

# General Rules and Information

Most of the waterfowl harvested in Idaho are produced in Canada. Southern Alberta is especially important for breeding waterfowl that come to Idaho during the hunting season. Idaho's waterfowl season is set within a framework determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in late July after meeting with all state fish and wildlife agencies.

Public open house meetings are conducted in all Fish and Game regions of the state. The time for comment is necessarily short, but hunters have an opportunity to be heard.

**License Requirements:** To hunt upland game birds, waterfowl, such as ducks, geese or brant, common snipe, mourning doves and sandhill cranes, small game, predators and unprotected species or to practice falconry in Idaho, all hunters must have in their possession an Idaho hunting license with the appropriate validations and stamps.

Any person 16 or older who hunts waterfowl, such as ducks, geese or brant, must have in their possession:

- **Federal Migratory Bird Stamp**, cost \$15, and signed in ink by the holder, effective from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.
- **Federal Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program validation** (federal HIP), costs \$1.75, effective from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

**Both are available online at:** <https://id.outdoorcentral.us/>, and at any license vendor.

Information from the **federal HIP** allows migratory game bird managers to estimate more accurately the annual harvest of waterfowl, shorebirds (snipe, for example), and doves to gain a better understanding of bird populations.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and all state wildlife agencies are cooperating in this program to gather better harvest information on migratory game birds. Idaho joined the program in 1996.

**Protected Birds:** All nongame birds in Idaho are protected, except starlings, English sparrows, and feral pigeons. Protected nongame birds cannot be hunted, taken or possessed, including parts of birds, even if found dead. Game birds may be taken only in accordance with established hunting rules.

**Wounding-Retrieving:** Anyone who wounds or kills a migratory game bird must make a reasonable effort to retrieve and retain it. Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and retrieved must be killed immediately and become part of the daily bag limit.

**Nontoxic Shot:** Nontoxic shot is required for all waterfowl hunting in Idaho. Hunters may have in their possession **only** nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that is 0.20 inches in diameter (T size) or smaller. At the time of printing of this publication, the following shot was approved for the 2009-2010 season:

- steel or steel shot with coatings (less than 1 percent of either copper, nickel, zinc chromate, or zinc chloride)
- bismuth-tin
- iron-tungsten
- iron-tungsten-nickel
- tungsten-polymer
- tungsten-matrix
- tungsten-tin-iron-nickel
- tungsten-tin-bismuth
- tungsten-tin-iron
- tungsten-iron-copper-nickel
- tungsten-bronze

However, please consult the Federal Register, 50 CFR Part 20 for the most current list.

## It is Unlawful:

- To fail to stop and report at any Fish and Game check station – with or without game or fish – encountered on your route of travel, even if your hunting, fishing or trapping activity occurred outside the state of Idaho.
- To hunt on cultivated or posted private lands without permission. See Trespass Law, Page 20.
- To hunt or take any wildlife without a valid hunting license on your person.
- To take any game without the proper tag or permit.
- To shoot from or across the traveled portion, shoulders, or embankments of any road maintained by any government entity.
- To hunt game from any motorized vehicle, **except** for holders of a valid handicapped persons Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit. See page 25.
- To operate any vehicle in an area designated as closed for that specific vehicle type.
- To use aircraft to locate game and communicate location to persons on the ground, or to use any helicopter to transport hunters, gear or game except at established landing fields.
- To fail to produce wildlife in possession for inspection upon request of a conservation officer or other person authorized to enforce Idaho Fish and Game laws.
- To transfer any license, tag or permit or use another's license, tag or permit.
- To party hunt, or help fill another hunter's bag.

- To acquire more controlled hunt permits or tags per species than that species' bag limit.
- To destroy or disturb traps or remove any wildlife from traps belonging to others.
- To enter Idaho with livestock without a health certificate for transport and a brand inspection slip.
- To intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of wildlife or lawful predator control by another.
- To hunt any game animal or bird by means of baiting with grain, salt in any form (liquid or solid), or any other substance (not to include liquid scents) to constitute an attraction or enticement, with the exception of applicable rules for the black bear baiting permit.
- To possess or transport game or parts, including processed meat, taken by another person without having a proxy statement.

#### **It is against the law to take migratory game birds:**

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than a 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With any shotgun capable of holding more than three shells total, chamber plus magazine capacity combined.
- From a sink box – a low floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, **except** that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. A handicapped motor vehicle permit is required. A paraplegic is an individual with paralysis of the lower half of the body involving both legs.
- By use or aid of live birds as decoys.
- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been shut off or the sail furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.
- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls, or sounds, or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of the hunters.
- By the aid of bait or on or over a baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of any bait. Baiting includes placing, exposing, or scattering of salt, grain or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game

birds to areas where hunters are trying to take them. Agricultural areas must be prepared in accordance with official recommendations to be legally hunted. It is a separate offense to place or direct placement of bait on or adjacent to an area that causes, induces or allows another to hunt by the aid of bait. Hunters are responsible for ensuring and verifying that an area has not been baited before hunting. The maximum federal penalties are: for hunting over bait, \$15,000/six months jail; for placing bait, \$100,000/one year jail. For clarification of federal baiting regulations contact the nearest Fish and Wildlife Service office.

#### **Identification of Species in Possession, Transportation or Shipment**

- Any package or container in which game species are being transported by common carrier must have the name, address, and hunting license number of the shipper, the name and address of the consignee, and an accurate statement of the species and number of each contained in the package or container clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside.
- No person shall transport for another, receive for cleaning, processing, or storage, or accept as a gift any harvested game unless it is accompanied by a written "proxy" statement signed by the taker. A blank proxy statement appears on Page 13; to be valid, it must be filled out completely for the appropriate species. Migratory game birds accepted as a gift shall apply to the recipient's possession limit. Migratory game birds being temporarily possessed or transported for the taker, as provided above, shall not apply to the nontaker's possession limit. No person shall give another person any game species to possess or transport unless they include a written proxy statement. (See page 13)

#### **Federal Waterfowl Regulations**

In addition to state rules, the following federal regulations apply to the taking, possessing, shipping, transporting, or storing of migratory game birds. This information is only a summary of the major federal regulations which are found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20. The full text of the regulations is available at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices at: 1387 South Vinnell Way, Room 341, Boise, Idaho 83709; and 1820 East 17th Street, Suite 115, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83404. Violation of federal regulations is also a violation of state law.

**Closed Season:** Migratory game birds may not be taken during the closed season.

**Shooting or Hawking Hours:** Migratory game birds may be taken only during the hours open to shooting and hawking as prescribed.

**Daily Bag Limit:** Hunters may take no more than one daily bag limit in any one day.

**Dressing:** Hunters may not completely field dress any migratory game bird and then transport the birds from the field.

The head or one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility to allow identification of the species and sex of the birds.

**Field Possession Limit:** While in the field, a person may have in custody or transport no more than one daily bag limit between the place where taken and to either:

- His or her vehicle or principle means of transportation.
- His or her home or temporary place of lodging.
- A migratory bird preservation facility.
- A post office.
- A common carrier facility.

**Other Possession:**

- A person may have no more than one daily limit on the opening day of the season.
- A person may not have more than the possession limit, even when such birds are stored at home or being processed at a commercial preservation facility.
- A person or commercial facility may have migratory birds belonging to another only if they are tagged by the taker with the total number of birds and species, date killed, and signed by the taker.

**Termination of Possession:** A hunter no longer legally possesses birds when he or she has delivered them to:

- Another person as a gift.
- A post office, or a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility for transport to some person other than the hunter.

**Migratory birds left in processing or storage facilities, home freezers, or other storage, are part of a hunter's "possession limit" until conditions listed above are met. Birds must be given or assigned to someone other than the taker in order to end or terminate possession.**

Possession of migratory game birds differs from upland game birds. Contact your nearest Fish and Game office if you have questions about possession.

**Tagging:** A person may not give or leave any migratory game birds any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with:

- The hunter's signature and address.
- The number of birds by species.
- The dates the birds were killed.

Tagging also is required if the birds are being transported by another person for the hunter, or if the birds have been left for cleaning, storage, including temporary storage, shipment, or taxidermy services.

**Shipment:** No person may ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c)

the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

**Importation:** For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66.

**National Wildlife Refuges:** More restrictive regulations may apply to national wildlife refuges. Hunters should check refuge regulations before hunting.

**Indian-owned Reservation Lands:** Federal law prohibits unauthorized trespass on Indian-owned reservation lands for hunting, fishing, or trapping purposes (18 US 1165).

**Trespass Law**

No person may enter private land to hunt, fish or trap without permission if the land is either cultivated or posted with legible "No Trespassing" signs. Proper posting means either signs, 100 square inches of fluorescent orange paint or an entire fluorescent orange metal fence post every 660 feet around the property and at reasonable access points.

**Areas Closed to Hunting of Migratory Game Birds:**

- Any part of federal refuges, state game preserves, state wildlife management areas, bird preserves, bird refuges, and bird sanctuaries closed to bird hunting by legislative or Commission action except as otherwise expressly stated below under Game Preserves Open to Hunting of Game Birds.
- The part of Ada County within Veterans Memorial Park and the area between State Highway 21, Warm Springs Avenue and the Boise city limits.
- Craters of the Moon National Monument in Blaine and Butte counties administered by the National Park Service.
- Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area in Canyon County from September 15 through the end of waterfowl hunting season in the area within the boundary beginning at the bridge across Sand Hollow Creek on Old Fort Boise Road about 100 yards west of the wildlife management area headquarters, then north along the east bank of Sand Hollow Creek to its confluence with the Snake River, then north and northeast downstream along the east bank of the Snake River to the wildlife management area boundary fence, then south and southeast along the wildlife management area boundary fence to Old Fort Boise Road, then west on Old Fort Boise Road to the point of beginning.
- Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Bingham, Bannock and Power counties within 300 yards each way of the Fort Hall Bluffs from Bigbend Boat Launch to the west boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and within 100 yards of any improved roadway or inhabited dwelling any place within the reservation boundary.
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County, except within an area 50 feet above the high water level of the Snake River – the upslope area

is marked by yellow fiberglass markers, and hunting is permitted downslope to the river.

- Hagerman Wildlife Management Area in Gooding County in the area within the boundary beginning 200 yards west of the point at which U.S. Highway 30 crosses the south bank of Gridley Island, then northwest along a line 200 yards southwest of and parallel to U.S. Highway 30 to a point 200 yards west of the junction of U.S. Highway 30 and the wildlife management area entrance, then west and north and east along a line 200 yards outside of the wildlife management area boundary, which is marked by a fence, to the point at which the fence meets U.S. Highway 30, then east and south along a line 500 yards outside of the wildlife management area boundary to the Snake River, then downstream along the north bank of the Snake River and then along the south bank of Gridley Island to the point where U.S. Highway 30 crosses the south bank of Gridley Island, then 200 yards west of U.S. Highway 30 to the point of beginning.
- Harriman State Park Wildlife Refuge in Fremont County.
- Hubbard Reservoir in Ada County, including the shoreline area within 200 yards of the existing water line.
- Idaho National Laboratory in Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, and Jefferson counties.
- Lewiston Preserve in Nez Perce County which includes the area along the Clearwater River from the Lewiston city limits upstream to Spalding railroad bridge, between Highway 95/12 on the north side and the Camas Prairie railroad on the south side.
- Manns Lake in Nez Perce County and extending 300 yards beyond the Bureau of Reclamation property line that encompasses the lake.
- Mormon Reservoir in Camas County including the shoreline area within 200 yards of the ordinary high water line.
- Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho, and Nez Perce counties.
- Roswell Marsh Wildlife Habitat Area in Canyon County on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from September 15 through the end of the waterfowl hunting season in the area enclosed by the following boundary: Beginning at the entrance to the habitat area parking lot on the south side of State Highway 1 (about two miles west of the town of Roswell), then west and south along the habitat area boundary fence to the southwest corner of the habitat area, then east along the habitat area boundary fence to the southeast corner of the habitat area (about 10 feet east of East Alkali Drain), then north, generally northeast and east along the habitat area boundary fence to Pebble Lane, then north along Pebble Lane to

State Highway 18, then west along State Highway 18 to the entrance to the habitat area parking lot, the point of beginning.

- Spokane River in Kootenai County from the Post Falls Dam to Lake Coeur d'Alene at the orange pilings, within 200 yards of the ordinary high water line (2,128 feet above sea level).
- Thompson Lake in Kootenai County in the area enclosed by the following center-of-roadway boundary: Beginning at the junction of State Highway 97 and Thompson Lake Road 317 north of the town of Harrison, then along Thompson Lake Road 317 to the junction of Blue Lake Road 318 east of Thompson Lake, then along Blue Lake Road 318 to the junction of Anderson Lake Road 319 at Springston, then along Anderson Lake Road 319 to the bicycle trail on the former Union Pacific Railroad tracks, then west along the bicycle trail on the former Union Pacific Railroad tracks to the junction of State Highway 97 west of Harrison, then along State Highway 97 to the point of beginning.
- Yellowstone National Park in Fremont County.

#### **Additional Areas Closed to Goose Hunting**

- Canyon County in the area enclosed by the following roadway boundary and within 150 feet of the exterior side of said boundary (except that the closure shall extend to 100 yards from the exterior side of said boundary along that section commencing at the junction of Lake Shore Drive and Rim Road, then south on Rim Road to West Lewis Lane, then east on West Lewis Lane to Lake Shore Drive, then along Lake Shore Drive to Emerald Road): Beginning about 3/4 of a mile south of the city of Nampa at the junction of State Hwy. 45 (12th Avenue Road) and Greenhurst Road, then west following Greenhurst Road to its junction with Middleton Road, then north following Middleton Road to its junction with Lake Lowell Avenue, then west following Lake Lowell Avenue to its junction with Lake Avenue, then north following Lake Avenue to its junction with West Roosevelt Avenue, then west following West Roosevelt Avenue to its junction with Indiana Avenue, then north following Indiana Avenue to its junction with State Highway 55 (Karcher Road), then west following State Highway 55 to its junction with Riverside Road, then south following Riverside Road to the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge boundary, then west along boundary as posted to Lake Shore Drive, then in a southeast direction following Lake Shore Drive to its junction with Marsing Road, then east and south on Lake Shore Dr. to Rim Dr., then south on Rim Drive to West Lewis Lane, then east on West Lewis Lane to Lake Shore Drive, then southeast on Lake Shore Drive to State Highway 45, then north on State Highway 45 to its junction with Greenhurst Road, the point of beginning.

- Hagerman Valley in Gooding and Twin Falls counties in the area enclosed by the following boundary: Beginning at the Gridley Island Bridge on the Snake River, then south and east on U.S. Highway 30 to Miracle Hot Springs, then east on Twin Falls County 4800 North Road (River Road) to Banbury Hot Springs, then upstream approximately 300 yards to the Banbury Pipeline crossing the Snake River, then east across the Snake River at the Banbury Pipeline, continuing due east to a point 200 yards east of the east rim of the Snake River Canyon, then north along a line parallel to and 200 yards east of the Snake River Canyon rim to the Gooding County 3500 South Road (Camp Roach Road), then east on the 3500 South Road to the 1500 East Road, then north on the 1500 East Road to the 3200 South Road, then west on the 3200 South Road to the 1300 East Road, then north on the 1300 East Road to the 1200 East Road, then northwest and north on the 1200 East Road to the 3000 South Road, then west on the 3000 South Road to a point (which is 500 yards east of the intersection of the 3000 South Road and the Hagerman National Fish Hatchery Road) 500 yards east of the Hagerman Wildlife Management Area boundary, then north and west 500 yards outside the Hagerman WMA boundary to U.S. Highway 30, then west and south 200 yards outside the Hagerman WMA boundary to the 2900 South Road, then west on the 2900 South Road to the 900 East Road, then due south to a point 200 yards north of the Snake River, then west and north 200 yards outside the high water line on the east bank of the Snake River to Lower Salmon Dam, then west across the Snake River, then south, southwest and east 200 yards outside the high water line on the west bank of the Snake River (including the Idaho Power Upper Salmon Dam diversion canal) to the Gridley Bridge on U.S. Highway 30, the point of beginning.
- Minidoka and Cassia counties in the area enclosed by the following boundary: Within 200 yards of the high water line of the Snake River from Milner Dam upstream to Meridian Road (north side of the Snake River) and 650 East Road (south side of the Snake River), approximately six and one-half miles east of the city of Burley.

The David Thompson Preserve in Bonner County is open to migratory game bird hunting.

**Activities on Fish and Game Lands**

Some of the activities **prohibited** on all lands, waters and roads under control or administration of Idaho Fish and Game include:

- Entering, using or occupying lands or waters posted against such entry, use, or occupancy.
- Constructing blinds, pits, platforms, or tree stands where the soil is disturbed, trees are cut or altered, and artificial fasteners, such as wire, rope, or nails are

used. All blinds shall be available to the public on a “first-come, first-served” basis.

- Leaving decoys unattended. Decoys may not be placed earlier than two hours before official shooting hours for waterfowl. All decoys must be picked up and removed from the hunting site no later than two hours after official shooting hours for waterfowl for that particular day.
- Special rules relating to uses of and activities on wildlife management areas are detailed in a brochure titled “Public Use of Department Lands and Access Areas,” available from Fish and Game regional offices.

**State Park Rules** (Consult rules for the park you wish to visit)

**Protection of Wildlife:** Molesting, injuring or killing any wild creature is prohibited, except as provided by action of the Idaho State Parks and Recreation Board and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.

**Personal Safety:** No person shall discharge firearms or any other projectile firing device, or otherwise purposefully or negligently endanger the life of any person or creature within any area in the State Parks and Recreation System. All firearms brought into a State Park must be unloaded, out of sight or in a vehicle, **except** when used for legal hunting, as authorized by the director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission or for exhibition, authorized by the director of Parks and Recreation.

**- We Ask for Your Help -  
Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)**

1. About 144 types of avian flu exist and are commonly found in birds. Only one variety, the highly pathogenic (HP) Asian H5N1, is currently of concern.
2. The HP Asian H5N1 variety was first found in Asia in 2003 and in Europe and Africa in 2005. It has not been found in the U.S. or anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere.
3. As part of a nationwide effort, Idaho Fish and Game biologists are sampling to watch for avian flu in wild migratory birds. If you see dead waterfowl, please report them by calling toll free 1-877-550-BIRD (2473).
4. Even if HP Asian H5N1 is eventually found in Idaho this does not mean there will be a human pandemic. This is currently a bird disease that rarely infects humans.
5. More information is available at:
  - <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>
  - [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)
  - [www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov](http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov)