting was allowed October 1 through October 12 and on all Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays from November 12 through the close of the dark goose season. This was a change from previous years to the time period when and boundary description of where the restricted hunting hours apply.

### **Rocky Mountain Population of Canada Geese**

#### **Population Surveys**

Spring population surveys of the Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) of Canada geese are based on the spring waterfowl breeding survey, as well as several state surveys. The 2023 estimate was approximately 184,000, 4% above the 10 year LTA.

In January 2023, 14,910 geese were counted in the Wyoming Central Flyway portion of the RMP range compared to 21,049 geese in 2022 (Table 6). Again, these counts vary markedly from year to year depending on weather conditions.

## **2022-23 Harvest**

### **Early Season**

Regulations governing Wyoming's early Canada goose season are summarized in Table 26. Wyoming does not offer an early Canada goose season in the Central Flyway portion of the RMP range. The justification for a September hunting season is to reduce damage problems by moving birds off private irrigated hay meadows and croplands while providing additional recreational hunting opportunities. In 2022, the early season harvest comprised 38% of the total goose harvest in the Pacific Flyway (Tables 9 and 10).

### **Regular Season**

Canada goose harvests during the regular waterfowl hunting season are summarized in Tables 7, 8, and 10. RMP (Western) Canada geese comprise most of the harvest in the management areas that constitute the Central Flyway portion of their range, and almost all geese harvested in the Pacific Flyway. The estimated total regular season harvest of all RMP geese in both flyways was 22,012 (Table 7).

## **Central Flyway Arctic Nesting Canada Geese**

### **Population Surveys**

The West-tier CFAN nests on Victoria and Jenny Lind Islands and on the Canadian mainland from Queen Maud Gulf west and south to the Mackenzie River and northern Alberta. West-tier CFAN geese migrate through Wyoming each fall and spring and a small number winter in Wyoming. The 2023 MWS index across the Central Flyway was 352,476 (Cooper, 2023). During the 2023 MWS in Wyoming, 3,886 CFAN geese were counted (Table 6). Since 1999, ground surveys have been conducted as an alternative means to classify large and small Canada geese present in Carbon, Converse, Goshen, Natrona, and Platte counties in conjunction with the MWS.

## **Western Central Flyway Population of Light Geese**

### **Population Surveys**

The Western Central Flyway Population is comprised of over two-thirds lesser snow geese and nearly one third Ross' geese. These geese breed in the central and western Canadian Arctic. Large colonies are present at Queen Maude Gulf and Banks Island.

State and federal agencies conduct the mid-winter waterfowl survey during the first two weeks of January to estimate continental populations of wintering waterfowl. In January 2023, 165,771 light geese were counted throughout the U.S. portion of the Western Central Flyway population's winter range (Cooper, 2023). Generally, very few light geese are present in Wyoming during December and January.

### **2022-23 Harvest**

The most recent light goose hunting regulations are summarized in Table 25. In 2023, the Department implemented the 23rd consecutive year of the Light Goose Conservation Order (Table 25). Participants were required to purchase a Conservation Order Special Management Permit and complete a survey card provided with the permit. Use of electronic callers and hunting one-half hour after sunset were allowed. Light goose harvest during the Conservation Order is summarized in Table 11. Regular season harvest is summarized by federal HIP surveys (Raftovich, 2023). Very few light geese are harvested during the regular hunting season.

### **Recommendations**

1. Continue to maintain liberal hunting seasons and bag limits.
2. Continue harvest surveys.
3. Continue the mid-winter waterfowl survey.
4. Continue ground classifications during the mid-winter waterfowl survey to estimate proportions of HLP and CFAN (large and small) Canada geese that are present.
5. Support management based on a single population of arctic-nesting, white-cheeked geese.
6. Continue the general, early Canada goose hunt in the Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming to address local damage problems.
7. Continue to implement the Light Goose Conservation Order in Wyoming.

Table 6. Central Flyway mid-winter surveys of white-cheeked geese in Wyoming, 2019- 2023.

Population	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Average
Hi-line	30,483	48,905	18,270	25,787	63,932	37,475
CFAN	3,886	8,147	3,214	4,618	8,521	5,677
RMP	14,910	21,049	9,705	10,318	7,653	12,727
Total White-Cheeked Geese	49,279	78,101	31,189	40,723	80,121	55,883

Source: WGFD data published in Cooper 2022-2023, Dubovsky 2019-2021

Table 7. Regular Season Hunter Activity and Harvest of Hi-Line, RMP, and CFAN geese in Wyoming.

Population	2022	2021	Percent Change 2020-2021	Average 2007-2020	Percent Above/Below Average
<b>Hi-Line &amp; CFAN</b>					
No. Hunters	4,437	3,923	+13	2,905	+53
No. Rec. Days	25,607	29,706	-14	15,790	+62
Harvest	41,213	19,874	+107	17,318	+138
<b>RMP Central Flyway</b>					
No. Hunters	2,326	2,072	+12	1,307	+78
No. Rec. Days	12,877	14,622	-12	7,269	+77
Harvest	19,956	11,758	+70	8,869	+125
<b>RMP Pacific Flyway</b>					
No. Hunters	963	1,210	-20	1,123	-14
No. Rec. Days	4,761	3,967	+20	4,329	+10
Harvest	2,056	6,702	-69	2,782	-26
<b>Total Harvest</b>					
No. Hunters	7,407	6,902	+7	5,334	+39
No. Rec. Days	43,245	48,295	-10	27,388	+58
Harvest	63,225	38,334	+65	28,968	+118
Birds/Hunter	8.5	5.6	+54	5.4	+57

Source: WGFD 2008-2023

Table 8. White-cheeked goose harvest in the Central Flyway of Wyoming.

Management Area		2022	2021	Percent Change 2021-2022	Average 2007-2021	Percent Above/Below Average
Missouri/Cheyenne/ Little Powder Rivers	1A No. Hunters	309	284	+9	187	+65
	No. Rec. Days	1,477	1,634	-10	710	+108
	Harvest	1,798	891	+102	980	+83
Tongue/Little Big Horn /Powder Rivers	1B No. Hunters	240	217	+11	164	+46
	No. Rec. Days	1,089	819	+33	644	+69
	Harvest	1,094	944	+16	565	+94
Central North Platte River	1C No. Hunters	893	745	+20	528	+69
	No. Rec. Days	5,169	3,565	+45	2,908	+78
	Harvest	5,670	4,005	+42	2,148	+164
Lower North Platte River	2A No. Hunters	2,544	2,305	+10	1,789	+42
	No. Rec. Days	15,210	21,695	-30	10,413	+46
	Harvest	29,473	12,409	+138	12,710	+132
South Platte River	2B No. Hunters	177	143	+24	82	+115
	No. Rec. Days	967	1,303	-26	410	+136
	Harvest	1,354	742	+82	416	+225
Upper North Platte River	3A No. Hunters	274	229	+20	155	+77
	No. Rec. Days	1,695	690	+146	704	+141
	Harvest	1,824	883	+107	497	+267
Big Horn River	4A No. Hunters	1,574	1,534	+3	892	+77
	No. Rec. Days	9,318	11,851	-21	5,490	+70
	Harvest	16,450	8,974	+83	6,775	+143
Yellowstone River	4B No. Hunters	25	15	+67	21	+22
	No. Rec. Days	42	5	+740	61	-31
	Harvest	112	25	+348	38	+194
Wind River	4C No. Hunters	628	436	+44	371	+69
	No. Rec. Days	3,040	2,314	+31	1,631	+86
	Harvest	2,719	2,199	+24	1,964	+38
Sweetwater River	4D No. Hunters	99	87	+14	23	+323
	No. Rec. Days	477	452	+6	86	+453
	Harvest	675	560	+21	92	+636

Source: WGFD 2008-2023

Table 9. Hunter activity and harvest of white-cheeked geese during the early season in the Pacific Flyway of Wyoming.

Population			2022	2021	Percent Change 2021-2022	Average 2007-2021	Percent Above/Below Average
Snake River	5A	No. Hunters	95	72	-32	76	-25
		Hunter Days	266	229	-16	173	-54
		Harvest	426	241	-77	204	-109
Upper Green River	5B	No. Hunters	39	49	+20	43	+9
		Hunter Days	61	171	+64	95	+36
		Harvest	121	135	-	89	-36
Salt River	5C	No. Hunters	42	78	-	67	+37
		Hunter Days	87	141	-	163	+47
		Harvest	153	251	-	179	+15
Lower Bear River	5D	No. Hunters	5	70	+93	50	+90
		Hunter Days	5	284	+98	118	+96
		Harvest	10	184	+95	99	+90
Great Divide Basin	5E	No. Hunters	0	-	-	2	-
		Hunter Days	0	-	-	3	-
		Harvest	0	-	-	3	-
Lower Green River	5F	No. Hunters	143	235	+39	143	+0
		Hunter Days	355	864	+59	325	-9
		Harvest	345	799	+57	315	-10
Ham's Fork-Black's For	5G	No. Hunters	29	19	-	60	+52
		Hunter Days	37	64	-	131	+72
		Harvest	15	67	-	119	+87
Upper Bear River	5H	No. Hunters	142	76	-87	31	-361
		Hunter Days	443	562	+21	85	-421
		Harvest	223	407	+45	75	-198
Little Snake River	5I	No. Hunters	5	-	-	7	-
		Hunter Days	25	-	-	12	-
		Harvest	15	-	-	12	-
Total	No. Hunters	486	594	+18	479	-1	
	Hunter Days	1279	2315	+45	1106	-16	
	Harvest	1308	2084	+37	1095	-19	
	Birds/Hunter	2.69	3.51	+23	2.28	-18	

Source: WGFD 2008-2023

Table 10. White-cheeked goose harvest of during the regular season in the Pacific Flyway of Wyoming.

Management Area			2022	2021	Percent Change 2021-2022	Average 2007-2021	Percent Above/Below Average
Snake River	5A	No. Hunters	102	144	-29	152	-33
		No. Rec. Days	284	243	+17	528	-46
		Harvest	269	364	-26	408	-34
Upper Green River Basin	5B	No. Hunters	109	95	+15	113	-4
		No. Rec. Days	852	161	+429	377	+126
		Harvest	131	649	-80	232	-43
Salt River	5C	No. Hunters	96	190	-49	149	-36
		No. Rec. Days	357	365	-2	712	-50
		Harvest	168	1,226	-86	455	-63
Lower Bear River	5D	No. Hunters	51	139	-63	104	-51
		No. Rec. Days	160	857	-81	402	-60
		Harvest	151	913	-83	289	-48
Great Divide Basin	5E	No. Hunters	25	21	+19	12	+117
		No. Rec. Days	232	118	+97	47	+393
		Harvest	205	116	+77	47	+335
Lower Green River Basin	5F	No. Hunters	305	284	+7	316	-3
		No. Rec. Days	1,472	1,382	+7	1287	+14
		Harvest	611	1,545	-60	762	-20
Ham's/Black's Fork	5G	No. Hunters	22	18	+22	140	-84
		No. Rec. Days	387	0	-	519	-25
		Harvest	52	97	-46	277	-81
Upper Bear River	5H	No. Hunters	201	295	-32	116	+74
		No. Rec. Days	865	615	+41	379	+128
		Harvest	212	1,728	-88	263	-20
Little Snake River	5I	No. Hunters	52	24	+117	22	+132
		No. Rec. Days	152	226	-33	77	+96
		Harvest	257	64	+302	48	+440

Source: WGFD 2008-2023

Table 11. Harvest and hunter activity for the Wyoming light goose conservation order 2019-2023.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Average
Permits Sold	166	225	175	189	98	171
Total Survey Respondents	60	61	51	77	44	59
% Responded	36.0	39.0	29.0	41.0	45.0	38.0
Active Hunters	124	178	134	140	65	128
Total Days Hunted	423	712	471	407	189	440
Days/Hunter	3	4	4	7	7	5.0
Geese Harvested	1345	2445	1261	805	149	1201
Geese Knocked Down, but not retrieved	44	33	51	37	20	37
Total Harvest	1389	2478	1312	842	169	1238
Harvest/Hunter	11	14	10	6	3	8.8

Source: WGFD 2023

## Sandhill Cranes

### Rocky Mountain Population of Sandhill Cranes

#### Population Surveys

The principal index used to monitor Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) sandhill cranes is derived from a multi-state cooperative survey of pre-migration staging areas conducted during September. The 2022 count totaled 18,632 cranes (Table 12). Annual production is estimated by classifying the proportion of juveniles within the crane population staging in the San Luis Valley, Colorado in October. The recruitment rate during the 2022 survey was 10.7% (Table 13).

September crane surveys conducted on established and experimental survey areas in Wyoming are summarized in Table 14. In 2022, 3,975 cranes were counted in RMP staging areas of central and western Wyoming.

In the Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming, crane counts are conducted in mid-September after the crane hunting season has ended. Informal, late August counts of cranes flying off roosts suggest crane numbers may be higher just prior to hunts in the upper Salt River and the Big Sandy/Eden Reservoirs. Therefore, the number of cranes counted during pre-migration staging surveys in the Salt River, Bear River, Uinta, and Farson hunt areas may not be representative of cranes actually present at the start of the crane hunt.

Early hunting seasons are designed to reduce crop depredation by shifting the distribution of cranes away from agricultural fields. The limited harvest has minimal impact on the breeding population of cranes in Wyoming, but crane and concurrent early goose hunts in the Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming may account for some changes in distribution (Rod Drewien, pers. com., Lockman et al. 1987).

The distribution of staging cranes has expanded in recent years. An area near Worland was added to the Bighorn Basin survey area in 2007. There is also a substantial influx of cranes, presumably from Montana, after surveys are completed in both the Wind River Basin and Bighorn Basin.

## **2022 Harvest**

The Pacific and Central Flyway Management Plan for the Rocky Mountain Population of Sandhill Cranes allows regulated harvest of cranes when the population index exceeds 15,000 based on an average of the 3 most recent reliable surveys conducted on the fall pre-migration staging areas. A prescriptive model is used to allocate annual harvest among states. Wyoming's 2022 harvest allocation increased to 348 cranes. The number of permits issued has been approximately twice the allowable harvest allocation based on our experience of permit success.

During 2022, 277 cranes were harvested in the seven Wyoming hunt areas (Table 15). Permit success ranged from 31% in Area 3 to 57% in Area 2, with an average of 43%. Hunter success averaged 57% across all hunt areas. Harvest rates fluctuate from year to year in all 7 hunt areas. Changes in harvest rates appear to be influenced by permit numbers and crane availability in any given year. Shifts in crane distribution are likely responsible for some fluctuations in harvest and hunter success. Land use changes including conversions from agriculture to subdivisions, changes in grain crop type and distribution, and reduced hunter access also appear to impact hunter success in some hunt areas, particularly in the Bear River and Star Valley hunt areas. RMP crane hunting seasons are summarized in Table 24.

## **Mid-Continent Population of Sandhill Cranes**

### **Population Surveys**

The Mid-Continent Population (MCP) of sandhill cranes is comprised predominantly of lesser sandhill cranes (*Grus canadensis canadensis*), and includes components of the greater subspecies (*G. c. tabida*). Since 1982, the MCP remained comparatively stable for many years, but has increased in recent years. The photo-corrected, 3-year average for 2023 was 950,295 cranes, which is above the established population-objective range of 350,000- 475,000 cranes.

Cranes affiliated with the Mid-Continent Population do not nest in Wyoming. Most of the migration bypasses Wyoming to the east. Significant spring and fall staging has been documented in Wyoming in recent years. The past few years, 7,000-15,000 cranes have stopped

to rest during daylight hours at Keyhole Reservoir around the 10<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of October. In March of 2023, 6,100 cranes were counted on and around Table Mountain WHMA (Table 16).

## **2022 Harvest**

Recent harvest statistics for mid-continent sandhill cranes are summarized in Table 17. During the 2022 season, 223 MCP sandhill cranes were harvested in Wyoming according to HIP surveys. The Department began including Area 7 in its harvest survey in 2022, and estimated 274 cranes were harvested. As mentioned above, most MCP cranes pass east of Wyoming. Those that migrate through Wyoming do so over the course of a few days and do not stage in predictable concentrations. The timing of migration also varies from year to year. Consequently, most hunting is opportunistic, though permit application and harvest numbers have been increasing in recent years.

## **Recommendations**

1. Continue the RMP harvest survey to estimate harvest and hunter activity.
2. Continue the coordinated spring survey of mid-continent sandhill cranes staging at Table Mountain WHMA.
3. Continue to monitor changes in RMP crane distribution.
4. Continue to monitor the success rate of RMP crane hunters to assure Wyoming's harvest allocation is not exceeded.
5. Continue to survey cranes on fall pre-migration staging areas.

Table 12. September premigration staging area counts by state of the Rocky Mountain Population of greater sandhill cranes.

Year	Colorado <sup>a</sup>	Idaho	Montana	Utah	Wyoming	Total
1987	1,443	10,686	1,447	1,578	2,327	17,481
1992	3,181	5,801	5,264	2,810	2,248	19,304
1995	2,284	6,864	3,681	1,528	1,671	16,028
1996	1,255	8,334	2,974	1,849	2,526	16,938
1997	1,604	8,132	3,595	2,450	2,255	18,036
1998	1,273	8,067	3,415	2,185	3,162	18,102
1999	1,102	8,761	3,141	2,292	4,205	19,501
2000	749	9,337	3,598	2,416	3,890	19,990
2001	666	7,160	4,585	1,522	2,626	16,559
2002	1,355	7,698	4,843	1,869	3,038	18,803
2003	745	7,822	4,964	2,546	3,446	19,523
2004	1,410	7,152	4,637	2,239	3,072	18,510
2005	1,052	7,668	5,588	2,646	3,911	20,865
2007	1,743	8,262	6,509	2,401	3,907	22,822
2008	1,080	6,123	6,419	3,708	3,826	21,156
2009	1,162	6,934	6,329	2,283	3,613	20,321
2010	985	5,776	7,335	3,242	3,726	21,064
2011	1,347	5,029	6,642	1,498	2,978	17,494
2012	413	3,432	5,876	2,109	3,587	15,417
2013	1,594	5,228	7,218	2,732	3,588	20,360
2014	1,258	6,064	6,555	2,783	3,003	19,663
2015	1,089	6,454	9,493	3,698	3,596	24,330
2016 <sup>b</sup>	1,135	5,445	7,507	3,298	4,879	22,264
2017	1,658	4,066	7,149	2,994	3,725	19,592
2018	1,908	4,469	7,553	2,770	5,101	21,801
2019	1,879	4,428	7,511	3,106	4,366	21,290
2020	1,446	5,096	9,264	3,222	6,608	25,636
2021	3,141	3,091	7,783	3,889	6,059	23,963
2022	1,526	3,957	6,844	2,330	3,975	18,632
Mean	1,430	6,460	5,783	2,551	3,618	19,886

<sup>a</sup> Colorado counts include migrants that had arrived at the staging areas in the San Luis Valley.

<sup>b</sup> Wyoming added six new survey areas per management plan guidelines.

Source: Thorpe et al., 2022

Table 13. Population and allowable harvest of RMP Cranes.

Year	September Total	3 Year Population Average	Recruitment Rate	3 Year Recruitment Average	Total Allowable Harvest	Wyoming Allowable Harvest
1999	19,501	18,546	8.4	9.8	966	71
2000	19,990	19,198	6.7	8.8	1,128	95
2001	16,559	18,683	5.8	7.0	1,163	110
2002	18,803	18,451	5.2	5.9	829	79
2003	19,523	18,295	7.1	6.0	668	67
2004	18,510	18,945	9.4	7.2	660	66
2005	20,865	19,633	10.8	9.1	910	86
2006	Cancelled	19,633	9.9	10.0	1,320	123
2007	22,822	20,732	8.3	9.7	1,456	136
2008	21,156	21,614	9.1	9.1	1,744	165
2009	20,321	21,433	11.5	9.6	1,940	188
2010	21,064	20,847	8.4	9.6	1,985	193
2011	17,494	19,626	6.6	8.8	1,780	175
2012	15,417	17,992	7.8	7.6	1,275	123
2013	20,360	17,757	6.6	7.0	774	80
2014	19,668	18,482	10.3	8.2	677	70
2015	24,330	21,453	11.3	9.4	937	94
2016	22,264	22,087	8.8	10.2	1,946	188
2017	19,592	22,062	7.9	9.4	2,362	241
2018	21,801	21,219	7.9	8.2	2,168	211
2019	21,290	20,894	8.9	8.2	1,628	169
2020	25,636	22,909	9.7	8.8	1,536	168
2021	23,963	23,630	8.7	9.1	2,378	289
2022	18,632	22,744	10.7	9.7	2,778	348

Source: FWS unpublished data

Table 14. Pre-migration staging areas and associated September estimates.

Survey Area	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
(1) Baggs	25	4	9	13	6	21	4	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	2	NS	5	0	4	3
(2) Bear River Valley	886	1,073	741	369	1,046	148	909	692	163	379	490	539	488	153	264	510	NS	96	149	233	246
(3) Greybull River/Otto	33	5	36	123	58	77	6	109	99	197	166	185	454	283	481	374	NS	437	179	439	286
(4) Shoshone River/Ralston	155	607	482	172	228	294	303	109	384	366	446	341	470	389	196	386	NS	938	680	742	414
(5) Worland	108	61	124	206	28	50	85	134	174	113	31	96	322	215	201	24					
(6) Big Piney-Daniel	27	42	28	32	2	167	57	114	19	239	117	14	76	91	138	46	NS	3	58	174	40
(7) Bridger Valley	61	78	152	70	150	90	32	28	18	22	103	105	75	51	42	116	NS	273	43	125	33
(8) Lonetree	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	NS	NS	50					
(9) Farson	1,009	1,715	2,285	1,586	1,506	1,578	1,864	2,087	1,295	1,354	1,665	988	1,297	1,463	1,957	1,431	NS	1,382	1,256	813	1,051
(10) Hams Fork	28	10	39	2	0	35	0	2	0	35	15	101	18	90	51	149	NS	161	24	4	0
(11) Pinedale-Cora-Boulder	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	45	0	8	NS	35	2	2	2
(12) Seedskaadee NWR	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	0	6	4	4	0	0	NS	0	3	2	6
(13) Saratoga	74	20	2	12	62	2	2	3	0	12	69	60	26	5	11	0	NS	2	85	193	0
(14) Jackson Hole (Elk Refuge)	4	0	48	148	78	72	68	33	150	279	23	69	132	220	118	64	NS	40	84	117	121
(15) Star Valley	179	145	212	305	579	166	329	192	467	223	182	198	127	257	234	314	NS	191	234	316	304
(16) Hidden Valley	180	123	995	44	40	11	25	0	122	56	112	88	40	19	3	0	NS	43	119	39	58
(17) Ocean Lake	0	17	29	9	101	22	35	0	48	228	67	73	14	200	25	391	NS	96	113	229	433
(18) Riverview Valley	298	414	397	137	56	66	153	93	60	80	98	115	181	126	105	42	NS	209	43	14	41
Natrona County	469	780	207	413	238	104	479	359	452	139											
Johnson County	0	192	144	165	359	440	150	35	518	235											
Sheridan County	439	773	748	558	564	380	375	83	430	150											
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,975</b>	<b>6,059</b>	<b>6,680</b>	<b>4,366</b>	<b>5,101</b>	<b>3,725</b>	<b>4,879</b>	<b>3,596</b>	<b>3,003</b>	<b>3,588</b>	<b>3,587</b>	<b>2,978</b>	<b>3,726</b>	<b>3,613</b>	<b>3,826</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,911</b>	<b>3,072</b>	<b>3,446</b>	<b>3,038</b>

\* Natrona, Johnson, and Sheridan Counties not included in the total count until 2016.

Source: WGFD unpublished data

Table 15. Harvest statistics from RMP sandhill crane hunts in Wyoming 2004-2022.

Hunt Area	Year																		
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
<b>1 Bear River</b>																			
No. Hunters	27	27	14	12	18	16	19	16	7	12	23	25	20	24	27	21	18	24	15
Hunter Days	42	63	26	25	41	34	58	36	13	30	48	46	33	46	51	44	27	47	29
Days/Hunter	1.5	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.1	3.1	2.3	2	2.5	2.1	2.1	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.5	2	1.9
Harvest	20	14	9	7	9	7	4	10	5	5	13	9	11	18	17	9	12	14	12
Cranes/Hunter	0.74	0.52	0.64	0.58	0.5	0.44	0.21	0.625	0.72	0.42	0.57	0.41	0.55	0.75	0.63	0.43	0.67	0.58	0.76
<b>2 Salt River</b>																			
No. Hunters	30	27	15	17	25	27	20	16	10	7	13	25	26	22	22	11	30	23	15
Hunter Days	77	114	36	37	45	53	50	37	20	21	36	61	109	54	45	29	87	59	48
Days/Hunter	2.5	4.2	2.4	2.2	2.3	2	2.5	2.4	2	3	2.8	2.4	4.2	2.5	2.1	2.6	3	2.6	3.3
Harvest	22	16	5	8	8	17	12	11	7	3	10	13	6	8	10	8	12	10	7
Cranes/Hunter	0.73	0.59	0.33	0.47	0.32	0.63	0.60	0.6875	0.7	0.43	0.77	0.52	0.23	0.36	0.45	0.7	0.42	0.43	0.46
<b>3 Eden/Farson</b>																			
No. Hunters	121	98	64	65	76	85	60	33	30	38	49	86	85	83	69	54	73	43	35
Hunter Days	348	229	102	114	146	186	99	51	54	64	76	171	151	152	137	103	135	82	65
Days/Hunter	2.8	2.3	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.2	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.5	2	1.8	1.8	2	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Harvest	49	48	39	42	59	52	48	29	19	20	39	48	63	46	37	42	58	31	24
Cranes/Hunter	0.40	0.49	0.61	0.65	0.78	0.61	0.80	0.88	0.63	0.53	0.8	0.56	0.74	0.55	0.54	0.77	0.79	0.72	0.68
<b>4 Riverton</b>																			
No. Hunters	116	74	37	57	85	75	83	36	47	41	59	71	91	73	70	65	83	48	55
Hunter Days	558	194	107	132	256	187	192	104	106	98	149	166	196	133	121	118	155	90	91
Days/Hunter	4.8	2.6	2.9	2.3	3	2.5	2.3	2.9	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.6
Harvest	78	51	28	35	32	57	48	20	35	16	30	42	46	58	45	45	55	28	37
Cranes/Hunter	0.67	0.69	0.76	0.61	0.38	0.76	0.58	0.56	0.73	0.39	0.51	0.59	0.51	0.79	0.64	0.69	0.66	0.58	0.66
<b>5 Uinta</b>																			
No. Hunters	30	18	6	5	10	15	11	6	6	3	10	11	10	8	10				
Hunter Days	56	45	14	8	16	39	26	22	11	9	47	37	13	22	20				
Days/Hunter	1.8	2.5	2.3	1.6	1.6	2.6	2.3	4	1.8	3	4.7	3.4	1.3	2.8	2				
Harvest	15	10	4	3	8	11	9	2	4	0	0	7	3	2	3				
Cranes/Hunter	0.50	0.56	0.67	0.60	0.80	0.73	0.82	0.33	0.67	0	0	0.64	0.3	0.25	0.3				
<b>6 Big Horn</b>																			
No. Hunters	118	89	68	67	98	75	78	57	44	46	62	82	96	93	83	62	101	58	54
Hunter Days	647	340	260	164	282	238	214	125	73	119	165	228	192	217	191	124	276	152	110
Days/Hunter	5.5	3.8	3.8	2.4	2.9	3.2	2.8	2.2	1.7	2.6	2.7	2.8	2	2.3	2.3	2	2.6	2.6	2.1
Harvest	71	38	27	39	63	34	34	31	33	31	42	42	53	63	50	35	57	33	44
Cranes/Hunter	0.60	0.43	0.40	0.58	0.64	0.45	0.44	0.54	0.75	0.67	0.68	0.51	0.55	0.68	0.6	0.56	0.56	0.57	0.82
<b>8 N/J/S</b>																			
No. Hunters	38	33	8	11	17	25	13												
Hunter Days	166	116	23	50	64	77	27												
Days/Hunter	4.3	3.5	2.9	4.5	3.8	3.1	2.2												
Harvest	22	17	2	8	10	15	4												
Cranes/Hunter	0.58	0.52	0.25	0.73	0.59	0.60	0.31												
<b>Total</b>																			
Harvest Allocation	348	289	168	169	211	240	188	94	74	87	135	165	197	192	165	131	209	144	104
Permits Issued	634	524	306	306	410	460	381	216	163	180	270	352	395	387	330	266	401	254	206
No. Hunters	481	366	212	234	329	318	283	164	144	147	216	297	328	303	281	213	305	196	174
Hunter Days	1898	1101	568	530	850	814	666	375	276	342	521	709	695	624	562	418	687	430	343
Days/Hunter	3.9	3	2.7	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.3	1.9	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.1	2	2	2.3	2.2	2
Harvest	277	194	114	142	136	193	158	104	101	74	134	161	182	195	162	138	194	116	124
Cranes/Hunter	0.58	0.53	0.54	0.61	0.41	0.61	0.56	0.63	0.70	0.41	0.62	0.54	0.55	0.64	0.58	0.65	0.64	0.59	0.71

Source: WGFD 2005-2022

Table 16. Coordinated spring Mid-continent sandhill crane survey counts, WY.

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Average
Table Mountain WHMA	6,100	3,650	4,512	4,500	4,140	4,580

Source: WGFD unpublished data

Table 17. Harvest Statistics of Mid-continent sandhill cranes 1975-2022.

Year	Permits Issued	Active Hunters	Retrieved Harvest	Birds / Hunter
1975-1979 Mean	47	20	8	0.4
1980-1989 Mean	39	11	6	0.5
1990-1999 Mean	38	8	5	0.6
2000	58	11	10	0.9
2001	72	13	7	0.5
2002	54	15	22	1.5
2003	50	10	7	0.7
2004	61	16	4	0.3
2005	68	24	16	0.7
2006	78	25	20	0.8
2007	58	19	20	1.1
2008	73	24	24	1.0
2009	62	67	8	0.1
2010	86	29	25	0.9
2011	86	41	20	0.5
2012	102	39	41	1.1
2013	106	35	41	1.2
2014	433	70	37	0.5
2015	454	78	28	0.4
2016	569	96	83	0.9
2017	646	305	263	0.9
2018	392	94	33	0.4
2019	714	138	82	0.6
2020	619	177	182	1.0
2021	621	116	79	0.7
2022	1,182	347	223	0.6

Source: Seamans 2023

## **Other Webless Migratory Game Birds**

### **Mourning Doves**

#### **2022 Harvest**

Dove harvest in 2022 increased from 2021 and was well above the long term average of 26,958. We continue to rely on harvest estimates derived from the Department-run harvest survey, as HIP-derived estimates continue to have excessively wide confidence intervals. Recent dove hunting seasons are listed in Table 24.

#### **Banding**

In 2008, the National Mourning Dove Task Force recommended that all states not currently banding mourning doves begin a banding program. Regional banding data from within each management unit provides specific population information to support implementation of both the Mourning Dove National Strategic Harvest Management Plan and relevant interim harvest strategies. In 2004, the USFWS Service Regulations Committee (SRC) required that a mourning dove harvest management strategy be developed for each management unit. Combined banding goals for the Wyoming portions of 4 Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) are 191 after hatch year (AHY) and 202 hatch year (HY) (393 total) mourning doves each year beginning in 2009.

In 2023, mourning doves were trapped and banded at eight locations in the state. Personnel banded 386 mourning doves (Table 20).

### **Wilson's Snipe**

#### **2022 Harvest**

Snipe hunting and harvest in Wyoming have varied slightly over the past decade. The HIP harvest estimate for Wyoming in 2022 was less than 50 (Raftovich et al., 2023). Confidence intervals about HIP-derived estimates continue to be excessively wide. Recent rail hunting seasons are listed in Table 24.

### **Sora and Virginia Rail**

#### **2022 Harvest**

Rail harvest and hunting in Wyoming is low. The HIP harvest estimate for Wyoming in 2022 was less than 50 (Raftovich et al., 2022). Confidence intervals around HIP-derived estimates continue to be excessively wide. Recent rail hunting seasons are listed in Table 24.

## **American Coot**

### **2021-22 Harvest**

For the most part, American coots are not actively hunted in Wyoming. Harvest has been nominal over the past several decades. The 2022 HIP harvest estimate was 100 (Raftovich et al., 2023). Confidence intervals around HIP-derived estimates also continue to be excessively wide. Recent American coot hunting seasons are listed in Table 24.

### **Recommendations**

1. Maintain hunting opportunity for all species of webless migratory game birds.
2. Continue to participate in dove banding statewide, focus on meeting banding goals while not banding excessively at any specific location.
3. Continue to support wetlands projects that provide habitat for rails and common snipe.

Table 18. Statewide mourning dove harvest in Wyoming.

Year	Hunters	Days	Days / Hunter	Harvest	Birds / Hunter
2004	2,471	7,645	3.09	32,142	13.01
2005	3,194	9,080	2.84	44,280	13.86
2006	2,461	7,141	2.90	32,807	13.33
2007	2,351	8,256	3.51	36,670	15.60
2008	2,315	7,482	3.23	29,994	12.96
2009	1,949	5,598	2.87	22,278	11.43
2010	2,528	8,096	3.20	28,906	11.43
2011	2,291	6,735	2.94	23,607	10.30
2012	2,263	7,260	3.21	28,402	12.55
2013	2,310	6,730	2.91	23,485	10.17
2014	2,235	6,857	3.07	27,791	12.43
2015	2,095	6,931	3.31	24,873	11.87
2016	2,255	6,758	3.00	23,920	10.61
2017	1,903	5,201	2.73	18,242	9.59
2018	2,119	6,637	3.13	20,420	9.64
2019	2,239	8,167	3.65	25,482	11.38
2020	1,023	3,656	3.57	9,526	9.31
2021	2,042	7,030	3.44	20,966	10.27
2022	3,570	12,808	3.59	38,415	10.76
Average	2,295	7,267	3.17	26,958	11.61

Source: WGFD 2005-2023

Table 19. HIP estimates of mourning dove harvest and hunter activity in Wyoming.

YEAR	Hunters	Days	Days / Hunter	Harvest	Birds / Hunter
2004	3,200	8,700	2.72	43,700	13.66
2005	2,500	6,600	2.64	34,100	13.64
2006	2,300	6,500	2.83	29,500	12.83
2007	4,000	8,800	2.20	42,600	10.65
2008	2,500	5,900	2.36	30,100	12.04
2009	2,300	5,800	2.52	20,600	8.96
2010	2,700	7,100	2.63	32,100	11.89
2011	2,700	5,100	1.89	25,000	9.26
2012	2,700	6,300	2.33	25,300	9.37
2013	3,100	7,200	2.32	34,200	11.03
2014	1,500	3,500	2.33	21,100	14.07
2015	1,700	3,300	1.94	14,900	8.76
2016	1,700	3,700	2.18	20,100	11.82
2017	700	2,200	3.14	9,400	13.43
2018	1,400	3,200	2.29	14,800	10.57
2019	1,300	2,800	2.15	13,200	10.50
2020	1,000	2,300	2.30	11,300	10.80
2021	1,200	2,900	2.42	10,000	8.10
2022	1,400	4,400	3.14	19,200	13.50
Average	2,100	5,068	2.44	23,747	11.31

Source: Raftovich et al. 2023, Raftovich et al. 2021, Raftovich et al. 2019, Raftovich et al. 2018, Raftovich et al. 2017, Raftovich et al. 2015, Raftovich and Wilkins 2013, Raftovich et al. 2011, Raftovich et al. 2009, Richkus et al. 2007, Padding et al. 2005

Table 20. Mourning doves banded by Department personnel to date.

Band Date	Location	Age			TOTAL
		UNK	HY	AHY	
2007	Casper	0	1	4	5
2008	Casper	1	21	24	46
2012	Cheyenne	0	11	25	36
2012	Downar	1	15	17	33
2013	Casper	0	1	2	3
2013	Cheyenne	57	34	35	126
2013	Downar	1	0	3	4
2013	Speas	3	4	9	16
2014	Casper	0	90	89	179
2014	Cheyenne	1	27	87	115
2014	Downar	3	14	34	51
2015	Casper	0	27	117	144
2015	Cheyenne	3	29	55	87
2016	Savery	0	1	18	19
2016	Casper	0	67	127	194
2016	Springer WHMA	0	1	13	14
2016	Cheyenne	6	57	176	239
2017	Rawlins	0	17	39	56
2017	Seedskadee NWR	0	32	129	161
2017	Casper	1	22	86	109
2017	Springer WHMA	0	2	15	17
2017	Cheyenne	13	63	181	257
2018	Baggs	0	7	16	23
2018	Cody	0	30	42	72
2018	Lander	0	0	1	1
2018	Rawlins	0	12	47	59
2018	Casper	0	71	146	217
2018	Glenrock	0	0	1	1
2018	Newcastle	0	10	67	77
2018	Wheatland	0	29	27	56
2018	Springer WHMA	0	8	22	30
2018	Cheyenne	18	39	179	236
2019	Cody	0	8	18	26
2019	Greybull	0	0	10	10
2019	Lander	0	7	16	23
2019	Opal	0	0	4	4
2019	Saratoga	0	10	40	50
2019	Seedskadee NWR	1	13	66	80
2019	Casper	0	115	227	342
2019	Dayton	0	1	19	20
2019	Glenrock	0	4	5	9
2019	Newcastle	0	9	53	62

Table 20. (continued).

Band Date	Location	UNK	HY	AHY	TOTAL
2019	Wheatland	0	6	12	18
2019	Springer WHMA	1	3	1	5
2019	Cheyenne	1	45	46	92
2020	Baggs	0	50	11	61
2020	Cody	0	3	7	10
2020	Greybull	0	0	17	17
2020	Lander	2	7	26	35
2020	Opal	0	0	0	0
2020	Saratoga		4	36	40
2020	Seedskaadee	14	25	41	80
2020	Casper	27	44	45	116
2020	Dayton	0	1	20	21
2020	Glenrock	0	11	13	24
2020	Newcastle	0	14	34	48
2020	Wheatland	0	4	1	5
2020	Cheyenne HQ	4	15	67	86
2021	Baggs	0	34	57	91
2021	Cody	0	0	0	0
2021	Lander	10	6	18	34
2021	Saratoga	0	12	108	120
2021	Seedskaadee	0	20	120	140
2021	Casper	4	0	2	6
2021	Dayton	0	0	0	0
2021	Glenrock	0	0	0	0
2021	Newcastle	0	22	48	70
2021	Cheyenne HQ	0	15	43	58
2021	Sybillie	0	4	43	47
2022	Seedskaadee	0	49	133	182
2022	Casper	5	35	39	79
2022	Wheatland	0	0	0	0
2023	Baggs	0	19	51	70
2023	Lander	12	4	1	17
2023	Saratoga	0	2	1	3
2023	Seedskaadee	14	4	82	100
2023	Sybillie	12	9	29	50
2023	Wheatland	0	1	2	3
2023	Casper	0	7	38	45
2023	Cheyenne HQ	5	13	80	98
Total		220	1397	3563	5180

Source: WGFD unpublished data

Table 21. HIP estimates of snipe harvest and hunter activity in Wyoming.

Year	Hunters	Days	Days / Hunter	Harvest	Birds/ Hunter
2004	300	500	1.67	400	1.33
2005	100	300	3.00	400	4.00
2006	100	300	3.00	100	1.00
2007	100	100	1.00	200	2.00
2008	100	200	2.00	300	3.00
2009	50	50	1.00	100	2.00
2010	400	600	1.50	1,200	3.00
2011	100	200	2.00	400	4.00
2012	300	600	2.00	600	2.00
2013	50	100	2.00	100	2.00
2014	100	200	2.00	100	1.00
2015	50	100	2.00	100	2.00
2016	50	100	2.00	100	2.00
2017	200	800	4.00	300	1.50
2018	200	400	2.00	300	1.50
2019	100	200	2.00	200	3.90
2020	100	200	2.00	300	3.90
2021	100	400	4.00	200	1.40
2022	100	200	2.00	50	0.70
Average	137	292	2.17	287	2.22

Source: Raftovich et al. 2023, Raftovich et al. 2021, Raftovich et al. 2019, Raftovich et al. 2018, Raftovich et al. 2017, Raftovich et al. 2015, Raftovich and Wilkins 2013, Raftovich et al. 2011, Raftovich et al. 2009, Richkus et al. 2007, Padding et al. 2005

Table 22. HIP estimates of rail harvest and hunter activity in Wyoming.

Year	Hunters	Days	Days / Hunter	Harvest	Birds/ Hunter
2004	50	50	1.00	50	1.00
2005	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2006	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2007	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2008	50	50	1.00	50	1.00
2009	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2010	50	50	1.00	0	0.00
2011	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2012	50	50	1.00	0	0.00
2013	50	50	1.00	50	1.00
2014	50	50	1.00	0	0.00
2015	100	300	3.00	500	5.00
2016	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2017	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2018	50	50	1.00	0	0.00
2019	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
2020	50	50	0.00	0	0.00
2021	100	100	0.00	100	0.90
2022	50	50	0.00	50	0.50
Average	34.21	44.74	0.53	42.11	0.49

Source: Raftovich et al. 2023, Raftovich et al. 2021, Raftovich et al. 2019, Raftovich et al. 2018, Raftovich et al. 2017, Raftovich et al. 2015, Raftovich and Wilkins 2013, Raftovich et al. 2011, Raftovich et al. 2009, Richkus et al. 2007, Padding et al. 2005

Table 23. HIP estimates of American coot harvest and hunter activity in Wyoming.

Year	Hunters	Days	Days/ Hunter	Harvest	Birds / Hunter
2004	100	100	1.00	200	2.00
2005	100	100	1.00	100	1.00
2006	100	500	5.00	900	9.00
2007	50	50	1.00	50	1.00
2008	200	200	1.00	200	1.00
2009	50	50	1.00	50	1.00
2010	200	200	1.00	600	3.00
2011	200	500	2.50	100	0.50
2012	400	1,800	4.50	3,200	8.00
2013	100	300	3.00	600	6.00
2014	100	400	4.00	300	3.00
2015	50	100	2.00	200	4.00
2016	50	100	2.00	400	8.00
2017	200	300	1.50	300	1.50
2018	300	500	1.67	300	1.00
2019	100	100	1.00	100	0.80
2020	100	200	2.00	100	0.80
2021	100	200	2.00	700	13.30
2022	50	300	6.00	100	1.50
Average	134	316	2.27	447	3.49

Source: Raftovich et al. 2023, Raftovich et al. 2021, Raftovich et al. 2019, Raftovich et al. 2018, Raftovich et al. 2017, Raftovich et al. 2015, Raftovich and Wilkins 2013, Raftovich et al. 2011, Raftovich et al. 2009, Richkus et al. 2007, Padding et al. 2005

Table 24. Wilson's snipe, sandhill crane, mourning dove, and rail hunting seasons in Wyoming, 1996-2022

Year	Common Snipe	RMP Sandhill Crane								Mourning Dove	Sora and Virginia Rail
		MCP Sandhill Crane Area 7	Area 1 Bear/Ham's Fork	Area 2 Salt River	Area 3 Farson/Eden	Area 4 Riverton Area	Area 5 Uinta	Area 6 Big Horn Basin	Area 8 Natrona, Johnson, Sheridan		
1996	Sep. 14 - Dec. 15	Sep. 14 - Nov. 10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 21 - Sep. 27	-	Sep. 21 - Sep. 23	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 20	Sep. 13 - Nov. 16
1997	Sep. 13 - Dec. 14	Sep. 13 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 20 - Sep. 28	-	Sep. 20 - Sep. 22	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 19	Sep. 14 - Nov. 17
1998	Sep. 12 - Dec. 13	Sep. 12 - Nov. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 19 - Sep. 30	-	Sep. 19 - Sep. 30	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 15 - Nov. 15
1999	Sep. 1 - Dec. 2	Sep. 11 - Nov. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 18 - Sep. 29	-	Sep. 18 - Sep. 29	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 4
2000	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 9 - Nov. 5	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 16 - Oct. 6	-	Sep. 16 - Oct. 1	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2001	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 15 - Nov. 11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 15 - Oct. 5	-	Sep. 15 - Sep. 30	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2002	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 14 - Nov. 10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 7	Sep. 21 - Oct. 11	-	Sep. 21 - Oct. 6	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2003	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 13 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 20 - Oct. 20	-	Sep. 20 - Oct. 5	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2004	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 18 - Nov. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 18 - Oct. 8	-	Sep. 18 - Oct. 8	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2005	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 17 - Nov. 13	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 7	-	Sep. 17 - Oct. 2	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2006	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 16 - Nov. 12	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 16 - Oct. 6	-	Sep. 16 - Oct. 1	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2007	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 15 - Nov. 11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 15 - Oct. 5	-	Sep. 15 - Sep. 30	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2008	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 13 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 13 - Oct. 3	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 13 - Sep. 28	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2009	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 19 - Nov. 15	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 19 - Oct. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 19 - Oct. 4	-	Sep. 1 - Oct. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2010	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 18 - Nov. 14	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 18 - Oct. 10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 18 - Oct. 3	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2011	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 17 - Nov. 13	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 2	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2012	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 15 - Nov. 11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 15 - Oct. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 15 - Oct. 7	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2013	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 14 - Nov. 10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 14 - Oct. 6	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 14 - Oct. 6	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2014	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 13 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 13 - Oct. 5	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 13 - Oct. 5	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2015	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 19 - Nov. 15	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 19 - Oct. 11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 19 - Oct. 11	-	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2016	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 17 - Nov. 13	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 9	Sep. 17 - Oct. 9	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2017	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 16 - Nov. 12	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 16 - Oct. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 16 - Oct. 8	Sep. 16 - Oct. 8	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2018	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 15 - Nov. 11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 15 - Oct. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 15 - Oct. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2019	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 14 - Nov. 10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 28 - Oct. 20	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 14 - Oct. 6	Sep. 1 - Sep. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2020	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 12 - Nov. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Oct. 3 - Oct. 25	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 19 - Oct. 11	Sep. 1 - Sep. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2021	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 11 - Nov. 7	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Oct. 2 - Oct. 24	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 18 - Oct. 10	Sep. 1 - Sep. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9
2022	Sep. 1 - Dec. 16	Sep. 10 - Nov. 6	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Oct. 1 - Oct. 23	Sep. 1 - Sep. 8	Sep. 17 - Oct. 9	Sep. 1 - Sep. 30	Sep. 1 - Nov. 29	Sep. 1 - Nov. 9

Table 25. Duck, merganser, American coot, and light goose seasons, 1996-2022

Year	<u>Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots</u>				<u>Light Geese</u>		
	C1	C1A	C2	Pacific Flyway	Central Flyway	Pacific Flyway	Conservation Order
1996	Oct 5-Oct 20 Nov 2-Dec 15 Dec 21-Jan 12	-	Sep 28-Oct 27 Nov 2-Dec 1 Dec 14-Jan 5	Sep 28-Dec 29	Oct 5-Dec 19 Feb 14-Mar 10	-	-
1997	Oct 4-Oct 26 Nov 1-Dec 21 Dec 22-Jan 13	-	Oct 4-Jan 8	Oct 4-Jan 17	Oct 4-Dec 24 Feb 14-Mar 10	-	-
1998	Oct 3-Oct 25 Oct 31-Jan 11	-	Oct 3-Jan 7	Oct 3-Jan 16	Oct 3-Dec 22 Feb 13-Mar 10	-	-
1999	Oct 2-Oct 24 Oct 30-Jan 11	-	Oct 2-Jan 6	Oct 2-Jan 15	Oct 2-Dec 26 Feb 13-Mar 10	-	-
2000	Oct 7-Oct 22 Oct 28-Jan 16	-	Sep 30-Oct 22 Nov 4-Jan 16	Sep 30-Jan 13	Oct 7-Dec 31 Jan 19-Feb 8	-	Mar 1-Mar 31
2001	Oct 6-Oct 21 Oct 27-Jan 15	-	Sep 29-Oct 21 Oct 27-Jan 8	Sep 29-Jan 12	Oct 6-Dec 31 Jan 27-Feb 14	-	Mar 1-Mar 31
2002	Oct 5-Oct 20 Oct 26-Jan 14	-	Sep 21-Oct 20 Oct 26-Dec 8 Dec 14-Jan 5	Sep 21-Jan 4	Oct 5-Dec 31 Jan 27-Feb 13	-	Mar 1-Apr 6
2003	Oct 4-Oct 19 Oct 25-Jan 13	-	Sep 27-Oct 19 Oct 25-Dec 14	Sep 27-Jan 10	Oct 4-Dec 31 Jan 27-Feb 12	-	Mar 1-Apr 6
2004	Oct 2-Oct 17 Oct 23-Jan 11	-	Sep 25-Oct 17 Oct 23-Dec 12 Dec 18-Jan 9	Sep 25-Jan 8	Oct 2-Dec 31 Jan 27-Feb 10	-	Feb 21-Apr 3
2005	Oct 1-Oct 16 Oct 29-Jan 17	-	Oct 1-Oct 23 Nov 5-Jan 17	Sep 24-Jan 7	Oct 1-Dec 31 Jan 27-Feb 9	-	Feb 20-Apr 2
2006	Oct 7-Oct 24 Nov 4-Jan 21	-	Sep 30-Oct 22 Nov 4-Jan 16	Sep 23-Jan 6	Oct 7-Jan 7 Jan 27-Feb 8	-	Feb 19-Apr 8
2007	Oct 6-Oct 23 Nov 3-Jan 20	-	Sept 29-Oct 21 Nov 3-Jan 15	Sep 22-Jan 5	Oct 6-Jan 1 Jan 26-Feb 12	-	Feb 25-Apr 13
2008	Oct 4-Oct 21 Nov 1-Jan 18	-	Sep 27-Oct 9 Nov 1-Jan 13	Sep 27-Jan 9	Oct 4-Jan 1 Jan 26-Feb 9	-	Feb 23-Apr 12
2009	Oct 3-Oct 20 Oct 31-Jan 17	-	Sep 26-Oct 20 Oct 31-Jan 10	Sept 26-Jan 8	Oct 3-Dec 27 Jan 21-Feb 8	-	Feb 22-Apr 11
2010	Oct 2-Oct 19 Oct 30-Jan 16	-	Sep 25-Nov 28 Dec 11-Jan 11	Sep 25-Jan 7	Oct 2-Dec 26 Jan 20-Feb 7	-	Feb 21-Apr 10
2011	Oct 1-Oct 16 Oct 29-Jan 17	-	Sep 24-Nov 27 Dec 10-Jan 10	Sep 24-Jan 6	Oct 1-Dec 25 Jan 28-Feb 15	-	Feb 20-Apr 8
2012	Oct 6-Oct 21 Nov 3-Jan 22	-	Sep 22-Nov 25	Sep 22-Jan 4	Oct 6-Dec 30 Jan 30-Feb 17	-	Feb 25-Apr 7
2013	Oct 5-Oct 22 Nov 2-Jan 19	-	Sep 21-Dec 1 Dec 14-Jan 7	Sep 21-Jan 3	Oct 5-Dec 30 Jan 30-Feb 16	-	Feb 24-Apr 6

Table 25. (continued).

Year	<u>Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots</u>				<u>Light Geese</u>		
	C1	C1A	C2	Pacific Flyway	Central Flyway	Pacific Flyway	Conservation Order
2014	Oct 4-Oct 22 Nov 1-Jan 17	-	Sep 27-Dec 7 Dec 13-Jan 6	Sep 27-Jan 9	Oct 4-Dec 31 Jan 31-Feb 15	-	Feb 23-Apr 12
2015	Oct 3-Oct 21 Oct 31-Jan 16	-	Sep 26-Dec 6 Dec 12-Jan 5	Sep 26-Jan 8	Oct 3-Dec 31 Jan 31-Feb 14	-	Feb 22-Apr 10
2016	Oct 1-Oct 18 Oct 29-Jan 15	-	Sep 24-Dec 4 Dec 10-Jan 3	Sep 24-Jan 6	Oct 1-Dec 29 Jan 29-Feb 12	-	Feb 13-Apr 9
2017	Sep 30-Oct 17 Oct 28-Jan 14	-	Sep 23-Dec 3 Dec 9-Jan 2	Sep 23-Jan 5	Oct 1-Dec 29 Jan 29-Feb 12	Sep. 23 - Dec. 28	Feb 19-Apr 8
2018	Sep 29-Oct 16 Oct 28-Jan 14	-	Sep 22-Dec 2 Dec 8-Jan 1	Sep 22-Jan 4	Sep 29-Dec 30 Feb 6-Feb 17	Sep 22 - Dec 27	Feb 18-Apr 7
2019	Sep 28 -Oct 15 Oct 26-Jan 12	Sep 28 -Oct 15 Oct 26-Jan 12	Sep 21-Dec 1 Dec 14-Jan 7	Sep 21-Jan 3	Sep 28-Dec 29 Feb 5-Feb 16	Sep. 21 - Dec. 26	Feb 17-Apr 30
2020	Oct. 3 -Oct 18 Oct 31-Jan 19	Oct. 3 -Oct 18 Oct 31-Jan 19	Sep 26-Dec 6 Dec 19-Jan 12	Sep 26-Jan 8	Oct 3-Jan 3 Feb 3-Feb 14	Sep. 26 - Dec. 31	Feb 15-Apr 30
2021	Oct. 2 -Oct 17 Nov 6 -Jan 25	Oct. 2 -Oct 17 Nov 6 -Jan 25	Sep 25-Dec 5 Dec 18-Jan 11	Sep 25-Jan 7	Oct 2-Jan 2 Feb 2-Feb 13	Sep. 25 - Dec. 30	Feb 14-Apr 30
2022	Oct. 1 -Oct 16 Nov 5 -Jan 24	Oct. 1 -Oct 16 Nov 5 -Jan 24	Sep 24-Dec 4 Dec 17-Jan 10	Sep 24-Jan 6	Oct 1-Jan 1 Feb 1-Feb 12	Sep. 24 - Dec. 29	Feb 13-Apr 30

Table 26. Dark goose hunting seasons, 2010-2022.

Year	Dark Geese									
	C1	C1A	Goshen and Platte	Converse and Platte	Converse	Goshen	C2	Bighorn and Fremont	Pacific Flyway Early Season	Pacific Flyway
1996	Oct 5-Jan 19	-	-	Oct 19-Jan 31	-	Nov 16-Jan 31	Sep 28-Jan 12	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 28-Jan 5
1997	Oct 4-Jan 17	-	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Nov 14-Jan 31	Oct 4-Jan 18	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Oct 4-Jan 11
1998	Oct 3-Jan 16	-	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Nov 14-Jan 31	Oct 3-Jan 16	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Oct 3-Jan 9
1999	Oct 2-Jan 5	-	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Nov 13-Jan 31	Oct 2-Jan 15	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Oct 2-Jan 8
2000	Oct 7-Jan 20	-	Oct 7-Oct 22 Nov 11-Feb 8	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Sep 30-Oct 22 Nov 4-Jan 25	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Sep 30-Jan 6
2001	Oct 6-Oct 19	-	Oct 6-Oct 21 Nov 17-Feb 14	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Sep 29-Oct 21 Oct 27-Jan 17	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Sep 29-Jan 5
2002	Oct 5-Jan 18	-	Oct 5-Oct 20 Nov 16-Feb 13	-	Oct 18-Jan 31	-	Sep 28-Oct 20 Oct 26-Jan 16	-	Sep 1-Sep 7	Sep 28-Jan 4
2003	Oct 4-Oct 19 Nov 1-Dec 14 Dec 20-Feb 3	-	Oct 4-Oct 19 Nov 15-Feb 12	-	-	-	Sep 27-Oct 12 Nov 1-Dec 14	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 27-Jan 2
2004	Oct 2-Oct 17 Oct 30-Dec 12 Dec 18-Feb 1	-	Oct 2-Oct 17 Nov 13-Feb 10	-	-	-	Sep 25-Jan 8	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 25-Dec 31
2005	Oct 1-Oct 16 Oct 29-Dec 11 Dec 17-Jan 31	-	Oct 1-Oct 16 Nov 12-Feb 9	-	-	-	Oct 1-Jan 14	Sep 25-Oct 10 Oct 30-Dec 12 Dec 18-Feb 1	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 24-Dec 30
2006	Oct 7-Oct 22 Nov 4-Dec 10 Dec 16-Feb 6	-	Oct 7-Oct 22 Nov 4-Dec 10 Dec 16-Feb 6	-	-	-	Oct 1-Jan 14	Sep 30-Oct 22 Nov 4-Dec 10 Dec 16-Jan 30	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 23-Dec 29
2007	Oct 6-Oct 23 Nov 3-Dec 9 Dec 15-Feb 3	-	Oct 6-Oct 23 Nov 17-Feb 12	-	-	-	Sep 29-Dec 2 Dec 15-Jan 24	Sep 29-Oct 21 Nov 3-Dec 9 Dec 15-Jan 29	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 22-Dec 28
2008	Oct 4-Oct 21 Nov 1-Dec 7 Dec 13-Jan 31	-	Oct 4-Oct 21 Nov 15-Feb 9	-	-	-	Sep 27-Nov 30 Dec 13-Jan 21	Sep 27-Oct 19 Nov 1-Dec 7 Dec 13-Jan 26	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 27-Jan 1
2009	Oct 3-Oct 20 Oct 31-Dec 6 Dec 12-Jan 30	-	Oct 3-Oct 20 Nov 14-Feb 8	-	-	-	Sep 26-Nov 29 Dec 12-Jan 20	Sep 26-Oct 20 Oct 31-Dec 6 Dec 12-Jan 23	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 26-Dec 31
2010	Oct 2-Oct 19 Nov 6-Dec 5 Dec 11-Feb 5	-	Oct 2-Oct 19 Nov 13-Feb 7	-	-	-	Sep 25-Nov 28 Dec 11-Jan 19	Sep 25-Oct 19 Oct 30-Dec 5 Dec 11-Jan 22	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 25-Dec 30
2011	Oct 1-Oct 16 Nov 5-Dec 4 Dec 10-Jan 28	-	Oct 1-Oct 16 Nov 19-Feb 12	-	-	-	Sep 24-Nov 27 Dec 10-Jan 18	Sep 24-Oct 18 Nov 5-Dec 4 Dec 10-Jan 28	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 24-Jan 6
2012	Oct 6-Oct 21 Nov 3-Dec 2 Dec 8-Feb 4	-	Oct 6-Oct 21 Nov 21-Feb 17	-	-	-	Sep 22-Nov 25 Dec 8-Jan 16	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 22-Dec 27
2013	Oct 5-Oct 22 Nov 2-Dec 1 Dec 7-Feb 1	-	Oct 5-Oct 22 Nov 22-Feb 16	-	-	-	Sep 21-Dec 1 Dec 14-Jan 15	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 21-Dec 26
2014	Oct 4-Oct 22 Nov 1-Nov 30 Dec 6-Jan 30	-	Oct 4-Oct 22 Nov 22-Feb 15	-	-	-	Sep 27-Dec 7 Dec 13-Jan 14	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 27-Jan 1
2015	Oct 3-Oct 21 Oct 31-Nov 29 Dec 5-Jan 29	-	Oct 3-Oct 21 Nov 21-Feb 14	-	-	-	Sep 26-Dec 6 Dec 12-Jan 13	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 26-Dec 31

Table 26. (continued).

Year	<u>Dark Geese</u>									
	C1	C1A	Goshen and Platte	Converse and Platte	Converse	Goshen	C2	Bighorn and Fremont	Pacific Flyway Early Season	Pacific Flyway
2016	Oct 1-Oct 18 Oct 29-Nov 27 Dec 3-Jan 28	-	Oct 1-Oct 18 Nov 18-Feb 12	-	-	-	Sep 24-Dec 4 Dec 10-Jan 11	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 24-Dec 29
2017	Sep 30-Oct 17 Oct 28-Nov 26 Dec 2-Jan 27	-	Sep 30-Oct 11 Nov 18-Feb 18	-	-	-	Sep 23-Dec 3 Dec 9-Jan 10	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 23-Dec 28
2018	Sep 29-Oct 16 Oct 28-Nov 26 Dec 2-Jan 27	-	Sep 29-Oct 10 Nov 17-Feb 17	-	-	-	Sep 22-Dec 2 Dec 8-Jan 9	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 22-Dec 27
2019	Sep 28-Oct 6 Nov 9-Dec 1 Dec 6-Feb 16	Sep 28-Oct 9 Nov 16-Feb 16	-	-	-	-	Sep 21-Dec 1 Dec 14-Jan 15	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 21-Dec 26
2020	Oct 3-Oct 11 Nov 7-Nov 29 Dec 4-Feb 14	Oct 3-Oct 14 Nov 14-Feb 14	-	-	-	-	Sep 26-Dec 6 Dec 19-Jan 20	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 26-Dec 31
2021	Oct 2-Oct 10 Nov 6-Nov 28 Dec 3-Feb 13	Oct 2-Oct 13 Nov 13-Feb 13	-	-	-	-	Sep 25-Dec 5 Dec 18-Jan 19	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 25-Dec 30
2022	Oct 1-Oct 9 Nov 5-Nov 27 Dec 2-Feb 12	Oct 1-Oct 12 Nov 12-Feb 12	-	-	-	-	Sep 24-Dec 4 Dec 17-Jan 18	-	Sep 1-Sep 8	Sep 24-Dec 29

## American Crow

### Harvest

Recent crow seasons are summarized in Table 27. The crow harvest and hunter activity are unknown in Wyoming. Since a license is not required to hunt crows, there is no means to identify a sample frame in order to conduct a harvest survey. The very limited hunting that takes place has had essentially no impact on crow populations.

### Recommendations

1. Maintain hunting opportunity for recreation and to assist with depredation control.

Table 27. Recent crow hunting seasons in Wyoming.

Year	Season Dates	Bag/Possession Limits
2004	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2005	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2006	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2007	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2008	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2009	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2010	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2011	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2012	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2013	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2014	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2015	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2016	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2017	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2018	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2019	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2020	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2021	November 1 - February 28	None/None
2022	November 1 - February 28	None/None

## **Trumpeter and Tundra Swans**

### **Discussion:**

Swans are federally defined as migratory game birds [50 CFR 20.11(a)] and hunted in several states. Small resident and restored populations of breeding trumpeter swans inhabit portions of western Wyoming. Comparatively, few tundra swans migrate through the State. Wyoming's resident population of trumpeter swans has increased and expanded its distribution in recent years, particularly in the Upper Green River Basin. Additional restoration efforts are ongoing. The MGBS addresses certain aspects of swan management through the Flyway process and jointly manages the species in the state, in coordination with the Nongame Program. There is no open hunting season on swans in Wyoming. Refer to Nongame completion reports for swan monitoring data and more detailed information about the restoration program.

## **Bump-Sullivan Managed Goose Hunt**

### **Introduction**

Springer/Bump-Sullivan Reservoir and Table Mountain WHMAs are the principal public goose hunting areas in Goshen County. Bump-Sullivan Reservoir has been a popular goose hunting area for over 50 years. A managed goose hunt was initiated there during the 1993-94 hunting season to reduce competition among parties and improve hunting quality. Twelve blinds were erected around the reservoir and four pass shooting pits were established in a field at the northwest corner of Springer WHMA. An additional property was acquired at the south end of Springer WHMA which opened three field hunting pits to include in the managed goose hunt. Hunters were required to check in at the Springer Check Station and a drawing was conducted before shooting hours each morning to assign hunting blinds or pits. A goose special management permit was also instituted to help offset the cost of blind maintenance and operation of the check station.

Due to drought conditions and low reservoir levels prevalent from 2002-2010, goose hunting opportunities and interest declined within the managed hunt boundaries. For the 2011-12 dark goose hunting season and thereafter, the Department decided not to require persons participating in the hunt to purchase a special management permit and the check station was not operated. Pits and blinds are occupied on a first-come, first-served basis. The hunt will continue to be managed in this manner until such time as demand may increase to the point that access needs to be controlled through a permitting system.

### **Recommendations**

1. Support efforts to improve water supplies into Bump-Sullivan Reservoir.
2. Continue annual pit maintenance.
3. Replace lower section of pits as needed.
4. Monitor public use and demand for the pits/blinds

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