Meeting Date: January 17, 2018

Agenda Item: Upland Game, Turkey and Furbearer Season Setting 2018 & 2019 (Action)

Prepared by: Jeffrey M. Knetter, Upland Game & Migratory Game Bird Coordinator

Background:
Upland game bird, upland game animal, furbearer, and migratory bird (crow) seasons and bag and possession limits are set on even-numbered years and cover a two-year period. The purpose of this agenda item is to adopt changes to the Seasons governing the taking of Game Birds (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 09), the taking of Game Animals (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 07), the taking of Furbearing Animals (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 16), the taking of Migratory Birds (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 13), and Falconry (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 14).

Staff recommendations for changes for the 2018 and 2019 Upland Game, Turkey, and Furbearer seasons include the following proposals:

Statewide
- Extend the closing date for cottontail rabbits from February 28 to March 31.
- Increase the daily bag limit for turkeys in the spring and align the daily bag limit in the fall with the number of tags possessed.

Turkeys
Panhandle
- Increase the length of the fall turkey season by 16 days - move the season opener to August 30 from September 15.

Clearwater
- Eliminate the break in the fall turkey season (Units 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18), remove the limitation to hunt only on private lands, and move the season opener to August 30 from September 15. In the past there has been a split during which hunting was CLOSED between October 10 and November 20.
- Increase the length of the fall turkey season (Units 10, 12, 16A, 17, 19, and 20) by 16 days - move the season opener to August 30 from September 15.

Southwest
- Add a new fall controlled hunt in portions of GMUs 22, 31, 32 (except that portion in Payette County) outside the National Forest System boundary. Proposed tag limit is 75 and season would run October 10–November 30.
- Increase tag numbers by 15 in each of the 4 spring controlled hunts in Hunt Area 38-1 (all of Unit 38 and that portion of Unit 32 in Payette County) - a total increase of 60 tags.
- Increase fall tag numbers for Hunt Area 38-1 by 20 tags.

Southeast
- Close general spring turkey season in Unit 70.

Salmon
- Add new spring youth controlled hunts in Units 21, 21A, 29, 30, and that portion of Unit 28 downstream from the Hat Creek drainage.
- Add new fall controlled hunt in Units 21, 21A, 29, 30, and that portion of Unit 28 downstream from the Hat Creek drainage.
- Add new fall controlled hunt in Units 36A, 36B, 37, 37A, and that portion of Unit 28 upstream from and including the Hat Creek drainage.
- Increase the number of tags in existing controlled hunts in all of Units 36A, 36B, 37, 37A, and that portion of Unit 28 upstream from and including the Hat Creek drainage.

**Foxes**

Southwest
- Eliminate existing area closure to allow hunting and trapping of foxes on private land in that portion of Adams County within the Little Salmon River drainage.
- Eliminate existing area closure to allow both trapping and hunting of foxes throughout Valley County, including on private land.

**Beavers**

Southeast
- Eliminate existing closure to allow beaver trapping in Miner and Cedar creeks.
- Add two Controlled Beaver Trapping Units for the Cottonwood Creek drainage within Bannock County (5 beavers each).
- Split existing Controlled Beaver Trapping Unit 202 into two separate Controlled Trapping Units, one in Pebble Creek and one in Toponce Creek in Caribou County. Each Controlled Trapping Unit would allow take of 5 beavers.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**
Idaho Statute 36-104 authorizes the Commission to establish by proclamation seasons and bag limits for the taking of wildlife consistent with state policy.

**Public Involvement Process:**
A press release announcing proposed changes to seasons and bag limits was distributed to media outlets statewide, posted to IDFG social media accounts, and proposals were posted on the IDFG website. Open houses were held in each region to provide the public with opportunities to comment on IDFG-proposed changes. Input on proposals was accepted via the IDFG website Dec. 4 – Dec 15. Public comments were considered and guided modification of some of the proposals.

**Justification:**
Seasons are designed to manage Idaho’s upland game, turkey, and furbearer resources for hunting and trapping opportunity while considering biological and sociological implications.

**Staff Recommendation:**
Final recommendations are attached and will be presented at the Commission meeting.

**Suggested Motion:** Commission adopt staff recommendations for 2018 and 2019 Upland Game, Turkey, and Furbearer seasons.
Upland Game, Turkey, & Furbearer Season Recommendations - 2018-2019

- **Forest Grouse; NO CHANGE**
  - **Area 1**
    - 2018: 30 August – 31 January 2019
    - 2019: 30 August – 31 January 2020
  - **Area 2**
    - 2018: 30 August – 31 December
    - 2019: 30 August – 31 December

- **Bobwhite and California Quail; NO CHANGE**
  - **Area 1 – Eastern Idaho**
    - Closed
  - **Area 2 – North and SW Idaho;**
    - 2018: 15 September – 31 January 2019
    - 2019: 21 September – 31 January 2020

- **Chukar and Gray Partridge; NO CHANGE**
  - **Statewide**
    - 2018: 15 September – 31 January 2019
    - 2019: 21 September – 31 January 2020

- **Sharp-tailed Grouse; NO CHANGE**
  - **Area 1 – North and SW Idaho**
    - Closed
  - **Area 2 – Eastern Idaho**
    - 2018: 1 October – 31 October
    - 2019: 1 October – 31 October

- **Pheasants; NO CHANGE**
  - **Area 1 – Northern Idaho**
    - 2018: 13 October – 31 December
    - 2019: 12 October – 31 December
  - **Area 2 – Eastern Idaho**
    - 2018: 20 October – 30 November
    - 2019: 19 October – 30 November
  - **Area 3 – Southwest Idaho**
    - 2018: 20 October – 31 December
    - 2019: 19 October – 31 December

- **WMA Pheasant; NO CHANGE**
• **Turkeys**
  - **Statewide**
    - Increase the daily bag limit for turkeys in the spring, and align the daily bag limit in the fall with the number of tags possessed.

    The daily bag limit is one two bearded turkeys per day in the spring. In fall, the daily bag limit is equal to the number of tags possessed, and one turkey (either sex) per day in the fall, except in Units 1, 2, 3, and 5 where 5 turkeys (either sex) may be taken in a day during fall seasons.

• **Panhandle Region**
  - Increase the length of the fall season by 16 days - move the season opener to August 30 from September 15.

    September 15, 2016 through December 31, 2018 and September 15, 2017 through December 31, 2019.

    General Fall Hunt in Game Management Units 1, 2 (except Farragut State Park and Farragut WMA) 3, 4, 4A, 5 and 6.

• **Clearwater Region**
  - Eliminate the break in fall seasons in Units 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18, remove the limitation to hunt only on private lands, and move the season opener to August 30 from September 15. Currently, there is a split in seasons between October 10 and November 20.

    September 15, 2016 through October 9, 2016 through December 31, 2016 and September 15, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

    General Fall Hunt in Game Management Units 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 16A, 17, 18, 19, 20.

    November 21, 2016 through December 31, 2016 and November 21, 2017 through December 31, 2017. General Fall Hunt in Game Management Units 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18. This hunt is open on private lands only. For the purpose of this hunt, “private lands” do not include corporate timberlands.

  - Increase the length of the fall season by 16 days in Units 10, 12, 16A, 17, 19, and 20 - move the season opener to August 30 from September 15.

    September 15, 2016 through October 9, 2016 through December 31, 2016 and September 15, 2017 through October 9, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

    General Fall Hunt in Game Management Units 8, 8A, 10A, 11, 11A, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 16A, 17, 18, 19, and 20.
- **Southwest Region**
  - Add a new fall controlled hunt in portions of GMU’s 22, 31, and 32 outside the National Forest System boundary. Proposed tag limit is 75 and season would run from October 10–November 30.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt</th>
<th>CH Area Description</th>
<th>Fall Hunt Dates</th>
<th>Permits</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XXXX</td>
<td>GMU 22, 31, and 32 (except that portion in Payette County) outside the National Forest System boundary</td>
<td>October 10 – November 30</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>New Hunt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Increase spring tag numbers for Hunt Area 38-1 (all of Unit 38 and that portion of Unit 32 in Payette County) by a total of 60 tags
- Increase fall tag numbers for Hunt Area 38-1 by 20 tags

<table>
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<th>Permits</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9003</td>
<td>38-1: All of Unit 38 and that portion of Unit 32 in Payette County</td>
<td>April 15 – April 30</td>
<td>60-75</td>
<td>Increase of 15 tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9004</td>
<td>38-1: All of Unit 38 and that portion of Unit 32 in Payette County</td>
<td>May 1 – May 25</td>
<td>35-50</td>
<td>Increase of 15 tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9005</td>
<td>38-1: All of Unit 38 and that portion of Unit 32 in Payette County</td>
<td>Youth Hunt April 8 – April 24</td>
<td>60-75</td>
<td>Increase of 15 tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9006</td>
<td>38-1: All of Unit 38 and that portion of Unit 32 in Payette County</td>
<td>Youth Hunt April 25 – May 25</td>
<td>40-55</td>
<td>Increase of 15 tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9019</td>
<td>38-1: All of Unit 38 and that portion of Unit 32 in Payette County</td>
<td>September 15 – October 9</td>
<td>40-60</td>
<td>Increase of 20 tags</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Magic Valley Region; NO CHANGE**

- **Southeast Region**
  - Close general spring turkey hunt in Unit 70.

- **Upper Snake Region; NO CHANGE**
• **Salmon Region**
  - Add new spring controlled youth hunts in Units 21, 21A, 29, 30, and that portion of Unit 28 downstream from the Hat Creek drainage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt</th>
<th>CH Area Description</th>
<th>Spring Hunt Dates</th>
<th>Permits</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XXXX</td>
<td>21A-1: All of Units 21, 21A, 29, 30, and that portion of Unit 28 downstream from the Hat Creek drainage</td>
<td>Youth Hunt April 8 – May 25 Access is Limited (Recommended do not apply unless you have access to private property)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>New Hunt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Increase the number of tags available in existing controlled hunts in all of Units 36A, 36B, 37, 37A, and that portion of Unit 28 upstream from and including the Hat Creek drainage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt</th>
<th>CH Area Description</th>
<th>Spring Hunt Dates</th>
<th>Permits</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9001</td>
<td>36B-1: All of Units 36A, 36B, 37, 37A, and that portion of Unit 28 upstream from and including the Hat Creek drainage.</td>
<td>April 15 - May 25 Access is Limited (Recommend do not apply unless you have access to private property)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30 Increase of 15 tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9002</td>
<td>36B-1: All of Units 36A, 36B, 37, 37A, and that portion of Unit 28 upstream from and including the Hat Creek drainage.</td>
<td>Youth Hunt April 8 - May 25 Access is Limited (Recommend do not apply unless you have access to private property)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25 Increase of 15 tags</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Add new fall controlled hunts - one in Units 21, 21A, 29, 30, and that portion of Unit 28 downstream from the Hat Creek drainage, and the other in Units 36A, 36B, 37, 37A, and that portion of Unit 28 upstream from and including the Hat Creek drainage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt</th>
<th>CH Area Description</th>
<th>Fall Hunt Dates</th>
<th>Permits</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XXXX</td>
<td>21A-1: All of Units 21, 21A, 29, 30, and that portion of Unit 28 downstream from the Hat Creek drainage</td>
<td>September 15 – December 31 PRIVATE LANDS ONLY (Recommended do not apply unless you have access to private property)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>New Hunt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- **Cottontail Rabbits and Snowshoe Hares**
  - **Statewide**
    - Extend the closing date for cottontail rabbits from February 28 to March 31.

  2016 — August 30 through February 28, 2017
  2017 — August 30 through February 28, 2017
  2019 — August 30 through February 28, 2017
  2020 — August 30 through February 28, 2017
  2021 — August 30 through February 28, 2017

- **Furbearers**
  - **Southwest Region**
    - Allow hunting and trapping of foxes on private land in that portion of Adams County within the Little Salmon River drainage.

      Exceptions: Fox

      Adams County: Private lands within the Little Salmon R. drainage — CLOSED.

  - **Allow hunting of foxes in Valley County.**

      Exceptions: Fox

      Valley County: Fox may be taken only by trapping and only on National Forest and State of Idaho lands.

  - **Allow trapping of foxes throughout Valley County, including on private land.**

      Exceptions: Fox

      Valley County: Fox may be taken only by trapping and only on National Forest and State of Idaho lands.

- **Southeast Region**
  - **Allow beaver trapping in Miner and Cedar creeks.**

      Exceptions: Beaver

      **Bingham County:** Cedar Cr. And Miner Cr., and Public lands (Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management properties) within the Willow Creek drainage.
• Add two Controlled Trapping Units for the Cottonwood Creek drainage within Bannock County (5 beaver each).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Trapping Unit</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Permits</th>
<th>Beaver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XXXX</td>
<td>That portion of Unit 74 in the Cottonwood Creek drainage.</td>
<td>October 22 – April 15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXX</td>
<td>That portion of Unit 74 in the Cottonwood Creek drainage.</td>
<td>October 22 – April 15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Split Controlled Beaver Trapping Unit 202 into two separate Controlled Trapping Units for Pebble Creek and Toponce Creek in Caribou County. Each Controlled Trapping Unit would allow take of 5 beaver each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Trapping Unit</th>
<th>Season Dates</th>
<th>Permits</th>
<th>Beaver</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>Pebble Creek drainage and Toponce Creek drainage in Caribou County.</td>
<td>October 22 – April 15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXX</td>
<td>Toponce Creek drainage in Caribou County.</td>
<td>October 22 – April 15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>