

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
PUBLIC COMMENT ON TURKEY, UPLAND GAME BIRD, & MIGRATORY
BIRD PROPOSALS
COMMENTS RECEIVED AS OF JANUARY 17, 2020

1. **Turkey Season Comment:** Good
Upland Game Bird Season Comment: Good
Migratory Bird Season Comment: The season should open as is for youth. It should then open for a 2 week local bird or something of the sort. Close it for a couple weeks or so. Extend the season to at least the end of January. The birds always show up later in the year.
Russell hood Missoula, MT

2. **Migratory Bird Season Comment:** Please allow duck and goose season go longer into January. Close the season in October for 2 weeks after the opener. Birds are now just showing up
Tiffany woods Missoula, MT

3. **Turkey Season Comment:** Montana is one of 8 states with an increasing number of hunters. We need to provide as much opportunity as possible.
Upland Game Bird Season Comment: It is to bad we can not be more responsive to flock size. Some years there are thousands of birds and other years there are not. The weather has a significant impact on flock size. Maximize opportunity - even though there may not be much shooting. I always felt like a scout for the property owner when I bird hunt, picking up wire and other nuisances that livestock is prone to consume. Fix downed wire, close gates, report dead animals, etc. Once I even found a weather balloon. So shooting is not everything, when it comes to birds.
Migratory Bird Season Comment: We need to consider a Spring goose season to help reduce resident flocks to objective levels.
Randall Knowles Great Falls, MT

4. **Migratory Bird Season Comment:** Please delay the start of waterfowl season a few weeks so that we can hunt longer in January when winter is finally here and birds have migrated down. Or open it up for youth hunting one weekend, have an "early season" then shut it down for a couple weeks. Either way, it would be advantageous to hunt later in January.
Allison Weston Missoula, MT

5. **Migratory Bird Season Comment:** I would like to see Valley County placed in the waterfowl zone 2. Here around the Fort Peck area and below the dam we have open water year around. As long as the birds can get to food and the weather stays good most of the ducks and geese will not leave. On most normal years we do not get many birds migrating down till the middle or end of November. When the ducks started to show up in bigger numbers we can hunt we have around a month to hunt them because duck season closed on Jan. 2nd. The same goes for goose season. I understand that many other places in the zone 1 freeze up early and don't want the season closed for 12 days in early October. That is why I would only want Valley county to be

added in to Zone 2. I am not the only person from around the Glasgow area that would like to see Valley County put in Zone 2. I would love to talk to someone either in person or on the phone about how we can get this changed. My cell number is 406-690-6782 and my home phone is 406-228-8782 Thanks for listening. Evan Guenther

Evan Guenther Glasgow, MT

6. ***Migratory Bird Season Comment:*** During this past season around the Plains area, we noticed a high number of Canadian Geese, which seems to be the norm over the past few years, without many being taken for various reasons. I would propose a longer goose season in this area. This year, we didn't get the weather needed to bring them within easier areas to hunt them until the very end. However, the numbers in the Plains area seem to be really high throughout the year, without much migration.

Michael Tatum Plains, MT

7. ***Migratory Bird Season Comment:*** For the past several years we have had mild winter weather in Zone 1 and the northern flight birds seem to be coming later so would you consider a later finish date say Jan 31st and if time off is necessary by Federal agencies could those days be taken in Oct or Nov rather in Jan. ;

Steve Wilson Victor, MT

8. ***Turkey Season Comment:*** I would like to see the Turkey tags in and around the whitehall area be put back to a draw permit. You just don't see turkeys here anymore like you were before the tags went to over the counter. While at the whitehall fwp meeting it was stated by the biologist that the last couple winters has been extremely tuff on the Turkey population plus also being hunted hard. Fwp spent lots of money to bring turkeys in here around this area to just shoot it all away. You could drive down the back roads before and see turkeys about everywhere along the river. Good luck with that now.

Mike Price Whitehall, MT

9. ***Turkey Season Comment:*** Na

Upland Game Bird Season Comment: Na

Migratory Bird Season Comment: This is the third year in a row the season has closed just before the birds get here. With the shift in the weather the birds are staying up north (Canada) longer. I have friends who live in Calgary who send pictures of all of them. I feel we start our season way to early people are shooting ducks with no coloring on them and a lot of hens are being killed due to not being able to tell what you are shooting. Also after the first weekend the local birds are pushed out and we go weeks with horrible hunt due to no weather or migration. I would say start the season 2 weeks later and let it run to the end of January. Or do a youth weekend and an everyone early season weekend then close for two weeks. In short start later in October and go longer into January so we can hunt when we have birds Thank you

Stephen Cook Missoula, MT

10. ***Migratory Bird Season Comment:*** I would like the commission to consider a later waterfowl closing date and take days from late October/ early November

Fred Upchurch Stevensville, MT

11. **Migratory Bird Season Comment:** I would like to see hunting days in Pacific Flyway be modified: start around Sept 28th & close around Jan 31st taking necessary no hunt days away during Oct/Nov as needed. I would also like to hunt snow geese in spring season like other states in this flyway.

john farley hamilton, MT

12. **Upland Game Bird Season Comment:** Adjust to mid-Sept. the open date for grouse and partridge. Reduce daily and bag limits for grouse and partridge. Reduce number and term (days available, i.e. 3 days at a time, 6 days total for season) for non-resident upland licenses. Review adjacent states (ND, SD) regs for similar concepts suggested, limits, dates etc.

Keith Bjorsness Great Falls, MT

13. **Migratory Bird Season Comment:** I believe we should raise the Canadian goose limit to 8 birds a day. That would be in line with what Alberta is currently doing. Even after a season where many many geese were shot around Great Falls there is still thousands upon thousands staying local. I believe it would be beneficial to try it for a couple years. I've been goose hunting for close to 20 years and have never seen the amount of birds as there is now. It is certainly very fun from a hunting standpoint, but the damage they are doing to the fields all around the region, does not help our main source of economy in this state, the farmers and ranchers. Thank you for your consideration

Reed Throckmorton Belt, MT

14. **From: Ed russell [mailto:Edrussell616@gmail.com]**
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2020 11:12 AM
To: FWP Webmaster <FWPWebMaster@mt.gov>
Subject: ** Email from fwp.mt.gov **

Name: Ed russell

Phone Number: 4065640049

Email: Edrussell616@gmail.com

Gentlemen, After hunting the area at Freezeout lake many times last fall, it is very obvious that pheasants and pheasant hunting is a very low priority with Fish& Game. The area is huge and has some of the best habitat in the state but few birds. Here' an idea: build a world class hatchery there and raise thousands of birds and release them for the hunters of Montana. You spend millions on access and land purchases every year, put some effort into our pheasant hunting. There are lots of bird hunters here looking for better results from you .

15. **From: John Farley <farleyj845@gmail.com>**
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 10:18 AM
To: Kujala, Quentin <qkujala@mt.gov>

Cc: Tim Aldrich <cartim8@gmail.com>; Tony_Jones <tonyj.rcfwa@gmail.com> John Farley <farleyj845@gmail.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Pacific Flyway Waterfowl Hunting Season 2020-2021 Modifications

For Consideration Please:

Comment Document to modify the opening and closing dates of the Montana general waterfowl season for ducks and geese in Pacific Flyway for 2020-2021.

Opening day to begin on or around Sept 26th 2020 and closing date to extend thru to Jan 31st 2021...with a required closed season (section) to be filled during Oct/Nov 2020...which is mandated by USFWS.

A longer waterfowl hunting season in Pacific Flyway would help with recruitment of younger and older hunters due to a longer season.

Bag limits controlled by USFWS would not be affected.

Competition with other overlapping hunting seasons should not be an issue.

Fiscal concerns should be minimal.

Increase in revenue to communities (sporting goods, hotels, restaurants, gas stations) is always good.

Our Eastern Montana -Central Flyway neighbors in Zone 2 have already captured a slightly longer and broader format

than our current season.

Introduce a Spring Snow (white goose) Goose season in Pacific Flyway..limited counties participation.. similar to other adjoining states seasons

Purpose is to assist in reduction of white goose numbers that migrate north only during this timeframe because they are destroying nesting habitat and landscape.

Hunting days to be determined: approx 2-3 weeks in or around march 2021

Added benefit..hunter involvement...recruitment of hunters to sport.

Increase in revenue to private sector

Minimal fiscal concerns

Please review and discuss how we can implement this New Hunting Format.

Thank You for your time and consideration:

John A Farley.....40 years Waterfowl Hunter in Montana

406-369-6930

farleyj845@gmail.com