



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

2020 — August 30 through January 31, 2021

2021 — August 30 through January 31, 2022

Daily Bag Limit.....**4 in the aggregate**

Possession Limit **12 in the aggregate**

AREA 2

Remainder of the state

Seasons

2020 — August 30 through December 31

2021 — August 30 through December 31

Daily Bag Limit..... **4 in the aggregate**

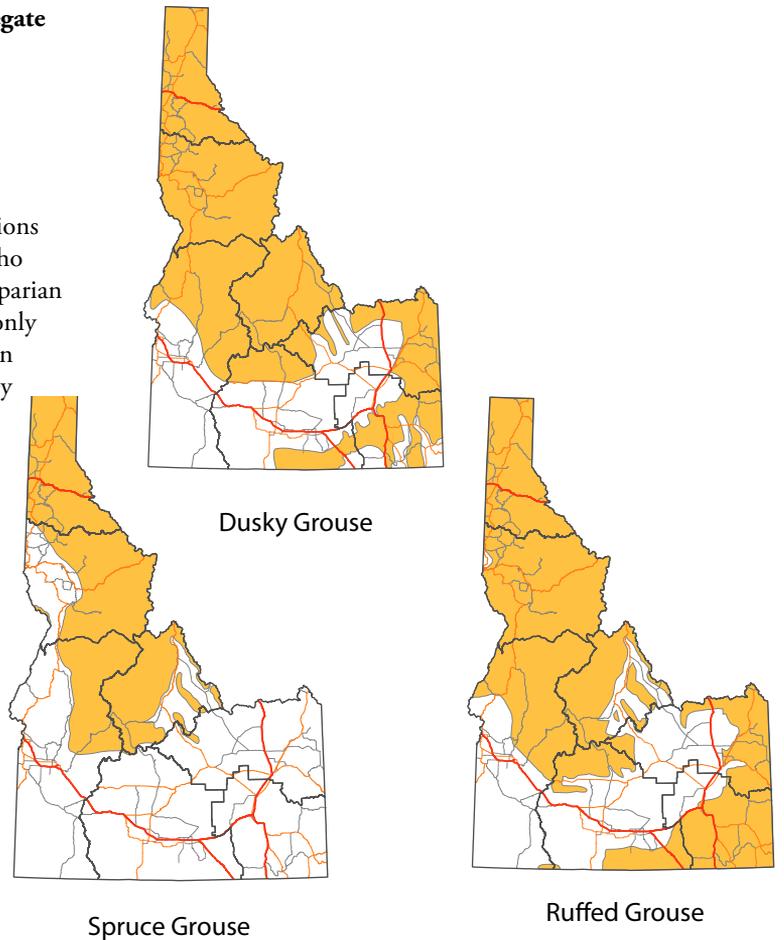
Possession Limit **12 in the aggregate**

Forest Grouse

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded area 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.



© Shawn McCready Buchner



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

2020 — September 19 through January 31, 2021

2021 — September 18 through January 31, 2022

Daily Bag Limit..... **10 in the aggregate**

Possession Limit **30 in the aggregate**

AREA 2

Remainder of the state: **CLOSED**

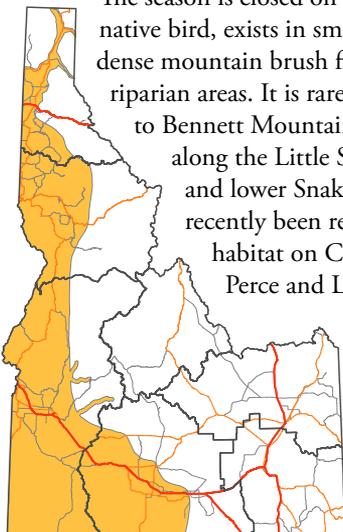
Quail

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded area shows general distribution of California quail. 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.

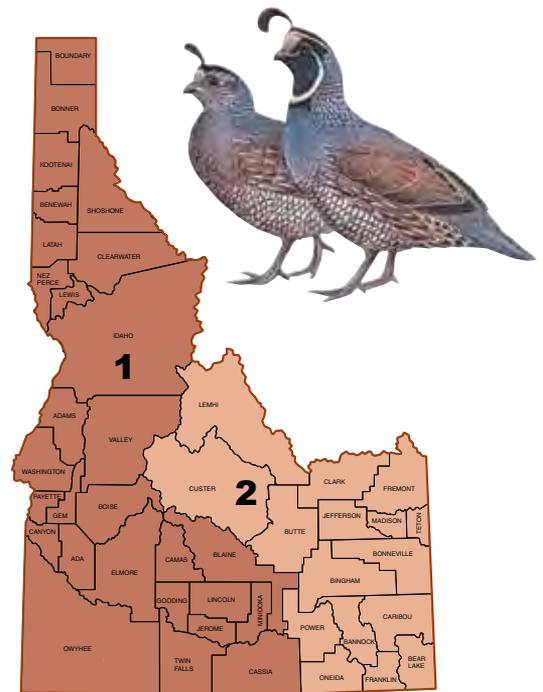
The bobwhite quail was introduced to Idaho in the 1880s and occurred in agricultural areas of the Boise Valley. Today bobwhite are rare.

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. 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.



California Quail



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

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



© Brian E. Small





CHUKAR AND GRAY PARTRIDGE

ENTIRE STATE OPEN

Seasons

2020 — September 19 through January 31, 2021

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

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

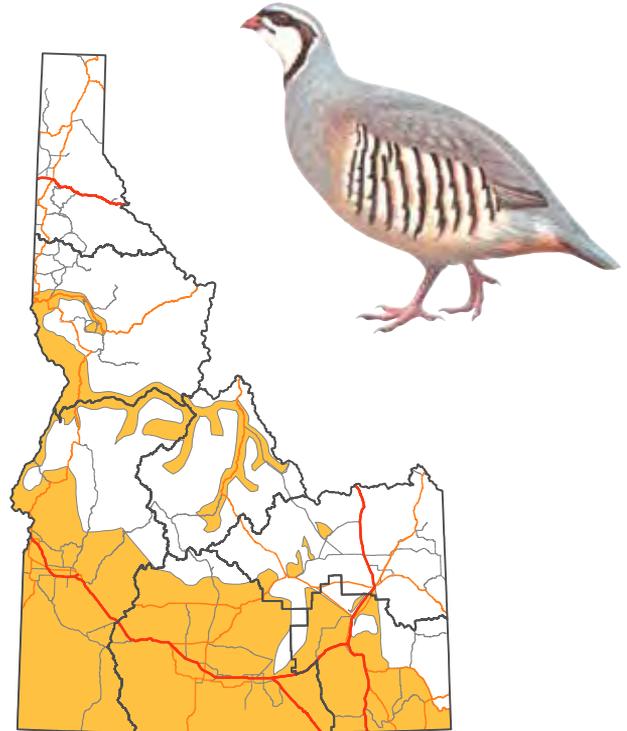
2021 — September 18 through January 31, 2022

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

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

Chukar

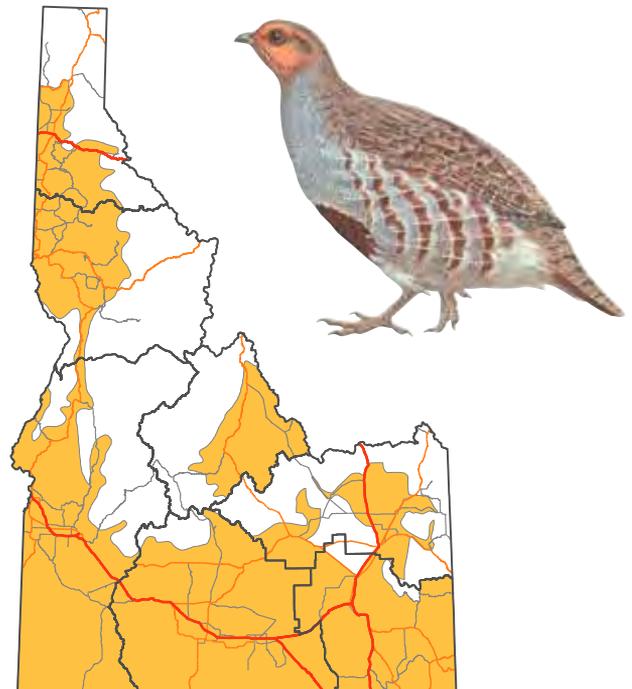
Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded areas show general distribution of chukar partridge. This species was introduced into Idaho from Asia. They are common in suitable habitat along the Salmon, Snake and Boise rivers, and along other river drainages of southern and central Idaho up to an elevation of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



Chukar

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.



Gray Partridge



© Joshua White



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

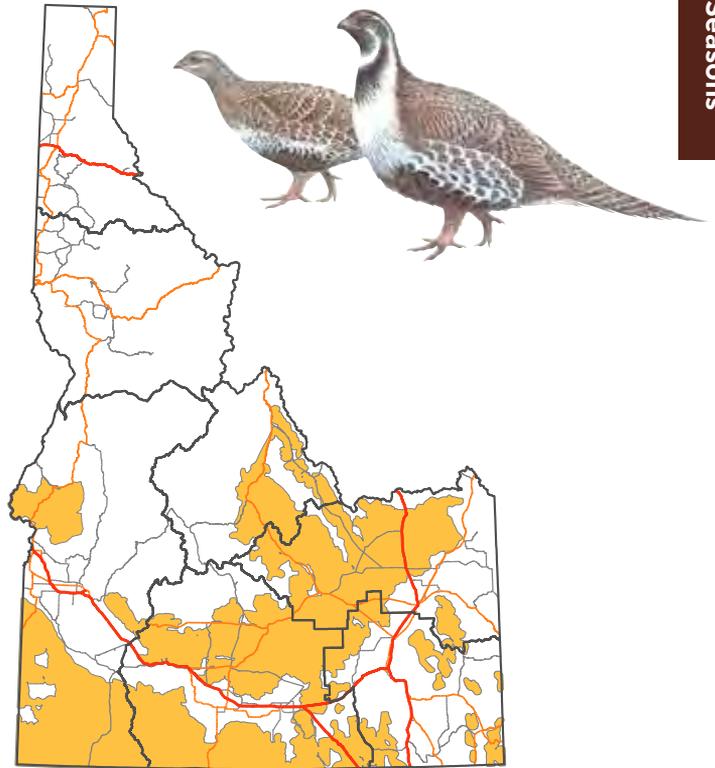
Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit Validation: Any person hunting sage or sharp-tailed grouse must have in possession their hunting license with a sage/sharp-tailed grouse permit validation. See pages 49-54.

Sage-grouse

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded area 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.

IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET
Is it a sage-grouse or a sharp-tailed grouse?

Note: Sharp-tailed grouse have been re-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 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

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	SHARP-TAILED GROUSE
SIZE	Larger; small turkey in size	Smaller; chicken or hen pheasant in size
COLOR	Darker; black/brown in most cases	Lighter; slate gray/light brown with white under the wings and lower belly
BEHAVIOR	Slower wing beats	Fast flyers; wobble back and forth when taking off
VOCALIZATION	Silent in flight	Chuckling in flight; laughing sound

**When in doubt,
DO NOT SHOOT!**





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

2020 — October 1 through October 31

2021 — October 1 through October 31

Daily Bag Limit..... 2

Possession Limit 6

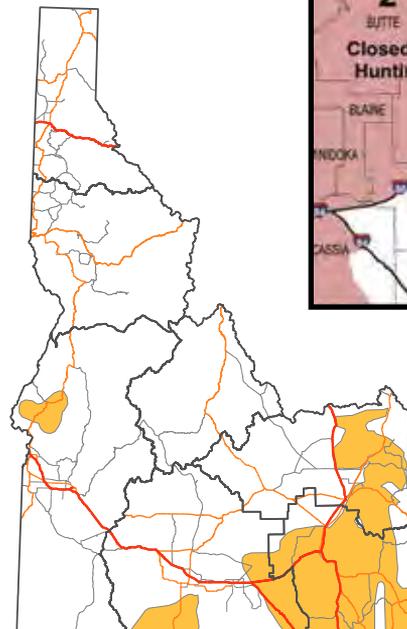
Sage/Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit Validation: Any person hunting sage or sharp-tailed grouse must have in possession their hunting license with a sage/sharp-tailed grouse permit validation. See pages 49-54.

AREA 2

Remainder of the state: **CLOSED**

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded areas 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



Sharp-tailed Grouse © IDFG Staff

PHEASANTS - ALL VARIETIES

NO SEASON ON HEN (FEMALE) PHEASANTS



AREA 1

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, and Shoshone counties. For shooting hours on Upland Game Bird Permit Release Area see page 13.

Seasons

2020 — October 10 through December 31

2021 — October 9 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 Upland Game Bird Permit Release Area see page 13.

Seasons

2020 — October 17 through November 30

2021 — October 16 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 Upland Game Bird Permit Release Area see page 13.

Seasons

2020 — October 17 through December 31

2021 — October 16 through December 31

Daily Bag Limit.....**3 cocks**

Possession Limit**9 cocks**

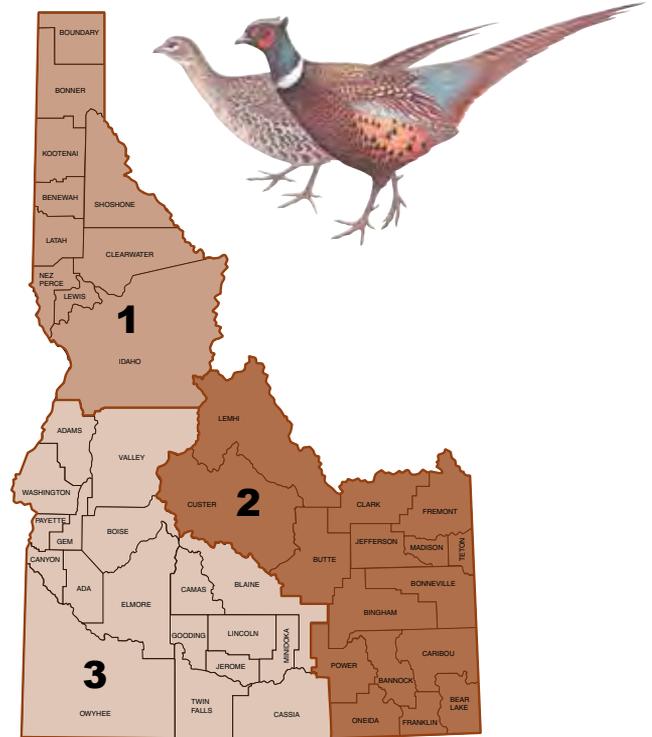
Youth Hunt Season

2020 — October 3 through October 9

2021 — October 2 through October 8

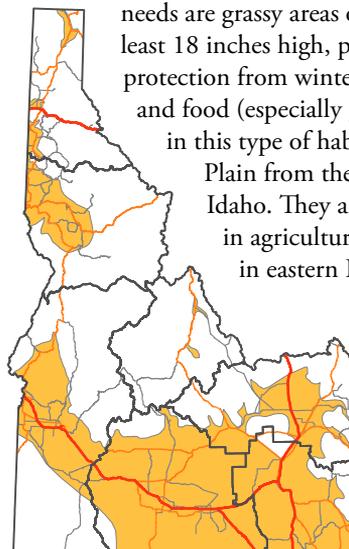
Statewide the season begins one-half hour before sunrise. It is open statewide for all licensed hunters 17 years of age or younger. All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older.

*An adult may not accompany more than two youth at a time.



Pheasant

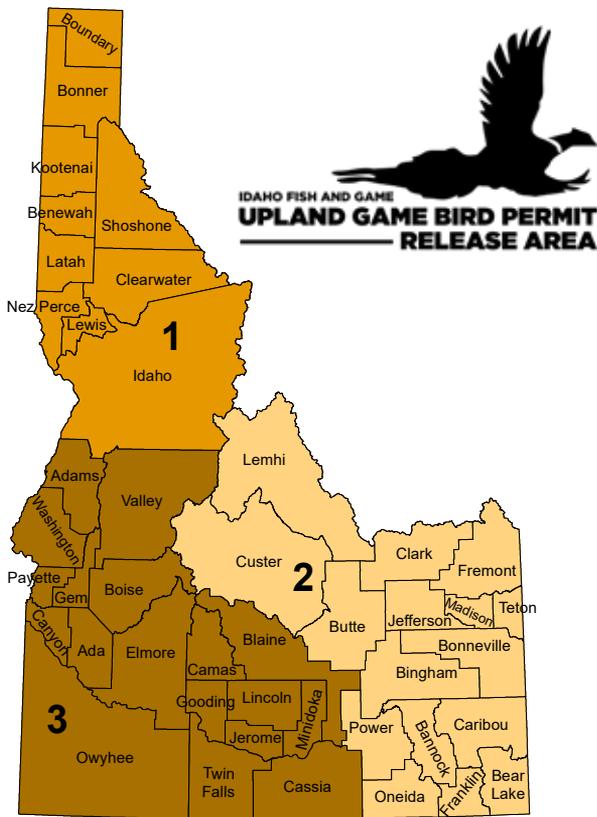
Distribution and Habitat Use: Shaded areas show general distribution of this species. The ring-necked pheasant is widely distributed in agricultural areas. Important habitat needs are grassy areas or other dense nesting cover at least 18 inches high, permanent cover that provides protection from winter 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

PHEASANT STOCKING PROGRAM

Idaho Department of Fish and Game releases pheasants at several Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and other locations around the state including certain private properties with an access agreement. Any person 18 years of older must have a valid Upland Game Bird Permit in possession while hunting pheasants on properties where pheasants are released, which are listed below. Each permit allows a possession limit of 6 birds and multiple permits may be purchased.



AREA 1

Boundary-Smith Creek WMA in Boundary County, Coeur d'Alene River WMA in Kootenai County, Palouse Youth Area, Petersen Loop and Genesee Release Area in Latah County and Redbird Release Area in Nez Perce County.

Seasons

2020 — October 10 through December 31
 2021 — October 9 through December 31
 Daily Bag Limit..... **2 cocks**
 Possession Limit **6 cocks**

AREA 2

Lewisville Knolls, Market Lake and Mud Lake WMAs in Jefferson County, Pahsimeroi River Access Area and Kirtley Creek Access Yes! in Lemhi County, Cartier Slough WMA in Madison County, Sterling WMA in Bingham County and Portneuf WMA in Bannock County.

Seasons

2020 — October 17 through November 30
 2021 — October 16 through November 30
 Daily Bag Limit..... **2 cocks**
 Possession Limit **6 cocks**

AREA 3

Fort Boise WMA (including Gold Island) and Roswell WHA in Canyon County, C.J. Strike WMA in Owyhee County, Birding Island segment of the Payette River WMA in Payette County, Montour WMA in Gem County, Niagara Springs WMA in Gooding County and Bureau of Reclamation Tract F27, Bureau of Reclamation Tract F28 in Minidoka County.

Seasons

2020 — October 17 through December 31
 2021 — October 16 through December 31
 Daily Bag Limit..... **2 cocks**
 Possession Limit **6 cocks**

Upland Game Bird Permit Release Area	Location Code
Portneuf WMA	14
Pahsimeroi River Access Area	15
BOR Tract F27	16
BOR Tract F28	17
Lewisville Knolls	18
Kirtley Creek Access Yes!	19
Palouse Youth Area	20
Petersen Loop	21
Genesee Release Area	22

Upland Game Bird Permit Release Area	Location Code
Fort Boise	01
Payette River	02
Montour	03
C.J. Strike	04
Sterling	05
Market Lake	06
Mud Lake	07
Cartier Slough	08
Niagara Springs	09
Boundary-Smith Creek WMA	10
Coeur d'Alene River WMA	11
Redbird Release Area	12
Roswell WHA	13

Shooting hours for upland game birds are from 10AM to one-half hour after sunset except the Clearwater Region which is from 8AM to one-half hour after sunset on the Upland Game Bird Permit Release Area.

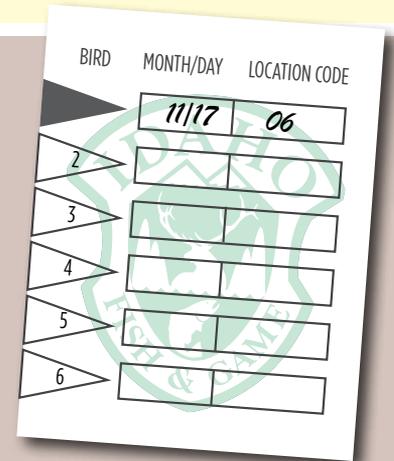
For stocking information, locations and maps please visit: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/pheasant/stocking-program>

PERMIT VALIDATION

When a pheasant is reduced to possession, the hunter must immediately:

- ✓ Validate their permit by entering the harvest date and location in non-erasable ink
- ✓ Remove a notch from the permit for each pheasant taken.

NOTE: All upland game bird hunters are required to wear visible hunter orange (minimum size 36 square inches) above the waist during pheasant season when hunting on WMAs or other locations where pheasants are stocked. A hunter orange hat meets this requirement.



RULES FOR UPLAND GAME BIRDS (EXCEPT TURKEY)

Unlawful Methods of Take

No person may take upland game birds:

- Outside of legal shooting hours.
- With a trap, snare, net, crossbow or firearm:
Except upland game birds may be taken with a shotgun using shells not exceeding 3 ½ inches maximum length, or muzzleloading shotgun.
Except forest grouse which may be taken with a crossbow or firearm.
- From any watercraft.
- By the use or aid of any electronic call.
- By the aid of baiting. Bait is defined as any substance placed to attract game.
- When hunting on locations where an Upland Game Bird permit is required, without wearing at least 36 square inches of visible hunter orange above the waist.

See page 44 for additional Unlawful Methods of Take.

Shooting Hours

- Upland Game Birds: From one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- Upland Game Bird Permit Release Area Where Pheasants Are Stocked: From 10AM to one half hour after sunset except the Clearwater Region which is 8AM to one-half hour after sunset, during the pheasant season.

Definitions

Daily Bag Limit: The maximum number of game birds that may be legally taken, caught or killed by any one (1) person during a calendar day.

Possession Limit: The maximum number of each species of upland game birds that may be lawfully possessed while in the field or being transported.

Termination of Possession: The possession of upland game birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by them to:

- Another person as a gift when accompanied by a proxy statement (see page 47).
- Upon reaching the final place of consumption or storage.

Species Identification: One (1) fully-feathered wing or the head must be left naturally attached on all dressed game birds (except turkey) and Eurasian-collared doves to permit identification of species and sex while being transported between the place where taken and the personal abode of the possessor OR between the place where taken and a commercial processing or storage facility.



Pheasant CCBY IDAHO FISH AND GAME