

Forest Grouse: Dusky (Blue), Ruffed, and Spruce

AREA 1

Boundary, Bonner, and Kootenai counties, portions of Latah and Clearwater counties in management units 6 and 9, and Benewah and Shoshone counties, except for those portions in management units 8, 8A, 10, and 10A.

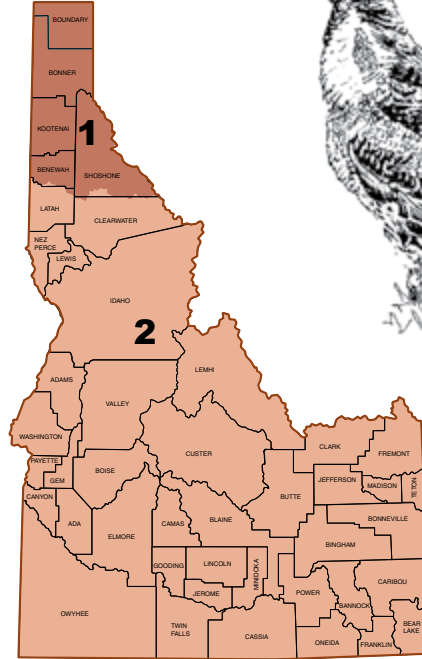
Seasons

2016 — August 30 through January 31, 2017

2017 — August 30 through January 31, 2018

Daily Bag Limit **4 in the aggregate**

Possession Limit **12 in the aggregate**



Blue grouse are now known as Dusky grouse

AREA 2

Remainder of the state.

Seasons

2016 — August 30 through December 31

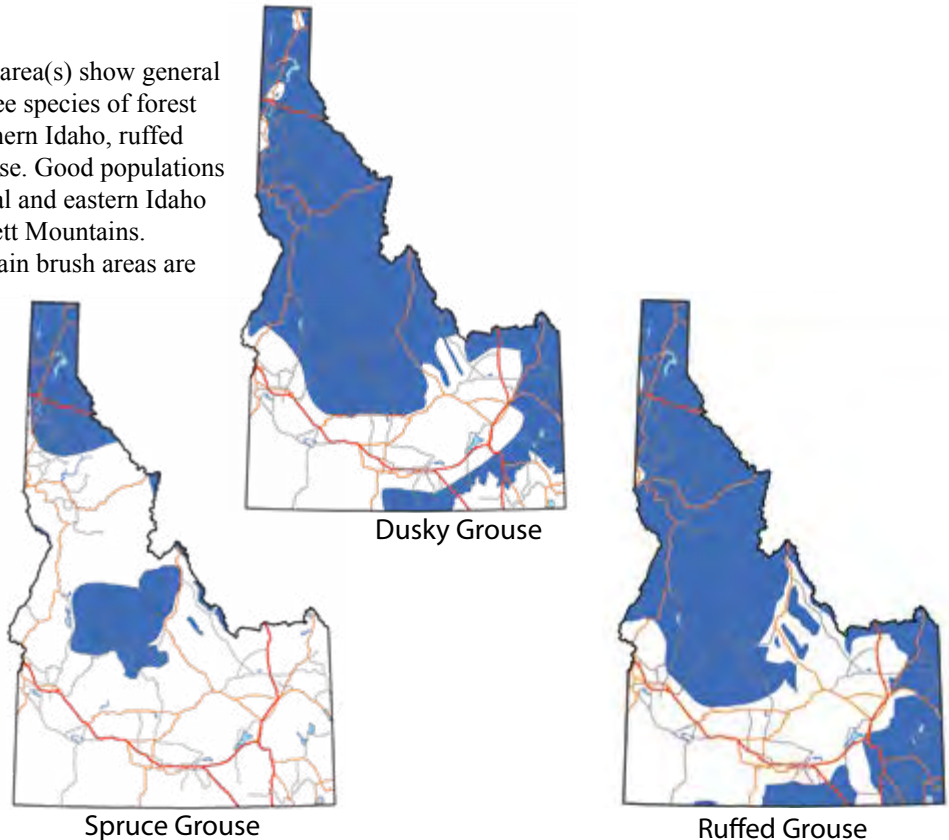
2017 — August 30 through December 31

Daily Bag Limit **4 in the aggregate**

Possession Limit **12 in the aggregate**

Forest Grouse

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded area(s) show general distribution of these species. Idaho's three species of forest grouse are all native to the state. In northern Idaho, ruffed grouse are the most common forest grouse. Good populations are also found in the mountains of central and eastern Idaho and southeastern Idaho west to the Sublett Mountains. Riparian habitats and other moist mountain brush areas are commonly used by these birds. Dusky (blue) grouse are more common than other grouse in most southern Idaho mountains. They favor high elevation sagebrush and mountain shrub areas for nesting, springs and stream banks for rearing young and rely heavily on Douglas fir for fall and winter food and cover. The sparsely-distributed spruce grouse is found in dense conifer forests, generally from the Salmon and Payette river drainages north.



Spruce Grouse

Dusky Grouse

Ruffed Grouse

California and Bobwhite Quail

No Season on Gambel's and Mountain Quail

AREA 1

Ada, Adams, Benewah, Blaine, Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Clearwater, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Idaho, Jerome, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Lincoln, Minidoka, Nez Perce, Owyhee, Payette, Shoshone, Twin Falls, Valley, and Washington counties.

Seasons

2016 — September 17 through January 31, 2017

2017 — September 16 through January 31, 2018

Daily Bag Limit **10 in the aggregate**

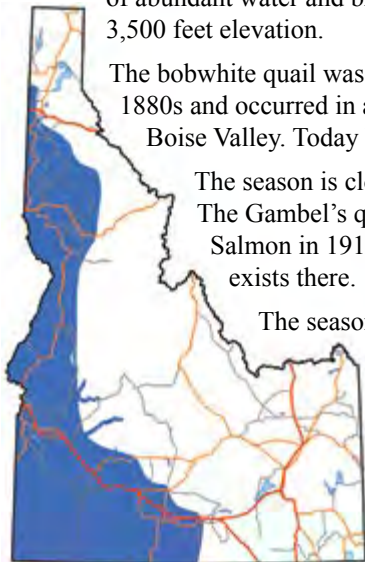
Possession Limit **30 in the aggregate**

AREA 2

Remainder of the state: **CLOSED**

Quail

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded area(s) show general distribution of these species. There are three introduced and one native species of quail in Idaho. The California (valley) quail, which occurs from Twin Falls west to the Oregon border and north to the Palouse Prairie, is the most common. Good populations live along rivers, streams and other areas of abundant water and brushy cover below about 3,500 feet elevation.



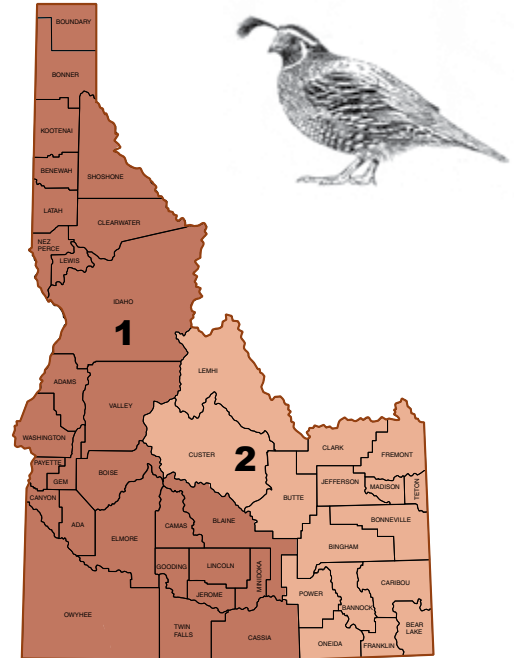
California Quail

The bobwhite quail was introduced to Idaho in the 1880s and occurred in agricultural areas of the Boise Valley. Today bobwhite are rare.

The season is closed on Gambel's quail. The Gambel's quail was introduced near Salmon in 1917, and a population still exists there.

The season is closed on mountain quail. This quail, a native bird, exists in small, scattered populations in dense mountain brush fields usually associated with riparian areas. It is rare in the mountains from Boise to Bennett Mountain, the Owyhee Mountains, and along

the Little Salmon River, Main Salmon and lower Snake River. The season is closed on mountain quail. Mountain quail have recently been reintroduced into historical habitat on Craig Mountain WMA (Nez Perce and Lewis counties), and in Elmore and Gooding counties. If quail are encountered, hunters are cautioned that there is no open hunting season for mountain quail in Idaho.



Mountain Quail Sightings Wanted!

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is surveying the state for mountain quail. This bird was once common in the western part of Idaho but now exists only in small scattered populations.

We need your help in determining the status and distribution of these birds. Please report any sighting you make as soon as possible to your nearest Fish & Game office.



Photo © Brian E. Small

What to Look For

- Long straight head plume
- Chestnut throat (not black like California quail)
- Vertical white bars on sides
- Most common on brushy mountain slopes or in brushy forest

Chukar and Gray Partridge

Entire State Open

Seasons

2016 — September 17 through January 31, 2017

Daily Bag Limit **8 Chukar & 8 Gray Partridge**

Possession Limit **24 Chukar & 24 Gray Partridge**

2017 — September 16 through January 31, 2018

Daily Bag Limit **8 Chukar & 8 Gray Partridge**

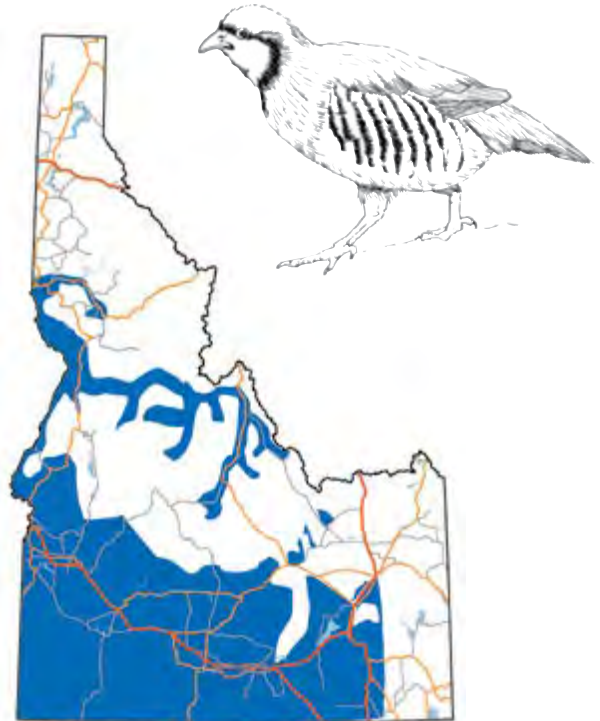
Possession Limit **24 Chukar & 24 Gray Partridge**

Chukar

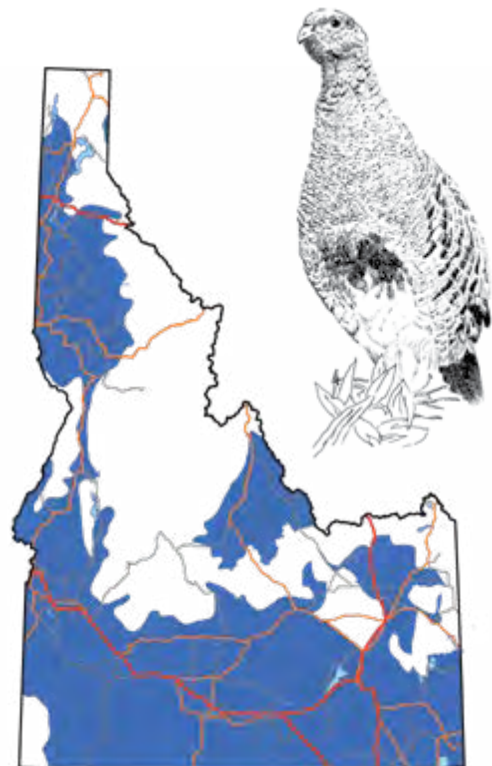
Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded areas show general distribution of chukar partridge. This species was introduced into Idaho from Asia. They are common in suitable habitat along the Salmon, Snake and Boise rivers, and along other river drainages of southern and central Idaho up to an elevation of about 5,000 feet. Chukar habitat consists of steep, rocky canyons with grassy and brushy vegetation.

Gray Partridge

Distribution and Habitat Use: Gray partridge, another introduced species, are widely distributed, and can be found in agricultural regions, as well as in sagebrush/grassland areas. They are hardy birds able to withstand severe winter weather if adequate food is available.



Chukar



Gray Partridge

Sage-grouse

Sage-grouse seasons will be set in August.

A separate seasons brochure will be available online and in printed form in August after the seasons have been set.

Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit Validation: Any person hunting sage or sharp-tailed grouse must have in possession their hunting license with a sage/sharp-tailed grouse permit validation. See pages 45, 48-49.

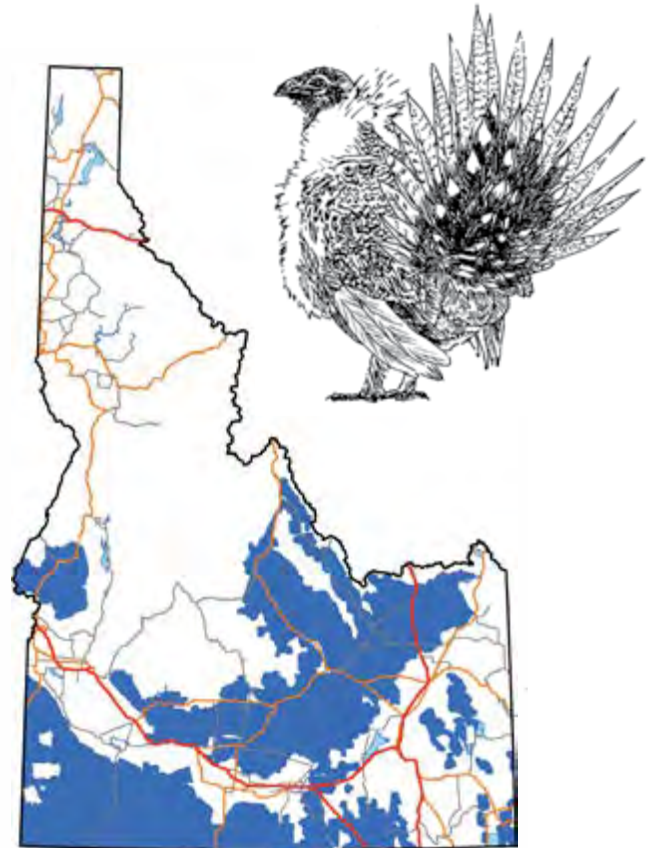
Identify Your Target!

Is it a sage-grouse or a sharp-tailed grouse?

Note: Sharp-tailed grouse have recently been introduced into historical range in southern Twin Falls County and southeastern Owyhee County. Twin Falls County, Owyhee County and most of Cassia County are closed to the hunting of sharp-tailed grouse. Sharp-tailed grouse also occur around the Split Butte area in Minidoka County. Hunting of sharp-tailed grouse is closed in Minidoka County. Be sure of your target!

Sage-grouse

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded area(s) show general distribution of this species. This native grouse is widely distributed in areas with large blocks of sagebrush habitat throughout southern Idaho. Sagebrush is a crucial winter food for sage-grouse and also provides them with nesting and roosting cover during the rest of the year. Wet places, including agricultural lands, are important feeding areas for hens with chicks and are heavily used by sage-grouse during the fall in dry years.



Sage-grouse

Sage-grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse

Over the years, some upland game bird hunters have had a difficult time determining the difference between sage-grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. This is a problem when sharptails are taken by hunters during the sage-grouse season. Hunters most often mistake sharptails for young sage-grouse. Their ranges do overlap in parts of eastern and southern Idaho.

Sage-grouse

Size:

Larger; small turkey in size.

Color:

Darker; black/brown in most cases.

Behavior:

Slower wing beats.

Vocalization:

Silent in flight.



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When in doubt, don't shoot!!!

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Size:

Smaller; chicken or hen pheasant in size.

Color:

Lighter; slate gray/light brown with white under the wings and lower belly.

Behavior:

Fast flyers; wobble back and forth when taking off.

Vocalization:

Chucking in flight; laughing sound.



Sharp-tailed Grouse

AREA 1

Bingham and Clark counties east of Interstate 15, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson counties east of Interstate 15, Madison, and Teton counties, Bonneville County east of Interstate 15, Bannock County east of Interstate 15 and south of Interstate 86, Bear Lake, Caribou, Cassia counties east of Interstate 84 and that portion west of Interstate 84 south of the Malta-Sublett Road and east of the Malta-Strevell Road, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties south of Interstate 86.

Seasons

2016 — October 1 through October 31

2017 — October 1 through October 31

Daily Bag Limit 2

Possession Limit 6

Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit Validation: Any person hunting sage- or sharp-tailed grouse must have in possession their hunting license with a sage/sharp-tailed grouse permit validation. See pages 45, 48-49.

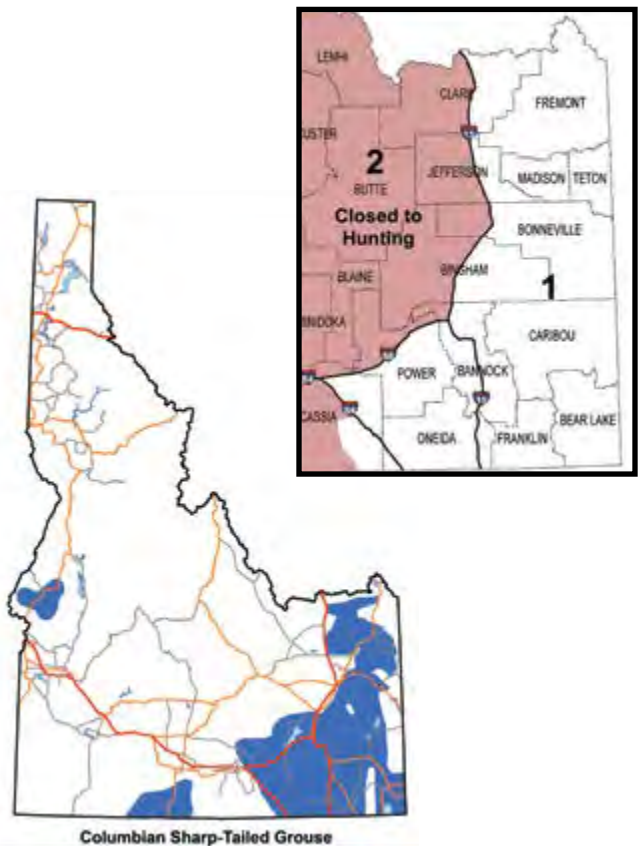


AREA 2

Remainder of the state: **CLOSED.**

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded area(s) show general distribution of this species. Columbian sharp-tailed grouse were once distributed in grassland/mountain brush habitats throughout southern and western Idaho north to the Palouse Prairie. Habitat changes due to agricultural development, improper livestock grazing, and human development, among other factors, have reduced this grouse’s range to areas mostly in southeastern Idaho. Agricultural lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program currently provide important habitat for this species and have led to increased populations since 1986. Good populations still exist from Fremont County south to Utah in grasslands associated with chokecherry, sagebrush, hawthorn, serviceberry, bitterbrush and other brushy cover.



Columbian Sharp-Tailed Grouse

Pheasants - All Varieties

No Season on Hen (female) Pheasants

AREA 1

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Shoshone counties.

Seasons

2016 — October 8 through December 31

2017 — October 14 through December 31

Daily Bag Limit**3 cocks**

Possession Limit**9 cocks**

AREA 2

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida, Power, and Teton counties. For shooting hours on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) see page 11.

Seasons

2016 — October 15 through November 30

2017 — October 21 through November 30

Daily Bag Limit**3 cocks**

Possession Limit**9 cocks**

AREA 3

Ada, Adams, Blaine, Boise, Camas, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, Valley, and Washington counties (including all islands in the Snake River except Patch and Porter Islands). For shooting hours on WMAs see page 11.

Seasons

2016 — October 15 through December 31

2017 — October 21 through December 31

Daily Bag Limit**3 cocks**

Possession Limit**9 cocks**

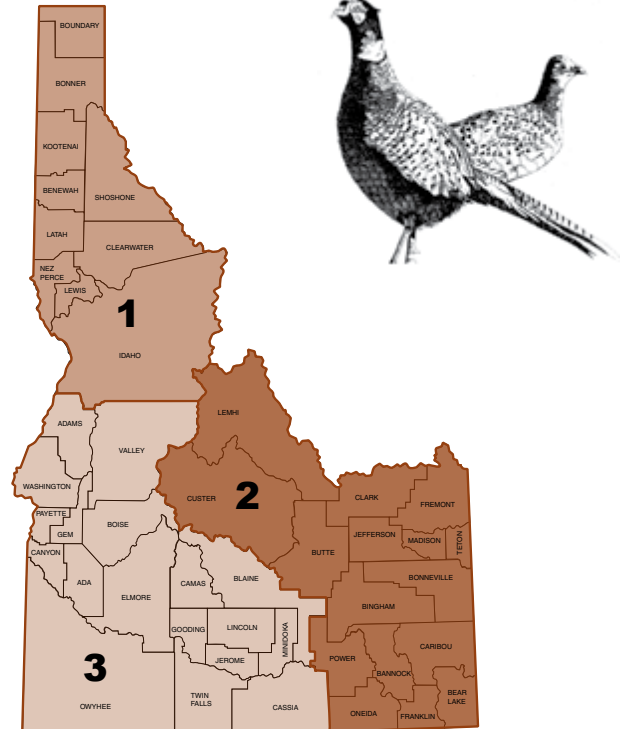
Youth Hunt Season

2016 — October 1 through October 7

2017 — October 7 through October 13

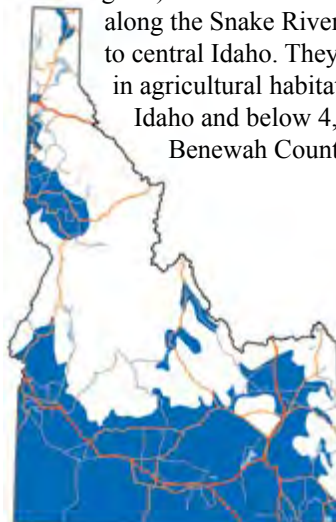
Statewide the season begins one-half hour before sunrise. It is open statewide for all licensed hunters 15 years of age or younger. All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older.*

*One adult may accompany more than one youth hunter.



Pheasant

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded area(s) show general distribution of this species. The ring-necked pheasant is widely distributed in agricultural areas. Important habitat needs are grassy areas or other dense nesting cover at least 18 inches high, permanent cover that provides protection from winter weather, and abundant water and food (especially grain). Pheasants are common in this type of habitat along the Snake River Plain from the Oregon border to central Idaho. They are present in lower densities in agricultural habitats below 5,000 feet in eastern Idaho and below 4,000 feet in northern Idaho from Benewah County south to Whitebird.



Ring-necked Pheasant