



STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Game Division

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MEMORANDUM

May 26, 2021

To: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and Interested Publics

From: Mike Scott, Administrator, Game Division

Title: **Commission Regulation CR20-12 Amendment #1 (Upland Game Seasons) and the Department's Biennial Small Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 – For Possible Action**

Description: The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department's recommendation to modify CR20-12 for upland game seasons and bag limits for certain upland game species and the proposed biennial small game release plan for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

Presenter: Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa

Summary:**CR20-12 Amendment #1**

The Department's Game Division has prepared recommendations to amend the existing Commission Regulation (CR20-12 Amendment #1) for upland game seasons and bag limits for the 2021-2022 season that include the following changes:

Greater Sage-grouse

- Re-opening Hunt Unit 051 in Humboldt County (2-day season)
- Reducing season length for Hunt Units 154 and 155 of Lander County to a 2-day season
- Reducing season length for Hunt Units 143, 154 and 155 of Eureka County to a 2-day season
- Reducing season length for Hunt Units 011-015 of Washoe County to a 2-day season
- Closing Hunt Unit 144 in Eureka County
- Closing Hunt Unit 076 in Elko County
- Reducing the season length in the following Hunt Units from a 16-day season to a 9-day season extending from September 25 to October 3, 2021:

- Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 062, 064, 065, 067, 071-075, 077, 101-103 and 109 in Elko County;
- Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 162 and 163 in Eureka County;
- Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 161, 162, 172 and 173 in Lander County;
- Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 161-163, 172 and 173 in Nye County.
- Closing Hunt Units 104 and 121 in Elko and White Pine County
- Closing Hunt Units 108, 111-113, and 131 in White Pine County
- Reducing the number of reservations available for the Sheldon Special Sage-grouse Hunt from 45 to 35 for both 2-day seasons that are available to apply for.

Wild Turkey

- Altering the Junior wild turkey season for the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area to begin on the first Saturday in April and continue through the second Sunday in May;
- Discontinue (temporarily) the second Junior wild turkey season for Hunt Unit 115 in White Pine County and modify the first season to extend through the first Sunday in May;
- Increase the quota for the Spring Limited Entry Hunt for 2022 for Hunt Units 151 and 152 in Lander County from 3 to 5;
- Increase the quota for the Lincoln County Limited Entry Hunt for 2022 from 12 to 15;
- Alter the season dates for the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Spring Limited Entry Hunt to begin one week later for each available season and reduce quotas available for each hunt from 5 to 3;
- Discontinue (temporarily) the second season for the Spring Limited Entry Hunt for Hunt Unit 115 of White Pine County. Extend the hunt period for the first season to continue through the first Sunday in May and reduce the quota from 8 to 4.

Biennial Small Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023

The Department has also prepared the Biennial Small Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 for review and approval by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. This plan summarizes releases conducted during the past biennium (FY2020 and 2021) and identifies proposed releases of several species and locations for 2022 and 2023.

This release plan contains recommendations for each of the following:

California quail

Statewide

- For release of sub-urban California quail into suitable habitats in northern Nevada. For augmentation or introduction purposes within range of the species.

Mountain quail

Lincoln County

- One release site in the Clover Mountains to establish a population in this region of the State.

Rio Grande Turkey

Lyon County

- One release site within the Walker River Recreation Area south of Yerington.

- One release to augment the existing population of Rio Grande turkeys on the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area.

Lincoln County

- Two separate release sites. One in the Delamar Mountains and one in the Wilson Creek Range.

Merriam's Turkey

White Pine County

- One proposed release in Hunt Unit 114 of White Pine County.

Lyon County

- One proposed release into the Pine Nut Mountains (Hunt Unit 291).

Nye County

- One proposed release into the Monitor Range (Hunt Unit 162)

Elko County

- One proposed release to augment the population in the South Ruby Mountains (XJ Ranch).

Gray (Hungarian) Partridge

Churchill County

- One proposed release to establish Hungarian partridge into the Desatoya Range of Churchill and Lander County.

Ruffed Grouse

Elko County

- One proposed release into the Elk Mountain portion of Hunt Unit 072 to establish a population of ruffed grouse and expand their distribution in Elko County.

Humboldt County

- One proposed release into the Pine Forest Range to augment the existing population.

American Beaver

Statewide

- For release of American Beaver into suitable waters for restoration purposes.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Commission **VOTE TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED IN CR20-12 AMENDMENT #1 AND APPROVE THE BIENNIAL SMALL GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022 AND 2023 AS PRESENTED.**

STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners under the authority of Section 501.181, 503.090, 503.140 and 503.245 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, does hereby adopt the following regulations for the management of game birds, small game, and furbearing mammals.

CR 20-12 Amendment #1

2021-2022

SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR UPLAND GAME BIRDS, RABBITS, WILD TURKEY, FURBEARERS AND FALCONRY SEASONS FOR UPLAND GAME BIRDS AND RABBITS.

THIS AMENDMENT MODIFIES GREATER SAGE GROUSE OPEN AND CLOSED HUNT UNITS, SEASON LENGTHS AND WILD TURKEY QUOTAS AND SEASONS FOR SOME HUNT UNITS.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *blue italics* is new; matter in red brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

UPLAND GAME (Units referenced are Game Management Units)

SAGE-GROUSE	
OPEN AREAS:	Hunt Unit 031 of Humboldt County <i>Hunt Unit 051 of Humboldt County</i> Hunt Unit 141 of Eureka and Lander County <i>Hunt Unit 154 and 155 of Lander County</i> <i>Hunt Unit 143, 154 and 155 of Eureka County</i> <i>Hunt Units 011-015 of Washoe County</i> <i>Hunt Unit, or that portion of Hunt Unit 012, in Humboldt County</i> Hunt Unit 144 of Eureka and White Pine County
SEASON DATES:	First Saturday and Sunday in October
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 4.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Closed to nonresidents.

SAGE-GROUSE	
OPEN AREAS:	<p>Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 062, 064, 065, 067, 071-077 071-075, 077, 101-103 and 109 in Elko County</p> <p>Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 162 and 163 in Eureka County</p> <p>Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 161, 162, 172 and 173 in Lander County</p> <p>Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 161-163, 172 and 173 in Nye County</p>
SEASON DATES:	September 25 – October 11 October 3, 2021
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 4.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Closed to nonresidents.

SAGE-GROUSE	
OPEN AREAS:	<p>{Hunt Units 104 and 121 in Elko County}</p> <p>{Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 143, 145 and 155 in Eureka County}</p> <p>{Hunt Unit, or that portion of Hunt Unit, 012 in Humboldt County}</p> <p>{Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 154 and 155 of Lander County}</p> <p>{Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 011-015 in Washoe County}</p> <p>{Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 104, 108, 111-113, 121, 131 in White Pine County}</p>
SEASON DATES:	{September 25 – October 3, 2021}
LIMITS:	{Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 4.}
SHOOTING HOURS:	{Sunrise to sunset daily.}
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Closed to nonresidents.

SHELDON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SPECIAL SAGE-GROUSE HUNT	
OPEN AREAS:	Unit 033 of Washoe and Humboldt Counties (Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge) excluding the Little Sheldon and other areas as posted.
HUNT PERIOD	
SEASON DATES:	September 18-19, 2021
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 4.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	<p>Open to nonresidents.</p> <p>Limited to 45 35 reservations awarded through random draw.</p> <p>Unless his or her privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, any resident or nonresident is eligible to apply once for the Sheldon Special Sage Grouse Hunt in a year.</p> <p>Up to 4 applicants may apply as a party. Parties may be comprised of a combination of residents and nonresidents.</p> <p>Sheldon Special Sage-grouse Hunt applications must be submitted online through www.ndowlicensing.com. Paper applications will not be accepted. Applications will be accepted until 11:00 p.m. the first Friday in August. Successful applicants will be notified via e-mail.</p>

SHELDON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SPECIAL SAGE-GROUSE HUNT	
OPEN AREAS:	Unit 033 of Washoe and Humboldt Counties (Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge) excluding the Little Sheldon and other areas as posted.
HUNT PERIOD	
SEASON DATES:	September 25 – 26, 2021
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 4.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	<p>Open to nonresidents.</p> <p>Limited to 45 35 reservations awarded through random draw.</p> <p>Unless his or her privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, any resident or nonresident is eligible to apply once for the Sheldon Special Sage Grouse Hunt in a year.</p> <p>Up to 4 applicants may apply as a party. Parties may be comprised of a combination of residents and nonresidents.</p> <p>Sheldon Special Sage-grouse Hunt applications must be submitted online through www.ndowlicensing.com. Paper applications will not be accepted. Applications will be accepted until 11:00 p.m. the first Friday in August. Successful applicants will be notified via e-mail.</p>

WILD TURKEY

2021 & 2022 SPRING TURKEY APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT HUNTS:

Unless his or her privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, an eligible person may apply once for a type of hunt for Wild Turkey during a draw period.

Only one person may apply on an application.

Except for those Wild Turkey hunts requiring the landowner to sign the application, Wild Turkey applications must be submitted online through www.ndowlicensing.com. Hand delivered applications will not be accepted. Applications will be accepted until 11:00:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday in February. Applications for bonus points only will be accepted until 11:00:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday in February. The release date will be the first Friday in March.

Except as specified for the Junior Wild Turkey Hunts and Landowner Hunts, any remaining tags will be available on a first come, first serve basis through www.ndowlicensing.com. Remaining tags will be sold until seven (7) weekdays prior to the close of the season.

Only one Wild Turkey tag can be awarded to an individual within a calendar year.

JUNIOR WILD TURKEY 2021 & 2022 SPRING - HUNT 0138

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:	Bearded Wild Turkey	
LIMIT:	1 by tag only.	
SHOOTING HOURS:	One half hour before sunrise to sunset daily	
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	<p>Youth must be 12 prior to the opening of the hunt season indicated and not attain their 18th birthday until after the last day of the hunt season indicated, pursuant to NAC 502.063.</p> <p>Applications for these tags or bonus points will only be accepted during the draw application periods. Remaining tags will not be issued.</p> <p>Closed to nonresidents.</p>	
OPEN AREAS:	Season Dates	Quota
Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area	Last Saturday in March through first Sunday in May First Saturday in April through second Sunday in May	3
Moapa Valley of Clark County*	Last Saturday in March through second Friday in April	3
Hunt Units 102 & 065 within Elko County	Last Saturday in March through first Sunday in May	1
Hunt Unit 115 within White Pine County**	Last Saturday in March through first Sunday in May [second Sunday in April]	1
[Hunt Unit 115 within White Pine County**]	[Third Saturday in April through first Sunday in May]	[1]
Pershing County*	Last Saturday in March through first Sunday in May	2
Unit 152 of Lander County*	Last Saturday in march through first Sunday in May	1
Lincoln County	Last Saturday in March through first Sunday in May	4

* Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands and permission should be obtained from a landowner before applying for this hunt.

** Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on Great Basin National Park lands. Hunting is not permitted within park boundaries.

WILD TURKEY 2021 SPRING – LIMITED ENTRY – HUNTS 0131 & 0132			
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:	Bearded Wild Turkey		
LIMIT:	1 by tag only		
SHOOTING HOURS:	One half hour before sunrise to sunset daily		
UNITS 151 and 152 of LANDER COUNTY*			
	Seasons	Tag Quota	
		Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:	Last Saturday in March – first Sunday in May	{3} 5	-
UNIT 154 of LANDER COUNTY			
	Seasons	Tag Quota	
		Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:	Last Saturday in March – first Sunday in May	3	-
LINCOLN COUNTY			
	Seasons	Tag Quota	
		Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:	Last Saturday in March – first Sunday in May	{42} 15	1
MASON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA ONLY OF UNIT 203			
	Seasons	Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:		{Last Saturday in March through first Sunday in April} First Saturday in April through second Sunday in April	{5} 3
	Seasons	Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:		{Second Saturday in April through third Sunday in April} Third Saturday in April through fourth Sunday in April	{5} 3
	Seasons	Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:		{Fourth Saturday in April through first Sunday in May} First Saturday in May through second Sunday in May	{5} 3
<i>*Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands and permission should be obtained from a landowner before applying for this hunt.</i>			

WILD TURKEY 2021 & 2022 SPRING – LIMITED ENTRY – HUNTS 0131 & 0132			
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:	Bearded Wild Turkey		
LIMIT:	1 by tag only		
SHOOTING HOURS:	One half hour before sunrise to sunset daily		
MOAPA VALLEY PORTION OF CLARK COUNTY*			
	Seasons	Tag Quota	
		Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:	March 20 – March 26, 2021	3	1
	March 19 – March 25, 2022	3	-
	March 26 – April 1, 2022	3	1
	April 2 – April 8, 2022	3	-
PERSHING COUNTY*			
	Seasons	Tag Quota	
		Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:	Last Saturday in March through first Sunday in May	10	1
UNIT 115 OF WHITE PINE COUNTY**			
	Seasons	Tag Quota	
		Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:	Last Saturday in March through the [second Sunday in April] first Sunday in May	[8] 4	-
	[Third Saturday in April through first Sunday in May]	[8]	-
<p><i>*Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands and permission should be obtained from a landowner before applying for this hunt.</i></p> <p><i>**Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on Great Basin National Park lands. Hunting is not permitted within park boundaries.</i></p>			