Nevada Department of Wildlife

2006

Upland and Migratory Game Bird, Rabbit and Furbearing Mammals

Harvest Data and Population Status Reports

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DOUG HUNT
Acting Director

Dear Fellow Sportsmen:

It is my pleasure to present to you the Department of Wildlife's annual status report "book" for upland game, waterfowl and furbearers. Our biologists have conducted a considerable amount of effort to collect and assess data in their endeavor to interpret the status and trend of the Silver State's valuable wildlife resources. Also provided are the regulations for this year's hunting seasons, adopted by the Nevada Wildlife Commission. If you don't already have one, I encourage you to pick up a copy of our *Nevada Hunt Book* or our regulations pamphlets for more information. Of course NDOW offers an abundant amount of information on our website as well, much of which is designed to help you enjoy a quality Nevada outdoor experience.

There are two important subjects I wish to address in this year's letter. The first is quite positive: after a prolonged dry period our wetlands have come back. Thanks to good precipitation amounts in the past two years, marshes in all Nevada regions are full and waterfowl numbers are recovering. The news gets better because continental duck populations returning to breeding grounds in Canada and Alaska found good to great habitat conditions so the fall flight is expected to be the best in many years. One of the species that is doing well is the tundra swan. The Commission adopted regulatory changes that now allow waterfowlers to obtain a second swan hunt permit for this and subsequent hunting seasons. The nation is in the midst of an effort to determine the prevalence of Asian Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Wildlife agencies have been busy through the summer taking biological samples from migratory waterfowl and shorebirds in order to detect whether this version of the "bird flu" has reached our shores. We have a surveillance plan in Nevada and thus far cooperators have tested almost 400 birds. None have been shown to carry the disease. Biologists will be conducting waterfowl check stations this year to collect more samples. Please take a look at our website's Fact Sheet, which is also in the appendix.

On a more somber note I want to take a moment to talk about the wildfires that have devastated over a million acres of important wildlife habitat this summer. Sagegrouse and chukar populations along with big game species were severely impacted by this calamity. NDOW will be working with others to take the steps necessary to plan and implement projects that will help this land recover to a more productive ecological state.

In the meantime, chukars are abundant elsewhere in Nevada. So I'm planning on filling my truck with expensive gas and heading to the hills with a pair springers at my side to pursue them. I hope you'll be out there too.

I'll see you in the field.

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2006-2007 Hunting Seasons & Bag Limit Regulations

Commission Regulation 05-19

Adopted on June 24, 2005
Amended June 24, 2006

Upland Game

Units referenced are Game Management Units • All seasons open to nonresidents unless otherwise noted

SAGE GROUSE	
OPEN AREAS:	Elko County, except Units 079 and 106 Eureka County Humboldt County except Units 032, 034, 033, 035, 042, 044, 046 and 151 Lander County, except Units 151, 183 & 184 Nye County except Units 132, 133, 181, 251 and 252 White Pine County, except Unit 132 Washoe County except Unit 033, 021, 022, 194 and 196
SEASON DATES:	October 7 - 15, 2006
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 4.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	**Closed to Nonresidents.**
OPEN AREAS:	Unit 033 of Washoe and Humboldt Counties. The Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.
	Hunt Period #1
SEASON DATES:	September 16 - 17, 2006
	Hunt Period #2
SEASON DATES:	September 23 - 24, 2006
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 4.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	**Open to Nonresidents.** Limited to 75 reservations per hunt period, awarded through random draw. Unless his privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, any resident or nonresident is eligible to apply once for the Sheldon Special Sage Grouse Hunt in a year. Up to 4 applicants may apply as a party. Parties may be comprised of a combination of residents and nonresidents. Applications for reservations for the Sheldon Special Sage Grouse Hunt must be received by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Game Bureau, 1100 Valley Road, Reno NV 89512 by 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday in August. Successful applicants will be notified by mail.

BLUE AND RUFFED GROUSE	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON DATES:	September 2 - November 30, 2006
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 4.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Limit singly or in the aggregate. Persons harvesting a ruffed grouse in Humboldt County are requested to report harvest to the Department of Wildlife - Winnemucca sub-office: 815 East Fourth St., Winnemucca, NV 89445; phone- (775) 623-6565

SNOWCOCK	
OPEN AREAS:	Elko - Management Units 101,102, and 103, and that portion of White Pine County in Unit 103.
SEASON DATES:	September 2 - November 30, 2006
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 2.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Limit singly or in the aggregate. Persons planning to hunt snowcocks must obtain a snowcock hunting free-use permit from the Department of Wildlife Eastern Region Office, at 60 Youth Center Road, Elko, Nevada 89801, phone (775) 777-2300. Permits can also be emailed to the hunter from the Elko office.

CHUKAR AND HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON DATES:	October 14, 2006 - January 31, 2007
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 6. Possession limit 18.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Limit singly or in the aggregate.

CALIFORNIA, GAMBEL'S, SCALED AND MOUNTAIN QUAIL	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON DATES:	October 14, 2006 - January 31, 2007
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 10. Possession limit 20.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Limit singly or in the aggregate except for mountain quail where limits may not include more than two daily and four in possession.

PHEASANT	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON DATES:	November 4, 2006 - December 3, 2006
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 4.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Cocks only

COTTONTAIL, PYGMY AND WHITE-TAILED RABBITS	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON DATES:	October 14, 2006 - February 28, 2007
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 10. Possession limit 20.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Limit singly or in the aggregate.

WILD TURKEY 2006 FALL – LIMITED ENTRY – HUNTS 0131 & 0132			
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:	Either Sex Wild Turkey		
LIMIT:	1 by tag only		
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily		
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Application Deadline 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday in September. Release date on the third Friday in September.		
MASON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA OF LYON COUNTY			
	Year	Tag Quota	
	2006	Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:	Oct. 7 - Oct. 13, 2006	15	1
	Oct. 14 - Oct. 20, 2006	15	1
	Oct. 21 - Oct. 29, 2006	15	1
MOAPA VALLEY OF CLARK COUNTY			
Hunt Periods:	Oct. 7 - Oct. 13, 2006	10	1
	Oct. 14 - Oct. 20, 2006	10	1

WILD TURKEY 2006 FALL - GENERAL – HUNTS 0135 & 0137		
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:	Either Sex Wild Turkey	
LIMIT:	1 by tag only.	
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.	
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Application Deadline 5:00 p.m. on the first Friday in September. Release date on the third Friday in September.	
OPEN AREAS:	2006	Quota
Churchill County:	Oct. 7 – Nov. 5, 2006	Open*
Lyon County, except the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area	Oct. 7 – Nov. 5, 2006	Open*

** Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands.*

WILD TURKEY 2007 SPRING –LIMITED ENTRY – HUNTS 0131 & 0132			
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:	Bearded Wild Turkey		
LIMIT:	1 by tag only		
SHOOTING HOURS:	One half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. daily		
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Application Deadline 5:00 p.m. on the first Monday in February. Release date on the fourth Friday in February.		
MASON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA OF LYON COUNTY			
	Year	Tag Quota	
	2007	Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:	Mar. 31 – Apr. 6, 2007	12	1
	Apr. 7 – Apr. 13, 2007	12	1
	Apr. 14 – Apr. 20, 2007	12	1
	Apr. 21 – Apr. 27, 2007	12	1
	Apr. 28 – May 6, 2007	12	1
MOAPA VALLEY OF CLARK COUNTY*			
Hunt Periods:	Apr. 14 – Apr. 20, 2007	5	1
	Apr. 21 – Apr. 27, 2007	5	1
	Apr. 28 – May 6, 2007	5	1
ELKO COUNTY – Unit 102*			
Seasons:	Apr. 7 – May 6, 2007	25	1
ELKO & WHITE PINE COUNTIES – Unit 103*			
Seasons:	Apr. 7 – May 6, 2007	15	1

**Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands.*

WILD TURKEY 2006 – 2007 GENERAL SPRING HUNTS - 0135 & 0137		
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:	Bearded Wild Turkey	
LIMIT:	1 by tag only.	
SHOOTING HOURS:	One half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. daily	
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Application Deadline 5:00 p.m. on the first Monday in February. Release date on the fourth Friday in February.	
OPEN AREAS:	2007	Quota
Churchill County*:	Apr. 7 – May 6, 2007	Open*
Lincoln County**:	Apr. 7 – May 6, 2007	Open*
Pershing County*:	Apr. 7 – May 6, 2007	Open*
Lyon County*, except the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area	Apr. 7 – May 6, 2007	Open*
* *Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands.* ** *Applicants are advised that a portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands.*		

2005 – 2007 APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT HUNTS:

Unless his privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, an eligible person may apply once for a type of hunt for Wild Turkey during a draw period.

Only one person may apply on an application.

Applications must be mailed to the address specified on the application through a postal service or submitted online through the Internet at www.ndow.org. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the regulation. Hand delivered applications will not be accepted.

Any remaining tags will be available on a first come first serve basis through the Internet at www.ndow.org, by mail or over the counter during business hours, M – F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Wildlife Administrative Services, 185 N. Maine St, Fallon, Nevada 89407 until the close of the season.

Only one Wild Turkey tag can be awarded to an individual within a calendar year.

WILD TURKEY 2006 – 2007 SPRING HUNTS - 0135 & 0137 PARADISE VALLEY OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY		
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:	Bearded Wild Turkey	
LIMIT:	1 by tag only.	
SHOOTING HOURS:	One half hour before sunrise to 1:00 p.m. daily.	
SEASON DATES:	Apr. 7 – May 6, 2007	
QUOTAS:	Resident Hunt 0135	Nonresident Hunt 0137
	Open	Open

SPECIAL REGULATIONS:

PARADISE VALLEY OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY APPLICATION REGULATIONS:

A Paradise Valley of Humboldt County Application Form is required. Hunters can obtain these forms from the participating landowners. A landowner must sign the application form. The form must accompany the spring turkey hunt application and must be submitted through the mail or over the counter during business hours, M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Wildlife Administrative Services, PO Box 1345, Fallon, NV 89407-1345. Tags will be available until the close of the season. Internet applications for the Paradise Valley of Humboldt County hunt will not be available.

Unless his privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, an eligible person may apply once for a type of hunt for Wild Turkey during a draw period.

Only one person may apply on an application.

Only one Wild Turkey tag per calendar year.

Furbearing Animals

BEAVER, MINK AND MUSKRAT	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
OPENING DATE:	October 1, 2006.
CLOSING DATE:	March 31, 2007.

OTTER	
OPEN AREAS:	Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander and Pershing Counties
OPENING DATE:	October 1, 2006.
CLOSING DATE:	March 31, 2007.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Carson City, Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Storey, Washoe and White Pine counties are closed to otter trapping. If an otter is accidentally trapped or killed in those counties which are closed, the person trapping or killing it shall report the trapping or killing within 48 hours to a representative of the Department of Wildlife. The animal must be disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the representative.

KIT AND RED FOX	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
OPENING DATE:	October 1, 2006.
CLOSING DATE:	February 28, 2007.

BOBCAT AND GRAY FOX	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
OPENING DATE:	November 1, 2006.
CLOSING DATE:	February 28, 2007.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	**Closed to Nonresidents.**

Migratory Upland Game Birds

AMERICAN CROW	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
2006 FALL SEASON:	September 1, 2006 – November 17, 2006
2007 SPRING SEASON:	March 1, 2007 – April 15, 2007
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 10
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS: **FOOTNOTE:** ***Season closed on ravens***	Shotguns only. All crows must be retrieved and removed from the field.

MOURNING & WHITE-WINGED DOVE	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
2006 SEASON:	September 1 – 30, 2006
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 10. Possession limit 20.
SHOOTING HOURS:	One half hour before sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	White-wing dove season is closed in all counties except Clark and Nye counties. Limits for mourning dove and white-wing dove are singly or in aggregate in Clark and Nye Counties.

Falconry Seasons for Upland Game Birds & Rabbits

OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON DATES:	September 1, 2006 – January 31, 2007
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 2.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	All resident upland game birds except turkey and sharp-tailed grouse. All rabbits. The taking of sage grouse by falconry is only allowed in those areas where there is an open general season. Limits singly or in the aggregate

Wildlife Management Area Regulations

PUBLIC HUNTING LIMITED ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND DESIGNATED STATE LANDS

SCRIPPS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA and WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK

1. During the waterfowl season, hunting is permitted only on Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays, and the following legal State holidays: Nevada Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Family Day (day after Thanksgiving), Christmas, New Years Day and Martin Luther King Day.

MASON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

1. During the waterfowl season, hunting is permitted only on Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays and the following legal State holidays: Nevada Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Family Day (day after Thanksgiving), Christmas, New Years Day, and Martin Luther King Day. Hunters with a valid turkey tag for the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area may hunt each day of the established turkey season. Before or after the waterfowl season, hunting is allowed every day for wildlife species upon which there is an established open season.

2. **AREAS CLOSED TO ALL HUNTING ADJACENT TO THE FT. CHURCHILL WATERFOWL SANCTUARY:** Those portions of SE corner of Section 36, T.15N, R.25E; W ½ of Section 31, T.15N, R.26E, and N ½ of Section 1, T.14N, R.25E, M.D. & M. are closed to hunting as posted.

3. The following area within the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area is designated as a CONTROLLED GOOSE HUNTING ZONE and will be closed to all persons five (5) days prior to the last Saturday in November through the end of the controlled goose hunting season, except for those persons having a valid Mason Valley controlled goose hunting reservation, described in #5 below. Prior to and after the described closure dates, all legal hunting is allowed within the CONTROLLED GOOSE HUNTING ZONE. The CONTROLLED GOOSE HUNTING ZONE includes those portions of the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area within Sections 1, 2 and 12, T.14N, R.25E; Section 35, T.15N, R.25E; Sections 6 and 7, T.14N, R.26E, and Section 31, T.15N, R.26E, M.D.B. & M. as posted. The assigned blinds for the controlled goose hunt and Family Hunt are located in farm fields MV-10, 11, and B-11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. A lottery is held the morning of the hunt to determine blind assignments for those parties awarded a hunt reservation as described in #5 below. If blinds are still available after the first lottery for parties with reservations, a special lottery will be held for standby hunters present at 5:30 a.m.

4. Two Saturdays in mid-December will be set aside as Family Hunt Days, when all of the blinds in the CONTROLLED GOOSE HUNTING ZONE will be available for Family Hunt Day applicants as described in #5 below. The Wednesdays prior to the Family Hunt Days will be open for all other applicants as described in #5 below. If a standby lottery is invoked on Family Hunt Days, preference will be given to those parties containing at least one hunter 15 years of age or younger on that hunt day.

5. Hunt permit applications for the CONTROLLED GOOSE HUNTING ZONE within the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area are available through the Headquarters Office in Reno, the Western Region Office in Fallon or on the NDOW website at ndow.org. Unless their privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, any resident or nonresident is eligible to apply once for a hunt reservation. A person whose name appears on more than one application will be rejected from the drawing. Hunt applications will be accepted for groups no larger than four individuals, and all members of a group must hunt from the same assigned location. Any application submitted for Family Hunt Days must include at least one licensed hunter who will be 15 years old or younger on the day of the hunt. Applications for the Special Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Goose Hunt shall be received at the Headquarters Office in Reno (through a postal service only) no later than the second Wednesday in October. A public drawing will be held at the Headquarters Office in Reno at 10:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday in October. Successful applicants will receive a reservation confirmation by return mail.

FT. CHURCHILL COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

1. From October 1, through the Friday preceding the second Saturday of February, the area shall be closed to trespass.

OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

1. During the waterfowl season, hunting is permitted on the Moapa Valley portion of the area only on the opening day of the duck season, alternate days thereafter throughout the season, opening day of the goose season, and the closing two days of the duck and goose seasons. Before or after the waterfowl season, hunting is allowed every day for wildlife species upon which there is an established open season.

2. During the waterfowl season on the Moapa Valley portion of the area, hunters must hunt from assigned hunt locations (blinds) constructed by the Department of Wildlife. A maximum of up to four hunters are permitted at each hunt location. Assigned hunt locations are marked by numbered stakes. Hunters shall hunt only within their assigned hunt location and moving to vacant locations is prohibited. The only exception involves reasonable accommodation of the disabled.

3. During the opening day and the first weekend of the dove season the maximum capacity for the Moapa Valley portion of the area is 60 hunters by reservation only.

4. The hunting of upland game species is prohibited during the waterfowl season, except for persons possessing a valid tag for Hunt # 0131 or 0132 to hunt turkeys within the Moapa Valley of Clark County. Such persons wishing to pursue turkeys on the Overton WMA are prohibited from pursuing any other upland game during such time that the fall turkey season is concurrent with the waterfowl season.

5. On Overton Hunt days, only persons authorized to hunt waterfowl may use vessels on the portion of the area inundated by Lake Mead.

KEY PITTMAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

1. During the waterfowl season, hunting is permitted on the opening weekend of the duck season, odd-numbered days throughout the season, opening day of the goose season, and the closing two days of the waterfowl season.

2. The maximum hunter capacity during the opening day of duck season and the opening day of goose season will be 55 at any time.

3. All hunters will check-in and out at the main entrance and will park in designated parking areas only. No vehicles are allowed on the area during the hunting season.

4. The area is closed to fishing during the waterfowl season.

OVERTON-KEY PITTMAN HUNTER RESERVATION SYSTEM

1. To guarantee an opportunity to hunt, reservations must be made for the following specified days of each hunt listed: on the Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area - opening day and the first weekend of the dove season and the entire duck and goose seasons; on the Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area - the opening day of the duck and goose seasons. A reservation may be made for one hunt day only. On Overton Wildlife Management Area, a person or his representative applying for reservations for group hunting on either hunt area will be limited to up to four hunters per party.

2. A drawing will be held for reservations starting at 8:00 a.m. on the Monday prior to the opening of the above listed seasons. If the Monday prior to season opening is a state holiday, the drawing will be held on Tuesday. Reservations remaining after the drawing are available on a "first come, first served" basis, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for holidays, through the close of these seasons.

3. Reservations must be made in person (or by a representative) at the Las Vegas Office, the Henderson office or at the Overton or Key Pittman Wildlife Management Areas. The reservations must be in the hunter's possession and be shown to the check station attendant to constitute a valid reservation for the day specified. Reservations will not be accepted by mail or phone. At the Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area, reservations for hunting will be required only on the opening day of duck season and the opening day of goose season. On all other waterfowl hunt days, hunters must obtain a reservation card at the Frenchy Lake or Nesbitt check stations prior to hunting. This card must be filled out and returned to the check station upon completion of the hunt. Failure to turn in a completed card at the Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area or failure to check out at the Overton Wildlife Management Area may result in a citation being issued, and the loss of hunting privileges for the remainder of the season.

4. At the Overton Wildlife Management Area, during the waterfowl season an assigned hunt location program will be in effect. An individual may reserve no more than one assigned hunt location on the Moapa Valley portion of the area for no more than four individuals to hunt as a party and this reservation must be utilized prior to reserving another hunt day. Hunters will make a reservation for one of four types of hunt locations (field, pond, bulrush plot, or lake) and the specific hunt location will be determined by a drawing at the check station prior to each day's hunt.

5. A hunter with a reservation will be considered as a "no-show" if he does not present himself at the check station by one full hour before shooting time, except that at the Overton Wildlife Management Area, a hunter with a reservation will be considered a "no-show" if he does not present himself at the checking station one and one-half hours before shooting time during the waterfowl season.

6. Standby hunters must register at the check station upon arrival.

7. All reservations, permits and assigned hunting locations are nontransferable.

Bobcat Sealing Dates

Pelt sealing will be done only during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) on the dates specified, unless otherwise noted. Sealing locations will be at Department offices unless otherwise noted.

BOBCAT PELT SEALING DATES FOR THE 2006-2007 SEASON			
City	**Date**	**Time**	**Location**
Elko	January 23, 2007 February 13, 2007 February 21, 2007 March 9, 2007	8 a.m – 5 p.m. 8 a.m – 5 p.m. 8 a.m – 5 p.m. 8 a.m – 5 p.m.	NDOW Elko Office
Ely	January 26, 2007 February 2, 2007 February 3, 2007 February 16, 2007 March 2, 2007	8 a.m – 2 p.m. 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. 7 a.m. – 12 p.m. 8 a.m – 2 p.m. 8 a.m – 2 p.m.	NDOW Ely Office
Eureka	January 25, 2007 February 15, 2007 March 1, 2007	12 p.m – 5 p.m. 12 p.m – 5 p.m. 12 p.m – 5 p.m.	NDOW Eureka Office
Fallon	January 29, 2007 February 15, 2007	10 a.m. – 3 p.m. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	NDOW Fallon Office
	Feb. 23 – 25, 2007	7 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Nevada Trappers Association Fallon Fur Sale
	March 9, 2007	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	NDOW Fallon Office
Las Vegas	January 9, 2007 February 16, 2007 March 9, 2007	8 a.m – 5 p.m. 8 a.m – 5 p.m. 1 p.m – 5 p.m.	NDOW Las Vegas Office
Panaca	February 15, 2007 March 9, 2007	8 a.m – 5 p.m. 1 p.m – 5 p.m.	Nevada State Parks - NDOW Office, Panaca
Tonopah	February 16, 2007 March 9, 2007	8 a.m – 5 p.m. 1 p.m – 5 p.m.	NDOW Tonopah Office
Winnemucca	February 16, 2007	8 a.m – 1 p.m.	NDOW Winnemucca Office

Commission Regulation 06-16
Adopted on August 5, 2006
2006-07 Seasons, bag limits and special regulations for Migratory Waterfowl

Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHERN ZONE**: Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe & White Pine Counties
2006-07 SEASON:	Saturday Sept. 30, 2006
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTHERN ZONE**: Lincoln and Clark Counties
2006-07 SEASON:	Saturday Feb. 3 & Sunday Feb. 4, 2007.
LIMITS (daily/possession):	Daily limit is the same as that for the general season for ducks, mergansers, geese, coots and moorhens. Limits singly or in the aggregate for Canada and white-fronted geese. Limits singly or in the aggregate for snow and Ross' geese. Snow and Ross' geese are closed in Ruby Valley within Elko and White Pine Counties.
SHOOTING HOURS:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Open to hunters 15 years old or younger. Youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old. Adults are not allowed to hunt during this season. Open to Nonresidents.

Ducks and Mergansers	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHERN ZONE:** Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe & White Pine Counties
2006-07 SEASON:	October 14, 2006 – January 27, 2007
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTHERN ZONE:** Lincoln and Clark Counties
2006-07 SEASON:	October 14, 2006 – January 26, 2007
OPEN AREAS:	**The Moapa Valley portion of the Overton WMA**
2006-07 SEASON:	November 4, 2006 – January 26, 2007
LIMITS: (daily/possession)	
General Duck Limits:	7 / 14
Pintail	1 / 2
Canvasback	1 / 2
Mallard	Included within the general duck limit, but to include not more than 2 hen mallards or 4 in possession.
Redhead	2 / 4
Scaup	3 / 6
SHOOTING HOURS:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Open to Nonresidents.

Coots and Common Moorhens (Common Gallinules)	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHERN ZONE:** Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe & White Pine Counties
2006-07 SEASON:	October 14, 2006 – January 27, 2007
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTHERN ZONE:** Lincoln and Clark Counties
2006-07 SEASON:	October 14, 2006 – January 26, 2007
OPEN AREAS:	**The Moapa Valley portion of the Overton WMA**
2006-07 SEASON:	November 4, 2006 – January 26, 2007
LIMITS (daily/possession):	25 / 25
SHOOTING HOURS:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Open to Nonresidents.

Common Snipe	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHERN ZONE:** Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe & White Pine Counties
2006-07 SEASON:	October 14, 2006 – January 27, 2007
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTHERN ZONE:** Lincoln and Clark Counties
2006-07 SEASON:	October 14, 2006 – January 26, 2007
OPEN AREAS:	**The Moapa Valley portion of the Overton WMA**
2006-07 SEASON:	November 4, 2006 – January 26, 2007
LIMITS (daily/possession):	8 / 16
SHOOTING HOURS:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Open to Nonresidents.

Canada and White-Fronted Geese	
OPEN AREAS:	**Statewide, except the Moapa Valley portion of the Overton WMA**
2006-07 SEASON:	October 21, 2006 – January 28, 2007
OPEN AREAS:	**The Moapa Valley portion of the Overton WMA**
2006-07 SEASON:	November 4, 2006 – January 28, 2007
LIMITS daily/possession:	3 / 6
SHOOTING HOURS:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Open to Nonresidents.

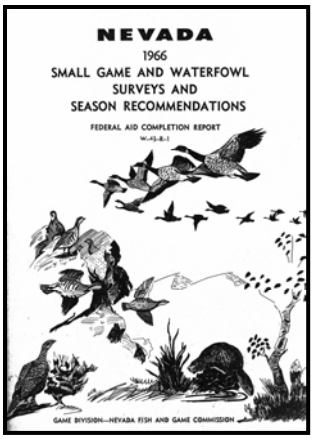
Snow & Ross' Geese	
OPEN AREAS:	**Statewide, except the Moapa Valley portion of the Overton WMA**
2006-07 SEASON:	October 21, 2006 – January 28, 2007
OPEN AREAS:	**The Moapa Valley portion of the Overton WMA**
2006-07 SEASON:	November 4, 2006 – January 28, 2007
LIMITS daily/possession:	4 / 8
SHOOTING HOURS:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	CLOSED: Ruby Valley within Elko and White Pine Counties Open to Nonresidents.

Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Birds	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHERN ZONE**: Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe & White Pine Counties
2006-07 SEASON:	October 14, 2006 – January 27, 2007
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTHERN ZONE**: Lincoln and Clark Counties
2006-07 SEASON:	October 14, 2006 – January 26, 2007
OPEN AREAS:	**The Moapa Valley portion of the Overton WMA**
2006-07 SEASON:	November 4, 2006 – January 26, 2007
LIMIT daily/possession:	3/6
HAWKING HOURS:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Migratory game birds species allowed for legal take include: geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, common moorhens, and common snipe. Limits for all permitted migratory game birds are singly or in the aggregate. Open to Nonresidents.

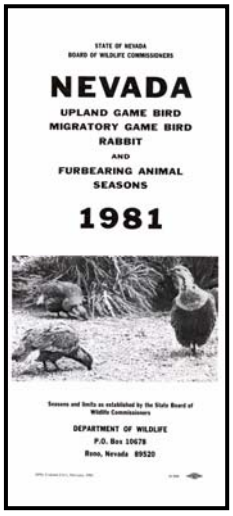
Swan	
2006-07 **SEASONS:**	October 21, 2006 – January 7, 2007
OPEN AREAS:	Churchill, Lyon and Pershing Counties
LIMIT:	One swan per hunt permit. Maximum two swan hunt permits per season One swan per day.
SHOOTING HOURS:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Persons may apply for one of the 650 swan hunt permits. Applications must be mailed through a postal service to the address listed on the application or submitted online through the Internet at www.ndow.org. Permits are to be awarded through an initial drawing. **Deadline:** Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. by Friday, September 15, 2006. **No hand delivered applications for the drawing.** Results of the initial drawing will be provided by Friday, October 6, 2006. Any remaining swan hunt permits will be available on a first come, first served basis through the mail or over the counter during normal business hours (M - F 8:00 am - 5:00 pm) at the Wildlife Administrative Services Office, 185 North Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada beginning on Monday, October 9, 2006. Applications are available at all Department of Wildlife offices and select license agents. Persons may apply for a second swan hunt permit beginning on Monday, October 9, 2006. Applicants can submit one application per draw period. Applicants that did not apply for the initial drawing may submit two applications during the first-come first-served draw period. **Successful swan hunters are required to validate their permit pursuant to NAC 502.380, then present at least the head and neck of their swan to an NDOW agent at selected sites for species verification within five (5) days of harvest. Mandatory inspection sites and requirements will be provided with swan permits.** **If a harvest of five (5) trumpeter swans is reached, the swan season is closed for the remainder of the season.** Persons must possess a valid annual Nevada hunting license and both a current Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Stamp and a current Nevada Duck Stamp, when required, to hunt swan in Nevada. Open to nonresidents who have a valid annual Nevada hunting license or a Nonresident Short-Term Permit to Hunt Upland Game & Waterfowl and required waterfowl stamps.

SPECIAL FEATURES

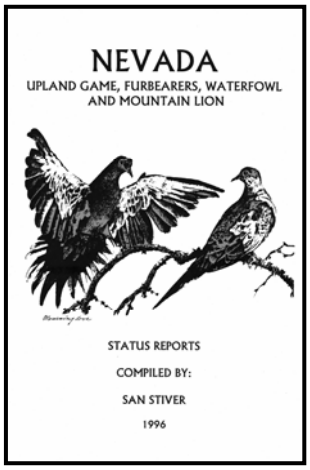
Historical Review



Forty Years Ago (1966) Summer survey findings convince biologists to recommend separate opening days for sagegrouse and chukar under the premise that a concurrent opener would result in more harvest of sagegrouse by the more numerous chukar hunters. This decision was precipitated by record high numbers of chukar hunters for the previous two seasons that had been drawn to the field to pursue record numbers of chukars. They further concluded that this number of hunters had been incidentally taking more sagegrouse than the resource could yield. Biologists surmise that "droughts and gross land mismanagement…" are the cause for sagegrouse declining chick production. The Commission adopts five separate pheasant hunts and the 1966 harvest turns out to be the highest on record.



Twenty-five Years Ago (1981) Following a record chukar harvest in 1980 of 219,000 birds, biologists conducting summer brood surveys throughout the state determine that production was nearly a total failure. This is attributable to very low precipitation from December to August. Because the remaining population is comprised mostly of adult birds, the 1981 harvest plummets to 84,500 after the record year. Average birds per hunter and per hunter day tell a tale that verifies the paucity of young naïve birds. Gambel's quail fall into a bust cycle after the record harvest of 124,000 birds recorded in 1979. A total of 83,000 are taken in 1980 but then harvest plummets in 1981. The first snow partridge hunt was held in 1980 and only two hunters were successful during the nine-day season, although several unsuccessful hunters commented that bird numbers were pretty high. Marsh conditions during the 1980-81 trapping season allowed for the taking of large numbers of muskrat. Otter, mink and beaver harvest is likewise high. The state's fur harvest is valued at $1,641,000.



Ten Years Ago (1996) The reported statewide chukar harvest for 1995 is greatly improved following dismal years in 1993 & 1994. The first special sagegrouse hunt on the Sheldon NWR resulted in the harvest of 134 grouse by 66 of 100 hunters checked in the field. The hunt had provided 150 permits. The 1995 upland game pamphlet asked forest grouse hunters to report all ruffed grouse taken in Humboldt County. There were no reports, but this same request has been in place since then. Biologists scrutinize the waterfowl hunter statistics and hypothesize that declining total hunters in tandem with increasing individual harvest statistics both under several years of increasing complicated regulations suggests that older, experienced duck hunters comprise the largest proportion of the waterfowlers. A national survey in 1996 would verify that.

BIOLOGIST PROFILE

TOM DONHAM, Biologist – Southern Region – Tonopah

Like a lot of NDOW personnel, Tom Donham had the opportunity to "test drive" his future employer while he was pursuing his academic studies. Tom graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a bachelor's degree in wildlife management in 1992, but at the time that he was handed his diploma he had already experienced several facets of NDOW's management programs; including trapping ruffed grouse, conducting stream surveys and working in a trout hatchery. Always prepared to exploit a good opportunity, the Department snatched him up right after his graduation and put him to work at its Gallagher Hatchery in Ruby Valley. Here he plied his time waiting for one of the senior Game biologists to retire, hoping for his chance to advance to the field level to conduct the very work that his undergraduate studies and seasonal work had prepared him for.

Like a lot of NDOW personnel's wives, Michelle Donham, Tom's bride of eleven years, joined her husband to live in two Nevada locales that were probably never on her list of "places where I want to live". Their stay at Gallagher exposed them both to the majestic landscape of eastern Nevada, and to the harsh winters that come with it. Here Tom discovered the enjoyment associated with trapping and predator calling to go along with the hunting and fishing skills he had developed since childhood. It was also here that the couple was joined with the first of two daughters, Megan.

Tom's patience was rewarded when he was presented with the opportunity to become the new central Nevada game biologist, stationed in Tonopah. It could have been Mars for all Tom cared – it was a field job. But for Michelle, it represented another adjustment to a location that was probably not on her list of "places where I want to live". Apprehension yielded to acclimatization, which evolved into enthusiasm for their surroundings. Today the two are very active citizens of the old mining town. The Donham family has grown during their time in Nye County with the addition of Amie four years ago.

Tom claims that his resource area is one of the best in the state and this is truly stayed. His area stretches from the northern limits of the Mojave desert to the high peaks of the Toiyabe and Toquima Ranges. Within this area Tom manages mule deer, desert bighorns, pronghorn and elk. Small game includes sagegrouse and chukar, which he liberally pursues with his brace of pointers. Tom played a large role in the development of the Central Nevada Elk Plan – a process that taught him patience and the value of consensus building among disparate interest groups. The skills he developed in this endeavor also served him well during the crafting of two sagegrouse conservation plans. Not one to rest on his laurels, Tom principal ambition is one shared among NDOW's biologists: to increase his knowledge and understanding of the wildlife resources that he is responsible for. Also like all NDOW biologists, Tom transitions his professional interests into his recreational pursuits. Beside pursuits already stated, Tom likes to hunt big game using traditional archery equipment.

Tom and Michelle are now firmly rooted in the town that fighter Jack Dempsey made famous. It is unlikely that the Donham name will supplant Dempsey's as Tonopah's claim to fame. However, if Tonopah becomes known as the Gateway to Central Nevada Elk Hunting, he'll be happy to settle for being a part of that.

SPORTSMAN PROFILE

KENSEN LEE, Las Vegas

Kensen Lee began his college career at the University of Nevada, Reno in 1979. Coming from Stockton, CA, Kensen's early hunting experiences were primarily limited to a little bird hunting here and there. That started in high school when he was introduced into what would become his strongest passion through the people that he worked with. The relationship between himself, the heretofore non-hunter, and people willing to mentor him in the ways of the sportsman became a central element in his approach to hunting. During his collegiate years, Kensen networked with new friends and acquaintances familiar with northern Nevada and thus he learned the geography and wildlife of the northern part of the state. Following college and his early career years in Reno, Kensen was transferred to Las Vegas, where he applied a similar approach in order to learn southern Nevada. He is one of the rare Nevada sportsmen that can honestly say they have hunted in every county of the state.

His appreciation of the outdoors was such a strong element in his personal life that his first date with his bride of 18 years, Ruby, was a fishing expedition out of Newport. In fact his enthusiasm for hunting and fishing quickly infected her. So much so that he holds no grudge at all against the fact that she has been the luckier of the two with regard to drawing big game tags. The truth that she is the superior game spotter may be a factor as well. Kensen and Ruby have no children of their own, unless you count their four German wirehairs. However, owing to his own experiences as a teenager, Kensen finds immense satisfaction in mentoring young people in his favorite sport. His "weekend son" Pete is a non-hunter friend's boy that Kensen has been taking hunting since he was old enough to participate. This lad has been recruited into the hunting ranks through Kensen's selfless offerings and it is Mr. Lee's belief that Pete will do likewise in the future.

This connection between mentor and protégé has been strongly advocated by Kensen during his relationship with NDOW and the Commission. Kensen was an original member of the Mule Deer Task Force, a collaborative process that helped establish deer management objectives in the 1990s. Out of that process emerged the Youth Deer Hunt, a product that gives him great pride and a program that he immediately became a participant in, for the intent of the program was for experienced hunters to introduce young people to the outdoors through deer hunting.

Kensen continued his advocacy on the Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CAB) from 1997-2003. While a member of the CAB, Kensen attended an ethics course to help him become an objective representative of his county's sportsmen. He accredits this experience as a strong influence in placing proper perspective of his own opinions within the decision-making processes. The many NDOW biologists that Kensen interacted with greatly appreciated this attribute.

Kensen is a member of the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Wildlife Habitat Improvement for Nevada and the Nevada Wildlife Federation. He has also participated in the "Hunt of a Lifetime" program in Arizona. This endeavor places donated big game tags in the hands of seriously ill youngsters, who then receive volunteer help from sportsmen, taxidermists and others. Kensen was greatly moved by his participation in this activity and he hopes to prompt a similar program in Nevada.

The selfless devotion exhibited by Kensen and others like him will assure that our sport will continue long into the future.

WEATHER AND HABITAT

Below are paragraphs for each part of the state describing how moisture, snow, and temperature affect habitat and the animals thereupon.

Central Nevada

According to data published by the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) central Nevada experienced very favorable precipitation receipts from late summer 2004 through the spring of 2005. This brought some much-needed relief from several years of drought conditions. The improvement in climatic conditions manifested itself in the form of tremendous grass and forb production during the spring of 2005, and improved vegetation vigor into early summer, which greatly benefited wildlife populations throughout central Nevada.

Unfortunately, according to WRCC data, a return to drier patterns occurred throughout the summer and fall of 2005. Summer precipitation is important in maintaining plant vigor and the nutrient content of forage species during the period when wildlife populations are preparing for winter. Owing to the lack of summer and early fall moisture, it is likely that the comparative body condition of animals going into the winter of 2005-06 was not quite what it was in 2004-05. According to data published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) the dry pattern continued throughout much of the winter, and resulted in somewhat below average snow pack conditions for much of Nye and Esmeralda Counties, despite the fact that the rest of the Lower Humboldt River Basin remained above average. Due to the mild nature of this past winter, over winter survival of wildlife populations is expected to have been good.

Although total accumulated precipitation was 80% of average through February of 2006, the months of March and April saw significant increases in precipitation, which had positive effects on wildlife habitat conditions into late spring and early summer. The moisture received during March and April brought the total amount of accumulated precipitation to 110% of average by the end of the period. During the months of May and June, drier weather patterns returned to central Nevada, which should have resulted in good survival of newly hatched broods. Cold, windy, and wet weather during this period can cause significant mortality of chicks, but that should not have been the case in 2006. July once again saw increases in precipitation receipts, which should increase plant vigor through the mid-summer period. Overall, conditions have been favorable for upland game species in central Nevada through mid-summer in 2006.

Southeastern Nevada

According to BLM rain data, 26 areas throughout Lincoln County received an average of 136% of the previous 10-year average precipitation between January and December 2005. According to WRCC, the weather station in Pioche recorded over 138% of the average annual precipitation during 2005. Since January 2006, nearly 3" of precipitation has fallen in Pioche according to WRCC. Animals likely went into the winter in better body condition due to favorable range conditions. Moderate to low snow pack and open conditions at lower elevations should result in higher recruitment of young into big game populations. The mild winter appears to have resulted in relatively low fawn loss in local mule deer populations. Although the effects of the drought of 2002 are still being felt, back-to-back wet years should result in upward trends to big game populations.

During the winter and spring of 2005, high precipitation resulted in heavy growth of exotic annual grasses in southern Lincoln County. This resulted in massive wildfires during June and July of 2005 throughout southern Lincoln County. Most affected were the Mormon, Meadow Valley, and Delamar Ranges with regard to big game populations. All wildlife will feel the effects of these fires for some time. Although the short-term effects will be detrimental for some species, the long-term effects may be beneficial to higher elevation sites if these burned areas are rehabilitated properly. Should the cheatgrass fire cycle manifest itself in these mountain ranges as it has in western and northern Nevada, we can expect fires to continue to burn large areas of wildlife habitat. Piñon and juniper trees have invaded large areas in southeastern Nevada. In these areas fires would be beneficial to wildlife over time. Areas in the Mojave habitat type have never been subject to large-scale wildfires and may not come back to native vegetation for decades or longer.

Southern Nevada (Mojave Desert)

In southern Nevada, dramatic reversal of environmental conditions has occurred within the last six years. With few exceptions, wildlife endured severe drought for three consecutive years beginning in 2000 (2000-02). The National Weather Service Forecast Office (NWSFO) in Las Vegas, centrally located in Clark County, reported 2002 the sixth driest year on record.

This trend was broken beginning in February 2003, when precipitation patterns greatly improved. According to NWSFO in Las Vegas, 2003 ranked the eighth wettest year on record after receiving 6.86 inches of precipitation. In 2004, moisture receipts exceeded those of the previous year such that 2004 ranked the fourth wettest year on record. The NWSFO reported 7.76 inches of precipitation in 2004 (173% of normal). Although rainfall amounts in Las Vegas trailed off late in 2005, moisture receipts earlier in the year, including the fourth wettest February on record, were sufficient to place 2005 the sixth wettest year on record.

In contrast to the two previous wet winters, the winter of 2005-06 was notably drier. Based on rain gauge data collected by Clark County Regional Flood Control District in cooperation with United States Geologic Survey and NWSFO, Las Vegas and outlying areas in Clark County experienced drier conditions from November 2005 through February 2006. In early spring, environmental conditions were favorable despite comparatively low precipitation receipts during the preceding winter months. The usual effects of a dry winter (i.e., reduced soil moisture, low plant germination rate and low plant vigor) appear partly ameliorated likely due to preceding high rainfall receipts in October 2005 and more recent minor storms in early 2006. The drier conditions in winter months appear to have impacted germination and growth potential of annual grasses while shrub and perennial grass species seem less affected. At the time, most water developments were at or near full capacity. The 2006 precipitation receipts continued to remain low and generally distributed in mountain ranges at higher elevations and throughout the Spring Mountains. To make matters worse, there was a near total lack of the short-term summer thundershowers that typically come in late spring and occasionally through the summer. It is these precipitation events that are crucial to summer brood survival, both in terms of their value in plant and insect production as well as their role in filling guzzlers.

In Las Vegas, temperature data collected since 1937 by the National Weather Service indicate each of the last six years (2000-05) to be among the hottest years on record. The last six years ranked first (2003 and 2005 tied) through fourth (2000, 01 and 04, respectively) and ninth

(2002). The hottest month overall recorded was July 2005. According to NWS, in a period of one week (latter half of July 2005), a total of 17 different temperature records were broken or tied including the second time Las Vegas reached 117 degrees.

Western and Northwestern Nevada

This past winter has been one of extremes with periods of very wet warm storms alternating with long periods of warm dry conditions. The month of January saw snow pack percentages decline substantially as temperatures soared to near record highs. February started with a decent storm followed by a long dry spell that lasted until the end of the month when one of the wettest storms of the year brought precipitation amounts for the water year to near normal. An exceptionally wet March added substantial amounts to the snow pack and bumped up expected stream flows. Most watersheds received one and a half to double their normal amounts of precipitation for the month, resulting in gains of up to 40 percent in snow pack levels. As of April 1st snow pack levels range from 120 to 150 percent of average throughout the northwestern portion of the state while total precipitation received was measured at 130 to 150 percent of average.

General range conditions are expected to be better than average this year with improved water availability at spring sources and pit tank reservoirs. Grass and forb production should be above average going into the summer months. Shrubs, which are critical forage and nesting medium for numerous upland game species, are showing signs of improvement. However, the production and recruitment of young age-class shrubs important to the future of Nevada's game populations continues to be a major concern.

Northeastern Nevada

The winter of 2005-2006 marks the second consecutive winter with above-average snow pack and precipitation levels throughout northeastern Nevada. The only portions of the Eastern Region that were not at least 20% above normal in both snow pack and precipitation levels were in White Pine County and in portions of central Nevada. These areas experienced precipitation levels closer to 100% of normal. The winter of 2005-2006 was warmer than normal with the temperatures being 3.7 degrees warmer than average in Elko and 2.5 degrees warmer than average in Ely. Because of the warmer temperatures, significant snow accumulations did not occur at elevations below 6,000 feet.

Precipitation levels over the entire year of 2005 for both Elko and Ely were also well above average. Elko received 65% more precipitation than normal and in fact was the highest water year recorded since 1983. Ely's precipitation was 36% above normal and was the highest level measured since 1984. All other areas within the Eastern region experienced similar precipitation patterns.

The excellent precipitation resulted in outstanding forage conditions for wildlife. All of the biologists in the region reported excellent production of grasses, forbs and shrubs. Larry Teske, the biologist for Lander County, reported, "grass heights and densities were higher than I have ever seen in my 26-year tenure in this area. Forb production was very good."

It is anticipated that the range conditions this coming spring and early summer will again be outstanding. The leader growth associated with shrub species such as bitterbrush, sagebrush, serviceberry and snowberry should be excellent**.** Summer rain is needed to extend the plant vigor and productivity which will enhance animal health going into the fall and winter months and into next year's breeding cycle. Water available to big game will also be excellent with the recharging of springs and increased stream flows throughout the region.

A substantial portion of the Eastern region has been devastated by wildfire during the summer. It is estimated that over 930,000 acres have been consumed by a multitude of wildfires. In Management Area 6 fires scorched a large portion of the North Tuscarora sage grouse population management unit – obliterating vegetation used by sagegrouse during their annual mating cycle. Of all the documented leks in this PMU, 84% will not be usable next spring. Biologists estimate that this will displace 7,000 grouse. Additionally, chukar populations within the burned area will likely diminish as their food sources and vegetative cover has been obliterated. Grasses will begin to germinate perhaps in December but it may be too late to support those birds that remain alive.

Western Region Wetland Conditions as of Mid-September

Mason Valley WMA: This wildlife management area (WMA) has remained in good condition throughout the summer, despite the above average daytime temperatures that occurred. The WMA is currently at 70% water coverage and is estimated to be at approximately 80% by early October. This WMA should provide good to excellent habitat for migrating waterfowl and ample hunting opportunities.

Alkali Lake WMA: This WMA has remained in excellent condition this summer and is currently at 50% water coverage. Abundant sago pondweed has been grown this summer and will offer migrating waterfowl sufficient habitat. Hunting should be good to excellent on this WMA this year.

Scripps WMA and Washoe Lake: Washoe Lake benefited greatly from this past winter. Spring runoff filled the entire lake and WMA. Currently, the area remains at 100% water coverage. The wetlands mitigation project at the south end of the lake is also in excellent condition and should provide good hunting opportunities this fall.

Fernley WMA: This WMA is in poor condition and is currently estimated to be at 2% water coverage. The two ponds on the WMA should fill later this fall and may provide limited habitat for waterfowl.

Humboldt WMA: This WMA is currently at 120% water coverage. The Toulon Unit is almost full and is expected to be a 100% of normal capacity sometime this fall. This WMA has grown phenomenal sago and wigeon grass this year and will provide waterfowl with an abundance of forage this fall and winter. Water levels on the Upper and Lower Humboldt Lakes are expected to decline very little throughout the fall and winter months. Hunting is expected to be excellent, however access may pose a problem due to the flood stage conditions experienced this past spring that have still left some roads nearly impassible.

Jessup Marsh: This area lies to the south west of the Humboldt WMA. Humboldt WMA at flood stages provides the water to this area. Currently, this area is at 100% water coverage and is

expected to remain at 100% for the remainder of the year. Similar to the Humboldt WMA, phenomenal sago and wigeon grass plants were grown on this marsh and will provide migrating waterfowl with superb conditions.

Carson Lake: This area is currently at 45% water coverage and is expected to at or near 100% coverage by mid-November. Adequate sago pondweed was grown on the Sprig and Big Water Units this summer. An abundance of alkali bulrush, smartweed and goosefoot that has grown will also provide waterfowl with excellent forage conditions this fall.

STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

WATERFOWL

Harvest

A liberal framework was allowed for the 2005-06 hunting seasons in the Pacific Flyway, as approved through the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS or Service) Regulations Committee's 2004 final rule for seasons and bag & possession limits. The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners adopted an October 8th opener for the entire state and took full advantage of the maximum number of days allowed under the framework by closing 105 days later in the Lincoln/Clark County zone (January 20, 2006) and 106 days later (January 21, 2006) in the Rest-of-State zone. These seasons had to accommodate days take away for youth hunting from the 107-day maximum established within the Migratory Bird Treat Act. A single day was adopted for the north, while southern Nevadans favored a two-day season to follow the general season (February 4 & %, 2006). A 60-day partial canvasback season was necessary throughout the Pacific Flyway in order to manipulate lower harvest rates of these birds. Because the breeding population of pintails had increased to the point that the predicted fall flight could support greater harvest, a partial season was not necessary for the 2005-06 season.

This year, NDOW used a post-season questionnaire process that involved some significant changes. The questionnaire form was re-designed to gather specific information about hunter participation at wetlands throughout Nevada. Additionally, this was the first time that NDOW attempted to gather information about moorhen harvest from Nevada waterfowlers. The questionnaire was initially designed to contact all Nevada duck stamp purchasers in order to make the data more robust, thus eliminating the need to *estimate* harvest (assuming questionnaire return rates in excess of 90%). However, administrative encumbrances negated the ability to fully implement the new process for this year, therefore the harvest is an estimate based upon approximately 10% of license buyers. The data will be comparable to other findings from the survey methodology used since 1960.

The Service has calculated federal duck stamp sales figures and derived harvest estimates based upon the findings of its mandatory *Harvest Information Program* (HIP). Table 1 portrays harvest estimates drawn from the two methods. Both processes are expressions of median values calculated within a range of figures that is broad or narrow depending upon the statistical power of the collected data. It is noteworthy that both process produce statistically similar results.

Table 1. Comparisons between HIP and Nevada Questionnaire estimates.

Year	Estimated Hunters			Estimated Total Duck Harvest		
	HIP*	NV Questionnaire	% Diff.	HIP	NV Questionnaire	% Diff.
1999	5,500	6,918	-20%	89,201	80,814	+10%
2000	4,800	6,159	-22%	52,900	56,579	-7%
2001	3,800	3,692	+3%	35,201	31,203	+13%
2002	3,900	4,028	-3%	46,000	33,113	*+39%*
2003	4,200	4,298	-2%	50,200	44,022	+14%
2004	3,500	3,572	-2%	37,100	38,305	-3%
2005	**3,600**	**3,960**	**-9%**	**49,600**	**56,428**	**-12%**

* Expressed as "Active Adult Hunters" within the HIP survey.

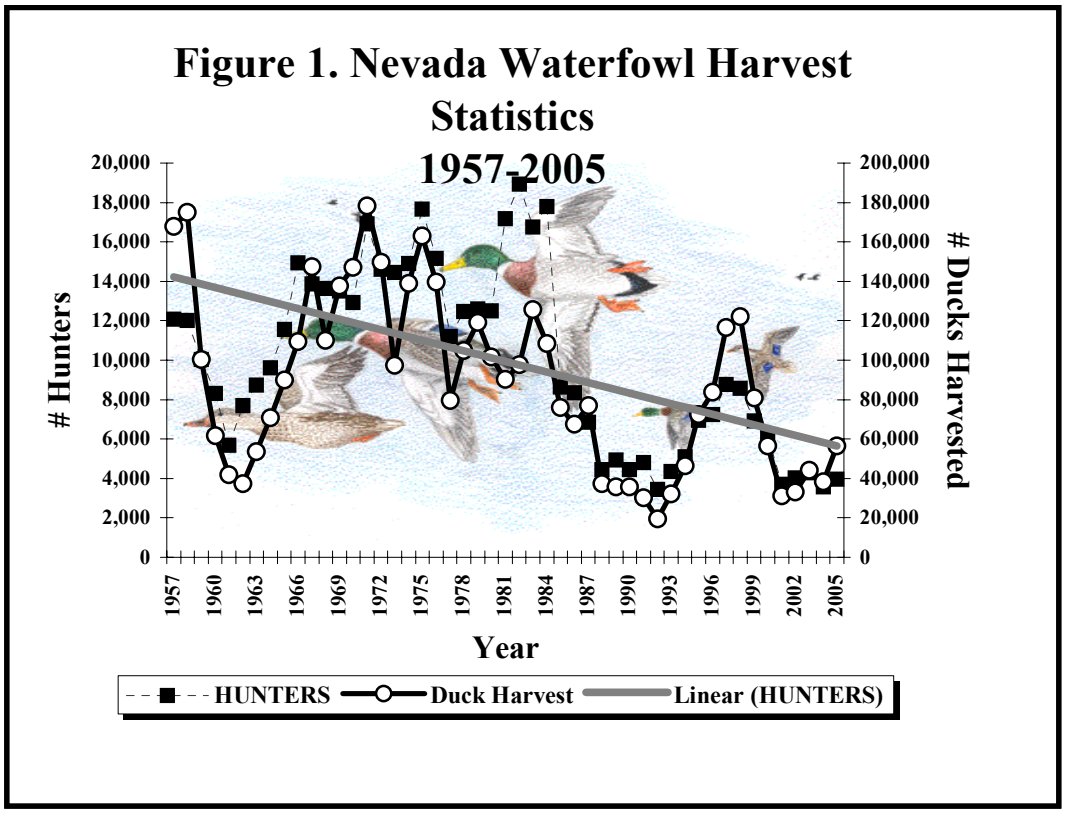
Ducks & Mergansers

The daily bag limit for ducks and mergansers was seven, with species limitations of one each for pintail and canvasback and two for redhead and hen mallards. The scaup limit was reduced to three daily. Possession limits were double the daily bag. Table 2 describes harvest and effort statistics compiled trough Nevada's post-season questionnaire.

Table 2. STATEWIDE DUCK & MERGANSER HARVEST
From Post-season Questionnaire

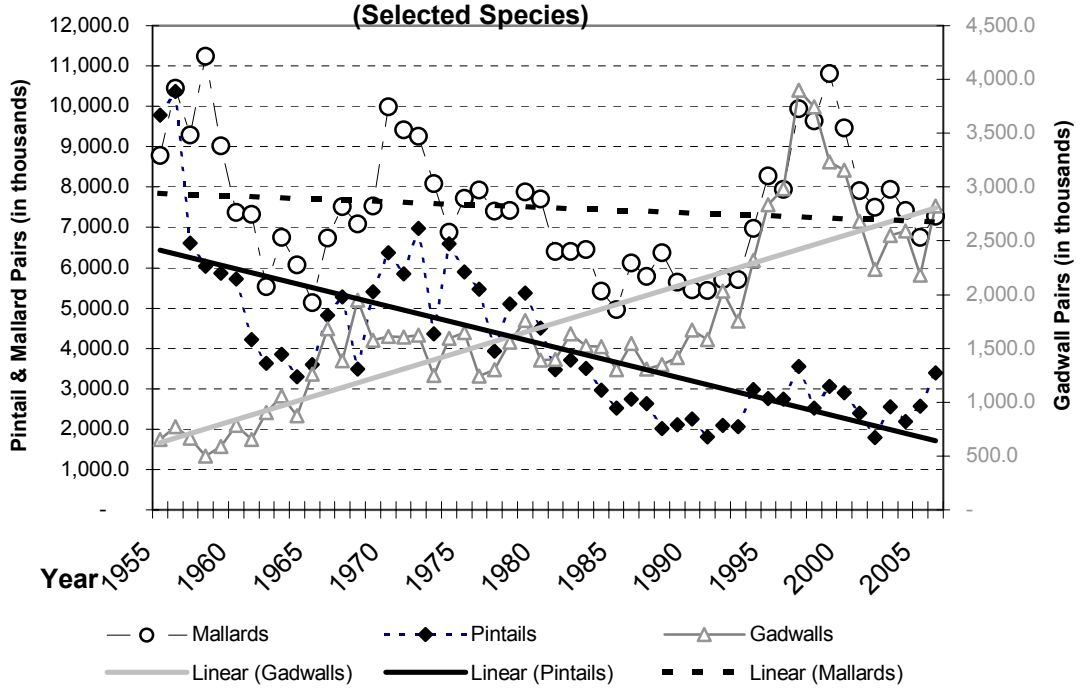
	STATEWIDE TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Ducks & Mergs.	38,305	56,428	**67,889**	47.3%	-16.9%
No. of Hunters	3,572	5,005	**6,003**	40.1%	-16.6%
No. of Days	20,245	26,921	**35,474**	33.0%	-24.1%
Birds / Hunter	10.72	11.27	**10.74**	5.1%	5.0%
Birds/Hunter Day	1.89	2.10	**1.81**	10.8%	16.0%

Water levels in Nevada's western marshes had improved for the 2005 hunting season, enticing large numbers of ducks to remain before continuing their migration. Mid-winter survey data also indicate that duck numbers were appreciably greater last year (appendix, page A-10), which revealed duck numbers in excess of the previous year. The 2005 harvest was still below the long-term average, but annual numbers of duck hunters and their harvest have been improving toward levels seen at the turn of the century.



As habitat conditions respond to prevailing climatic influences, so too does the participation rate of hunters that recreate within that habitat. What is curious, if not alarming, is that the 1998 peak of hunter participation is considerably lower than previous peaks of 1971, 1975 and 1982, the latter being the record for hunter numbers. These peaks generally correspond with times when marshes were full and bird numbers were great. If the trend started this year continues, will the next peak be higher than the last peak? If it is not then it will be a clear indication that waterfowlers are not returning to hunt even when habitat conditions and continental bird numbers are such that good success is more likely. It is interesting to note that the average number of ducks per hunter day was significantly improved, even under restrictive species regulations. Managers express some concern that regulations may be a factor in hunter retention and recruitment.

Figure 2. Continental Duck Breeding Popualtion Estimates (Selected Species)



The chart above is cluttered but it expresses some very interesting trends that are important in understanding waterfowl regulations. Mallard numbers have been fairly stable for fifty years. Initially pintail numbers in 1955 were actually higher than mallard numbers and both species followed similar trends for many years. However, beginning in the mid-1980's pintail numbers demonstrated a weaker capacity to return to former levels when habitat conditions recovered. This phenomenon, and similar ones demonstrated by other duck stocks, notably canvasback and redhead, has prompted species-specific season and bag regulations. These strategies were enacted in order to mitigate harvest mortality in an overall effort to improve breeding pair numbers. Bag regulations have also been sex-specific in the past 15 years, most importantly with regard to hen mallards where daily bags have been one or two on a consistent basis. The versatile and adaptable gadwall has flourished under "brown duck" restrictions, presumptively because regulations forced the hunter to be certain of the species before pulling the trigger. Since drake and hen gadwalls both resemble hen mallards and pintails, it is likely that gadwalls were not selected. The upward trend became remarkably robust beginning in the mid-1980's. Gadwalls are an important bird in Nevada's harvest (see page A-12).

Geese

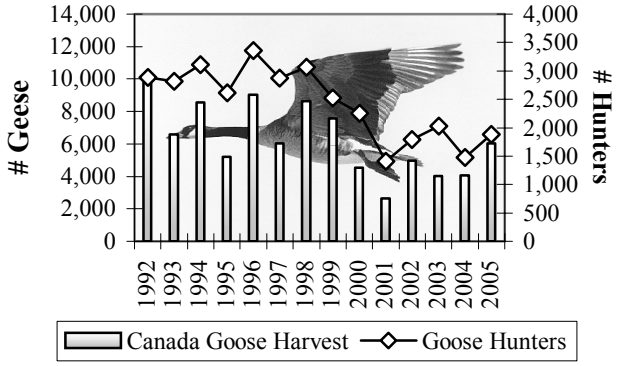
Canada and white-fronted geese limits were three daily in the northern zone and two daily in the southern zone, species singly or in the aggregate. The dark goose limit in the southern zone has been changed to three daily beginning in the 2006 hunting season. White geese limits were four daily across the state. Possession limits for geese were double the daily limit. Again last year, the dark goose season length in Washoe Valley of Washoe County closed three weeks earlier than the general season.

Table 3. STATEWIDE DARK & WHITE GOOSE HARVEST
From Post-season Questionnaire

	STATEWIDE TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	10-yr avg	Prev. Yr.	vs Avg.
Dark Geese Harvest	4,080	6,036	**5,678**	47.9%	6.3%
No. of Hunters	1,479	1,884	**2,339**	27.4%	-19.5%
Light Geese Harvest	1,135	1,141	**554**	0.5%	105.9%
No. of Hunters	267	523	**438**	95.9%	19.3%
TOTAL GEESE:	**5,215**	**7,177**	**6,232**	**37.6%**	**15.2%**

After exhibiting somewhat of a stable harvest trend for most of the new millennium, the statewide harvest increased by nearly 50% compared to the previous year (Figure 3.). As has been common in recent decades, the majority of the harvest originated in Douglas County (41% - see page Q-2). The questionnaire data also reveal that only 20% of the respondents indicated that they hunted in Douglas County. However, those that did reported shooting about one bird per day and these same hunters bagged more geese in the 2005 season than did hunters in any other county, with the exception of a sampling anomaly for Carson City. The majority of Canada geese observed in the mid-winter inventory occur in the Western Region and many of these occupy private pastureland in the Carson Valley. These two data suggest that either private lands access is not a big impediment to goose hunting or that the limited few having this access are inclined to pursue repeated forays.

Figure 3. Canada Goose Harvest in Nevada



Nevada hunters took almost exactly the same number of white geese this year as they did during the 2004-05 season. Last year's report essentially identified a harvest reporting anomaly possibly attributed to a migration nuance. Similarly, this year's data is likely biased by a few questionnaire returns. In both cases, the greatest proportion of harvest is attributed to counties where such harvest is unlikely to accurately represented by the expanded figures. Last year 973 snow geese (86% of statewide harvest) were reported to have occurred in Clark County. This year 48% of the harvest is estimated to have occurred in Mineral County. The facts are that snow and Ross geese are not consistently common in Nevada wetlands during the hunting season.

Tundra Swan

The 2005-06 swan season again opened concurrently with geese on October 22, 2005. It extended the maximum number of days allowed, concluding on January 8, 2006. As has been conditional for the past since 1984, a total of 650 permits were allocated to Nevada. Hunters purchased 370 tags (57% of allocation) compared to 330 tags (51%) last year. Since 1969, the number of tags sold has averaged 433; 74% of the average number of tags available. The Commission has modified the regulations attendant to swan hunting to stimulate greater interest [see inset below].

Table 4. Past Ten Years of Nevada Swan Harvest

Year	Tags Purchased	Percent Participating	Reported Harvest	Expanded Hunter Days[2]
1995	383	75%	69	1,224
1996	376	88%	112	1,054
1997	381	86%	118	1,282
1998	492	85%	164	1,580
1999	518	84%	193	1,817
2000	493	63%	71	1,242
2001	308	78%	58	1,171
2002	273	69%	40[1]	886
2003	298	74%	71	802
2004	330	67%	77	892
2005	370	73%	92	934
'95-'05 Avg.	***384***	***67%***	***97***	***1,171***
'69-'04 Avg.	**433**	**76%**	**112**	**1,121**

[1] includes one poached swan
[2] reported hunter days divided by percent return

Eighty-seven successful swan hunters presented their birds to NDOW personnel for validation in 2005. Five other successful hunters failed to validate, but all harvest information except bill measurements were obtained through a follow-up mail questionnaire. The composition of the harvest for all 92 birds was 50 adults and 42 juveniles. No trumpeter swans were detected out of the 92 birds harvested. Two other adults were illegal killed within closed counties. Questionnaire response was 92% and of these respondents almost 29% indicated that they did not hunt.

CHANGES TO SWAN HUNTING REGULATIONS – Beginning with the 2006-07 Season

On August 5th, 2006 the Commission adopted a number of changes to permanent regulations [Nevada Administrative Code 502.380] to stimulate greater interest in swan hunting in Nevada. This culminates an effort by the Department to seek changes to the federal framework for swan hunting to allow persons to take up to two swans during an open season in Nevada. The specific changes are:

- Change the existing tag into a **swan hunt permit.**
- By changing the document to a *permit* it eliminated the requirement to charge a predator management fee on the application. The application fee remains at $10 and the permit costs $10.
- By changing the document to a *permit,* applicants are no longer required to have a license at the time of application but must have a license or Nonresident Short-term Hunt Permit, a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp and a Nevada Duck Stamp in order to hunt. Nonresidents no longer need to buy the full–term license.
- Nevada's swan permit allocation is limited to 650. If this allocation is not fulfilled through the initial drawing, then remaining permits become available on a first-come, first-served basis to any individual by over the counter sale beginning on October 9th.
- A person obtaining a permit in the initial draw may pick up a second permit.
- A person that did not apply for the initial drawing may obtain up to two permits over the counter.

Population Status

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service conducted a continental assessment of the status of waterfowl as they do each year. Pacific Flyway waterfowl breeding population data is collected through surveys over breeding grounds within traditional survey areas in the central prairies and parklands of the United States and Canada and in the northwest portion of Canada and in Alaska. The 2006 total duck population estimate was calculated to be between 35.6 – 36.8 million birds compared to 31.1 – 32.3 million birds last year. This represents an increase to a level that is 9% above the long-term average for the preceding 50 years. Mallard numbers (7.1-7.5 million) aren't much different than last year but pintails (3.4 ± 0.2 million) increased by 32% compared to last year. Pintails still remain 18% below the 50-year average and well below the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) goal of 5.6 million birds. See data in Figure 2.

Habitat conditions during the January 2006 mid-winter survey were fairly open and because of decent runoff, surface acreage considerably greater than had been observed in previous years. Accordingly, numbers of observed waterfowl were substantially higher than they had been in 2005. The table in page A-10 compares the 2006 findings against short-term and long-term averages. Although last winter's documented duck numbers are impressive compared to both of these averages, duck numbers were still short of the 128,520 ducks observed in 1996. The total number of waterfowl observed in the Pacific Flyway amounted to 7,231,396, technically unchanged from last year's findings. This figure is also 18% higher than the preceding five-year average.

Goose numbers were also well above both averages. Although the high count was in 1999 at 33,370 birds, last winter's observed total was one of the highest on record. In the Pacific Flyway, mid-winter observations of the Rocky Mountain Population of geese declined compared to the record observation in 2005. The Pacific Population, which partially winters in Northwestern Nevada saw a slight increase compared to the previous year. Breeding pair indices for both populations are well above the Flyway's management plan goals. Canada Geese are doing quite well and most western states offer long seasons and four bird limits.

Productivity Potential

Duck

Nevada breeding pair survey data is provided within the appendix on page A-11. Nevada's annual breeding pair surveys were abbreviated this year due to aircraft limitations. The total number consists principally of observations made in Western Nevada. Habitat conditions were conducive for duck production. River flows continued to bring water to terminal wetlands throughout the brood-rearing period. For most of this term these delivers kept pace or exceeded evapo-transpiration losses.

Canada Geese

The Department was again unable to conduct a breeding pair survey of Canada geese this past March. Even so, goose pair data obtained from a portion of the Western Region routes numbered more pairs than the long-term (since 1969) statewide average.

Readers are encouraged to obtain additional information about the status of migratory birds by visiting the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management's website at: migratorybirds.fws.gov/reports/reports.html

MOURNING DOVE

Harvest

Nevada's 2005 dove season spanned the 30 days of September. The bag and possession limits were 10 and 20, respectively. The hunting of white-wing doves was limited to Nye and Clark counties only.

Table 1 compares data obtained through the federal government's Harvest Information Program to harvest data collected through the Department's newly modified post-season questionnaire. Because of the changes made to the questionnaire NDOW biologists were able to collect and evaluate separate whit-winged dove harvest data for the first time.

Table 1. Comparisons Between Estimated Dove Harvest Statistics for Nevada.*

Year	Estd. Hunter Numbers			Estimated Hunter Days			Estimated Dove Harvest		
	HIP	NV Q	% Diff	HIP	NV Q	% Diff	HIP	NV Q	% Diff
2002	5,200	5,355	-2.9%	17,800	15,112	+18%	70,700	62,977	+12%
2003	4,700	4,074	+15%	10,800	10,177	-6%	42,100	53,103	-21%
2004	3,800	3,434	+11%	8,800	9,487	-7%	34,650	36,500	-5%
2005	**4,100**	**4,110**	**--**	**10,000**	**14,580**	**-46%**	**47,700**	**50,364**	**-6%**

*comparisons are made against Nevada Post-season Harvest Questionnaire data.

Beginning with the 2005 Nevada Questionnaire, the total number of *individual* hunters could be sorted out of the database. This number is what is reflected in the table above. In the following table, hunter numbers represent *cumulative* hunters, thus a single hunter that hunts in multiple counties is recorded against each county's total. Since individual hunter number data was not available for the previous four and a half decades of questionnaires, Table 2 will compare the 2005 cumulative number. However, returning to Table 1, it is extraordinary how similar the estimates of individual numbers compare between the two survey methods. Harvest estimates are statistically similar between both methods but a large disparity can be seen in the hunter day estimates. Although all the hunters that responded to the Nevada questionnaire theoretically also participated in the HIP survey, subtle reporting nuances, when expanded, can easily account for the big differences.

Table 2. STATEWIDE DOVE HARVEST
From Post-season Questionnaire

	STATE TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	20045	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	34,650	**50,364**	48,023	45.4%	4.9%
No. of Hunters	3,434	**4,400**	4,616	28.1%	-4.7%
No. of Days	9,619	**14,580**	12,915	51.6%	12.9%
Birds / Hunter	10.09	**11.45**	10.3	13.4%	10.8%
Birds/Hunter Day	3.60	**3.45**	3.7	4.1%	-6.7%

Statewide dove harvest increased in 2005, closely approximating the ten-year average. The number of days afield per hunter demonstrated the most significant increase against the long-term average, but even so it is not a dramatic comparison. The number of birds per hunter

day remains static. Questionnaire recipients were also asked to indicate whether or not they had taken white-winged dove, most likely incidental to the pursuit of mourning dove. Reported harvest was insignificant with one hunter taking 12 birds in Clark County and three hunters bagging a total of 37 white-wings in Nye County.

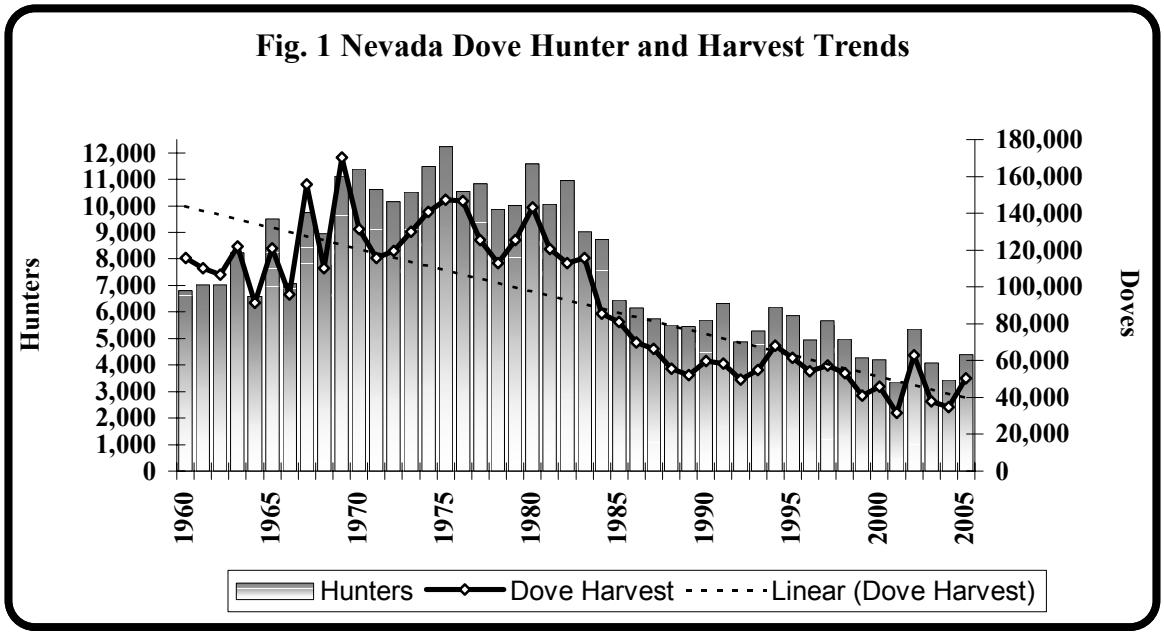
Dove harvest was unchanged in the Southern Region with an estimated kill of 13,200 dove. In the Eastern Region, the 2005 harvest was just short of average. The biggest gain in harvest occurred in the Western Region, where the harvest was 67% higher than the previous year and 37% higher than average. Even at that the Western Region's 2005 harvest was well below its record of 71,800, recorded in 1980.

Table 3. DOVE HARVEST COMPARISON BY REGION
From Post-season Questionnaire

	WESTERN			EASTERN			SOUTHERN		
	2004	**2005**	**AVG.**	**2004**	**2005**	**AVG.**	**2004**	**2005**	**AVG.**
No. of Birds	19,086	31,813	**22,946**	2,478	5,380	**5,871**	13,086	13,171	**19,207**
No. of Hunters	1,878	2,740	**2,285**	392	580	**704**	1,164	1,080	**1,626**
No. of Days	5,337	9,290	**6,033**	743	1,900	**1,734**	3,539	3,390	**5,148**
Birds / Hunter	10.16	11.61	**10.0**	6.32	9.28	**8.5**	11.24	12.20	**12.1**
Birds/Hunter Day	3.58	3.42	**3.7**	3.34	2.83	**3.5**	3.70	3.89	**3.7**

Harvest statistics in the Southern Region continue to defy logical interpretation. Harvest, hunters and hunter days are unchanged between 2004 and 2005, but both years' numbers are about 30-34% below their respective averages. What are most confounding are the hunter number values. Dove are fairly easy to hunt, in terms of getting access, proximity to home and equipment needed. The bulk of Nevada's human population resides in Clark County (1,815,700[1]) yet only 390 respondents said that they hunted in Clark County – the extrapolated total represents only 0.02% of the human population figure.

Fig. 1 Nevada Dove Hunter and Harvest Trends

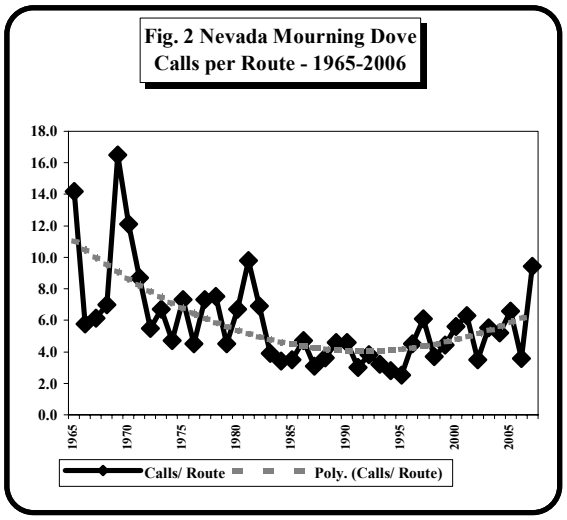


1 Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning – July 2005 Estimate

Population Status

The U.S Fish & Wildlife Service coordinates the national Mourning Dove Call-count Survey. More than 1,000 randomly selected routes distributed within physiographic regions throughout the nation. Dove populations are managed within three zones – the Eastern, Central and Western Management Units (MU). Nevada is one of seven of the contiguous western states within the WMU. There are 22 call-count routes in Nevada, most of which have been run since 1964.

This spring, 21 of Nevada's routes were run. Route runners heard a total of 198 calls and observed 182 doves. These data greatly exceed the long-term averages of 107 heard and slightly exceed the average of 175 seen, respectively. The call per route average this year was 9.4, compared to the long-term average of 5.8. Figure 2 depicts dove call count results since the inception of the survey. Only call per route data is comparable since some routes have been added, deleted or modified since 1964. Using a polynomial trend analysis, the dove breeding index is improving compared to a low period in the 1990's. Biologists continue to struggle with a decision on how to modify breeding indices to account for distributional shifts toward urban and suburban landscapes. Anecdotally, it is believe that the long-term routes are ineffective in tracking population status given the recent range shift.



In Nevada, observation data has greatly dropped off, but biologists consider this information to be supplemental for analysis, given the call-count survey methodology. Efforts to understand dove distribution and density are underway. One tool is the use of long-term operational banding. Data gleaned through studies like this will give biologists insight into understanding the scale and significance of changes in migration patterns. Another tool in assessing dove biology will be a broad scale coordinated endeavor to collect wings from harvested birds. Biologists will be able to calculate sex and age ratios of the species, which in turn will factor into population estimates. It is an eventual goal to engage an adaptive harvest management application for doves that is tied to fluctuations in the species abundance.

Productivity Potential

Random, even anecdotal data relative to dove production in the Mojave Desert is unavailable. It is speculated that given the dry conditions that prevailed since mid-winter, dove production will below its potential. In the Great Basin summer precipitation was light, even absent in some locales. However, winter and spring precipitation was good, thus seed production should have benefited nesting pairs north of Nye County.

Biologists will be monitoring the increase in number and distribution of the Eurasian Collared Dove in Nevada and elsewhere in the United States. This non-native bird has expanded its range remarkably within the last decade. Not much is understood about the impacts that this species may have upon native dove.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON

No survey and inventory activities were conducted for this job during this report period.

AMERICAN CROW

Harvest

In 2005, the spring hunt extended from March 1 to April 15, 2005 (46 days) and the fall hunt began on September 1 and ended on November 17, 2005 (77 days). The established daily limit was 10 crows. There is no possession limit since regulations do not require the hunter to keep the birds for consumption.

As noted in the preceding reports, the Department's newly modified questionnaire made it easier for biologists to extract harvest data. A section in the form allowed respondents to record crow harvest data. However, there were so few responses that NDOW concluded that extrapolation would be meaningless and not useful for analysis. Therefore, the table below depicts unexpanded data provided by a total of 23 hunters.

Table 1. STATEWIDE AMERICAN CROW HARVEST – 2004
From Post-season Questionnaire

County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day
Carson City	3	1	2	3.00	2.00
Churchill	1	1	1	1.00	1.00
Humboldt	4	3	36	1.33	12.00
Lyon	49	4	7	4.00	1.75
Mineral	41	3	13	13.67	4.33
Pershing	2	1	1	2.00	1.00
Washoe	1	1	1	1.00	1.00
Elko	54	5	67	13.50	16.75
Eureka	1	1	1	1.00	1.00
Lander	51	1	30	50.00	30.00
White Pine	5	1	2	5.00	2.00
Lincoln	2	1	1	2.00	1.00
Nye	10	2	10	5.00	5.00
TOTALS:	**187**	**23**	**170**	**8.1**	**1.1**

Crow hunting season are apparently not eliciting much interest. When the questionnaire process is modified to specifically target a much greater sample of upland game and migratory bird hunters, then the responses will likely yield stronger statistical inferences.

Population Status

Crows are not classified as a migratory game bird under federal rule. Therefore, there are no coordinated efforts within the flyways to assess population status of this species nor does the US Fish & Wildlife Service regulate the take of the species through a federal framework. There is an increasing prevalence of West Nile Virus in Nevada. This has been determined through mosquito pool surveillance and through veterinary examination of carcasses or sick birds. The disease is problematic for corvids, a family of perching birds to which crows and ravens belong. Incidences of infected birds have been documented and some biologists have reported anecdotal assessments that corvid numbers seem to have diminished.

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REGIONAL SPECIES SUMMARIES

SAGE GROUSE

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

During the 2005 general season, a nine-day hunt was held for sage grouse. In Humboldt and Washoe counties Management Areas 1, 3, and 5 were open for harvest with the exclusion of certain units. These units were 032, 033, 034, 035, 042, 044, 046, and 151 in Humboldt County. The season in 2005 ran from October 8th through October 16th with a two daily and four in possession limit. Unit 033, on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, had two special two-day hunts that were offered during September. The two weekends were September 17th-18th and September 24th-25th. Participation was limited to 75 permits per hunt period, awarded by lottery. The daily bag and possession limits for these special hunts were two and four, respectively. Table 1 describes the combined hunting season results of the open counties within the Western Region.

Table 1. WESTERN REGION SAGE GROUSE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

REGIONAL TOTALS:				
	2003	**2004**	**2005**	**Avg.**
No. of Birds	2,802	2,615	**1,386**	2,268
No. of Hunters	1,233	946	**603**	927
No. of Days	2,186	2,072	**1,438**	1,899
Birds/Hunter	2.27	2.76	**2.29**	2.45
Birds/Hunter Day	1.28	1.26	**.96**	1.19

For 2005, the reported number of birds that were harvested is down from what we have observed during the past two years. Along with the decrease in the number of birds, the number of hunters and the amount of effort that was put into the hunt is down as well. This result may be the effect of weather conditions that were experienced during the fall 2005 hunting season. Additionally, a revised questionnaire and harvest calculation methodology was applied to the 2005 harvest data that may be the cause for the surprising discrepancies. The average in the above table reflects the last three years of harvest that took place in the Western Region. Investigations continue throughout the region to follow fluctuations in bird numbers and to better understand increases and decreases in harvested bird numbers.

Population Status

Department biologists continue to monitor sage-grouse population trends throughout the region. Spring lek counts are conducted annually as well as brood surveys in those populations that are not hunted. From these lek counts and brood surveys, population estimates have been established for all sage-grouse populations. According to Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) guidelines, populations with less than 300 breeding birds should

not be hunted. With hunted populations, harvest rates should not exceed 10% of the estimated fall population. As with past years, only areas that met the above criteria in Humboldt and Washoe Counties had a hunting season. Based on monitoring data, all hunted areas in these two counties have either met or exceeded harvest guidelines. A slight increase in young/hen ratios was observed in areas of Pershing and Humboldt counties where brood counts were conducted.

Major factors that have influenced sage-grouse populations in the western region include urbanization, mining and wildland fires that have significantly altered vegetation types. Some of the units in Humboldt County that have been closed to hunting are close to meeting the requirements for limited hunts in the future.
In November 2005, 1,769 hunter-harvested wings were gathered and analyzed by Department biologists in the Western Region. Table 2 summarizes this information.

Table 2. WESTERN REGION WING DATA BY AREA

Hunt Area	Adults		Juveniles		Total Harvest	Young/ Hen
	Males	Females	Males	Females		
Sheldon NWR	20	62	43	34	159	1.24
Buffalo/Skedaddle	14	22	18	6	60	1.09
Total Massacre PMU	37	61	29	38	165	1.10
Vya PMU	2	14	7	4	27	.79
Other Washoe	2	6	4	6	18	1.67
Total WA Co.	**75**	**165**	**101**	**88**	**429**	**1.15**
Santa Rosa PMU	97	115	74	118	404	1.67
Lone Willow PMU	173	283	237	243	936	1.7
Pine Forest PMU	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Rock PMU	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total HU Co.	**270**	**398**	**311**	**361**	**1,340**	**.77**
Total Western Region	**345**	**563**	**412**	**449**	**1,769**	**1.53**

Production is measured by young/hen in all of the Population Management Units (PMUs). Production during this past year continues to be highest in the Lone Willow PMU. This ratio has fallen over the last two years which has been the general case for all units in the western region. The Santa Rosa PMU however, saw significant increase in production from last year. Spring conditions and good forage played an important part as well as good summer moisture for this PMU.

In the Western Region, lek counts were conducted this spring from both the ground and the air. Biologists observed over 4,400 sage-grouse during these surveys. Fewer leks were visited in Humboldt and Pershing County due to weather and time constraints. Bird attendance on most leks that were visited was similar to data collected during recent counts. Continued monitoring efforts are ongoing throughout the region and include radio-marking studies to monitor movement patterns as delineating seasonal habitats. These projects have provided vital information to assist with the management of this species.

Productivity Potential

Despite increased winter precipitation, lek attendance was relatively the same as the previous year with few leks having slight increases indicating that winter survival of adult birds was fair to good in most areas. Wildland fires in the western region did not have a major impact on sage grouse use areas. Information gained from those birds that were harvested during the 2005 season combined with spring lek surveys in 2006 showed that populations generally remained stable with slight declines in some areas. Production numbers for this summer are generally good and the number of sage-grouse is expected to be similar to what was observed last year.

Fall Prediction

Winter and spring precipitation has dramatically increased forbs and grass production, providing ample forage for young birds. Dry summer conditions have kept females with broods tied to water sources. Hunters can expect dry and dusty conditions for the beginning of the hunting season. Based on this years lek surveys those units that were closed last year will remain closed during this hunting season. These areas as well as those with small populations will remain closed until biologists observe bird numbers that meet or exceed harvest guidelines.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

The Eastern Region had a nine-day sage grouse season running from October 8 through October 16, 2005. Bag limits were 2 daily and 4 in possession. The Eastern Region's season has been the same length (9 days) in all four counties (Elko, Eureka, Lander and White Pine) since 1999. The only exception was for Lander County where Game Management Unit 151 was closed to sage grouse hunting for the first time in 2003 based on low population levels of sage grouse in the Battle Mountain and Fish Creek Population Management Units (PMU's).

Table 3. EASTERN REGION SAGE GROUSE HARVEST BY COUNTY
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	COUNTY TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	**2005**	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
Elko	1,523	**846**	2,227	-44%	-62%
Eureka	401	**410**	350	2%	17%
Lander	275	**129**	358	-53%	-64%
White Pine	340	**286**	301	-16%	-5%
Eastern Region	**2,539**	**1,671**	**3,236**	**-34%**	**-48%**

Table 4. EASTERN REGION SAGE GROUSE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	**2005**	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	2,539	**1,671**	3,236	-34%	-48%
No. of Hunters	1,162	**809**	1,755	-30%	-54%
No. of Days	2,278	**2,275**	4,082	-0.1%	-44%
Birds / Hunter	2.2	**2.1**	1.8	-5%	17%
Birds/Hunter Day	1.1	**0.7**	0.8	-36%	-13%

The 2005 sage grouse harvest increased in only one of four of the Eastern Region counties where it was also 17% higher than the previous ten-year-average (Eureka County). Sage grouse harvest was lower than last year and below the previous ten-year-average harvest in the other three Eastern Region counties (Elko, Lander, and White Pine). The 2005 sage grouse harvest was actually comparable to previous ten-year average in Eureka County and only nine birds higher than last year. The 2005 harvest was only slightly below (5%) the previous ten-year average in White Pine County. Overall, the Eastern Region sage grouse harvest was 48% below the past ten-year-average compared to 41% below in 2004.

Population Status

Summer brood survey sample sizes in 2005 remain below average for the Eastern Region (table 5.) because effort to collect samples has been reduced. The largest sample of sage grouse was obtained again in Lander County (41% of the Eastern Region's sample) followed by White Pine (31%). A total Regional sample of 359 sage grouse was classified with an average brood size of 3.4, a young/100 hen ratio of 215 and a young/100 adult ratio of 114. The Region's sample size in 2004 was 244 with an average brood size of 3.5, a young/100 hen ratio of 253 and a young/100 adult ratio of 103. The young/100 hen ratio decreased from 2004. Brood sizes have been average to above average since 1995.

Table 5. SAGE GROUSE PRODUCTION SUMMARY – EASTERN REGION

County	Bird Totals					Ratios		Total Complete Broods	Tot. Yng. w/in Complete Broods	Avg. Brood Size
	Observed	Classified	Adults	Hens	Young	Young/Ad	Young/Hen			
Elko	105	105	43	25	62	1.44	2.48	19	62	3.3
Eureka	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
Lander	158	158	95	42	63	.66	1.50	8	22	2.8
White Pine	120	96	41	28	79	1.93	2.82	14	54	3.9
Reg. Total:	**383**	**359**	**179**	**95**	**204**	**1.14**	**2.15**	**41**	**138**	**3.4**

Wings collected from hunters in 2005 were assessed to determine male/female ratios and production. Wing data for the Eastern Region are summarized in Table 6.

Table 6. EASTERN REGION SAGE GROUSE WING DATA - 2005

County	Total Wings	Adult Males	Adult Females	Juvenile Males	Juvenile Females	Ratios	
						Juv./ Ad Hen	Juv./ Adult
Elko	761	151	227	177	206	1.69	1.01
Eureka	157	24	42	38	53	2.16	1.38
Lander	124	26	16	43	39	5.13	1.95
White Pine	83	9	28	11	35	1.64	1.24
Reg. Total:	**1,125**	**210**	**313**	**269**	**333**	**1.92**	**1.15**

Wings were obtained from hunters through strategically placed wing collection depositories (*wing barrels*) and through field contacts between NDOW personnel and successful hunters. Wing analysis indicated survival of young birds into October was similar to the previous year. A comparison with brood data shows that 215 young/100 hens observed in July decreased to only 192 by October.

Winter survival of birds was good throughout the Eastern Region in 2005-2006. Sage grouse are adapted to heavy snow cover, cold temperatures, and deep snow as long as heavy crusting is not experienced and especially if there are vast areas available for migration of sage grouse to other winter ranges. Strutting ground count data on comparable leks in the Eastern Region for 2006 are summarized as follows: -3% in Elko County, +31% in Eureka County, +11% in Lander County and +16% in White Pine County. There has been a gradual downward trend in lek counts over the long-term throughout the Eastern Region since the 1960's. For 2005, three of four counties in the Eastern Region showed improvements in attendance of males at trend leks and one was static (-3%). All four counties showed an increase in lek attendance last year and three of four counties showed an increase in lek attendance at trend leks in 2002 and 2003.

Elko County harbors some of the largest sage-grouse populations within Nevada. There are a total of ten PMUs within this planning area. Four biologists share responsibilities for these ten PMUs. Lek-monitoring efforts were coordinated between Elko NDOW, USFS and Elko BLM Field Office personnel as well as volunteers. Monitoring by NDOW personnel focused on trend ground counts and ground-truthing of existing leks in the database while accompanying BLM personnel's directed efforts towards checking leks for activity associated with burned areas or in areas that have little historic data available. USFS personnel and volunteer's assisted with lek occupancy and lek counts. NDOW personnel checked trend leks between two and six times each during April and early May of 2006. During the spring of 2006, 334 leks were visited with 139 active, 186 unknown or inactive, 20 new leks confirmed from last year, and 9 potential new leks in eastern Elko County that need to be verified in 2007. Within the North Fork, Tuscarora and Desert PMU's, at least 50 leks were eliminated from the lek database due to the lack of long-term data (one time counts in questionable habitat) or the lek was combined with an existing adjacent lek. In comparison, 72 leks were visited with 39 active leks, 33 unknown status and 15 possible new leks documented in 2005. In 2006 there were 1,604 male sage grouse observed on 139 leks resulting in an average of 11.5 males/lek compared to 1,041 male sage grouse on 39 leks for an average of 26.7 males/lek in 2005. Some leks were determined to be active by sign only (tracks, feathers, and droppings) when birds were not observed. The high number of inactive leks can partially be explained by the fact that, in many instances, birds had left the leks by the time the helicopter surveyed them. There are hundreds of leks still in the database that need to be evaluated as to whether they were one-time sightings or if they are actual strutting grounds.

NDOW personnel monitored 20 trend leks in Elko County counting 897 males for 45 males/lek showing a 3% decrease in numbers from 2005. As usual, some peak counts of males on leks occurred during the first ten days of May. One interesting note was the number of males on the Willow Creek Reservoir #19 trend lek remained identical to the 2005 levels despite the fact that the lek and everything within two miles burned during the summer of 2005.

In Eureka County, the number of trend grounds was increased to ten in 2000 to collect a larger sample for comparison. The peak male attendance on the ten comparable grounds for 2006 was 411 for an average of 41.1 males per ground. This resulted in a 31% increase from 2005 when 314 males were counted for an average of 31.4 males per ground. The 41 males per ground was the highest average since 1986 when the average was 47 males per ground. The twenty-year-average (1986 to 2005) for comparable grounds was 26 males/lek and the ten-year-average (1996-2005) was 24. In addition to trend counts, there were nine active leks surveyed by NDOW, BLM, and UNR graduate students in 2006. The 19 active leks monitored in Eureka County in 2006 had 673 males in attendance for an average of 35 males/lek. In 2005, there were 18 active leks checked with 483 males yielding an average of 27 males/lek. There was one new lek found in the Cortez Range with 34 males in attendance. This lek will be monitored and the location verified next year.

Lander County PMU lek counts (Shoshone, Toiyabe, Battle Mountain, and Fish Creek) generated an average of 13.1 male sage-grouse observed per active lek in 2006 whereas in 2005, an average of 11.8 males were counted per active lek. The 2005 minimum spring breeding population estimate for one of the more significant Lander County PMUs, the Toiyabe PMU, was 3,212 sage grouse. In 2004, there were estimated to be 1,824 sage grouse within this PMU, indicating a striking increase in the sage-grouse population for this particular area. No estimate was made for 2006 but based on trend leks it is estimated to be approximately 11% higher than 2005.

The White Pine planning area basically resides within the confines of White Pine County, with some minor exceptions. The majority of three PMUs (Butte/Buck/White Pine, Schell/Antelope, and Snake Valley) are within White Pine County. Two other PMUs (Diamond and Steptoe/Cave) are partially within White Pine County. Lek monitoring efforts in White Pine County by Ely District BLM, Ely USFS Ranger District, Great Basin National Park, NDOW personnel, and SNWA (Southern Nevada Water Authority) personnel resulted in 90 leks visited in 2006 with 54 (60%) observed to be active and 36 either unknown or inactive. Two potentially new leks were discovered and two potential leks from last year were confirmed. A total of 1,047 males were counted on the 90 leks, resulting in 19.4 males/lek. In comparison, 90 leks were visited with 45 (50%) found to be active and a total of 797 males observed for an average of 17.7 males/lek in 2005. Various agency personnel monitored twenty-six trend leks. A total of 404 males were observed for 15.5 males/lek, a 16% increase over 2005 figures. The 2006 minimum spring breeding population estimate for the entire White Pine planning area was calculated at 8,142 sage grouse. This represents a 13% increase from the 2005 minimum estimate of 7,197 sage grouse.

Overall in the Eastern Region, lek data suggested sage grouse populations were stable in Elko County and increased in the other three counties. Trend lek counts are down over the long term (20 years). Strutting ground and harvest data indicate base populations of sage grouse are low to moderate in the Region compared to the late 1970's and early 1980's.

Productivity Potential

Summer conditions were good for brooding sage grouse in most of the Eastern Region. Above average precipitation was received during the 2006 water year in most of the Region. Forage production was good through June 2006. Insect numbers were high again in June with some parts of the Region having large Mormon cricket infestations. Preliminary brood data and sightings suggest sage grouse were doing well in 2006 and populations are expected to increase again in much of the Eastern Region. The exceptions are large areas north of Interstate 80 in Elko County where more than 700,000 acres of wildfires eliminated prime sage grouse habitat in management units 067 and on the border of 071, 072, and 073. It is estimated that habitat for between 5,000 and 10,000 sage grouse has been eliminated for the short-term. Initially, it will come back as mostly a grass and forb complex with only limited seasonal use value for sage grouse. Of major concern is the loss of wintering habitat (October through March) and spring production habitat (March through June) for leks and nesting.

Fall Prediction

Bird availability in the Eastern Region is predicted to be good for the 2006 season except in areas of Elko County where large wildfires destroyed sage grouse habitat. Measurable precipitation occurring immediately prior to and during the season tends to reduce hunting success. Dry conditions often concentrate birds making them more available to the hunter. Hunting is expected to be fair to good in most of the Region for 2006.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

Currently, northern Nye County is the only portion of the Southern Region which maintains an open sage grouse season. Although sage grouse occur in both Esmeralda and Lincoln counties, these populations are not considered large enough to support harvest at the present time. Accepted sage grouse harvest guidelines state that harvest should only occur in areas where more than 300 birds comprise the spring breeding population.

The Southern Region's 2005 sage-grouse season was 9 days in length, running from October 8th to October 16th. Daily bag and possession limits remained unchanged at 2 daily and 4 in possession. Available harvest data for the 2005 sage-grouse season indicate that 102 hunters harvested 108 sage-grouse in Nye County. In comparison, harvest data for 2004 showed a harvest of 90 sage-grouse by 86 hunters. Although data suggest that interest in pursuing sage-grouse in central Nevada remains well below long-term averages, the past two years have seen an encouraging, if somewhat small, increase in hunter participation. Although birds per hunter day data indicate that sportsmen spent more time searching for grouse in 2005, the small sample size obtained makes the data somewhat suspect. All other data indicates that bird availability was actually improved in 2005.

It is important to note that although the questionnaire data provide important information regarding overall harvest and hunter pressure trends; small sample sizes may produce biased results. Refer to the following table for the short- and long-term perspectives of harvest.

Table 7. SOUTHERN REGION SAGE GROUSE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	10yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	90	108	**243**	20.0%	-55.6%
No. of Hunters	86	102	**177**	18.6%	-42.4%
No. of Days	137	108	**350**	-21.1%	-69.1%
Birds / Hunter	1.05	1.1	**1.24**	4.7%	-11.3%
Birds/Hunter Day	0.66	0.4	**0.78**	-39.4%	-48.7%

Population Status

Each spring, Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel, BLM and USFS biologists, and PROWL volunteers, conduct sage-grouse lek counts in central Nevada to determine breeding population trends and status. In central Nevada, fourteen leks have been identified as trend leks. These leks are typically surveyed once each week for five weeks in order to determine peak attendance of male sage grouse.

During the spring of 2006, ten of theses trend leks showed slight to moderate increases in cock attendance, while four showed slight decreases from 2005. Overall, 2006 trend lek data indicate that cock attendance was up 23% from 2005, and was 30% above the five-year average.

During the fall sage grouse hunting season, NDOW collects hunter harvested sage-grouse wings in order to determine male/female harvest ratios, nesting success, and young of the year recruitment rates. Wing data gathered in 2005 indicate ratio of 2.6 juveniles per adult hen during the fall period. This represents a huge improvement over the ratio of 1.0 juveniles per adult hen indicated by 2004 data for the same time frame. Available research suggests that fall ratios above 2.0 juveniles per adult hen are required for stable to increasing sage grouse populations. Data also indicate that nesting success in central Nevada increased from 39% in 2004 to 44% in 2005. The reliability of wing data is partially dependent upon sample size, and samples are relatively small for Nye County in most years. Wing data for central Nevada are summarized in Table 2.

With a relatively mild winter, over winter survival of sage grouse should have been good during the 2005-06 winter periods. Lower elevation sagebrush benches remained open and available to wildlife throughout the winter period in central Nevada.

Table 8. SOUTHERN REGION SAGE GROUSE WING DATA – 1999-2005

Year	Total Sample	Adults		Juveniles		Young/ Ad Hen
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1999	16	4	2	5	2	1.4
2000	33	5	10	7	11	1.8
2001	76	10	16	21	28	3.1
2002	63	10	25	9	19	1.1
2003	75	6	20	26	23	2.5
2004	62	14	24	10	14	1.0
2005	90	8	23	36	23	2.6
Average	**59**	**8**	**17**	**16**	**17**	**1.9**

Productivity Potential

The Basin-Wide Precipitation Data Summary provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates that the winter of 2005-2006 was relatively mild in much of central Nevada. Total accumulated precipitation was reported to be 80% of average at the end of February, 2006. Despite remaining below average through much of the winter, March and April saw huge precipitation receipts and central Nevada reached 110% of average by the end of April, 2006. Habitat conditions benefited from the moisture receipts in March and April, and the transition to warmer, drier conditions in May and June should have allowed for good early brood survival.

Limited brood survey data has been collected in central Nevada as of this writing. Currently, data indicate a ratio of 3.5 chicks per hen in the areas surveyed. This data is still preliminary and results may change as the survey season progresses. Brood survey information from Lincoln County resulted in a total of 124 birds observed. Unfortunately due to the advanced age of most of the young birds, they could not be classified. Of the birds classified, the results show a ratio of 4 chicks per hen. Due to the many factors that can affect chick survival through the summer and early fall, brood survey data is of minimal value in predicting actual recruitment. Wings collected in the fall from hunter harvested sage-grouse are presently the most effective method of determining recruitment. Unfortunately, in areas where sage-grouse hunting does not occur, as in Lincoln County, this source of data is unavailable.

Fall Prediction

Winter survival of adults should have been good throughout most sage-grouse ranges of the Southern Region. For central Nevada, favorable moisture patterns during March and April should have allowed for good nesting and early brood rearing habitat conditions, setting the stage for good production. While production is not anticipated to be quite as good as that experienced in 2005, sportsmen taking to the field during the fall of 2006 should find bird availability similar to that experienced over the past 10 years. It is important to note that even with good bird availability; sage-grouse hunter success can vary widely dependent upon localized population densities, fall weather patterns, and an individual's knowledge of specific hunting areas and sage-grouse habits.

FOREST GROUSE

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

The 2005-06 Forest Grouse (Blue Grouse & Ruffed Grouse) hunting season was 89 days long, beginning on September 3 and ending on November 30. During this period 253 birds were harvested by a total of 370 hunters (Table 1 / *Blue Grouse only*). Blue grouse make up the majority of the forest grouse harvest. Limits were two daily and four in possession. Only Carson City, Douglas, Washoe, Humboldt and Lyon counties were open in the Western Region, with Humboldt County containing the only ruffed grouse population in the Region. Ruffed Grouse harvest in Humboldt County was minimal with 9 birds taken by 19 hunters (*expanded data from questionnaire*).

Table 1. WESTERN REGION BLUE GROUSE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:		
	2004	**2005**	10 Yr Avg.
No. of Birds	420	**253**	305
No. of Hunters	195	**370**	265
No. of Days	516	**524**	573
Birds / Hunter	2.15	**1.75**	1
Birds/Hunter Day	0.81	**0.85**	1

Population Status and Productivity Potential

Although formal surveys are not conducted for forest grouse species, western region biologists have reported very favorable spring conditions. The winter of 2005-06 was very high in precipitation. The spring of 2006 also received good precipitation and yet was a relatively mild spring with temperatures favorable to upland game bird chick survival. Based on observations of similar species the over-winter loss of adults was probably not as severe as it could have been. Mountain riparian habitats and mountain brush communities in the western region mountain ranges were also recharged as a result of the past winter season.

Fall Prediction

Overall the forest grouse population should be very healthy going into the 2006-07 season. Fires continue to plague some parts of western Nevada (Humboldt and Washoe Counties) but thus far none have had significant impacts on any critical grouse habitat. Hunters can expect to have very favorable conditions for the Fall 2006 season.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

The 2005 blue and ruffed grouse season ran 89 days from September 3 to November 30. Last year's season length was 88 days. Bag limits for forest grouse have been 2 daily and 4 in possession since 1985. Between 1981 and 1984, bag limits were 3 daily and 6 in possession in Elko and White Pine counties.

Blue grouse make up the majority of forest grouse harvest. Limited ruffed grouse harvest was reported in Elko County. Eastern Region ruffed grouse populations are located in the Ruby Mountains, the East Humboldt Range, and in extreme northern Elko County from the Independence/Bull Run Range complex to the Jarbidge Mountains. The following tables illustrate forest grouse harvest in the Eastern Region:

Table 2. EASTERN REGION FOREST GROUSE HARVEST BY COUNTY
Post-season Questionnaire Data

COUNTY	COUNTY TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	**2005**	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
Elko	152	**320**	385	+111%	-17%
Eureka	34	**135**	19	+297%	+610%
Lander	17	**88**	58	+418%	+52%
White Pine	253	**1,234**	493	+388%	+150%
Eastern Region	**456**	**1,774**	**955**	**+289%**	**+86%**

Table 3. EASTERN REGION FOREST GROUSE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	**2005**	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	456	**1,759**	955	+286%	+84%
No. of Hunters	311	879	558	+172%	+58%
No. of Days	1,318	**2,046**	1,265	+55%	+62%
Birds / Hunter	1.5	**2.0**	1.7	+33%	+18%
Birds/Hunter Day	0.3	**0.9**	0.8	+200%	+13%

Forest grouse harvest in the Eastern Region increased significantly (286%) from 2004. For the third consecutive year White Pine County carried the highest forest grouse harvest in the Region and Elko County was second. The White Pine County blue grouse harvest of 1,234 birds was second only to the record harvest of 1,571 birds harvested in 1979. The Eureka County blue grouse harvest of 135 birds was second only to the record harvest of 145 birds in 1975. Lander County's blue grouse harvest was well above the previous year and above the long-term average as well. Harvest data suggest blue grouse populations were well above average in Eureka, Lander and White Pine counties but below average in Elko County.

Population Status

No forest grouse brood data was reported from the Eastern Region in 2005. Brood data was only reported from Elko County (5 birds including 1 hen and 4 chicks) and White Pine County (11 birds observed including 1 male, 2 hens, 3 chicks, and 5 unclassified) in 2004. Age and sex ratios of the sample were reported as 3.5 young per complete brood, 2.3 young/hen, and 1.8 young/adult.

Productivity Potential

The major impact to brooding forest grouse is believed to be the condition of riparian habitat that can often be degraded by heavy livestock grazing. The removal of understory vegetation in riparian areas reduces cover that is valuable for brood-rearing habitat, making chicks more susceptible to predation. Winter moisture was excellent and spring moisture for the 2005-06 period was above average and should have provided more than adequate nesting and escape cover for early brooding in the Eastern Region. The 2006 summer period started good but ranges dried up quickly and biologists reported heavy grazing in many riparian areas, suggesting brooding habitat may have been negatively impacted in some portions of the Eastern Region.

Fall Prediction

Forest grouse availability in 2006 is predicted to be fair to good in the Eastern Region. Population levels are predicted to be fair to good in all four counties of the Eastern Region. Eureka and Lander counties have much more limited distribution than Elko and White Pine counties. Blue grouse hunting in 2006 should be fair to good but is not expected to exceed last year's unusually high level.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

The 2005 Southern Region forest grouse season was 89 days in length, running from September 3 – November 30. This season structure was identical to that of both the Western and Eastern Regions. Statewide bag and possession limits remained unchanged at two daily and four in possession for 2005. Although the forest grouse season was open statewide in 2005, within the Southern Region, only Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye counties support blue grouse. Blue grouse are the only species of forest grouse that occur in the Southern Region at this time, and provide for 100% of the harvest.

Post-season questionnaire data for 2005 indicate that hunter interest and total harvest of blue grouse was up noticeably from 2004. This may be partially explained by unusual weather patterns experienced during the 2004 season in many areas of the Southern Region. Exceptionally heavy snowfall occurred during the mid-October/November period in 2004, making access to blue grouse areas nearly impossible during much of the season. Table 3 summarizes this data.

Although questionnaire data provide important information regarding overall harvest and hunter pressure trends, it can be influenced by sampling bias. This bias is particularly apparent

when sample sizes are small, as is typically the case with forest grouse. In addition, a new questionnaire and data entry and expansion process was utilized for the first time this past year and this may have increased the potential for errors in the data. The process is still being refined. Refer to the following table for a breakdown of the Southern Region harvest, as well as the short- and long-term perspectives of harvest.

Table 4. SOUTHERN REGION FOREST GROUSE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	7	**34**	45	386.0%	-24.4%
No. of Hunters	17	**118**	32.5	594.0%	263.1%
No. of Days	38	**389**	75.3	923.6%	416.6%
Birds / Hunter	0.41	**0.29**	1.2	-29.2%	-75.8%
Birds/Hunter Day	0.18	**0.09**	0.57	-50.0%	-84.2%

Population Status and Productivity Potential

The Basin-Wide Precipitation Data Summary provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates that total accumulated precipitation was 80% of average at the end of February 2006 in much of central Nevada. Despite the relatively mild winter, March and April saw huge precipitation receipts and central Nevada reached 110% of average by the end of April, 2006. The moisture receipts in March and April benefited habitat conditions, while a return to warmer, drier conditions in May and June should have allowed for good early brood survival.

Over-winter survival of adult blue grouse is expected to have been good during the winter of 2005-2006. Not only was this past winter a relatively mild one, but blue grouse populations also typically display a unique "reversed" migration pattern. Birds normally move to higher elevation habitats with the onset of winter and survive by roosting above ground in coniferous trees where they are protected from the elements and can feed on pine needles, often times gaining weight, until spring.

Very little blue grouse brood survey data was available for this report. One brood consisting of one adult and three young was observed on Table Mountain in Lincoln County.

Fall Prediction

In regard to forest grouse, even more so than with other species of upland game, erratic fluctuations in data and small sample sizes can make post-season questionnaire data somewhat difficult to analyze. Consequently, the data that may be most helpful in making predictions in regard to blue grouse are birds per hunter and birds per hunter day. These data suggest that bird availability dropped during the 2005 season, but due to a new data gathering and expansion process, this conclusion may be erroneous. Following two years (2005-2006) of favorable climatic conditions in the northern portions of the Southern Region, an improvement in blue grouse availability is expected for the 2006 season, and hunters familiar with the habits of the bird should experience fair to good hunting during the upcoming season.

SNOWCOCK

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

Between 1980 and 1994, snowcock seasons were held from September 1 through the 30th. Beginning in 1995, seasons were extended to October 15th to increase hunting opportunity and the potential to provide the opportunity to obtain higher quality capes for preparing taxidermy specimens. Opening dates are generally the Saturday nearest September 1. Beginning in 2001 the snowcock season was extended until November 15th and then in 2003, the season was extended through November 30th. The 2005 season was 89 days long running from September 3 through November 30th. The extension of the season has allowed increased hunter opportunity but has not resulted in a greater harvest. There was a daily and possession limit of one bird beginning with the first season held in 1980 until 2000. Beginning in 2001, the daily and possession limit was two birds. The change in limits has not affected the overall reported harvest but does provide the hunter with a rare opportunity to harvest a second bird if they are lucky.

The Department of Wildlife did not establish a hunt permit system or mandatory reporting procedure for the 1995 or 1996 seasons. Snowcock hunters reported taking six in 1995 and three snowcocks in 1996. The free hunt permit system was in place since 1997 in order to track hunter participation and harvest more closely. Several methods have been tried to monitor harvest and hunter participation since Nevada began hunting snowcock including mandatory hunt permits, voluntary hunt permits, post-season questionnaires, and even follow-up phone surveys. Return rates of the various techniques have ranged between 33% for voluntary return to 47% for questionnaires with pre-addressed returns. Currently harvest and hunt information can be provided to NDOW through the use of the Department's web site. It was not possible to calculate the percent return for 2004 or 2005 because the number of hunters was not known. The system is still new and being evaluated. Several comments were received from hunters who had difficulty successfully submitting harvest reports following completion of the form. For the 2005 season, only 7 hunters reported and 3 of them harvested 5 birds. The 7 hunters reported seeing 71 snowcocks during 13 days of hunting. Reported snowcock harvest has ranged between 2 and 23 birds annually and has averaged 7.6 birds/year since 1980 with a total harvest of 198 snowcocks over 26 years.

Population Status

The habits and remote habitat preference of these birds make standard population surveys extremely difficult. Random sightings and observations noted during other wildlife management activities are recorded. Snowcock density and distribution surveys are conducted in conjunction with helicopter mountain goat/bighorn sheep surveys. Aerial surveys conducted since 1994 indicate good distribution of birds throughout the East Humboldt/Ruby Mountain complex in suitable habitats. Actual numbers counted are down from the record sample of 217 birds observed in 1994 to less than 100 between 1995 and 2002, 148 in 2003, and 119 in 2004. Random snowcock sightings were recorded during aerial surveys conducted in 2005, but since the traditional goat and bighorn helicopter survey was conducted in the winter rather than the summer, snowcock observations were much lower and not comparable to summer flights.

Productivity Potential

Climatic conditions for the past few years were represented by average winters with relatively harsh spring weather in occupied snowcock habitat. During the 2005 breeding and nesting periods, a late snow pack was present and record high precipitation was recorded in April and May, potentially negatively affecting nesting success and brood survival. Vegetative habitat conditions in occupied snowcock range were generally good to excellent due to the high elevation and frequent precipitation. The snowcock population appears to be at low to moderate levels at the current time based on limited observations from hunters and helicopter surveys.

Fall Prediction

Climatic conditions, habitat preference, the snowcocks wary nature, and the current low to moderate population level are expected to keep harvest levels low. Bird availability is expected to be fair during the 2006 hunting season and harvest is expected to remain at a low level.

CHUKAR & HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

The 2005-06 chukar and Hungarian partridge hunting season ran from October 8th through January 31st. The daily limit was 6 chukar with 12 birds allowed in possession. Limits were singly or in aggregate for the two species. The recently revised hunter questionnaire provided the following expanded chukar harvest information for the 2005-06 hunting season:

Table 1. WESTERN REGION CHUKAR HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	56,774	**85,323**	48,114	50.3%	77.4%
No. of Hunters	6,129	**9,248**	6,354	50.9%	45.6%
No. of Days	25,908	**41,798**	24,809	61.4%	68.5%
Birds / Hunter	9.3	**9.3**	7.57	0%	22.9%
Birds/Hunter Day	2.2	**2.04**	1.94	-7.2%	5.2%

The number of chukar harvested within the western region in 2005 increased significantly from the number of birds killed in 2004. The 2005 statewide total reported harvest of 120,135 birds represents the highest level of harvest since the all time reported record harvest of 218,965 birds set in 1980. The increase in the number of birds harvested in 2005 was proportionate with the increase in the number of hunters who took to the field chasing chukar. Both categories increased by approximately 50% when compared with the 2004 hunting season. The number of days expended by hunters in the field increased 61.4% from the previous year and was well above the 10-year average for hunter effort. The birds per hunter category showed that, on average, similar numbers of birds were killed by individual hunters in 2004 and 2005. However, hunters in 2005 expended slightly more days in the field to harvest those birds. Overall, hunters enjoyed a very successful chukar season in 2005 and expended a tremendous amount of time out in the hills chasing them.

Chukar hunters enjoyed the most success in Humboldt County, where they averaged 12.3 birds per hunter. As is generally the case, hunters who hunted in Washoe and Pershing Counties also faired well. Other counties reporting very good chukar hunting in 2005 were Mineral and Churchill Counties. The total harvest within the western region of 85,323 birds represented 71.1% of the total statewide harvest of chukar in 2005. This is down slightly from 2004, where 74.7% of the harvest occurred in the western region. Chukar harvested in Humboldt, Washoe and Pershing Counties made up 80% of the total number of birds harvested within the region.
The 2005 hunting season has to rank as one of the better chukar hunting seasons experienced by Nevada hunters over the past twenty-five years. The 9.3 average birds per hunter ranks as the third highest since 1976 and the 2.04 birds per hunter day ranks as the 7th highest hunter harvest per day average. Chukar hunting in the western region has improved in recent years due to the very strong adult base populations and several consecutive years of above-average production and recruitment.

Consecutive year's of above average precipitation in western Nevada has provided chukar partridge with some of the best habitat conditions observed in many years. In the winter of 2004-05, deep frozen snow prevented many chukar hunters from venturing out into the hills to chase chukar. This may be one of the reasons why chukar harvest levels were down in 2004. This past winter was much milder when compared with the winter of 2004-05 and thus allowed hunters to access most chukar hunting areas. However, some of the popular chukar hunting areas in the northern portions of the region did have extremely muddy roads that prevented access to the higher elevations. South exposures were open for a majority of the hunting season and allowed chukar partridge to locate sufficient food and cover to survive the winter.

Table 2. WESTERN REGION HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	627	**1,280**	1,249	104%	2.5%
No. of Hunters	271	**807**	394	198%	105%
No. of Days	629	**3,157**	1,022	402%	209%
Birds / Hunter	2.31	**1.59**	3.17	-31%	-50%
Birds/Hunter Day	1.00	**0.41**	1.22	-59%	-66%

The harvest of Hungarian partridge within the western region occurs predominately in Humboldt County. Some incidental harvest in past years has occurred in Washoe and Pershing Counties. In 2005, 98% of the reported harvest was from Humboldt County, while the remainder of the harvest was reported to occur in Lyon County. It is not known whether the Lyon County data is accurate or if the hunters who reported the information mistakenly put down the wrong county for the location of harvest. NDOW does not know of any populations of Hungarian partridge in Lyon County. The 2005-06 harvest information for Hungarian partridge shows significant increases in the number of birds harvested, number of hunters and number of hunter days expended hunting "Huns". The birds per hunter and birds per hunter day categories show that the significant increase in hunting effort did not translate into increased hunter success. The birds per hunter day figure of 0.41, is one of the lowest hunter success rates for Hungarian partridge on record. The birds per hunter figure of 1.59 is also one of the lowest obtained over the last thirty years. Hunter success rates for this past hunting season are also well below the 10-year average or long-term hunter success rates.

The increased harvest of "Huns" in 2005 is thought to be mainly due to the large increase in the number of hunters who expended at least some of their time hunting the birds. It is possible that the chukar hunting was so good that most hunters expended less time during the day to hunt "Huns" at the lower elevations.

Population Status

Very strong base populations along with another good production and recruitment year will allow for a continued increasing trend for chukar populations in the western region and throughout the state. The expanded data showed that 41,798 days were expended by hunters chasing chukar in 2005. This represents the third highest hunter participation on record. The only years to have more hunters in the field were the boom years of 1979 and 1980. Harvest data would indicate that chukar population levels in the state and in the western region have increased

from 1999 on, and were higher in 2003. In 2004, populations may have dropped slightly only to increase again in 2005-06. The populations continue to be at moderately high to high population levels. This upcoming hunting season may be even better than the last few years and could compare reasonably well with the peak years of 1979 and 1980.

Productivity Potential

The winter of 2005-06 was ideal for both chukar and Hungarian partridge populations in western Nevada. Most major basins in the region reported between 120 and 150 percent of average for snowfall and between 130 and 150 percent of average for total precipitation. Although, significant snow accumulations and heavy rainfall occurred throughout the winter and spring months, warmer temperatures followed that allowed for snowmelt and an almost continual green-up. The good forage, mild temperatures and intermittent snow accumulations allowed the birds to survive the winter in good condition. The excellent moisture received during the spring months led to vigorous vegetative growth and excellent habitat conditions for nesting and brood rearing in late spring and throughout the summer.

Early reports from biologists in the field indicate very strong overall numbers and high chick per hen values being observed. Although, final results are not available as of this writing, several biologists have reported observing good numbers of birds with an average of between 6 and 9 chicks per hen. A few reports have been received from sportsman who reported observing "more chukar than they have ever seen."

Fall Prediction

The upcoming hunting season is expected to be very good with the potential to be one of the best hunting seasons on record. Adult population levels are at fairly high levels and another good production year should provide plenty of young birds for harvest this coming fall. Hunters may find that chukar and "Huns" are spread out over a wider area due to the fact that so many water sources are available to the birds this year. Once, colder and wetter weather comes, birds will not be as tied to the water sources and hunting will become more challenging. Hunters will have to work harder to get their limits and locate birds. However, with the higher bird numbers, chukar hunting should be good to excellent throughout the hunting season. The 2006-07 chukar hunting season is expected to be very good to excellent in northwestern Nevada. An increase in the possession limit from 12 to 18 birds will allow hunters to take advantage of high bird numbers. Hungarian partridge hunting may be more difficult as overall numbers are not near that of chukar and the birds can be difficult to locate if spread out over a large area.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

The 2005-06 chukar and Hungarian partridge season was 116 days in length running from October 8, 2005 through January 31, 2006. Limits were 6 daily and 12 in possession, singly or in aggregate.

Table 3. EASTERN REGION CHUKAR HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	**2005**	**Avg.**	**Prev. yr.**	**vs. Avg.**
No. of Birds	14,665	**30,477**	19,608	108%	55%
No. of Hunters	2,289	**4,095**	2,751	79%	49%
No. of Days	14,745	**17,987**	10,776	22%	67%
Birds / Hunter	6.4	**7.4**	7.1	16%	4%
Birds/Hunter Day	1.0	**1.7**	1.8	70%	-5%

The 2005 Eastern-Region harvest of 30,477 chukars was up 108% from the 2004 harvest and 55% above the previous ten-year-average. The number of birds per hunter and birds/hunter day increased. This was only the third time in the past 24 years that chukar harvest exceeded 30,000 birds in the Eastern Region.

Table 4. EASTERN REGION HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	**2005**	**Avg.**	**Prev. yr.**	**vs. Avg.**
No. of Birds	855	**1,488**	1,572	+174%	-6%
No. of Hunters	252	**807**	462	+220%	+75%
No. of Days	856	**3,434**	1,382	+301%	+148%
Birds / Hunter	3.4	**1.8**	3.4	-47%	-47%
Birds/Hunter Day	1.0	**0.4**	1.1	-60%	-63%

Hungarian partridge harvest increased in the Eastern Region along with hunter interest. Regional Hun harvest was reported to be 1,488 birds in 2005. The lowest Hun harvest on record was 66 birds in 1994. The 1999 harvest of 5,497 Hungarian partridge was the highest since 1981 when 6,019 were harvested. The highest reported Hun harvest was 7,011 birds in 1974.

Population Status

Chukar and Hungarian partridge populations were extremely low following several years of drought and the harsh winter of 1992-93 but exhibited a remarkable recovery between 1997 and 1999. Population data collected since 2000 suggest partridge populations were high in the Region. The Eastern Region's four chukar density helicopter surveys have not been conducted since 2001.

Only two of four counties reported brood data in 2005. There were 580 chukar classified in Lander County and 80 in Elko County. The regional sample decreased from 934 chukars observed in 2004 to 660 chukars in 2005. They were classified as 315 adults and 755 young. With 223 young found in 29 complete broods, there were 7.7 young/brood in 2005 compared to 202 young in 23 broods with 8.8 young/brood in 2004 suggesting brood size decreased again in 2005. The young/100 adult ratio was 109 in 2005 compared to 422 last year suggesting overall production was significantly lower. Chukar production data were inversely related to harvest seeing that harvest more than doubled in 2005 compared to 2004. No brood data was reported for Eureka County or White Pine County. Hungarian partridge base populations have been at low levels throughout the Eastern Region but the 2005 harvest was up significantly (174%) from last year indicating Hun distribution in the Region was good.

Productivity Potential

Brood data collected since 1997 infer that chukar populations have been increasing throughout the Eastern Region. Above average harvest for the past five years indicated chukar populations recovered throughout most of the Region. The 2005-2006 winter brought above average snow accumulation in some areas and may have impacted some localized populations of chukars and Huns. Overall, it is believed there was excellent carry-over of adult birds in most of the Region. Spring green-up was excellent and birds should have entered the nesting season in good condition. Spring precipitation was above average and provided excellent nesting and brooding habitat early in the 2006 summer. Since June the summer has been hot and dry. Chukar and Hun production was expected to be good based on habitat conditions and observations of chukar broods in Lander County. In spite of early reports of good chukar production, devastating summer wildfires have destroyed a significant amount of chukar habitat in some places north of I-80 in Elko County.

Fall Prediction

Chukar hunters are expected to experience good chukar hunting in the Eastern Region in 2006 except for freshly burned areas. Hungarian partridge hunting is expected to be fair and mostly incidental to chukar hunting.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

The 2005-06 chukar and Hungarian partridge season was 116 days in length, beginning on the 8th of October 2005, and ending on the 31st of January 2006. As has been typical for a number of years, bag and possession limits were set at 6 per day and 12 in possession, singly or in aggregate of the two species. Of particular interest to sportsmen is the fact that the total possession limit has recently been increased from 12 to 18 for the 2006-07 season.

Although on occasion a few sportsmen report the harvest of a small number of Hungarian partridge in the Southern Region, the species does not typically occur in the Southern Region and the remainder of this report will deal solely with chukar partridge.

Figure 1 illustrates chukar harvest and hunting pressure trends for the Southern Region, based upon post-season questionnaire data for the 1980-05 period. Data for the 2005-06 season indicate a harvest of 4,335 chukar by 1,385 hunters. A total of 4,869 days of effort was expended by sportsmen this past season. In comparison, 2004-05 data showed a harvest of 4,642 chukar by 716 hunters. While harvest levels for 2004 and 2005 were nearly identical, quite a few more sportsmen took to the field during the 2005-06 season. Data also indicates that sportsmen spent more time afield for each chukar harvested during this past season than during the 2004-05 season. Bird availability remains good in the Southern Region, with only two out of the past ten years seeing higher total harvests of chukar than that in 2004 and 2005.

Table 5. SOUTHERN REGION CHUKAR HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	10yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	4,642	**4,335**	3,170	-6.6%	36.8%
No. of Hunters	716	**1,385**	1,019	93.4%	35.9%
No. of Days	3,064	**4,869**	3,494	58.9%	39.4%
Birds / Hunter	6.48	**3.13**	3.05	-51.7%	2.6%
Birds/Hunter Day	1.52	**0.89**	0.95	-41.4%	-6.3%

Population Status

Due to prolonged drought conditions experienced for several years in Nye and Esmeralda counties, chukar populations remained at fairly low to moderate levels for some time. Winter conditions typically allowed for good adult carryover, but less than optimal spring conditions during most years hampered production. Fortunately, an improvement in weather conditions during 2004 and 2005 has resulted in an increase in chukar populations in this portion of the Southern Region over the past two seasons.

Chukar populations inhabiting Lincoln County have been doing well for the past few years. Conditions were favorable again this year for good production, and populations remain strong.

Despite a relative boom in chukar populations in 2001, typical dry Mojave Desert conditions have returned to Clark County. Overall, this portion of the Southern Region has experienced dry conditions since November 2005, and chukar populations remain stable at relatively low levels in most areas.

Productivity Potential

For the more northern portions of the Southern Region, the Basin-Wide Precipitation Data Summary provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates that total accumulated precipitation was 80% of average at the end of February 2006. Despite the relatively mild winter, March and April saw huge precipitation receipts and central Nevada reached 110% of average by the end of April, 2006. The combination of a mild winter, wet early spring, and a transition to warmer, drier conditions in May and June should have set the stage for another good year for upland species throughout much of Nye and Esmeralda counties.

Conditions have been favorable for chukar production in Lincoln County as well. Wildfires experienced during the summer of 2005 burned vast acreages in several mountain ranges, and while they are too recent to have benefited chukar to date, in the long-term, chukar populations should greatly benefit from the fires. Particularly hard hit were the Delamar, Meadow Valley, Mormon, and Clover Mountains. Limited brood surveys resulted in the observation of 158 chukar that were classified as 58 adults and 100 young. Average brood size was 5.3 chicks.

Chukar populations in Clark County experienced average to poor production this past spring. Very productive years are relatively rare in the Mojave Desert country of Clark County, and other than in a few isolated areas, populations are not expected to see an increase in 2006.

Limited, preliminary brood survey data collected up to this point during 2006 indicate that chukar populations in Nye and Esmeralda counties are experiencing good production, although somewhat lower than that in 2005, with an average observed brood size of 10.7. Data from Clark County was unavailable for incorporation into this report.

Fall Prediction

The 2006-07 chukar season is expected to be good in the northern portion of the Southern Region, and should be comparable to the 2005-06 season. Although bird availability may be somewhat lower than it was during the 2004-05 season, hunters taking to the field this season should find the hunting noticeably better than that experienced most years between 1999 and 2003. Favorable climatic conditions have continued to benefit upland game populations in the area.

In Lincoln County, the outlook is very good. Production was good during the spring of 2006, and chukars are widespread in good numbers throughout the county. Chukar are being observed this year in areas where they have not been observed for years, as well as places where they have never been observed. Good conditions combined with good production and increased habitats due to wildfires over the past decade are having positive results for chukar which should result in increased harvest.

Bird availability in Clark County is expected to be somewhat below average. Chukars remain in historic “hot spots”, but overall, the season outlook is poor to fair for most of the County.

QUAIL

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

California and mountain quail seasons in the Western Region opened on October 8th and closed on the last day of January 2006. As is customary, the daily limit for California quail was 10 per day with 20 birds allowed in possession. The mountain quail daily limit was 2 and the number of birds allowed in possession was 4.

Table 1. WESTERN REGION QUAIL HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	**2005**	**10-Yr Avg.**	**Prev. yr.**	**vs. Avg.**
No. of Birds	19,606	**13,452**	27,353	-31.4%	-50.8%
No. of Hunters	2,270	**1,706**	1,706	-24.8.%	-48.2%
No. of Days	8,271	**7,213**	7,213	-12.8%	-41.4%
Birds / Hunter	8.6	**7.9**	7.9	-8.7%	-4.9%
Birds/Hunter Day	2.4	**1.8**	1.9	-21.3%	-16.6%

Harvest data tabulated from post-season questionnaire data indicates that harvest in 2005-06 declined in all categories from both long-term and short-term averages. Given the past two years of favorable climatic conditions and above average chukar numbers it seems unlikely that quail harvest would have dropped as dramatically in the northwestern portion of the state as the questionnaire data suggests. This past year the Department was forced to make changes in how harvest data is calculated and this change may have been the cause for the unusual decline in projected quail hunters and harvest this past year.

Population Status

Mountain quail make up only a very small portion of the total quail harvest within the Western Region. They are found in several mountain ranges in the Region including the eastern Sierra Front, Peterson Mountains, Desatoya Range, Clan Alpine Range, Stillwater Range and the Pinenut Mountains. Other areas within the region may also have populations of mountain quail that may provide some hunting opportunity. Although harvest data suggests that they can be found throughout much of the region densities are highest in Churchill and Lyon Counties.

California quail are generally associated with cultivated lands or in areas on the outskirts of urban areas. Vegetation surrounding rivers, wetlands and mountain springs and seeps can also provide sufficient habitat for populations of quail to survive. In northwestern Nevada, drainages with good willow cover and small associated riparian areas provide good quality California quail habitat and provide an additional species to hunt for those out pursing chukar.

Productivity Potential

Excellent spring habitat conditions should provide good nesting and brood rearing habitat for both California and mountain quail in northwestern Nevada. Water availability is at a ten year high throughout the northern half of the state. Although, no directed surveys for California or mountain quail are conducted in the region, biologists conducting other field activities in the region have noted good quail numbers indicating production and recruitment were above average this year.

Fall Prediction

Excellent habitat conditions have allowed for good quail production and recruitment of young throughout the Western Region over the last several years. Prior to this breeding season, quail populations were thought to be at moderate levels. Quail populations within the Western Region should experience an increase in numbers due to good production and recruitment observed this summer. Hunters should find more California quail to pursue in the agricultural areas and in areas surrounding the urban interface. Mountain quail should be more plentiful in the ranges where they exist, but will continue to be a challenge to locate in the vast amount of habitat available to them.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

The 2005-06 quail season was 116 days in length running from October 8, 2005 through January 31, 2006. It was concurrent with the chukar and Hungarian partridge season. Bag limits were 10 daily and 20 in possession in all four of the Eastern Region counties for all quail species except mountain quail. Mountain quail limits were 2 daily and 4 in possession. Last year quail limits were only 5 daily and 10 in possession in the Eastern Region with the 2 daily and 4 limits also in place for mountain quail.

Table 2. EASTERN REGION QUAIL HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	Avg.	Prev. yr.	Vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	160	**242**	287	+51%	-16%
No. of Hunters	33	**48**	118	+45%	-59%
No. of Days	133	**140**	363	+5%	-61%
Birds / Hunter	4.8	**5.0**	2.4	+4%	+108%
Birds/Hunter Day	1.2	**1.7**	0.8	+42%	+113%

Quail harvest increased 51% over the previous year in the Eastern Region in 2005 and was only 16% below the long-term average. The Eastern Region quail harvest accounted for less than 1% of the total statewide harvest. Twenty-eight mountain quail were reported harvested in the Eastern Region, 25 from Elko County and 3 from Lander County.

Population Status

The base population of quail was reduced by the severe winter of 1992-93. There were 675 mountain quail from China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station released into Elko and Lander counties between 1993 and 1996 and between 2000 and 2002 (87 mountain quail were released along McDonald Creek in the Bruneau River drainage in the spring of 2002). In addition, 218 California (Valley) quail were released into Lander and White Pine counties in 1996 and forty California quail were released at the Baker Silver Creek Ranch in White Pine County in the spring of 2004. A follow-up release of 41 California quail (14 males, 27 females) was made at the Baker's Silver Creek Ranch in 2005. Brood surveys, sightings, harvest and hunter-day data indicate quail populations remain at low levels throughout the Eastern Region with a few more sightings and reports received during the summer of 2006 in Elko County.

Productivity Potential

Ten valley quail were classified in the Eastern Region during the 2005 summer period as 3 adults and 7 young in a single brood in Lander County. Above average winter and spring precipitation levels characterized weather during the winter of 2005-06. Range conditions were good for nesting and brooding habitat in 2006. The productivity potential for quail was good to excellent in the Eastern Region.

Fall Prediction

Eastern Region quail populations are very low compared to most of the State. Small quail populations in some portions of the Region will again provide limited hunting during the 2006 season. Quail hunting overall should be poor with most quail harvested by hunters pursuing other species such as rabbits and chukars. The quail harvest should be similar to or higher than last year in the Eastern Region.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

The 2005-2006 quail season began October 8, 2005 and extended through January 31, 2006 (116 days). Limits were ten daily and 20 in possession. Based on hunter questionnaire data for the Southern Region, 1,443 hunters harvested 20,241 quail during the 2005-2006 season. This total represents a 10% increase from the 2004-2005 quail season.

Table 3. SOUTHERN REGION GAMBEL'S QUAIL HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	Avg.	Prev. yr.	Vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	18,587	**20,241**	15,841	10.3%	27.8%
No. of Hunters	1,392	**1,443**	2,099	3.7%	-31.2%
No. of Days	7,145	**6,656**	8,311	-6.8%	-19.9%
Birds / Hunter	13.18	**14.03**	7.75	6.4%	81.0%
Birds/Hunter Day	2.57	**3.04**	1.88	18.4%	62.0%

Quail harvest, number of hunters, birds per hunter, and birds per hunter day were all up compared to the 2004-05 season. Number of hunter days was down compared to the 2004-05 season. Number of birds harvested, birds per hunter, and birds per hunter day were above the ten-year average, while numbers of hunters and hunter days were below the ten-year average. The following table presents current harvest figures as well as short- and long-term harvest perspectives.

Table 4. SOUTHERN REGION QUAIL HARVEST BY COUNTY
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	2004-2005	2005-2006	% Difference
Clark	16,681	14,460	-13%
Esmeralda	0	102	+100%
Lincoln	1,414	4328	+206%
Nye	492	1352	+174%
Total	**18,587**	**20,241**	**+9%**

Clark County supported the highest percentage of the harvest for the region at 71%. Lincoln County was next with approximately 21% of the Gambel's Quail harvested, followed by Nye at 7%, and Esmeralda with less than 1%.

Population Status

Habitat conditions within the southern region remain moderate due to the precipitation received during the previous season. Quail populations are moderate to high throughout many portions of the southern region. Quail harvest during the 2005-2006 season showed a slight increase, resulting from moderate to good nesting and brooding conditions observed during 2005. In southeastern Nevada, Gambel's Quail are showing up in places where people have not observed them for many years.

Productivity Potential

Limited brood surveys have resulted in the classification of a total of 194 Gamble's Quail. All birds were classified in Lincoln County and consisted of 52 adults and 142 young. The average brood size was 6.2 chicks.
Classification of Mountain Quail in the Southern Region resulted in the observation of 21 birds, consisting of 5 adults and 16 young for a 3.2 young per adult ratio. All Mountain Quail observed were in Esmeralda County. This marks the second year in a row that Mountain Quail have been classified in the Southern Region.

Fall Prediction

According to the Western Regional Climate Center, precipitation in southern Nevada is anywhere from 10-20% below average. The combination of a mild winter, wet early spring, and a transition to warmer, drier conditions in May and June should have set the stage for another good year for upland species throughout much of the southern region. Moderate precipitation during the late spring and early summer of 2006 may result in decent recruitment, leading to higher quail numbers. Isolated summer thundershowers may result in areas with moderate to good range conditions that will benefit quail. Gambel's quail populations are at moderate levels, with some isolated areas experiencing good production that may lead to higher numbers this fall and potential increases in harvest.

PHEASANT

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

Season frameworks for pheasant were simplified for 2005-06. The pheasant season opened statewide on November 5th and closed on December 4th, 2005. Bag limits were 2 cocks daily and 4 in possession.

Table 1. WESTERN REGION PHEASANT HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	635	**272**	798	-57%	-66%
No. of Hunters	357	**195**	603	-45%	-68%
No. of Days	749	**596**	1,219	-20%	-51%
Birds / Hunter	1.78	**1.39**	1.39	-22%	0%
Birds/Hunter Day	0.85	**0.50**	0.66	-41%	-25%

According to the post-season questionnaire data, the Western Region experienced its lowest ever recorded harvest of 272 birds in 2005 (Table 1.). Hunter participation was also at its lowest ever recorded, which may explain the low overall pheasant harvest. Once again, Humboldt County produced the highest harvest at 234 birds or 69% of the total statewide kill. Humboldt County also had the highest percentage of hunters at 57%. Similar to last year, Churchill and Lyon Counties ranked second and third in harvest within the Western Region.

Population Status

Overall, the pheasant population in the Western Region is at low levels. Farming practices, which continue to become cleaner and more efficient and favor raising less cereal crops for higher yielding ones are thought to be the cause of this declining population trend. However, the pheasant population in Humboldt County appears to be stable. This is supported by a consistent harvest, kill/hunter of 1.8 and kill/day of .6, which is nearly identical to last years harvest data. Many of the ranches in Humboldt County practice delayed cutting of alfalfa, which should result in fewer hens and young killed by swathers during the nesting/brood rearing period. Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA) of Lyon County also appears to be supporting a small but stable pheasant population. This year, pheasant crow call counts, which are conducted for a six-week period in the spring showed similar results to last year's record high count of 20/day/week. MVWMA also participates in delayed cutting of alfalfa fields, which further aids to lessen accidental mortality.

Productivity Potential

Much of the Western Region has experienced two consecutive years of average to above average precipitation. This has led to improved habitat conditions for pheasant nesting, brood rearing, escape and thermal cover. Lovelock Valley in Pershing County was noted as the most

improved area. This was primarily due to the abundance of water in the Humboldt River, which filled Rye Patch Reservoir and provided ranchers with a full allocation of water for irrigation during the 2006 growing season. Anecdotally, more pheasant broods have been encountered in the Lovelock Valley this year. Pheasant brood production in Humboldt County was noted as being slightly better this year than last year, despite the floods that took place this spring.

Fall Prediction

There has been a continual declining trend in hunter interest and participation in pheasant hunting. Pheasant hunters who do take to the field this fall in Humboldt, Pershing and Lyon Counties should be able to locate birds. As with past seasons, other counties in the Western Region will mainly rely upon pen reared birds to provide hunting opportunities.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

In 2005, the pheasant hunt season was standardized to a single season (November 5 through December 4) statewide. Previously, only Clark County was open to pheasant hunting in the Southern Region within an exclusive October season. Daily and possession limits were two and four cocks, respectively

In 2005, hunter questionnaire data indicated that pheasant harvest in the Southern Region amounted to 19 birds. Upon expansion of the harvest data, 12 hunters from Clark, Lincoln and Esmeralda counties harvested 19 birds in Lincoln and Esmeralda counties. Among hunters, average success equated to nearly 1.6 birds per hunter, and average effort amounted to approximately 3.1 days.

Questionnaire data can be imprecise as the compilation process involves expansion of responses furnished by a small proportion of hunters relative to all licensed hunters. Thus, inaccuracies may arise given scenarios of extremes in reporting among pheasant hunters. Nevertheless, these data reliably reflect a marked decline in hunter participation over the long-term. Current harvest figures as well as short and long-term (1995-04) harvest perspectives are presented in table 1.

Table 2. SOUTHERN REGION PHEASANT HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	89	**19**	32	-79%	-41%
No. of Hunters	10	**12**	55	20%	-78%
No. of Days	59	**37**	83	-37%	-55%
Birds / Hunter	8.9	**1.6**	0.6	-82%	167%
Birds/Hunter Day	1.51	**0.5**	0.4	-67%	25%

Population Status

The small pheasant population in Moapa Valley has been impacted by protracted drought conditions (2000-02), habitat loss and high predation rates. Beginning in early 2003 and extending into late 2005, environmental conditions improved as precipitation receipts were generally above average. However, despite improved habitat conditions there have been no indications the pheasant population expanded.

A raven control program to enhance nesting and brood rearing success of upland game birds and waterfowl in Moapa Valley was identified in the *Nevada Predator Management Plan*. In July 2002, the first phase of the control effort, administered by Wildlife Services in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, resulted in removal of approximately 500 ravens through application of DRC-1339 treated eggs and shooting. A second control effort commenced in March 2003 and concluded at the end of June 2003. Wildlife Services estimated approximately 172 ravens were removed in the follow-up effort through application of the same treatments. Presently, there are no indications that the pheasant population has been influenced by raven control efforts. Predators that reduce pheasant nesting success and juvenile survival include not only indigenous species but also feral cats and dogs.

Although no formal spring production surveys were conducted, Department personnel speculate few pheasants occur on OWMA, and that recruitment of juvenile birds into the small population on private lands in Moapa Valley will be low in 2006.
Re-establishment of a viable pheasant population would likely require releases of wild birds, adequate precipitation, habitat conservation, and, pending the determination of overall effectiveness, continuance of raven control.

Fall Prediction

In 2006, pheasant hunting again will be open statewide. Pheasant hunting opportunities in Moapa Valley remain limited. Pheasants occur in low numbers on private parcels, which increasingly are being taken out of production and developed for residential and commercial uses.
In recent years, opportunities to hunt pheasants in the Southern Region have declined steadily due to downward population trend and habitat loss. Presently, the pheasant population in the Moapa Valley is not deemed viable.

WILD TURKEY

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

Fall 2005: Turkey hunters were allowed one turkey of either sex for the fall 2005 hunt period. Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA) has limited entry hunts for wild turkey in the fall to control overcrowding on the management area. The MVWMA has two seven-day hunt periods with one eight-day period. The first hunt period began on October 2nd and the last one concluded on October 30th. Quotas were 15 resident tags per hunt period, with the drawing administered by a private contractor. Non-resident tags were available but there was lack of interest for any hunt period.

Churchill and Lyon Counties have unlimited or "open" quotas for the fall hunts. The open quota season is available to both resident and non-resident hunters. The season ran from October 8th through November 6th, 2005. Fall harvest results are described in Table 1.

Table 1. FALL 2005 TURKEY HARVEST – WESTERN REGION
Based Upon Post-season Questionnaires

Area	# Tags Issued	Percent Return	# Turkeys Harvested	Overall % Success	% Success Participants*
MVWMA	45	91%	23	56%	71%
Churchill County	14	71%	1	.1 %	14%
Lyon County	25	88%	12	55%	71%
TOTALS:	**84**	**83%**	**36**	**37%**	**52%**

**Participant* success determined by dividing harvest by the number of hunters reporting that they hunted.

Hunter effort at the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA) averaged 2.0 days per hunter, which was down from 2.85 days in 2004. The average number of days that hunters expended scouting prior to their hunt decreased from 1.28 in 2004 to 1.1 days per hunter in 2005.

Hunter success rates increased this year on the MVWMA compared with the previous fall hunting season, which indicates that turkey abundance was higher on the MVWMA this past fall. Also hunter success increased significantly in the Lyon County open quota hunt. Success rates for both MVWMA and the Lyon County open quota hunt can be affected by the movement of turkeys from the MVWMA to adjacent private lands in during the fall period. Turkeys are most likely seeking out better foraging areas or the movement could be a product of higher levels of activity within the MVWMA during fall waterfowl and upland game seasons.

Ten of fourteen Churchill County tag holders returned their questionnaires (71%). Seven of these indicated that they did not hunt. Only three of the remaining ten respondents indicated where they hunted in the County. All three of these respondents hunted on private land. These hunters observed few birds, but with only three respondents it is difficult to gain reliable information with regard to turkey distribution or presence of turkeys in the hunt area.

In Lyon County, 22 of 25 tag holders returned questionnaires (88%). Of these, five indicated that they did not hunt. The seventeen participating hunters harvested twelve turkeys. Harvest was well distributed around Mason Valley, primarily on private lands. The hunters had predominantly positive remarks about the fall hunt and indicated good numbers of birds being observed. It is interesting to note that 58% of the birds harvested outside of the MVWMA during the fall hunt were toms while 85% of the harvest on the MVWMA consisted of hens.

Spring 2006: The MVWMA had five hunt periods during the spring 2006 season with the first beginning on March 25th and the last concluding on April 30th. Twelve residents and one nonresident tag were issued for each different hunt period. Churchill, Lyon and Pershing Counties opened on April 1st and closed on April 30th. These areas had an open quota applied to them. An open quota system allows any hunter the opportunity to take to the field each season and hunt wild turkeys.

Paradise Valley, located in Humboldt County, has an open quota season with some stipulations. Persons wishing to participate in this hunt must obtain permission from a Paradise Valley private landowner and submit a form provided by the landowner. Harvest results for the spring 2006 hunt are illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2. SPRING 2006 TURKEY HARVEST – WESTERN REGION
Based Upon Post-Season Questionnaires (Resident and Non-Resident)

Hunt Area		# Tags Issued	#Questionnaires Returned	DNH	Number Successful	Percent Success*
Mason Valley WMA		60	59	2	34	60%
Lovelock Valley		42	41	6	3	9%
Open Quota Areas	**Lyon County**	107	107	27	20	25%
	Paradise Valley	9	9	0	7	78%
	Churchill County	46	42	6	7	19%
Western Region Totals:		**259**	**258**	**41**	**71**	**38%**

*Participant success determined by dividing harvest by the number of hunters reporting that they hunted.

Mason Valley and Paradise Valley showed increased success among the six hunt areas mentioned above compared to what was recorded in 2005. On the MVWMA hunter success remained high and bird observations increased when compared to last year. Hunter success was 52% last spring compared to 60% this year. Paradise Valley increased from 50% last year to 78% this year.

Hunters had a difficult time harvesting birds in Lahontan Valley of Churchill County and on the Lahontan State Recreation Area (LSRA) located in Lyon and Churchill Counties. Churchill County hunter's success rates can fluctuate from year to year depending upon the hunter's ability to acquire access to private lands. Turkeys inhabiting Lahontan Valley are spread out across a large geographic area and the distribution and size of the flocks can sometimes limit the hunter's ability to find turkeys during the hunting season.

Pershing County hunters experienced a significant decrease in hunter success when compared with the 2005 hunting season. Hunter success rates decreased from 50% in 2005 to 9% in 2006. As consistently stated from year to year, hunters outside of the area had a difficult time accessing private lands. Some sportsmen elected to hunt public lands where turkey densities are much lower, thus they experienced limited success. NDOW has gone through extensive efforts to caution hunters about applying for open quota units if they have little opportunity to hunt private property.

Population Status

The MVWMA was augmented with 46 wild turkeys donated by Texas in January of 2006. Lahontan Valley and the Dayton Valley area along the Carson River were also augmented with 80 wild turkeys in the winter of 2006. These augmentations are intended to increase overall hen densities and increase genetic diversity within these populations. Of the nine males released onto the MVWMA, one tom and one jake were taken during the spring 2006 hunt. Wild turkey populations are stable to increasing at this time in the MVWMA.

Lyon County hunters outside of the MVWMA reported seeing large groups of birds and higher success than anywhere else in the state. This indicates stable to increasing populations, most likely due to good turkey densities in the Mason Valley area.

Turkey numbers in Pershing County appear to be at low levels following introductions in the late 1990's. In 2005, twenty hunters reported taking 9 turkeys for a success rate of 45%. In 2006, 35 hunters reported taking three turkeys for a 9% success rate. Hunters reported seeing very few mature gobblers on their hunts. The decrease in hunter success rate for the 2006 spring hunt could be attributed to the low overall numbers of the male segment that currently exists in the population.

The Paradise Valley turkey population continues to exhibit a stable population trend. Nine hunters hunted three different ranches and indicated they observed relatively high numbers of birds during their hunt.

Production

No turkey production surveys were conducted on the MVWMA during 2006. The last survey was conducted in July of 2005. Lush spring conditions experienced this last year are considerably better than the previous drought years. Adequate cover coupled with a large insect crop should allow for increased survival of hens and their broods. Wild turkeys are amazingly resilient and their ability to adapt to climate changes and habitat conditions ensure their success as a species. However, their adaptability is not without limits and the birds cannot exist within the arid landscape that comprises most of Western Nevada. For that reason, turkeys will exist primarily within agricultural and riparian habitat valleys where an abundance of forage is assured.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

There were two units with turkey seasons in the Eastern Region during the 2006 spring season. Hunt Unit 102 in Elko County and Hunt unit 103 in Elko and White Pine Counties. Twenty-four of 25 hunters with Unit 102 (Lamoille) turkey tags in Elko County reported spending 39 days scouting and 97 days hunting. Two hunters reported not hunting. Nine turkeys were harvested (36% success) including 7 toms and 1 jake with one tom reported as lost during the hunt. All 15 hunters with Unit 103 (South Ruby) turkey tags reported spending 14 days scouting and 81 days hunting. One hunter reported not hunting. Two turkeys were harvested (13% success) including one tom and one jake.

In unit 102, hunter success dropped off considerably from 67% success in 2005 to 36% in 2006 (46% decrease). Success in Unit 103 likewise dropped from 36% in 2005 to 13% in 2006 (64% decrease). The Unit 103 hunt which two years ago (2004) had the highest spring hunt success in the State with 73% success has suffered an 83% decrease in hunter success. Several factors may be influencing hunter success in both Units 102 and 103. Included in those factors are birds becoming more wary of hunters than they were when first released a couple of years ago; less hunter access to private lands; and finally; more of the turkeys seem to be utilizing the inaccessible private lands. Turkey use of private land has increased most likely as a result of hunter avoidance response and last winter's snow accumulation may have forced them further down slope onto those lands in search of forage.

Population Status

No turkeys were released in the Eastern Region during 2006. However, a few turkeys were moved during the year in response to depredation calls. Three birds were removed from Unit 102 near Lamoille Canyon because of depredation issues related to turkeys feeding on cat food where a homeowner was feeding several cats outside. These 3 birds were moved to the Willamonte Ranch in Unit 101 (previous release site) in cooperation with the landowner. Depredating birds were moved from this same area last year. A single depredating turkey was removed from Unit 103 and also released at the Willamonte Ranch.

Ruby Mountain turkey populations in Units 102 and 103 are doing well. Frequent turkey observations from Lamoille, the South Ruby Range and the South Fork area were reported in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and all three of these populations are gradually spreading out onto public land along the western benches of the Rubies. Reports from Unit 101 indicate that the turkey population is spreading along available habitat in Clover Valley.

Reports of turkeys from the 2004 White Pine County releases have been received with some significant movement of birds up to 12 miles from the release sites and over the crest of the Snake Range reported in White Pine County. Follow-up monitoring in 2004-05 and 2005-06 documented continued presence of turkeys at both the Silver Creek and Hidden Valley locations. Production surveys conducted in August 2005 documented a total of 42 turkeys including 24 at Silver Creek and 18 at the Hidden Valley Ranch in Big Wash. These were classified as 9 toms, 8 hens and 24 poults. One complete brood of 15 poults was observed at the Hidden Valley Ranch. The smaller 2005 sample may have been a result of lush vegetative growth due to the abundant winter and spring moisture received in 2005-06 allowing turkeys to disperse and making them more difficult to find. During summer 2005, turkeys were reported in numerous other locations in Snake Valley including the Mill Creek, Baker Creek, Lehman Creek and Snake Creek. Evidence of turkeys has also been reported from upper Silver Creek. During the winter of 2005-06, consistent observations were made of 8 Toms and 32 hens/poults near the ranch headquarters at Silver Creek. This was a significant increase from the 5 toms and 20 hens/poults observed there during the 2004-05 winter. Personnel from Great Basin National Park reported that turkeys wintered once again in the vicinity of the lower Lehman Creek Campground. The average moisture of the past winter and spring should have maintained good conditions for nesting and brood rearing. Although the frequency of reports has diminished, observations received through June 2006 indicate turkeys have maintained their distribution over the past year and may still be expanding, especially in Unit 115. Due to low densities in most of the areas where turkeys have established in White Pine County, it is difficult to adequately sample the population. Overall,

numbers appear stable to increasing. A limited harvest program may be initiated in 2007. Hunter observations could add to current knowledge of population size and distribution.
Broods were documented for the second year at the 2005 release site on the Bruneau WMA with one brood of 4 poults and a hen observed at the junction of Miller Creek and the Bruneau River (release site). Another brood of 3 poults with a hen was observed at Cottonwood Creek approximately 2 miles upstream from the release site.

The Licking Ranch release site continues to be monitored to track the success or failure of this release on the Humboldt River in Lander County that is limited by roosting habitat. Turkeys have been observed in the area during 2006.

Productivity Potential

Reported observations of turkeys in various parts of the Region indicate they are expanding their use areas from the release sites. Spring and summer moisture was excellent and promoted above average plant growth that provided excellent nesting and brooding habitat for turkeys in 2006.

Fall/Spring Prediction

Turkeys in Units 102 (Lamoille) and 103 (South Rubies) are believed to be stable and will allow spring hunts to continue. Reports of turkey broods in the Bruneau River drainage look promising. Turkey populations may be able to support limited hunting in White Pine County in 2007.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

Fall 2005: In Moapa Valley, Clark County, turkey hunters vied for 22 either-sex tags in the limited entry hunt. Tags were apportioned to one nonresident and ten residents in each of two consecutive seasons: October 8th through October 14th and October 15th through October 21st. Although two tags were available, no nonresidents applied. Twenty turkey tags were issued to resident hunters.

Based on questionnaire data (18 respondents), 13 hunters in Moapa Valley collectively expended 9 days scouting and 25 days hunting. Five tag holders did not hunt. On average, hunters scouted less than one day and hunted approximately two days. The turkey harvest in Moapa Valley was comprised of two juvenile males, one juvenile female and five adult females. Overall, hunter success was 62%.

Spring 2006: The spring limited entry drawing in Moapa Valley involved three consecutive seasons that were initiated by two seven-day hunts followed by a nine-day hunt: April 8th through April 14th, April 15th through April 21st, and April 22nd through April 30th. One nonresident and five resident tags were allotted in each of the three seasons.
Based on questionnaire data, among 15 respondents of which 12 hunted, 11 hunters reported harvesting adult male turkeys. Hunter success among the 12 hunters equated to 92%. Hunters expended 40 days scouting and 26 days hunting. On average, hunters scouted 3.3 days and hunted approximately two days.

In Lincoln County, an inaugural general spring turkey season opened April 1st and closed April 30th. The general season was open to resident and nonresident hunters. 107 tags were issued for the season. Based on questionnaire data from 99 respondents, 87 hunters in Lincoln County collectively expended 121 days scouting and 380 days hunting. Twelve respondents reported they did not hunt. On average, hunters scouted slightly more than one day and hunted nearly 4 and a half days. Hunter success among 87 hunters equated to 29%. The harvest was comprised of 14 adult males and 11 juvenile males (Table 1). In the years preceding the Spring 2006 hunt, tags were limited by quotas (Table 2). In those years harvest was light and hunter effort statistics led biologists to conclude that The Department recommended that Lincoln County be changed to an open quota hunt for 2006 in order to give persons who might be more capable the chance to hunt turkeys. This would include Lincoln County residents, who up to that point had been rarely represented within the tagholder lists.

Table 3. Lincoln County Spring Turkey Tag Quota History.

Year	Limited Tag Quota		Harvest		
	Resident	Non-res.	Resident	Non-res.	TOTAL
2001	10	0	?	?	**?**
2002	10	0	?	?	**?**
2003	10	0	1	1*	**2**
2004	16*	1	5*	0	**5**
2005	15	1	0	1	**1**
TOTALS:	**61**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**8**

*Bid tag hunter participated. ? = formal harvest questionnaires were not used, so harvest cannot be accounted.

TABLE 4. SOUTHERN REGION SPRING 2006 TURKEY HARVEST
Based Upon Post-Season Questionnaires

Hunt Area	#Tags Issued	# Questionnaires Returned	DNH	Number Successful	Percent Success*
Moapa Valley	15	15	3	11	92%
Lincoln County	107	99	12	25	29%
Southern Region Totals:	**122**	**114**	**15**	**36**	**36%**

**Participant* success determined by dividing harvest by number of hunters that hunted.

Population Status

Moapa Valley

The Moapa Valley turkey population experienced a population decline that began in the late 1990s and extended through 2002. Important factors in the downward trend included drought conditions, habitat loss, poaching and reduced survivorship of juveniles attributed to predation. Predator populations are likely abundant, diverse and broadly distributed throughout the agricultural and suburban areas of Moapa Valley. Predators suspected of impacting turkey nesting success and juvenile survival include a host of indigenous species as well as feral dogs and cats.

A raven control program to enhance nesting and brood rearing success of upland game birds and waterfowl in Moapa Valley was identified in the *Nevada Predator Management Plan*. In July 2002, the first phase of the control effort, administered by Wildlife Services in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, resulted in removal of approximately 500 ravens through application of DRC-1339 treated eggs and shooting. A second control effort commenced in March 2003 and concluded at the end of June

2003. Wildlife Services estimated approximately 172 ravens were removed in the follow up effort through application of the same treatments.

In southern Nevada, dramatic reversal of environmental conditions occurred within the first five years of the present decade. Turkeys in the Moapa Valley endured severe drought for three consecutive years beginning in 2000 (2000-02). Beginning in February 2003 and extending through October 2005, environmental conditions greatly improved as precipitation receipts were generally above average. Although no formal brood surveys were conducted during the period of improved environmental conditions, OWMA personnel noted increased wild turkey production and recruitment. It was reasoned improved vegetative conditions, increased insect availability and raven control contributed to the apparent increases in turkey nesting success and poult survival.

More recently, drought conditions have generally prevailed since November 2005. Overall, vegetative conditions and insect availability have been unfavorable and observed nesting success and poult survival appeared low relative to observations in recent years.
In Moapa Valley, wild turkey habitat exists in a fairly confined, narrow band along the Muddy River. Increasingly, crop fields adjacent to the river are being subdivided and developed for housing and commercial enterprises. It is anticipated in the near future, the loss of habitat coupled with an inevitable no-shooting ordinance will likely result in a reduced turkey population and restriction to hunting. In this area, wild turkeys tend to concentrate throughout the year in a relatively small area that includes the OWMA and nearby croplands approximately two miles north of the Overton Wildlife Management Area (OWMA).

Lincoln County

Since 1999, the Department has accomplished a number of Rio Grande turkey translocation projects in Lincoln County. Turkey releases have occurred on public and private lands, and in the later case required development of cooperative agreements with landowners.

In 2005, lightening-caused wildfires in Lincoln County impacted turkey habitat over broad areas. In the short-term, large fires in the Delamar Mountains and Clover Mountains resulted in diminished forage species, reduced insect availability and elimination of cover. However, in spring 2006, NDOW personnel noted abundant growth of grass and herbaceous species and substantial regeneration of shrub live oak. Over the long-term, it is anticipated post-fire plant succession and regeneration will benefit turkeys.

Based on information from a limited number of turkey brood surveys coupled with numerous reported observations, turkeys appear to now inhabit a large region in Lincoln County. Limited information also suggests some turkey populations may be expanding.

Fall Prediction

Moapa Valley

Over the long-term, the wild turkey population in the Moapa Valley is expected to trend downward due to habitat loss and degradation, predation, harassment, and illegal take. Nevertheless, hunters should experience no difficulty in locating turkeys on private lands during fall either-sex hunts.

A substantial proportion of the Moapa Valley turkey population occurs on private land, and as a result, tag holders generally have to seek landowner consent to access fields. Incidences have arisen where this situation ultimately resulted in lost hunting opportunity for some sportsmen.

RABBIT

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

Rabbit season opened statewide on October 8, 2005 and ended on February 28, 2006. Bag limits were set at 10 a day and 20 in procession.

Table 1. WESTERN REGION RABBIT HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Rabbits	4,645	**8,592**	4,835	85%	78%
No. of Hunters	974	**673**	991	-31%	-32%
No. of Days	4,173	**4,908**	4,044	18%	21%
Rabbits / Hunter	4.77	**12.77**	5.26	168%	143%
Rabbits/Hunter Day	1.11	**1.75**	1.19	57%	47%

Rabbit harvest in the Western region has increased every year since 2000 (3,238 rabbits harvested) as indicated by the post-season questionnaire data (Table 1.). The 2005 harvest of 8,592 rabbits is 78% greater than the ten-year average of 4,835 and represents the highest harvest since 1994 when 8,860 rabbits were taken. Hunter participation continues to decline. However, hunters who did participate spent approximately 18% more days in the field and were rewarded with almost 13 rabbits/hunter.

Population Status and Production Potential

Habitat conditions have continued to improve from two consecutive years of average to above average precipitation. Harvest data from 2000 to 2005 indicates an increasing population trend. Western Region biologists have noted observing excellent lagomorph production this past spring. The lagomorph population should continue to increase if winter and spring precipitation remains conducive to promote forage growth.

Fall Prediction

Lyon and Churchill Counties produced the highest harvest levels last year in the Western Region with Lyon County yielding 20% of the statewide harvest. This year, rabbit harvest should be similar or higher than previous years, especially if more chukar hunters take to the field and enjoy incidental take of rabbits.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

The 2005-06 rabbit season was 144 days long, extending from October 8, 2005 to February 28, 2006 compared to 143 days last year. Bag limits were the same as in the past, with 10 daily and 20 in possession. The season and bag limits were concurrent with all counties in the state. The regional rabbit harvest summary from the 10% questionnaire survey is reported below.

Table 2. EASTERN REGION RABBIT HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	2005	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Rabbits	9,245	**3,501**	2,716	-62%	+29%
No. of Hunters	489	**240**	443	-51%	-46%
No. of Days	2,360	**1,381**	1,658	-41%	-20%
Rabbits / Hunter	18.9	**14.5**	6.1	-23%	+137%
Rabbits /Hunter Day	3.9	**2.5**	1.6	-36%	+56%

There was a significant decrease in the regional rabbit harvest from the previous year's total (-62%) but harvest was still 29% above the long-term average. Rabbit harvest decreased in three of four Eastern Region counties in 2005, increasing only in Eureka County. The number of hunters in 2005 was 51% below the previous year and 46% below the long-term-average, but the rabbits/hunter (14.5) and rabbits/hunter day (2.5) were above the long-term average for the region.

Population Status

Eastern Region rabbit populations are at good to excellent levels and are exhibiting an upward trend in most of the region. Biologist reported observing increased numbers of young rabbits and adult rabbits in many portions of the region for the past three summers and road-killed rabbits are becoming common.

Productivity Potential

Weather conditions, especially precipitation levels have provided good conditions for rabbits throughout most of the Region. Normal temperatures and above average precipitation characterized weather during the winter of 2005-06. Late spring rains and snows resulted in range conditions that provided excellent cover and forage for rabbits early in the 2006 summer. The productivity potential was excellent throughout most of the Eastern Region in 2006 except where wildfires have occurred.

Fall Prediction

The Eastern Region rabbit population is expected to be increasing in most of the Eastern Region for 2006. Rabbit hunters should experience good hunting during the 2005-06 season.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

The 2003-2004 rabbit season ran from October 8, 2005 to February 28, 2006, for a total of 144 days in length. Bag limits were 10 daily and 20 in possession. Post-season questionnaire data for the four counties of the Southern Region show that 438 hunters harvested a total of 4,444 rabbits during 2,579 days of hunting. The number of rabbits harvested, rabbits per hunter, and rabbits per hunter day all showed increases from 2004-05 data. Number of hunters and number of hunter days showed a decreases from the short-term data. Compared to long-term data the number of rabbits harvested, number of hunters, and number of hunter days were all down. The number of rabbits per hunter and rabbits per hunter day were both above the long-term average. The Southern Region accounted for approximately 24% of the statewide rabbit harvest during the 2005-2006 rabbit season.

Table 3. SOUTHERN REGION RABBIT HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2004	**2005**	**Avg.**	**Prev. yr.**	**vs. Avg.**
No. of Rabbits	3,705	**4,444**	5,109	19.9%	-13.0%
No. of Hunters	733	**438**	1,055	-40.2%	-58.5%
No. of Days	2,954	**2,579**	5,372	-12.7%	-52.0%
Rabbits / Hunter	5.05	**9.29**	5.04	83.8%	84.4%
Rabbits /Hunter Day	1.25	**1.57**	1.03	25.2%	52.3%

Table 4. SOUTHERN REGION RABBIT HARVEST BY COUNTY
10% Questionnaire Data

	2004-05	2005-06	2005-06 % of harvest	% Difference Short-term
Clark	2,682	**1,860**	89%	-31%
Esmeralda	48	**15**	>1%	-68%
Lincoln	109	**87**	4%	-20%
Nye	866	**132**	6%	-85%
Total	**5,376**	**2,094**	**100%**	**-61%**

Population Status

The Southern Region rabbit population appears to be down from the 10-year- average. Two separate vehicle-rabbit transects conducted in Lincoln County covering 41 miles driven (20 miles and 21 miles) resulted in 43 rabbits observed for a total 1.05 rabbits per mile. This is down from the 2005 survey which resulted in 1.2 rabbits per mile observed. This was the second straight year that these transects have been driven. Rabbit populations are generally subject to cyclical changes which are normal to most populations of Lagomorphs.

Fall Prediction

According to the Western Regional Climate Center, precipitation in southern Nevada is anywhere from 10-20% below average. The combination of a mild winter, wet early spring, and a transition to warmer, drier conditions in May and June should have set the stage for a good year for upland species throughout much of the southern region. Moderate precipitation during the late spring and early summer of 2005 may result in decent recruitment, leading to higher rabbit numbers. Isolated summer thundershowers may result in areas with moderate to good range conditions that will benefit rabbits. Rabbit populations are at moderate levels, with some isolated areas experiencing good production that may lead to higher numbers this fall and potential increases in harvest. Of concern is the drop in rabbit hunters over the last few years. It appears that hunters who continue to show interest in rabbits are being rewarded with increased numbers of rabbits in the bag. Rabbit hunting should be good throughout the Southern Region with a few areas holding moderate-to-high densities of rabbits. The prediction is for average harvest during the 2006-2007 rabbit season.

FURBEARERS

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

This past trapping season's harvest figures for furbearing animals were obtained through a post-season questionnaire sent out to all licensed trappers. These sample figures are expanded to represent total harvest. Additional bobcat data is derived from information turned in by trappers at the time of pelt sealing.

In the Western Region, a total of 3,929 furbearing animals were harvested, an increase of about 44% from last season.. Trapper take increased for most species, most notably bobcat, gray fox and muskrat (Table 1). Western Region trappers recorded 47% of the state's total fur harvest of over 8,319 animals. Favorable trapping conditions persisted throughout the early to middle parts of the season, with some of the heavy snowfalls not arriving until late December. It is speculated that due to a forecast of higher pelt prices many trappers found ways to stay in the field. Overall trapper numbers increased accordingly. Table 1 represents the fur harvest in the Western Region, indicating the seven most sought after species.

Table 1. WESTERN REGION FURBEARER HARVEST - 2002-2006

SPECIES	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	% + or - Previous yr
Bobcat	346	618	887	848	**1,174**	38%
Coyote	518	589	1025	746	**682**	-9%
Beaver	385	450	495	287	**333**	16%
Muskrat	424	274	510	351	**1,252**	257%
Gray Fox	68	34	174	49	**87**	78%
Kit Fox	44	97	199	281	**246**	-12%
Mink	26	37	27	35	**17**	-51%

Using statewide average fur prices, the expanded fur value for all species taken in the Western Region is $411,392, up 90% from last year. Fur prices increased for almost every species trapped in the state. Statewide fur values are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2. WESTERN REGION - FUR VALUES- 2002-2006
(All figures in average dollars per pelt)

SPECIES	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	% + or - Previous yr
Bobcat	$170.64	$257.18	$253.95	$232.50	**$318.82**	37%
Coyote	$17.74	$22.36	$19.36	$14.84	**$26.94**	82%
Beaver	$9.93	$9.17	$11.21	$13.85	**$23.07**	67%
Muskrat	$2.76	$2.22	$1.60	$1.52	**$5.25**	245%
Gray Fox	$11.73	$14.53	$15.07	$12.44	**$22.14**	78%
Kit Fox	$8.70	$9.99	$8.19	$7.31	**$9.46**	29%
Mink	$4.74	$4.46	$2.70	$10.91	**$12.71**	16%

Bobcat

Bobcat harvest data is collected annually from information reported by the trappers on their bobcat harvest report forms. Sex data is obtained at that time. Trappers are also required to provide the lower jaw of each cat, with intact canines, at pelt sealing events. Subsequently, age composition data is determined through examination of a lower canine tooth of each animal.

Bobcat harvest for the Western Region increased over last year, both a result of higher prices and more trappers a field. (Tables 2 & 3). If these prices continue, which they should, at least in the short term, it will only encourage interest among sportsmen. The kittens/adult female ratio, which drives the production data estimate for the year, indicates good production. The ratio of adult males/adult females, at 1.90, is indicative of a healthy bobcat population and has remained so for several years. Trapper effort, measured in trap days/bobcat, remains constant indicating that cats are readily available even though there have been many new and inexperienced trappers entering the field.

Table 3. WESTERN REGION BOBCAT HARVEST STATISTICS- 2002-2006

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Season Length (days)	120	120	121	120	**120**
Total Harvest	341	618	899	848	**1181**
Kitten/Adult Female	.24	.24	1.07	1.08	**.89**
Adult Male/ Adult Female	1.71	1.36	1.84	1.82	**1.90**
# Of Trappers	41	74	105	112	**134**
Trap days/ bobcat	144	148	138	137	**123**
Bobcats/trapper	8.3	8.4	8.5	7.6	**8.8**

Population Status and Analysis

Furbearer populations in northwestern Nevada appear healthy and at sufficient numbers to maintain population viability. For our terrestrial furbearers the prey base of lagomorphs, other small rodents and upland game birds is good due to very favorable spring weather conditions. This is probably most noticeable in the urban quail populations. Because of this juvenile predators like fox, coyote and bobcat should have good survivability over the summer months. Gray and kit fox populations are stable, based on habitat conditions and harvest figures. The overseas fur market, likely influenced by the beauty and quality of western bobcats, should continue to influence the harvest of Nevada fur.

Beaver harvest increased over last year, and aquatic furbearer populations in general appear to be doing well. Trapper interest in aquatic species remains low but consistent. Habitat conditions for all aquatic species have improved. Most beaver complaints in the Western Region are referred to and subsequently trapped by depredation permit holders. Muskrat populations are considered stable, with the main focus of muskrat trapping taking place in the Stillwater refuge area outside Fallon. River otter sightings indicate low but stable to increasing numbers throughout the Western Region. Red fox sightings seem to be increasing in the western part of the state, although they are still few and far between.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

During the 2005-06 season 2,270 furbearers were taken in the Eastern Region. The two previous year's furbearer harvest in the Eastern Region was 2,456 and 2,356 respectively. This year represents a slight decline in numbers after two consecutive years showing an increase in harvest. The harvest level was above the ten-year average for several species, but, given the low interest in furbearer harvest during the late 1990's resulting in relatively low ten-year-average figures, those increases are not concerning. A representative sample of the Eastern Region furbearer harvest is presented in Table 4.

Table 4. EASTERN REGION FURBEARER HARVEST

Species:	Average 1994-03	2004-05	2005-06	Percent Change	
				Prev. Year	10 Year Avg.
Beaver	154	152	**75**	-51	-51
Muskrat	55	87	**28**	-68	-49
Coyote	659	970	**784**	-19	+19
Gray Fox	45	40	**96**	+140	+119
Kit Fox	12	43	**7**	-84	-42
Red Fox	2	9	**3**	-67	+50
Otter	8	18	**7**	-61	-13

Harvest of many furbearer species continued to be below long-term averages, although a handful of species are increasing. Fur prices increased slightly from last year for most species and trapper interest remained elevated. Instability in the world fur trade continues to have the most significant effect upon the Nevada fur industry. Prices and interest are expected to remain somewhat unpredictable but directly proportional.

The 2005-06 Eastern Region beaver declined compared to the previous year. Regional beaver harvest was 51 % below long-term averages. A reduction in beaver pelt prices has probably factored in the region's diminished beaver harvest. Increased precipitation in the past two years should have greatly improved habitat conditions for this aquatic furbearer.

Regional muskrat harvest continues to be negligible and was well below the previous highs of the 1970-1990 period. Eastern Region muskrat harvest fluctuations depend on pelt value, trapping conditions, and management practices at Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge where the majority of high quality muskrat habitat is located. More or less stable water levels during the late 1990's at the Marsh allowed muskrat populations to expand. Conditions have been extremely dry for the past few summers but recent precipitation patterns have replenished water levels. Water levels at Ruby Lake are restored and should continue to provide adequate muskrat habitat. Muskrat pelt prices are the determining factor that stimulates trapping interest in this species. Prices had been relatively low for years but greatly increased this year (See page A-8). It is speculated that next season muskrat trapping interest will respond to this phenomenon.

Pelt prices for coyotes increased by 82 % in 2005-06, but actual prices still remained below $30. Regional coyote harvest was down 19% (784 coyotes vs. 970 in 2004-05) from the previous year and up 19% from the long-term average. In addition to sport harvest, Wildlife Services personnel removed additional coyotes in response to livestock depredation complaints and the Department's predator management program in the Eastern Region.

Table 5. EASTERN REGION BOBCAT HARVEST

	Average 1996-05	2004-05	2005-06	Percent Change	
				Prev. Year	10 Year Avg.
Bobcat Harvest	446	1,053	**1,148**	+9	+157
Bobcat Trappers	70	143	**210**	+47	+200
Trap Days	70,017	133,387	**185,375**	+39	+165
Trap Days / Cat	172	129	**166**	+29	-4
Bobcats / Trapper	6.4	8.2	**5.5**	-33	-14
Season Length	103	120	**120**	NC	+17

The number of bobcats harvested in the Eastern Region increased slightly during the 2005-06 season. Increase in bobcat harvest, effort and number of trappers was due to increases in pelt prices in recent years. The number of trap days required to catch a cat increased from the previous year but is static against the long-term average. Increasing prices usually attracts some new trappers which results in an increase in trap days per bobcat. The number of cats per trapper (5.5) indicated bobcats were readily available. Bobcat harvest in the Eastern Region has stabilized at a relatively moderate level. With pelt prices dictating trapper participation, harvest is expected to continue to oscillate.

Population Status

Weather and range conditions have been quite favorable for prey base populations (rodents and lagomorphs). Rabbit populations have been increasing throughout the Region for several years and may be reaching peak levels in some areas. All of the carnivorous furbearer populations should respond favorably.

Red fox are becoming increasingly more common throughout the Eastern Region. Trapping records and sightings indicate a general expansion of red fox numbers and distribution.

Gray fox harvest, although increasing, is still minimal within the Eastern Region. Gray fox populations in the northern portion of the Region are at low levels while those in the southern portion are thought to be at moderate levels.

Kit fox populations within the Eastern Region are fairly widespread with populations present in most valleys. Harvest information indicates that populations and/or trapping interest are relatively low.

Bobcat harvest had remained low for several years but is increasing over the short term. An expanding prey base is apparently promoting production, as kitten production remained high again this year facilitating kitten survival and allowing bobcat numbers to increase.

Beaver populations in most areas are believed to be at moderate levels. Some higher populations exist in areas with good habitat. Beaver distribution is expanding in response to favorable riparian conditions and increased stream flow. Harvest levels are believed to be related to beaver pelt prices. Harvest should continue to climb along with pelt prices.

The isolated muskrat populations that exist throughout the Region fluctuate annually depending upon climatic conditions and local water levels. The only large, stable population of muskrat within the Eastern Region is associated with the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. This population also has annual fluctuations and is expected to improve with increased water levels. Water management practices dramatically affect population densities between the different management units at Ruby Lake. Muskrat populations are stable at relatively low levels in Ruby Lake.

The distribution of otter and mink is widespread throughout the major drainages of the Eastern Region. Information regarding these species is extremely limited at the present time. Localized population levels are low to moderate and stable.

Analysis

Bobcat harvest levels were managed for many years through season length adjustment. Normally, season length reductions were recommended when kitten production fell below 0.5 kittens/adult female and trapping interest was high. The kitten per adult female ratio was 0.86 in 2005-06, and 0.71 and 0.84 in 2004-05and 2003-04, respectively. Since bobcat harvest levels are directly related to pelt prices, previous low pelt prices resulted in a reduction in trapper participation and bobcat harvest over the long term. This low level of bobcat harvest had no measurable impact on overall bobcat populations. However, the continued high prices paid for bobcat pelts are expected to maintain high trapper interest and participation in bobcat trapping. Biological parameters measured to evaluate trends in the bobcat population indicate continued stability. The adult male to adult female ratio was 1.3 in 2005-06, 1.5 in 2004-05, 1.6 in 2003-04. Kitten production was good and the effort necessary to trap a cat was down indicating good availability. Bobcat populations are healthy and stable in the Eastern Region.

Beaver harvest decreased in 2005-06 in the Eastern Region and was only slightly below the long-term average. Beaver populations remain at moderate to high levels and continue to create some isolated, specific problems for some private landowners. Beaver trapping seasons of maximum length have been maintained in order to maximize beaver harvest. This has been desirable from both a biological and damage management standpoint.

The majority of river otter harvested within the Region were captured incidental to beaver trapping. With low beaver trapping interest, few otter are taken. Nevada does not offer an export seal for otter, which will continue to depress prices and trapping interest. Populations should remain stable along major drainages and reservoirs.

Overall, populations of furbearer species in the Eastern Region remain at healthy levels with stable to increasing population trends for both prey base and furbearers.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

Based on post-season questionnaires and trapper-submitted bobcat harvest reports, 2,116 animals were harvested in the Southern Region during the 2005-06 trapping year. This figure represents a 23% increase compared to 1,723 animals harvested in 2004-05. Notable changes relative to last year involved zero harvest of muskrat, a decrease in harvest of beaver, and increases in harvest of coyote, gray fox and kit fox. Current harvest figures as well as short- and long-term perspectives are presented in table 1.

Table 6. SOUTHERN REGION FURBEARER HARVEST

	Average 1995-04	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	%Difference Short-term	%Difference Long-term
Beaver	10	24	2	**1**	-50%	-90%
Muskrat	49	29	30	**0**	--	--
Coyote	357	652	288	**310**	8%	-13%
Gray Fox	374	716	447	**537**	20%	44%
Kit Fox	88	208	75	**189**	152%	115%

Over the long-term, muskrat and beaver harvest has been erratic. Increases in harvest over both short- and long-term occurred for gray fox and kit fox. Among commonly trapped furbearers, pelt prices increased for many species in 2005-06. Relative to last year, commonly sought species associated with higher average valuations included bobcat, coyote, and gray & kit fox. See page A-8 for details, average prices are not region-specific..

Bobcat

Southern Region trappers harvested 987 bobcats during the 2005-06 season, which reflected increases of 26% and 9% relative to 2004 and 2003, respectively. Moreover, relative to the long-term average the bobcat harvest in 2005-06 experienced a 93% increase (Table 2).

During the last four seasons, the number of bobcat trappers has risen above the long-term average. In the 2005-06 season, more trappers harvested more bobcats while expending less time, compared to trappers in 2004-05. The Southern Region bobcat harvest (trapping and shooting) comprised 30% of the statewide total, which approximated the proportion reported last year. Current trapping figures as well as short- and long-term harvest perspectives are presented in Table 2.

Table 7. Bobcat Trapping Data

	Average 1995-04	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	%Difference Short-term	%Difference Long-term
Bobcat Harvest	512	902	786	**987**	26%	93%
Bobcat Trappers	75	113	89	**92**	3%	23%
Trap Days	95,337	203,693	156,224	**156,583**	0%	64%
Trap Days/Cat	182	226	199	**159**	-20%	-13%
Bobcats/Trapper	7.0	8.0	8.8	**10.7**	22%	53%
Season Length	109	121	120	**120**	0%	10%

Population Status

Based on analysis of bobcat tooth data, bobcat populations in the Southern Region exhibited increased recruitment during the last three years, as the proportion of kittens in the harvest increased. Throughout much of the Southern Region, environmental conditions had markedly improved relative to recent severe drought years of 2000 to 2002. In many areas, precipitation receipts above long-term averages has allowed prey species populations to expand. However, recent precipitation patterns from December through the present time have relapsed into a dry period.

In the Southern Region, pooled 2005-06 season bobcat harvest data indicate a kitten per adult female ratio of 0.96, which reflects a 20% increase in kittens per adult female relative to last year. Thus, high kitten production and survival resulted in nearly as many kittens harvested as adult females. Viewed against the long-term (1980-2005) average ratio of kittens to adult female (0.65), there was a 48% increase in kittens to adult female (0.96) in 2005-06.

The Mojave Desert bobcat population experienced a modest 3% increase in the ratio of kittens per adult female from 1.16 in 2004-05 to 1.20. Compared to the long-term (1980-05) average ratio of 0.70 kittens per adult female, the Mojave Desert population experienced a 71% increase in kittens per adult female.

Great Basin bobcat populations experienced a 10% increase in the ratio of kittens per adult female from 0.77 in 2004-05 to 0.85. Compared to the long-term average (1980-05) ratio of 0.72 kittens per adult female, Great Basin populations experienced an 18% increase in kittens per adult female.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, removes predators in response to livestock depredation complaints, and increasingly, aggressive coyotes in situations of human and pet encounters. The increase in reported incidences of human and pet interactions with coyotes is largely related to continued rapid urbanization and habitat loss in Southern Nevada.

Status and trend information corresponding to furbearers associated with wetlands (i.e., beaver and muskrat) is largely unavailable in the Southern Region. Harvest of these species is minimal. The impacts to aquatic furbearers by protracted drought conditions are unknown. Beavers occur in southern Nevada and appear to have small stable populations. Muskrat populations in the Southern Region are limited in size and distribution, and occur in Pahranagat Valley, Lincoln County, and Overton Wildlife Management Area, Clark County.

In 2005 and 2006, lightening caused wildfires in Clark and Lincoln counties impacted wildlife habitats over broad areas. Wildfires in Clark County occurred in the Spring Mountains and Gold Buttes. In Lincoln County, wildfires impacted wildlife habitats in the Delamar Mountains, Meadow Valley Mountains, Mormon Mountains, Clover Mountains, Tule Desert and Pahroc Mountains. The areas affected by fires offer diminished resources (i.e., food and cover) for many wildlife species. Consequently, in burned areas over the near-term, reduced populations of prey species will negatively influence availability of bobcats, coyotes, kit foxes, gray foxes and badgers.

Fall Prediction

Furbearer harvest levels in the upcoming 2006-07 season are anticipated to approximate those encountered in 2005-06, as consumer demand and market pelt prices for many wild furs are forecasted to remain high. Bobcat trapper participation is anticipated to remain largely unchanged relative to the 2005-06 season.

APPENDIX I
INDEX TO TABLES

Table Name **Page Number**

Upland Game

Furbearers

Waterfowl

APPENDIX II
Small Game Questionnaire Data

SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE UPLAND GAME HARVEST 1961-2005

From Post-season Questionnaire

Year	Sage Grouse	Hunters	Blue Grouse	Hunters	Chukar Partridge	Hunters	Hungarian Partridge	Hunters
1961	14,892	6,392	391	408	34,374	6,902	ND	ND
1962	19,388	6,290	770	392	63,812	7,224	ND	ND
1963	11,624	4,797	416	442	120,008	11,509	ND	ND
1964	16,874	5,808	484	242	175,571	12,980	ND	ND
1965	12,948	6,786	559	494	131,048	16,458	ND	ND
1966	6,138	3,883	451	506	28,963	6,028	ND	ND
1967	7,284	4,584	408	564	48,984	8,376	ND	ND
1968	11,765	5,499	975	559	78,064	10,047	ND	ND
1969	23,270	7,605	767	611	124,353	14,536	ND	ND
1970	23,775	9,180	645	570	16,886	18,615	ND	ND
1971	20,805	7,845	660	645	155,895	17,127	ND	ND
1972	17,686	9,099	1,301	882	75,520	14,116	ND	ND
1973	24,930	8,536	2,529	1,237	131,608	13,936	ND	ND
1974	22,924	9,348	3,409	1,696	161,813	17,952	9,625	2,160
1975	16,376	8,331	2,168	1,534	89,408	14,292	2,671	1,185
1976	13,902	5,977	1,752	1,047	56,440	9,626	2,020	870
1977	7,561	4,230	2,257	1,164	52,245	7,853	1,503	606
1978	17,693	6,647	2,663	1,396	108,775	12,296	2,234	796
1979	28,228	8,090	3,123	1,684	151,270	13,960	2,665	1,042
1980	14,648	5,895	1,824	1,112	218,965	15,481	4,895	1,465
1981	15,522	6,731	2,916	1,560	84,498	11,486	8,671	1,469
1982	13,015	6,150	1,792	1,501	55,454	10,738	2,151	1,257
1983	14,495	6,297	939	1,379	79,222	10,979	2,999	1,105
1984	11,555	5,960	1,183	1,043	52,243	9,264	3,299	1,079
1985	ND	ND	1,125	1,063	19,514	6,842	1,271	484
1986	3,967	2,361	1,897	950	43,555	9,325	1,802	774
1987	9,104	3,866	1,694	1,063	52,640	10,200	2,609	983
1988	7,564	3,722	1,856	1,317	101,194	13,065	3,888	1,260
1989	9,445	4,320	2,303	1,225	82,464	14,545	1,655	847
1990	13,697	5,331	2,357	1,291	75,834	10,941	3,829	1,247
1991	13,371	5,564	1,161	1,285	46,700	11,364	1,526	858
1992	12,871	5,126	3,179	1,422	46,780	9,206	750	489
1993	9,782	4,352	1,490	1,141	24,232	7,519	368	377
1994	9,004	4,238	847	796	28,563	6,871	938	275
1995	7,529	4,042	1,606	1,127	62,009	11,613	1,985	658
1996	8,111	3,906	1,969	919	61,972	11,041	1,455	760
1997	5,125	3,471	1,105	1,113	36,950	9,178	1,055	480
1998	5,723	3,277	1,550	857	62,289	10,742	2,830	750
1999	6,070	3,097	1,702	997	105,655	15,586	8,759	2,069
2000	4,728	2,520	925	844	61,310	11,721	4,801	992
2001	2,691	1,708	1,168	666	54,350	8,905	2,223	697
2002	3,940	2,412	1,064	801	72,545	10,722	1,504	789
2003	4,557	2,177	1,305	688	115,738	12,491	2,266	892
2004	5,244	2,194	833	523	76,081	9,134	1,482	523
2005	**3,175**	**1,526**	**2,046**	**1,268**	**120,135**	**14,727**	**2,767**	**1,613**

SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE UPLAND GAME HARVEST 1961-2005

From Post-Season Questionnaire

Year	Quail	Hunters	Pheasant	Hunters	Rabbit	Hunters	Dove	Hunters
1961	88,145	7,939	14,926	8,126	55,611	7,783	110,211	7,021
1962	52,136	6,132	15,862	7,882	36,932	5,334	106,806	7,014
1963	62,868	7,150	21,723	9,139	48,649	ND	121,943	8,658
1964	59,004	6,941	15,862	7,425	39,809	6,083	91,498	6,589
1965	58,110	8,944	20,787	10,595	29,796	6,656	120,827	9,516
1966	70,906	8,008	22,319	10,714	29,502	6,039	96,074	7,073
1967	73,548	8,040	2,676	2,016	27,048	5,748	155,556	10,476
1968	134,002	12,275	2,847	3,159	55,465	8,924	110,253	9,658
1969	107,287	11,396	2,938	2,377	56,660	9,662	170,419	11,125
1970	105,646	13,533	4,125	3,555	64,181	12,282	131,290	12,084
1971	67,027	9,040	4,357	3,191	49,004	9,387	115,761	10,608
1972	37,111	7,636	5,274	3,441	29,682	7,376	119,461	10,149
1973	41,696	6,532	5,012	2,887	28,059	6,476	129,945	10,552
1974	65,674	8,431	7,188	3,842	45,926	9,124	140,639	11,487
1975	104,954	8,790	8,046	4,117	58,573	9,122	147,189	12,234
1976	68,629	8,694	5,910	3,469	53,133	8,800	146,586	9,571
1977	71,720	7,825	4,969	2,987	71,898	9,592	125,504	9,802
1978	104,939	9,050	5,322	2,946	99,817	10,491	113,048	9,390
1979	171,972	11,338	6,072	3,139	136,502	11,550	125,462	9,123
1980	138,863	11,128	6,740	3,305	105,671	9,904	143,253	9,843
1981	70,882	9,451	5,424	4,031	62,831	8,871	120,424	8,858
1982	54,397	9,620	3,119	3,325	52,168	9,386	112,810	9,948
1983	88,434	9,575	2,461	2,412	45,344	7,375	117,294	8,248
1984	62,981	8,241	3,110	2,839	40,406	6,961	85,501	8,173
1985	59,756	7,511	2,314	1,928	27,266	5,277	80,974	6,435
1986	49,423	7,384	2,535	1,731	25,709	5,481	69,998	6,123
1987	51,404	6,810	1,703	1,223	33,470	5,745	66,348	5,747
1988	60,398	6,484	2,758	1,359	45,215	6,545	55,454	5,371
1989	30,632	5,125	1,246	1,178	33,341	5,533	52,132	5,459
1990	21,471	4,336	1,058	1,054	38,449	5,298	59,863	5,670
1991	32,791	5,195	1,177	1,373	23,565	5,059	58,503	6,255
1992	34,265	4,966	1,041	1,129	39,893	4,994	49,710	4,804
1993	63,723	5,874	681	952	25,817	4,504	54,929	5,242
1994	52,044	5,798	1,973	1,341	20,035	3,900	68,270	6,112
1995	74,223	7,303	1,117	735	17,962	4,030	61,418	5,790
1996	39,989	5,054	557	556	16,694	3,284	54,291	4,923
1997	35,194	5,569	839	935	11,783	3,446	57,244	5,623
1998	62,619	6,814	1,315	1,047	18,404	3,346	53,138	4,895
1999	54,996	6,909	990	1,058	15,183	3,291	41,068	4,270
2000	34,757	5,782	699	808	12,114	2,659	45,955	4,193
2001	35,718	4,006	1,095	574	12,672	2,247	31,749	3,329
2002	24,420	5,006	1,015	686	7,554	2,085	62,977	5,355
2003	49,422	5,939	1,523	639	14,638	2,734	37,750	4,074
2004	38,353	3,725	783	387	17,604	2,196	34,650	3,434
2005	**35,662**	**3,352**	**338**	**227**	**18,269**	**1,554**	**49,795**	**4,110**

TURKEY QUESTIONNAIRE DATA - SPRING 2006 - STATEWIDE TOTALS

Hunt Area	# Tags Issued	# Qstr. Rtnd	% Rtn	Effort					Harvest				Comments (#)		
				# Succ.	%Succ.	Hunt	Scout	DNH	Adult	Juv	Lost	Obsv.	+	-	
Mason Valley WMA	60	59	98%	34	57%	175	103	2	14	20	6	3986	30	2	limited quota
Moapa Valley	15	15	100%	11	73%	26	40	3	11	0	1	1087	6	1	
Elko 102	25	24	96%	9	36%	97	39	2	7	2	1	426	4	8	
Elko / White Pine 103	15	15	100%	2	13%	81	14	1	1	1	0	441	1	5	
Churchill County	46	42	91%	7	15%	120	99	6	5	2	0	818	2	10	open quota
Lincoln County	107	99	93%	25	23%	380	121	12	14	11	0	413	9	26	
Lyon County	121	107	88%	20	17%	368	131	27	12	7	5	1327	6	16	
Pershing County	42	41	98%	3	7%	184	198	6	2	1	0	540	2	17	
Paradise Valley	9	9	100%	7	78%	25	32	0	5	2	0	368	3	2	PF
TOTALS:	**440**	**411**	**93%**	**118**	**34%**	**1,456**	**777**	**59**	**71**	**46**	**13**	**9,406**	**63**	**87**	

TURKEY QUESTIONNAIRE DATA – FALL 2005 - STATEWIDE TOTALS

Hunt Area	# Tags Issued	# Qstr. Rtnd	% Rtn	Effort					Harvest						Comments (#)	
				# Succ.	%Succ.	Hunt	Scout	DNH	Ad. M	Juv. M	Ad. F	Juv. F	Lost	Obsv.	+	-
Mason Valley WMA	45	41	91%	23	72%	62	35	9	2	3	17	1	3	1063	10	3
Moapa Valley	20	18	90%	8	62%	25	9	5	0	2	5	1	0	661	2	16
Churchill Co.	14	10	71%	1	33%	8	4	7	0	0	1	0	0	50	1	3
Lyon Co.	25	22	88%	12	71%	29	13	5	3	4	5	0	0	754	3	3
TOTALS:	**104**	**91**	**88%**	**44**	**68%**	**124**	**61**	**26**	**5**	**9**	**28**	**2**	**3**	**2,528**	**16**	**25**

SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE TURKEY HARVEST 1997-2006						
Year	Harvest		Tags Issued		Hunter Effort (days)	
	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall
1997	74	28	239	79	No Data	No Data
1998	33	29	103	75	No Data	No Data
1999	34	No Data	155	No Data	No Data	No Data
2000	No Data	13	No Data	51	No Data	No Data
2001	60	17	239	57	No Data	No Data
2002	57	4	124	65	No Data	No Data
2003	85	45	245	130	706	264
2004	84	26	308	116	835	241
2005	101	44	318	104	1043	124
2006	118		440		1456	
TOTALS:	**646**	**206**	**2171**	**677**	**4040**	**629**
AVERAGE:	**72**	**26**	**241**	**85**	**1010**	**210**

SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE FUR HARVEST – 1978-2006

From Post-Season Questionnaire

Year	#Trappers	R-T Cat	Weasel	Beaver	Skunk	Otter	Muskrat	Mink	Raccoon	Kit Fox	Gray Fox	Badger	Bobcat	Coyote	Total Value
1978-79	1,009	17	14	715	205	12	9,898	115	148	1,173	1,197	750	4,643	8,458	$2,062,610
1979-80	2,209	80	25	2,846	396	76	18,946	185	129	2,306	2,119	1,033	5,513	16,229	$1,883,894
1980-81	1,567	81	4	2,123	296	46	30,165	245	133	1,103	1,294	589	4,257	10,304	$1,640,904
1981-82	1,524	87	12	1,148	209	9	24,227	167	115	865	1,112	536	3,392	14,129	$1,545,102
1982-83	1,509	35	0	834	220	7	19,920	143	520	832	937	569	3,786	13,882	$1,499,808
1983-84	1,184	49	3	897	209	3	32,128	127	80	914	1,013	362	3,027	10,055	$1,071,431
1984-85	1,250	42	10	495	115	5	10,849	24	78	1,205	619	496	3,077	10,306	$1,038,602
1985-86	1,051	58	14	1,219	147	0	8,211	100	163	1,373	1,040	353	2,657	6,119	$877,423
1986-87	875	28	0	1,722	129	49	14,864	380	106	1,345	767	397	1,305	7,745	$830,114
1987-88	875	86	2	675	80	19	12,641	126	108	1,004	630	366	1,458	6,373	$641,495
1988-89	512	25	2	367	30	4	2,135	113	52	845	439	141	2,189	2,352	$546,993
1989-90	592	29	2	1,020	103	3	149	47	53	397	811	97	2,489	1,717	$336,394
1990-91	462	9	1	421	49	0	410	24	14	87	212	55	939	1,252	$122,767
1991-92	334	17	1	1,089	118	9	680	80	52	514	443	151	2,476	3,718	$447,162
1992-93	488	14	0	254	53	1	100	20	17	488	223	112	1,175	3,746	$176,354
1993-94	510	16	0	403	67	8	273	72	56	537	612	233	1,820	4,477	$348,844
1994-95	524	25	1	625	45	7	876	116	23	247	354	182	1,270	3,298	$165,352
1995-96	373	9	0	398	13	5	1,372	41	14	172	376	53	806	1,791	$157,861
1996-97	420	15	2	564	96	8	6,717	75	48	195	498	96	1,509	3,209	$218,439
1997-98	482	10	1	780	35	13	9,604	80	62	298	565	58	1,705	2,227	$196,671
1998-99	320	7	0	421	21	1	3,415	17	11	154	318	94	899	1,003	$183,203
1999-00	382	9	2	544	79	6	3,078	71	46	193	434	91	1,637	1,202	$172,585
2000-01	408	12	1	301	32	5	592	22	62	138	448	49	949	1,185	$145,022
2001-02	380	8	0	553	71	8	425	33	52	135	497	40	1,145	1,071	$229,284
2002-03	564	16	0	641	73	13	357	40	105	187	554	73	2,198	1,340	$414,808
2003-04	580	19	0	666	184	5	546	29	110	414	967	256	2,748	2,726	$787,717
2004-05	615	7	2	441	74	19	468	45	89	399	536	170	2,666	2,003	$644,328
2005-06	**585**	**17**	**1**	**409**	**91**	**7**	**1,280**	**33**	**72**	**442**	**720**	**152**	**3,316**	**1,776**	**$1,147,034**
Average	**675**	**27**	**5**	**981**	**120**	**14**	**8,066**	**86**	**114**	**601**	**656**	**282**	**2,189**	**4,730**	**$600,668**

* Returned questionnaire sample expanded to reflect harvest of all licensed trappers.

STATEWIDE FUR HARVEST BY COUNTY
2005-2006 Season

Region	County	Beaver	Muskrat	Coyote	Bobcat	Gray Fox	Kit Fox	Mink	Otter	Badger	Weasel	Raccoon	Striped Skunk	Spotted Skunk	RT Cat	Red Fox
Western	Carson	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Churchill	72	711	109	53	1	55	0	0	1	0	4	3	0	1	0
	Douglas	49	207	63	51	19	1	10	0	0	0	12	7	0	0	0
	Humboldt	3	0	67	240	0	0	0	0	4	0	15	9	0	0	0
	Lyon	157	12	43	123	45	28	4	0	6	0	9	0	0	0	0
	Mineral	0	0	25	35	1	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pershing	3	24	230	185	15	143	0	0	15	0	0	6	0	0	0
	Storey	0	89	3	20	6	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0
	Washoe	49	209	142	466	0	16	3	0	15	0	12	0	0	0	0
Total Western Region		**333**	**1,252**	**682**	**1,174**	**87**	**246**	**17**	**0**	**44**	**0**	**68**	**25**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Eastern	Elko	67	13	572	577	55	0	16	7	19	1	4	39	19	0	0
	Eureka	7	15	27	227	9	3	0	0	6	0	0	0	3	1	3
	Lander	0	0	88	120	13	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
	White Pine	1	0	97	228	19	3	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Eastern Region		**75**	**28**	**784**	**1,152**	**96**	**7**	**16**	**7**	**38**	**1**	**4**	**40**	**22**	**1**	**3**
Southern	Clark	0	0	91	226	230	79	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	3	0
	Esmeralda	0	0	33	51	58	6	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lincoln	1	0	103	461	216	98	0	0	28	0	0	3	1	12	0
	Nye	0	0	83	252	33	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Southern Region		**1**	**0**	**310**	**990**	**537**	**189**	**0**	**0**	**70**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**1**	**15**	**0**
Total Statewide		**4,409**	**1,280**	**1,776**	**3,316**	**720**	**442**	**33**	**7**	**152**	**1**	**72**	**68**	**23**	**17**	**3**

NUMBER OF TRAPPERS BY SPECIES AND COUNTY
2005-06 Season

Region	County	Beaver	Muskrat	Coyote	Bobcat	Gray Fox	Kit Fox	Mink	Otter	Badger	Weasel	Raccoon	Striped Skunk	Spotted Skunk	R-T Cat	Red Fox
Western	Carson	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Churchill	3	3	12	10	1	7	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
	Douglas	3	7	4	8	6	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
	Humboldt	1	0	10	14	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0
	Lyon	9	3	10	14	4	4	1	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
	Mineral	0	0	4	5	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pershing	4	4	15	15	4	10	0	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	0
	Storey	0	1	1	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	Washoe	4	1	16	30	0	1	3	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0
Total Western Region		**24**	**19**	**72**	**103**	**19**	**26**	**5**	**0**	**19**	**0**	**11**	**9**	**0**	**1**	**0**
Eastern	Elko	9	6	36	39	4	0	10	3	10	1	3	6	4	0	4
	Eureka	1	1	10	23	3	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	1	0
	Lander	0	0	12	16	4	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
	White Pine	1	0	16	34	6	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total Eastern Region		**11**	**7**	**74**	**112**	**17**	**3**	**10**	**3**	**26**	**1**	**3**	**7**	**5**	**1**	**7**
Southern	Clark	0	0	18	15	16	10	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	3	0
	Esmeralda	0	0	4	2	4	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lincoln	1	0	28	44	37	16	0	0	13	0	0	3	1	12	0
	Nye	0	0	15	31	6	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Southern Region		**1**	**0**	**65**	**92**	**63**	**32**	**0**	**0**	**24**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**1**	**15**	**0**
Total Statewide		**36**	**26**	**211**	**307**	**99**	**61**	**15**	**3**	**69**	**1**	**14**	**19**	**6**	**17**	**7**

FUR HARVEST VALUE 2005-2006 From Post Season Questionnaire				
Species	**Total Value of Catch**	**Average Price 2005-2006**	**Average Price 2004-05**	**% Increase + % Decrease -**
Beaver	$9,435.63	$23.07	$13.85	67%
Otter	$525.00	$75.00	$65.00	15%
Muskrat	$6,720.00	$5.25	$1.52	245%
Mink	$419.43	$12.71	$10.91	16%
Raccoon	$1,678.32	$23.31	$3.04	667%
Bobcat	$1,057,207.12	$318.82	$232.50	37%
Coyote	$47,845.44	$26.94	$14.84	82%
Badger	$2,506.48	$16.49	$22.00	-25%
Striped Skunk	$405.28	$5.96	$4.06	47%
Ring-tailed Cat	$80.24	$4.72	$8.50	-44%
Kit Fox	$4,181.32	$9.46	$7.31	29%
Gray Fox	$15,940.80	$22.14	$12.44	78%
Red Fox	$88.50	$29.50	$22.33	32%
Total	**$1,147,033.56**			

SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE WATERFOWL HARVEST 1959-2005

From Post-Season Questionnaire

Year	Federal Duck Stamps	Nevada Duck Stamps	Estimated # Hunters	Ducks	Geese			Tundra Swans*	Total Water-fowl
					Dark	White	Total		
1959	9,284	--	10,020	100,328	8,470	2,466	10,769	--	**111,097**
1960	7,736	--	8,313	61,649	3,671	3,913	7,584	--	**69,233**
1961	5,427	--	5,698	41,994	4,642	671	5,313	--	**47,307**
1962	7,983	--	7,695	37,377	2,224	962	3,186	--	**40,563**
1963	8,749	--	8,749	53,530	2,980	1,100	4,080	--	**57,610**
1964	9,639	--	9,603	70,884	5,929	1,980	7,909	--	**78,793**
1965	10,673	--	11,544	90,036	3,708	792	4,500	--	**94,536**
1966	11,928	--	14,928	109,428	6,060	4,524	10,584	--	**120,012**
1967	12,713	--	13,860	147,400	7,205	2,541	9,746	--	**157,146**
1968	12,491	--	13,635	110,136	2,273	1,277	3,550	--	**113,686**
1969	13,220	--	13,520	137,524	5,453	1,021	6,474	87	**144,085**
1970	14,361	--	12,913	147,211	6,649	3,488	10,137	208	**157,556**
1971	15,029	--	16,906	178,107	7,357	4,655	12,012	102	**190,221**
1972	12,701	--	14,605	149,565	8,066	1,756	9,822	124	**159,511**
1973	13,732	--	14,435	97,251	4,047	2,580	6,627	109	**103,987**
1974	11,714	--	14,902	139,080	5,480	1,498	6,978	190	**146,248**
1975	13,856	--	17,661	162,863	3,629	1,430	5,039	188	**173,149**
1976	13,146	--	15,154	139,598	6,379	3,194	9,573	206	**149,377**
1977	11,145	--	11,190	79,491	4,142	1,606	5,748	84	**85,323**
1978	12,154	--	12,452	104,840	5,998	942	6,940	90	**111,870**
1979	11,370	18,799	12,600	119,150	5,238	561	5,799	214	**125,163**
1980	11,705	18,300	12,487	101,765	4,515	388	4,903	103	**106,771**
1981	10,496	15,489	17,168	90,396	8,897	1,961	10,858	301	**101,555**
1982	11,969	17,250	18,921	97,582	6,558	759	7,317	161	**105,060**
1983	12,925	16,607	16,765	125,619	8,901	1,407	10,308	169	**136,096**
1984	12,950	16,451	17,799	108,570	11,658	1,386	13,044	199	**121,813**
1985	12,421	17,290	8,647	75,890	9,870	1,207	11,077	229	**87,196**
1986	11,749	20,000	8,357	67,615	6,969	249	7,219	196	**75,030**
1987	9,907	25,000	6,840	76,949	8,784	900	9,684	94	**86,727**
1988	7,564	28,700	4,432	37,338	8,690	950	9.640	78	**47,056**
1989	6,703	15,600	4,950	35,722	6,232	410	6,642	81	**42,445**
1990	6,647	9,050	4,446	35,693	10,655	529	11,184	67	**46,944**
1991	6,034	9,777	4,803	30,225	5,574	346	5,920	62	**36,207**
1992	6,303	7,277	3,453	19,589	10,140	281	5,920	29	**28,641**
1993	7,245	9,162	4,335	32,191	6,593	463	7,056	46	**39,302**
1994	7,704	8,469	5,112	46,340	8,573	595	9,168	88	**55,615**
1995	8,347	9,132	6,964	72,259	5,206	863	6,069	72	**78,397**
1996	7,702	9,127	7,228	83,908	9,028	892	9,920	119	**93,828**
1997	7,874	11,451	8,752	116,596	6,051	331	6,382	131	**123,109**
1998	8,237	11,420	8,574	122,092	8,635	819	9,454	185	**131,731**
1999	8,777	10,898	6,918	80,814	7,575	667	8,242	217	**89,273**
2000	7,997	10,085	6,159	56,579	4,537	151	4,688	78	**61,346**
2001	7,293	9,106	3,692	31,203	2,646	281	2,927	58	**34,188**
2002	6,688	8,460	4,028	33,113	4,980	133	5,113	40	**43,379**
2003	6,698	8,018	4,298	44,022	4,041	219	4,260	71	**48,353**
2004	5,306	6,330	3,572	38,305	1,479	1,135	2,614	77	**40,996**
2005	**5,446**		**3,960**	**56,428**	**6,036**	**1,141**	**7177**	**92**	**67,697**

Nevada duck stamp sales from 1989 on represent stamps sold only during year of issue, rather than total sales.

NEVADA MID-WINTER WATERFOWL INVENTORY DATA 2001-2006							Current year compared to	
SPECIES	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**5 Year Average**	**42 Year Average**
Mallard	17,490	14,712	20,145	13,851	17,654	23,061	16,770	13,204
Gadwall	2,930	6,105	6,354	4,465	2,850	9,132	4,541	2,906
Widgeon	665	2,950	1,420	1,750	2,135	3,624	1,784	1,265
G.W. Teal	3,410	11,580	10,423	11,765	16,539	17,524	10,743	6,689
B.W. Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Cinnamon Teal	0	17	40	77	6	10	28	46
Shovelor	3,600	9,220	3,770	3,830	2,278	4,264	4,540	3,223
Pintail	3,410	4,930	4,755	4,985	4,890	9,982	4,594	6,246
Wood Duck	0	0	10	0	12	30	4	26
Redhead	4,670	3,390	3,422	2,273	4,524	6,485	3,656	1,990
Canvasback	2,390	4,275	2,465	2,450	4,581	5,795	3,232	2,523
Scaup	477	265	317	240	340	699	328	219
Ringneck	630	1,160	2,012	1,826	2,377	2,398	1,601	705
Goldeneye	1,461	780	337	978	715	198	854	625
Bufflehead	862	1,332	1,978	893	1,652	2,243	1,343	803
Ruddy	9,060	460	10,540	5,850	5,619	4,126	6,306	4,283
Merganser	1,230	2,850	2,090	1,425	831	2,317	1,685	1,763
Miscellaneous	80	22	32	19	79	101	46	38
Total Ducks	**52,365**	**64,048**	**70,110**	**56,677**	**67,082**	**91,989**	**62,056**	**46,566**
% Change from Previous Year	**-10%**	**22%**	**9%**	**-19%**	**18%**	**37%**	**48%**	**98%**
Dark Geese	22,165	16,685	18,634	19,558	17,312	20,842	18,871	15,048
Light Geese	343	806	255	326	268	1,219	400	836
Total Geese	**22,508**	**17,491**	**18,889**	**19,884**	**17,580**	**22,061**	**19,270**	**15,884**
% Change from Previous Year	**10%**	**-22%**	**8%**	**5%**	**-12%**	**25%**	**14%**	**39%**
Trumpeter Swan	30	27	37	30	31	28	31	27
Tundra Swan	4,584	981	1,339	1,614	456	2,750	1,795	2,275
Total Waterfowl	**79,487**	**82,547**	**90,375**	**78,205**	**85,149**	**116,828**	**83,153**	**64,752**
% Change from Previous Year		**4%**	**9%**	**-13%**	**9%**	**37%**	**40%**	**80%**
Coot	54,300	43,336	26,097	17,130	34,656	33,261	35,216	17,910

STATEWIDE WATERFOWL BREEDING PAIR SURVEY DATA												COMPARISONS		
												Previous	1996-2005	47 Year
SPECIES	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000*	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Year	Average	Average
CANADA GOOSE	775	1,061	1,214	1,448	1,687	1,930	1,269	1,278	1,005	267**	727	172%	-39%	
MALLARD	851	1,230	1,049	1,152	934	979	372	825	865	386	484	25%	-44%	-36%
GADWALL	2,793	3,362	3,006	3,898	2,955	3,071	1,468	2,923	3,467	1,199	1,019	-15%	-64%	-40%
PINTAIL	489	325	465	525	319	304	77	221	311	107	152	42%	-52%	-57%
CINN. TEAL	3,015	2,342	2,495	2,930	2,111	2,305	784	1,811	2,017	1,076	2,004	86%	-4%	-26%
SHOVELER	295	325	296	685	336	314	107	287	228	98	155	58%	-48%	-14%
REDHEAD	4,069	3,614	4,025	3,502	2,997	2,346	1,830	2,667	2,837	1,475	2,087	41%	-29%	-26%
CANVASBACK	198	197	345	460	240	164	70	202	167	131	138	5%	-37%	-20%
RUDDY DUCK	815	821	1,244	787	934	1,039	777	935	1,549	629	1,026	63%	8%	19%
MISC. DUCK	679	442	1,017	1,032	683	573	353	680	526	259	67	-74%	-89%	-85%
EST. TOTAL PAIRS	**13,979**	**13,719**	**15,156**	**16,419**	**13,196**	**13,025**	**7,106**	**11,829**	**12,972**	**5,627**	**7,859**	**40%**	**-36%**	**-29%**

** No survey conducted. Duck numbers are average of previous three & subsequent three years.*

*** No statewide goose pair aerial survey conducted this year.*

Composition of Nevada Duck Harvest

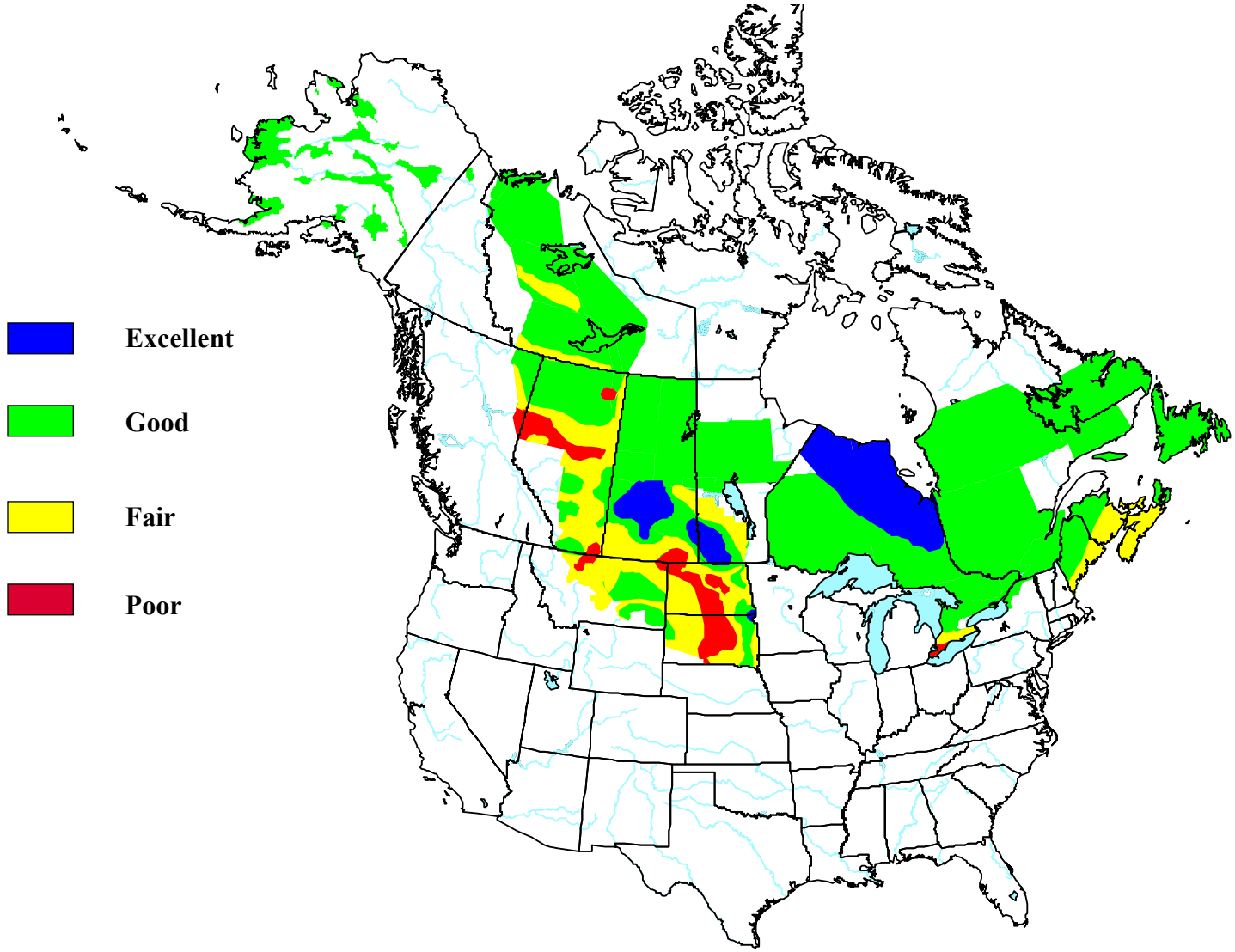
From U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Parts Collection Survey and Harvest Information Program (1999 on)

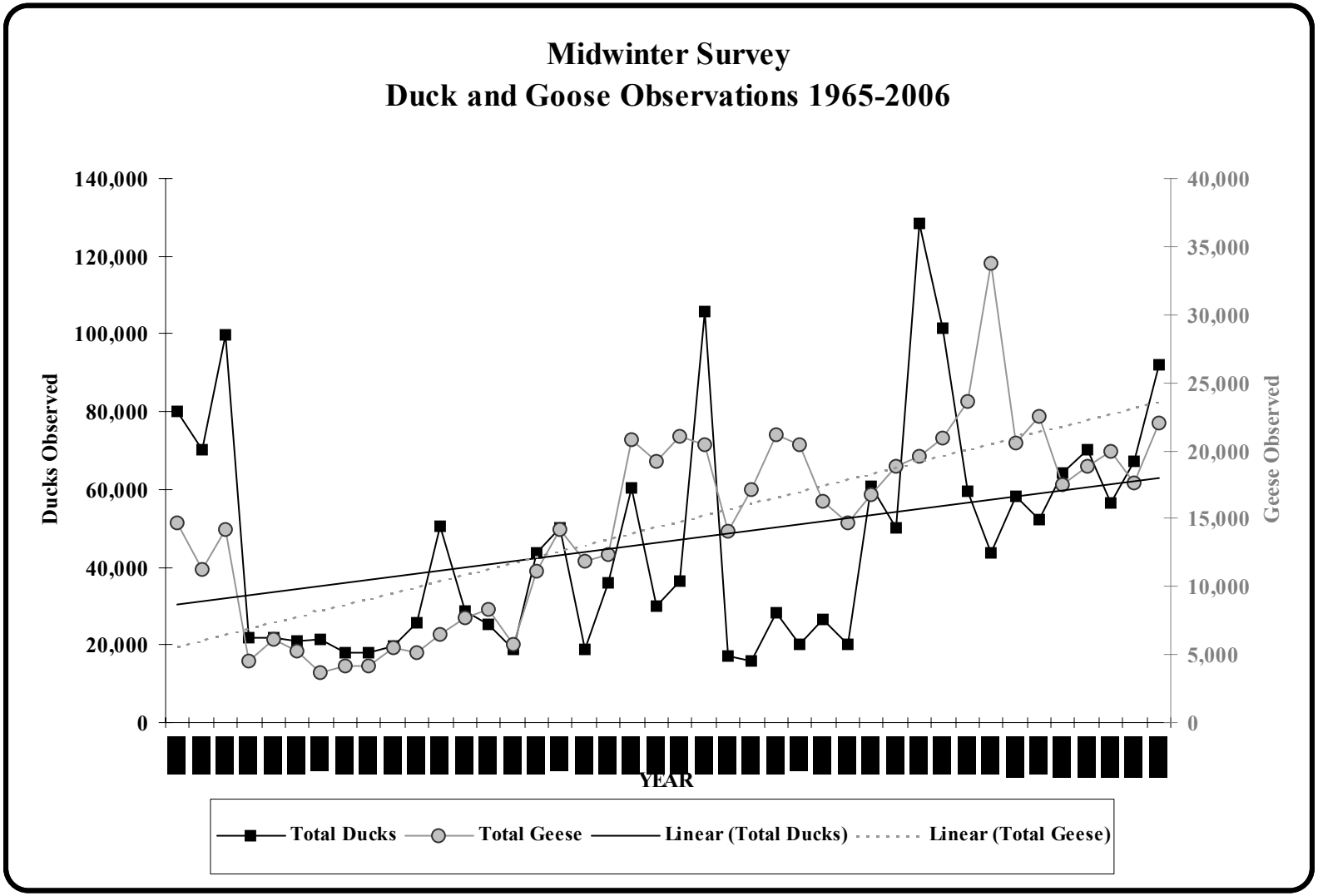
AVERAGES:

	Mallard		Gadwall		Wigeon		GW Teal		Cinn. Teal		Shoveler		Pintail		Wood Duck	
	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T
65-69	29,411	30%	7,573	8%	6,440	7%	16,182	17%	2,070	2%	10,503	11%	16,037	16%	274	0%
1970s	26,719	28%	7,243	8%	7,809	8%	17,156	18%	3,724	4%	5,484	6%	17,973	19%	309	0%
1980s	22,227	33%	7,607	11%	4,033	6%	10,925	16%	1,684	2%	5,447	8%	8,705	13%	171	0%
1990s	21,107	36%	7,068	12%	3,351	6%	11,464	20%	1,322	2%	3,151	5%	4,520	8%	484	1%
00-05	15,257	34%	6,415	14%	3,160	7%	9,476	21%	936	2%	4,008	9%	2,362	5%	356	1%

	Redhead		Canvasback		Greater Scaup		Lesser Scaup		Ring-necked		Com. Goldeneye		Bufflehead		Ruddy		TOTALS:
	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	Est.Kill	% of T	
65-69	4,281	4%	2,166	2%	163	0%	496	1%	349	0%	182	0%	459	0%	1,405	1%	**97,992**
1970s	3,193	3%	2,177	2%	43	0%	523	1%	623	1%	442	0%	547	1%	1,282	1%	**95,244**
1980s	2,931	4%	1,579	2%	22	0%	219	0%	722	1%	305	0%	469	1%	1,277	2%	**68,320**
1990s	2,478	4%	713	1%	12	0%	198	0%	1,258	2%	304	1%	379	1%	574	1%	**58,383**
00-05	786	2%	239	1%	31	0%	187	0%	655	1%	299	1%	441	1%	375	1%	**44,984**

2006 Breeding Waterfowl Habitat




Midwinter Survey
Duck and Goose Observations 1965-2006
Ducks Observed
Geese Observed
140,000
120,000
100,000
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000
0
40,000
35,000
30,000
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
YEAR
Total Ducks
Total Geese
Linear (Total Ducks)
Linear (Total Geese)

What You Should Know About

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI – Asian H5N1)

As of September 2006 the Asian H5N1 strain of Avian Influenza has not been detected in North America.

--- There is No Current Influenza Outbreak ---

What is *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza*, specifically *Asian H5N1*?

- H5N1 refers to the antigens (a substance that initiates the production of an antibody - the blood proteins that fight infection and contribute to immunity) that identify it as being different from other avian influenza viruses.
- Influenza viruses are constantly changing. Some forms can jump from birds to mammals and on to humans.
- The strain causing concern is *highly pathogenic* to some birds and is called ***Asian H5N1***.

Should one be concerned about contracting avian influenza?

- Avian influenza exists naturally within populations of wild birds and has been called "fowl pest" and "fowl plague" for the particularly decimating impacts that can occur when these naturally occurring strains become virulent. There are many strains of avian influenza that occur in wild and domestic bird populations and many of these do not cause illness for the birds they inhabit. Avian influenza is frequent within waterfowl and shorebirds, and to a lesser extent – gulls.
- Few bird viruses are able to infect humans.
- HPAI is primarily an animal disease and unless people come into direct, sustained contact with infected birds, it is unlikely they will contract the disease. The ***Asian H5N1*** virus has demonstrated the ability to infect and produce a fatal illness in humans living under those circumstances. If the virus evolves the capacity for sustained human-to-human transmission, it could spread quickly around the world.

I hunt waterfowl; can I get the disease from wild birds?

- Some birds that migrate to North America do breed in the Asia and some birds that winter in Asia breed in North America. However, the most numerous of these aren't known to occur in close proximity to where outbreaks in Asian domestic flocks have been documented.
- Though theoretically possible, there is little evidence that migratory birds in Asia have had a role in the spread of ***Asian H5N1***, nor is it clear what role these birds have on a larger scale.
- It has yet to be determined that ***Asian H5N1*** persists within migrating waterfowl or shorebirds or whether birds acquiring ***Asian H5N1*** in Asia could present a lingering long-distance threat on that continent or in North America.
- Scientists have concerns that ***Asian H5N1*** could be transported to North America through illegal traffic in birds.
- One should take common sense precautions at all times when handling wild game of any kind.

Other sources of information about Asian H5N1:

United States Fish & Wildlife Service:
www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/issues/AvianFlu/WBAvianFlu.htm

National Centers for Disease Control:
www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm

US Geological Survey - National Wildlife Health Center:
www.nwhc.usgs.gov

US Department of Health & Human Services
www.hhs.gov/pandemicflu/plano or www.pandemicflu.gov

Nevada State Health Division
www.pandemicflu.nv.gov

US Department of Agriculture – Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
www.aphis.usda.gov

2006 Nevada Waterfowl Stamp by Jeffrey Klinefelter

Hunter's Precautions

- ✓ Do not handle obviously sick birds or birds found dead.
- ✓ Keep your game birds cool, clean and dry.
- ✓ Do not eat, drink or smoke while cleaning your birds.
- ✓ Wear rubber gloves while cleaning your game.
- ✓ Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes after dressing birds.
- ✓ Clean all tools and surfaces immediately afterward; use hot soapy water, then disinfect with a 10% chlorine beach solution.
- ✓ Cook game meat thoroughly (155-165ºF) to kill disease organisms and parasites.

The above compliments of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game

2005 SMALL GAME HARVEST DATA
Derived from Modified Post-season Questionnaire

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
SMALL GAME POST-SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

WATERFOWL | **DUCKS** | Run date: 08/03/06

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Harvest**

R	County of Harvest	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	165	14	69	12.00	2.40	0%	0%
	Churchill	22,824	1,691	8,717	13.50	2.62	40%	34%
	Douglas	6,943	481	4,125	14.43	1.68	12%	10%
	Humboldt	1,059	179	1,127	5.92	0.94	2%	4%
	Lyon	6,655	522	3,437	12.74	1.94	12%	10%
	Mineral	3,712	261	2,640	14.21	1.41	7%	5%
	Pershing	962	247	509	3.89	1.89	2%	5%
	Storey	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Washoe	3,039	481	1,650	6.31	1.84	5%	10%
EASTERN	Elko	2,035	316	1,031	6.43	1.97	4%	6%
	Eureka	96	69	96	1.40	1.00	0%	1%
	Lander	289	69	275	4.20	1.05	1%	1%
	White Pine	632	110	426	5.75	1.48	1%	2%
SOUTHERN	Clark	2,035	137	756	14.80	2.69	4%	3%
	Esmeralda	41	14	27	3.00	1.50	0%	0%
	Lincoln	4,084	206	1,224	19.80	3.34	7%	4%
	Nye	2,021	220	880	9.19	2.30	4%	4%
	TOTAL:	**56,428**	**5,005**	**26,921**	**11.3**	**2.1**	**1**	**1**

Estimated # of *Individual* Duck Hunters: **3,960**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

SMALL GAME POST-SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

WATERFOWL | **DARK GEESE** | Run date: 08/03/06

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Harvest**

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	303	14	193	22.00	1.57	5%	1%
	Churchill	1,073	468	2,049	2.29	0.52	18%	25%
	Douglas	2,448	371	2,695	6.59	0.91	41%	20%
	Humboldt	261	83	536	3.17	0.49	4%	4%
	Lyon	908	330	1,238	2.75	0.73	15%	18%
	Mineral	399	83	798	4.83	0.50	7%	4%
	Pershing	124	41	96	3.00	1.29	2%	2%
	Storey	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Washoe	371	179	481	2.08	0.77	6%	9%
EASTERN	Elko	110	83	303	1.33	0.36	2%	4%
	Eureka	0	14	96	0.00	0.00	0%	1%
	Lander	28	28	179	1.00	0.15	0%	1%
	White Pine	28	28	41	1.00	0.67	0%	1%
SOUTHERN	Clark	138	55	330	2.50	0.42	2%	3%
	Esmeralda	0	14	0	0.00	--	0%	1%
	Lincoln	124	69	303	1.80	0.41	2%	4%
	Nye	28	41	110	0.67	0.25	0%	2%
	TOTAL:	**6,036**	**1,884**	**9,254**	**3.2**	**0.7**	**1**	**1**

Estimated # of *Individual* Dark Geese Hunters	**1,609**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

SMALL GAME POST-SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

WATERFOWL | **WHITE GEESE** | Run date: 08/03/06

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Harvest**

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Churchill	220	124	591	1.78	0.37	19%	24%
	Douglas	28	41	481	0.67	0.06	2%	8%
	Humboldt	41	28	275	1.50	0.15	4%	5%
	Lyon	28	55	110	0.50	0.25	2%	11%
	Mineral	550	96	729	5.71	0.75	48%	18%
	Pershing	83	14	55	6.00	1.50	7%	3%
	Storey	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Washoe	0	14	28	0.00	0.00	0%	3%
EASTERN	Elko	83	69	234	1.20	0.35	7%	13%
	Eureka	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Lander	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	White Pine	28	14	28	2.00	1.00	2%	3%
SOUTHERN	Clark	0	28	179	0.00	0.00	0%	5%
	Esmeralda	14	14	14	1.00	1.00	1%	3%
	Lincoln	41	14	206	3.00	0.20	4%	3%
	Nye	28	14	69	2.00	0.40	2%	3%
	TOTAL:	**1,141**	**523**	**2,998**	**2.2**	**0.4**	**1**	**1**

Estimated # of *Individual* White Goose Hunters:	**468**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

SMALL GAME POST-SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

WATERFOWL | **COOT** | Run date: 08/03/06

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Harvest**

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Churchill	385	138	536	2.80	0.72	26%	38%
	Douglas	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Humboldt	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Lyon	564	83	303	6.83	1.86	39%	23%
	Mineral	96	14	138	7.00	0.70	7%	4%
	Pershing	14	14	28	1.00	0.50	1%	4%
	Storey	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Washoe	165	28	41	6.00	4.00	11%	8%
EASTERN	Elko	14	41	151	0.33	0.09	1%	12%
	Eureka	0	0	0	--!	--	0%	0%
	Lander	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	White Pine	0	0	0	---	--	0%	0%
SOUTHERN	Clark	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Esmeralda	0	14	0	0.00	--	0%	4%
	Lincoln	206	14	69	15.00	3.00	14%	4%
	Nye	14	14	55	1.00	0.25	1%	4%
	TOTAL:	**1,458**	**358**	**1,320**	**4.1**	**1.1**	**1**	**1**

Estimated # of *Individual* Coot Hunters: **316**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

SMALL GAME POST-SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

WATERFOWL | **SNIPE** | Run date: 08/03/06

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Harvest**

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Churchill	28	41	165	0.67	0.17	67%	30%
	Douglas	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Humboldt	0	0	0	--!	--	0%	0%
	Lyon	0	14	69	0.00	0.00	0%	10%
	Mineral	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Pershing	0	14	28	0.00	0.00	0%	10%
	Storey	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Washoe	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
EASTERN	Elko	0	41	151	0.00	0.00	0%	30%
	Eureka	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Lander	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	White Pine	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
SOUTHERN	Clark	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Esmeralda	0	14	0	0.00	--	0%	10%
	Lincoln	0	0	0	--	--	0%	0%
	Nye	14	14	41	1.00	0.33	33%	10%
	TOTAL:	**41**	**138**	**454**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**1**	**1**

Estimated # of Individual Snipe Hunters:	**96**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

SMALL GAME POST-SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

MIGRATORY | **MOURNING DOVE** | Run date: 08/03/06

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Harvest**

R	County of Harvest	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	570	50	110	11.40	5.18	1%	1%
	Churchill	6,471	530	2,050	12.21	3.16	13%	12%
	Douglas	3,280	280	920	11.71	3.57	7%	6%
	Humboldt	1,590	150	410	10.60	3.88	3%	3%
	Lyon	8,861	820	2,160	10.80	4.10	18%	19%
	Mineral	4,861	290	1,880	16.76	2.59	10%	7%
	Pershing	2,810	180	660	15.61	4.26	6%	4%
	Storey	500	60	180	8.33	2.78	1%	1%
	Washoe	2,870	380	920	7.55	3.12	6%	9%
EASTERN	Elko	3,090	280	1,010	11.04	3.06	6%	6%
	Eureka	1,090	130	390	8.38	2.79	2%	3%
	Lander	140	50	150	2.80	0.93	0%	1%
	White Pine	1,060	120	350	8.83	3.03	2%	3%
SOUTHERN	Clark	4,771	390	1,190	12.23	4.01	10%	9%
	Esmeralda	1,060	70	160	15.14	6.63	2%	2%
	Lincoln	4,090	340	1,190	12.03	3.44	8%	8%
	Nye	3,250	280	850	11.61	3.82	7%	6%
	TOTAL:	**49,795**	**4,350**	**14,472**	**11.4**	**3.4**	**1**	**1**

Estimated # of *Individual* Mourning Dove Hunters: **4,110**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
SMALL GAME POST SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

UPLAND GAME — **SAGE-GROUSE**

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill**

County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
Churchill	22	11	43	2.0	0.5	1%	1%
Douglas	11	5	27	2.0	0.4	0%	0%
Elko	846	372	1159	2.3	0.7	27%	24%
Esmeralda	11	5	11	2.0	1.0	0%	0%
Eureka	410	210	539	1.9	0.8	13%	14%
Humboldt	873	345	722	2.5	1.2	28%	23%
Lander	129	86	243	1.5	0.5	4%	6%
Lincoln	0	5	11	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
Lyon	0	16	59	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
Mineral	11	5	16	2.0	0.7	0%	0%
Nye	108	102	270	1.1	0.4	3%	7%
Pershing	0	5	5	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
Washoe	469	216	566	2.2	0.8	15%	14%
White Pine	286	140	334	2.0	0.9	9%	9%
TOTAL:	**3175**	**1526**	**4006**	**2.1**	**0.8**	**100%**	**100%**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
SMALL GAME POST SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

UPLAND GAME — **BLUE GROUSE**

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill**

County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
Carson City	101	51	152	2.0	0.7	5%	4%
Douglas	0	101	186	0.0	0.0	0%	8%
Elko	304	237	626	1.3	0.5	15%	19%
Eureka	135	135	203	1.0	0.7	7%	11%
Lander	85	101	220	0.8	0.4	4%	8%
Lincoln	0	17	17	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
Lyon	0	17	34	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
Nye	34	101	372	0.3	0.1	2%	8%
Washoe	152	101	152	1.5	1.0	7%	8%
White Pine	1234	406	998	3.0	1.2	60%	32%
TOTAL:	**2046**	**1268**	**2959**	**1.6**	**0.7**	**100%**	**100%**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
SMALL GAME POST SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

UPLAND GAME — **RUFFED GROUSE**

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill**

County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
Elko	16	35	82	0.5	0.2	56%	55%
Humboldt	9	19	57	0.5	0.2	33%	30%
Lander	3	9	32	0.3	0.1	11%	15%
TOTAL:	**28**	**63**	**170**	**0.5**	**0.2**	**100%**	**100%**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
SMALL GAME POST SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

UPLAND GAME — **CHUKAR PARTRIDGE**

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill**

County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
Carson City	516	120	413	4.3	1.3	0%	1%
Churchill	5695	869	3226	6.6	1.8	5%	6%
Clark	387	267	929	1.5	0.4	0%	2%
Douglas	224	138	224	1.6	1.0	0%	1%
Elko	14167	1953	8636	7.3	1.6	12%	13%
Esmeralda	404	138	473	2.9	0.9	0%	1%
Eureka	7036	903	3828	7.8	1.8	6%	6%
Humboldt	39087	3166	17084	12.3	2.3	33%	21%
Lander	7294	955	4146	7.6	1.8	6%	6%
Lincoln	1110	275	998	4.0	1.1	1%	2%
Lyon	6107	972	4679	6.3	1.3	5%	7%
Mineral	4060	508	2142	8.0	1.9	3%	3%
Nye	2434	705	2469	3.5	1.0	2%	5%
Pershing	12456	1359	5591	9.2	2.2	10%	9%
Storey	499	138	370	3.6	1.3	0%	1%
Washoe	16679	1978	8069	8.4	2.1	14%	13%
White Pine	1978	284	1376	7.0	1.4	2%	2%
TOTAL:	**120135**	**14727**	**64652**	**8.2**	**1.9**	**100%**	**100%**

Estimated # of Individual Hunters: **10269**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
SMALL GAME POST SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

UPLAND GAME — **HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE**

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill**

County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
Elko	987	515	2475	1.9	0.4	36%	32%
Eureka	223	153	501	1.5	0.4	8%	9%
Humboldt	1252	681	2809	1.8	0.4	45%	42%
Lander	278	139	459	2.0	0.6	10%	9%
Lyon	28	28	28	1.0	1.0	1%	2%
Pershing	0	56	209	0.0	0.0	0%	3%
Washoe	0	42	111	0.0	0.0	0%	3%
TOTAL:	**2767**	**1613**	**6592**	**1.7**	**0.4**	**100%**	**100%**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
SMALL GAME POST SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

UPLAND GAME — **CALIFORNIA QUAIL**

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill**

County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
Carson City	188	48	193	3.9	1.0	1%	3%
Churchill	1864	145	779	12.9	2.4	13%	9%
Clark	693	70	398	9.9	1.7	5%	4%
Douglas	1612	134	612	12.0	2.6	11%	8%
Elko	54	16	43	3.3	1.3	0%	1%
Humboldt	4303	446	1843	9.7	2.3	30%	27%
Lander	140	11	70	13.0	2.0	1%	1%
Lincoln	838	32	188	26.0	4.5	6%	2%
Lyon	2407	312	1424	7.7	1.7	17%	19%
Mineral	70	38	75	1.9	0.9	0%	2%
Nye	5	5	16	1.0	0.3	0%	0%
Pershing	693	91	398	7.6	1.7	5%	6%
Storey	252	38	70	6.7	3.6	2%	2%
Washoe	1198	236	951	5.1	1.3	8%	14%
White Pine	48	21	27	2.3	1.8	0%	1%
TOTAL:	**14364**	**1644**	**7085**	**8.7**	**2.0**	**100%**	**100%**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
SMALL GAME POST SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

UPLAND GAME — **GAMBEL'S QUAIL**

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill**

County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
Clark	14460	943	4157	15.3	3.5	71%	65%
Esmeralda	102	23	45	4.5	2.3	1%	2%
Lincoln	4328	261	1465	16.6	3.0	21%	18%
Nye	1352	216	988	6.3	1.4	7%	15%
TOTAL:	**20241**	**1443**	**6656**	**14**	**3**	**100%**	**100%**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
SMALL GAME POST SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

UPLAND GAME — **MOUNTAIN QUAIL**

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill**

County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
Carson City	35	22	66	1.6	0.5	3%	8%
Churchill	385	38	227	10.2	1.7	36%	14%
Douglas	60	32	224	1.9	0.3	6%	12%
Elko	25	6	25	4.0	1.0	2%	2%
Eureka	0	3	13	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
Lander	3	6	9	0.5	0.3	0%	2%
Lincoln	161	22	47	7.3	3.4	15%	8%
Lyon	306	73	237	4.2	1.3	29%	27%
Mineral	0	6	16	0.0	0.0	0%	2%
Nye	3	9	44	0.3	0.1	0%	4%
Pershing	16	6	13	2.5	1.3	1%	2%
Washoe	63	41	85	1.5	0.7	6%	15%
TOTAL:	**1057**	**265**	**1007**	**4.0**	**1.1**	**100%**	**100%**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
SMALL GAME POST SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

UPLAND GAME — **PHEASANT**

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill**

County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
Churchill	19	13	63	1.5	0.3	6%	6%
Clark	0	3	6	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
Elko	44	13	44	3.5	1.0	13%	6%
Esmeralda	13	6	22	2.0	0.6	4%	3%
Humboldt	234	129	391	1.8	0.6	69%	57%
Lander	3	6	32	0.5	0.1	1%	3%
Lincoln	6	3	9	2.0	0.7	2%	1%
Lyon	13	28	73	0.4	0.2	4%	13%
Pershing	6	25	69	0.3	0.1	2%	11%
TOTAL:	**338**	**227**	**710**	**1.5**	**0.5**	**100%**	**100%**

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
SMALL GAME POST SEASON QUESTIONNAIRE

UPLAND GAME — **RABBIT**

Survey Type: **Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill**

County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
Carson City	311	41	153	7.6	2.0	2%	3%
Churchill	1896	66	734	28.6	2.6	10%	4%
Clark	1860	209	1203	8.9	1.5	10%	13%
Douglas	168	66	173	2.5	1.0	1%	4%
Elko	3501	240	1381	14.6	2.5	19%	15%
Esmeralda	15	10	76	1.5	0.2	0%	1%
Eureka	372	66	301	5.6	1.2	2%	4%
Humboldt	1223	122	627	10.0	2.0	7%	8%
Lander	683	41	214	16.8	3.2	4%	3%
Lincoln	1850	87	510	21.4	3.6	10%	6%
Lyon	3618	143	2135	25.4	1.7	20%	9%
Mineral	66	36	163	1.9	0.4	0%	2%
Nye	719	132	790	5.4	0.9	4%	9%
Pershing	841	41	296	20.6	2.8	5%	3%
Storey	31	15	107	2.0	0.3	0%	1%
Washoe	438	143	520	3.1	0.8	2%	9%
White Pine	678	97	428	7.0	1.6	4%	6%
TOTALS:	**18269**	**1554**	**9810**	**11.8**	**1.9**	**100%**	**100%**