WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

CHAPTER 48

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER

Section 1. Authority. This regulation is promulgated by authority of W.S. §23-1-302(xxii).

Section 2. Definitions. For the purpose of this regulation, definitions shall be as set forth in Title 23, Wyoming Statutes, and the Commission also adopts the following definitions:

(a) "Conservation Order" means an action to reduce the mid-continent population of light geese, which is promulgated in accordance with 50 CFR 20.21 and 50 CFR 21.60, revised as of October 1, 2013, which does not include any later amendments or editions of the incorporated matter. A copy of Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations can be viewed at Department Regional Offices.

(b) "Dark geese" means Canada goose, cackling goose, white-fronted goose and brant.

(c) "Light geese" means snow goose, blue goose and Ross' goose.

Section 3. Licensing, Permitting and Reporting Requirements.

(a) Wyoming Game Bird License and Conservation Stamp Requirement. Each person who takes or attempts to take any light geese under the authority of this regulation shall have in possession a valid Wyoming game bird license and a valid Wyoming conservation stamp (except as otherwise exempted by State statute).

(b) Conservation Order Special Management Permit. A Conservation Order Special Management Permit shall be in possession of any person participating in the light goose conservation order and shall be immediately produced for inspection upon request of any authorized Department representative. The Conservation Order Special Management Permit shall be validated by signing the person's name in ink across the face of the permit. Conservation Order Special Management Permits may be purchased online from the Department's website at http://wgfd.wyo.gov.

(c) Reporting Requirements. Any person who obtains a Conservation Order Special Management Permit shall accurately complete the online survey at the web address provided on the permit no later than April 24, 2015. The survey shall be completed whether the person participated in the conservation order or not. Persons without Internet access shall be sent a postage-paid survey card by mail to the address the person provides at the time the Conservation Order Special Management Permit is purchased. The card shall be completed and returned to the Headquarters Office in Cheyenne no later than April 24, 2015.

(d) Persons are not required to possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (duck stamp) or Harvest Information Program (HIP) Permit in order to participate in the light goose conservation order.

Section 4. Conservation Order Regulations.

(a) Federal Regulations. 16 U.S.C. 703-712; 16 U.C. 742 a-j; Pub. L. 106-108; Pub. L. 95-616; 92 Stat. 3112 (16 U.S.C. 712(2)); and 50 CFR 20 and 21, revised as of October 1, 2013, which do not include any later amendments or editions of the incorporated matter, governing the taking and possession of migratory birds and migratory game birds, and the conservation order for mid-continent light geese, are adopted as regulations of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission; except, those portions of 50 CFR 20 and 21, revised as of October 1, 2013, which allow the use of unplugged shotguns during the conservation

order are not adopted as regulations of the Commission. Violations of these federal statutes and regulations shall be violations of the Commission regulations. A copy of Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations can be viewed at Department Regional Offices.

(i) Shotguns shall be the only weapons that can be used to take light geese. Shotguns larger than ten (10) gauge shall not be legal for the take of light geese in Wyoming during the conservation order for mid-continent light geese. Automatic loading, pump, or repeating shotguns shall be plugged to admit no more than one (1) shell in the chamber and two (2) shells in the magazine.

(ii) Recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or imitations thereof may be used to take light geese during the dates of the light goose conservation order.

(b) Evidence of Species. One fully feathered wing or the feathered head shall remain naturally attached to the carcass as a means of identification of all light geese in the field and while the birds are being transported.

(c) Nontoxic Shot Restrictions.

(i) No person shall take light geese while possessing shot shells loaded with shot other than nontoxic shot. Nontoxic shot shall also be required when hunting any game with a shotgun on all of the lands in the Springer and Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Areas and on all national wildlife refuges open for hunting.

(d) Species and Hunt Areas, Conservation Order Dates, Shooting Hours, Closed Areas, Bag Limit.

(i) The Central Flyway portion of Wyoming, excluding the closed areas listed in Section 5, is open during the conservation order for mid-continent light geese. The Central Flyway is that portion of Wyoming east of the Continental Divide, excluding the Great Divide Basin. Please refer to the Wyoming Waterfowl Flyway Areas Map in Chapter 14, Late Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons.

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER, CENTRAL FLYWAY						
Species and Hunt Areas	**Dates of Conservation Order**		**Shooting Hours**	**Closed Areas Section 5 Subsections**	**Bag Limit**	
	Opens	**Closes**			**Daily**	**Possession**
LIGHT GEESE Central Flyway	Feb. 23	Apr. 12	See Sec. 6	a(i), a(ii), b, c, d a(iii) after March 20	20	Unrestricted

(ii) Those areas within the boundaries of the Bump-Sullivan Managed Goose Hunt, including Bump-Sullivan Reservoir, shall be open to the taking of light geese during the light goose conservation order. Pits/blinds shall be occupied on a first-come, first-served basis and shall not be claimed or reserved by leaving personal belongings, including decoys, unattended at the pit/blind at any time. Conservation order participants are not required to possess a Bump-Sullivan managed goose hunt permit or a goose special management registration nor are they required to hunt from a pit/blind during the light goose conservation order.

Section 5. Description of Closed Areas. Except as otherwise noted, the areas described in this Section shall be closed for the species and dates specified in the table in Section 4.

(a) Goshen County

(i) Springer Reservoir. Beginning on U.S. Highway 85 at the George Marlatt farmhouse; westerly along the fence between the farm land and the pasture land to the west end of the west pump lake and Bump-Sullivan ditch; southerly along said ditch to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Springer Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA); westerly then southerly along the Springer WHMA boundary to Parking Area 3; southeasterly along the reservoir access road to the Game and Fish Department buildings; due south from said buildings across the Whispering Wings LLC property to the Fulmer family trust pasture fence; westerly along said fence to Goshen County Road 37; southerly along said road to Goshen County Road 42; easterly along said road to U.S. Highway 85; northerly along said highway to the George Marlatt farmhouse.

(ii) Pond No. 1 Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area. Pond No. 1 and adjacent lands as marked by colored signs and posts.

(iii) Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area. All of Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area shall be closed to the taking of light geese after March 20.

(b) Platte County

(i) Festo Lake. Festo Lake and all lands within three hundred (300) yards of the normal high water line shall be closed to all migratory game bird hunting.

(ii) Wheatland Reservoir No. 1. Wheatland Reservoir No. 1 and all lands within three hundred (300) yards of the normal high water line. All Wheatland Irrigation District lands adjacent to the reservoir, in addition to those included in the three hundred (300) yard closure, shall be closed to hunting.

(c) Fremont County

(i) Ocean Lake. The waters of Ocean Lake and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission lands within approximately one-half (1/2) mile of the aeration system on the north side of the lake shall be closed to migratory game bird hunting beginning November 15 through December 31 and January 1 through March 10 of each year. Beginning December 15 through March 10, the area shall be closed to all human presence, except for Wyoming Game and Fish Department administrative access, within one-half (1/2) mile of the aerator on the ice and as marked by signs on Commission lands around the aerator.

(d) Pacific Flyway

(i) The entire Pacific Flyway portion of Wyoming shall be closed to the taking of light geese during the conservation order for light geese. The Pacific Flyway is that portion of Wyoming west of the Continental Divide, including the Great Divide Basin. Please refer to the Wyoming Waterfowl Flyway Areas Map in Chapter 14, Late Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons.

Section 6. Conservation Order Shooting Hours. Shooting hours for taking light geese during the light goose conservation order shall be from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset as determined from the shooting hours table in this section.

2015 Conservation Order Shooting Hours Table. This table (including adjustments for daylight savings time) lists the official shooting hours (one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise to one-half (1/2) hour after sunset) adopted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission for taking light geese during the light goose conservation order. (Do not use tables from other sources.)

ST = Starting Time QT = Quitting Time

	AREA B		AREA C		AREA D	
	ST	QT	ST	QT	ST	QT
February						
23-28	6:25	6:28	6:17	6:20	6:11	6:14
March						
1-7	6:14	6:36	6:06	6:28	6:00	6:22
*8-14	7:03	7:45	6:55	7:37	6:49	7:31
15-21	6:50	7:53	6:42	7:45	6:36	7:39
22-31	6:35	8:03	6:27	7:55	6:21	7:49
April						
1-7	6:21	8:13	6:13	8:05	6:07	7:59
8-12	6:10	8:20	6:02	8:12	5:56	8:06

*Start Daylight Savings Time

AREA B – Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, Washakie Counties
AREA C – Albany, Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Johnson, Natrona, Sheridan Counties
AREA D – Crook, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte, Weston Counties

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

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