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
2022 – 2023 — August 30 through January 31
Daily Bag Limit ........................................... 4 in the aggregate
Possession Limit ........................................... 12 in the aggregate

AREA 2
Remainder of the state

Seasons
2022 – 2023 — 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 areas 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.
AREA 1

Seasons
2022 — September 17 through January 31, 2023
2023 — September 16 through January 31, 2024

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 River and lower Snake River. Mountain quail have 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.

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

Mountain quail were once common in the western part of Idaho, but now only exist in small scattered populations.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game needs 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 and 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
**Seasons**

2022 — September 17 through January 31, 2023
Daily Bag Limit............... 8 Chukar & 8 Gray Partridge
Possession Limit .......... 24 Chukar & 24 Gray Partridge

2023 — September 16 through January 31, 2024
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:** Shaded areas show general distribution of gray partridge. 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.
A separate brochure will be available at idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/sage-grouse and in printed form after seasons have been set in July.

**Sage-grouse requirements**: Any person hunting sage-grouse must have in possession a hunting license with a sage-grouse tag. See pages 49-54.

**Sage-grouse**

**Distribution and Habitat Use**: Shaded areas 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 sharp-tailed grouse hunting. Sharp-tailed grouse also occur around the Split Butte area in Minidoka County. Sharp-tailed grouse hunting is closed in Minidoka County. Be sure of your target!

**Sage-grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SIZE</strong></th>
<th>Larger; small turkey in size</th>
<th>Smaller; chicken or hen pheasant in size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLOR</strong></td>
<td>Darker; black/brown in most cases</td>
<td>Lighter; slate gray/light brown with white under the wings and lower belly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BEHAVIOR</strong></td>
<td>Slower wing beats</td>
<td>Fast flyers; wobble back and forth when taking off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VOCALIZATION</strong></td>
<td>Silent in flight</td>
<td>Chucking in flight; laughing sound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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Sage-grouse © Tatiana Gettelman

sharp-tailed grouse © IDFG
AREA 1
Bingham, Bonneville, Clark, and Jefferson counties east of Interstate 15, Bannock County east of Interstate 15 and south of Interstate 86, Power County south of Interstate 86, and those portions of Cassia County east of Interstate 84 and west of Interstate 84 south of the Malta-Sublett Road and east of the Malta-Strevell Road, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Fremont, Madison, Oneida, and Teton counties.

Seasons
2022 – 2023 — October 1 through October 31
Daily Bag Limit ................................................................. 2
Possession Limit .............................................................. 6
Sharp-tailed Grouse Permit Validation: Any person hunting sharp-tailed grouse must have in possession their hunting license with a 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.
AREA 1

Seasons
2022 — Resident: October 8 through December 31
Nonresident: October 13 through December 31
2023 — Resident: October 14 through December 31
Nonresident: October 19 through December 31

Daily Bag Limit: ...................................................... 3 roosters
Possession Limit: .................................................... 9 roosters

AREA 2
Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida, Power, and Teton counties.

Seasons
2022 — Resident: October 15 through November 30
Nonresident: October 20 through November 30
2023 — Resident: October 21 through November 30
Nonresident: October 26 through November 30

Daily Bag Limit: ...................................................... 3 roosters
Possession Limit: .................................................... 9 roosters

AREA 3
Includes all parts of the state NOT included in areas 1 and 2.

Seasons
2022 — Resident: October 15 through December 31
Nonresident: October 20 through December 31
2023 — Resident: October 21 through December 31
Nonresident: October 26 through December 31

Daily Bag Limit: ...................................................... 3 roosters
Possession Limit: .................................................... 9 roosters

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.

Youth Hunt Season
2022 — October 1 through October 7
2023 — October 7 through October 13

Statewide the season begins one-half hour before sunrise. It is open statewide for all licensed hunters 17 years of age or younger, including any location where Idaho Fish and Game releases pheasants, see page 12. 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.
Idaho Department of Fish and Game releases pheasants at locations around the state. Any person 18 years old or 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; multiple permits may be purchased. For shooting hours on Upland Game Bird Permit Release areas, see page 13.

### AREA 1

**Seasons**

2022 — Resident: October 8 through December 31
Nonresident: October 13 through December 31

2023 — Resident: October 14 through December 31
Nonresident: October 19 through December 31

- Daily Bag Limit: 2 roosters
- Possession Limit: 6 roosters

### AREA 2

**Seasons**

2022 — Resident: October 15 through November 30
Nonresident: October 20 through November 30

2023 — Resident: October 21 through November 30
Nonresident: October 26 through November 30

- Daily Bag Limit: 2 roosters
- Possession Limit: 6 roosters

### AREA 3

**Seasons**

2022 — Resident: October 15 through December 31
Nonresident: October 20 through December 31

2023 — Resident: October 21 through December 31
Nonresident: October 26 through December 31

- Daily Bag Limit: 2 roosters
- Possession Limit: 6 roosters

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**Upland Game Bird Permit Program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upland Game Bird Permit Release Area</th>
<th>Location Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boundary-Smith Creek WMA</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coeur d’Alene River WMA</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Mountain WMA - Redbird</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genesee Release Area</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palouse Youth-only Area</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petersen Loop Release Area</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upland Game Bird Permit Release Area</th>
<th>Location Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLM Lewisville Knolls</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartier Slough WMA</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirtley Creek Access Yes!</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Lake WMA</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mud Lake WMA</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pahsimeroi River Access Area</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portneuf WMA</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pratt Creek Release Area</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterling WMA</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Pheasant CCBY IDAHO FISH AND GAME**
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 properties where pheasants are stocked.

Shooting hours for upland game birds on Upland Game Bird Permit Release Areas are 10am to one-half hour after sunset, except for those areas in the Clearwater Region where shooting hours would be 8am to one-half hour after sunset.

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

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.

NOTE: The Fish and Game Commission has proposed a rule change to allow the take of upland game birds (including turkey) with a crossbow. This proposed change does not take effect until reviewed by the 2022 Idaho Legislature. Before going afield with a crossbow, please check the Idaho Fish & Game website to see whether crossbows are allowed for upland game bird hunting.

- 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, during the pheasant season, except for those areas in the Clearwater Region where shooting hours would be 8am to one-half hour after sunset.

**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.
UPLAND GAME BIRD IDENTIFICATION

**Sage grouse**
- Male: yellow eye comb
- Female: white-based neck feathers
- Male: pointed tail
- Female: feathered legs

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**
- Male: yellow eye comb
- Female: under parts white
- Male: tail short and pointed

**Dusky (blue) Grouse**
- Male: yellow-orange eye comb
- Female: white-based neck feathers
- Tail square, unbarred
- Male: grayish under parts

**Spruce Grouse**
- Male: scarlet eye comb
- Female: black throat and breast patch
- Tail feathers unbarred

**Ruffed Grouse**
- Male: black neck ruff, more prominent in males
- Female: Pectinations (snowshoes) appear in winter
- Band often broken in female
- Both brown and gray-colored birds exist in Idaho

**Hen Pheasant**
- Crest
- Bare legs
- Long, pointed tail

**Closed**